

FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE

PRESENTS

The Octette Bridge Club

A Play
by P.J. Barry

DIRECTED BY

Soni Foti

By Special Arrangement with
Samuel French, Inc.

September 26- October 5, 1996

Director's Letter

Now truthfully, what could better than a play with eight women? I had enough at auditions to double cast the play, and I did think about it. Four performances for each cast. FSLT is fortunate to have so many talented people available to us.

These eight sisters allow you to share two evenings with them, and each woman emerges as an unforgettable character. These women age and grow and survive, as we all do.

I have a feisty, beautiful (handsome in the case of George, the one male) and superb cast. We've had fun and you will be able to experience that. I have Phanita, my wonderful producer, and I have the best for set, props, wardrobe, and other backstage work. I thank you all. You make theatre special for me.

Enjoy the show, and get ready for our 50th Season!

Sondra Foti

CAST

ROBERT FOSTER

the photographer

George Mann

MARTHA

Mrs. Michael McDermitt

Lorna Pryor

MARY

Mary Margaret Donavan

Nan Stark

NORA

Mrs. Lawrence Hiller

Carole Rogers

CONNIE

Mrs. David Emerson

Angela Covey

ALICE

Mrs. Walter Monahan

Sandra Slater

ANN

Mrs. John Conroy

Helen Harper

LIL

Mrs. Peter Carmody

Nancy Blochberger

BETSY

Mrs. Daniel Bailey

Paula Sharum

CREW

Director

Soni Foti

Producer

Phanita Williams

Props

Pete Warner

Liz Braun

Nicole Melendez

Hannah Foti

Wardrobe

Wilma McCauley

Kay Birkhead

Mollie Gallagher

Set Construction

Darrell Smith

Bruce Schelm

Chris Curry

Set Decorator

Katy Boulden

Wendy Quick

Cassey Browning

Technical Director

Jim Moody

Lights

John Gallagher

Stage Manager

Jean Santana

Bridge Consultant

Wilma McCauley

Photographer

Linda Dickson

Piano Music

George Mann

Project Chairman

Nancy Blochberger

Lobby Display

Bruce Birkhead

Prompter

Nicole Melendez

Chris Curry

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Carole Rogers I have come to be a member of "The Octette Bridge Club" after finishing a term in "The Cemetary Club" by way of "The Boys Next Door." I have also worked backstage several productions and have served on the Board of Directors at FSLT. My day job is Business Office Mgr. at Cooper Clinic. Being an only child I did not grow up with the closeness nor the criticism of the Donovan sisters. We have had a delightful six weeks preparing these women for you. Hope you enjoy our efforts.

Nancy Blochberger Having enjoyed many seasons in the audience at FSLT, Nancy is delighted for the chance to make her third appearance on our stage. She has really enjoyed the role of "Lil," which allowed her the opportunity to be a "stage ham" and get by with it. Off stage, Nancy is married to Kent, follows the Hawgs, and provides marketing support services to a local hospital and several area physicians.

Angela Covey This has been a fun experience and trying to get inside Connie's head was quite a challenge. I feel her sharp tongue is a facade to cover the difficulties in her marriage, also being one of eight sisters surely creates problems. On a personal note, I am happy to be back for good in Fort Smith after traveling thousands of friendly miles in the friendly skies for the past 15 years between the US & Saudi Arabia. Hopefully by 1997 my husband will also have his feet on "Terra Firma" and be back in the US to welcome the arrival of our seventh grandchild.

Helen Harper Helen is married to Tom and is the mother of two daughters. She has performed in "The Cemetary Club" and "The Grapes of Wrath" at the Little Theatre and "Arsenic and Old Lace" at the King Opera House.

Sandra Slater Sandra has been an active member of Good Times Community Theatre in Poteau, OK for the last few years. She has had roles in "MASH," "Arsenic and Old Lace," "Harvey," and the "The Long Red Herring." Prior to moving to Oklahoma, she was active in theatre in Dallas. This is her first role at Fort Smith, and her first venture at directing will be in Poteau in December when the Good Times Community Theatre will present "Best Christmas Pageant Ever."

Lorna Pryor Catching the "fever" of the theatre from our daughter, Leigh and our niece, Ashley, has made me really relish this opportunity to be in "The Octette Bridge Club." AND- being a product of the 30s (1-1-33), I remember hearing women talk in the same terms that the Octette women do. AND- I welcome the chance to work with Soni, Phanita, and my seven sisters, and each member of this talented crew.

Nan Stark This is my first play with FSLT. When my husband retired July 1st we moved here from thousand Oaks, CA. I have been involved with little theatre in the Thousand Oaks area for about 10 years, appearing in "Arsenic and Old Lace," "Angel Street," "Gaslight," "Little Women," "I Never Sang for my Father," "The Old Woman Shows Her Medals," other plays, and occasional TV shows. I am originally from Callander, Scotland. Its fun to be a part of this group, the cast and crew have made me feel very welcome.

Paula Sharum 22 years ago, Paula found a home at FSLT. Since that time she has done a little of everything concerned with the theatre from directing, to acting, to costumes to scrubbing the toilets. Paula is a past president of the Arkansas Theatre Association, a past board member for the American Association of Community Theatres. Presently she is Vice-President for Festivals with the American Association of Community Theatres. With this office she has the opportunity to travel to Community theatre Festivals across the US, so she can't be as active as she once was at FSLT or as active as she would like to be.