

ON CUE

The DTC 2017-2018 artistic season is complete, so the Guild gets to take a break! The entire *On Cue* editorial staff will be taking a break in several states – of geography and of mind!

Enjoy your summer, and stay tuned for news of Guild activities.



Upcoming Events: July - September

IMPORTANT!	PUT THESE IN YOUR CALENDAR!! RIGHT NOW!!!
July 24 , 6:00	Meet & Greet: Public Works (Wyly)
Aug. 31 – Sept. 2	Public Works Dallas - <i>The Winter's Tale</i> (Wyly)
Sept. 28 – Oct. 21	<i>Steel Magnolias</i> (Wyly)

Public Works Dallas – check it out on the DTC website. On that website, scroll down a bit to find a box titled “Theater Spotlight”. The top left block offers several UTube videos of excited *Public Works* participants talking about their experience and what they have learned.

NOTE: On July 24 the Guild will host well over 100 people at a seated dinner. The food will be catered, but we need Guild members for set-up and serving. Watch for an invitation to participate. This event is very important to DTC. Be there!

This listing of upcoming events reflects what is known at this time. During the summer the DTC Guild management team will continue to develop plans for the year.

What's Inside:

> DTC Season in Review > Board Biz > Guild & Guitar II > *Hairspray* Guild outing

Don Warnecke, Editor and Writer * Photos by Don or as noted

DTC Season in Review

Yes, we all can generally name 4 – 5 plays in the season just completed, but it's a struggle to recall them all. Not to worry – it's a normal human condition. So here's what went on.

Miller, Mississippi – A world premiere! It was one traditional Southern family's struggle with the forces of the civil rights movement, changing social behaviors, and family secrets.

Hair – The Wyly floor was cleared to let in the sunshine of this 50 year old high-energy rock classic. The Age of Aquarius brought joy and fun, but also showed the tension of diametric attitudes and expectations. Wild!

Fade – A Latina television writer struggled with identity, ambition and relationships. She succeeded, with some regrets.

Frankenstein – A fantastic, exciting, intriguing retelling of The Creature's story from its viewpoint. This was a masterpiece of drama and staging!

The Great Society – LBJ's rise to power started in the 2016 run of *All the Way* and ended in this companion piece, engulfed by Vietnam, his civil rights initiatives, and major social programs. Power, morality and change were dramatized by the major political figures of the 1960s and 70s.

The Trials of Sam Houston – A world premiere of this historical drama. Texan Sam Houston endured personal, legal and political trials as he positioned Texas in the Civil War. Clever, tense, with big personalities clashing and collaborating.

White Rabbit Red Rabbit – The Iranian playwright and a group of highly talented actors experimented with improvisation. Each performance was a surprise to both the audience and its actor. Each was unique.

A Christmas Carol – The delightful approach to this holiday tradition continues!

Board Biz

Congratulations, officers of the 2018 – 2019 Guild Board! And congratulations to all Guild members for voting in this slate! If only a national political election were so civil, quick and economical. But hey, we have a lot of good candidates!

Here's who will be who:

- Co-Presidents -- April Bosworth and Lance Hancock
- Co-Presidents-Elect – Craig Haynes and April Bosworth
- VP-Theater Services – Trey Birkhead
- VP-Meetings -- Suzanne Caruso
- VP-Events – Kersten Rettig and Jasmine Wynton
- VP-Membership -- Karen Urie
- VP-Yearbook – John Howell and Sarah Warnecke
- VP-Member Development -- Judy Birchfield
- VP-Communications -- Kristin Durney
- Treasurers -- Mary and Roger Cunningham
- Recording Secretary -- Don Warnecke
- Corresponding Secretary -- Pat Pace
- Historian – Belinda Birchfield

There are many positions yet to fill: event and meeting leaders, team members for Membership, Member Development, and Communications, and perhaps others.

Now you who are reading this – yes, I mean you behind those eyebrows – there is an opportunity for you! Do you want to do an event or a valuable short-term project? Is your strength in recruiting members and staying connected to them? Would you like to write an article for this esteemed publication? Do you want to innovate? OK, good! Contact one of the people listed above and go for it!

Guild & Guitar II

Picture this: It's a bright Saturday afternoon. A young songwriter/singer/guitarist treats an audience to her original songs in an intimate home setting. Nearby there is a bounteous buffet of Mediterranean dishes and four varieties of white wine. Don't you wish you were there? About 40 Guild members and guests were sure glad that they soaked up this experience! Then some went on to an evening of other arts events, parties, dinner dates, or home. It just all fit together!

Huge thanks go to DTC Board member, next year's Guild President-Elect and big folk/indie music fan **Craig Haynes**! Craig innovated the *Guild and Guitar* event last year, introducing a well-known songwriter/singer/multi-instrumentalist to the Dallas theater community. That worked so well that Craig brought the event back to the home of Sarah and Don Warnecke, who were delighted to fill the house with music and people. In the few spare moments that Craig has in his law practice at Thompson & Knight, he taught himself to play guitar and piano. His work is focused on the oil & gas industry, so he is often in places where he is immersed in this kind of music!



What kind of music, and by whom you ask? The style is "soulful folk/indie", and the voice belongs to a young lady from Nashville named **Van Darien**. She is originally from Weatherford, and is moving both around and up in the music world. Her throaty alto voice and her acoustic guitar are well-matched to her musical genre. She told the poignant stories underlying some of her songs. They centered on her dad (a steel worker), romantic breakups, and going in many directions after writing a song.



Her released CD includes her current hit song – *Cannonball*, and others that she introduced: *Kaleidoscope*, *Low Road*, *Chain Reaction*, and *Silent Sparrow*. During her first set she commented that she was a bit scared in this situation of having an attentive, fully engaged audience that is listening to every word, rather than her frequent gig of singing background in a bar! This of course brought thunderous, encouraging applause!

Guild & Guitar II (continued)

And there was more. Craig's niece Annaliese Ruthberg flew in from San Diego to get the audience primed by singing and playing acoustic guitar. Her overall style is similar to Van's. She did some tunes from *Hairspray*; quite appropriate for a Guild affair! It was great to see young talent getting into the scene!

In the music world, the term "indie" can have several usages. It signals that the performer's recordings are not made with a major record label, and typically cut in a private, small studio. It also connotes a repertoire that is largely self-composed, and in a style comprised primarily of simple melodies and simple chords. It may include keyboards and light percussion. No ear-splitting, raucous, nasty-sounding stuff. Hooray!

Another aspect of Craig's event model is that there are no admission or other charge. Donations of \$390 were received and given to the Guild.

We are all looking forward to Guild & Guitar III !



In July – October, Van has a long list of gigs lined up in Texas, New Mexico and Tennessee. Her next ones nearby are:

Sept. 29 Taverna Rossa in Plano

Dec. 1 Sundown at Granada in Dallas

There are several in Ft. Worth.

Guild Outing at *Hairspray!*

In this Broadway musical, Baltimore teenager Tracy Turnblad and friends generate huge 1960s fun! Tracy yearns to dance on *The Corny Collins Show*. Her dream comes true and her stardom allows her to assemble an integrated cast of friends. They overcome various naysayers and the maneuvers of snooty witch Velma Von Tussle. Way back in the 1960s a popular expression was “more fun than a barrel of monkeys”. The audience saw and felt whatever the 2018 equivalent of that barrel is! It was non-stop smiles, laughs, and foot-tapping.

Once again, DTC Associate Artistic Director Joel Ferrell did amazing work in taking a classic play and reenergizing it to excite a DTC audience! We have seen Joel’s magic before in *Rocky Horror Show*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Frankenstein*, *Cabaret* (this writer’s lifetime favorite) and many others.

The playbill for *Hairspray* notes that this run is offered in loving memory of Reverend Gilbert Lee Ferrell, Joel’s father. The Reverend was a Methodist minister in Texas who lived into his 90s before passing away shortly before the run of *Hairspray*.

As a Corporate Sponsor (of the character Tracy Turnblad), the Guild was treated to discounted tickets and a pre-show reception. Peggy Shuman arranged tickets and the reception for 50+ Guild members and guests. When Peggy (on medical leave) was unable to attend the event, John Howell stepped in for her. Thank you, Peggy and John! Everyone was glad to see Joel, who dropped by to make a few remarks during the reception. Then the group headed into the vast space of the Winspear Opera House and to our own group of very comfortable seats.



The Metroplex/NYC cast included several frequent stars of the DTC stage:

- Liz Mikel played musical sparkplug Motormouth Maybelle and conducted a really interesting Stay Late. (One Stay Late question: “Is the mist that is very liberally blasted around the set actually hairspray?” Answer: No, it’s water.)

- David Coffee played the essential role of Edna Turnblad, Tracy's mom. Once Edna shed his housecoat and slippers he looked stunning in an evening gown and wig! Recently he was in the cast of *The Trials of Sam Houston*.
- Rob McCallum had four roles, and provided the more subtle comedy.
- And several members of the DTC creative support team and stage crew: Tiffany Greene (Associate Director), Nicole Iannacone (Associate Lighting Designer), Megan Winters (Stage Manager).



Remember these? (Sure you do!)

It was amazing that the strong, high-energy sound was provided by only nine musicians!

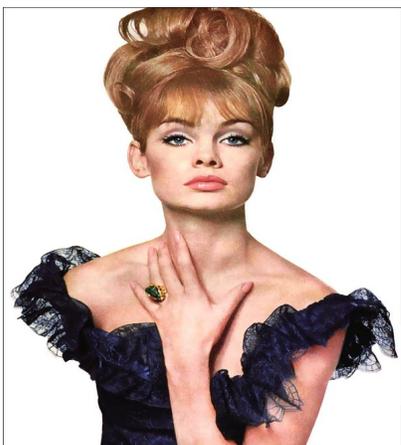
(The following is adapted from a Wikipedia article.) In a surprising reversal, the Broadway show was based on a 1988 film (*Hairspray*). The Broadway show won eight Tony Awards, including one for best musical. It ran for 2,642 performances, and had national tours and foreign productions. The London production won four of its eleven nominations for Laurence Olivier Awards, including Best New Musical.

Thanks to Joel and the whole company for a wonderful, hilarious, rockin' afternoon! And thanks, Guild members for being a part of the party!



Belinda Birchfield gets into the scene!

(Photo by Judy Birchfield)



Looks like Velma Von Tussle (snooty witch)