

# STAGE RIGHT

## STAGE RIGHT presents On Golden Pond

By Carolyn Corsano Wong  
Photos: Michael Pittman Images

We welcome you to  
Golden Pond

Jim King as Bill Ray with Don as the cantankerous Norman

Marilyn Moore as Ethel and Don Hampton as Norman

STAGE RIGHT of Texas, resident theatre company at the historic Crighton Theatre in downtown Conroe, presents Ernest Thompson's *On Golden Pond* September 11 - 27.

This is the love story of Ethel and Norman Thayer, who are returning to their summer home on Golden Pond for the forty-eighth year. He is a retired professor, nearing eighty, with heart palpitations and a failing memory—but still as tart-tongued, observant and eager for life as ever. Ethel, ten years younger, and the perfect foil for Norman, delights in all the small things that have enriched and continue to enrich their long life together. They are visited by their divorced, middle-aged daughter and her dentist fiancé, who then

go off to Europe, leaving his teenage son behind for the summer. The boy quickly becomes the “grandchild” the elderly couple have longed for, and as Norman revels in taking his ward fishing and thrusting good books at him, he also learns some lessons about modern teenage awareness—and slang—in return. In the end, as the summer wanes, so does their brief idyll, and in the final, deeply moving moments of the play, Norman and Ethel are brought even closer together by the incidence of a mild heart attack. Time, they know, is now against them, but the years have been good and, perhaps, another summer on Golden Pond still awaits. – Dramatists Play Service

Made popular by the 1981 film starring Henry Fonda and Katherine Hepburn, *On Golden Pond* is a touching, funny and warmly perceptive study of a spirited and lovable elderly couple facing their twilight years. Director Jim Walker has assembled

an experienced cast to bring this lovely story of enduring love to the Crighton stage. Leading the cast as Norman and Ethel Thayer are Don Hampton and Marilyn Moore. Don is an accomplished actor and director having appeared in numerous shows with the Players and recently directed the Player's *Almost, Maine* at the Owen Theatre. Marilyn is an audience favorite having won 3 Montie Awards. She last appeared on the Crighton stage as the cantankerous Daisy Werthan in the STAGE RIGHT production of *Driving Miss Daisy*. Appearing as daughter Chelsea is Kim Bryant. Kim last appeared on the Crighton stage as the Drowsy Chaperone/Beatrice Stockwell in *The Drowsy Chaperone* a few seasons ago. Young Ian Montez appears as Billy Ray; the wise-cracking youth left with Norman and Ethel for the summer. Ian has appeared in numerous STAGE RIGHT shows most

Ian Montez as Billy Ray - Norman's fishing companion

Kim Bryant as daughter Chelsea with Marilyn and Don as the Thayers



notably as Ralphie in *A Christmas Story*. Jim King portrays Billy's father and Chelsea's fiancé Bill Ray. Jim stage managed our production of *Hairspray* and was seen on stage in *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *The Carol Burnett Show*. Charlie the mailman is portrayed by Allen Dorris. An accomplished actor, Allen has worked in theatres all over Houston and was last seen on the Crighton stage in the second show produced by STAGE RIGHT: *Love Letters*. Rounding out the cast as the operator is Jennifer Hennessey Marshall. The part of the operator was not originally in the script but when the show was produced on Broadway recently with actor James Earl Jones as Norman, he requested the playwright pen what the operator was saying on the other end of the phone line when Norman tests the phone service at their cottage. Audiences will remember Jennifer's knack for comic flair from her portrayal of the hard-luck case Vernadette in last season's hit *The Dixie Swim Club*.

We wanted to make our patrons aware that the show contains some language that may be offensive to some. We petitioned the playwright to change the language but were denied and now are legally bound to perform the play exactly as written. Fear not, we don't drop the F-bomb and the script is exactly as what is in the movie. So if you are ok with what Henry Fonda and Katherine Hepburn say in the movie, you'll be ok with what is in the play.

**SPOTLIGHT ORGANIZATION:** As with every STAGE RIGHT show, we try to highlight a need in our community and then throw a spotlight on an organization trying to help with that need. At the request of our leading lady, Marilyn Moore, a devoted animal lover, we are going to be collecting donations for the Houston SPCA Cinderella Fund for the care of the Conroe 200 Horses. These were the horses that were rescued from the Calico Dairy on League Line Road. These unfortunate souls were horrendously neglected and now suffer from upper respiratory infections, abscesses, open wounds and severe malnutrition. The Houston SPCA estimates their rehabilitation costs at \$12,000 per day! We will be collecting funds that will be donated to cover the rehabilitation.

**SHOW DATES:**

September 11 - 27, Friday & Saturday nights at 8 pm and two Sunday matinees on September 20 & 27 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). Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and groups of 15 persons or more, \$15 for youth 16 and under and for senior groups of 12 or more persons. The historic Crighton Theatre is located at 234 N. Main St. in downtown Conroe. ♦

Jennifer Hennessey Marshall as the Operator



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