

Touchstone—David Ziegler
William—Phillip Glenn

Audrey—Kathy Blackbird
Pages—Jeff Larsen, Joy Howard

Twelfth Night; or, What You Will. “The wind and the rain.”

Feste.....Jeff Larsen

2005 The 35th 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 some thing 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.