



SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

October 28, 2017

www.fslt.org

Dates: Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *The Odd Couple (female version)* will be November 9. Regular evening performances will be November 10-11 and 15-18. A matinee will be offered on Sunday, November 12.

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 \$27. All other shows \$12.

Season Ticket Holders: Regular season ticket patrons are encouraged to call Oct. 28 - Nov. 1 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 2.

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

The Odd Couple (female version)

Classic Comedy With A Twist

“It’s this simple law, which every writer knows, of taking two opposites and putting them in a room together.” — *Trey Parker*

Attention all patrons! Be prepared to laugh-out-loud as the Fort Smith Little Theatre stages our final regular season production – Neil Simon’s *The Odd Couple (female version)*.

Simon is widely regarded as one of the most successful, prolific, and performed playwrights in the world. His long list of successful productions includes *Barefoot in the Park*, *Chapter Two*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues*, and *The Odd Couple*. The original “Odd Couple” were two male mismatched opposites, Madison and Unger. In 1985, Simon updated his iconic classic comedy to feature a pair of female roommates. It is this new version that will come your way at FSLT beginning November 9.

Come meet the neat, uptight Florence Ungar (Melissa Vitale) who is forced to move in with the easy going, slovenly Olive Madison (Susan Hickman). Both Vitale and Hickman are FSLT stage veterans. “I am typically drawn to murder mysteries, so going for a straight comedy is a bit new for me. But I am certainly enjoying this twist on a classic crowd-pleaser,” Vitale said of her character.

Simon cleverly converts the original script to this hilarious new format. The original script’s poker game becomes Trivial Pursuit in this female version, played with girlfriends Mickey,

See *The Odd Couple* on page 3



Strong Support From Two Show Sponsors



We greatly appreciate two of Fort Smith's leading corporate citizens, Beall Barclay and Mercy-Fort Smith, who are co-sponsoring *The Odd Couple (female version)*. By underwriting the cost of this production, their generosity helps us maintain affordable ticket prices.

Residents in this area have trusted **Beall Barclay** with their accounting and financial needs for more than 50 years. We appreciate the excellent service Beall Barclay provides to our organization, and we are grateful for their long and loyal sponsorship support.

Mercy-Fort Smith is thankful for the opportunity to participate in your healthcare and wellness. They are also pleased to announce that Cooper Clinic will soon join Mercy Clinic which will allow for expanded services and better coordination of your care.

Please join us in applauding these two generous organizations for their strong support of our community and in particular, FSLT.



Director's Letter

The Fort Smith Little Theatre has been my second home for eight years. During that time, I have worked with numerous volunteers with theatrical experience and degrees. With backgrounds in all aspects of theatre, these amazing people have greatly supported the quality of our shows here at FSLT. From designing lights and sound, to portraying a character far from your natural self, many of our volunteers have had excellent education. Additionally, there are others with no formal training whose natural acting ability has earned a frequent place on our stage. The best part is that all these folks are willing to help those with limited experience, like me. If you would have asked me years ago about being a director, I would have probably laughed it off with a NO. Unbeknownst to me, FSLT would pave a path for me to have the opportunity to direct. In the past eight years, I have been on stage many times as well as assisted back stage as a producer, stage manager, stage hand and more. I also had the opportunity to direct an off-season show and serve as assistant director for two full season shows under the wings of FSLT veterans. With mentorship, training, experience, and the friendships I have gained from my time here at FSLT, I felt I was ready to assume the director's chair for my full season directorial debut – if I could find the right script. I needed something with well-defined characters, good writing, and preferably a comedy. Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple (female version)* was the perfect choice. Now, with a great cast and crew, we are preparing to deliver great entertainment you are sure to love. Thank you to all who have supported me and continue to help me on this new adventure. I invite you all to come, relax, put your worries aside, and enjoy a night of fun and laughter.

- Eric Wells, *Director*



Special Offer From Times Record

The Times Record is an excellent media partner for FSLT. Their creative team coordinates online and print advertisements, while their news writers cover our productions and all the other great things to do in our area. Join us in applauding the Times Record, and pick up a special subscription offer when you attend *The Odd Couple (female version)*.



FSLT Recognized By Best Things Arkansas

What an honor! What a surprise! The FSLT was named 4th in the list of 10 Best Live Theater Venues in Arkansas. Check it out at bestthingsar.com. We are proud of this award, and proud to be YOUR community theatre.

The Odd Couple opens November 9

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Sylvie, Vera, and Renee. The Pigeon sisters of the original script become the Costazuela brothers, Manolo and Jesus. Essentially, the male roles become female, and the female roles become male.

Director Eric Wells has gathered a talented group of FSLT veterans and newcomers to complete the dueling duo's circle of friends. These crazy characters include: Mickey, the NYC cop who wants to solve everyone's problems, played by Tina Dale; Sylvia, the highly energized wisecracker brought to life by Rikkee Workman-Black; Renee, the lovable complainer, portrayed by newcomer, Erica Page Nelson; and sweet and somewhat daffy Vera, revealed by Victoria Walden. Scott Black and Kenneth Pearson play the rather charming Italian brothers, Manolo and Jesus Costazuela, who live upstairs.

Wells is making his full-run show directorial debut with this production. "After I discovered this terrific script, I knew the next big challenge would be finding the right cast – one that can produce good chemistry and bring these unique characters to life. We had SO many people come to auditions, all very talented, and I could have cast this show several different ways. Luckily, I found that perfect fit, the right group, and I couldn't be happier with how this cast has come together," Wells said.



Keeping the action moving is Wells' able back stage crew: Assistant Director, Meghan Partain; Producer, Neal Goodwin; Stage Manager, Jamie Lambdin; Assistant Stage Manager, Rihanna Maxfiels; Stage Hands/Techies, Kelsey Flippo, Jennifer Chick, Brenden Chick, Orville Chick, Savannah Doss, and Garrett Young; Wardrobe Mistress, Jill Moody Ledbetter; Prop. Mistress, Audra Sargent; Lighting Design, Joseph Reed; Sound Design, Jacob Hiatt; and Set Design, Will Paget.

The show is sure to bring in the laughter, but it will also touch the hearts of all, as Flo and Olive work through their differences to find themselves. It's an entertaining look at aging, friendship, love, marriage, and memories.

"November starts a busy holiday season. I want everyone to take a break and join us for a great night of good fun and well-written comedy," Wells said.

Opening night is Thursday, November 9 with regular evening performances set for November 10-11 and 15-18. A Sunday afternoon matinee will be performed on November 12. For reservations, call 479-783-2966 (press 2).



3 Easy Ways To Purchase Season Tickets

Another great line-up is planned for 2018, our 71st season of community theatre. For complete show information, go to fslt.org.

You can purchase your Season Ticket in the lobby before all performances of *The Odd Couple (female version)*, 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 15-24: *The Little Foxes*

April 5-14: *Calendar Girls*

May 31-June 9: *The Fox On the Fairway*

July 19-August 4: *My Fair Lady (musical)*

September 20-29: *Night Of The Living Dead*

November 8-17: *Noises Off*

New LED "Wall Wash" Lights Installed

Those who attended *Making God Laugh* were the first audiences to enjoy the benefit of our new LED "Wall Wash" lighting system. Also called strip or cyclorama lights, the new slim black fixtures are mounted 15 feet above the stage along the back wall. Their LED technology allows for the entire width and height of the stage wall to be "washed" in an extensive array of colors. Our old fixtures were cumbersome and contained non-working parts that could no longer be repaired or replaced. We are grateful for this impressive improvement made possible by our **Annual Fund Donors** and the continued generosity of the **William T. and May P. Hennessy Foundation**. Many thanks!

Make Plans to Attend *An Old Time Radio Christmas*

Directed by Jill Moody-Ledbetter, *An Old Time Radio Christmas* is a heart-warming off-season holiday production that will be performed December 7, 8, and 9 at 7:30 pm. You'll enjoy the songs and stories of the holidays, presented as if you and your family were huddled around the radio. Leave the shopping behind, and join us as we head back to the good ole days for some old-fashioned Christmas joy.

Note: 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.

Annual Meeting Notice

The Annual Meeting of the Fort Smith Little Theatre will be held Monday, November 27 at 7 pm. Season Ticket holders are eligible to attend and vote at this meeting. 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
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P.O. Box 3752, Fort Smith, AR 72913

www.fslt.org

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From the Top...

There have been too many “good-byes” for us at FSLT this year. We recently lost our friend, Kaye Birkhead. She passed away graciously, surrounded by people who loved her. That seems quite fitting, as Kaye was always surrounded by people who loved her, and whom she loved dearly in return. She was a well-respected educator for nearly 60 years. Her influence was long and strong. Personally, I have known her for twenty plus years as the Costume/Wardrobe Maven at our theatre where she “dressed” hundreds of us for countless performances of countless productions. Kaye was one of those quiet, strong, and dedicated volunteers that all of us can remember and thank for helping to move FSLT to where we are today. I was pleased to see that with every pew filled, her memorial service was essentially “Sold Out.” Like all theatre folk, Kaye always appreciated a “Good House.” Her willing spirit will live for a long time at FSLT. RIP Kaye.

- Michael Richardson, *President*

Big Bang For Your Buck

2018 Program Ads are now on sale. Your ad can appear in approximately 9,000 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/text to 479-651-3339. Better hurry – space is limited.

Next Up

Auditions for *The Little Foxes*, directed by Jim Moody, will be held at 7 p.m. at the theatre on December 11 and 12. Cast requirements: Caucasians: 5 males ages approximately 21-55 and 3 females 18-40+, and African Americans: 1 male and 1 female both 60+. Rehearsals will begin January 2. Production dates are February 15-24. For more information, go to fslt.org.

Season Ticket holders are urged to call before November 2 for reservations.