KING-KONG-SIZED THANKS to Jack Cannon ... wow, what can we say, Jack? You've given so selflessly of your time and talent on this Festival, and the student directors will always cherish the things they've learned from your guidance!

GODZILLA-SIZED THANKS to Ed Zuckerman as always ... this Festival simply would not happen without your hard work, expertise, and example!

By the way, our dramatic house music for this Festival is Franz Waxman's score for the 1935 film *Bride of Frankenstein* ... in which the insane Dr. Pretorius offers a toast “To a new world of gods and monsters!”
"Daddy, are monsters real?" My son was five years old when he asked.

"If you mean vampires and werewolves and so on," I said, "then no. Those are just pretend. They're stories. They are not real and cannot hurt you."

Then I hesitated, wondering if I should say more. Because of all times to ask, he had posed this question at bedtime on the night of September 11th, 2001.

And I've always told him the truth about things whenever possible.

"But if you mean people who do monstrous things," I said, "I'm afraid so, yes. There are people who do such terrible things that we have to call them monsters."

And I thought, but did not say, "Sometimes people become monsters while trying to please Allah ... or Jesus ... or Science ... or Love ..."

Well, we've talked about this in my Playwriting classes many times since then, and one result is this year's Festival. Eight plays about monstrous things we do to each other. And about getting mixed up on our way to whatever god we seek.

- Lee Shackleford, Festival Producer