

CAMP SHAKESPEARE

Celebrating 20 years of Camp Shakespeare at Winedale



Our 2020 Adventure

Our planning for the 2020 summer began about a week after the second 2019 Camp session. Robin and Doc began talking about our intent to return to Rancho Pillow, what plays to pursue, when to begin opening the application process, and how to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Camp Shakespeare. The joy of the 2019 Camps very much alive in us, we were eager to begin again, to “let wonder seem familiar,” and to “know the place for the first time.”

What became familiar, however, was Covid19. We had to cancel the summer of 2020. Duke Senior’s well-known sentiment, “Sweet are the uses of adversity,” in *As You Like It*, began to sound hollow.

Suddenly, responding to our frustration, “Wonder” and “miracle” and “IF”, reawakened through the vigorous imaginations and determination of former Camp and Shakespeare at Winedale students, young and old. They opened the wardrobe to new experience. Assisted by Liz Fisher, Coordinator of Shakespeare at Winedale, we began a series of Zoom “reunion” gatherings entitled “And Thereby Hangs a Tale,” with former Campers, to reminisce, hear about where they are and what they are doing. It was a pleasure for all of us to hear “old” voices and “new” accomplishments, their laughter, and the entertaining stories they told.

That reunion was followed hard upon by the opportunity to watch the documentary, “Take pains, be perfect.” The film is the brain-child of Dr. Celeste Sheppard, a dedicated audience and friend of Shakespeare at Winedale, and is directed by Kristi Frazier. It intertwines the experiences of the 2018 Camp Shakespeare *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* players with those of former Shakespeare at Winedale students, providing, with stories, performances, photos and an excellent music score, a lively contrast of the past and present. This film will be available for viewing during the Thanksgiving holiday, which is right on us, so if you want to see it, please email us your email and we will send you the link.

A fitting conclusion to the reunion effort was a spectacular performance of Shakespeare’s *The Winter’s Tale*, planned by some of Doc’s former students and Zoom--performed by a mix of James Loehlin’s students, Doc’s “ancianos”, and Campers. If you wish to see the “film,” email us and we’ll send you the link!

We are hopeful that summer 2021 will find us together again under the pecan trees at Winedale. The 2020 camp students who have been virtually exploring the music, words, and worlds of *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Twelfth Night* look forward to welcoming back to the barn!



Funding Camp Shakespeare

We were planning a special Gala performance of Twelfth Night on Sunday, July 12, at Henkel Hall in Round Top, preceded by a tasty luncheon, music, and an auction. We intended to use this event as a way to announce our short and long range development goals.

The first is a 2020-2021 effort to build a 1M endowment for Camp Shakespeare. The Endowment, officially created and named by Jayne and Rick Suhler, of Dallas, is called The James B. (“Doc”) Ayres Excellence Fund in Shakespeare at Winedale. Its current market value is \$104,000. Interest from a 1M endowment will satisfy the needs of our operating expenses, and free us from annual pleas for funding.

The second, and long-range, goal expresses our dream for our own site for Camp Shakespeare, property, cabins, gathering, kitchen, and dining spaces, and, yes, even a theater. “That will take some tears in the true performing of it”, as Nick Bottom says. And some very serious work! Doc would like to see this Camp operating in his lifetime.

In addition to our short and long-term goals, we have to address our immediate (2021) needs. We hope that you will consider a gift to Camp Shakespeare that will assure the continuation of this wonderful adventure. We might not have been able to gather in a traditional Gala setting this year; however, we know the barn and Winedale are always with us. Your gift ensures the transformative experience for future generations.

Checks should be made out “To” The University of Texas, marked “For” Camp Shakespeare, and mailed to Camp Shakespeare, PO Box 202, Round Top, Tx, 78954.

We will be forever thankful.

Performances 2021

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

THURSDAY JUNE 17, 2021 @ 3:00PM
SCOTTISH RITE THEATRE, AUSTIN

FRIDAY JUNE 18, 2021 @ 3:30PM
CRYSTAL THEATRE, GONZALES

SATURDAY JUNE 19, 2021 @ 7:00PM
WINEDALE BARN, WINEDALE

SUNDAY JUNE 20, 2021 @ 2:00PM
WINEDALE BARN, WINEDALE

TWELFTH NIGHT

THURSDAY JULY 8, 2021 @ 3:00PM
SCOTTISH RITE THEATRE, AUSTIN

FRIDAY JULY 9, 2021 @ 3:30PM
CRYSTAL THEATRE, GONZALES

SATURDAY JULY 10, 2021 @ 7:00PM
WINEDALE BARN, WINEDALE

SUNDAY JULY 11, 2021 @ 2:00PM
WINEDALE BARN, WINEDALE

