

Fort Smith Little Theatre

Spotlight

November 1, 2013

Dates: Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *White Christmas* will be Nov. 14. Regular performances will be Nov. 15-16, and 19-23. The Sunday Matinee performance will be Nov. 17.

Times: All evening performances begin at 8 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 7:15 p.m. The matinee begins at 2:30 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 1:45 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 \$30. All other shows \$15.

Season Ticket Holders: Regular season ticket patrons are encouraged to call Nov. 2-6 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 Nov. 7.

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

FSLT celebrates *White Christmas*

Somewhere on the Western front, Captain Bob Wallace and Private Phil Davis are mixing jokes and dance steps:

Bob: Private Davis!

Phil: Yes, Captain Wallace!

Bob: Remember—don't sing until you see the whites of their eyes!

Phil: I see them!

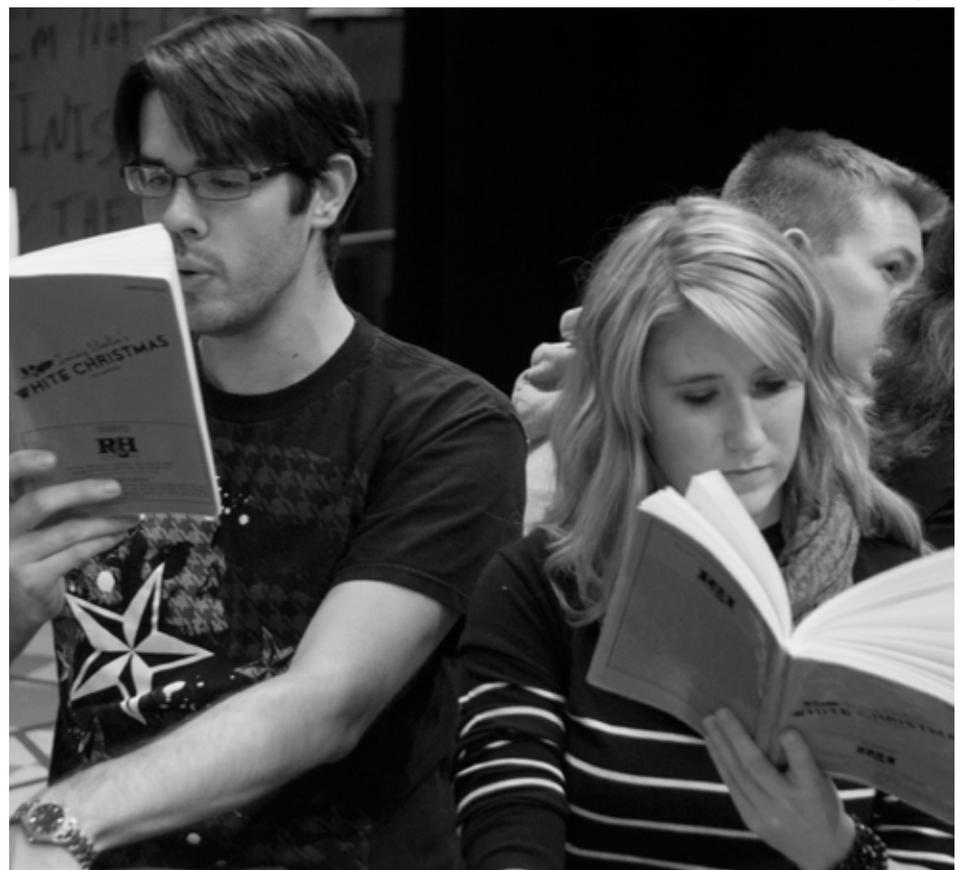
Bob: Then sing!

FSLT is opening the Christmas season a little early for our patrons. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! For career music director, George Mann, choosing to direct on our

stage the 1954 film classic, *White Christmas* by David Ives with music by Irving Berlin, is a natural. (You ought to see his Christmas trees!) *White Christmas* will open Nov. 14 and run through Nov. 23.

The story begins on the World War II front, Christmas Eve, 1944 — 3,415 miles away from home. Troops are gathered to celebrate. The entertainment is presided over by Corp. Ralph Sheldrake (Joseph Reed) who introduces the main attraction, Captain Bob Wallace

See Christmas on page 3





Show Sponsor Applauded

We are so pleased that Sparks Health System will sponsor our upcoming production of *White Christmas*. In 1947, the Young Ladies Guild of Sparks Memorial Hospital sponsored an amateur theatre production as a fundraiser to buy hospital equipment. That play, *Mr. and Mrs. North*, literally “sparked” an interest in the performing arts, and the Fort Smith Little Theatre was formed. Sixty-six years later, we applaud Sparks’ civic spirit and their continued support of our community theatre.

Wonderful Life Offers

Wonderful Holiday Show

Make plans now to attend our holiday off-season production. *It's a Wonderful Life / A Live Radio Play* will be performed December 12, 13, 14 at 8 pm. This production was adapted by Joe Landry from a screen play by Francis Goodrich, Albert Hackett, Frank Capra and Jo Swerling. Directed by Shannon Stoddard, it is sure to make your holiday season merry and bright. Because this is an off-season production, there is no reserved seating and no reservations. Admission, \$5 at the door, is not included with the purchase of a Season Ticket.

Many Thanks

We greatly appreciate the following businesses that have recently donated services to FSLT.

- Williams-Crawford & Assoc. - graphic design
- Clear Channel Outdoor - billboard advertising
- Office Depot - copy services
- First National Bank - season ticket promotion
- Southwest Times Record - season ticket promotion

Director's Notes...

***White Christmas*, a gift for your holiday season**

In the midst of World War II, in 1942, a movie burst onto the scene containing 12 of Irving Berlin's catchiest tunes of the day—*Holiday Inn*. The movie, although well-received, did something far more than merely entertain; it introduced into the fabric of American culture a song which remains a holiday must, even to this day. That song was *White Christmas*. Twelve years later, in 1954, another movie was made featuring Berlin's music—the first in Panoramic Vista Vision and centered wholly around this song.

There has never been a Christmastime in my waking memory when Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Vera-Ellen, and Rosemary Clooney didn't sing and dance me to the window to check for snowflakes. Mary Wickes' dry and acerbic role as the housekeeper also did much toward showing me the value and humor of properly placed and smartly executed sarcasm. Indeed, this movie is one

of the things without which my celebration of the season is not complete, and I dare say that the same is true for many reading this.

Imagine my utter delight to discover that Broadway had done what Broadway so often does—it took a successful and timeless movie and turned it into a fully staged musical. Because the movie itself didn't contain quite enough music to sustain an entire Broadway show, the authors/composers of this production “fluffed it out,” but retained the original spirit by continuing to use only the music of Irving Berlin. Included in this musical expansion are the songs, “Blue Skies” and “I Love a Piano,” to name but two.

We hope our production of *White Christmas* is just the thing to begin your 2013 Holiday Season with a bang, and to send it off in the merriest of directions!

George Mann, Director

Things To Come In Season 2014

- Extra Matinees: Two Sunday matinees will be performed for all six productions.
- New Curtain Times: Curtain Time will be 30 minutes earlier. Evening performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday Matinees at 2 p.m.
- Another Great Line Up: Season 2014 will offer a great line up of shows and a promise of great value for your entertainment dollars.

February 13-23: *The Dixie Swim Club*. A comedy/drama.

April 3-13: *Boeing, Boeing*. A farce.

June 5-14: *Leading Ladies*. A comedy.

July 31-August 10: *9 to 5*. A musical comedy.

September 8-28: *Splendor in the Grass*. A drama.

November-13-23: *A Talent for Murder*. A mystery.

Off Season Shows (not included with purchase of Season Tickets):

April 24- 26: *Make Believe*. A comedy/drama.

October 2-4: *Nightfall with Edgar Allen Poe*. Classic horror.

December 11-13: *Gift of the Magi*. A tale to make your Christmas merry.

Remember that **Season Tickets for 2014 will be on sale in the lobby** before all performances of *White Christmas*. They may also be purchased online at fslt.org. And be sure to remind Santa that season tickets make great gifts. They are one size fits all!

White Christmas opens at FSLT Nov. 14

Continued from page 1

(Brandon Bolin) and Private Phil Davis (Nathan Stockemer) as a song and dance duo. The G.I's Commander, General Henry Waverly (Matt Hutchison) drops in to wish them all a Merry Christmas. Fast forward to December, 1954. Bob and Phil are still performing together, moving toward the big time. They are headed to Florida to break in a new routine assisted by two chorus girls, Rita (Shannon Stoddard) and Rhoda (Kait Bradley). Meanwhile, an old army buddy of Phil and Bob is trying to help two sisters, Betty Haynes (Amanda Elkins-Hiatt) and Judy (Valerie Baldwin), make their way into show business. Mischief is afoot. South turns to North. The Haynes girls have a gig there at a Vermont Inn owed by none other than retired General Waverly. The inn is in financial distress. Martha Watson (Jane Ann Short), the concierge who runs the inn for Waverly, and his granddaughter, Susan (Olivia White), live at the inn. The handyman, Ezekiel (Zach Callahan) came with the barn. The ensemble actors,

singers, and dancers include: Chris Conrad, Zeke Cook, Hannah Curlin, Shanna Davis, Neal Goodwin, Joe Graham, Jessica Hodges, Mary Beth Koprovic, Trish McCully, Randy Pace, Will Paget, Blake Robertson, Jennifer Roller, Lindsey Vickery, Eric Wells, and Olivia White.

Director George Mann has a great amount of talent on stage and an equally talented crew back stage. For a production as large as this, a top notch crew is a necessity to keep the wheels of entertainment rolling. Assistant Director is Micki Voelkel, and Paula Sharum is the Producer. Grayce Dewitt is the Choreographer, and Set Design/Construction is by Zach Hiatt. Lights will be designed by Rebekah Stoltz, and operated by Chuck Howard. Costumers are Kaye Birkhead, Jill Ledbetter, Clara Jane Rubarth, Anna Schodowski,

and Hannah Curlin. Props Managers are Ben Valentine and Neal Goodwin. Hair and Make-up Artists are Randy Pace and Zeke Cook. Logo Designer is Rhonda Rieder.

Make your reservations pronto. *White Christmas* is on every one's "don't-miss-list," and the house will fill up fast. FSLT Box Office volunteers will begin taking reservations for Season Ticket holders on **Saturday, Nov. 2**. General admission reservation requests will be filled beginning Thursday, November 7. The number to call is still 479-783-2966 (press 2). And remember, as the song goes, "If you can't sleep, don't count your sheep—count your blessings."

TAKE NOTE: To accommodate the large demand for tickets, there will be an additional performance of *White Christmas* offered for season ticket and general admission patrons at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19.

Annual Meeting Notice

The FSLT Annual Meeting will be held at the theatre on Monday, Nov. 25 at 7 p.m. All Season Ticket holders will be 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.



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Spotlight

P.O. Box 3752 • Fort Smith, AR 72913

www.fslt.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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From the Top...

Multi-facets shape, temper our theatre

The Harlequin man, which now stands front and center under its own spotlight, is more than a beautiful piece of art. With its many multi-colored facets of stained glass, the individual pieces are fashioned in such a manner to create a whole sculpture that is pleasing and that can be appreciated.

The Harlequin man aptly represents our organization. There are many facets to this theatre that have been shaped and stained and tempered through the years. All of the pieces have come together to make a strong and resilient institution.

Together this theatre is working to bring about some positive

changes while holding fast to those traditions that have always made the FSLT great. This year we have celebrated many successes: the completion of our lobby and front facade renovations, the modification of our website and online historical preservation, the addition of an extra performance in the upcoming 2014 season, and the inclusion of new actors, volunteers, and patrons to the Fort Smith Little Theatre family.

I appreciate the privilege of serving as the Fort Smith Little Theatre's president over this past year and being one facet of a very unique organization.

Cecilia Woods-McDonald, President

Next Up

Auditions for the first FSLT production of 2014, *The Dixie Swim Club* by Jones, Hope and Wooten, directed by Angela Covey, will be held at the theatre on Jan. 6 and 7 at 7 p.m. The cast call is for five women, 40-60 years of age. Production dates are Feb. 13-23.



Season Ticket holders are urged to call before Nov. 7 for reservations.