



SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

October 29, 2016

www.fslt.org

Dates: Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *The Game's Afoot: Holmes for the Holidays* will be November 10. Regular evening performances will be November 11-12 and 16-19. Matinees will be offered on Saturday, November 12 and Sunday, November 13.

Times: All evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 6:45 p.m. The matinees begin at 2:00 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 1:15 p.m.

Box Office Hours: The box office is open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and on Saturdays from 5 to 7 p.m. during the run of the show.

Reservations: Reservations can be made by calling 479-783-2966. Calls will be returned in the order they are received. Reservations will be held until 15 minutes before the show. Gala Tickets \$25. All other shows \$10.

Season Ticket Holders: Regular season ticket patrons are encouraged to call October 29-November 2 for preferred seating. They can also reserve a General Admission seat for every Season Ticket they have. General Admission reservations will not be filled until November 3.

Reminder: When you call to make a reservation, Dial #2.

HOLMES COMIC THRILLER TAKES THE STAGE

"On glancing over my notes of the seventy odd cases in which I have during the last eight years studied the methods of my friend Sherlock Holmes, I find many tragic, some comic, a large number merely strange, but none commonplace ..."— Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

It's Christmas Eve 1936. America's beloved stage actor, William Gillette, who has made a career of portraying Sherlock Holmes, is recuperating after being shot. He has opened his Connecticut mansion to friends to celebrate the holidays.

But is anything in this house of hidden rooms and smoke and mirrors what it seems?

When revelry turns to murder, danger (with a dose of hilarity) takes over the holiday gathering. Gillette must turn to his alter ego to make sense of it all before the criminal mastermind takes another victim. It's up to Gillette, as he assumes the persona of his beloved Holmes, to figure out 'whodunit'.

Thanks to the comic thriller, *The Game's Afoot: Holmes for the Holidays* by Ken Ludwig, FSLT patrons can ring in the holiday season with close to two loaded hours of murder, mayhem, mystery, and humor. "This upcoming Fort Smith Little Theatre production is a fantastic way to kick off this busy season. It's a bit of holiday, a smidgen of mystery, and a whole lot of laughs," said Duff Taylor, Director.

See *The Game's Afoot* on page 3





Strong Support From Two Show Sponsors

We are pleased to announce that Rheem Air Conditioning and AT&T are co-sponsoring our upcoming production of *The Game's Afoot*.

Founded in 1925, the mission of Rheem Air Conditioning is simple: to provide solutions that keep you cool in the summer, warm in the winter, and enjoying hot water year-round. That's exactly what Rheem does for us at FSLT. Rheem has generously donated equipment to our theatre that benefits patrons and volunteers. Rehearsing, building sets, or relaxing in your seat, we all benefit from the equipment and generosity of Rheem.

AT&T is another corporation whose generosity is greatly appreciated. One of the largest telecommunication companies in the world, AT&T provides mobile and fixed telephone service as well as Direct TV. Their commitment to product and service innovations is matched by their dedication to improving communities where they live and work. FSLT is grateful to AT&T and Rheem for their sponsorship support, and we applaud them as shining examples of caring corporate citizenship.



Late Seating Policy

To minimize the disruption for patrons and actors, those arriving after curtain time will be seated during scene breaks.

Director's Letter

I am so fortunate to be directing Ken Ludwig's *The Game's Afoot*. This hilarious comedy, murder-mystery, holiday-themed who-dunnit is a great way to get in the season's spirit. Winner of the 2014 Edgar Award for Best Mystery, this play comes to life with some of my favorite actors at the Little Theatre. Each character has a scene stealing moment that will leave you rolling on the floor.



My past directing endeavors provided great theatre with Arthur Miller's tragedy *All My Sons*, followed by Ken Ludwig's *Leading Ladies*, and last year's adaptation of Jane Austin's *Pride And Prejudice* by Jon Jory. I believe this work will top them all.

I want to thank the theatre Board for allowing me to return again, thank the actors who audition, and the crew behind the scenes. All the plays we do make our lives fuller and worth living.

Again, it is a pleasure to watch the words come to life and be absorbed in a world more exciting than my own! I hope you have as much fun watching, as I do directing.

- Duff Taylor



Big Bang For Your Buck

2017 Program Ads are now on sale. Your ad can appear in all 9,600 programs for as little as \$110. It's a great value for your advertising dollars. For information on sizes and prices go to www.fslt.org, email to fsltprogramads@gmail.com, or call 479-783-2966 (press 4) and leave a message. Better hurry – space is limited.

2017 Season Tickets Now For Sale

Another great line-up is planned for 2017, our 70th Season. For complete show information, go to fslt.org. Be sure to buy your Season Ticket for great entertainment value plus advanced reservations.

There are 3 easy ways to purchase your tickets. Purchase them in the lobby before all performances of *The Game's Afoot*; make your purchase online at fslt.org; or complete and send in the order form you received in the mail. And remember, Season Tickets make great Christmas gifts – one size fits all!

February 9-18: *Sense and Sensibility*

March 30-April 8: *Things My Mother Taught Me*

June 1-10: *Eurydice*

July 27-August 12: *The Secret Garden* (the musical)

September 21-30: *Making God Laugh*

November 9-18: *The Odd Couple* (female version)

***The Game's Afoot* opens November 10**

Regular patrons who fondly remember other Ludwig productions on our stage including *Moon over Buffalo*, *Twentieth Century*, *Be My Baby*, and *Leading Ladies*, will be treated to the fun they have come to expect from this popular playwright, while newcomers to his work will be thoroughly entertained.

Bringing the fun to life will be a very talented cast including Nathan Stockemer as William Gillette; Carole Rogers as Martha Gillette; Matthew Ortega as Felix Geisel; Rikke Workman-Black as Madge Geisel; Aaron Ray as Simon Bright; Jamie Lambdin as Aggie Wheeler; Cassie Mikel as Daria Chase; and Tina Dale as Inspector Goring.

Behind the scenes helping add to the magic are: Michael Richardson, producer; Ian Miller, assistant director; Victoria Walden, assistant to the assistant director; Hannah Curlin, costumes; James Moody,

props; Jennie Mathews with Rebekah and Stephen Martin, lighting design; Mike Tickler, tech; Chuck Howard, sound; Will Paget, set design; James Kirkendall, Kevin Anderson, Steve Copeland, Aaron Ray, Matt Ortega, Will Paget, and Nathan Stockemer, set construction; with Victoria Walden and Karen Yada as stage managers.

Our Opening Night Gala performance is at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 10. Evening performances are at 7:30 p.m. November 11-12 and 16-19. Matinee showings are at 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 12 and Sunday, November 13.

This comic thriller, brought to you by a brilliant cast and crew, might just become your favorite Ludwig production yet – so don't miss out. Make your reservations by calling 479-783-2966 (press 2). And consider bringing a friend to give them the ideal holiday present – live entertainment and the gift of laughter.



FSLT Selected Best of The Best

The Southwest Times Record recently conducted their annual Best of the Best contest. Thanks to your votes, FSLT won Best Performing Arts Venue and placed second in the category of Best Non-Profit Organization. It was a thrill to have even been nominated, and a real honor to have won these awards. Thank you for your tremendous support!



Buying Season Tickets Online

You can purchase your 2017 season tickets online, safely and securely, from our website. (Please note that Paypal may require you to create an "account," but you can still use your debit or credit card for payment. Simply click: "Create a PayPal account.")

Shout Out for FFO Home!

FSLT is delighted to have received some fabulous furniture and accessories from our friends at FFO Home. Some items will be used on stage; others are in use backstage in our Green Room. And FFO Home is offering a gift to you as well! You'll find a link to a coupon (\$25 off your purchase of \$100 or more) on our Facebook page or at www.fohome.com/fort-smith-little-theatre-partnership.



***Game's Afoot* Offers 2 Matinees**

When deciding which performance to attend, keep in mind that for we will be offering both a Saturday and a Sunday 2 p.m. matinee for *The Game's Afoot*.

Also, if you leave a phone reservation message requesting seats for a Saturday, please be sure to specify whether it is for the matinee or evening performance.

Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Clause

Make plans to attend our Christmas off-season production, *Yes, Virginia, There Is A Santa Claus*, to be performed December 8, 9 and 10. Directed by Eric Wells and Victoria Jones, this is the story of a down-and-out newspaperman and an 8-year-old girl who meet by mail. Set in New York City, the Spirit of Christmas overcomes their sadness and brings people together. Because this is an off-season production, there are no reservations and no reserved seats. Admission, \$5 at the door, is not included with the purchase of a Season Ticket. Leave the shopping behind and come join us for this touching tale.

Annual Meeting Notice

The Annual Meeting of the Fort Smith Little Theatre will be held on Monday, November 28 at 7 p.m. Season Ticket holders are eligible to attend and vote at this meeting. Board officers and Committee Chairs will give reports on the past year. Five members will be elected to three-year terms on the Board, and three members from the membership-at-large will be elected to one-year terms on the Nominating Committee.

Fort Smith Little Theatre
SPOTLIGHT

P.O. Box 3752, Fort Smith, AR 72913

www.fslt.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID

Fort Smith, AR
Permit No. 12

2016 FSLT Board of Directors

Carole Rogers, President

Nathan Stockemer, Vice President

Sherry Hester, Secretary

Neal Goodwin, Treasurer

Angela Covey

Joe Graham

Jill Ledbetter

Jennie Mathews

Nikki McDaniel

Joseph Reed

Suzanne Thomas

Valerie Valentine

Melissa Vitale

Victoria Walden

Eric Wells

From the Top...

They say it's not over till the fat lady sings. If you listen closely you can hear my voice. This is my final letter to you in the Spotlight, as I will soon complete serving two years as President of the FSLT Board of Directors. It has been a very productive period. I am proud of all that has been accomplished. We have replaced carpet backstage, updated dressing room lighting, remodeled our backstage restroom, completed a major re-roofing and drainage project, and installed new exterior steps and a fire alarm system. While these facility upgrades are impressive, they are not as important as the fact that we have continued to perform quality theatre and entertain our community at an affordable price.

Neither quality shows nor expensive building improvements could have been completed without the help and hard work of Board members and other volunteers, loyal patrons, cooperative businesses, and generous show sponsors. For the many efforts of many people, we are very grateful. We literally couldn't do it without you. On a personal note, after a 5-year break from directing, I recently took the helm of *Money Matters*. Although directing requires a lot of hard work, I must confess that I thoroughly enjoyed wearing that hat again. To a great extent, the joy came from being aided by an able and amicable cast and crew. In the upcoming production, I will be portraying the emotionally complex character of Martha Gillette. Seems that lying on the sofa is not part of my immediate future.

2017 will be the 70th season at the Fort Smith Little Theatre. Our success as an all-volunteer organization is more than unique; it's downright amazing. Thank you for being a part of that success. I hope you will purchase your season tickets and join us for another wonderful year.

- Carole Rogers, *President*

Next Up

Auditions for *Sense and Sensibility*, directed by Micki Voelkel, will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, January 2nd at the theatre. Callbacks will be held on Tuesday, January 3rd. The cast calls for 8-11 males ages 20s to 50s and 9-13 females ages 10 to 60s. Production dates are February 9-18. For more information, go to fslt.org.

Season Ticket holders are urged to call before November 3 for reservations.