

By: Carolyn Corsano Wong

STAGE RIGHT of Texas, resident theatre company at the historic Crighton Theatre in downtown Conroe announces its 8th season! We have decided to do something different this season by letting our audiences pick one of the shows. We had previously announced a season on our website at the end of last year but due to a change in the performances license fees for one show we've decided to use the changes to allow direct input from



our patrons. Here is our lineup for 2015-2016: September 11 - 27,2015

On Golden Pond

by Ernest Thompson

"THE STORY: This is the love story of Ethel and Norman Thayer, who are returning to their summer home on Golden Pond for the forty-eighth year. He is a retired professor, nearing eighty, with heart palpitations and a failing memory—but still as tart-tongued, observant and eager for life as ever. Ethel, ten years younger, and the perfect foil for Norman, delights in all the small things that have enriched and continue to enrich

> their long life together. They are visited by their divorced, middle-aged daughter and her dentist fiancé, who

then go off to Europe, leaving his teenage son behind for the summer. The boy quickly becomes the "grandchild" the elderly couple have longed for, and as Norman revels in taking his ward fishing and thrusting good books at him, he also learns some lessons about modern teenage awarenessand slang-in return. In the end, as the summer wanes, so does their brief idyll, and in the final, deeply moving moments of the play, Norman and Ethel are brought even closer together by the incidence of a mild heart attack. Time, they know, is now against them, but the years have been good and, perhaps, another summer on Golden Pond still awaits." - Dramatists Play Service



a jones hope wooten comedy

December 4 – 20, 2015 Christmas Belles by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and 7amie Wooten

THE STORY: "It's Christmas-time in the small town of Fayro, Texas, and the Futrelle Sisters-Frankie, Twink and Honey Raye-are not

exactly in a festive mood. A cranky Frankie is weeks overdue with her second set of twins. Twink, recently jilted and bitter about it, is in jail for inadvertently burning down half the town. And hot-flash-suffering Honey Raye is desperately trying to keep the Tabernacle of the Lamb's Christmas Program from spiraling into chaos. But things are not looking too promising: Miss Geneva, the ousted director of the previous twenty-seven productions, is ruthless in her attempts to take over the show. The celebrity guest Santa Claus—played by Frankie's long-suffering husband, Dub—is passing a kidney stone. One of the shepherds refuses to watch over his flock by night without pulling his little red wagon behind him. And the entire cast is dropping like flies due to food poisoning from the Band Boosters' Pancake Supper. And when Frankie lets slip a family secret that has been carefully guarded for decades, all hope for a successful Christmas program seems lost, even with an Elvis impersonator at the manger. But in true Futrelle fashion, the feuding sisters find a way to pull together in order to present a Christmas program the citizens of Fayro will never forget. Their hilarious holiday journey through a misadventure-filled Christmas Eve is guaranteed to bring joy to your world!" - Dramatists Play Service



February 12 – 28, 2016 – WILD CARD! Your choice of Naughty, Nice or New

We are testing the waters to see if some of the comments and suggestions we have received from patrons will help us reach a greater audience. Our goal at STAGE RIGHT has been to present clean, family friendly uplifting entertainment. We have been challenged by some of our patrons to include shows with a little more adult nature to them and not something you'd bring young children to see. While we won't present anything objectionable (no, we still won't be dropping the "F" bomb on stage or baring it all!), we'd like to see if our patrons would enjoy en-

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tertainment with more adult themes and humor. So, let's find out! Below are three options. Please vote for your choice of show by sending an email to STAGE RIGHT Artistic Director Carolyn Wong: Carolyn.wong@stage-right. org with I Vote in the subject line. We'll tally the results and announce the final season lineup in April.



Vote Naughty: The Producers

The plot is simple: a down-on-his-luck Broadway producer and his mild-mannered accountant come up with a scheme to produce the most notorious flop in history thereby bilking their backers (all "little old ladies") out of millions of dollars. Only one thing goes awry: the show is a smash hit! The antics of Max Bialystock and Leo Bloom as they maneuver their way fecklessly through finding a show (the gloriously offensive "Springtime For Hitler"), hiring a director, raising the money and finally going to prison for their misdeeds is a lesson in broad comic construction. At the core of the insanely funny adventure is a poignant emotional journey of two very different men who become friends. With a truly hysterical book co-written by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan (Annie) and music and lyrics by Mr. Brooks, The Producers skewers Broadway traditions and takes no prisoners as it proudly proclaims itself an "equal opportunity offender!" - Music Theatre International, MTI Shows, Inc. We'd rate it



Vote Nice: Kiss Me, Kate

"Combine Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew" with Porter's music and lyrics to get KISS ME, KATE — an instant success with every cast and audience. This is a play-within-a-play where each cast member's on-stage life is complicated by what is happening offstage. Musical numbers include Why Can't You Behave, So In Love Am I, Wunderbar, Tom, Dick or Harry, Were Thine That Special Face, Too Darn Hot, Brush Up Your Shakespeare, I Hate Men, Always True to You (In My Fashion) and Another Op'nin, Another Show. KISS ME, KATE is fun, melodious and sophisticated." - Tams-Witmark. We'd rate it PG.



Vote New: Curtains

It's the brassy, bright, and promising year of 1959. Boston's Colonial Theatre is host to the opening night performance of a new musical. When the untalented and despised leading lady mysteriously dies on stage the entire cast & crew are suspects. Enter a local detective, who just happens to be a musical theatre fan! This is a relatively new musical but with an old fashioned feel (If you liked The Drowsy Chaperone, you'll love Curtains!). If you love old fashioned musical comedy and mystery, you'll love Curtains. We'd rate it PG.

April 15 – May 1, 2016 Rumors by Neil Simon

"At a large, tastefully appointed Sneden's Landing townhouse, the Deputy Mayor of New York has just shot himself. Though only a flesh wound, four couples are about to experience a severe attack of Farce. Gathering for their tenth wedding anniversary, the host lies bleeding in the other room and his wife is nowhere in sight. His

lawyer, Ken and wife Chris must get "the story" straight before the other guests arrive. As the confusions and mis-communications mount, the evening spins off into classic farcical hilarity." -Samuel French



July 8 - 24, 2016

Legally Blonde The Musical

"Based on the adored movie, Legally Blonde The Musical stays true to form with a peppy score and playful book. This musical is ridiculously enjoyable from start to finish. Elle Woods appears to have it all. Her life is turned upside-down, however, when her boyfriend dumps her so he can start getting serious about his life and attend Harvard Law. Determined to get him back, Elle uses her charm to get into Harvard Law. At school, she struggles with peers, professors, and Warner Huntington. With the help of Paulette and Emmett, though, Elle quickly realizes her potential and sets out to prove herself to the world." - Music Theatre International, MTI Shows, Inc.

Just in case you were wondering, we had to take Always, Patsy Cline (as was announced at the end of the 2014) off our season roster. The rights structure was changed at the start of this year to a very high flat fee per performance. The rights to perform the show would be close to \$20,000; more than twice what we paid the last time we produced it. We would need to raise our ticket prices significantly in order to make the show profitable so we decided not to do it. However, if you really want to see the show, send us a check for \$20,000 and we'll make it happen!

Season 2015 - 2016 tickets are on sale now for only \$85 for all five productions. Season tickets can be purchased by calling the Crighton Theatre box office at 936-441-7469. Call any time, leave a message and your call will be returned during box office hours (M-F from 3 - 6 pm). The benefits of purchasing season tickets are:

- Reserved seats in the Crown Jewel of Montgomery County for all shows
- Your seats reserved in advance for next season
- Complimentary ticket exchange
- Over 20% discount on tickets
- 1 Free Friends Ticket good for admission to
- Your name in every program and on the big screen during preshow entertainment

We have 2 shows left in our current season: The Trip to Bountiful runs April 17 - May 3, and Shrek The Musical runs July 10 - 26. We hope to see you soon at the historic Crighton Theatre! ◆

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