

STAGE RIGHT

COMPANY'S COMIN' TO THE CRIGHTON!

BY: CAROLYN CORSANO WONG



Southern Hospitality Cast and Crew

STAGE RIGHT of Texas, now performing at the historic Crighton Theatre is getting ready for some very special visitors this month. Internationally produced and currently recognized as the three most widely produced comedic playwrights in America, Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten are coming to the Crighton for a visit. STAGE RIGHT audiences may recall that our highly popular productions of CHRISTMAS BELLES and SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY presented last season were written by Jones, Hope and Wooten. Ad-

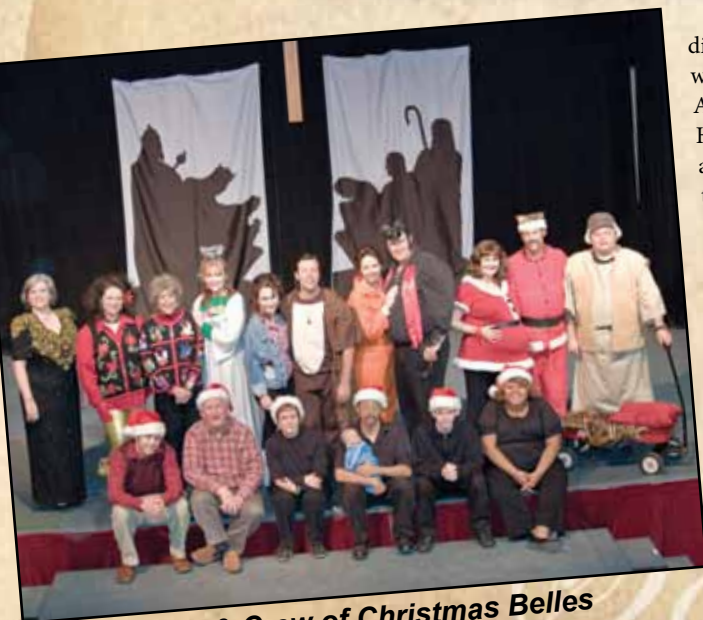
atre. STAGE RIGHT was formed to provide the Crighton with the steady income of a resident company. With CHRISTMAS BELLES we were able to do just that; provide much needed revenue to the Crighton and much needed laughs to Montgomery County (you'll recall that an unwanted visitor named "Ike" came to town that year). So many of our patrons that Christmas expressed their thanks that we stepped up to fill the void and present such a hilarious yet

ditionally, DEARLY BELOVED, which we are going to present in April of this year, is also a Jones, Hope & Wooten play and is actually the first part of the hilarious trilogy of the Futrelle sisters of Fayro, Texas. So why are these renown playwrights coming to visit STAGE RIGHT? Well, sit back and grab a cold one, we've got a story to tell!

It all started with our very first production; CHRISTMAS BELLES. We presented that show in 2008 in an effort to keep the beloved Crighton Theatre from standing dark at Christmas. The Players had recently left the theatre to start their odyssey as resident company of the newly opened Owen The-

heart warming show. Unbeknownst to us, we had some friends and family of the playwrights come see the show. They liked it so much they told the playwrights about our production. It's not often a playwright hears from an audience about one of their shows, unless it's a problem, but in this case, it was quite the opposite!

Later that season, we presented another in the Jones, Hope and Wooten Fayro, Texas trilogy; SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY. At that point, folks had begun to hear more about STAGE RIGHT and also remembered how much they enjoyed the laugh-out-loud nature of a Jones, Hope and Wooten play. Like CHRISTMAS BELLES, SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY was very well received by critics and audience alike. And again, word got back to the playwrights. We also met the aunt of one of the playwrights and were pleased to offer a special discount to all members of her church. Ironically, SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY is about a small Texas town in the throws of a sour economy



Cast & Crew of Christmas Belles

(sound familiar?) and the hilarious measures they turn to in an effort to save their beloved town. Our town was also feeling the pinch of a sour economy so we were happy to offer a discount to 'friends of the family' so to speak.

In a true case of making good things happen by doing good to others, we were contacted earlier this year by the playwrights themselves and were told that they want to meet this group that they have heard so much about. They are on a tour of Texas theatres and have something very exciting they want to discuss with us. We'll share more about that in future issues of the Dock Line. Stay tuned!

Just who are Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jaime Wooten? All three have enjoyed long and successful careers in show business. Their work has been seen by millions of people across the U.S. and around the world. According to their website "Jessie Jones co-authored the award-winning play, DEARLY DEPARTED, and its feature film adaptation, "Kingdom Come," which was released by Fox Searchlight Films. Her short stories have been published in literary journals and she has written for television sitcoms and an animated series for Walt Disney Productions. As an actor, Jessie has appeared onstage in New York and in regional theatres as well as in television and film. Nicholas Hope won the Southwest Regional Playwrights Competition for his first play, A FRIEND OF THE FAMILY. He has written episodic television for Warner Bros. and Walt Disney Studios. As a casting director, Nick was Director of Casting for Theatre Communications Group in New York, The Goodman Theatre in Chicago and ABC Television in New York and Los Angeles. Jamie Wooten wrote or produced nearly four hundred episodes of network television, won the Writers Guild of America award and spent many seasons with Dorothy, Blanche, Rose and Sophia as a writer/producer on the

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classic television series *The Golden Girls*.[®] According to STAGE RIGHT, Jones, Hope and Wooten are some fine Southern folk that write just the kind of family friendly, hilarious yet heart-felt humor we like to produce. We look forward to the emails they send encouraging us to "act real pretty" and wishing us well on our opening night.

We hope you'll come to the Crighton to see our latest production of a Jones, Hope and Wooten

play when we produce *DEARLY BELOVED*. It is a hilarious tale of the Futrelle sisters trying to throw a 'Gone With the Wind' themed wedding, yet losing the bride and groom in the process. It's about love, marriage, sisterhood, Gospel music and 300 lbs. of good ole' Texas BBQ. The show will run April 16 to May 2, Friday and Saturday nights at 8 pm and two Sunday matinees April 25 and May 2 at 2 pm. Tickets can be purchased on line at www.crightontheatre.org or by calling the Crighton box office at 936-441-7469. For more information about STAGE RIGHT please visit our websites: www.stage-right.org and our resources website: resources.stage-right.org. To find out about all events coming to the historic Crighton Theatre and to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter visit our newest site: www.crighton-theatre.com. ♦

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