

# STAGE RIGHT'S Battle on a Budget -

## Texas Style

By: Carolyn Corsano Wong

In a true case of life imitating art, STAGE RIGHT, now performing at the historic Crighton Theatre, is preparing for battle: a Civil War battle reenactment that is part of the story in



**Bea helping actress Renee Cannon with her costume.**

their upcoming production of Jones, Hope and Wooten's SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY. This sequel to CHRISTMAS BELLES finds the citizens of Fayro, Texas in dire straits: the meat rendering plant and the Super Smart Mart have closed, and folks are leaving town



**Confederate Saber.**

in droves. The Futrelle sisters decide to stage an elaborate event, 'Fayro Days,' in an effort to entice a salsa manufacturer to town. Included are a beauty pageant complete with age old rivalry, a pet costume parade (does a stuffed Emu count?) and a Civil War battle reenactment. But, like the citizens of Fayro, STAGE RIGHT is short on funds, time and materials. So just how does a new theatre company with limited costume and prop supplies create a Civil War battle? The answer is simple: holler for help! This help was graciously provided by Bea Rouse, owner of The Branding Iron and The Olde School House antique and gift shops

in Montgomery Texas. On a sunny Sunday afternoon Bea opened her doors to the folks of STAGE RIGHT and loaned them anything they needed. Met by the shy clerk stationed be-

low the counter and known to locals as Little Man, they browsed her shop and found a treasure trove of authentic loot for use in their play. Civil War hats, weapons, and clothing were all piled high and loaned free of charge to the grateful theatre troupe.

Just how does a lady with antique shops in Montgomery happen to have such a stock pile of authentic looking 19th century clothing and props? Well, there's a story in itself! Quite unknown to STAGE RIGHT, they happened upon the producer of direct to DVD Western movies

when they met Bea Rouse. It all started with a request to put up a poster for their February show:

LOVE LETTERS. Bea allowed STAGE RIGHT to display the poster in her stores and told them that for their next show which has a Civil War battle they were welcome to return and borrow anything they needed. Bea then revealed that her supplies come from her involvement as props master and producer of numerous movies made right in Montgomery, Texas. Did you know Armand Assante, Eric Braeden, George Kennedy, Billy Zane and Carol Alt visited here to make "The Man Who Came Back" which was released in December of last year? Bea, who calls herself an 'instant producer' is quite modest about her association with these luminaries. But she is quite outspoken about her passion for preserving the areas and structures used in the filming, particularly Bear Bend, Sam Houston's hunting cabins. The future is uncertain for the cabins, but knowing Bea she'll do what needs doing. Her tenacity reminded the STAGE RIGHT folks of a



**Stage Right founder Amy Sowers (L) and Carolyn Wong (R) with Bea Rouse.**

line from SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY: "If you want something done right ask a Texan, if you want it done right now ask a Texas woman!"

STAGE RIGHT was overwhelmed by the kindness, generosity and good old Southern hospitality displayed by Bea Rouse. They hope that you can stop by The Branding Iron at 212 S. Liberty Street in Montgomery and pay Bea and

Little Man a visit.

While you're there, you may want to purchase a Stinkin' Badge or perhaps one of the Civil War items used in the play. Who knows, it may also have been used by a true movie star! If you'd like to see the items before you buy, come see SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY at the Crighton Theatre. This laugh-out-loud comedy



**Prop Master Mackenzie Goode found a hat and a friend.**

runs April 17 - May 3, Friday & Saturday evenings at 8 pm with two Sunday matinees on April 26 and May 3 at 2 pm. Tickets to this show and the rest of the season can be obtained by calling 936-441-7469.

Please bring some good old Southern hospitality to our neighbors in need; STAGE RIGHT will be collecting food items in the lobby of the theatre during the run of the show for donation to the Montgomery County Food Bank. Most needed items are canned meats (tuna, chicken, stew,



**Stage Right founder Molly Goode with Little Man.**



**Stage Right founder Tom Lockhart with way too long britches.**

chili), canned vegetables and fruits, peanut butter, cereal, powdered baby formula, dried soup mixes, dried beans, boxed pastas and rice. Additionally, backpack lunch items for kids are also needed including shelf-stable single-servings of cereal, milk and juice, tuna packs, fruit cups, pudding cups, granola bars, and individual boxes of raisins. Y'all dig deep: the need is great and the supplies are low. Don't let your fellow Texans go hungry.



**STAGE RIGHT ANNOUNCES UPCOMING SEASON**

When the dust of the Fayro battlefield settles and the rights have been secured, STAGE RIGHT will begin selling tickets to its next season. To align their season with other arts groups, STAGE RIGHT will begin its 2009-2010 season in the Fall. Their second season is devoted to music; all shows contain music, three with music of the period when the Crighton Theatre was built. First up will be a 75th Birthday celebration for the Crighton: Vaudeville (Finally) Comes to the Crighton. The theatre was built in 1934 as a Vaudeville house, yet it never played there. STAGE RIGHT is bringing singing, dancing, specialty and comedy acts to the Crighton stage at long last. The show will run Sept. 11 - 27. The Vaudeville was announced in our premiere season and season tickets will be prorated for those subscribers who have already purchased tickets. A discount will also be given to subscribers who renew prior to the Vaudeville show. So, buy your tickets to the rest of this season and save on the next. Following the Vaudeville will be Christopher Durang's hilarious parody of all things Christmas: Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge. If you've seen one too many presentations of A Christmas Carol, It's A Wonderful Life or even The Gift of the Magi, come see them skewered in the rollicking parody. It's full of slapstick physical fun

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**Sounds like it's been a long  
time since those bugle  
lessons Tom!**

for the kids, yet witty enough for the adults to chuckle at all the references to time honored classics. Ring in the holidays with laughter from Dec. 4 - 20th.

In the New Year, STAGE RIGHT will present the incomparable music of Cole Porter with Cole. This show is a de-lovely review of the life and music of an American master. The 'swellegant' party will run Feb. 19 - Mar. 7, 2010. From class to crass: in April STAGE



**The Branding Iron, Est. 2001  
Montgomery, Texas**

RIGHT will present the first part of the Texas trilogy chronicling the citizens of Fayro. The farcical series that continued with Christmas Belles and ended with Southern Hospitality began with Jones, Hope and Wooten's Dearly Beloved. See if Fayro can pull off an antebellum wedding and reunite the gospel singing trio, The Sermonettes, without total chaos from April 16 to May 2. The final show in the season is one to delight audiences young and old alike: Annie. This is the heartwarming musical tale of a little orphan girl who melts hearts and heals souls. Bet your bottom dollar, you won't want to miss it; the show will run July 23 - Aug. 15.

More information about STAGE RIGHT can be found on their website: [www.stage-right.org](http://www.stage-right.org). If you have a show request and/or just want to get involved please send your information to [info@stage-right.org](mailto:info@stage-right.org). Purchase tickets by calling 936-441-SHOW. ♦



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