

THEATRE
ROCKS!

Presents

Mojave

TIME

WRITTEN BY: BILL RHOTEN

Fridays and Saturdays: 7:30 PM

October 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28

Sunday Matinee: 2:30 PM

October 29


Adults: 18.00

Senior Adults and Students: 15.00

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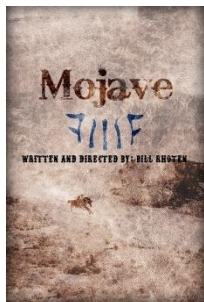
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Written and Directed by Bill Rhoten

Cast List (In Order of Appearance)

Sarah Bowman.....Kim Carty
Mrs. Twist.....Brandi Anthony
Lieutenant Reuben Twist....Adrian Arteaga
Colonel Martin Burke.....Gene Ryan
Olive Oatman.....Korbin Pitchford
Topeka.....Charlene Andrews
Curly Joe.....Michael L. Hall
Hank.....Jon Kirk Race
Lilly.....Cassidy Hortman
Lorenzo Oatman.....Ethan Binder

This play is based on a true story. All characters are real people who lived this story, except for Curly Joe, Hank, and Lilly, who, though fictitious, probably did exist somewhere in the "Wild West." The action takes place at Fort Yuma in New Mexico Territory (what is today Arizona), in a small cabin, over a two-week period in the winter of 1856.

Act I, Scene I: Afternoon, Olive Oatman has just been ransomed at Fort Yuma

Act I, Scene II: One night, a week later

Act II, Scene I: Late, that same night

Act II, Scene II: A week later, the day Olive and Lorenzo depart for California

Historical persons portrayed in the play *Mojave*

Olive Oatman - Part of a pioneer family traveling west, she was taken captive by the Yavapai (as best as can be determined). The Yavapai massacred her family but took Olive and her sister Mary Ann captive, then traded them to the Mojave for beads, blankets, and two horses.

Olive's years after her repatriation and subsequent marriage also have a Texas connection. In 1872, she and her New York-born cattleman and farmer husband, John Brant Fairchild, moved to Sherman, Texas, where he became a prominent businessman. They adopted a child, Mary Elizabeth (Mamie), and moved into a stately two-story home. Though Olive was a respected citizen of the community, she struggled throughout her life and kept much to herself. She wore powders and veils to hide the markings of her past life. She and her husband are buried in Sherman's West Hill Cemetery.

Sarah Bowman: Nicknamed "The Great Western," she was an American innkeeper, restaurateur, and madam who was in charge of taking care of Olive while she was at Fort Yuma. She ran a combination mess kitchen, boarding house, and brothel across the river from the fort. She gained fame and the title "Heroine of Fort Brown" and was a follower of Zachary Taylor during the Mexican-American war. Texas Ranger John Salmon Ford said of her, "She could whip any man, fair fight or foul, could sight a'oust better than anyone in the region, and at blackjack could outplay (or out cheat) the slickest professional gambler." Bowman died December 22, 1866, from a spider bite. She was made an honorary colonel and buried with military honors in the Fort Yuma cemetery.

Mrs. Twist: Lieutenant Reuben Twist's wife was there, living at Fort Yuma with her husband. She was given false credit in the newspapers for the care of Olive Oatman at the fort.

Lieutenant Reuben Twist: An officer at Fort Yuma.

Colonel Martin Burke: Commander of Fort Yuma. Lieutenant Colonel Burke was instrumental in negotiations for Olive's ransom and return.

Topeka: Mohave Indian girl and tribal sister to Olive and Mary Ann Oatman. She traveled with Olive from the Mojave village to Fort Yuma.

Lorenzo Oatman - Olive's older brother, who was thrown over a cliff at the time of the massacre but lived. He managed to make his way back to Maricopa Wells and reconnect with the wagons from which the Oatman family had separated. He spent the next six years looking for Olive and Mary Ann, who were missing among the bodies of his family.

For more information, the Rhotens recommend two excellent books: *The Blue Tattoo: The Life of Olive Oatman* by Margot Mifflin and *The Oatman Massacre: A Tale of Desert Captivity and Survival* by Brian McGinty.

During the run of this play, please enjoy the relevant lobby display which includes many facts about the historical people included in the tale, as well as Suzanne Rhoten's Oatman/Sperry family Bible.

Cast Biographies



Charlene Andrews (Topeka)—Charlene has been part of the Theatre Rocks! family for many years, either on stage, helping back stage, or working the lights/sound board. In this season’s opener, *Twelve Angry Men*, she played “The Guard.” Her first time on stage was under the direction of Bill Rhoten in the role of “Beth Bailey” in *Til Beth Do Us Part* in February 2012. Some of her other roles include “Geneva Musgrave” in *Christmas Belles*, “Viney” in *The Miracle Worker*, and “The Sheriff” in *A Bad Year for Tomatoes*. She was thrilled to be able to “play” with the Phoenix Repertory Players when she was cast as “The Queen” in *Cinderella* and “Flick” in *Snow White*. When not on stage, she has done lights/sound or helped behind the scenes for such plays as *Bus Stop*, *The Lion in Winter*, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *Southern Comfort*, *Deathtrap*, *Dixie Swim Club*, *The Last Romance*, *The Cemetery Club*, *Mojave*, *A Christmas Carol*, and most recently, *The Ashes of Aquitaine*. She is very thankful to Bill and Suzanne for all the wonderful opportunities in which she’s been involved.

Charlene loves animals, enjoys swimming, working outside, and re-organizing, but most of all, laughing and joking around with her husband Tim Andrews.



Brandi Anthony (Mrs. Twist)—Brandi is wife of David Anthony, mother to Nathan and Michaela, owner and physical therapist at Victory Physical Therapy in Ennis, and an active member of First Baptist Church of Red Oak. She has had the privilege to perform at Theatre Rocks! as “Reba” in *A Bad Year for Tomatoes*, “Karen Beckle” in *Cabin Fever*, and twice in the Bill Rhoten original *Where’s Santa?* as “Wanda Jean Ninemire.” This is Brandi’s second time to play “Mrs. Twist” in *Mojave*; the first time was in 2020 at The Core Theatre in Richardson. She has also performed in various church productions and skits including *The Gospel According to Scrooge* as Angel 1 (Angel of the Past). She thanks Bill for another fun role to fill, her family for loving her through it, and her Savior for the peace only He provides. “In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success.” Proverbs 3:6

Cast Biographies



Adrian Arteaga (Lieutenant Reuben Twist)—Adrian is a student at the University of Texas at Arlington majoring in performance. He was most recently seen on the Theatre Rocks! stage as “William Talvas” in *The Ashes of Aquitaine*. He has played the role of “Jesus” in the 2018 world premiere as well as last year’s production of *Hyer House*. He appeared as “Lloyd Barnett” in *Crimes of the Heart, in A Little Princess* as “Mr. Carrisford,” and twice as “Bob Cratchit” in the holiday show, *A Christmas Carol*. He made his directorial debut last season with *A Christmas Carol* and will be directing this year’s *A Christmas Story*. He would like to thank all his family and friends for the continued support.



Ethan Binder (Lorenzo Oatman)—This is Ethan’s fifth appearance at Theatre Rocks! He was recently seen as “Juror 5” in *Twelve Angry Men*. He previously appeared in productions of *Sense and Sensibility*, *KFLU Floydada: Country That's Contagious* and *Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Priory School*.



Kimberly Carty (Sarah Bowman)—Kim is a graduate of KD Studio in Dallas (where she first met Bill Rhoten, who was teaching there) and has acted in numerous community theatre productions, including *Into the Woods* and *It's a Wonderful Life*. She appeared at the Palace Theatre in Corsicana as “The Wicked Witch of the West” in *The Wizard of Oz* and as “Truivy” in The Warehouse Theatre’s production of *Steel Magnolias*. Kim originated the role of “Eve Erhard” in *The Greatest Generation Trilogy* which includes: *My First Date, Forever*, and *Life's Little Miracles*, written by Bill Rhoten. Kim played “Hannah Winship Grey” in last season’s National Playwriting Competition finalist and world premiere of Bill Cameron’s play *Every Livin' Soul*. She and her husband Russell have three awesome kids and will be celebrating their 31st anniversary this year!

Cast Biographies



Cassidy Ann Hortman (Lilly)—Cassidy made her Theatre Rocks! debut in the 2015 production of *Godspell*. She played “Babe Botrelle” in *Crimes of the Heart*, “Belle” in *A Christmas Carol*, and “Nurse Sarah” in *Hyer House*, and won Best Actress and Best Performance as “Agnes” in *Agnes of God*. She won Best Supporting Actress for her role as “Annastasia Erhard” in the **The Greatest Generation Trilogy** world premiere of *My First Date* (2019), *Forever* (2020), and *Life’s Little Miracles* (2021). She played “Tammy Lynn Lovelace” in *KFLU Floydada, Country that’s Contagious*, followed by the role of “Dot Winship” in *Every Livin’ Soul*. She just made her Duncanville Community Theatre debut in *Two Witches, No Waiting* and was most recently seen on the Theatre Rocks! stage as “Alais Capet” in *The Ashes of Aquitaine*. She is grateful to Suzanne and Bill for all the opportunities for her to learn and grow as an actress on the Theatre Rocks! stage.



Korbin Pitchford (Olive Oatman)—This is Korbin's third appearance on the Theatre Rocks! stage, having played “Belle” in last season’s production of *A Christmas Carol* and “Katherine” in *The Ashes of Aquitaine*. Korbin is currently a senior at Ennis High School, serving as the Master of Revels for the EHS Drama Club. At EHS, Korbin has appeared in *Tartuffe* (“Cleante”), *Plan 9 from Outer Space* (“Alien Ruler”), *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* (“Ford Prefect”), *The Tempest* (“Trinculo”), and *Much Ado About Nothing* (“Dogberry”). Korbin also played “Helena” in an audio recording of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and “Morella’s Daughter” in the film *The Raven*.

Cast Biographies

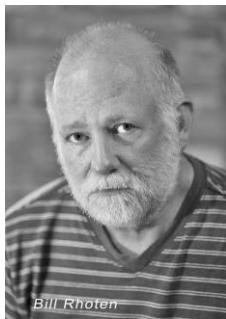


Jon Kirk Race (Hank)—A graduate of the University of Mississippi with a BA in Theatre Arts, Jon Kirk is a stage veteran of over 25 years. He has portrayed several memorable characters over the years, with roles from “Sir Toby Belch” in *Twelfth Night*, “Henry Drummond” in *Inherit the Wind*, and “Sgt. Trotter” in *Journey’s End* to “Freddy” in *Picasso at the Lapine Agile* and “Bradley” in Sam Shepard’s *Buried Child*. Jon Kirk has lived in Ennis for the past four years and is a native of the Lone Star State. This is his fifth show at Theatre Rocks!, having appeared in the premiere of *Big Boy, Miss Alice and the Colonial Encyclopedia Man*, originating the role of “Hootie Calhoun” in the premiere of *KFLU Floydada, Country that’s Contagious*, “Pastor Jimmy Alden” in *My First Date*, and “Scrooge” in last season’s *A Christmas Carol*. He is thrilled to be back on the Theatre Rocks! stage playing “Hank” with another set of skilled and talented actors. It always feels great to come “home” to Theatre Rocks!



Gene Ryan (Colonel Martin Burke)—Gene returns to the Theatre Rocks! Stage fresh off a starring role as “Juror 4” in the Theatre Rocks! production of *Twelve Angry Men* and leading role as “Gibby Hayden” in Duncanville Community Theater’s production of *Til Beth Do Us Part*. Gene joined Theatre Rocks! in 2021 as “Sheriff Jasper Tidwell” in *KFLU Floydada, Country that’s Contagious*. He appeared again later that same year as mailman “Mr. Walker” in *My First Date*. “Theatre Rocks! is my home, and I am glad to be here again.”

He began acting when he was 11 years old, playing the role of “Jacob Marlowe” in a children’s performance of Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*. That same year, Gene was in a Kankakee Valley Theater musical production of *The Wizard of Oz*, pulling double duty as the head of the Lollipop Guild and as a General in the Army of Oz. In his teen and college years, he played Jesus Christ in a traveling performance of *The Passion*, “Rosencrantz” in *Hamlet*, and “Pale” in *Burn This*. He also worked as a stagehand for the Bishop McNamara (Bourbonnais, Ill.) community theater’s production of Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*. Gene is a voiceover artist, as well as voice actor, for commercials and characters in books and shows. Gene moved here with his wife (a native Texan) and three daughters seven years ago. He was born on the Southside of Chicago, the oldest of seven children; they all looked up to him... except the ones who were taller.



Bill Rhoten **Theatre Rocks!** **Co-Founder and Artistic Director**

Bill Rhoten was born in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas. He has more than 40 years of diversified acting, directing, producing, and writing experience, in over 100 stage productions in Ennis and the Dallas area. He founded Dallas Theatre on Tour, the Prairie House Dinner Theatre, Ennis Public Theatre, and — eight years ago — Theatre Rocks! Some career highlights include:

directing Pulitzer Prize and Tony winner Tracy Letts in his early career in Dallas in four productions; Bill performed in and directed William Mastrosimone's ***The Woolgatherer***, for which he received the coveted "Critics Choice" award by the Dallas Times Herald; he directed ***Electric Angel*** by Brad Bailey, which had its world premiere in Dallas and was later produced in Los Angeles; and ***The Real Queen of Hearts Ain't Even Pretty*** by Brad Bailey was produced twice by Bill, who later co-produced and directed the feature length film.

His writing credits include two screenplays, a TV pilot, ***Jessie's Diary***, a short film now available on Amazon.com, and his film entitled ***New Hope*** (writer/director) which was selected with 30 other shorts in its category (of 1,800 submitted) for competition at the Palm Springs International Film Festival. "***New Hope*** was the wisest, the smartest, and truthfully the most passionate of all the films we submitted....." (The Desert Sun, Palm Springs, California)

He has authored eight stage plays: ***My Favorite Christmas***, ***Where's Santa?***, and ***Life's Little Miracles***, as well as five award-winning plays, all of which premiered on the Theatre Rocks! stage: ***Mojave***, ***Hyer House***, ***My First Date***, ***Forever***, and ***KFLU Floydada***, ***Country that's Contagious***.



Suzanne Rhoten **Theatre Rocks!** **Co-Founder and Executive Director**

Suzanne's background is in film and theatre production. She was formerly a founder and executive director of the Miss Plano Pageant, a preliminary to the Miss Texas/Miss America pageants. She has extensive acting experience, having been cast in numerous film, commercial, and industrial productions, as well as theatre in the Dallas area. Working alongside her producer, writer, director husband, Bill, she has experience in the areas of production management, script supervision, and set design. A certified non-profit manager and ordained minister, she serves as executive director of Theatre Rocks!

Bill Rhoten's students have worked for these clients:

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AS THE WORLD TURNS / THE LIFE OF DAVID GALE

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Theatre Rocks! Executive Director & Co-Founder Suzanne Rhoten
Lights & Sound Charlene Andrews
Costumes Sarah Ramsey
Set Design & Construction Adrian Arteaga, Bill Rhoten, Dirk Kovar,
and Kelly Kovar
Props Jonas Ramsey and Sarah Ramsey
Playbill Rebecca Perry and Suzanne Rhoten
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Special thanks to Pat Cummins and Dan Lynch.

“And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.”

~ Jeremiah 18:4

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2023-2024 Season

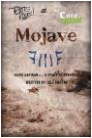


Twelve Angry Men

By Reginald Rose, Directed by Bill Rhoten

Following the closing arguments in a murder trial, the twelve members of the jury must deliberate, with a guilty verdict meaning death for the accused, an inner-city teen.

August 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26, 27



Mojave

Written and Directed by Bill Rhoten

Based on a true account from the American expansion west. One young woman's journey with her pioneer family takes a tragically unexpected turn, but through it all, her hope is not lost and she learns the strength of family also can come from those outside one's own bloodline.

October 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28, 29



A Christmas Story

By Philip Grecian, based on Based on the motion picture *A Christmas Story*, © 1983

Turner Entertainment Co., distributed by Warner Bros., written by Jean Shepherd, Leigh Brown and Bob Clark; and on the book *In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash* by Jean Shepherd, Directed by Adrian Arteaga

Humorist Jean Shepherd's memoir of growing up in the Midwest in the 1940s follows 9-year-old Ralphie Parker in his quest to get a genuine Red Ryder BB gun under the tree for Christmas.

December 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17



The Last Romance

By Joe DiPietro, Directed by Larry LeMaster

A heart-warming comedy about love and its power to transform.

February 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 25



The Secret Garden

Adapted from novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett by C. Warren Robertson, Directed by Rebecca Perry

The classic story of two emotionally stunted children who discover, through their love for a garden and the teachings of a boy of the English moors, that the key to happiness lies in caring for others.

April 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27, 28



Criminal Mischief - Winner, 2023 National Playwriting Competition

By William Cameron, Directed by Bill Rhoten

Freddy, Angie, and Spencer think they are in love. The problem is who's in love with whom? This sets off a series of comical yet criminal misadventures. All of this is right in the sights of Detective Lieutenant Alice Ford, who has issues of her own. **Criminal Mischief** takes a humorous look at love, relationships, family and forgiveness, crime and punishment.

June 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30

Click [here](#) to purchase season tickets!