

and the *Matchmaker*. *Smoke on the Mountain* is his debut appearance in Fort Smith and he hopes you enjoy the show.

**Richard VanWagoner** is back at FSLT after a long layoff since *Dinner at Eight*. Brother Stanley is pleased to be here. He thanks his wife, Laurie and hopes to encourage his daughter Richelle to get involved.

**Gayle Ross** has been involved with FSLT on stage and off since the North O St days. Last time on stage in *Rumors*, she will be directing *Bethlehem*, an original play by Dave Ross in December.

**Dianah Gourley** started at FSLT in 1989. She has worked back stage and had a couple of small parts on stage. She directed *A Walk in the Woods*, *Bus Stop*, and the reading *Love Letters*.

**Arleen Petty** lives in Greenwood and first participated in FSLT in last summers *Anything Goes*. Enjoyed it so much she came back.

**Anna Stephens** is an area native, married with a boy and a girl. She loves music and this is her first time at FSLT.

**Jim Baker**: It's music time again, and I got lucky again! Since 1971 there have been a bunch of good times, and here's another.

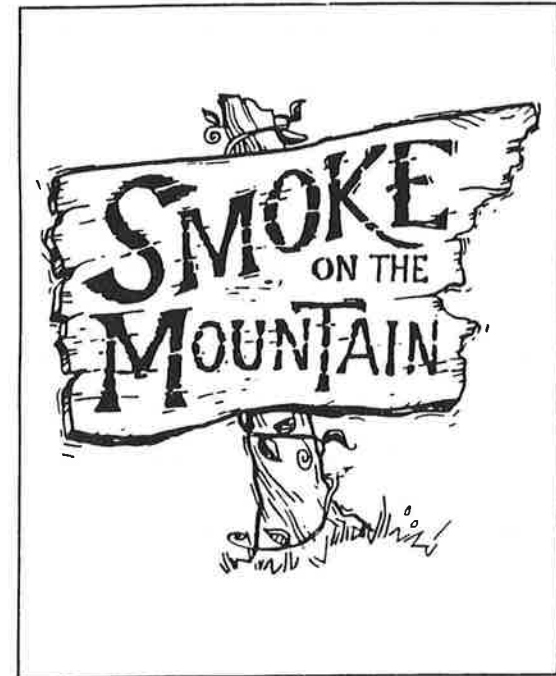
**Linda Ridener Dickson** has been associated with FSLT since 1973. She has appeared in numerous musicals, both on stage and as an instrumentalist. Tonight "Cousin Linda" lends two talents to the Sanders Family Ensemble: she picks her guitar in accompaniment and adds her angelic soprano to the chaotic Sanders mixture.

**Lorna Shultis** is the authentic Tar Heel whose hometown was on the Yodkin River. Though classically trained she's been playing the dulcimer and psaltry three years. She is music director at St. Luke Lutheran Church.

**Myrna Wells** may be a novice to the FSLT stage, but she was a veteran of the gospel circuit in the '40's. She is also the mother of Cousin Linda.

## THE FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE

Presents  
The Musical Comedy



Written by  
**CONNIE RAY**

Conceived by  
**ALAN BAILEY**

Musical Arrangements by  
Mike Craver and Mark Hardwick

Originally produced by The McCarter Theatre Company  
Princeton, New Jersey

Off-Broadway production by  
The Lamb's Theatre Company  
New York City

Directed by  
**SONDRA FOTI**

July 23 - August 1, 1998

Dear Patrons,

As you read this, you will be sitting in the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Mt. Pleasant, North Carolina, waiting for a good old-time Gospel Sing. The year is 1938, the set and costumes are simple-but wait until the cast and musicians get on stage. Things will definitely liven up. You will love the songs and testimonials, and yes, you will be laughing, clapping your hands and maybe even throwing in an Amen ever so often.

My cast & crew & musicians are wonderful. We have lots of new people both on stage and backstage. George is Burl & also on the piano, the twins, Meredith & Andrew are perfect, Mike is the perfect preacher, Richard makes a great ex-con, Alesia is wonderful and provides you her own special brand of sign language, and Sherrill portrays the mother with a full range of emotions. Their talents are many.

Linda, Lorna & Jim play additional instruments as needed, and also sing. The dulcimer, psaltry, and mandolin set the mood completely. We are blessed with a fun show, and everyone working on it is having fun. What more can you want? Sit back, relax and prepare to be entertained. You're going to love this show.

Soni Foti, Director

**Mike Southern** has been working with FSLT since 1985 as both an actor and director. He received his BA in Theatre from Ouachita Baptist University. He is married to Rebecca and they have 2 children, Joel, 10 and John, 6. His last show here at FSLT was *Laughter on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor*.

**Alesia Davis** "June" has appeared on stage at the FSLT in *Belles*, *Hot 'L'*, and *The Boys Next Door*. This is her first opportunity to be cast in a musical. Just remember, June doesn't sing and neither does Alesia. Alesia and her husband Greg live in Fort Smith and are expecting their first baby thespian in late November. Here's hoping you will have as much fun watching the show as we did working on it!

**Sherrel McMahan** is new to FSLT. She is married to Wayman McMahan Jr. and has one daughter, Crystal. She has done work with the Arkansas Art Center in Little Rock and the Vapors Dinner Theatre in Hot Springs. She is now a demo artist for Omega Sound.

This is **George Mann's** 6<sup>th</sup> musical effort at FSLT, having participate in both of the "Broadway" shows, *Nonsense II*, *Taffetta*, and *Anything Goes*. *Smoke on the Mountain* is a different kind of effort, though, for during this play he gets to get out from behind the piano and deliver lines. Whether or not they ever allow it to happen again remains to be seen!

Wow! I made it! Coming here and practicing with all these adults really relaxes me! I'm relieved that they were able to put up with a smart aleck teenager like me. **Meredith Dye** is roaring and ready to act. Watch out Sandra Bullock! I'm looking up to you. Everbody remember: my mom (Vera) loves me! I love you Dad, Mom, Ben, Jennifer, Sarah, and Cap!

**Andrew Lindenmeyer** comes to us from Chicago where he has been in several productions including *West Side Story*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and *Oliver*. In 1993 he moved to Mena, Arkansas where he was active in the community theatre in shows such as *I Never Sang For my Father*,

