

**PRODUCTION STAFF**

for  
"OUR TOWN"

Stage Manager ..... Victor Gabriel  
 Lighting ..... Charles Dixon, David Foster  
 Sound ..... Victor Gabriel  
 Costumes ..... Elsie Fell  
 Properties ..... Reba Raney, Walter Zimmer, Glenn Brown  
 Make-up ..... Margaret Dawson, Lois Wanslow, Zoe Durdin,  
 Alice Stavnitzky, Mary Sims, Doris Tressler  
 Publicity ..... Dave Speer  
 Tickets ..... Kathryn Mendel  
 House ..... Larry Tennant  
 Program ..... Marjorie Johnston

★

**BACKSTAGE WITH LITTLE THEATRE**

Director Herman Fell, Producer Lois Smith, and Stage Manager Victor Gabriel have labored mightily together as behind scenes boss-men for this show.

Herman Fell comes to us with a professional degree from Goodman Theatre School in Chicago, alma mater also of Norman Schucart, who so admirably directed our sell-out **TIME OF THE CUCKOO**. Herman taught at Goodman before entering the army. He has played with professional acting companies during stock seasons in the Midwest and Northwest. Among many stellar roles he likes to remember Luka, in Gorki's **THE LOWER DEPTHS**, Elwood P. Dowd in **HARVEY**, the Inspector in **ANGEL STREET**, and the Chorus in **ANTIGONE**.

Lois Smith has been seen on stage in our productions of **FOR LOVE OR MONEY** and **NIGHT MUST FALL**. Her many hours spent backstage with us prepared her for the role of producer for this show. The "producer" is a new technical designation, introduced to our organization last season. It has helped us smoothly to coordinate the many elements of a theatrical presentation, and has relieved the director of an infinitude of detail.

Victor Gabriel is a graduate of the University of Mexico and attended New York University. He has had wide and varied experience in the field of entertainment. He is a member of the Mexican National School of Actors and has appeared in professional performances of **EMPEROR JONES** and **CYRANO DE BERGERAC**.

**THANK YOU!**

Calvert-McBride Printing Co.	Reveille	Louie's
Beckman Dairy	Southwest Times Record	"Freck" Madddux
Fox & Turner	KFSA - KWHN - KFPW	Okla Homer Smith
Fort Smith Police Department	Goldman Hotel	Dr. J. P. Chancey
Morrow and Son	Edwards Funeral Home	John Ayers
Kerwin Sporting Goods	Sock & Buskin	Ben Pollock
Quality Flower Store	Ozark Antiques	Mrs. W. C. Morrow
Wortz Biscuit Company	Fort Smith Chair Company	Raymond Ruttle
Dr. George Allen	Dr. Ed Paul	

*Coming Attractions....*

**"ARSENIC AND OLD LACE"**

April 9 - 10 - 11 - 12 - 13

Joseph Kesselring's comedy-thriller **ARSENIC AND OLD LACE** will be Little Theatre's second presentation for its ninth season, 1956. Jerry Kerwin will direct and Rudolph Morgan is the producer. You are cordially invited to auditions for acting and technical positions Sunday afternoon, March 4, here in the Little Theatre Playhouse.

The Play-Reading Committee is currently meeting to choose a play for the fall show. Announcement of a selection will be made in the near future. Harry Schultz will direct for this production.

Space below is provided for your comments. We would very much like to hear from you about anything you want to tell us. Did you like this show? What criticisms do you have? What kind of plays do you like? Is there a particular play you'd like to see?

Thank you for your interest and patronage.

*Ann Sims*

President, FSLT Board

**NOTES AND COMMENTS from our patrons . . .**

—Season Tickets are on sale in the foyer. If you have purchased a single admission ticket tonight, you may exchange it, with credit, for a Season Ticket. (Please do!)—

*Fort Smith Little Theatre, Inc.*

presents

*Our Town*

The Pulitzer Prize-Winning Play

By

**THORNTON WILDER**

Produced by

**LOIS DRUIEN SMITH**

Directed by

**HERMAN FELL**

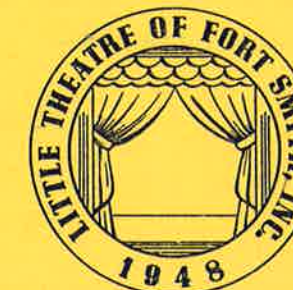
February 20-21-22-23-24

**LITTLE THEATRE PLAYHOUSE**

8:15 P. M. 1956

3800 North O Street

**NINTH SEASON**



*Fort Smith Little Theatre, Inc.*

presents

*Our Town*

by THORNTON WILDER

Directed by  
Herman Fell

Produced by  
Lois Druen Smith

★

THE CAST

Stage Manager .....	Rudolph Morgan
Dr. Gibbs .....	Robert Jerkins
Mrs. Gibbs .....	Jessie Morgan
Mrs. Webb .....	Polly Lowrey
George Gibbs .....	Merlin Howze
Rebecca Gibbs .....	Regina Bishop
Wally Webb .....	Scott Stuart
Emily Webb .....	Jacqueline Gallaher
Professor Willard .....	John D. Crump
Mr. Webb .....	Jerry Griffith
Simon Stimson .....	Robert Patrick
Mrs. Soames .....	Nancy Griffith
People of the Town .....	Glenn Brown, Walter Zimmer Lois Smith, Reba Raney Margaret Dawson, Lois Wanslow

★

THE SCENE

The entire play takes place in Grover's Corners, N. H.

ACT I

The Daily Life — May 7, 1901

ACT II

Love and Marriage — July 7, 1904

ACT III

The Greater Understanding — Summer, 1913

*About this play...*

When the Pulitzer Prize-winning play, OUR TOWN, was first produced on Broadway, it became an almost instantaneous popular and critical success. In the years since, it has received more productions—both professional and amateur—and has been seen by more people than perhaps any other play in the history of American Theatre.

One of the reasons for the play's popularity is that it concerns familiar people involved in familiar situations. With an unerring pen Thornton Wilder has drawn characters in whom we can often recognize ourselves. OUR TOWN is, in fact, our town.

But perhaps the most memorable feature of the play is its method of production.

Much of the scenery and many of the properties handled by the characters exist only in the minds of the playwright and the actors. It is their job to convey to you that the stove they fuel, the grass under their feet, the houses in which they live all are real—not mere figments of another's imagination, but realities seen by you through your mind's eye.

In a very concrete sense you are the set designer, stage crew, and prop man all rolled into one. The only limitations you need observe are those of your own imagination.

*Herman Fell*

*Who's A-Round....*

In the course of the play, RUDY MORGAN (Stage Manager) also plays the parts of Milkman Howie Newsome, Undertaker Joe Stoddard, and Constable Warren. Col. Morgan is once again displaying the versatile talents he has so generously contributed to Little Theatre during the past three seasons. He played the crochety spirit in LO AND BEHOLD! and the befuddled M. Ducotel in MY THREE ANGELS. He was sound technician for HOLIDAY and producer for NIGHT MUST FALL.

MRS. MORGAN (Mrs. Gibbs) will trod the boards for the first time in this production, but she has been a paragon backstage in many capacities. Jessie began by watching, did a few odd jobs, and soon found herself happily "up to her ears." The Morgans make another husband-and-wife team who find L.T. interesting and stimulating.

ROBERT JERKINS (Dr. Gibbs) is one of several men in the cast who are presently stationed at Camp Chaffee. Little Theatre feels fortunate to be able to present new faces and talents to its audience, and we hope in some measure to make these men feel "at home" in the community. Robert received his B.A. at O.U. He played the frustrated Hubert in NIGHT MUST FALL and participated in our SRO play-reading of ON BORROWED TIME.

Well known to Fort Smith audiences for her lovely singing voice, POLLY LOWREY (Mrs. Webb) has performed for us many of the multitudinous chores which are necessary to get a show onstage. Her previous acting stint was as Charlotte in our liting SKYLARK. The Lowreys love for dogs is proverbial—Polly will even trim your poodle!

Now with the hospital detachment at Chaffee, MERLIN HOWZE (George) hails from Louisiana. He plans eventually to teach English, plays the piano for recreation. Merlin has previously appeared in a college production of OUR TOWN. He also remembers I REMEMBER MAMA.

Three young people are currently appearing on our stage: REGINA BISHOP (Rebecca), JACQUE GALLAHER (Emily), and SCOTT STUART (Wally). Regina attends St. Boniface, Jacque goes to senior high, and Scott is at Darby junior high. It is a pleasure to present these youngsters who join the growing group of boys and girls who go on to other school and college productions and will someday, we hope, return to us. We know they have found a rewarding avocation or perhaps, here and there, a vocation!

JOHN CRUMP (Professor Willard) teaches T.I.E. at Chaffee. (If you don't know, ask him!) He's a Texan from an army family, but broke tradition to major in English and Education at Baylor, where he did theatricals for fun. He came looking for a backstage job but we propelled him onstage in two roles. He also plays "Sam Craig."

ROBERT PATRICK (Simon) is an O.U. drama major who has completed two years toward his degree. Painting is his hobby, acting his intended profession. He has already established his reputation on the Oklahoma campus with performances in THE MAD WOMAN of CHAILLOT, ROMEO AND JULIET, NIGHT MUST FALL, and ANTI-GONE.

JERRY GRIFFITH (Mr. Webb) was content to begin, for us, in a minor role as the butler in HOLIDAY. But immediately thereafter he zoomed to fame with an unforgettable performance as the psychopathic Dan in NIGHT MUST FALL. He was so convincing we worried a bit that he was planning to marry a sweet young thing. But he carried it off, got back to normal, carried her off, and brought her back to act with him in this play. NANCY GRIFFITH plays Mrs. Soames. After six more months in the army, the Griffiths will return to Illinois where Jerry plans to teach speech therapy.