

FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE



# SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

July 13, 2019

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

**Dates:** Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* will be Thursday, June 25. Regular evening performances will be July 26-27, 31, August 1-3, and 8-10. Matinees will be offered on TWO SUNDAYS, July 28 and August 4.

**Show 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.

**Season Flex Pass Seat Selection:** Seat selection begins 7:00 a.m. Saturday, July 13. 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 are available beginning 7:00 a.m. Thursday, July 18. 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 \$35 / All other performances \$20.

**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).



*"For who could ever learn to love a beast?"*  
*-Prologue, Beauty and the Beast*

A tale as old as time will be told at FSLT with the summer musical *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* – celebrating the 25th anniversary of its Broadway debut. Playing July 25 through August 10, the show is based on a book by Linda Woolverton, with music by Alan Menken and lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice. Director Carole Rogers and Music Director George Mann share the helm of this production.

The musical is based on the classic Disney animated film from 1991 which featured Angela Lansbury as Mrs. Potts. The live action remake in 2017 featured Emma Watson, Dave Stevens, Ewan McGregor, and Emma Thompson.

Brainy, bookish, and beautiful Belle (Jessica Smith) lives in a provincial French town with her eccentric inventor father Maurice (Barry Law), but she yearns for adventure. She also longs to escape the advances of the macho and egotistical hunter Gaston (Grant Huneycutt). When Maurice is lost in the woods, he encounters the enchanted castle of a hideous Beast (Ryan Gonzales) who has been cursed by an enchantress (Sanielle Moquett). When Belle goes in search of her father, she encounters the Beast and his servants who have been transformed into enchanted objects.

While captive in the castle, Belle is aided by her enchanted friends: candelabra Lumiere (Eric Wells), clock Cogsworth (Justin Garton), teapot Mrs. Potts (Jordan Garton), teacup Chip (Cass Moquett), wardrobe Madame de la Grande Bouche (Shannon Stoddard), and feather duster Babette (Katjana Wiederkehr). Will Belle be able to save her father, escape her captor, and perhaps transform the Beast into her prince?

Additional cast members show their talent in multiple roles: Tyler Huntington, Coleman Smith, Lexi Gartman, Marie Gray, Meredith Rice, Steve Dwiggin, Ethan Womack, John Settle, Jon Gustafson, Jeremy Marston, Jane Wineland, Caroline Gonzales, Ashtyn Marshall, Trish McCully, Lynne Gustafson, and Cliff Scott.

*See Beauty and the Beast on page 3*



## Show Sponsor Applauded



We are pleased to recognize Baptist Health as the sponsor of our upcoming summer musical and welcome them to our community. Baptist Health is an Arkansas-based, locally owned and managed, not-for-profit, and faith-based health care organization. Baptist Health is also Arkansas' most comprehensive health care organization with more than 200 access points and approximately 11,000 employees operating 11 hospitals. By combining their mission of healing and providing faith-based healthcare with various BHealthy initiatives and programs, Baptist Health is serving our friends and neighbors in communities all over our state – both inside and outside the walls of their hospitals. Together, Baptist Health is building a healthier, happier Arkansas.



## Directors' Notes

As you watch this production, you will see extremely talented people with spectacular voices. They have been rehearsing since May, both in the music room and the theatre, to perfect their performances. They are center stage and quite visible for all to see.

I now ask you to look at the stage, the set pieces, props and costumes. All of those things have come together to create this "tale as old as time." Many of the folks who helped created this special world have been working for many months. You will not see them. They will not receive applause, bravos, or standing ovations. I urge you to look closely at their names listed in the program. I, for one, applaud loudly and cry BRAVO for the dedication of these talented, creative people.

These last few months have been extremely busy, time consuming, and, at times, stressful. I hope you agree that it has all been worth it. I wouldn't trade this experience for all the castles and beasts in Fairyland. I hope you enjoy our efforts.

**- Carole Rogers, Director**

It is an historical fact that in the run up weeks prior to every musical audition I have ever done for FSLT, I begin a low grade panic that no one will audition for the show, and that I will end up frantically calling and begging folks to participate. And every year, my fear is dispelled: the casts are so superb that patrons always leave a production asking "Where do you find these people!?"

My answer is always the same: "They live here, they are your community, and they love what they do!" The same is true this year. It is almost embarrassing, the way I have to employ superlatives for each show we do; I certainly don't want any of them to ring insincere. I do feel, however, that the deeply held love for this timeless tale, and the iconic music of Alan Menken and lyric partners Tim Rice and Linda Woolverton have caused a greater than normal interest, and a very substantial audition turnout. (That, plus the fact that Disney's rendering of this story has enjoyed three successful incarnations!) Therefore, I believe we have one of the most outstanding casts to date. Each and every performance is imbued with a love for a particular character and the story as a whole, and I believe that emotional investment will cause the show to take on a new, particular, and unique sheen.

After you and yours have been transported and been swept away by this "tale as old as time," I hope that you will agree.

**- George Mann, Music Director**



# Beauty and the Beast opens July 25

This complex production requires an experienced and able crew: Co-producers Nancy Blochberger and Vicki Broadway, stage managers Kelsey Flippo and Audra Sargent, choreographer Summer Robinson, costume designer Hannah Curlin, assistant costume designer Jeremy Marston, prop master Neal Goodwin, lighting designers Rebekah and Stephen Martin, light and sound operators Mike Tickler and Kirsten Broadway, video coordinator Ashtyn Marshall, wig stylist Randy Pace, and graphic designer Rhonda Rieder.

Costumes are a huge undertaking for this show. Helping bring designs by Curlin and Marston to life are wardrobe assistants Lynne Gustafson, Barbara Saviers, Rachel Clark, Sandra Williams, Margaret Clymer, Sherry Hester, Lora Rice, Vicki Anderson, and Nancy Blochberger.

Set design is by Mark Huneycutt, Carole Rogers, and Jeremy Marston. Set construction has been completed by Mark Huneycutt, Jeremy Marston, Bradley Nance, Joe Svetlecic, Taelyn and J.D. Novak, and Joann Peterson. The show's iconic magical and mechanical props are created by Donny Anderson, Jamie Broadway, and Jeremy Marston. Stage hands include Jim Moody, Cliff Scott, and Thomas Iverson.

Belle is played by FSLT veteran actress Jessica Smith who first appeared on our stage as Dorothy in *Wizard of Oz*. "Growing up, *Beauty and the Beast* was my favorite Disney movie. Now that I'm older, I realize how wonderful the story truly is. It shows us that beauty is not about outward appearances; it's about showing kindness to others. It is both a beautiful story with beautiful music."

Ryan Gonzales is making his debut with FSLT in the role of the Beast. "My wife, Caroline, and I are new to Fort Smith, and we are excited to be cast in this production where we can be part of a whole new family." Ryan spent a lot of time on stage in musicals, plays and operas with multiple companies in Oklahoma City, his previous home. He played the Beast in his college

production and looks forward to playing it on the intimate FSLT stage. "Being at such close proximity to the audience will allow my eyes and facial expressions to contribute to the performance in a way that could not have been read in my large college auditorium."

The youngest cast member is nine-year old Cass Moquette in the role of Chip. "Beauty and the Beast is one of my family's favorite cartoons. When my mom heard that the show would be at FSLT, she asked if I wanted to audition for Chip, and we decided to audition together. We were both really excited that we were both cast. This is my first time to be in a play of any kind."

Playing Mrs. Potts, Jordan Garton says "Learning how to maneuver the enclosed tea cart that Chip is in on our small stage has been interesting to say the least. Plus wearing a teapot costume means I only have one arm free for pushing the cart!" She will be on stage adjacent to her real-life husband, Justin, who portrays the walking, talking clock, Cogsworth. "I really enjoy being a comic relief character. I get no greater joy than hearing the audience laugh."

Curlin is relying on her experience and college theatrical training to create the show's array of costumes. She began almost a year ago by soliciting the help of Jeremy Marston, another creative FSLT volunteer. Over the many months, while the magical costumes were being designed, something else magical happened – and Hannah and Jeremy are now engaged to be married. Hannah commented, "Costuming this show is a massive undertaking and we could not have done it without the help of all of the wardrobe assistants. Their countless hours of sewing and painting helped bring these creations to life."

Mann concluded, "We have assembled a stellar cast to tell a wonderful story while performing beautiful music in elaborate costumes. We invite you to come suspend real life for a few hours, and leave happy."



## Seat Selection / Ticketing

For Season Flex Pass patrons, seat selection begins 7:00 a.m. Saturday, July 13. 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. For the general public, tickets will be available beginning 7:00 a.m. Thursday, July 18. 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.

## Seat Tickets Checked By Ushers

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.

## Memorial

We are grateful for the memorial received from Sandra Slater in memory of Wendy Quick, a beloved FSLT volunteer who gave her time and talents to FSLT for many years.

## Generosity Funds Videography

In the upcoming production of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, videography will be incorporated as a major element of the set design. This is a first for FSLT. We are excited to bring this technology to our stage, and grateful that Calvin Remy's generous memorial to his sister-in-law, Marcia Webb, made it possible. The engaging videography will certainly enhance this production, and it is a fitting tribute to Marcia and her love for musical theatre. Thank you, Calvin.

## Family Friendly Guidelines

While *Beauty and the Beast* is certainly a family friendly show, it is a live performance in a very small setting, not a movie theatre. Please keep that in mind when deciding whether your little ones are old enough to remain in their seats and enjoy the show.

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...

Last month has been a rough one for our community, with all the flooding and damage seen across the region. As we pull forward together and try to put the pieces back, one at a time, we can look forward to the beautiful music from ‘the tale as old as time’ performed by outstanding local talent to fill our hearts with hope.

Let me take a quick moment to congratulate Summer Robinson and her ‘boys in blue’ along with the rest of the cast and crew of *One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest*, for an enormously successful run with such large attendance. Not only did they make us think about the issues and stigma surrounding Mental Health, but they did so in a respectful manner while having us laugh and cry all in the span of a couple of hours.

The musical undertaking at FSLT this year with *Disney’s Beauty and the Beast* is singularly the most expensive production we have ever put on, as well as one of the most technically challenging ones. However, it couldn’t have been in better hands than that of Carole Rogers and George Mann. I am excited for this production to open – what with the kind of talent we have in our area, and an army of efficient backstage crew who literally have worked magic to bring us this wholesome show.

- Deepu Thomas, *President*

## Next Up

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 males ages 20-75+ and 4 females ages 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..

## Extra Performances

In anticipation of a large demand for tickets, 3 additional evening performances – Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (August 8, 9, and 10) – have been added to the full run of show dates for *Disney’s Beauty and the Beast*. In addition, we will perform TWO Sunday Matinees, July 28 and August 4. We appreciate this awesome cast and crew for performing this demanding, extended schedule!

**Season Flex Pass patrons are urged to select seats before July 18.**