

The vestige group is a sponsored project of the Greater Austin Creative Alliance. This project is funded and supported in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division.

THE VESTIGE GROUP PRESENTS

LONESTAR, TEXAS

A POPCORN THROWING ROCK COUNTRY MUSICAL

BOOK AND LYRICS BY BENJAMIN WRIGHT

PRODUCTION TEAM

Directors: Jen Brown and Susie Gidseg
Stage Manager: Carol Higgins
Lighting Design: Courtney DeGinder
Musical Director: Henna Chou
Set Design: Courtney DeGinder, Ben Wright
Box Office Manager: Dawn Humphrey
Postcard Design: Lizzie Bond
Program Design: Dawn Humphrey
Publicity: Susie Gidseg
Costume Design: Jen Brown, Liz Rische
Choreography/Follow Spot: Zenobia Taylor
Sound Board Op's: Daniel and David Myers

LONESTAR CAST

Tyler: Jonathan Terrell
Jack: Chris Higgins
Timothy: Brock England
Darlene: Sara Berger
Rex: Benjamin Wright
Wilson: Spencer Driggers
Lu Anne: Jennymarie Jemison
Donna: Jen Brown
Beth Anne: Michelle Keffer

PRODUCTION BIOS

Benjamin Wright (Book and Lyrics/ Rex): Benjamin is an actor, singer, writer and composer living in Austin, Texas. He has spent his life performing, and with training from UCLA and the British American Drama Academy, he has sought to put his experience to great use developing new work in Austin, and building upon his craft in a variety of theatrical styles. One week you might find him taking the stage as a lord of heavy metal, and the next as a Shakespearean romantic. Keep checking back to find out what exciting new performances are on the horizon.

Carol Higgins (Stage Manager): Carol is making her debut as Stage Manager and having a wonderful time as well as learning so much about the behind the scenes world of the theatre. This is her second time working with Vestige, most recently working as a Guide for Muses III. Her stage experience to date has been as a member of the dance ministry with her church. The current dance group, Signs of Promise, incorporates dance and sign language to bring to life and interpret worship songs. Carol is thankful and having a wonderful time working with her wonderful husband of 23 years, Chris, who is playing Jack in this production and for her sons, CJ and Chance, for always being a light in her life. She wants to thank Susie and Ben for allowing her the opportunity to be involved in 'LoneStar' and looks forward to a continued relationship with Vestige.

Courtney DeGinder (Lighting Design): Courtney is brought to you by the number R, the belief that time and space do in fact bend into magical pretzel shapes and the molecule $C_8H_{10}N_4O_2$. Courtney got her early education as a stage ninja at the University of Texas and has worked with the Rude Mechs and Zach Scott Theater. She has been a vestige company member for two years. She would like to thank Aidan, who lets his mother out of the house for a few nights every once in a while and her partner in crime and husband, Brian.

Dawn Humphrey (Production/Box Office Manager): A member of the vestige group since its founding in 2006, Dawn has been involved in every production they have done since their first effort, Neil LaBute's Fat Pig to this most recent endeavor, the rockin' LoneStar. When she's not managing the books, she's building sets, running shows, managing the box office, and occasionally ordering out for pizza. Before the vestige group, she graduated with a degree in Theatre from the University of Wyoming with a focus on stage management and design. She misses real mountains, but is happy to be without the snow, even if the cedars have it out for her.

Jen Brown (Director/Donna): Jen majored in acting with a minor in sound design at The University of Oklahoma. She founded the vestige group with Susie Gidseg after moving to Austin. Selected acting credits include: No Exit (Inez), Gorilla Man (Mom), A Matter of Taste (Sadie), Stop Kiss (Sara - B. Iden Payne Nomination), Brilliant Traces (Rosamah), Anton In Show Business (Joby), Fat Pig (Jeannie), Muses Memories of a House (Bridget), Frontera Fest 2007 Best of Fest Selections "Bliss" & "My Name Is Art". Jen was also involved in The Austin Shakespeare Festival's production of Suzan Lori Parks 365 Days 365 Plays and Zachary Scott Theatre's Project Interact.

PRODUCTION BIOS CONT'D

Jen Brown cont'd: Aside from acting, Jen is a director and sound designer and has designed such shows as The Heidi Chronicles, Stop Kiss, Brilliant Traces, Lion in the Streets, The Laramie Project and more. Thank you to my family, friends, Matthew and my roommates for putting up with all the insanity and constant southern drawl! And most importantly, Jen owes a crap ton of Big Ol' Fat Country Bear Hug's to Susie, Ben, Henna, Carol and all her fellow LoneStar Natives for playing along with this crazy D.I.D!

Liz Rische (Costume Design): Liz is currently a senior at St. Edward's University earning a degree in Theatre Design. She is working towards becoming a makeup designer in the theatre and film world, and hopes to one day branch out into the special effects industry. She just finished working on Evil Dead: The Musical, and is absolutely tickled with the transition from zombies to cowboys! She would like to thank Jen Brown for this generous opportunity to help make LoneStar a glamorous reality.

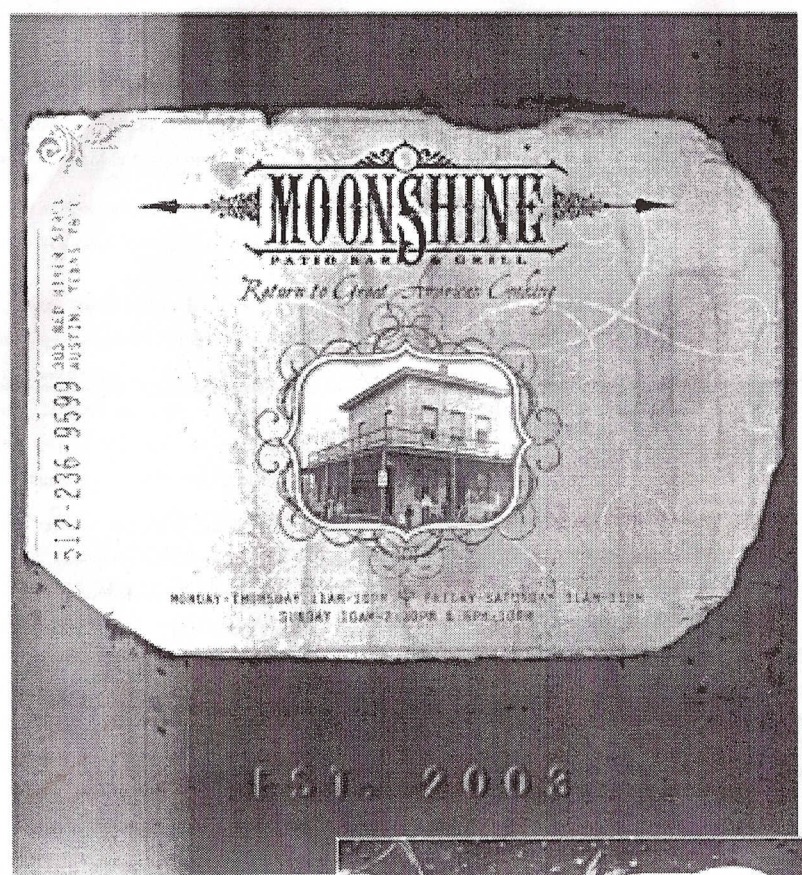
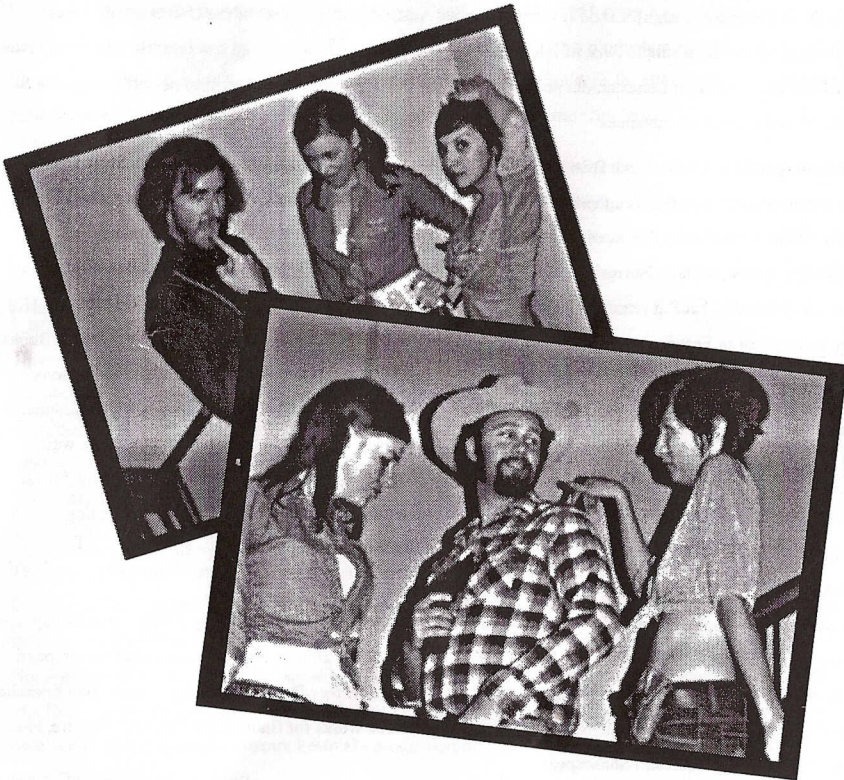
Lizzie Bond (Postcard Design): Lizzie is a rambunctious Austinite and graduate of the University of Texas Advertising school. By a simple twist of fate, she landed herself designing the logo and flyer for LoneStar, Texas. She wishes she could visit LoneStar, but perhaps it's for the best otherwise she might find herself susceptible to Rex B. Mason's seductive advances.

Susie Gidseg (Director): Susie is a BFA Dramaturgy graduate from the University of Oklahoma. Susie has taught children's theatre through the Dougherty Arts Center, Rude Mechanical's "Grrl" Action, Kids Acting and The Theatre at The J, the Austin Children's Theatre and the Star Charter School. Favorite credits include: Dramaturgy: Anton in Show Business, The Laramie Project, Urinetown, Direction: Halfway to Beautiful, Cloud Tectonics, Autobahn, Fat Pig (regional premiere), The Muses: Memories of a House I & II (world premiere), My Name is Art (Best of Fest Frontera Fest 2007), Anton in Show Business, Brilliant Traces, The New Jersey Book of the Dead, Marisol, Gorilla Man, TOUCH and di{verge}: an original play with songs for Elan Productions (ArtSpark 2008). Susie was also the guest director for City Theatre's Heidi Chronicles. Susie is the co-founder of Orasi Productions in Norman, OK and the co-founder & co-artistic director of the vestige group. Susie was nominated for a B Iden Payne Award for this past seasons production of TOUCH. Susie is currently the Social Media Director for the Greater Austin Creative Alliance and a member of the B. Iden Payne Nominating Committee. She wants to thank Jen and Carol for running the ship on this one and Ben for his awesome awesome tunes.

Zenobia Taylor (Choreographer): Zenobia is Co-Artistic Director of The Getalong Gang Performance Group and mother to Cassius the Basset Hound and Billy the Turtle.. During her stint with GGPG she has choreographed and directed several productions including Austin Critics' Table nominee Dolly Would, Arthuriosis, Ben Franklin: A Rock Opera and The Candy Dish. Other Austin credits include works for Ballet East, Capital T Theatre, Hot September Flurries, and Austin Shakespeare.

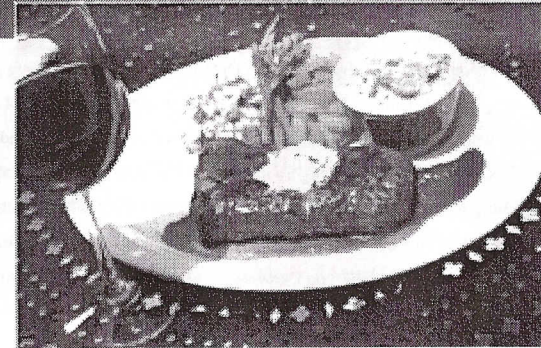
THANK YOU

Graham Weber // E.R.T. //
Warren McKinney // Us Art
Authority // Spiderhouse //
Cedar Park Body and Frame //
All Our Family & Friends



EST. 2003

Popcorn
provided by
our friends at
Moonshine Bar
and Grill



PRODUCTION BIOS CONT'D

Zenobia Taylor cont'd: While living in NYC she danced with RedWall Dance Theatre and Offspring Dance Co. and presented original works at numerous venues including HERE Arts Center, 42nd St. Repertory Theater, and Chashama on 42nd. In addition, her work has been produced on stages in Dallas, California, and Massachusetts. Zenobia received her BFA in Dance from SMU in 1998.



CAST BIOS

Brock England (Timothy): Brock has been active in all aspects of theater since the age of six, and has been active in the Austin theater community for the last five years. He's performed in Austin with several companies including the Bedlam Faction, Shrewd Productions, Loaded Gun Theory, and Chick and a Dude Productions. appearing most recently as Le Beau and Amiens in the Scottish Rite Theatre's production of As You Like It. He'd like to thank his family for their endless love and support, and Vestige for letting me sing on stage again.

Chris Higgins (Jack): Chris has been chasing his dream by delving into film. Look for him on screen at film festivals soon in Depth of Phil and Shady, TX". He can also be seen singing and acting on a weekly live webcast AT WWW.PROMISELANDCHURCH.NET where he is currently the director of fine arts. He is a "Best of Fest" award winner for his performance in Brain Big at Frontera Fest. He became involved with The Vestige Group by way of Muses III where he enjoyed a comedic role in Swallowing Gum. Some of his stage credits include; Giles Ralston in The Mousetrap, Jonathan Harker in Dracula, Shepherd Henderson in Bell, Book and Candle, Joshua Bradley in Bright Ideas, Thomas Jefferson in 1776 and multiple roles in The Laramie Project. He is also known for his voice work with UIL. Other film and TV credits include GSD&M industrial commercial, Friday Night Lights and The Awakening. After growing up in Indiana, Chris moved to San Antonio where he studied theater while traveling with The Shining Lights Acting Company. He has held numerous roles dating back longer than he cares to remember. One of his favorite quotes is, "Dream as if you'll live forever, live as if you'll die today". Chris would like to say... thank you Carol. He would also like to thank himself for writing this bio in the third person.

CAST BIOS CONT'D

Jennymarie Jemison (Lou Ann): Jennymarie is happy to add cowgirl to the list this year as a dominatrix (Faster Than the Speed of Light), princess (The Frog Prince), prostitute (TOUCH), and a complex, human being capable of deeply flawed decision making (No One Else Will Ever Love You.) In her other life, she is a principal at the addy-award winning design firm, Fs77, and completed work on a photography book about Austin's east side. You can follow her further adventures at WWW.AUSTINACTRESS.COM.

Jonathan Terrell (Tyler): Jonathan defines the next generation of Texas music. Pushing past the conventions of the singer/songwriter genre, the Longview-born lyricist possesses a style of writing that is sincere, introspective, and sometimes mischievous. Writing since a teen, Terrell has explored every corner and curve of sound and style. Ten years and 275+ songs later, his sophomore release Trials & Stimulations nestles him right into the belly of his roots and reveals his strength as a Born into a family of traveling musical missionaries. Terrell came into this world (with the help of a 90 year old midwife) in a tiny trailer set deep in the piney woods of East Texas. Growing up in that same trailer, Terrell spent most of his time riding his horse Lightening and working on the ranch moving cattle and stringing up barbed wire. As part of his teenage rebellious phase, Terrell found himself in a metal band in high school, but made the transition to folk the day of his high school graduation. The Austin American-Statesman recently declared his residency shows as "creating a buzz in the Texas music scene," and his consecutive sold-out performances and ever-increasing audience have resulted in his sharing the stage with the likes of Willie Nelson. In support of his new album, Terrell recently took to the road and is planning another national tour this Spring/Summer. Meanwhile there are no signs of slowing down. Terrell maintains a relentless schedule with two side rock-n-roll projects, Not In The Face and The Dirty Sound, and keeps his audience coming back for more by a constant offering of endless fresh material.

WWW.JONATHANTERRELL.COM

WWW.MYSPACE.COM/JONATHANTERRELLORGANIZATION

Michelle Keffer (Beth Ann): Michelle is a yankee, but she is proud to strap on her boots for her first show with Vestige. Michelle is a company member at Hyde Park Theatre and Pollyanna Theatre Company. She does many other things as well. She would like to thank all the folks in Lonestar and Scooby.

Sara Berger (Darlene): Sara studied Bassoon performance at California State University in Sacramento. After moving back to her native Austin two years ago, she has become very active in the music scene. She acted as Co - Music Director of Faster Than The Speed Of Light, plays tenor saxophone in the band Soft Healer and is a bassoonist in various other projects. Sara made her theatrical debut in Arthuriosis: A Metal Opera and is thrilled to have been given another opportunity to act in Lonestar. She would like to thank Susie, Carol and all of her cast mates for the nurturing support they have given her throughout this show.

CAST BIOS CONT'D

Spencer Driggers (Wilson): Spencer says 'what up.' His recent appearances include turns in No One Else Will Ever Love You (dir. Dan Solomon), Arthuriosis (Getalong Gang) and Gorilla Man (Vestige Group). In tandem with Bionic Superwife Zenobia Taylor, he Co-Artistic Directs the Getalong Gang Performance Group. He's slated to helm the Gang's upcoming production of Post-Oedipus, a play that you should totally see cuz it's gonna be boss."



BAND BIOS

Brian Purington: Brian is an avid dog walker, a guitarist in Austin's cinematic-instrumental rock veterans My Education, and bassist in Baby Robots. He enjoys vegetarian cooking and science fiction television series. He is one half of the mixing/mastering duo "Bump Boys" and one third of the wedding trio "Night School." His band, My Education will be releasing a new album in early 2010.

Henna Chou: Henna is an ex-vagabond, music lover, and canine enthusiast. She currently participates in some Austin music groups as a cellist, keyboardist or guitarist. Her previous theatrical collaborations include work with Rubber Repertory, Humdrum Collective, and some Frontera Fest Short Fringe pieces. She is accepting donations of asthma inhalers, if anyone happens to have extra.

Julie Wang: After being denied the drums and clarinet, Julie started playing the violin in third grade due to a family vacation, a thought on the road, and a moment. She is extremely grateful for that moment, the people who play instruments around and with her, for the opportunities she would've never gotten on her own, and for being open minded about food.

Vincent Durcan: Vincent is a rhythm purveyor who has played bass since childhood, drums and percussion since 2002. He has toured the country in a number of ensembles and is currently the drummer of the bands: Great Nostalgic and Paper Threat.

DIRECTORS' NOTE

When Benjamin Wright joined our motley crew last year as an actor for our Christmas musical hit, Gorilla Man, we had no idea that a year later, not only would he be a new vestige company member, but we would be producing the first professional production of his new work! Man, that guy sure has some great power of persuasion!

From original play readings, and throughout the whole workshop process, vestige has been proud to help flesh out Ben's original incarnation, and bring Lonestar's full scale production right here to Austin, a city that has a sick fascination with crazy awesome original rock musicals! We also are continuing our mission of bringing as much new work as possible to the Austin theatre scene.

Lonestar, Texas has been a wild ride that has culminated in a really fun show. So sit back, relax and enjoy yourself! Have a beer, throw some popcorn when the urge hits you, feel free to hoot and holler along with the actors. (They won't mind, we promise!) And welcome one and all to Lonestar, Texas!



Susie Gidseg
and Jen Brown

COMING SOON

Look for Muses IV: Memories of a House coming to a home near you: Spring 2010
Di[verge]: an original play with songs, written by Susie Gidseg and Andrew Varenhorst: Fall of 2010.

WWW.VESTIGEGROUP.ORG

the vestige group presents

LONESTAR, TEXAS: A POPCORN THROWING ROCK COUNTRY MUSICAL

Book, Music & Lyrics by
Benjamin Wright

Starring

Sara Berger, Jen Brown,
Spencer Driggers, Brock
England, Chris Higgins, Jenny
Mane Jimison, Michelle Ketter,
Jonathan Terrell,
and Benjamin Wright.

Directed by
Susie Gidseg & Jen Brown

Tickets & Info

www.lonestartexasmusical.com
or call 512-474-TIXS
Discount tickets available online

The Story

In a Snidely Whiplash/Dudley Do Right story that takes place in a Texan trailer park town, we meet a lecherous Texas Ranger who turns out not to be so rangery. We meet a misunderstood youth just trying to escape his life in Lonestar. Let's not forget the damsel in distress and a whole mob of sexy cowgirls. Lonestar, Texas: A Popcorn Throwing Rock Country Musical is a whimsical tale about the dark and depraved places one will go when forced to survive in the confines of a decaying small town. We'll leave the judgments of good and evil up to the audience who will be fully armed with beer and popcorn. So, saddle up for a rockin' trip to Lonestar, Texas.

Our Partners

Popcorn by:



The vestige group is a sponsored project of the Greater Austin Creative Alliance. This project is funded and supported in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great reason deserves great art.