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Stage Right opens 'Dearly Beloved' April 16

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By **Peggie Miller** Performing arts columnist

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If Scarlett O'Hara could see "Dearly Beloved," at Conroe's Crighton Theatre it might elicit language stronger than "Fiddle dee dee!"

STAGE RIGHT opens the comedy April 16 at Conroe's Crighton Theatre, where it runs weekends through May 2. Although it's the first of a trilogy by playwrights Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jaime Wooten, it is presented after SR successfully produced the previous two.

As for Miss O'Hara, she'd probably faint if she witnessed this society wedding in the make believe town of Fayro, Texas, where the three Futrelle sisters are seeing to the details in the tradition of Margaret Mitchell — sort of. These details include hooped skirts, flowing dresses and a lively barbecue like at 12 Oaks where Scarlett met Rhett.

But here enters sister, Twink, whose reception plans provide for potluck barbecue served in very practical Tupperware, accompanied by government issued cheese purchased at a radical discount. So what's not to like with all that practicality? They're even roasting the main course right behind the church on a convenient open pit!

Amidst all these sophisticated arrangements, prodigal sister Honey Raye abruptly appears on the scene. Those who earlier saw "Christmas Belles" and "Southern Hospitality" at the Crighton will recall that it was Honey Raye's sudden departure that wrote fine to the Futrelle sisters' gospel singing career as the Sermonettes. Previous audiences will welcome AMY SOWERS as she reprises this role.

JESSICA HONSINGER stands to make a lasting impression in her first role with Stage Right, playing identical twins, Gina Jo Dubberly, and bride to be, Tina Jo. A Montgomery County native, Jessica recalls attending shows at the Crighton as a child. After a year spent studying in Cork, Ireland, and Paris, France, Jessica went on to earn a degree in political science with an English associate at the University of Hawaii and is delighted to be on the Crighton stage.

(To the person, each actor appearing at the Crighton for the first time in this show finds the experience awe-inspiring). Those returning are equally excited.

Wyoming native DIANE EDGAR tries her hand at directing "Dearly Beloved," after being involved backstage during prior shows.

Her assistant is JENNIFER LEMON.

For the third time CAROLYN CORSANO WONG portrays sister Geneva. A woman of diverse talents, Wong possesses another local presence when she teams with the family canine, therapy dog Harley, in missions to convalescent centers and similar points.

From Chicago to Porter, comes KATE RYAN HUDSON, who earned a master's degree in theater at the University of Illinois, Chicago, and acquired experience in Crown Point Community Theatre.

An elementary school art teacher, AMY CREEL gathered experience at Playhouse 1960 and owns a degree in advertising and graphic arts. She portrays Twink, the sister with sufficient culinary sophistication to design the aforementioned ultimate wedding reception.

ROBERT EVANS, theater teacher at Moorhead Junior High School, earned a BFA at SHSU. Among his demanding roles elsewhere were Sky Masterson in "Guys and Dolls" and Danny in "Grease."

Individually, and as a group, this cast and crew possess a slew of credentials in all fields of theatrical production. WADE GONSONLIN portrayed Bill Sikes in "Oliver!" and gained experience at Theatre 1960, Country Playhouse and Theatre Southwest. PATRICIA KENTIMENTOS accumulated 19 years of experience here, at Playhouse 1960, and in New York and Los Angeles.

TOM LOCKHART snagged roles in a number of CRIGHTON PLAYERS' shows as well as several with SR.

Tickets to "Dearly Beloved" cost \$17 for adults; \$12 for students. Call the Crighton box office at (936) 441-7469 between 3 to 6 p.m. to reserve.

Next season Stage Right has been invited to premier a new show by the three playwrights responsible for this Fayro, Texas trilogy.

Stage Right's 2010-2011 tentative line up looks like this: "No Time for Sergeants" Sept. 10-26; "Christmas Belles" Dec. 3-19; "Always, Patsy Cline" Feb. 11-March 6; "Harvey" April 22-May 8; and "The Music Man" July 15-31. Visit www.stage-right.org to learn more.

Contact Peggie at (936) 448-6455 or pegmillr@juno.com.

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