

Oscar Wilde considered theatre “the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being.” This sharing brings an appreciation and, ideally, an understanding of who we are as individuals. At the same time, if we’re lucky, we experience the collective power and joy in creating a piece of theatre, a truly collaborative process and art. I’d lived in Houston, TX, for six years before I found my tribe at Baytown Little Theater (BLT), and in the six years since I have been fortunate to work with talented, creative, dedicated friends who have become family.

Originally from north Mississippi, I got my start in theatre in my early 20s with Starkville Community Theatre and, via SCT, the Mississippi Theatre Association and AACT, the American Association of Community Theatre. I was happy to learn, when I came to Baytown, that BLT is also an active AACT member organization via TNT, the Theatre Network of Texas. Active involvement and continued representation within our state and national organizations are lifelines to collaborative opportunities with creatives from across the state and region, resource and idea sharing among similarly sized theatre groups, avenues for growth in what we do and in the communities we entertain, and much more. Speaking of community, BLT is blessed to be in the city of Baytown with some of the most generous and supportive audience members around. We could not maintain the level of quality we produce without this continued and much-appreciated support.

Currently, BLT company members are in rehearsal for our next 2024/25 season production, *Radium Girls*, which opens May 16th. Additionally, our company of *Tuesdays with Morrie* – BLT’s 2025 production for TExFest, the annual conference of theatres from around the state hosted by TNT – was named one of two Outstanding Productions and moved on to represent Texas at the South West Theatre Conference in Hobbs, NM. This conference encompasses AACT Region VI (Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas), and BLT was named the singular company to represent Region VI at AACTFest this coming June. The biennial AACTFest, held this year in Des Moines, IA, is the ultimate community theatre experience. Twelve companies selected from the AACT regions will gather June 25-28 to

share their productions, attend workshops, and network with theatre professionals and volunteers from all 50 states and beyond. BLT's *Tuesdays with Morrie* will perform on Friday, June 27th.

Representing our Baytown community is an honor, one we've been proud to carry since 1961, and we thank you for the opportunity to represent you in this way. Whether we are in town, in other Texas cities, or on a national stage, we carry with us our beautifully loyal BLT audience members, and we only want to give our very best. Morrie Schwartz felt that we could "find joy in practically any situation if we are open to the experience of happiness," and we would love to share this happiness with you at Baytown Little Theater on June 20-21 at 8pm for two performances of *Tuesdays with Morrie* before we head to Iowa.

For additional information, please visit:

<https://aact.org/25>

<https://texastheatres.org/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qjephwogUU>