



# SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

July 7, 2018

www.fslt.org

**Dates:** Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *My Fair Lady* will be July 19. Regular evening performances will be July 20-21, 25-28, and August 2-4. Matinees will be offered on TWO SUNDAYS, July 22 and July 29.

**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.

**New Box Office Hours:** The box office will be staffed, and tickets can be picked up, from 5:30 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 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 \$30 / All other shows \$15.

**Season Ticket Holders:** Regular season ticket patrons are encouraged to call July 7-11 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 July 12.

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

## *My Fair Lady*

Classic Lerner and Lowe Musical  
Slated for Summer Run at FSLT

*"The difference between a lady and a flower girl is not how she behaves, but how she is treated."*— Eliza Doolittle, *"My Fair Lady"*

Prepare to be thoroughly entertained by the classic musical *My Fair Lady*, which opens July 19 at the Fort Smith Little Theatre. The show features direction by Valerie Valentine and music direction by George Mann. The performances will feature familiar songs like 'I Could Have Danced All Night,' 'On the Street Where You Live,' and 'Get Me to the Church On Time.'

Based on the George Bernard Shaw play *Pygmalion*, *My Fair Lady* opened on Broadway in 1956 featuring Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews. The 1964 film adaptation starred Harrison and Audrey Hepburn. The film went on to win multiple Academy Awards including Best Picture, Best Actor (Harrison) and Best Director (George Cukor). A successful revival of the musical is currently playing on Broadway.

Eliza Doolittle (Sarah Curlin) is a Cockney flower girl whose lower class speech is of academic interest to Professor Henry Higgins (Benjamin Baldwin), a scholar of phonetics; and to Colonel Pickering (Eric Krigbaum), a linguist. Then Higgins boasts to Pickering that he can turn Eliza into a lady by teaching her to speak properly. The show details Eliza's hard fought journey to become

*See My Fair Lady on page 3*



## Applause for Our Show Sponsor



**Sparks**  
Health System

We are pleased to recognize **Sparks Health System** as the sponsor for our upcoming summer musical. 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. Seventy-one years later, we applaud Sparks Health System’s civic spirit and their continued support of our community theatre. Our community benefits from the quality healthcare they provide and their generous donations to non-profit groups like ours.



## Director’s Letter

I am beyond thrilled that the FSLT Board has given me the opportunity to direct *My Fair Lady*! This is a show I have loved since I was a child. It holds a special place in my heart. My mom introduced me to musicals when I was young, and *My Fair Lady* has always been a family favorite!

I am so excited about the show we are putting together for our FSLT patrons. There is so much amazing talent in and around Fort Smith, not only onstage but in our crew as well! This is going to be a beautiful show for all ages, and I cannot wait for you to see it!

- Valerie Valentine, *Director*

## Musical Director’s Letter

When Sheila and I were in London, we had tickets to the Disney musical *Aladdin*; we suspected it would be extraordinary, and our assumption was right.

However, secretly, I had another agenda in mind; *Aladdin* was playing at the Theater Royal Drury Lane - the theater where Julie Andrews and Rex Harrison starred in the London premier of *My Fair Lady*. Anyone who is remotely acquainted with me knows that Julie Andrews has existed in my mind as ‘The Queen of All Things’ since I first saw *The Sound of Music* in sixth grade. Add to this the fact that these melodies have been tightly woven into the culture of Broadway music for 60 years, and I had no choice but to succumb when Lerner and Lowe’s grandest opus was suggested for this season at FSLT.

We have been able to assemble a splendid cast - one whose talents are more than a match for the score. So, it will be our extreme delight to bring new life to these beloved melodies, which continue to gather new generations of fans every where.

- George Mann, *Musical Director*

## FSLT Celebrates the Fort Smith Bicentennial with *Belle Star By Herself*



Don’t miss seeing FSLT veteran Cindy Clark as she performs a one-woman show about the life of Bandit Queen, Belle Starr, August 9 through 11. Jim Moody directs this off-season performance from a script written by long-time FSLT performer, writer and director, Ray Coleman. The show depicts Starr telling her own story the day before her death. The performances are an official Fort Smith Bicentennial event.

Myra Maybelle Shirley Reed Starr (Belle Starr), was an infamous outlaw who associated with the James

Younger Gang and other outlaws. Belle became a bootlegger, fence, and horse thief in Indian Territory. Deputy U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves was about to arrest Belle and her husband Sam Starr for horse theft in 1883, when she turned herself in. Belle stood trial before ‘Hanging Judge’ Isaac C. Parker in Fort Smith; noted Fort Smith attorney W. H. H. Clayton prosecuted the case. A jury found Belle guilty and she served nine months in prison in Detroit. Belle died at age 40 of a gunshot wound; her murder has never been solved. The question is – was she a cruel criminal as the media depicted, or a self-determined woman who made less than respectable choices to survive?

Performances are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday August 9-11 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door. No reservations accepted. Doors open 6:45 p.m. This is an off-season production; season tickets are not accepted.

# *My Fair Lady* opens July 19

a lady through Higgins' bullying and Pickering's encouragement.

The plot is complicated by Eliza's earnest suitor, Freddy Eynsford-Hill (Eric Wells); Eliza's cheerful reprobate father, Alfred P. Doolittle (Bradley Kidder, Jr.); and Higgins' long-suffering housekeeper, Mrs. Pearce (Jordan Garton). Other featured actors include Steve Dwiggins as Harry, Jim Curlin as Jamie, Angela Covey as Mrs. Higgins, Carol Curlin as Mrs. Eynsford-Hill, Barry Law as Professor Zoltan Karpathy, Thomas Iverson as Bartender, Charles Warren as Lord Boxington, and Missy Warren as Lady Boxington.

No classic musical is complete without a large chorus. Members of the male chorus are John Hall, Jeremy Marston, Coleman Smith, Jon Harvey, Jon Gustafson, and Joe Graham. Female chorus members are Marie Gray, Erin Wynne Boyd, Tarah Hanna, Rebekah Hoodenpyle, Jessica Weindel, Kim Kidder, Margie Barragan, and Lynne Gustafson.

Key crew members include producer, Lora Rice; costumer, Hannah Curlin; set designer, Jacob Price; stage manager, Cassie Mikel; and lighting designer, Rebekah Martin.

Valerie Valentine is directing for the third time at FSLT. She says, "I grew up watching this movie with my mom, so I was drawn to directing this show because of nostalgia. It has beautiful music and a story you can get lost in."

Playing Eliza Doolittle is a family affair for Sarah Curlin; her mother and father, Jim and Carol Curlin, are both performing in the show, while sister Hannah Curlin is the costume designer. "This show is a favorite of mine and my family's – so it's great that I get to be a part of this production

with several members of my family," Sarah says. "After having performed some fun roles on the FSLT stage (especially those by Jane Austen), I am now glad to have a chance at a role from an iconic musical like *My Fair Lady*."

Hannah Curlin agrees, "*My Fair Lady* is my favorite musical, and the beautiful wardrobe seen in the film is what inspired me to get into costuming. So, I jumped at the chance to be involved with this show."

Benjamin Baldwin is excited to play a dream role. "I've loved *My Fair Lady* since I was a kid, and Higgins has been a top-5 dream role for me. I love the humor of the character, and the fact that he is blind to his own shortcomings. In the end though, he realizes that he has let Eliza into his heart."

The music for such a well-known show can be challenging according to Eric Krigbaum who plays Colonel Pickering. "It's definitely worth the effort because it's so memorable and melodic," he says. "I hope that the audience will pay close attention to Eliza's journey. It reminds us all that it's not about where one comes from, but it's what we make of ourselves."

*My Fair Lady* opens with a gala performance at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 19. Additional evening performances are Friday and Saturday, July 20-21; Wednesday through Saturday, July 25-28; and Thursday through Saturday, August 2-4. There will be two Sunday matinees, July 22 and July 29. Tickets for the gala are \$30; all other performances are \$15. Reservations for season ticket holders will open Saturday, July 7; reservations for the general public begin Thursday, July 12. Call 479-783-2966 (extn: 2), for reservations.



## Special Thanks

FSLT appreciates the donation received from Robert and Madeline Marquette in memory of Fines Batchelor. We are also grateful for the set materials donated by Dr. Evan Young (Mercy Clinic Podiatry) and the document shredding provided by George Catsavis of Central Records.

## EXTRA PERFORMANCES

In anticipation of a large demand for tickets, 3 additional evening performances – Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (August 2, 3, and 4) – have been added to the full run of show dates for *My Fair Lady*. In addition, we will perform TWO Sunday Matinees, July 22 and 29. Call our Box Office to reserve your seat for these extra dates just as you would for any other performance. And be sure to thank this awesome cast and crew for performing this demanding, extended schedule!

## Checking in at FSLT

When you come to watch *My Fair Lady*, check in on social media to let your friends know where you are. Posting a selfie taken in our lobby, a picture of the set, or a snapshot with the actors after the show, etc. will help spread the word about our production.



Fort Smith Little Theatre  
**SPOTLIGHT**

P.O. Box 3752, Fort Smith, AR 72913

[www.fslt.org](http://www.fslt.org)

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## From the Top...

Maybe it's a symptom of my senior status, but I put great value on longevity. I am proud that FSLT has patrons who have regularly attended our shows for decades, volunteers who have served for 20, 30, and 40 years, and Annual Fund donors and businesses who have supported our theatre generously year after year.

In this very competitive market for non-profit fundraising, we are so pleased when businesses choose to be an FSLT show sponsor, buy a private dark night performance, or purchase a program ad. every season. This loyal group of supporters certainly includes *My Fair Lady* sponsor - Sparks Health System, whose relationship with FSLT goes back to 1947 when a Sparks Auxiliary fundraiser play became the impetus for our community theatre. Their generosity is appreciated, as is their longevity.

But FSLT is also excited to have new friends. For example, this season we are pleased to have Centennial Bank as a first-time show sponsor. We proudly follow the adage, "Make new friends but keep the old, for one is silver and the other is gold."

I encourage you to explore how you or your business can be a friend to FSLT. There are numerous ways to benefit your organization while helping FSLT provide affordable, quality entertainment. To learn about opportunities that range from \$100 to \$3,000, email [fsltfunding@gmail.com](mailto:fsltfunding@gmail.com).

In closing, I want to congratulate the cast and crew of *The Fox On The Fairway*. Their energy provided us with lots of laughs. And now, our summer musical, *My Fair Lady*, is about to open. You'll enjoy the beautifully costumed, talented cast, performing music that you'll hum for days. See you at the theatre!

- Carole Rogers, *President*

## Next Up

Auditions for *Night Of The Living Dead*, directed by Rikkee and Scott Black, will be held at 7 p.m. at the theatre on Monday, August 13 and Tuesday, August 14. Principal roles in the cast include 12 males and 5 females between the ages of 20 and 60+, plus 1 female child 8-12 years of age. The principal male role will be African American. The cast also calls for 10-20 non-speaking roles that are not age or gender specific. Production dates are September 20-29. For more information, go to [fslt.org](http://fslt.org).

**Season Ticket holders are urged to call before July 12 for reservations.**