

**STAGE  
RIGHT**

Invites You to Take

THE TRIP TO  
BOUNTIFUL

By: Carolyn Corsano Wong  
Photos: Michael Pittman Images



STAGE RIGHT of Texas, resident theatre company at the historic Crighton Theatre, presents Texas playwright Horton Foote's early masterpiece: *The Trip to Bountiful* April 17 – May 3. Audiences will be transported back to Houston of the 1950s; a simpler time when home, family and hymns were the elixir to cure any ailment.

Having premiered on NBC as a teleplay in 1953, *The Trip to Bountiful* was then produced on Broadway later that year with the legendary Lillian Gish in the leading role and a young Eva Marie Saint making her Broad-

way debut in a featured role. Horton Foote later wrote the screenplay for the movie adaptation in 1985 which garnered him a nomination for an Academy Award and a win for his leading lady Geraldine Page. In the recent revival on Broadway, octogenarian Cicely Tyson won a Tony Award for her portrayal of the unconquerable spirit of Carrie Watts.

*The Trip to Bountiful* is one we are all likely to face one day: as we approach our final years we tend to look back over our lives and reflect on the quality of life we have led, the choices we have made and the love of home.





*Carrie and fellow passenger Thelma*

Living in an overcrowded three-room Houston apartment with her devoted, yet melancholy son Ludie and his brittle, controlling wife Jessie Mae, elderly and ailing Carrie Watts longs to visit her childhood home in the small Texas town of Bountiful before she dies. Forced to leave the land where she grew up twenty years ago, her powerful memories sustain her as she dreams of making the trip back to reclaim her dignity and strength. The play follows the journey when one day, Carrie decides to take the trip back to Bountiful. Her journey, though trying, is one filled with faith, love and hope. Audiences will laugh at the familiar 'family' situations, recognize the people of small town Texas of the past and ultimately have tears in their eyes, as Carrie does, when she realizes her dream. Can we go home again, or do we carry home with us no matter where life takes us? Come to Bountiful with us and find out!

STAGE RIGHT Artistic Director Carolyn Corsano Wong has assembled a cast of seasoned stage veterans to bring this beautiful story to the Crighton stage. Leading the cast as Carrie Watts is Leona Hoegsberg. A children's librarian and professional storyteller, Leona has graced the Crighton stage numerous times. Audiences will remember her as the hilarious run-away nun Jeri-Neal in our season opener *The Dixie Swim Club*, Aunt Abby in last season's *Arsenic & Old Lace* and the evil Stepmother in *Cinderella*. Playing Carrie's dutiful son Ludie is Bill Giffen. While new to STAGE RIGHT, Bill has performed on numerous stages across Houston

*Continued on page 54*

*Thelma trying to get the Harrison ticket agent to help Mrs. Watts*



## HI-TECH FIBERGLASS

*Profile Performance Marine*

- Pontoon aluminum restoration & repair
- Fiberglass & Gelcoat specialist
- Upholstery repair/replacement
- Specialist in hull restoration
- Custom fiberglass fabrication
- Insurance claims

12072 Hilltop Dr.  
Willis, TX 77318

713.540.6445



# STAGE RIGHT

*presents a timeless  
journey of the heart*



*by Horton Foote*

**Apr. 17-  
May 3, 2015**

*Performances at the historic  
Crighton Theatre in Conroe, TX  
Box Office at 936-441-SHOW (7469)  
Online tickets: [www.stage-right.org](http://www.stage-right.org)*

*Presented by arrangement with Dramatists Play Service  
Funded in part by the Conroe Commission on Arts & Culture*

Carrie with her dutiful son Ludie and annoyed daughter-in-law Jessie Mae



Ludie and Jessie Mae

and been seen in several productions at the Owen Theatre including *Almost Maine*, as Brick in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and MacMurphy in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Playing Ludie's overbearing wife Jessie Mae is STAGE RIGHT favorite Melody Montez. Melody is an accomplished actress and director and has graced the Crighton stage for many years. Most recent appearances include the vain and man-crazy Lexie in *The Dixie Swim Club*, Rhonda Lynn in *Christmas Belles*, and Savannah in the World Premiere of *Mama Won't Fly*. Rounding out the cast in supporting roles are acclaimed Conroe sculptor and the Crighton Theatre's newest neighbor Craig Campobella as the kind hearted sheriff. Craig has appeared on the Crighton stage numerous times most recently as the priest in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* and Boolie in last season's hit *Driving Miss Daisy*. Craig's lovely wife Cristy Campobella plays Thelma; a bus passenger that befriends Mrs. Watts on her journey. Cristy was last seen as Grace in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* and deftly played against type as the scheming vicious Velma Von Tussle in *Hairspray*. STAGE RIGHT board member Tom Richard plays the busy-body bus station ticket



Mrs. Watts gets her ticket to *Bountiful*

man in Harrison and Jim Murph is the Houston ticket man. Tom and Jim were both most helpful in our production of *Singin' in the Rain* by moving all those set pieces on and off the stage at lightning speed. Three newcomers to the stage are playing our Houston bus station passengers. All three have never been on stage before and wanted to give it a try for this production: Rosemary Richard, Jo Ann Hall and STAGE RIGHT scenic designer Denise DeBord. Our audiences have marveled at Denise's artistic work in productions including *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Singin' in the Rain*.

Performance dates for *The Trip to Bountiful* are weekends April 17 – May 3, Friday and Saturday nights at 8 pm with two Sunday matinees on April 26 and May 3 at 2 pm. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.stage-right.org](http://www.stage-right.org) or by calling the Crighton Theatre box office at 936-441-SHOW (7469). Tick-

Follow LSstudents on:



**lonestar**  
students

Wednesdays at 7 PM Grades 7-12



LoneStar.tv



**Service Times:**

**SUNDAY**

8:30am 10:00am 11:30am

**MONDAY 7:00pm**

21627 Eva St. Montgomery, TX. 77356  
PH: 936.449.5749 visit-us-online at: LoneStar.tv