

Fort Smith Little Theatre

Spotlight

August 24, 2013

Dates: Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *12 Angry Men* will be Sept. 5. Regular performances will be Sept. 6, 7, and 11-14. The Sunday Matinee performance will be Sept. 8.

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 August 24-28 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 August 29.

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

12 Angry Men, serious entertainment

People are, if anything, more touchy about being silly than they are about being unjust.

—E. B. White

On the FSLT Menu for 2013, our patrons have received one mystery, two light-hearted modern comedies, and one period Victorian Romance. Next up is one of real drama, *12 Angry Men* by Reginald Rose. It will open Sept. 5 and run through Sept. 14. The story was filmed as a movie starring Henry Fonda in 1957 and is viewed as a powerful classic.

Director Amanda Elkins-Hiatt chose

to change our pace, unafraid of an all male cast of 14. The action takes place in New York City on a hot and sweaty August day in the mid-1950s. A/C was still a baby in a cradle.

When the lights go up, the audience will hear the off-stage voice of the judge (Judge Jim Spears). He will be instructing the jury of the legal aspects of the charge of murder in the first degree. The guard (Chuck Howard) will usher into the sparse jury room the 12 men who are not named, only num-

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Show Sponsor Applauded

We would like to recognize Sykes Enterprises as our show sponsor for *12 Angry Men*. By underwriting the cost of this production, their generosity helps us maintain affordable ticket prices. A customer-support services company with headquarters in Tampa, Sykes is a premier employer in the Greater Fort Smith Region and makes a significant impact in this area as a patron of the arts. FSLT is indeed proud to have Sykes as our community partner.

Memorial Donation Received

We gratefully acknowledge a donation given by Ruth Brewer in memory of Betty Klusmeier.

First National Bank Partnership Strong

The largest corporate financial gift to our Back To The Future renovation was donated by First National Bank of Fort Smith. Their generosity financed a box-office makeover as part of our lobby remodeling project. Our hard-working volunteers are now enjoying the expanded box office window, electrical upgrades, custom cabinetry, and broad work surfaces. It was certainly fitting that the FNB gift was used to improve the business center of our theatre, since they have been our business and banking partner for many decades. Our history archiving revealed that as early as 1950, FNB support was recognized in our show programs. Thank you, First National, for your generous patronage, both then and now.

Completion Is Oh So Close

The painters are touching up, and we

Director's Notes...

12 Angry Men meant for now

Why direct *12 Angry Men*? For several reasons—the first being my attraction to the social commentary of this story. It was written in the 1950s, but the themes continue to ring true for today. Can we as individuals put aside personal prejudices and/or selfish desires to consider the value of another human being? When I watch this story, I always wonder which juror I would be. For me, good theatre should cause some personal introspection, and in small ways, I can identify with each one. Thus my second reason—I wanted the challenge of creating this play to impact the audience, actors, and myself.

When I first submitted this for the 2012 season, it was not chosen. The concern was for the need of 12 men.

Would enough audition? There was never a doubt in my mind. I resubmitted for 2013 with the reassurance that plenty of men and talent would show. Auditions were a challenge. With an exceptional turn out, and plenty of new faces, I struggled to find the right mixture. This casted concoction of 12 men couldn't be more ideal. These men work hard; they let me push them, and are uniquely creating each of these jurors. It is my privilege to work with each of them. The biggest challenge we face is finding the softer, more humorous moments amidst volatile anger.

Talent abounds from cast to crew, and in hindsight, I'm glad it wasn't slated for the 2012 season. This show was meant for now.

—Amanda Elkins-Hiatt, Director



are counting down. Our Back To The Future renovation is almost complete. Soon our dramatic wall art will be mounted, and the Harlequin Man will be standing in his new center window home. There are still some finishing touches we'd like to add, so if you haven't already done so, please consider donating to this project. You can learn more, and even donate online, at fslt.org. And please say thanks to all those who have offered their financial support, or donated goods and services. Our donors are listed in our show programs and on our website. We will all benefit from their generosity, for many years to come.

Clean Your Garage Preserve Our Past

In addition to our building renovation, another renovation is taking

place online. For the past year, we have been working hard to preserve our history by scanning all cast photos and show programs, and archiving our history that began in 1947. Our goal is to make all cast photos and programs available for your viewing pleasure on our website.

So, what can you do to help? Go to fslt.org to see a detailed list of "what's missing." If you have any of these missing items, please let us know. We will not only come to you and pick them up, but we also promise to return them to you safely after they are scanned.

So, if you've been on our stage, and have some mementos stashed away, now's the time to clean your garage. If you uncover any of the treasures we are missing, please email to fslthistory@gmail.com.

12 Angry Men opens at FSLT Sept. 5

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bered. Number 1 (Joe Graham) the foreman; No. 2 (Eric Wells); No. 3 (Anthony Yates); No. 4 (Nathan Stockemer); No. 5 (Joseph Reed); No. 6 (Steve Dwiggins); No. 7 (Mike Papacoda); No. 8 (Wayne Mathews); No. 9 (Richard Suits); No. 10 (Brad Kidder, Jr.); No. 11 (Joseph Velasquez); No. 12 (Brandon Bolin). While they do not know each other, they know they each have a civic duty to perform. The history of each juror will influence the way he votes. Their deliberation will determine the guilt or innocence of a defendant on the basis of reasonable doubt.

Director Amanda Elkins-Hiatt has gathered a crew full of theater

moxie. Suzanne Thomas and Sherry Hester are Co-Producers. Sherry Hester is the Stage Manager, Shanna Davis is the Prop Mistress, Kaye Birkhead, Costume Mistress and Jennie Mathews, the Lighting Designer. Zack Hiatt serves as Set Designer, and Aaron Ray as the Graphic Designer.

Don't tarry in making your reservation. Every theatregoer will identify with the *12 Angry Men*. How will they vote? Act two will reveal the verdict amidst great action. You don't have to decide a murder charge; you only have call 479-783-2966 to save your seat.

NOTE: This drama contains some rough, adult language, and the use of a knife on stage.

Off Season Show Up Next

The Smell of the Kill by Michele Lowe will begin at 8 p.m., Sept. 26, 27 and 28.

In this quirky, devilishly dark comedy, three couples meet for their monthly dinner party. While the women are cleaning in the kitchen, the unseen men are in another room. The women gradually reveal that the three marriages are on the rocks, and all three women are facing extreme difficulties. When the men accidentally lock themselves into a basement meat locker, the women realize a solution to their problems has just presented itself. Will they let the men out? Baby, it's cold inside.

The cast features Nicole Bostick, Rebekah Stoltz, Theresa Starr, Wayne Mathews, Scott Black and Duff Taylor. Melissa Vitale is directing. Her crew includes Carole Rogers, Micki Voelkel, Rikkee Workman-Black, Wesley Rester, Zack Hiatt, Scott Black, and members of the cast.

Admission is \$5 at the door. No reservations. As this is not part of the regular season, season tickets will not be accepted.

NOTE: Adult language and adult situations (under 13 discouraged; 13-17 with parent/guardian). There will be a loud gunshot from the stage.



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Spotlight

P.O. Box 3752 • Fort Smith, AR 72913

www.fslt.org

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From the Top...

Selecting Productions Is A Production

My, how time has flown. I can't believe that we've already performed over half of our season. I, for one, have enjoyed this season immensely. *Emma* was a wonderful treat, especially for those of us who love historical/period settings. Thankfully, (knock on wood), I haven't had any personal scheduling conflicts that have caused me to miss out on any of the wonderful works performed here at the Fort Smith Little Theatre this year, and that even includes the off-season play.

If you are like me, each time you view a great performance here, you wonder "What could be coming next?" Well, I happen to know

firsthand that there is a group of dedicated individuals, known as the Production Committee, hard at work on planning a great 2014 season. They have been working for months, gathering directors, sifting through applications, reading fine print, and pouring over play submissions—all in an effort to ensure an enjoyable and diverse slate of performances for us to enjoy.

It really is a very involved process to prepare a roster of plays for the year, and it falls squarely on the shoulders of a handful of selected women and men. There are many duties involved, but the ultimate goal is to bring together the right people, intricate details, and interesting plays

Next Up

Auditions for the upcoming musical, *White Christmas*, by David Ives, music by Irving Berlin, will be held at the theatre at 7 p.m., September 16 and 17, with callbacks on Sept. 19. George Mann will be directing. The cast calls for five females and six males, ranging between 20 to 65 years of age, and one young girl, approximately 14 to 18 years old. There will also be a large singing and dancing ensemble. Production dates are November 14-23.

that culminate in some of the best entertainment in Fort Smith.
Cecilia Woods-McDonald, President

Season Ticket holders are urged to call before Aug. 29 for reservations.