

# STAGE RIGHT

## Offers 4 Ways to Make Your Holidays Special



By: Steven & Carolyn Wong



*Christmas Belles Cast*

The days leading up to December can bring expectations and stresses that can make it easy to forget what we are celebrating. Here are some inexpensive ways to bring back meaning to the holiday season:

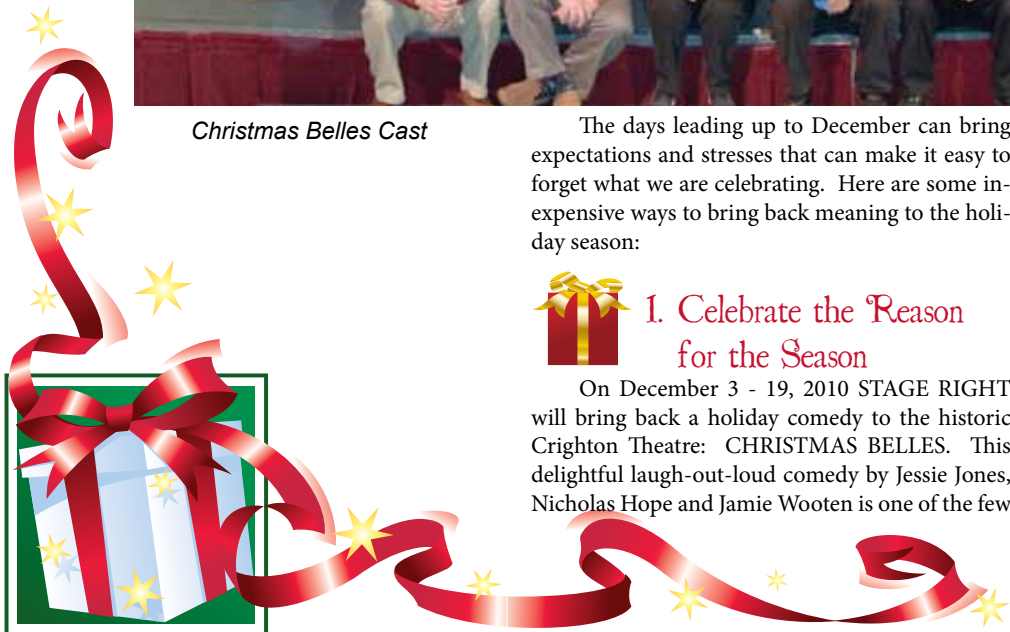


### 1. Celebrate the Reason for the Season

On December 3 - 19, 2010 STAGE RIGHT will bring back a holiday comedy to the historic Crighton Theatre: CHRISTMAS BELLES. This delightful laugh-out-loud comedy by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten is one of the few

Christmas plays that actually has the telling of the Christmas story in it (you know, the one with the baby Jesus in the manger?). These days it's easy to forget the reason for the season. Come watch the Futrelles of Fayro be reminded why we celebrate.

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.

As critic David Dow Bentley III said upon reviewing our first production: "If you don't take life too seriously, head over to the Crighton to exercise your laugh muscles and get in the spirit of a season that celebrates the second chances made possible by the birth of the Christ Child."



Donated Vases



## 2. Focus on Family Traditions

Traditions that focus on family are a great way to put meaning back into the holidays. If you find your traditions have lost their meaning, find ways to revitalize them. Which family traditions do you love the most? Figure out how you can put more emphasis on them. If you love the tradition of lighting the menorah, get together as a group to make your own candles. If you enjoy the family trip to pick out a tree, make it an all-day event and head to a tree farm to choose your own. We hope coming to a show can become part of your family tradition.

Many of our actors and staff would rather opt out of a holiday show. It's a hectic time of year for everyone. However, they know how much our patrons need to laugh. They tell us again and again how much "a simple show" changes their outlook on life. Given that feedback, we find ways to incorporate our whole family in the holiday production and make the time spent special. One of the best parts of putting on a play at the Crighton Theatre at Christmas time is the chance to decorate 'Montgomery County's Crown Jewel' for the holidays. Last year, in exchange for our performing at the Conroe Outlet Mall tree lighting ceremony, we were given boxes of beautiful ornaments to decorate the theatre. If you'd like to 'get into the Christmas spirit' come join our families as we decorate the Crighton. You can bet they'll be lots of laughs and food to share once the work is complete. Check out our website to see when we'll be decorating [www.stage-right.org](http://www.stage-right.org).



Decorating the Lobby Christmas Tree



## 3. Teach Kids to Give of Themselves

No one needs to tell you hard it is to raise kids these days. Volunteerism offers an opportunity for families to have fun and feel closer to each other through shared experiences. Community service becomes a habit that quietly shows how giving means much more than buying the hot gift of the season or scrambling around to buy mounds of presents. When volunteering begins at an early age, a child can learn the value of hard work and gain a sense of accomplishment that will last them far longer than the latest game or gadget. STAGE RIGHT tries to involve our kids with service activities involving other organizations. This has included performing songs at a local rehabilitation hospital and senior centers, aiding the animal shelter in collection of donations, collect-

Continued on page 56 ⇨



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Boxes of Donated Christmas Decorations

ing items to benefit and support our active duty troops through the US Troop Support Foundation, or collecting toys to benefit less fortunate kids. If you come to our Christmas show, have your kids pick out a gift to bring for donation. Have them put it in the donation box. Let them know that some child will have a toy on Christmas morning because they cared.



## 4. Gifts?

Picking the right gift can be difficult and time consuming. Of course, presents don't always have to be purchased in a store. Homemade gifts such as photo albums, artwork, food, or even gifts of time can be special. Create your own gift certificates for a free car wash, girls' night out, or five free loads of laundry. That gift of your time can be more meaningful than one that costs big bucks.

At STAGE RIGHT we do not have a lot of money. We are a relatively young theatre company founded in a time of great economic upheaval. However, we have been blessed by the generous support of our season subscribers, benefactors, playbill advertisers, and other organizations. We are so grateful for their gifts because that allows us to give of our time and talent to keep the historic Crighton Theatre alive. Treasuring our history is part of our mission and it has been the gifts of our supporters that have helped us help the Crighton. One gift we hope you will consider giving is theatre tickets. Season tickets to our remaining four shows (which include CHRISTMAS BELLES, ALWAYS...PATSY CLINE, HARVEY & THE MUSIC MAN) are only \$60. If you purchase a season ticket you'll also get one free Friends Ticket to any show to give as a gift.

How do you make your holidays special? We hope you'll make coming to the Crighton for a Christmas show part of your family traditions. Join us for some laughter as we retell the Christmas story 'Fayro-style' at the historic Crighton Theatre in downtown Conroe on December 3-19. Tickets are online at [www.stage-right.org](http://www.stage-right.org) or call 936-441-SHOW (7469). ♦



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