

Fort Smith Little Theatre

Spotlight

August 31, 2012

Southern Belle Comedy, high on laughter scale

Dates: Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *The Hallelujah Girls* will be Sept. 13. Regular performances will be Sept. 14, 15 and 19-22. The Sunday Matinee performance will be Sept. 16.

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 within 24 hours. 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 September 1-5 for preferred seating. They can also reserve a General Admission seat for every Season Ticket they have. Reservations for General Admission will open Thursday, September 6.

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

FSLT patrons will find fun at our next production, *The Hallelujah Girls*, written by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten. This Southern Belle comedy will be directed by Angela Covey who has directed two of this trio's works twice before. They both rated a 9+ on the laughter scale and this might top them. Opening September 13, it runs through September 22.

Five middle-aged ladies who are long term friends residing in small

town, Eden Falls, Georgia, have just left a dear friend's funeral. They are wondering if this is as good as life gets and, if they want to change things, is now the time to start? Up on the starting blocks is the leader of the group, Sugar Lee (Debbie Carney), and she has a plan. She has brought her group to an abandoned church she bought with borrowed money. She plans to convert it into Spa-De-Dah, a

See Hallelujah on page 3



Notes on a Notable Director

Hallelujah Girl for All Seasons

FSLT President/Director Angela Jane Hudson Covey is much admired by those who have worked with her on stage and back stage. Audiences have found pleasure in her thespian skills. She has been honing them since age six and has never stopped. English by birth, she has been a performing artist since kindergarten. Over many years she has sought training in elocution, make-up, breathing exercise, mime, improv, stage movement, production and how to take a well-deserved bow. Before she came our way, she studied for two and a half years at the London Academy of Dramatic Arts and had been accepted into the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, but then she met Billy Charles Covey from Watson, Arkansas and that knot has stayed tied for over 55 years. She has been on stage in Saudi Arabia,

Little Rock and at FSLT. Her first performance here was in *A Man For All Seasons* in 1975. She is a multi-tasking wife, a mother, a grandmother and a great grand-

mother, an actress, a director, a producer and costumer. Her singing might be a little flat, but you ought to see her tap dance. She is a stepping out Hallelujah Girl for sure.

And now a word from our show sponsor

*"Mercy Fort Smith is pleased to partner with the Fort Smith Little Theatre for this wonderful production of *The Hallelujah Girls*. FSLT is one of the Quality of Life and Place jewels of our community. Mercy is proud to support the art and craft of theater that is so well represented by all who help bring these entertaining performances to life for all of us to enjoy. Long live THEATRE and long live FSLT!"*

Mercy



Outrageous Adventures at FSLT in September

Mark your calendar and join us for *The Outrageous Adventures of Sheldon and Mrs. Levine* by Sam Bobrick and Julie Stein, directed by Rikkee Workman. This off-season production is the tale of two interesting characters, a controlling mother and her insecure son, who miscommunicate through letters over the years. Goodbye Oedipus, hello "shrink." Enjoy funny, unique characters and sparkling dialogue. Performance dates are September 27, 28 and 29. Admission is \$5.00. Curtain time is 8 p.m. No reserved seating. No reservations are necessary and season tickets will not be accepted.

A Sneak Peek at FSLT 2013

Our Production Committee has done a bang-up job assembling Season 2013. Season Tickets will go on sale in November.

Regular Season

- *Hickory Dickory Dead* by Craig Sodaro. A modern day mystery.
- *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling. A celebration of the strength and courage of Southern womanhood.
- *Barefoot in the Park* by Neil Simon. Comedy about newlyweds surviving in NYC.
- *Emma* adapted by Michael Bloom from a Jane Austin novel. A 19th century comedy about marriages not made in heaven.

- *Twelve Angry Men* by Reginald Rose. A rush to judgment is not good judgment.
- *White Christmas* by David Ives. Music by Irving Berlin. Two former WWII vets, now song and dance men, join up with two sister singers to save their former general's Vermont inn.

Off Season

- Three One Acts: *A Time for Farewells* by Damian Trasler, *Stacks of Wax* by Shirley Ullon, and *Riders to the Sea* by John Millington Synge.
- *Smell of the Kill* by Michael Lowe. A dark modern comedy.
- *It's a Wonderful Life/Radio Play*. Adapted by Joe Landry from the movie.

The Hallelujah Girls opens at FSLT September 13

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haven for her pals, and to make a little money as well. Her friends follow her lead, but they each have challenges. Carlene (Lawanda Jones) has given up on romance after burying three husbands. Nita (Lora Rice) has a lazy, lawless, adult son, and his probation officer to deal with. Mavis's (Carole Rogers) long time marriage has flat-lined, and Crystal (Michelle Niewald) is too vocal and too carefree, and changes her costume every holiday. Spicing things up for the ladies are Bobby Dwayne (Richard Van Wagoner), an old high school ex-boy friend, and Porter Padgett (Joe Graham)

who is still a mama's boy. The roses start losing petals when Bunny Sutherland (Tanya Hall), Sugar Lee's lifetime nemeses and self-defined social leader, tries to steal their thunder and snatch Spa-De-Dah to build a monument to herself. A battle ensues. Who brings home the victory flag?

Director Covey and co-producers, Cecilia Woods-McDonald and Charlie Dye, have a cohesive and reliable crew. Stage manager is Suzanne Thomas. Costumers are Kaye Birkhead, Clara Jane Rubarth, Janet LaForce, and Kiane French. Prop mistresses are Martha Gooden, Tammy Simons, Rhonda

Fawcett, Rachel Gibson and Patti Smith. Set construction is in the hands of Billy Rogers, Ronald Rouse, Thomas Iverson and Joe Graham. Light technicians are Rebekah Stoltz and Mike Tickler.

FSLT Box Office will begin taking reservations Saturday, September 1 for season ticket holders, and Thursday, September 6 for general admissions. The number to call is still (479) 783-2966. Don't tarry in making a reservation. The house will fill up quickly to see if *The Hallelujah Girls* are soft marshmallow outside and tough broads inside, or the other way around. L.O.L.

Pardon Our Progress

As you are probably aware, plans have been developed by **MAHG Architects** to renovate our lobby and public areas to provide better utilization of space, more storage, an improved box office area, and a special place of prominence for our stained glass Harlequin Man, the symbol of FSLT. As part of this project, we will also digitally preserve photos and documents from our 65-year history.

Pending approval of our building permit, the first phase of construction will begin very soon. We will be "under construction" for the next several shows, so please pardon our progress. The work will be scheduled in stages to accommodate our performances and the availability of funding. With your financial support, the work can be accelerated and completed more quickly.

If you have not already done so, we hope you will consider contributing to this important project. At www.fslt.org, you can learn more, view a complete donor



list, print a donation form, and/or make your gift online. Handouts are also available in our lobby. We appreciate those listed below who have recently joined the growing list of supporters helping to finance repairs and improvements to our 25-year-old facility.

AT&T

Propak Logistics, Inc.

Patricia Shaw

Benny and Martha Gooden

George and Carole Beattie

Make An Offer. Support FSLT.

The following items will not be used after our lobby area is remodeled. For more information on these and other items that will be available, please contact Nancy Blochberger at 651-3339, nblochberger@sbcglobal.net.

- 2 church pews (currently used for lobby seating)
- black laminate freestanding bar
- white toilet partitions
- wall mounted, glass front, menu board
- wood laminate folding accordion doors
- building materials such as doors and light fixtures, sinks, etc.

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P.O. Box 3752 • Fort Smith, AR 72913

www.fslt.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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From the Top...

FSLT Back to the Future

We are now in rehearsal for a great comedy and we are also getting ready for the first stage of our renovation. Having seen paint colors and tile, etc., I'm sure our patrons will be very happy with the results. It is especially exciting to me. I started my relationship with FSLT in 1975 at 3800 North "O" Street, a renovated grocery store. Later in 1986 we moved to our present location but even then we were on a tight budget and all that had originally been planned could not be completed. For some years we had our new theatre but there were no frills attached to it. For



example, 2x4s were our auditorium railings and our sign was a very simple one. Now we have beautiful iron railings with masks representing Comedy and Drama. We were able to add on to our shop and create more storage for props, set

pieces, etc, but this time our patrons will benefit by what is taking place. Our renovation is really bringing us Back To The Future.

Thank you all for helping make our dream become a reality.

—Angela Covey, President

Next Up

Auditions for the next FSLT production, *Little Women: Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy*, directed by Micki Voelkel, will be held at the theatre October 1 and 2 at 7 p.m. The cast calls for 12 females ages 12 to 70 years and 7 males ages 13 to 70 years of age. Production dates are November 8-17.

Season Ticket holders are urged to call before Sept. 6 for reservations.