



SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

January 30, 2016

www.fslt.org

Dates: Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *Farce of Nature* will be Feb. 11. Regular performances will be Feb. 12, 13, and 17 to 20. Matinees will be offered Saturday, Feb. 13 and Sunday, Feb. 14.

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 Jan. 30 to Feb. 3 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 Feb. 4.

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

Laughter Erupts At The Reel 'Em Inn

“All of Creation's a farce. Man was born as a joke.” — William Shakespeare

Deep in the heart of the Arkansas Ozarks lies a charming little fishing village — probably more than one, but one that is the place to be this February.

The Reel 'Em Inn fishing lodge is the setting of Fort Smith Little Theatre's first show of the 2016 season, *Farce of Nature* by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten.

This hysterical, Southern-fried farce — directed by Angela Covey in her swan song before retiring from directing — highlights a day in the life of the Wilburn family of Mayhew, Arkansas.

Richard Van Wagoner and Mary Beth McAlvain lead the family as D. Gene Wilburn, owner of the lodge who is trying to woo an investor to help bring the “finest little fishing lodge in the Ozarks” back to a place tourists want to visit, and Wanelle, D. Gene's frustrated wife who has decided to put a romantic spark back in the couple's relationship with the help of hypnosis.

Now add D. Gene's sister, Maxie Wilburn Suggs (played by Carole Rogers), recently forced into retirement from law enforcement and determined to prove she's still got what it takes; D. Gene and Wanelle's son, Ty (played by

See *Farce of Nature* on page 3





Show Sponsors Applauded

We greatly appreciate First National Bank and Hanna Oil & Gas, two of Fort Smith's leading corporate citizens, who are co-sponsoring *Farce of Nature*.

As early as 1950, First National Bank was supporting FSLT by advertising in our show programs, and through the decades they have continued their generous patronage. Founded in 1872 and still locally owned, First National is here to serve all of your banking needs.

This year, **First National Bank** has partnered with **Hanna Oil & Gas** to help underwrite the cost of this production and help us maintain affordable ticket prices. Please join us in applauding these locally owned firms for their support of FSLT and the performing arts.



Director's Letter

Come on in and sit a while at the Reel 'Em Inn owned by Wanelle and D. Gene Wilburn. It's a pleasant spot in the Arkansas Ozarks. Unfortunately, guests have been a little sparse, so D. Gene finds some people he thinks will help financially to upgrade the Inn and give it a shot in the arm. Of course things don't exactly go that way and chaos erupts.

I thank the cast and crew for all the work they have put in on this production to make what I envisioned a reality. I particularly thank Blake Young, my set builder, who although will not be able to attend, will be very present in our hearts. I also thank my husband of fifty-eight years who puts up with my being gone every evening and willingly traipsed around the area by my side to help gather items that I felt would make this play come alive.

So sit back, enjoy, and ya'll come back.

- **Angela Covey, Director**



Farce of Nature opens February 11

Ian Miller), an aspiring actor back from Chicago; and Jenna Sealy, Ty's seemingly innocent girlfriend played by Jordan Garton, and you have the start of some fast-paced hilarity.

But to get things really rolling, you need a dose of Rham Cunningham back on the FSLT stage as Carmine DeLuca, a Chicago gangster hiding in the Witness Protection Program; with Nikki McDaniel as the sexy Lola Barbosa, a gangster's wife chasing after her boy toy actor who just fled her grasp; and Mike Papacoda as Sonny Barbosa, Lola's gangster husband who was just released after serving time thanks to Carmine's testimony. Rounding out the cast is Roxanne Thorne, a big city business investor played by Tina Dale.

To keep this delightful romp rolling is a strong behind-the-scenes crew—Producers, Cecilia Woods-McDonald and Charlie Dye; Stage Manager, Jeanne McKim with Stage Hand, Thomas Iverson; Prompter, Martha

Gooden; Props, Rhonda Fawcett and Neal Goodwin; Wardrobe, Jill Ledbetter; Set, Blake Young, Ronald Rouse, Duff Taylor and Deepu Thomas; Lighting Design by Joseph Reed with Michael Tickler on the Tech Board.

Farce of Nature will begin with the Gala Opening Night performance at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 11. Other evening shows will be on February 12-13 and 17-20. Matinee performances will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 13 and Sunday, February 14.

Reservations will be accepted beginning Saturday, January 31 for season ticket patrons. General admission reservations will be accepted beginning Thursday, February 4.

For a hearty bowl of laughter to warm up your winter, don't miss this production.



Last Chance to Buy Season Tickets

2016 Season Tickets will be sold in the lobby before all performances of *Farce of Nature*. If you plan to buy your season ticket when you arrive to attend the show, please go to the Season Ticket desk **before** going to the Box Office window to pick up your seat assignments.

Season Ticket Patrons – Take Note

Please keep your Season Ticket Pass in your wallet, and bring it with you to each and every performance.

Bargains On The Back & Round of Applause

On the back of all seat tickets during 2016, you'll find coupons for **Calico County** and **Golden Corral**. We don't tear our tickets, so you can enjoy the savings. Also, we hope you'll join us in a round of applause for **Consolidated Printing** of Van Buren, who generously donated the printing of our seat tickets again this year.

Big News! Saturday and Sunday Matinees in 2016

While deciding when to attend FSLT productions in 2016, keep in mind that for most productions we will be offering a Saturday and a Sunday 2 p.m. matinee. Show dates are listed in each newsletter and online at fslt.org.

Requesting a Reservation

Gala Opening Night patrons:

Because your same seats are automatically reserved for all Galas, you only need to call box office if you wish to cancel your Gala seat and/or request a regular performance reservation.

Regular Season Ticket patrons:

After you receive your Spotlight newsletter, decide which performance date you want to attend, then call 479-783-2966 (dial 2) to request your reservation. Calls will be returned in the order they are received. Your reservation requests will be accepted beginning **Saturday** (12 days before each show opens) and not earlier.

Newsletter Delivery

You are urged to receive our Spotlight newsletter by email (instead of "snail mail") to ensure easy, dependable, on-time delivery, while reducing our printing and mailing costs. To switch to email delivery, please email fsltseasontickets@gmail.com or call 479-783-2966 (dial 4).

Special Thanks

We want to recognize the **William T. and May P. Hennessy Foundation** for their contribution toward our recent re-roofing and drainage improvement project. Their support of FSLT is long and strong, and we greatly appreciate their continued generosity.

In addition to re-roofing, a plumbing project was also completed. We want to thank the following individuals and locally owned businesses that discounted or donated products and services for these capital improvements.

Please join us in a round of applause for their support of FSLT!

Dale Crampton Company
Holmes Erection
John Symonds (HSA Engineering)
Chester Koprovic
Mainer Ironworks
Blaylock Heating & Air
Bruce-Rogers Co.

Fort Smith Little Theatre
SPOTLIGHT

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

www.fslt.org

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From the Top...

Welcome to Season 69. Our thanks to outgoing Board members: Rham Cunningham, Lora Rice, Shannon Stoddard, and Micki Voelkel, and welcome to new Board members Valerie Valentine, Sherry Hester, Jill Ledbetter, and Joseph Reed, along with supplemental members Vicky Broadaway, Summer Ferguson, and Ian Miller.

As you know, FSLT is run totally by volunteers. I'd like to mention just two of them. These gentlemen have given of their time and talents for many years. One has been involved for 30 plus years, initially as a performer and then as a valuable friend and regular volunteer. He prepares the lobby for Opening Night Galas, arranges beautiful bouquets in keeping with the theme of each show, makes sure we are fully stocked with paper goods, runs random errands, serves as our liaison with the security alarm company, is "keeper of the keys," and first in line to open the theatre for repairmen. In other words, he is not only a jack-of-all-trades but master of all.

The second volunteer probably became involved by default. He saw a group of actors trying to make architectural and construction decisions about our facility and realized that if someone didn't step in, the outcome would be disastrous. He helped oversee the paving of parking in '96, the building addition in 2006, the lobby remodel in 2013, and just recently our roof and drainage project. He has spent numerous hours contacting and meeting with architects, contractors, city planners, etc. to insure what was best for FSLT and find economical ways to bring these projects to fruition.

Most FSLT volunteers are somewhat rewarded for their efforts by the opportunity to appear on stage. Although both have beautiful voices, these two gentlemen do not appear at FSLT. So I would like to salute our two shining knights, Bruce Birkhead and Kent Blochberger. Thank you for all you do for FSLT.

- Carole Rogers, *President*

Next Up

Auditions for *Crimes of the Heart* by Beth Henley will be held at the theatre, on February 22, with call-backs on 23. The cast calls for 4 females and 2 males ages 25-40. Micki Voelkel will be directing. Production dates are March 31-April 9. For more information, go to fslt.org.

Season Ticket holders are urged to call before February 4 for reservations.