



Entertainment

SECOND THOUGHT THEATRE 'COLLECTED STORIES' First-rate

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By LAWSON TAITTE / The Dallas Morning News
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Four years ago, Second Thought Theatre launched a season as ambitious as that of any start-up theater in Dallas memory. The five founders from Baylor University, however, have been moving on rapidly, some to Hollywood, some to law school, etc.

The troupe has been in residence in WaterTower Theatre's studio space for a couple of years, a fine venue for it. But when most of the summer went by without an announcement of an upcoming season, fans were starting to get a little nervous about the company's survival.

Well, it's true that starting a new theater is almost as perilous a business as opening a new restaurant, but this particular story is not a sad one. The fifth Second Thought season will open with a showcase for two of Dallas' most talented actresses, Allison Tolman and Pam Dougherty.

In Donald Margulies' *Collected Stories*, Ms. Dougherty plays a great writer getting on in years. She takes on a protégé (Ms. Tolman), but the younger writer isn't merely the adoring subordinate she seems. Jocelyn Wiebe directs.

The off-Broadway production of *Collected Stories* starred one of the first ladies of the American theater, Uta Hagen (the original Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*) and Fort Worth native Lorca Simons. If there's anyone in Texas who can keep pace with those two, it's Ms. Dougherty and Ms. Tolman.

The rest of Second Thought's season will feature two more main-stage shows, a return to WaterTower's Out of the Loop Festival and two enticing staged readings.

All five founders have officially left the producer's role, succeeded by frequent Second Thought star Ms. Tolman, Stew Awalt and Jason Driggers. Some of the old hands will still be around to give advice or help out occasionally, and one of the staged readings will be a new play by founder and playwright-in-residence Steven Walters.

{TriRight} Opens Thursday and runs through Sept. 13 at WaterTower Theatre, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. Performances Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. Additional performance Sept. 7 at

2 p.m. \$20. 972-450-6232. www.secondthoughttheatre.com.