



SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

January 31, 2015

www.fslt.org

Dates: Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *Pride and Prejudice* will be Feb. 12. Regular performances will be Feb. 13, 14, and 18 to 21. The Sunday Matinee performances will be Feb. 15 and 22.

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 \$25. Tickets for all other performances are \$10.

Season Ticket Holders: Regular season ticket patrons are encouraged to call Jan. 31 to Feb. 4 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. 5.

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

PRIDE & PREJUDICE TO OPEN 2015 SEASON

The ideal wife is any woman who has an ideal husband - Booth Tarkington

There's a New Year and an old story coming to FSLT. The first production of 2015 is based on Jane Austen's classic novel, *Pride and Prejudice*, adapted for the stage by Jon Jory, and set in the early 1800s. Customs and laws were different then, but vestiges remain in how a family responds to problems and promises. Director Duff Taylor is an English instructor and an admitted Anglophile. The show will run February 12 through 22. Think romance and Valentines.

This production will be presented in a setting unlike other FSLT regular season offerings. A traditional set will not be employed. The focus will be on the story and writing of Jane Austen brought to life with costumes, lighting, and talented performers.

The Bennets, a landed gentry family living in Neverland Park just outside of London, have five unwed daughters. Mr. Bennet (Michael Richardson) is bookish and witty; Mrs. Bennet (Micki Voelkel) has rough edges and lacks social graces. Their daughters are: #1 Jane (Victoria Jones) – eldest, kind, and pretty; #2 Elizabeth/Lizzi (Sarah Curlin) – close to her Papa and witty too; #3 Mary (Brittany Redding) – plain in looks, talented in music; #4 Kitty (Lindsey Vickery) – trailing after her baby sister; #5 Lydia (Summer Ferguson) – flirty and unrestrained. Mother is dedicated to finding the right man for each of them

See *Pride and Prejudice* on page 3





Show Sponsors Applauded

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.

In 2015, BHC Insurance celebrates 100 years of serving the insurance needs of Fort Smith's citizens. Since that time they have grown to become one of the largest insurance agencies in Arkansas. A fiercely independent agency that provides group benefits, business and personal insurance, BHC partners with their clients to provide "More Than A Promise."

First National Bank and BHC Insurance are part of the FirstBank Corp family and are here to help you with your banking and insurance needs. We applaud both these community-minded firms for their support in bringing you *Pride and Prejudice*.

Director's Letter

I chose to direct Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* for two reasons – the first reason being I have a love of all things English, and the second reason being my friend Micki Voelkel, twisted my arm to submit the play. We both participated (with many of this play's actors as well) in the 2013 production of *Emma*. I became excessively diverted with Austen then, and felt that P&P must be done.

This is not a snooty high brow costume drama – Jane Austen's work is, and always will be, a romantic comedy that pokes fun at the rules and standards set by the society. My undergraduate degree is in English Literature, and I teach British Literature at Northside High School. My classes will start studying this novel come February 20! My addiction is unabated, and I believe you too will fall in love with Darcy and Lizzie. *Pride and Prejudice* is, after all, the most romantic story for the most romantic month. Tickets for Valentine's Day will be especially hard to get. You will leave quoting our heroine, Elizabeth Bennet, "I am all amazement."

- Duff Taylor



Pride and Prejudice opens February 12

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to marry, and is delighted when two wealthy prospects move nearby. Mr. Darcy (Ian Miller) is tall, handsome, smart and aloof. His friend, Mr. Bingley (Eric Wells) is a sociable stag. Keep in mind that in England in the 1800s, females could not legally receive benefits when a parent died; only males could inherit. So Mrs. Bennet was quite obsessed with these wealthy young men.

Other characters in this well-known tale are George Wickham (Aaron Ray), a military man; Sir William Lucas (Joe Graham), a cousin of Darcy; Charlotte Lucas (Hannah Curlin), Lizzi's best friend; Georgiana (Deidre Fears), Darcy's sister; Miss Bingley (Valerie Baldwin),



Mr. Bingley's sister; Colonel Fitzwilliam (Landon Satterfield), Darcy's cousin; Mr. Gardiner (David Harris), and Mrs. Gardiner (Jennifer Canada), aunt and uncle to the girls; Lady Catherine DeBourgh (Carole Rogers), wealthy aunt of Darcy; Mr. Collins (Brandon Bolin), a member of the clergy looking for a wife; Housekeeper (Kayla Thompson); Maid (Rhonda Fawcett); and three Ball Guests played by Will Paget, Cliff Scott, and Tina Dale.

In addition to this on-stage talent, Director Taylor has an off-stage crew including Robert Montgomery - Producer; Kiané French - Stage Manager; Stephanie Ward - Wardrobe Mistress; Neal Goodwin - Properties Manager; Hannah Curlin - Costume Design; Joseph Reed - Light Design; Mike Tickler - Light Board; Casey Moore - Sound Board; Carmen Taylor - Photography; and Stage Hands - Paula Bodner and Gloria Tran.

Take a trip two centuries back in time at FSLT. Ancestry revisited. Make your reservation now by calling 479-783-2966 (press #2).



Off-Season Comedy Opens on Feb. 26

Be My Baby is a wonderful comedy set in the 1950's, written by Ken Ludwig. Last year, we enjoyed his work in the production, *Leading Ladies*. This off-season show has us following an odd couple from Scotland and England, who are forced to travel to America to retrieve a baby for a prospective niece and nephew. Hi-jinks ensue as they are forced to stay in America for longer than they planned. The cast includes both old and new faces. Nathan Stockemer and Jennifer Canada will show a multitude of talents as they quickly shift roles, Kayla Thompson and Terry Dilley will make your heart break, and Sherry Hester and Steve Dwiggins will keep you laughing in their portrayal of a couple stuck together in a foreign land.

Performances are at 7:30 pm on February 26, 27, and 28. Tickets are \$5 per person at the door. As this is an off-season production, no reservations will be accepted, and admission is not provided by your season ticket. Mark your calendar, and make sure to join us for *Be My Baby*.

Last Chance to Buy Season Tickets

2015 Season Tickets will be sold in the lobby before all performances of *Pride and Prejudice*. If you plan to buy your season ticket when you arrive to attend the show, please go to the Season Ticket booth **before** going to the Box Office window to pick up your seat assignments.

2014 Annual Meeting

The FSLT Annual Membership meeting was held on November 24, 2014 at 7 p.m. Reports were given by officers and committee chairs. Five new Board members were elected to three-year terms:

Joe Graham, Victoria Jones, Nathan Stockemer, Melissa Vitale, and Eric Wells. Three members-at-large were elected to a one-year term on the nominating committee: Rikkee Black, Wayne Mathews, and Paula Sharum. The newly elected Board then met, to elect officers for the coming year:

Carole Rogers - *President*
Angela Covey - *Vice President*
Lora Rice - *Treasurer*
Shannon Stoddard - *Secretary*.

The Wizard Of Oz Named Summer Musical

Because *Beauty and the Beast* will be on tour in 2015, performing rights were not granted for FSLT. So George Mann, summer musical

Director, and his crew, have chosen to bring us *The Wizard of Oz*. Being performed for the first time on our stage, this show will bring great music and a big smile to everyone (except the Wicked Witch of course).

Bargains On The Back & Special Thanks

On the back of all seat tickets during 2015, 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.

Many Thanks

We greatly appreciate these locally owned businesses that recently donated their services to FSLT.

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SPOTLIGHT

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www.fslt.org

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Eric Wells

From the Top...

Happy New Year and welcome to FSLT's 68th season. We have another terrific year planned for you. I'd like to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to these outgoing Board members for their three years of service and dedication – Scott Black, Clara Jane Rubarth, Sherri Tickler, – and to Cecelia McDonald, who served the last two years as Board President.

A very special "thank you" also goes to Paula Sharum, who has contributed to FSLT onstage, backstage and in an administrative capacity for 40 years. On a personal note, Paula directed the second show I was part of, and she taught this neophyte actress, stage directions which I still use today. On the saddest day of my life, she was one of the first to show up to offer her help and support. Enjoy your sabbatical, Paula. You have certainly earned a rest.

We also want to welcome new Board members – Joe Graham, Victoria Jones, Nathan Stockemer, Melissa Vitale, and Eric Wells. It's great to see these thespians bring their enthusiasm from centerstage to the Board.

Our first offering for the 2015 season – Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, directed by Duff Taylor, is just around the corner. What better way to spend a winter evening during Valentine season, than enjoying a time-tested love story in the warmth of our theatre. I hope to see you there.

- Carole Rogers, *President*

Next Up

Auditions for *Don't Dress For Dinner* by Marc Camoletti, adapted by Robin Hawdon, will be held at 7 p.m. on March 2 and 3 at the theatre. The casting for this sequel to last year's *Boeing Boeing*, calls for 3 females 20 to 35 years of age, and 1 male 30 to 35 years of age. (2 other reprised male roles were precast and are unavailable for open auditions). Suzanne Thomas will be directing. Production dates are April 9 to 19. For more information, go to fslt.org.

Season Ticket holders are urged to call before Feb. 5 for reservations.