

FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE



SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

May 19, 2018

www.fslt.org

Dates: Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *The Fox On The Fairway* will be May 31. Regular performances will be June 1-2 and 6-9. A Sunday Matinee will be offered on June 3.

Times: All evening performances begin at **7:30 p.m.** Patrons may be seated after 6:45 p.m. The matinee begins at **2:00 p.m.** Patrons may be seated after 1:15 p.m.

New Box Office Hours: The box office will be staffed, and tickets can be picked up, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and on Saturdays during the run of the show. Additionally, box office volunteers will return phone calls regarding reservation requests during variable daytime and evening hours Monday-Saturday.

Reservations: Reservations can be made by calling 479-783-2966 (extn: 2). 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 May 19-23 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 May 24.

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

The Fox on the Fairway

"To find a man's true character, play golf with him." — P.G. Wodehouse

Golf and sex are the ingredients in *The Fox On The Fairway*, an homage to the classic farces of the 1920s and 30s. The six-character comedy by Ken Ludwig is onstage at FSLT May 31 through June 9. Director Duff Taylor has an affinity for Ludwig's work; he previously directed successful productions of *Leading Ladies* and *The Game's Afoot: Holmes for the Holidays* at FSLT.

It's tournament weekend and Bingham (Christian Meurer) the owner of Quail Valley Country Club has bet everything on winning against constant rival Dickie Bell (John Hall) the owner of Crouching Squirrel Country Club. When his ringer competitor falls through, Bingham relies on goofy new hire Justin (Ian Miller) who has an unexpected gift for the game of golf, to compete in his place. Competition is complicated by Pamela (Nicole Bostick) Bingham's sexy vice president, Louise (Carol Sikes) the tap room waitress and Justin's devoted fiancée, and Muriel (MaryBeth McAlvain) Bingham's demanding wife. Will Justin save the day? Will Louise find the engagement ring she accidentally flushed? Will Dickie recognize his old flame Muriel? Will Muriel catch Bingham lusting over Pamela? And who will win the annual tournament?

See *The Fox On The Fairway* on page 3



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Director's Letter

Dear Theatre Patrons,

Thank you for coming to see the third show of our 71st season. I have been a part of this group since its 38th season, and I believe we are stronger than ever before because of you. Our actors enjoy the sold out performances and appreciative audiences.

Thank you also to the Board of Directors who have created a fiscally strong organization that allows us to present any show we want. Across the state, theatres are struggling to stay open while we remain secure and healthy. This is my third Ken Ludwig show, and I believe you will enjoy it more than any other I have directed.

Thank you to the volunteers who have put this show together. Most of us will have worked for three hours a night for six weeks to make the magic happen.

Sincerely yours,
- Duff Taylor, *Director*



New HVAC Installed



Join us in giving a huge round of applause to **RHEEM AIR CONDITIONING – FORT SMITH DIVISION** for providing new HVAC for our auditorium. Their generosity allowed us to have new, energy efficient equipment and to schedule installation between productions, thereby avoiding the risk of aging equipment failure during a show. Bravo to **RHEEM** and to **Sherry Sims** for facilitating this wonderful donation.

Thanks also to **HOLMES ERECTION** for generously donating crane service required for this installation – and to **JOHN SYMONDS of HSA ENGINEERING** for donating his advice and time regarding this project.

FSLT is grateful to all these businesses who have been long and strong supporters of our community theatre.

The Fox On The Fairway opens May 31

The talented cast is supported by a first rate crew. Director Duff Taylor is joined by producer Karen Mills, and stage manager Kiame Anderson. Set construction crew includes Jim Moody, Brian Lindon, and Carrie Clark, while props are handled by Jim Moody, Thomas Iverson, and Lora Rice. Rham Cunningham and Chuck Howard handle the sound effects, while Jennie Mathews, Jeremy Marston, and Mike Tickler run the lights. Hannah Curlin provided the artwork for the production.

Director Duff Taylor says, "It is always such great fun to direct fast-paced comedies. The challenge is that I have to constantly remind the actors to start at a low pace and then build it up as the play progresses. I am thankful that the FSLT Board picks such great plays and keeps this community theatre going strong."

Nicole Bostick is happy to be back onstage at FSLT. "It's been five years since I was in a full production here last. But this one sounded like way too much fun to miss. And interestingly enough, I usually do murder mysteries – so this is a bit different for me. My biggest challenge is trying to keep a straight face through all the comic scenes. So, I sure hope that the audience gets to laugh a lot."



Ian Miller agrees. The frequent FSLT actor says, "I love comedies and golf, and what a great way to be onstage with a combination of both. But unlike the usual roles I've had, I play a dorky nervous guy in this one. So my only comment to the audience is 'FORE' ...!"

For FSLT volunteers there are joys to be had backstage as well as onstage. Producer Karen Mills says, "I am producing for the first time, but I have worked as backstage crew previously. I think if someone is interested in giving the community theatre experience a try, they should just show up at the next auditions and put their name down to audition or to help backstage."

Season ticket holders may begin making reservations Saturday, May 19. Reservations open to the general public on Thursday, May 24. To make a reservation call 479-783-2966 (extn:2). Tickets for the gala opening on May 31 are \$27; all other performances are \$12.

As actor John Hall says, "It's Ken Ludwig, what's not to love...?!"



TAKE NOTE: NEW BOX OFFICE HOURS!

Our Box Office will be staffed, and tickets may be picked up, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and on Saturdays during the run of the show. Phone calls to confirm your reservation requests will be returned by Box Office volunteers during variable hours Monday-Saturday. This important change will allow us to return your calls in a timely fashion while providing our FSLT volunteers the flexibility to assist with reservations while accommodating their employment schedule.

Special Thanks

We greatly appreciate **Plunkett Distributing** and **Felix Thompson Co.** for their recent donation of goods and services.

Applause For AT&T



Susan Hickam and Steve Dwiggins, FSLT Hospitality Chairmen, enjoy the new bar stools.

Thanks to a donation from AT&T, additional bar stools have been purchased for our lobby. The added seating will be much appreciated by our patrons, especially those attending Gala Opening Night performances.



Fastest Newsletter Delivery

You are strongly urged to receive our Spotlight newsletter by email (instead of "snail mail") to ensure easy, dependable, on-time delivery, while reducing our printing and mailing costs. To switch to email delivery, please email fsltseasontickets@gmail.com or call 479-783-2966 (extn: 4).

No-Shows are a No-No

All reservations are held until 15 minutes before curtain time, when they may be made available for walk-ins; but, advance notice of a cancellation makes it far more likely that a seat can be filled. If you have a reservation, please call and leave a message if you will be unable to attend. "No shows" are costly; please do your part to keep our seats full.

Fort Smith Little Theatre
SPOTLIGHT

P.O. Box 3752, Fort Smith, AR 72913
www.fslt.org

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From the Top...

Several members of the cast and crew of *Calendar Girls* were new to FSLT. They very quickly bonded with everyone. I guess our camaraderie showed, because many patrons said to me, "It looked like you were having such fun." Indeed we were. Why? Because we had a common goal.

That "all for one" theme was part of the true story of *Calendar Girls*. Those women bonded together to do something daring in honor of someone they loved. Never would they, under normal circumstances, have removed their clothes in public. But they supported one another, and that helped them face their fears.

When we are grabbing fast food before rehearsal every night, it's easy to forget what a great opportunity FSLT provides for that same type of "common goal" experience. It's very rewarding to work together to create something good. *Calendar Girls* reminded us of that.

It also was a reminder that we have kind audiences who will give us some leeway. Our patrons were willing to accept the "illusion" of nudity in order to receive the well-written message being delivered on stage. A chance to be a part of something good, and audiences who appreciate the effort – we have a lot to be grateful for.

Meanwhile, our Production committee is reviewing directors' applications and reading lots of scripts to assemble an exciting and well-balanced season for 2019. This process involves lots of hours and effort over many months. We look forward to their season announcement and thank them for their hard work. And next, here comes a fast-paced adventure, *The Fox On The Fairway*. See you at the theatre!

- Carole Rogers, *President*

Next Up

Auditions for this year's summer musical *My Fair Lady* by Lerner and Loewe, will be held at 7 p.m., Monday, May 21 and Tuesday, May 22 at Goddard United Methodist Church, 1922 Dodson Avenue. The Director will be Valerie Valentine; Musical Director will be George Mann. The cast includes principal roles for 7 males and 6 females between the ages of 20 and 60+, plus a singing/dancing ensemble. Bring sheet music or accompaniment track you wish to sing, or sing A Cappella on Monday, May 21. Be prepared for a dance audition and cold readings from the script on Tuesday, May 22. Callbacks may be scheduled at a later date. Production dates are July 19-August 4.

Season Ticket holders are urged to call before May 24 for reservations.