

SOLSTICE

STORIES
& SONGS
FOR
THE
HOLIDAYS

Curated by
Michael Federico

Directed by
Jeffrey Schmidt

Musical Direction
by Cherish Robinson



NOV **24** THRU
DEC **17** 2017

  
#T3Solstice

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This playbill is a publication of Theatre Three, Inc. in support of *Solstice: Stories & Songs for the Holidays* (the third show of the 2017-18 season) on the Norma Young Arena Stage.

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THEATRE THREE'S 2017 - 2018 SEASON



Solstice: Stories & Songs for the Holidays

Curated by Michael Federico

Original Works by Scott A. Eckert, Michael Federico and Jonathan Norton

Original Music by Ian Mead Moore and Cherish Robinson

"The Shortest Day" © Susan Cooper 1974

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Jeffrey Schmidt

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Cherish Robinson

ASST. MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Ian Mead Moore

CHOREOGRAPHER

Zenobia Taylor

AUDIO VISUAL DESIGN

Sid Curtis

COSTUME DESIGN

Susan Yanofsky

LIGHTING DESIGN

Amanda Johnson

SOUND DESIGN

Richard Frohlich

MARIONETTE DESIGN

Sid Curtis

PUPPET DESIGN

Jeffrey Schmidt

CAST

AUNT BRIGID/PAULETTE

M. Denise Lee*

GIRL

Sara Grace Prejean**

WOOD SPIRIT/ STUART/NARRATOR

Paul T. Taylor*

WOOD SPIRIT/LA BEFANA

Marti Etheridge

YOUNG FLANDERS/GREG

Ian Mead Moore**

* indicates members working under
Actors' Equity Association contracts in
this production.

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in the AEA membership candidate
program.

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Moore, Cherish Robinson**

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■ BIOGRAPHIES

About the Playwrights **Susan Cooper**

is the award-winning author of *The Dark is Rising* series and other books for children and adults, as well as a Broadway play, films, and Emmy-nominated screenplays. "The Shortest Day" is due to be published in 2018 as an illustrated picture book by Candlewick Press. You can find Susan Cooper online at www.thelostland.com.

Scott A. Eckert

has been active in DFW theater for over 30 years. As a music director, his work, playing, and orchestrations have been heard at Theatre Three, Lyric Stage, Uptown Players, WaterTower Theatre, Garland Summer Musicals, and he has conducted with the national tour of *Fiddler on the Roof*. His original plays and music have been performed at the Pocket Sandwich Theater, Irving Community Theater, KD Studios, Plano Community Theatre, and the Medieval Inn. He has been recognized by the Dallas Theater League and the DFW Theater Critics Forum for his work both as music director and playwright.

Michael Federico

Michael Federico's most recent credits include rewriting a comedy feature film for Legendary Pictures and co-writing the audio drama *Terms* for Wondery and Spoke Media. Michael is an award-winning playwright whose work has been produced in cities across the country. He co-created and wrote the book for *On the Eve*, which received two Dallas productions (including one at Theatre Three) and

two New York workshops (Joe's Pub, NAMT). He co-wrote the Drama Club's award-winning *Faust* with Lydia Mackay and Theatre Three Artistic Director Jeffrey Schmidt. Michael's next project, *Pompeii!* (co-written with Cameron Cobb and Max Hartman), premieres at Kitchen Dog Theater in 2018. Michael has a BFA in Theatre from SMU and an MA in Humanities from UTD.

Jonathan Norton

Jonathan's work has been produced or developed by Dallas Theater Center, PlayPenn, Black and Latino Playwrights Conference, Pyramid Theatre Company, Bishop Arts Theatre Center, Soul Rep, African American Repertory Theater, and the South Dallas Cultural Center. Jonathan's play *Mississippi Goddamn* was a Finalist for the Mimi and Harold Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award and won the 2016 M. Elizabeth Osborn Award given by the American Theatre Critics Association. Other awards include: Artistic Innovations Grant from the Mid-America Arts Alliance, SDCC Diaspora Performing Arts Commission, and the TACA Donna Wilhelm Family New Works Fund. Jonathan is excited to return to T3 having last appeared here many years ago in *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, directed by T3 Board Member, Margie Reese.

Artistic Staff Biographies

Jeffrey Schmidt

DIRECTOR/SCENIC DESIGN
is an actor, director, and designer. Favorite directing assignments for T3 include *Hands on a Hardbody*, *On*

the Eve, *The Farnsworth Invention*, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, and *Tally's Folly*. He has worked with many professional theaters in the metroplex including Dallas Theater Center, Casa Manana, Shakespeare Dallas, Trinity Shakespeare, Kitchen Dog Theater, Undermain Theatre, Dallas Children's Theatre, Second thought Theatre, Stage West, and WaterTower Theatre, to name a few. He has appeared in numerous TV shows and films, including *American Crime*, *Queen of the South*, *Crash*, *Friday Night Lights*, and *Distant Vision* with Francis Ford Coppola. In addition to being T3's new Artistic Director, he is the Executive Artistic Director of The Drama Club. He also likes parades and rollercoasters.

Cherish Robinson

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

is a music director, composer, producer, singer, songwriter, vocal arranger, actress and artist. She is delighted to be back at T3! She was previously seen in *Sister Act* at MainStage Irving-Las Colinas (Deloris), T3's, *Passing Strange* (Desi), and GPAC's, *All Shook Up* (Sylvia/Music Director). She also loves teaching/coaching voice, piano, and organ to her many students! @icherishme

Zenobia Taylor

CHOREOGRAPHER

is grateful to be back at Theatre Three! Previous work at T3 includes *Hands on a Hardbody* and *The Minotaur*. Other Dallas credits include Drama Club's *Faust* and *The Arsonists* at Kitchen Dog Theatre. Before arriving in Dallas in 2013 she worked in Austin for 10 years as co-Artistic Director of Getalong Gang

■ CAST AND CREW BIOGRAPHIES

Performance Group. Other Austin credits include choreography for Capital T Theatre, Forklift Danceworks, Austin Shakespeare, Vestige Group, Ballet East, and Tutto Theatre, where she received a B. Iden Payne award for her choreography in The Dudleys. Previously, she lived in Brooklyn, NY where she danced with RedWall Dance Theatre and Offspring Dance Co. and presented original work at multiple venues including HERE Arts Center, 42nd St. Repertory Theater, and Chashama on 42nd. She holds a BFA in Dance from SMU.

Sid Curtis

AUDIO VISUAL DESIGN
Sid was literally born into theatre, Sid was on stage at 9 months (as a prop). She attended Booker T. Washington High School (Arts Magnet) and went to college on a full-ride acting scholarship. Drawn to the (lucrative) design side of theatre, she switched to tech and has enjoyed a varied career as a Lighting Designer for Rock n' Roll, Set Designer for MTV & many fun things in between.

Richard Frohlich

SOUND DESIGN

A three time Column award winner, has designed sound for more than 90 productions at over a dozen Dallas and Fort Worth theaters since 2005 as well as for 3 off-Broadway productions. In 2001 he founded the award-winning Texas Radio Theatre Company. In addition to sound design, Richard is a professional creative media producer for RF Media which specializes in video marketing and training campaigns. He

makes his home in Arlington Texas with his wife Shannan and their three children.

Joe Heike

RUN CREW

is thrilled to be working on his first production with Theatre 3! Joe is a recent graduate of The University of Texas Department of Theater and Dance. Recent Stage Management credits include *The Secret Garden*, *Cabaret*, *Master Class*, and *The Light in the Piazza* with Brick Road Theatre. He has also recently worked on WaterTower Theatre's productions of *Pride and Prejudice* (ASM), *Hit the Wall* (Run Crew), and *The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson*, *Charles Dickens*, and *the Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord* (ASM).

Amanda West

LIGHTING DESIGN

is a freelance designer and Director of Production for the AT&T Performing Arts Center in Dallas. Recent work for Theatre Three includes *Laugh*, *Daylight*, *Memphis*, *Hands on a Hardbody*, and *On The Eve*. Selected designs at other theaters include *Bloom* and *Klezmer Rodeo* with Bruce Wood Dance Project, *The Toxic Avenger Musical*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, and the *The Boy From Oz* for Uptown Players, *Faust*, *Wild*, *Wicked*, *Wyrd* and *The Incident* for The Drama Club. Upcoming projects include *Fade* for the Dallas Theater Center, *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde* and *She Kills Monsters* at Theatre Three, and *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* at Uptown players. Amanda is a graduate of Texas Wesleyan University. See

more at amandawestdesigns.com

Susan Yanofsky

COSTUME DESIGN

Recent designs for Theatre 3 include *The Minotaur* and *The Birds* for Theatre Too. Yanofsky's designs for regional theaters in Boston include *Red*, *Breaking Legs*, *Sideshow*, *Hair*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Ragtime*, and *Rocky Horror Show* as well as design for *Beethoven Elegies* for the New York based company Ensemble for the Romantic Century. Recipient of three awards for Best Costume Design from the Eastern Massachusetts Association of Theaters for her work on *Sideshow*, *Ragtime* and *Lend Me A Tenor*.

Monika Zimmermann

AEA STAGE MANAGER

is thrilled to be at Theatre Three again! After working with WaterTower Theatre for her past few shows she is delighted to be back in the Norma Young Arena Stage as an AEA Stage Manager. Previously she was an apprentice at Theatre Three for their 2015-2016 season. Additionally, she has stage managed for Theatre Too at Theatre Three, Contemporary Theatre of Dallas, and Musical Theatre Academy. Her favorite shows have been *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Birds*, *Memphis*, *Psycho Beach Party*, and *Parade*. She would like to thank Fiona the Hippo at the Cincinnati Zoo for always making her day brighter.

Cast Biographies



Michael Boss

MUSICIAN

Attending the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing & Visual Arts in 2001, Michael went on to accept a scholarship from the Berklee World Scholarship Tour. Michael attended the Berklee College of Music in Boston and graduated in 2008 concentrating in Film Scoring, Composition and Music Production. Post-graduation Michael moved to New York City. Michael toured with various acts performing at festivals and venues such as SXSW, CMJ, the Blue Note, the Troubadour in LA and House Of Blues. After 5 years of performing and touring based out of Brooklyn Michael returned to Dallas in 2012. He has performed, composed, and instructed music for the past 5 years. Michael now works for the Lake Highlands School of Music. Acting as the Director of Recording Arts, Michael has produced, arranged, and performed around the DFW area. With an expertise in multi instrumentalism, arrangement, orchestration, and music production.



Marti Etheridge

WOOD SPIRIT/LA BEFANA

is excited to join Theatre 3 for the first time! Represented by The Mary Collins Agency you might have seen her on stage all over DFW, on the small screen, or heard one of her animated voices. She would like to thank the staff here at T3, the cast, and crew of *Solstice*, Jeffrey Schmidt, and Cheyenne for being the the best partner an actor/wife/mama could request.



M. Denise Lee

AUNT BRIGID/PAULETTE

is happy to return to Theatre 3 and finally work with Jeff! Regional Theatre: *Hot Mikado*, *Avenue Q* at Theatre Three; *Ruined* at Echo Theatre; *Crowns*, *Stagger Lee*, *Bella-An American Tall Tale*, *A Christmas Carol* at Dallas Theater Center; *Lady Day At Emerson's Bar and Grill*, *Ain't Nothing' But the Blues*, *The Old Settler* at WaterTower Theatre; *Rasheeda Speaking* at Circle Theatre; *Rock of Ages* at Casa Manana.

Television: *Queen of the South*, *Dallas*, *Friday Night Lights*. Additional Credits: Producer of the Denise Lee OnStage Cabaret Series and Dallas Cabaret Festival. Proud member of Actor's Equity. Represented by Linda McAlister.

www.deniseleeonstage.com
Much love to my 2 BEST productions - Janelle & Traci.



Ian Mead Moore

ASST. MUSICAL DIRECTOR/

YOUNG FLANDERS/GREG

Previously at T3: *The Kountry Girls* and *Memphis*. Ian is a local instrumentalist, actor, singer, and voiceover artist. He has appeared on most of the professional stages in DFW as an actor, and lent his voice to dozens of anime titles with FUNimation Entertainment. As a musician, he has played for Junior Players, Mesquite Community Theater, and two world premiere musicals at Theatre Three and Pocket Sandwich Theater. He can also be found on four original cast recordings, including the first full length recording of *The Golden Apple* (Opera World's "Top Ten", 2015). He also writes and records on rhythm guitar and vocals with local alt-rock outfit Speedbreak, and just finished music directing *Urinetown* at UT Dallas.

DRAMATURGY



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

This collection of stories, poetry and music sprouted with the simple idea of creating a holiday show that was rooted in tradition, but still alive and growing. The source material for **Solstice** spans over five centuries and five countries with contributions from artists right here in Dallas. Each year, that can grow. We'll reach to new places and cultures learning how the world turns darkness into light.

Local artists
are asked to
contribute.

The show is
outlined and
researched.

An idea sprouts for
a holiday show
with lesser known
and forgotten
stories about the
Winter Solstice.

Stories

La Befana
Old Italian Folklore
Script by Michael Federico
2017, Dallas

Stuart and Paudette
by Jonathan Norton
2017, Dallas

The Tell Tale Heart
by Edgar Allan Poe
Set to music written and
arranged by Scott A. Eckert

Poetry

The Shortest Day
by Susan Cooper

*Woods In
Winter*
by Henry
Wadsworth
Longfellow

Songs

*Welcome Yule,
Thou Merry Man*
British, 19th century
New music and vocal arrangement
by Cherish Robinson

This Endless Night
English, Traditional, 19th century
New music and vocal arrangement
by Cherish Robinson

Hoor de Wind
Dutch Traditional, 18th century
New music and vocal
arrangement by
Cherish Robinson

Young Flanders
Music, lyrics and
vocal arrangement
by Ian Meade Moore,
2015, Dallas

Woods In Winter
Lyrics by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
New music and vocal arrangement
by Cherish Robinson

*Gloucestershire
Wassail*
English, Traditional,
Middle Ages
New music, additional
lyrics and vocal
arrangement by
Cherish Robinson

Stories

*The Life and Adventures
of Santa Claus*
by L. Frank Baum

The Enchanted Apple Tree
From Christmas Tales of Flanders
Translated to English in 1917

Songs

Tu scendi dalle stelle
Italy, 1774
by Saint Alphonsus Liguori

A Poe Man's Christmas Carol
Lyrics by Edgar Allan Poe
Music from traditional carols with
new music and arrangement by
Scott A. Eckert

A Prayer in Spring
Lyrics by Robert Frost
Music by Ian Meade Moore
and Cherish Robinson
Musical arrangement by
Cherish Robinson

Poetry

A Prayer in Spring
by Robert Frost

ACT 2

GLOSSARY

Bruschette — American Italian dish of thin slices of meat
that are rolled with cheese and bread crumbs and fried.

Gravy — Sauce

Hoor de wind waait door de bomen — Dutch for
"hear the wind blowing through the trees". The title to a
traditional Dutch song sung by children on Sinterklaas.

Hydrocodone — A narcotic used for relief of moderate
to severe pain. 95% of the worldwide supply in 2007 was
consumed in the United States.

Sinterklaas — The feast of Sinterklaas celebrates the
name day of Saint Nicholas on December 6th in Belgium
and the Netherlands.

Tu scendi dalle stelle — Italian for "from starry skies
thou comest".

Wassail — Traditionally drunk as an integral part of
wassailing, a Medieval English drinking ritual intended to
entice a good cider apple harvest.

Winter Solstice — Officially the first day of winter,
and it's the longest night of the year. The winter solstice
is celebrated by many people around the world as the
beginning of the return of the sun, and darkness turning
into light.

Yule (or Yuletide) — A festival observed by the
historical Germanic peoples. Today, Yule is used as a
synonym for Christmas.

CAST AND CREW BIOGRAPHIES



Sara Grace Prejean
GIRL

is excited to make her Theatre 3 debut. Fort Worth is her home but she is rapidly becoming familiar with Dallas theater having most recently been in *Titantic*, *The Concert Version* with Uptown Players. Other favorite roles include Ida in *Honk, Jr* (Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts FWAFA) and Mary Lennox

in *The Secret Garden* (Artisan Center Theater). She has also been seen at Casa Manana and Texas Theatre for Young People. Sara is an 8th grade student at FWAFA.



Paul T. Taylor

WOOD SPIRIT/STUART/
NARRATOR

Solstice is Paul's 11th show at Theatre Three, having made his debut in *Heartbeats* in 1992. His favorite T3

experiences have been *Assassins*, *Drood!*, *Bat Boy the Musical*, *The Hot Mikado* and *Look What's Happened to Pixie de Costa*! Other Dallas - FW favorites include *Mr. Burns, a post-electric play* (Stage West), *Urinetown the Musical* (WaterTower), *Martyr* (Second Thought), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Contemporary) and *10 Out Of 12* (Undermain). At Lincoln Center, he was in the Korean Opera *The Last Empress* and starred in *Shear Madness* at the Kennedy Center. His film and television work includes *Sin City*, *Soul Men*, *Friday Night Lights* and *Prison Break*. Paul plays the cult horror villain "Pinhead" in *Hellraiser: Judgement*, the tenth film in the long-running franchise.

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