

Fort Smith Little Theatre

# Spotlight

October 26, 2012

## Classic celebrates Christmas season in 'hard times'

**Dates:** Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *Little Women: Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy* will be Nov. 8. Regular performances will be Nov. 9, 10 and 14-17. The Sunday Matinee performance will be Nov. 11.

**Times:** All evening performances begin at 8 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 7:15 p.m. The matinee begins at 2:30 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 1:45 p.m.

**Box Office Hours:** The box office is open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and on Saturdays from 5 to 7 p.m. during the run of the show.

**Reservations:** Reservations can be made by calling (479) 783-2966. Calls will be returned in the order they are received. Reservations will be held until 15 minutes before the show. Gala Tickets \$25. All other shows \$10.

**Season Ticket Holders:** Regular season ticket patrons are encouraged to call October 27-31 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 Nov. 1.

**Reminder: When you call to make a reservation, Press #2**

In the late 1860s, a Boston editor urged Louisa May Alcott to write a fictional account of her life and her family. She took his advice and wrote *Little Women: Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy*, which was intended for girls, but also became popular with adults. Now, this literary work has been adapted by S. Asher as a stage play that celebrates the Christmas Season in "hard times." Director Micki Voelkel, well versed in the classics, chose this play as an early Merry Christmas from FSLT. It opens November 8th and runs through the 17th.

In the New England household are four girls: Meg-16 years (Victoria Jones) the most lady-like; Jo-15 years (Jamie Lambdin) energetic with desires to become an author; Beth-13 years (Allison Williams) shy and musical; and Amy-12 years (Francesca Rossi) artistic and self-focused. The girls' father, Mr. March (Scott Black), is a chaplain with the Union Forces. Meanwhile, the girls' wise mother, Marmee (Rikke Workman-Black), keeps the home fires burning,

See *Little Women* on page 3



# Director's Notes

## *Chapter book a rite of passage for director, gift for FSLT patrons*

*Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott was a rite of passage for me. I was seven. I remember my mother handing me a battered copy of the book and suggesting I try it. I had never read a book with chapters on my own before. And I remember sitting up far past my bedtime with a flashlight under the covers anxious to find out what happened. Later I remembered acting out the opening passage of the book with my friends, each of us eager to be Meg, Jo, Beth or Amy.

This production is full of talented young people just like those in *Little Women: Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy*. I was blown away by the talent at auditions, and I continue to be amazed at every rehearsal. Working with the young people and adults in this show is pure joy. This is our early Christmas present to the patrons at FSLT. Be sure to call early for your reservations – you won't want to miss this one.

—Micki Voelkel, Director



### Show Sponsors Applauded

We greatly appreciate **Cooper Clinic** and **Beall Barclay** who are co-sponsoring *Little Women*. By underwriting the cost of this production, their generosity helps us maintain affordable ticket prices. Both these locally owned companies have been long and strong supporters of FSLT. Whenever you have the chance, tell them “thanks” for the support that they provide to the performing arts.

### Annual Meeting Notice

The FSLT Annual Meeting will be held at the theatre on Tuesday, November 27 at 7 p.m. All Season ticket holders will be eligible to attend and vote at this meeting. Officers and Committee Chairs will give reports on the past year. Five members will be elected to three-year terms on the Board, and three members from the membership-at-large will be elected to one-year terms on the Nominating Committee.

### Don't Miss The Next Off-Season Show

FSLT will present *A Wacky Tacky Christmas*—a variety show directed by Shannon Stoddard on December 6, 7, and 8. No reserved seating. Curtain time 8 pm. Admission \$5 per person at the door.

The show will include singing, dancing, acting, and even some comedy by Fort Smith's own Improv

troupe, Naturally Improv-able.

Open auditions will be held Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 pm at FSLT. Everyone is welcome to audition whether you're a veteran of the stage, brand new, 99 years old or 5! Come with an “act” which you would like to perform for the show. We may decide to add it to *A Wacky Tacky Christmas* or put you into the show in another place.



### Our Renovation Has Begun

Wow—it's really happening. The first phase of our Back To The Future Renovation is underway. The lobby ceiling is being raised, new HVAC units are being installed, and framing is going up for expanded mezzanine storage. We hope you will pardon our progress for the next few shows as we renovate our lobby and public areas, make better use of space, create an improved box office area, and a place of prominence for the Harlequin Man. As part of this project, we will also digitally preserve photos and documents from our 65-year history.

To learn more, go to [fslt.org](http://fslt.org). We hope you'll consider joining the growing list of supporters helping to finance these repairs and improvements to our 25-year-old facility.

### Many Thanks

We appreciate the following businesses that have recently donated services to FSLT.

- Williams-Crawford & Assoc. – graphic design
- Clear Channel Outdoor – billboard advertising
- Office Depot – copy services
- First National Bank – season ticket promotion
- Southwest Times Record – season ticket promotion

### Show Sponsorships

#### — A Unique Opportunity

How about sponsoring a show at FSLT in 2013? Sponsorship provides great visibility for your company and valuable support for our theatre. To learn more about this unique marketing opportunity, call Nancy Blochberger at (479) 651-3339.



# Little Women take stage Nov. 8

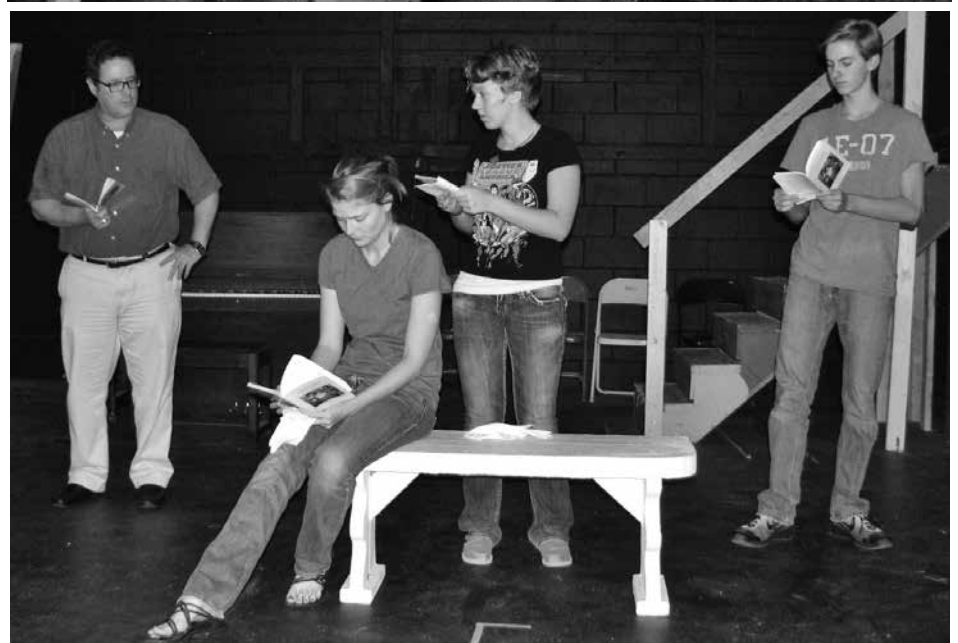
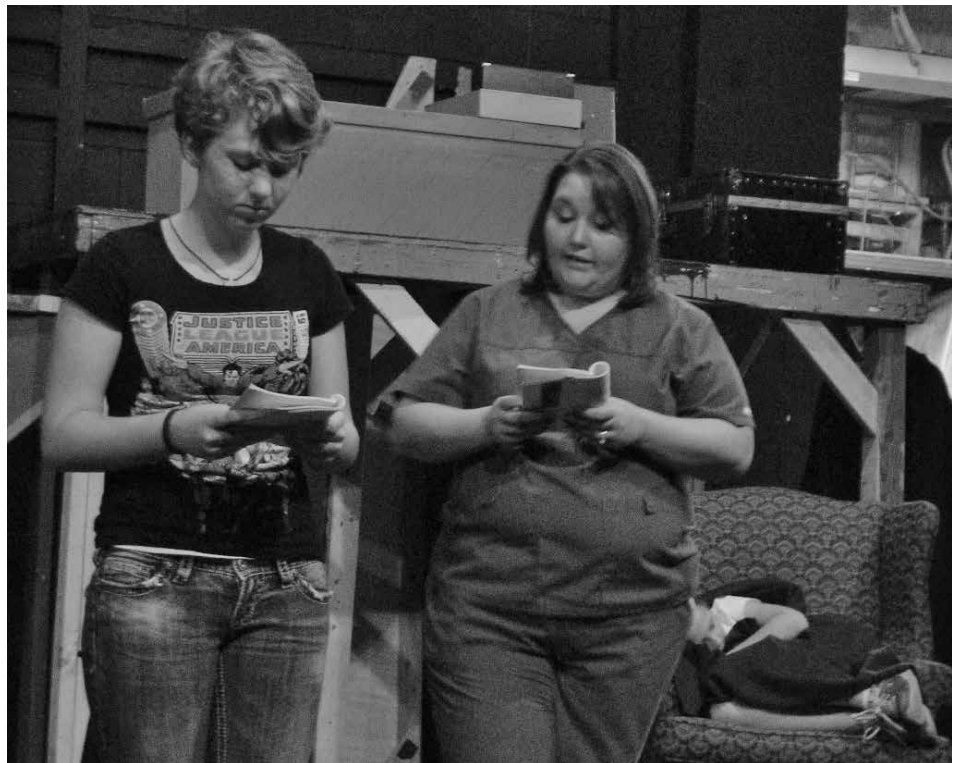
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caring for all with the aid of the housekeeper, Hannah Mullett (Maili Kessler). Tightfisted Great Aunt March (Kiane French) perpetually shares unsolicited advice and harsh criticism.

The March's next door neighbors are the financially well-off Laurence family. They are led by Grandfather Laurence (Duff Taylor) who guides his rebellious grandson, Laurie (Drew Smith), and employes a tutor, John Brooke (Stephen Martin) to teach him. Friends of the March girls are Sallie (Lachan Morlan), Annie (Logan Ledbetter), and Kitty (Sierra Smith). Laurie's guests from England are Fred (Cody Walls), Ned (Eric Wells), Frank (Freddy Ward), Kate (Ciara Flear), and Grace (Meghan Bailey). Other youthful actors are Kayla Menz, Emilee Dale, Montana Smith, Jessica DeWitt, and Austin Flear.

Such a talented cast must have an equally skilled crew. Director Voelkel has gathered a crew that has all their backs. Her assistant director is Summer Ferguson, and her co-producers are Carole Rogers and Angela Covey. Suzanne Thomas is the stage manager, and her assistants are Tammy Ferguson and Kameron Morton. Wendy Quick is costume mistress, while Carol Smith is prop mistress. The set is designed by Duff Taylor and constructed by Scott Black, along with Wesley Rester, Fred Ward, the Mathews clan, Deepu Thomas, and Joe Graham. Lighting design is by Rebekah Stoltz. Wesley Rester is the sound technician with Chuck Howard as his Board Operator. Graphic designer is Bobby Rogne. Other crew members are Darby Procter and Srivalli Konda. The on-stage talent couldn't ask for more.

*Little Women: Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy* will fill the FSLT house quickly, so make your reservation early. Box office will begin accepting reservations on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27<sup>th</sup> for Season Ticket holders, and on Thursday, November 1 for the general public. The number to call is still 479-783-2966 (press 2).



## Season 2013: entertainment to look forward to

FSLT Season 2013 tickets will be sold in the lobby before every performance of *Little Women*. They can also be purchased online at [fslt.org](http://fslt.org), or by mailing in your season brochure. Six great shows for one affordable price. Remember—Season Tickets make great Christmas gifts!

- February 14-23: *Hickory Dickory Dead*, a suspenseful, modern mystery
- April 4-13: *Steel Magnolias*, a celebration of Southern womanhood
- May 30-June 8: *Barefoot in the Park*, a comedy about young marrieds in the Big Apple
- July 18-27: *Emma*, a classic tale by Jane Austin
- September 5-14: *Twelve Angry Men*, drama and justice by the dozen
- November 14-23: *White Christmas*, song and dance men with music by Irving Berlin.

### Off Season Shows (not included with Season Ticket purchase)

- April 18-20: *Three One Acts*
- September 26-28: *Smell of the Kill*
- December 12-14: *It's a Wonderful Life / A Live Radio Play*

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# Spotlight

P.O. Box 3752 • Fort Smith, AR 72913

www.fslt.org

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From the Top...

## *Fort Smith Little Theatre —just like family to many*

Looking back on my term this year, all I can say is that it has gone by fast.

We started the season with a mystery. Did the butler do it? No, it was the maid. We followed up with a take-over in the business field where making money topped feelings and relationships. Early in the summer, we visited England where a “blackout” changed everything upside down and inside out. Then we boarded the infamous ship Titanic. Our stage was full of set and cast, but the rafters rang with music and song. In late summer, we met a group of ladies who decided to take their fate into their own hands and start to open themselves to other

options and larger horizons. We are now gearing up to watch Louisa M. Alcott’s beloved *Little Women* take shape. Last week, I watched a group of talented young people vie for the roles that were available, and I assure you that those chosen will do an outstanding job.

Besides putting on plays, our stock-in-trade, we had other events take place. Wedding vows were exchanged on our stage as two of our members pledged their lives together. We sadly lost two of our group, one a talented actor, the other a behind-the-scenes man. We had our ups and downs just like a family, and that is

### Next Up

Auditions for the first FSLT production in 2013, *Hickory Dickory Dead* by Craig Sodaro, directed by Rikkee Workman-Black, will be held at the theatre January 7 & 8 at 7 p.m. The cast call is for 5 females and 3 males, ages between 20 to 50 years. Production dates are Feb. 14-23.

what FSLT is to so many of us—an extension of our family. In my mind it’s what sustains us and helps us flourish and grow.

—Angela Covey, President

**Season Ticket holders are urged to call before Nov. 1 for reservations.**