



# SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

March 23, 2019

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

**Dates:** Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* will be Thursday, June 6. Regular performances will be June 7-8 and 12-15. A Sunday Matinee will be offered on June 9.

**Show 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.

**Season Flex Pass Seat Selection:** Seat selection begins 7:00 a.m. Saturday, May 25. Select seats online at [www.fslt.org](http://www.fslt.org) or call the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn: 2) to request seats on the phone. Flex Pass patrons may also purchase ONE additional ticket for every pass they have.

**General Public Tickets:** Tickets available beginning 7:00 a.m. Thursday, May 30. Purchase online at [www.fslt.org](http://www.fslt.org) or call the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn: 2) to purchase on the phone. Gala Opening Night tickets \$27 / All other performances \$12.

**Box Office Phone Calls:** Be prepared to leave a message with details about your seat/ticket request including a phone number where you can easily be reached. During variable hours, volunteers will return calls in the order they are received.

**Reminder: To reach the Box Office, select Extn: 2**

**NEW FOR 2019**

Online ticketing and seat selection now available at [www.fslt.org](http://www.fslt.org).

## Modern Drama up Next at Fort Smith Little Theatre

Three geese in a flock.  
One flew east, one flew west,  
One flew over the cuckoo's nest.

O-U-T spells OUT,  
Goose swoops down and plucks you out.

~ Children's Counting Rhyme

*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* opens at FSLT on June 6, with director Summer Robinson at the helm. The 1963 Broadway play by Dale Wasserman is based on the 1962 novel by Ken Kesey. The 1975 film starring Jack Nicholson and Louise Fletcher is one of the most honored American films and is considered a modern classic.

John Hall heads the cast as charming petty criminal Randle P. McMurphy, who feigns mental illness so that he can avoid a prison sentence. Once admitted to Nurse Ratched's (Cindy Clark) ward, McMurphy realizes his mistake. As he learns to trust and like his fellow patients, he leads them in a rebellion against the sadistic nurse.

The patients include the quiet Native American, Chief Bromden (Gerald Morris); the well-educated head of the patient's council, Dale Harding (Charles Belt); and young, childlike Billy Bibbit (Hunter Seegers). Additional patients include Joe Graham as Scanlon, John J. Bishop as Cheswick, Jon Gustafson as Martini, John McCawley as Ruckly, along with Ron Watson and Reece Lee as other patients in the ward.

Staff and visitors are Eric Krigbaum as Aide Warren, Tyler Huntington as Aide Williams, Margie Barragan as Nurse Flynn, Cliff Scott as Dr. Spivey, Austin Nguyen as Aide Turkle, Carry Johnson and Tori Storm Buie as nurses, Victoria Walden as Candy Starr, and Emilee Dale as Sandra.

See *Cuckoo's Nest* on page 3



## FSLT Going (Mostly) Digital

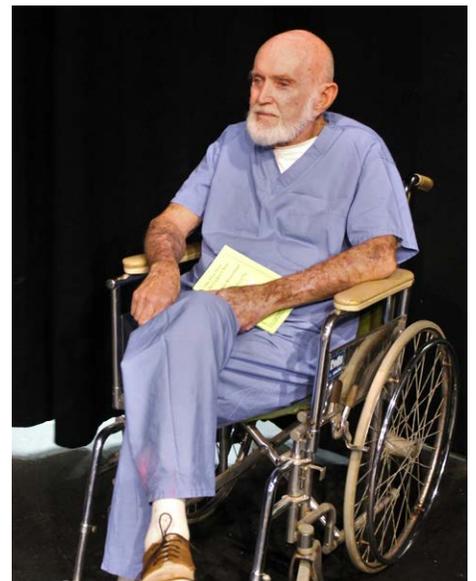
Over the next few months, FSLT will be moving gradually toward consolidation of our patron contact lists and increased digital distribution of our *Spotlight* newsletter. You may receive a communication from us to request or confirm your willingness to receive the *Spotlight* by email. Email delivery of our newsletter is recommended since postal service has become increasingly undependable. Migrating to digital distribution will reduce printing and mailing costs (and save some trees), and provide better service to our patrons. We will, of course, continue to send printed newsletters by postal mail if you wish, and we will provide you with instructions on how to notify us if that is your preference.



## Director's Letter

Dale Wasserman's adaptation of Ken Kesey's incredible novel *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* is an amazing story that you don't want to miss. Directing this show has been a dream, and I've been looking forward to submitting this show for a long time. This script deals with a lot of social issues, and even though it's set in the 50s, we see these same issues in our world every day. The struggle for power and acceptance are the biggest underlying themes in this story, and they are portrayed beautifully by my actors. The talent in this cast is phenomenal. All of the cast have been working so hard to become these complex characters. You can really tell how much this show means to each to them. I can't wait for the FSLT audiences' to see this well-known story come to life.

- Summer Robinson, *Director*



### Set Builders Needed.

Make new friends and use your handyman skills to build sets on weekdays or weekends. You don't need to be a master craftsman; just be able to use a saw, screwdriver, hammer or paintbrush. Work as little or as much as you want, and be part of something fun and creative. Learn more: 479-783-2966 (extn. 4) or [info@fslt.org](mailto:info@fslt.org).

# One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest opens June 6

A stellar crew supports this talented cast: Jennifer Roller - producer, Kelsey Flippo - stage manager, Jacob Price - assistant stage manager, Audra Sargent - props, Janet Renwick - costumes, Jeremy Marston - lighting, Jacob Hiatt - sound, T.J. Dudley - tech, Will Paget - set, Aaron Ray - graphics, with casting assistance from Carole Rogers, Eric Wells, and Landon Satterfield.

Robinson is excited to take on the challenge of this well known drama: "I love to direct complex shows - be it a comedy, a drama, or a non-traditional one. I'm really connected to directing characters who have experienced unique life situations and thereby are interesting and unique individuals with great stories to tell. The intimacy of FSLT will bring everyone watching right into the thick of things, and have them immersed with the happenings of this particular mental asylum as if they are also a part of the story. So, I'm excited for the audience to connect with these characters who are all so very different and funny in their own ways."

This particular show features a number of volunteers who are relatively new to FSLT. Audra Sargent says, "To think that I only started at FSLT about six months ago seems unreal. I have met so many people and have had a blast while making friends for life that I would definitely recommend being involved at FSLT as a great hobby for those looking for one. (Just come down during auditions and sign-up to either work backstage or to audition for a part.)" The versatile John Hall is ready for the challenge of playing McMurphy. He says, "It is rather challenging to portray a hyper extrovert when I myself am rather the

opposite. This show is very symbolic, and full of deep, pondering questions, while all at once being filled with a violent need for action. It is indeed very different from the norm for our audience. It's a deep drama and not a farce, so while there will be plenty of humor, this is not a show with a happy ending. The story makes us debate that just because a thing is a rule does not necessarily make it right, and such rules/laws should be examined to expose the potential harm they may cause."

Veteran FSLT performer Cindy Clark is enjoying working with a number of new volunteers. "It is very unusual for me to be a part of a production where I am working with just one other person (Ron Watson) who remembers being involved with FSLT from the old theatre days of North O Street."

Clark is enjoying playing the villain. "Working in the field of nursing, I am glad to have bagged this role, but it is rather a challenge to portray a character who is as evil as the wicked Nurse Ratched. However I could not miss out on this classic, and the chance to be a part of it." Charles Belt is enjoying his second outing on the FSLT stage. "I love the movie, and the character Dale is such an interesting and complex one. The story is more metaphorical than the usual ones played here at FSLT. I am so thankful that I get to be a part of this show that focuses on the human mind, and to portray this amazing character. I hope that I can honor the complexities of this character and do it justice."

Hunter Seegers is making his debut at FSLT with the character of Billy Bibbit.

"The fact that FSLT is such a small theatre is of benefit to this production because it enhances the camaraderie of the cast onstage. On the other hand, I find it quite challenging to get the right rhythm for the stutter that my character is supposed to have - more importantly, I want to make sure that it feels realistic and not overblown in a comic manner."

Cuckoo's Nest plays at 7:30 p.m. June 6-8 and 12-15. A Sunday matinee is scheduled for 2 p.m. on June 9. Tickets are \$27 for the opening night gala and \$12 for all other performances. Tickets for Season Flex pass patrons go on sale at 7 a.m. Saturday May 25. Tickets go on sale to the general public beginning 7 a.m. Thursday May 30. Go to [www.fslt.org](http://www.fslt.org) or call 479-783-2966 (extn: 2) for tickets.

## Seat Tickets Checked by Usher

You can bypass the Box Office when you arrive by showing your print-at-home ticket or your ticket confirmation on your smart phone to an usher. Alternately, go to the Box Office upon your arrival, pick up your seat ticket, then proceed to an usher at either aisle.

## Online Order Fees

Online orders will be subject to a modest processing fee of \$2.00 per order, regardless of the number of the tickets in the order. Order fees will be waived for Season Flex Pass patron transactions. To help us maintain our affordable ticket prices and fees, please consider making a donation to FSLT.

## Computers Courtesy of WACF

With a gift from the Western Arkansas Community Foundation (an affiliate of the Arkansas Community Foundation), FSLT was able to purchase the computer equipment needed for our new online ticketing system. We are very grateful for their generosity that helped make our system implementation both affordable and successful.



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...

FSLT is like a river that is constant in our lives, yet one filled with changes. The flow comes with its own ebb-&-tide as we see productions coming to life, taking the stage, closing the curtains, only for another one to go through the same process right after. So season after season, the running of this community theatre follows certain procedures, but updates and changes keep us evolving constantly (like the recent implementation of the Online Ticketing System).

I find it inspiring that individuals from this very community give off of their time and put in the effort to keep this organization running smoothly – be it the volunteers who put on a production like *The Graduate* (let's give them a round of applause for the stellar performances and efficient crew work); or the volunteers on the Board who work tirelessly to ensure that all concerns are addressed, be it from patrons or production folks; or even the greeters, ushers, hospitality people who welcome one and all with a warm smile; or the ones attending calls in the box office, whose patience will ensure that audiences get the best chance to watch a performance; the list goes on. It would be very difficult for me to name each one here and thank them personally – so I will thank everyone together from the bottom of my heart, and hold my head up in pride to be a part of this great group.

Above all the unwavering support from the community is our lifeline – from the patrons who call in with messages of encouragement and appreciation, to the local businesses and vendors who provide services and donations without much ado. Hand-in-hand, let us keep flowing forward like a great river of might. And get ready – *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* is gearing up to have you thinking deeply about issues of the mind!

- Deepu Thomas, *President*

## Next Up

Auditions for our next production, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, were held May 20 and 21. This much-loved musical will be performed July 25-August 10. The Director will be Carole Rogers with George Mann as the Musical Director. Don't miss this production!

Auditions for *Born Yesterday*, directed by Duff Taylor, will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday, August 12 and 13. The cast calls for 12 men and 4 women between the ages of 20-75. Production dates are September 19-28. For more information, visit our website [www.fslt.org](http://www.fslt.org), or find us on Facebook.

**Season Flex Pass patrons are urged to select seats before May 30.**