

# SHAKESPEARE

*at Winedale*

**35  
YEARS**

*Winedale*

**These scenes explore the play of love and the love of play at  
Shakespeare at Winedale**

*The Taming of the Shrew*, Induction Scene ii. A Lord, his servants, and some players attempt to persuade a drunken Sly that he is not a tinker, but indeed, a Lord.

Sly, a drunken tinker—Jeff Larsen  
Page—Robert Faires

Messenger—Clayton Stromberger  
Lords, ladies, servants—Ensemble

*The Taming of the Shrew*, Act 2, Scene 1. Yet another wooing scene: the first meeting of Kate and Petruchio.

Petruchio—Shawn Kairschner

Kate—Kathy Blackbird

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Act 1, Scene 2 Artisans meet to organize a play.

Peter Quince, a carpenter—LaVonne Carlson Finnerty  
Francis Flute, a bellows mender—Claire Szabo  
Snug, a joiner—Joy Howard

Nick Bottom, a weaver—Clayton Stromberger  
Tom Snout, a tinker—Jeff Larsen  
Robin Starveling, a tailor—Bruce Meyer

*The Tempest*, Act 2, Scene 2. Two shipwrecked mariners discover an island creature.

Caliban—Terry Galloway

Stephano—LaVonne Carlson Finnerty

Trinculo—Kirsten Kern

*Twelfth Night; or, What You Will*, Act 2, Scene 3: It is party time in Illyria!

Toby—Mike Godwin  
Feste—Jeff Larsen

Andrew—Robert Faires  
Maria—Lynn McGuire

Malvolio—David Ziegler

*The History of King Lear*, Act 1, Scene 1 and Act 1, Scene 4: Once upon a time there was an old king who had three daughters.

Lear—Madge Darlington  
Regan—Kirsten Kern  
Kent—Shawn Kairschner

Goneril—Claire Szabo  
Cordelia—Jayne Noble Suhler  
Cornwall—Robert Faires

Albany—David Ziegler

*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Act 5, Scene 1. The play of Pyramus and Thisbe.

Prologue—LaVonne Carlson Finnerty  
Thisbe—Claire Szabo  
Moonshine—Bruce Meyer

Pyramus—Clayton Stromberger  
Wall—Jeff Larsen  
Lion—Joy Howard

**INTERVAL**

*King Richard III*, Act 1, Scene 2: Richard proposes marriage to Lady Anne.

Anne—Alice Gordon

Halbardier—Madge Darlington

Richard—Robert Faires

*Much Ado about Nothing*, Act 2, Scene 3. Don Pedro and his colleagues conspire to persuade Benedick, a determined bachelor, of his love for the witty Beatrice.

Benedick—Bruce Meyer  
Leonato—Lynn McGuire  
Balthasar—Madge Darlington

Pedro—Kathy Blackbird  
Claudio—David Ziegler  
Beatrice—Alice Gordon

*King Lear*, Act 1, Scene 4: Lear visits his eldest daughter, Goneril.

Lear—Madge Darlington  
Osric—Lynn McGuire  
Fool—Jayne Noble Suhler

Kent—Shawn Kairschner  
Knights—Phillip Glenn, Clayton Stromberger  
Goneril—Claire Szabo

*Much Ado about Nothing*, Act 4, Scene 1. Benedick approaches Beatrice immediately after the Count Claudio has violently rejected her cousin, Hero, at the wedding altar.

Benedick—Bruce Meyer

Beatrice—Alice Gordon

*King Henry IV*, Part I, Act 2, Scene 4. A tavern scene at midnight. Heir apparent to the English throne, Prince Hal and his friend, Poins, attempt to catch Sir John Falstaff in a lie.

Hal—Phillip Glenn  
Frances—Robert Faires  
Quickly—Kirsten Kern

Poins—Jayne Noble Suhler  
Falstaff—Terry Galloway  
Peto—Lynn McGuire

Gadshill—Claire Szabo

*Romeo and Juliet*, Act 2, Scene 1, Act 2, Scene 2. The famous balcony scene.

Romeo—Mike Godwin  
Juliet—Joy Howard

Mercutio—Shawn Kairschner  
Benvolio—Clayton Stromberger

Revelers—Kirsten Kern, Alice Gordon

*As You Like It*, Act 5, Scene 1 and Act 5, Scene 3. A lover and his lass: Touchstone, the clown, and Audrey, the country girl.

Touchstone—David Ziegler  
William—Phillip Glenn

Audrey—Kathy Blackburn  
Pages—Jeff Larsen, Joy Howard

*Twelfth Night; or, What You Will.* "The wind and the rain."

Feste.....Jeff Larsen

## 2005 The 35<sup>th</sup> Reunion Class

**LYNN EDWARDS MCGUIRE**, *Spring class '71. Reunion play '00, '05. Teacher of English (30 years), Retired. Currently Field Support Officer for Region XIII Intern Teachers, Austin, TX.*

Thirty-three years ago an English professor suggested that I take a Shakespeare course taught by Doctor Ayres. After analyzing a few plays and putting together our strange interpretations of some scenes, this man who we fondly grew to call Doc, transported us to a tiny Texas town called Winedale. He then coerced us into performing our scenes (for the locals and even Miss Ima) in this old barn theatre with a dirt floor. Seduced by the atmosphere and power of the words and play, I was hooked (by the drug Winedale!). Many a summer I would return as an observer to absorb more, many a summer I would yearn to be again on that stage, but many a conflict kept me from this yearning. Finally the reunion class of 2000 and now 2005, have allowed me to partake again. The stress, the struggle, the camaraderie, the heat, the fun, the entire experience have been wonderful building blocks for my own 30 years of teaching and life. Thank you, Doc, for sharing your vision.

**ROBERT FAIRES**, *Summer classes '78, '80. Reunion play '05. Arts Editor, The Austin Chronicle, Austin, TX.*

Words, words, words. I came to Winedale out of a love of them and the particular way they were made music and truth by Shakespeare. My time here surely deepened that love, but the richest lessons I took from Winedale involved leaving words behind. If you see some task that needs doing, do it. Open yourself to the moment. Step into the breach. Listen to others. Give freely. Play. As I've come into new roles upon the great globe's stage – writer, husband, father – these are the principles that have made and continue to make me a better player.

**TERRY GALLOWAY**, *Summer classes '72-76. Reunion plays '80, '90, '95, '00, '05. Research Associate/Class Assistant '76. Writer, Director, Actor, Producer, Teacher, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL.*

In 1968, Terry Galloway won a UIL scholarship to the Theater Department at the University of Texas. Because of her deafness, the Theater Department would not let her enroll in their program. She became a student of Jim Ayres at Shakespeare at Winedale, instead. She learned from him, Shakespeare and Winedale that theater could be the site of not just discovery and rebellion, but community and love.

**JAYNE NOBLE SUHLER**, *Summer classes '86, '87. Reunion plays '90, '05. Senior*

*Lecturer, Division of Journalism, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX.*

When you are a child, you know how to play and how to laugh and how to stretch out your arms and run. You know amazement. And then you grow up and somehow you forget. But if you are very lucky, you find Winedale and you find Doc and you remember. Once again you know the joy of being a part of something bigger than yourself. You are again amazed. You discover Shakespeare and then, you rediscover yourself.

**SHAWN KAIRSCHNER**, *Summer class '95, Reunion plays '00, '05. Research Fellow, Stanford University, Menlo Park, CA.*

In my professional life, I value theatre-making which places a premium on ensemble playing: listening actively, responding truthfully, playing joyously. For me, Winedale serves as a compass point to which I may return to experience this valued collectivity in all its dangerous and delightful potential. During long days in the Texas heat, I have found that ensemble playing requires that I be radically honest, focused, vulnerable, generous, and patient. At Winedale, in extremes, I find myself at my best and most fully alive.

**JEFF LARSEN**, *Fall and Spring classes, '76, '77. Summer classes '77, '78, '80, '83. Reunion plays '95, '00, '05. Armorer, maker of arrows and bows, and swords since '76. Attorney at Law, Houston, TX.*

When I talk to people about Shakespeare at Winedale, they often ask me how Shakespeare and the class contribute to my practice as a lawyer. Of course, there is a simple connection: I have occasionally quoted a line from Shakespeare in a brief, or as an epigram. At a deeper level, Shakespeare teaches a lot about rhetorical skills and persuasion. Richard III, or even Falstaff, can teach any lawyer basic lessons in how to persuade, lessons that are generally not taught in modern law schools.

But at the deepest level, Shakespeare, Doc, and the Winedale class have taught us all how to live and love, how to play roles that we had never before imagined for ourselves. Doc has always made the class as intense and focused as possible. He has asked us to do way more than we are comfortable with, perhaps more than we are capable of. We carry away small regrets for our failures, but an overwhelming joy of having taken the challenge in our teeth and run with it 'til our time runs out and we can no more.

**MADGE DARLINGTON**, *Spring class '89. Summer classes '89-'90, '93-'94. Reunion play '95, '05. Assistant Director, '95-99. Co-Artistic*

*Director, Rude Mechanicals Theatre Collective, Austin, TX.*

Earlier this summer, I asked Doc to talk to me about Lear. We sat under the pecan trees at the picnic grounds and talked for an hour about Lear's first speech. I spent nine summers at Winedale and I am blessed with many amazing memories and life-long friendships from my time here. But, if I had to pick one Winedale moment to treasure, it would be sitting there with Doc in the hot breeze of the late afternoon talking about a play. Thank you, Doc. Thank you to all the friends who played with me here. And thank you Lisa, and my sons Max and Milo for supporting me in this adventure.

**CLAYTON STROMBERGER**, *Summer classes, '83-'84. Reunion plays, '90, '95, '00, '05. Assistant Director, '90. Coordinator, Shakespeare at Winedale Outreach to Schools, Austin, TX.*

Winedale, for me, both at the first and now, is about speaking truthfully from the heart. In Shakespeare, and in life. This is not an easy thing to do. I learn this every time I return to this place. It can be painful – such resistance in all of us! One must go deep, all the way down to touch the bottom of a bottomless bay. And one must do this with joy, and without fear.

I was first invited, challenged, to do this 22 years ago in this Barn, and a process began that moment which continues to this moment. And for that, and for all the rest, I am grateful to Doc, my fellow students, and all the other lovely people who made this possible and gave me models of generosity, love and courage.

**CLAIRE SZABO**, *Spring class '85. Summer classes '85-'87. Reunion play '05. Instructional Design Writer and Motivational Speaker, Clarity Business Solutions, Portland, OR.*

Play. Community. Perseverance. Accountability. Creativity. Strength. Humility: These are the lessons of Winedale, what it takes to explore Shakespeare as a twenty-year-old, in the 100 degree heat of a Texas theatre barn. Twenty years later, the barn is a little cooler, but the lessons continue to repeat themselves. The only difference is, you have a more acute appreciation for the precious time and space and freedom Winedale gives you to be a part of something bigger than yourself. The Play is that thing, and Doc is the Prospero of this world, one of my greatest teachers. Twenty years from today, I know my life, career and relationships will continue to be positively shaped by the lessons his brave new world has taught me over the years.

**BRUCE MEYER**, *Spring class, '79. Summer classes '79, '80. Class Assistant, Spring, Summer '81. Reunion plays '90, '95, '00, '05. Chair, Ob-Gyn, CEO Group Practice, UMass Med School, Worcester, MA*

I came to Winedale as an introvert who did not know how to play, and was not in touch with my own emotions. When I left, I had the beginning of real understanding of myself and a launching pad for my place in the world.

Everything that I have done with my life (husband, father, teacher, student, friend, mentor, physician, professor...) has been vitally informed by the gift that I was given by the program and by Doc. Now he has given that same gift to my daughter. My gratitude cannot be expressed in words.

**DAVID ZIEGLER**, *Summer classes '85, '86, and '88. Reunion play '05. Class Assistant, Spring '88. Reunion play '90. Software Engineer, San Francisco, CA.*

I came to Winedale a simple, muddled physics major, and I left it twenty years ago new-muddled: by people, plays, and a place. The people gave me rich friendships forged through the stage. The plays forced me to go within and beyond myself and showed me a vision of a world where everything is given to a project greater than myself. I spent twelve years after Winedale trying to teach these plays in California. But what I couldn't reproduce was this place – its stars, deer, the barn's boards, the view of the lit stage from the outside during a performance at night. The best in me is what I carried from here, and Winedale is a spirit whose circumference is nowhere, but whose center stays here.

**MIKE GODWIN**, *Spring class '79. Summer classes '79 – '81, '89. Reunion play '05. Class Assistant, '80, '81. Attorney at Law, Legal Director, Public Knowledge Inc., Washington, D.C.*

It was at Winedale that I quit being a student who cared about getting an A and became a student who cared about being excellent. I discovered what it meant to give everything you had to being as good as you could be, to giving all my mind and heart and spirit to making something we could share with an audience and with one another. Doc and Winedale gave me that gift, and it is a gift I have tried to give back to everything I've cared about since then, in my work and in my life. Shakespeare taught me, and teaches me still, things I need to know about being alive. Winedale taught me, and teaches me still, to commit myself to living.

**LaVONNE CARLSON FINNERTY**, *Spring class '84. Summer classes '84, '86. Reunion play '05. Class Assistant '86. Editor, Writer, Texas Children's Hospital, Houston, TX.*

The play's the thing – and Shakespeare is the play. Being the only kid I knew who wrote plays, directed them, and performed the leading (male) role, I instantly knew I wanted to apply for Winedale after first seeing the plays in 1983.

I attended Spring and Summer in 1984. In 1986, I considered leaving college but Doc encouraged me to stay and I was part of the Spring and Summer 1986 classes. In 1985, I wrote the front-page feature article for the Daily Texan student orientation issue. It is still in my portfolio and I've shown it at every job interview.

After 15 years in New York publishing, I returned to Texas two years ago—with my daughter at the perfect age to attend Camp Shakespeare. She and I know that Winedale has given us a connection beyond the mother-daughter bond. Winedale is part of who I am. And, through the play, takes me beyond who I am.

**PHILLIP GLENN**, *Spring class '75. Summer class '76. Reunion play '05. Associate Professor, Organizational and Political Communication, Emerson College, Boston, MA.*

The play's the thing...under Doc's Prosperic guidance, immersion in Shakespeare: in words words words, in these magnificent plays...and in play: play as a way to learn, about self and role and ensemble and audience and life...magical transformations in the Forest of Arden...then on, through Shakespeare Festival of Dallas, to the academy, teaching and learning about communication, everyday life, laughter, conflict...Winedale infuses my spirit and mind...to Doc, with deepest gratitude.

**KATHY BLACKBIRD**, *Spring class, '84. Summer classes '84, '86. Reunion plays '90, '95, '00, '05. Attorney at Law, Art Appraiser, Advisor, Austin, TX.*

I chose to do a second summer at Winedale in lieu of a summer clerkship following my first year of law school because I thought it would be more valuable to me in the long run. I was right...but I seriously underestimated how much.

At Winedale, I learned more about life, about people, about language, about the power of play, the miracle of collaboration and especially about myself than in any other of my life experiences. I learned to survive when I thought survival impossible, and to push myself beyond myself when I thought I had nothing left to give.

There is a certain clarity about the experience that is only evident when it is over. And this thread continues to draw me back, seeking more of this life which still infuses my life with confidence, strength, and the belief that all things are possible.

**ALICE GORDON**, *Fall and Spring classes '72, '73. Summer classes '72 - '75. Class Assistant '76. Reunion plays '90, '00, '05. Doc's Assistant Director, '91, '92. Writer, Editor, Elements of Living magazine, New York, NY.*

I shudder to think what I might be without Shakespeare at Winedale. What if I had not seen, on the UT English office notice board in 1972, the course description of The Play: Reading, Criticism, and Performance, and thought "Hmm, that will make me less shy..."? What if I had not had Doc to lead me so deeply into Shakespeare that I resurfaced knowing that the source of all the answers to all the fundamental questions in life are answered by his words? What if I hadn't made the friends I made here? We tune to the music of the spheres. Thank you, Doc and Will.

**KIRSTEN KERN**, *Summer classes '85 - '87. Reunion plays '90, '95, '00, '05. Class Assistant '87 PhD, RMT, Director, Texas Healing Arts Institute, Austin, TX.*

I have no reasonable reason as to why I came to Winedale. In hindsight, I now know I came because of the people at Winedale and because of Doc. I came because I needed to live in a place where I could learn, through the language of Shakespeare and the wisdom and love of Doc, the joy and tolerance of group play. I have found no other place in this 25 years where people laugh and cry together with such truth and abandonment. At Winedale, I learned the power of a small group of people, engaged with one another in the language and play to change each other and the world. This lesson has taken on a weighted importance in these troubled times. Shakespeare at Winedale has given me a touchstone for living.

**JOY HOWARD MARVIN**, *Spring class '80. Summer class '80. Reunion classes '85, '90, '95, '00, '05. Retired, Financial Services, Waco, TX.*

Shakespeare at Winedale opened my mind, my eyes, and my heart to the majesty of the language, understanding the essence of play, and the wonders of imagination that can give to "airy nothingness a local habitation and a name." My experience in learning are rich and powerful. I'm pleased Doc is raising the bar by bringing young people into Shakespeare's world. "O Brave New World" indeed.