



THE  
*Fort Smith Little Theatre, Inc.*

presents

*Blithe Spirit*

An Improbable Farce in Three Acts

By

NOEL COWARD

MARCH 16 and 17

8:15 P. M.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Second Season 1948-49



*For your information . . .*

By Mrs. Ander K. Orr

"Blithe Spirit" is the third production presented by the Fort Smith Little Theatre, Inc. Every person who purchases a season ticket for these performances is automatically a member of the Little Theatre, and is entitled to attend the annual open meeting in May.

The routine business of the organization is conducted by an executive board of fifteen members, five of whom are elected yearly from the membership at large to serve a term of three years.

These productions are brought to you under the sponsorship of the Young Ladies Guild of Sparks Hospital. The Fort Smith Little Theatre is, in itself, a corporation and it is filling for this community a long felt need for good theatre.

Invaluable, too, are the services rendered to Fort Smith by the Guild. This group buys equipment for the operating rooms at Sparks Hospital and in return the hospital donates an equivalent amount in charity work. Each year, to raise money for this project, the Guild has sponsored some worthwhile entertainment for you of this community. They have presented such fine shows as their Sparks Follies, Colleen Moore's Doll House, and Miss Marjorie Lawrence.

Last year, the Guild decided to sponsor a Little Theatre. Taking the usual financial risks in any new, untried business venture, they began the organization with the presentation of "Mr. and Mrs. North." As you recall, this was a tremendous success. It was even more an artistic than a financial success, but the Guild realized that even though its annual income was less, it was of great benefit to bring living theatre to Fort Smith.

The net proceeds of the three productions for this year, 1948-49, are divided equally between the two organizations. The responsibility of each group is specific. Little Theatre produces the play and the Guild handles every other phase of operation, including such details as the selling of tickets and publicity.

Everyone connected with Little Theatre and the Guild donates his or her time—from the sound man to the business manager and the director. We hope you feel our productions are more than worth the work and effort expended for each play. We know you will enjoy "Blithe Spirit."



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The  
**FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE, INC.**

presents

*"Blithe Spirit"*

By

**Noel Coward**

Directed by

**FLORABEL K. PATTEE**

Jack Boroughs and Mary Jane Whittaker at the Organ

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**THE CAST**

in Order of Appearance

EDITH .....	REBA MAE KASTEN
RUTH .....	MARJORIE JOHNSTON
CHARLES .....	PRESTON H. LOWREY
MRS. BRADMAN .....	JANE DOUGLAS
DR. BRADMAN .....	JOHN A. HOLT
MADAME ARCATI .....	CONSTANCE PIERITZ
ELVIRA .....	TONY CLINTON

The action of the play takes place in the living-room of Charles Condomine's house in Kent.

ACT I

Scene 1 — Before dinner on a summer evening.  
Scene 2 — After dinner.

ACT II

Scene 1 — The next morning.  
Scene 2 — Late the following afternoon.  
Scene 3 — Early evening. A few days later.

ACT III

Scene 1 — After dinner. A few days later.  
Scene 2 — Several hours later.

— Coffee will be served in the lobby during both intermissions —

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**PRODUCTION STAFF**  
for  
**"BLITHE SPIRIT"**

Production Manager ..... Payne Morrow

Assistants ..... James W. Pattee, Jr.  
Charles Dixon, Jr.  
Carroll Cox

Stage Manager ..... Ben Pollock

Properties ..... Helen Maxwell  
Nancy Humphrey

Sound ..... Bill Piano  
Newt Pollock

Prompters ..... Reba Raney  
Mrs. Jess Winner

Scripts ..... Mrs. Marvin Altman

Costumes ..... Mrs. Ralph Speer, Jr.  
Mrs. R. N. Dills

Make-Up ..... Mrs. John A. Holt

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for  
**"BLITHE SPIRIT"**

General Manager—  
Mrs. Marvin Altman

Tickets and Reservations—  
Mrs. John D. Olson, Mrs. Preston Meek, Mrs. Gilmer Dixon, Mrs. Cecil Laughlin, Mrs. Tom Lichty, Mrs. Ladd Wilson, Mrs. Lambert Lester, Mrs. Preston Lowrey, Mrs. Paige Mulhollan, Mrs. Arve Sherrill, Mrs. Robert Woolsey, Mrs. W. N. Shackelford, Mrs. James Meek, Mrs. J. Burton Gregg, Mrs. R. N. Dills, Mrs. Denton Powers.

Posters and Displays—  
Mrs. Albert Kopert, Mr. and Mrs. Arve Sherrill, Mrs. Jack Harrington, Mrs. Ed McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bedwell, Curtis Pieritz.

Program—  
Mrs. Burley C. Johnston, Jr., Mrs. T. B. Nettles, Mrs. Louis Webb Barry, Mrs. Ned Becker, Mrs. Harvey Mixon.

Box Office Ticket Sales—  
Sam H. Phillips, Larry Tennant

Refreshments—  
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**WHO'S WHO  
in  
"BLITHE SPIRIT"**

**REBA MAE KASTEN—Edith**

Reba is well known in Fort Smith for her brilliant and satiric monologues. She has appeared with touring USO shows in North-west Arkansas and Oklahoma. During the war and recently she has been a popular entertainer at Camp Chaffee, performing for boys on bivouac, in the Station Hospital, and in Service Club shows. Reba has taken part locally in the plays "George Washington Slept Here," "Arsenic and Old Lace" and "Incognito." She has appeared in such variety shows as the March of Dimes Benefit and the Sparks Follies.

**MARJORIE JOHNSTON  
(Mrs. Burley C., Jr.)—Ruth**

A drama major in college, Marjorie participated actively in many theatricals at Smith College and Northwestern University. She was a member of the honorary arts fraternity at Smith, and her highest achievement there was starring in a play she herself had written. Locally she has used her talents primarily in directing plays and pageants for civic organizations and churches. She is also in demand as a book-reviewer. Marjorie is vice-president of the Fort Smith Little Theatre's board of directors. She appeared briefly last year in the production, "Mr. and Mrs. North."

**PRESTON H. LOWREY—Charles**

"Hub" studied and taught interior design and decoration in Chicago at the Art Institute and the Frances Harrington School. His designs were exhibited to high critical acclaim in Paris in 1933. He worked with the Tulsa Little Theatre several years, playing in "Blind Alley," "George Washington Slept Here," "Kiss the Boys Goodbye," and "Let Us Be Gay." For the Oklahoma City Playhouse he was Mr. DePinna in "You Can't Take It With You." "Hub" is now with Eads Bros. Furniture Co. as interior designer.

**JANE R. DOUGLAS  
(Mrs. Dan)—Mrs. Bradman**

Jane brings considerable experience to her role, having been a member of the Blackfriars Dramatic Association at Penn State. She played Susie in "The Late Christopher Bean" for the Berlin Community Playhouse

at Berlin, Conn., in 1937. During a residence in the Islands, 1940-42, she was active with the Yacht Club Players of Hilo, Hawaii.

**JOHN A. HOLT—Dr. Bradman**

In the production field, John and his wife have for several years studied and practiced theatrical character make-up. In the acting field, his experience has been principally in musical comedies and operettas. He sang baritone leads in "Show Boat" and "Pinafore" and performed roles in various minstrel shows. He has played character roles in Fort Smith radio productions. He was a member of the Fort Smith Community Players, the Radio Theatre Club, and both Little Theatre organizations.

**CONSTANCE PIERITZ  
(Mrs. Carl F.)—Madame Arcati**

"Connie" was educated in public and private schools in Boston and Chicago. She majored in Speech and Journalism at Northwestern University. Her early dramatic experience was in schools and with the Es-sanay Motion Picture Company from 1913 to 1915. She was a member of little theatre groups in New Hampshire from 1930 to 1940, and a member of the faculty of Ted Shawn's University of the Dance, Jacob's Pillow, Lee, Mass., in the summer of 1945. She and her family are a welcome addition to Fort Smith, having moved here in March, 1948, from Nashua, N. H.

**TONY CLINTON  
(Mrs. Carl C., Jr.)—Elvira**

Our "Blithe Spirit" comes to us with considerable professional experience. From college theatricals at Oklahoma A & M she went to California for study at the Pasadena Playhouse and the Bliss Hayden Theatre in Beverly Hills. Plays at both theatres included "Double Exposure," "The Man Who Came to Dinner," "Murder by Appointment," "Baby's Name Was Oscar," "Letters to Lucerne," "Errant Angel," and "Don't Feed the Actors." Tony was under contract at Warner Brothers where she played in a number of short films. On the professional stage she played the ingenue lead to Buddy Ebsen and Skeets Gallagher in the Chicago Company of "Good Night Ladies."

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**Fort Smith Little Theatre, Inc.  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1948-49**

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Mrs. Burley C. Johnston, Jr. .... Vice President  
Annis Lick ..... Secretary  
R. A. DeLong ..... Treasurer

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