



SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

May 20, 2017

www.fslt.org

Dates: Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *Eurydice* will be June 1. Regular evening performances will be June 2-3 and 7-10. A Sunday matinee will be offered on June 4.

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 are \$27. Tickets for all other performances are \$12.

Season Ticket Holders: Regular season ticket patrons are encouraged to call March May 20-May 24 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 May 25.

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

TIMELESS LOVE STORY **EURYDICE**

Opens June 1

“Such a one do I remember, whom to look at was love.” – *Alfred Lord Tennyson*

Fort Smith Little Theatre patrons will travel back in history – ancient history – for a special treat with the staging of “*Eurydice*” by Sarah Ruhl in early June.

The 2003 play retells the ancient Greek myth of Orpheus (Cory Wray) from the perspective of Eurydice, his wife (Meghan Partain). Though the playwright made several changes to the classic Greek tragedy, the theme of love worth saving from death remains intact. Ruhl wrote the script after her father passed away from cancer, as a dedication to his life, love, and relationships.

Summer Ferguson-Robinson directs this story of a young lady who, after tragically dying on her wedding day, must travel to the underworld which is ruled by the Lord of the Underworld (Ian Miller). There she reunites with her father (a character created by Ruhl and played on the FSLT stage by Bob Stevenson) and struggles to remember her lost love.

The story focuses on Eurydice's choice to return to earth with Orpheus or to stay in the underworld with her father, and unfolds on stage with the help of a classic Greek chorus composed of Loud Stone, Zeke Sidwell; Big Stone, Michael Relland; Little Stone, Victoria Walden; and Fourth Stone, John Hall.

See *Eurydice* on page 3



Orpheus and Eurydice: A Greek Lit Refresher Course

By James Moody

For those of you who may not remember much about Greek literature, here are the cliff notes.

Orpheus and Eurydice are among the great lovers of classic Greek literature. Along with Romeo and Juliet, Tristan and Isolde, Orpheus and Eurydice complete the triad of doomed lovers. Theirs is the most straightforward of the three. Orpheus was presented a golden lyre (harp). Through dedication and practice he becomes a great musician. Eurydice was the loveliest of wood nymphs (a type of fairy). She was very beautiful.

They met. He played. She swooned. He gazed. She gazed. They fell in love. They were married. They lived happily ever after – *not quite*...

A problem in the form of a minor God raised its ugly head. He fell in lust and actually pursued Eurydice. In her fight she stepped on the head of a snake, was bitten, and she died.

Orpheus was inconsolable. He played the lyre with such a depth of love and pain that the God of the Underworld, Prometheus, at the urging of his wife Persephone, allowed Orpheus to enter the Underworld. The god offered the musician a deal. He could play the lyre and Eurydice would follow the music back to Earth. The only stipulation was that Orpheus could not look back until Eurydice was also above ground.

He played. She followed. He emerged. She was still in the shadows. He looked back. She disappeared. He went mad. Eventually some angry, frustrated women tore him into itty-bitty pieces. The lovers were then reunited in the Underworld.

This story has been retold in dramas, operas, and films. Usually it is told from the view of Orpheus. The version written by Ruhl to be performed at FSLT, is told by Eurydice, and it takes some liberties with details. But in all these versions, the theme of their story is somewhat unclear. Their love is ended through no fault of their own. Their love transcended time and place. The only clear message is: **DON'T LOOK BACK!**

Many Thanks

We greatly appreciate the following business that recently provided us with discounts, donations, or over-the-top service.

- Carter's Audio Visual
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Timeless Love Story - Eurydice - opens June 1

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The performances on stage will be matched with expertise behind stage thanks to Melissa Vitale, producer; Aaron Ray, assistant director; Averie Warren, stage manager; Jamie Lambdin, assistant stage manager; DJ McRoberts, stage design; Hannah Curlin, costume design; Robyn Fowler, props; Courtney Honaker, lighting design; Tracy Ferguson and Dawayne Stamper, original score; and Jim Moody, running crew.

“I saw *“Eurydice”* while participating at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) when I was in college. I knew then that I wanted to direct it at FSLT because I felt that everyone would be inspired by the beautiful story no

matter what’s going on in your life or in the world today. In the same manner as when it was performed at KCACTF, our costuming will be inspired by the 1940s and 50s which helps make the classic Greek tale more contemporary,” said Robinson.

FSLT patrons will not want to miss this classic love story, set to open at 7:30 p.m. June 1. Regular evening performances will be offered at 7:30 p.m. June 2-3 and 7-10, along with an afternoon matinee performed at 2 p.m. on June 4. Reservations will be accepted for season tickets holders beginning May 20 and for general admission beginning May 25. For information or to make your reservations, call 479-783-2966.



Director’s Letter

When I first saw *“Eurydice”* performed, I was drawn to this incredible story of wonder and fantasy. This show has all the aspects we love the most about theatre; it’s filled with love, laughter, passion, drama, and loss.

“Eurydice” begins with the beautiful love story of our heroine Eurydice and her eternal love Orpheus. Before tragedy strikes on their wedding day, we get a glimpse that the love between Eurydice and Orpheus can move mountains. After arriving in the underworld, Eurydice meets her father, who teaches her to remember her life and her husband. The play then explores the beautiful relationship between a father and a daughter and how even in death, one will do anything to see one’s child happy.

On the journey to the underworld Eurydice meets the Stones, who serve as a hilarious Greek chorus and guide her along her way. The Stones bring a lot of comedy to the show, and they will keep you laughing. The Lord of the Underworld shows up as ‘a Nasty Interesting Man’ and ‘a Child’ to manipulate Eurydice. He tries to prevent her from following her heart and secretly wants her as his bride.

My cast is exceptional. They have worked so hard to bring these characters to life. In order for this show to succeed, I knew I needed strong actors. I’ve been blessed with an extremely talented cast. My Eurydice, Meghan Partain, has captured her character’s essence since night one of auditions. I’m also very excited to have my college professor from UAFS, Bob Stevenson, as part of my cast. He brings a lot of depth to the role of the father, and I’m blown away every rehearsal. I’m very lucky to work with Bob, because he mentored me for so many years and taught me the directing techniques I use to this day.

This will be a show unlike any other our patrons have ever seen at FSLT. We are so excited to share this piece of theatre to the River Valley. This is a show for everyone, and I can guarantee you will be moved.

- Summer Ferguson-Robinson, *Director*

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

www.fslt.org

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From the Top...

Tribute To Talent

On March 10 of this year, Carl McCauley died at the age of 82. Carl was a well-respected talent and a familiar face to many of our long-time patrons. Carl's participation with FSLT began in the early 1970s at our old theatre building on North O Street and continued for more than 30 years. Centerstage and backstage, Carl was generous with his time and his talent.

In our history archives, there is a terrific photo of Carl creating a set with two of his good friends and FSLT volunteers, Ed Drimmel (deceased) and Ron Watson. In the picture, they are constructing a column to disguise one of the building's support poles that were a permanent fixture on the North O stage. I think of this picture as a fitting tribute to Carl and all our talented volunteers who see things like poles on a stage as inconvenient, but never insurmountable. Our theatre owes much of our 70 years of success to fine folks like Carl who literally built FSLT from the ground up.

We recently witnessed the talent of some other volunteers in the recent productions of *Things My Mother Taught Me* and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) [Revised]*. Kudos to the cast and crew of both these successful productions! Soon, yet another group of dedicated thespians will take the stage to make a classic Greek myth come alive in "*Eurydice*." Join us for a fresh look at a timeless love story, and witness another example of the creativity and talent at FSLT.

- Michael Richardson, *President*

Next Up

Auditions for our next production, *The Secret Garden* (the musical) were held May 15 and 16. This award-winning musical, based on the children's book by the same title, will be performed July 27-August 12.

Auditions for *Making God Laugh*, directed by Lora Rice, will be held at 7 p.m. on August 14 and 15 at the theatre. The cast calls for 2 females and 3 males ages approximately 20-60 years of age. Production dates are September 21-30. For more information, go to fslt.org.

Season Ticket holders are urged to call before May 25 for reservations.