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Stage Right invites patrons back to 'Fayro, Texas'

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By **Peggie Miller** Performing arts columnist

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There's more to anticipate than a laugh-out-loud comedy when STAGE RIGHT, Conroe's newest community theater group, opens "Southern Hospitality" on April 17 at the Crighton Theatre. First night includes a performance from ROBIN FITCH, an up-and-coming country singer.

"We're having special entertainment before the show and also at a private party afterward," said CAROLYN CORSANO WONG, founder of Stage Right. "Because this comedy takes place in a small town, Fayro, Texas, we decided to present country music singer ROBIN FITCH in a program to go along with the country flavor."

Robin takes possession of the Crighton stage at 7:30 p.m. half an hour before the first curtain rises. Robin also will entertain at an invitation-only party following the "Southam Hospitality" opening.

A graduate of Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, Robin attends LONE STAR COLLEGE-Montgomery. Although trained in classical voice, she shines in the light of country music, especially that of the late Patsy Cline. She has appeared at the Caddy Shack in Walden, Dosey Doe, Conroe's Corner Pub and elsewhere. as well as with regional stars. Robin won first place in Colgate Country Showdown and snared a cash prize at CONROE'S GOT TALENT March 7.

Stage Right produced "Christmas Belles" in December. It proved so popular that the fledgling troupe decided to follow with this sequel, both written by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jaime Wooten.

Three Futrelle sisters portrayed by Wong, AMY SOWERS and RENEE CANNON try to save fictional Fayro from the throes of recession when the rendering plant and super mart close. Their antics, mildly entitled "Fayro Days," embrace a Civil War battle enactment, craft show, beauty competition and a bonnet full of other comedic antics and characters. The sisters hope to lure a salsa manufacturer to their town, but the death of a prominent visitor complicates the plot.

JILLIAN NOLAN directs "Southern Hospitality." With a bachelor's degree in theatre from VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY in Northern Indiana, she came here six months ago where she has relatives.

"Since moving here I have acted in two shows and been offered three different jobs to teach improv/acting classes, along with directing opportunities, which is where my heart lies," she said. For now, Jillian has settled on pursuing a master's degree and teaching during the day.

"Southern Hospitality" opens April 17 at Conroe's Crighton Theatre, 234 North Main Street. and runs weekends through May 3 at 8 p.m., with 2 p.m. matinees April 26 and May 3. Tickets cost \$17. Groups and older patrons pay \$15, while student and children's tickets cost \$12. Call (936) 441-7469 or visit www.stage-right.org.

Following the opening of "Southern Hospitality," a private party is planned for Stage Right supporters at Conroe's SPARKLE ICE HOUSE that can accommodate 200 guests. Carolyn Wong said party invitees should not expect possum baked with yams nor barbecued armadillo but will just have to make do with fried chicken and similar Southern specialties.

MARTY CRAIG, who's directing the three-character adult comedy "Lone Star" at the Owen Theatre, said a few tickets remain for that fundraiser March 28, beginning with a barbecue dinner at 6:30 p.m. after doors open 30 minutes earlier. For \$40 each, attendees get barbecue, musical entertainment

from The Buddy Holly singers, the one-act adult comedy and homemade desserts. Call (936) 539-4090 for the show at downtown Conroe's Owen Theatre, 225 Metcalf Street.

Do you have performing arts news? Call Peggie Miller at (936) 448-6455 or e-mail pegmillr@juno.com.

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