

Welcome to *The Legacy of Sarah Jane*

We're so excited that you are considering being a part of Sycamore Tree Theatre's 2026 production of *The Legacy of Sarah Jane*, the true story of one woman's grit and courage in her determination to forge a new destiny for her family amidst the rough and tumble of a lawless southern town in turn-of-the-century America. This musical provides us with a vehicle for reaching our communities with a message of hope and how the decisions we make can have an impact on ourselves, our families, future generations, and the world around us.

Everyone has gifts and talents. Yes, a production like this requires actors and musicians, but it also requires seamstresses and researchers, ushers and technicians, designers and greeters, carpenters and graphic artists, marketers and cooks, bakers and servers of all sorts. It needs people who will pray for those involved and for those who will attend, people who will prepare meals and people who will help promote it so others will come.

Of course, as with any worthwhile endeavor, your involvement will cost you something, whether it is simply time that you aren't using elsewhere or it is giving up some other activity for a short period of time. We hope that the excitement of this production will be so infectious that you will decide it is worth that cost.

We would love for you to join us in this adventure.

- *The Legacy of Sarah Jane* Production Team

David Potter	david.potter@sycamoretreetheatre.org
Denise Diffie	diffie5@comcast.net
Michelle Potter	michelle.potter@sycamoretreetheatre.org
Steve Richards	stevesdg@msn.com
Tom Diffie	diffie5@comcast.net

P.S. To stay up to date with information about the production, visit www.SycamoreTreeTheatre.org.

Synopsis:

The Legacy of Sarah Jane

In the year 1907, Caddo Gap, Arkansas was a wild town known principally for gambling, bootlegging, prostitution, and gunfights in the streets. This violent community was the home of two families, the Diffee's and the Vaughn's, each trying to raise their eight children in the midst of a corrupt society. *The Legacy of Sarah Jane* is the true story of these two families and the decisions and consequences that shaped their separate destinies.

Sarah Jane Diffee is a woman with a difficult decision to make...stay or leave. And a decision to leave would pit her against tradition, family, and friends. She receives help and guidance from an unexpected source, but may still lose much, no matter what she chooses to do.

This epic new musical from the pen of Diffee & Richards (*Unto the Hills*, *Katie's Hope* (music by Lorilee Brasseur), and *A Light in the Attic*) is filled with great sets, great music, great dancing and choreography, a live orchestra, and stirring dialogue concerning some of life's deepest issues. You'll experience the joy and pain of family relationships, a rousing southern revival meeting, the collision of world views, and the heartbreak of wrenching decisions made against the backdrop of a lawless southern town at the turn of the 20th century. We also get a touch of Christmas, and a little soap powder, of all things!

Don't miss *The Legacy of Sarah Jane*, a Christmas musical from Sycamore Tree Theatre coming in November 2026.

Cast of Characters: *The Legacy of Sarah Jane*

Narrator	Older southern gentleman. A born storyteller.
Sarah Jane Diffie	35-40 years old. Strong southern woman. Wife to Joe, and good mother to her eight children. Soloist.
Joe Diffie	40-45 years old. Sarah Jane's husband. SA stern, but mostly decent and practical man. Salesman and part-time farmer. Father to his eight children. Soloist.
Masie Vaughn	Approx. 30-50 years old. Sarah Jane's best friend. Soloist.
Billy Vaughn	Approx. 30-50 years old. Masie's husband. Soloist.

Sarah Jane and Joe's Children. All sing. All ages are approximate.

Lily	16 years old.	John	10 years old.
Walter	15 years old.	Claude	9 years old.
Hattie	13 years old.	Fannie	8 years old.
Roy	12 years old.	Maidie	6 years old.

Masie and Billy's child

Chester 10 years old.

Two or three (or more) other children – either some of the Vaughn's other children or just other kids in Caddo Gap. All Sing.

ENSEMBLE	Various Townsfolk of Caddo Gap (some may play multiple characters), including:
Sam	Middle aged. Saloon keeper
Doc	Any age.
Sheriff	Middle aged. Lazy, corrupt sheriff of Caddo Gap.
Leroy	Younger, criminal-type guy in town.
Woman #1	Man #1
Woman #2	Man #2
Woman #3	Man #3
Ruby	Prostitute sister of Sarah Jane.
Belle	Prostitute sister of Sarah Jane.
Regnal Gilmore	The Evangelist. Soloist/speaker.

Audition Process for *The Legacy of Sarah Jane*

EVERYONE please read and fill out the Audition Questionnaire and bring it to your audition! If you are under 18, please indicate your age! Auditions will be held on SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Please plan to be there by 8:45 am so we can start on time and bring a lunch and/or snacks.

New to Sycamore Tree Theatre

If we have NOT seen you audition or you have not performed with us in the past, please sign up to audition and check “New”.

- **Speaking Role:** Prepare a 2-minute (approx.) memorized monologue and a 1–2-minute song.
- **Ensemble Role:** Prepare a 1–2-minute song.

Please provide your own accompaniment or perform a cappella.

Returning Cast Member

If we HAVE seen you audition or perform with us in the past:

- Please indicate your interest in this show by signing up on the audition sheet and mark “Speaking” and/or “Ensemble”. Also check “Returning”.
- Be here on Saturday, June 13th.

Note, however, that if you would like to prepare a monologue and a song, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DO SO. Perhaps you feel that you have grown in your craft and want to show us something new. Or maybe you’ve been in the ensemble but would like to audition for a speaking role. (Or maybe you just enjoy memorizing monologues!)

If this is the case, then please let Tom know that you want to do a monologue and/or song before Saturday.

Why we do it this way

Dividing the audition process between those we have seen and those we have not does, in no way, give preferential treatment to those we’ve worked with before. We do this simply to save time. The audition process exists, in part, to show the directors something they haven’t seen before, so a monologue and song from those we’ve already seen is not particularly useful in this case.

The Audition Process

We'll start auditions at 9:00 am. Please be here by 8:45 am so we can start on time.

Here is the schedule for the day:

- Audition people who are new to Sycamore Tree Theatre
- Group vocal audition
- Group choreography audition
- Cold readings from the script

If you are auditioning only for the ensemble, you will be free to leave after the group choreography audition.

If you are interested in a specific role, let us know. We will be putting different people and groups together to read for different roles to help us make casting decisions. Ultimately, the decision for each role will be the director's.

Casting will hopefully be completed and the cast list made available by June 28th.

Final note: MAKE SURE we have your email address! AND be sure to read your emails. This is how we will communicate with you in most cases.

The Legacy of Sarah Jane 2026

September 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12 Kickoff 10:00-4:00
13	14 Choreo Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	15 Drama Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	16	17 Music Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	18	19
20 All Cast Rehearsal 2:00-5:00	21 Choreo Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	22 Drama Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	23	24 Music Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	25	26
27 All Cast Rehearsal 2:00-5:00	28 Choreo Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	29 Drama Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	30			

The Legacy of Sarah Jane 2026

October 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Music Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	2	3
4 All Cast Rehearsal 2:00-5:00	5 Choreo Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	6 Drama Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	7	8 Music Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	9	10
11 All Cast Rehearsal 2:00-5:00	12 Choreo Rehearsal 7:00-9:30 <i>Columbus Day</i>	13 Drama Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	14	15 Music Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	16	17 Choreo Rehearsal 2:30-5:30
18 All Cast Rehearsal 2:00-5:00	19 Choreo Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	20 Drama Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	21	22 Music Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	23	24
25 All Cast Rehearsal 2:00-5:00	26 Choreo Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	27 Drama Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	28	29 Music Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	30	31 Halloween

The Legacy of Sarah Jane 2026

November 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Cast Rehearsal 2:00-5:00	2 Choreo Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	3 Drama Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	4	5 Music Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	6	7 Choreo Rehearsal 2:30-5:30
8 All Cast Rehearsal 2:00-5:00	9 Choreo Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	10 Drama Rehearsal 7:00-9:30 <i>Veterans Day</i>	11	12 Music Rehearsal 7:00-9:30	13	14 Tech Load-in
15 All Cast Rehearsal 2:00-5:00	16 TECH REHEARSAL 5:00-10:00	17 DRESS/TECH REHEARSAL 5:00-10:00	18 DRESS REHEARSAL 5:00-10:00	19 Perf 7:00 Call Time 5:00	20 Perf 7:00 Call Time 5:00	21 Perf 2:00 & 7:00 Call Time 12:00
22 Perf 2:00 & 7:00 Call Time 12:00	23 Teardown	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29	30					

Getting Involved

The Legacy of Sarah Jane 2026

Name: _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Age (if minor): _____ Guardian (if minor): _____

Theatrical productions need people to be involved in lots of different ways:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dramaturge / research | <input type="checkbox"/> Audio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prop procurement | <input type="checkbox"/> Sound assistant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Set dresser | <input type="checkbox"/> Concessions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stagehand | <input type="checkbox"/> Greeters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stage management | <input type="checkbox"/> Lobby decoration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Costume dresser | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide cast meals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seamstress | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing and promotion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hair and/or makeup | <input type="checkbox"/> Poster and flyer distribution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Setup / tear-down | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer teams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lighting | <input type="checkbox"/> Rehearsal pianist |

Some roles will require an audition.

- Acting. *Sign up on the audition sign-up sheet.*
- Singing. *Sign up on the audition sign-up sheet*
Circle part: Soprano Alto Tenor Bass.
- Dancing. *Sign up on the audition sign-up sheet.*