

# YELLOW ROSE



A New Texas-Sized Broadway Musical





# *Yellow Rose is a classic hero's story*

In 1836, a young biracial former slave flees New England and travels to Texas to find liberty but discovers she must sacrifice her own freedom to save the people she loves.



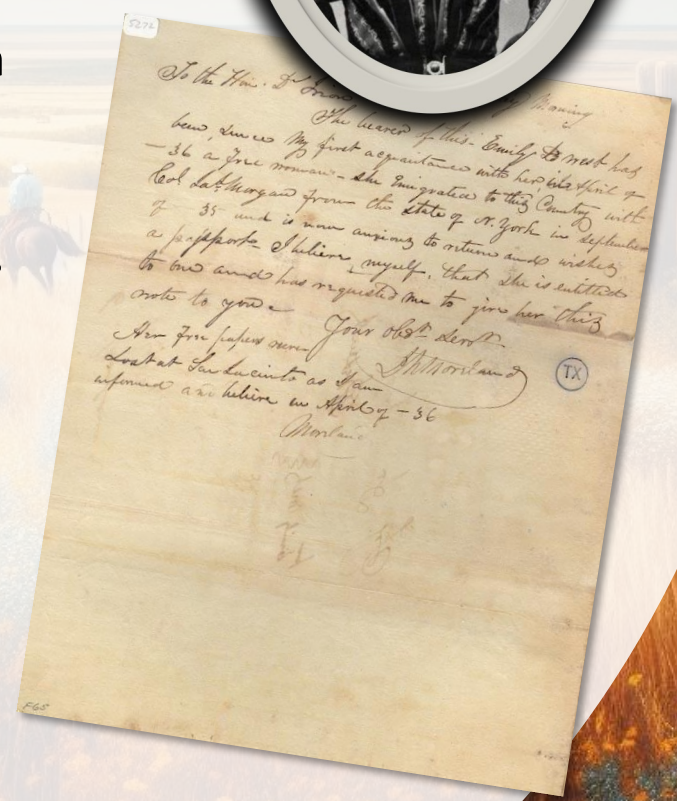
# *Inspiration*

*“The idea for this project came to me while on a business trip to San Antonio. I stayed in the Emily Morgan Hotel, visited the Alamo, walked the River Walk. While sitting alone in the Arneson River Theater, the musical came to life on that stage, fully formed. I saw the whirling skirts of the Mexican jarocho dancers, the brave Black Texas settlers caught in limbo between freedom and slavery, the decisive battlefield at Goliad, Santa Anna leading his army, and above all, the love story between Emily and Levi caught up in the excitement and pain of the growing Abolitionist moment.”*

Sarah Lawrence, Book

# On The Trail of a Legend

Most history books say no one knows where Emily came from. In the Texas Archives is her indenture contract, signed by James Morgan and Emily D. West—in beautiful script—proof she was literate and educated. The witness in the bottom corner was Rev. Simeon Jocelyn, famed abolitionist and head of Dixwell Church in New Haven. Contract dated October, 1835. Most history books don't know or conjecture where she went after the War. Some say she married a Texas general. This document is a request by James Morgan for a replacement passport for Emily, indicating she returned to the United States immediately after the war. Letter dated April, 1836.



# *Emily's Context in 1835*

**New Haven, Connecticut** is a thriving commercial hub for free African-Americans

**Dixwell Church in New Haven** is a prominent African-American church in the center of the Abolitionist Movement, operating a school for escaped and freed slaves

**A utopian settlement** called New Washington is established by James Morgan in Tejas, Mexico where all people can live free

**The Mexican government outlaws slavery** and private militias in all Mexican territory

**White Tejas settlers rebel**, launching the Texas Revolution in October, 1835

**Mexican President Santa Anna**, fresh from his slaughter at the Alamo, heads toward the (now) Houston area to crush the rebels



**Statue of Emily West  
in downtown Houston, TX**



# Synopsis of the Musical

Emily West, a formerly enslaved teenager, finds a new home at the Dixwell Church in New Haven, Connecticut. She excels in academics and music in the “School for Free Negroes,” yet feels alone and outcast. As a mixed-race female, she is not welcome in either Black or White society. Her only friend is Levi Gates, a Black dock foreman who has loved her from the moment she arrived. Levi proposes marriage, but Emily is not ready to settle down. She wants to find her own place in the world.

Captain Morgan, founder of the Utopian New Washington Colony in Tejas (then part of Mexico) sails to New Haven to recruit indentured workers in exchange for free land. Emily signs on with Levi to join Morgan’s crew. While they are at sea, war breaks out between Mexico and Tejas settlers. White rebels fight to preserve private militias and slavery, which have been recently outlawed throughout Mexico.

Shortly after Emily lands in Tejas, Mexican troops led by President Santa Anna sweep through New Washington and capture her. After hearing Emily sing, Santa Anna becomes obsessed. Disarmed by her courage and beauty, he offers her a new life in Mexico City. She is temporarily blinded by his charm, yet soon realizes he plans to slaughter all her loved ones, just as he did at the Alamo.

Santa Anna declares an afternoon *siesta* to refresh his troops before battle the next day. Emily secretly dispatches Levi to urge Sam Houston’s troops to attack during the *siesta*. She “distracts” Santa Anna long enough so Texas soldiers can sneak up on Mexican troops and win the decisive victory in the Texas War of Independence.

After the war, though pregnant with Santa Anna’s child, Emily finally realizes she loves Levi, and he loves her enough to accept the child. Meanwhile, the new Texas government has reinstated slavery. The couple resolve that they must not only flee Texas, but they must also join the fight for a world where all people can live free. In the final scene, Emily and Levi are married back in New Haven to a rousing all-cast musical finale *Fearless*.

# All Original Music

The Music of YELLOW ROSE is an **eclectic, modern score** influenced by historic motifs and rhythms featuring authentic African-American, American folk and Mexican jarocho folk tunes.

*Click the speaker icon below to hear demo recordings (opens web browser).*

**“Thrive!”** - Emily, Full Cast

Emily’s triumphant song as she embarks on her voyage to Texas



**“Seize The Day”** - Full Cast

Act I finale as Mexican and Tejas troops prepare for battle



**“Emily”** - Levi

Levi’s passionate torch song about Emily



**“Fearless”** - Emily & Levi

A stirring eleven o’clock number, an anthem to freedom and love

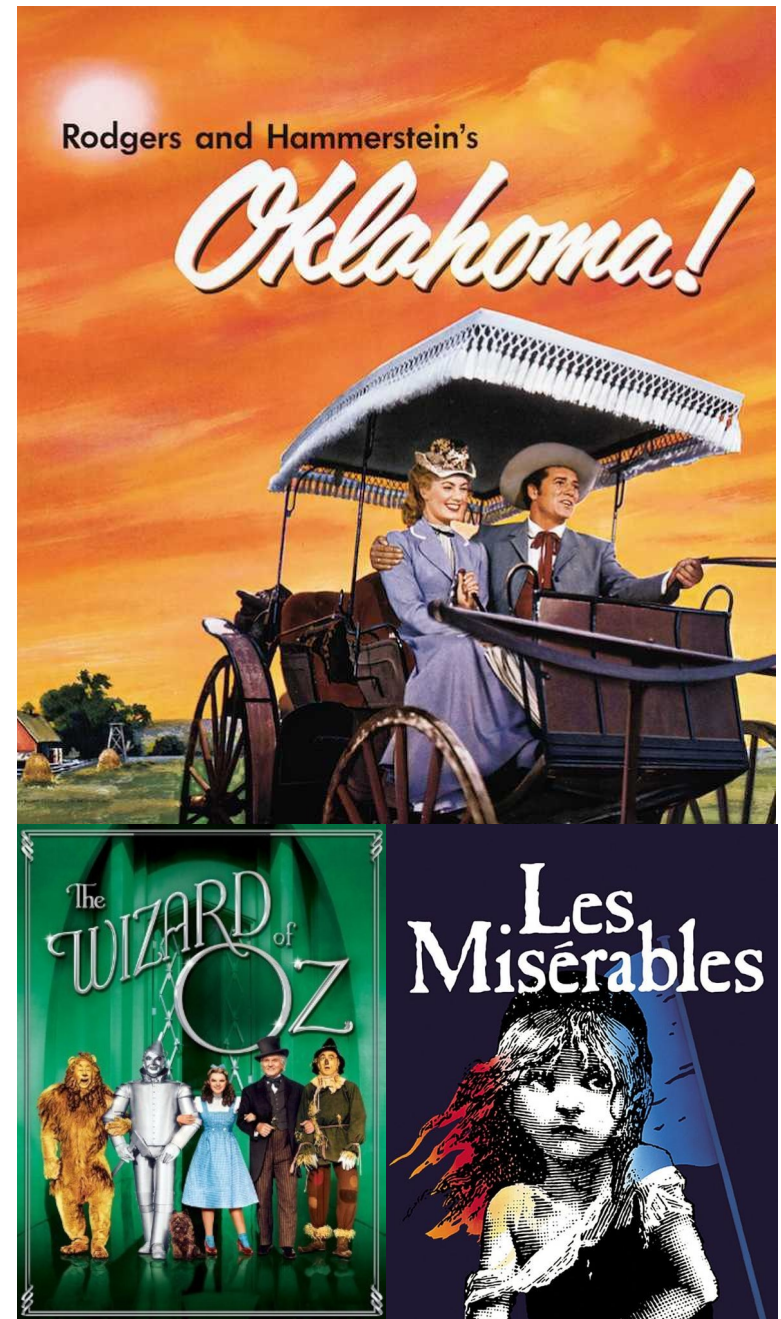


# Comparable Projects

YELLOW ROSE features a **diverse cast**, led by a strong biracial female in the role of Emily.

YELLOW ROSE is **universal**: a hero's journey, a love triangle, love wins in the end

YELLOW ROSE has: The hero's journey of ***The Wizard of Oz***; the pride of a place with widespread appeal of ***Oklahoma!***; the epic battle scene and fight against oppression of ***Les Misérables***.



# Main Characters



## **Emily West**

20, strong, impulsive, independent, naïve and sheltered at first, a fighter, a top-notch singer & musician

*Aspirational Casting: Zendaya*



## **Santa Anna, President of Mexico**

Mid-40s, charismatic, notorious womanizer, cultured, lust for power, eccentric, impulsive, self-named “Napoleon of the West”

*Aspirational Casting: Antonio Banderas*



## **Levi Gates**

Late 20s, noble and intelligent foreman, incurable romantic, virtuous, pragmatic, loner, walks with a limp from a dock accident

*Aspirational Casting: David Oyelowo*



## **Captain/Colonel James Morgan**

40s, visionary, pioneer, brave, friendly, daring, loyal, risk-taker, devoted husband, natural leader, the Future of Texas

*Aspirational Casting: Matthew McConaughey*

# *Creative Team*



## **Paul Vincent Gandolfi** Music & Lyrics

Paul is a musical prodigy who began composing music at six and released his first national album by age sixteen. He is a talented singer-songwriter, film and TV composer, lyricist, playwright, recording artist, and producer. His musical journey spans various genres, resulting in nine national market album releases, both solo and collaborative. Paul has enjoyed a composing partnership with Terry Allen Langfitt for over three decades as part of Langfitt & Gandolfi. Together, they have written the gothic thriller operetta *V* and the score and lyrics for the original musical *Song of Motherhood*. They later joined forces with Sarah Lawrence to create *Yellow Rose*.

# *Creative Team*



## **Terry Allen Langfitt** Music & Lyrics

Terry spent 16 years as an actor, music director, and concert entertainer, working with A&M Records, Dick Clark Productions, and later in Hollywood and Las Vegas with Merv Griffin Productions. He made his Broadway debut in the original cast of *Hair*. With his writing partner Paul Gandolfi, he has written scores for TV and film, as well as the successful musical *Songs of Motherhood* which premiered at the WaterTower Theatre in Addison, Texas.

# Creative Team



## **Sarah Lawrence**

### **Book & Additional Lyrics**

As a playwright/screenwriter, Sarah has won national awards and been produced in New York, the Kennedy Center, as well as theaters across the South. Her most recent production, *Bibo & Bertie*, about the last year in the life of Albert Einstein, was produced at Lab Theater in Tampa and via Zoom at the Public Theater in San Antonio during the Covid pandemic. Her stage plays have been O’Neill semifinalists three times. In 2023, her screenplay *Peace So Sweet* won the Montreal Women’s Film Festival and was a Semi-Finalist at the Austin Film Festival. This screenplay is currently ranked in the Top 1% of screenplays by both Coverfly and Stage 32.

[www.sarahlawrencewrites.com](http://www.sarahlawrencewrites.com)

# Management & Legal Team



Executive Producer Hunter Regian, youngest Tony-award-winning Producer, founded Regian Entertainment in 2025. His extensive producing experience includes award-winning shows on Broadway and the West End, including *Cats: The Jellicle Ball*, *Evita*, and *Sunset Boulevard*. [regianentertainment.com](http://regianentertainment.com)



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[FKKS.com](http://FKKS.com)



# *Our Journey to Broadway*

*YELLOW ROSE* is currently in development and working with industry leaders to refine the production through readings, workshops, and dance labs in advance of a pre-Broadway engagement to be announced.

For more information on being a part our team please contact:

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