

# Stage Right announces 2nd season of shows

When the production crew of STAGE RIGHT realized it would need some Civil War (that's War Between the States to the uninitiated) artifacts for "Southern Hospitality," it began to cast about for possibilities. The comedy opens April 17 at Conroe's Crighton Theatre.

But it wasn't nail biting time yet.

"The answer was simple," said cast member CAROLYN CORSANO WONG. "Holler for help!"

They remembered Montgomery antiques stores owner BEA ROUSE, whom they met in February while asking permission to place posters in her shops.

When they recently contacted Bea, "she opened her doors to Stage Right and loaned them anything they needed." Browsing her Montgomery shops, The Branding Iron and the Olde Schoolhouse Store, the theater group found a treasure trove of authentic loot, including Civil War hats, weapons and clothing, for use in their play. They piled it all up and are using it free of charge during the run of "Southern Hospitality."

Those who know Bea are familiar with her passion for preserving historical reminders, of her work on locally produced movies, and her zeal to preserve "Bear Bend," Sam Houston's hunting cabins, the future of which is uncertain.

A line from "Southern Hospitality" embodies Stage Right's tribute to Bea—"If you want something done right, ask a Texan. If you want it done right now, ask a Texas woman!"

Stage Right also announced its second season of shows, all



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of which focus on music. It begins with a 75th birthday tribute to the Crighton Theatre entitled "Vaudeville (Finally) Comes to the Crighton" weekends Sept. 11-27. This will include singing, dancing and comedy. As locals know, the Crighton Theatre was built in 1934 presumably to include vaudeville. However, vaudeville was fast becoming passé and none was ever performed there. From Dec. 4-20 comes "Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge Magi." It parodies time honored classic holiday shows such as "A Christmas Carol." It is described as slapstick fun for the kids, yet witty enough to provide adult chuckles.

Following is "Cole," focusing on the incomparable music of Cole Porter Feb. 19-March 7.

In April, 2010, it's back to Fayro, Tex., with "Dearly Beloved," first of the farcical trilogy that started it all. This is the Futrelle sisters' attempt to pull off an antebellum wedding and reunite a gospel singing trio, the Sermonettes, all at the same time.

Ending season two is "Annie," the musical story of an orphan girl who "melts hearts and heals souls." It runs weekends July 23 through August 15.

Tickets for next season's five plays cost \$75 for adults, and include free exchange privileges. Discounts apply to groups and youngsters. Stage Right welcomes community

participation. For tickets call (936) 441-7469. For more information, visit [www.stage-right.org](http://www.stage-right.org).

Meanwhile, play director JILLIAN NOLAN released a cast list for the upcoming "Southern Hospitality." Several of its performers hold credentials with the CRIGHTON PLAYERS, including Wong, RENEE CANNON, MARYLYN LEWELLEN, K. R. KRETZ, AMY SOWERS, TOM LOCKHART and Crighton Theatre Manager, JIM BINGHAM. Others cast are PATRICE KENTIMENOS, a recent transplant to The Woodlands from New York; RHONDA MCLAUGHLIN; DIANE EDGAR; ADAM SWEENEY, who directed "Christmas Belles;" CHRISTY MULLINS and SETH RADLIFF.

TOWN CENTER THEATRE'S production of Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" opened March 27 and runs weekends through April 5 at Bock Auditorium, 3800 South Panther Creek Drive in The Woodlands. TCT is the first professional acting company in Montgomery County.

Of no small notice is the fact the TCT presents two benefit performances for ninth and tenth grade high school students, completely without charge to them and their teachers. These special performances are on the evenings of April 1 and 2, according to publicist ARRON STRYK. A question-and-answer session with actors and scholars from Rice and other universities follows each of these distinctive shows.

"Julius Caesar" has been performed for more than 400 years. It portrays the conspiracy against Rome's most noted

emperor, his assassination by trusted friend Marcus Brutus, and the aftermath of his treachery. Considered an opportunity for great performances, this drama is regarded as an actor's dream. Great performers who have starred in it include Charlton Heston, Marlon Brando, Jason Robards and Denzel Washington.

Artistic Director CHRIS TENNYSON said the play's themes are timeless and "it's a political thriller."

"It examines fate versus free will, personal loyalty versus the good of the public and the mortal effects of greed and envy," Tennyson added in a press release.

In a nod toward modern times, the play's actions were moved from the Roman Senate to a contemporary board room.

Crighton Players' devotees will be pleased to note that KIM BRYANT and TRAVIS BRYANT portray featured roles, joined by AMBER BENNETT.

Friday and Saturday shows are at 8 p.m., Sunday matinees are at 2:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 each, with those older than 55 paying \$20. Students and groups of 10 pay \$15. Call (832) 592-9697, extension 2, or visit [tcinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:tcinfo@yahoo.com).

TCT is soliciting donations of \$100 from businesses or individual wishing to sponsor the free high school shows. In a campaign, 100 X 100, the company hopes to obtain a hundred contributions of \$100 each. To participate in the fund raiser, Use the above contact information.

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