

Fort Smith Little Theatre

# Spotlight

November 1, 2014

## *Cigars, Late Night Television and Hearty Spirits*

**Dates:** Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *A Talent for Murder* will be Nov. 13. Regular performances will be Nov. 14, 15 and 19-22. The Sunday Matinee performances are Nov. 16 and 23.

**Times:** All evening performances begin at **7:30 p.m.** Patrons may be seated after 6:45 p.m. The matinees begins at **2 p.m.** Patrons may be seated after 1:15 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 Nov. 1-5 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. 6.

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

"You know you're getting older when the candles cost more than the cakes." *Bob Hope*  
"I'm not interested in age. People who tell their age are silly. You're as old as you feel." *Elizabeth Arden*

The last regular FSLT production for Season 2014, *A Talent for Murder*, by Jerome Chodorov and Norman Panama, opens on November 13 and will run through November 23. Director Melissa Vitale loves mysteries and chose this character-driven drama/comedy to make her "regular season" directorial debut. You may

recall that *A Talent for Murder* was performed on Broadway with Claudette Colbert in the leading role, followed by a film production in 1984 starring Angela Lansbury.

The story revolves around Anne Royce McClain (Angela Covey). On the cusp of becoming an octogenarian and confined to a wheelchair, she is surprisingly knowledgeable about the technical world. With wealth amassed from her literary success as a crime novelist, she lives in a grand estate filled with valuable artwork. Her personal physician, Dr. Paul

*See Murder on page 3*



# ARVEST®



## **Show Sponsors Applauded**

We are so pleased Arvest and AT&T will be co-sponsoring our upcoming production of *A Talent For Murder*.

As Arvest fulfills their corporate mission of "People helping people find financial solutions for life," their support also helps fulfill the missions of many local non-profit groups like FSLT. AT&T is another corporation whose generosity is appreciated. AT&T's commitment to innovations in telecommunications is matched by their dedication to improving communities where they live and work.

We are grateful for their sponsorship support and applaud both Arvest and AT&T as shining examples of caring corporate citizenship.

## **Annual Meeting Notice**

The FSLT Annual Meeting will be held at the theatre on Monday, November 24 at 7 pm. Season Ticket holders are 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.

## **Buying Season Tickets Online**

You can purchase your 2015 season tickets online, safely and securely, from our website. Please note that Paypal now requires you to create an "account," but you can still use your debit or credit card

## Director's Notes...

### ***Allowing Anne to spill over into the aisles***

I fell in love with Anne Royce McClain after my first reading of Act One. What a character! My first concern was whether or not her personality would fit on the FSLT stage. As I read the script over and over, I realized my job is not to attempt to contain her. My job is to allow Anne to spill over into the aisles, out into the lobby, and perhaps even hitch a ride home with the audience—all the while permitting the other characters to put forth their best effort to keep her confined.

These characters have existed on paper and in my head for over a year, and it has been surreal and amazing to watch this cast breathe life into them, and add their own twists, ideas, and experiences. Directing my very first regular-season show, I could not have asked for a harder working cast and crew. I am humbled by their patience, dedication, and work ethic. I am so grateful to FSLT for this experience, and I am excited to share Anne and her family with you.

—Melissa Vitale, Director

for payment. Simply click: "Create a PayPal account."

## ***Celebrate With Gift Of The Magi***

Make plans now to attend our off-season production, *Gift of the Magi*, which will be performed December 11, 12, and 13. This story by O. Henry was adapted by J. Jory and will be directed by Micki Voelkel. The romantic comedy narrated by carolers tells of a couple's perfect gifts which have unexpected costs. Because this is an off-season production, there are no reservations and no reserved seats. Admission, \$5 at the door, is not included with the purchase of a Season Ticket.

## ***Things To Come In Season 2015***

Another great line-up is planned for 2015. Buy your Season Ticket and join us for comedy, classics, mystery, and music.

February 12-22: *Pride and Prejudice*

April 9-19: *Don't Dress for Dinner*

May 28-June 7:

*The Best of Everything*

July 23-August 8:

*Beauty and the Beast*

September 17-27:

*Curtain up on Murder*

November 12-22: *Rumors*

Season Tickets for 2015 will be for sale before all performances of

*A Talent For Murder* or purchased online. To purchase by mail, complete the order form you received in the mail or print an order form from [fslt.org](http://fslt.org). And remember, Season Tickets make great Christmas gifts—one size fits all!

## ***Many Thanks***

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

- Frank Rhyne Painting - painting
- Williams-Crawford & Assoc - graphic design
- Clear Channel Outdoor - billboard advertising
- Southwest Times Record - season ticket promotion
- First National Bank – season ticket promotion
- Office Depot – copy service
- Tri-Hill Pest Control - insect treatment

## ***Big Bang For Your Buck***

2015 Program Ads are now on sale. Your ad can appear in all 8,600 programs for as little as \$110. It's a great value for your advertising dollars. For information on sizes and prices go to [www.fslt.org](http://www.fslt.org), email to [fsltprogramads@gmail.com](mailto:fsltprogramads@gmail.com), or call 783-2966 (Press 4) and leave a message. Better hurry—space is limited.

# Talent for Murder opens at Fort Smith Little Theatre Nov. 13

*Continued from page 1*

Marchand (Richard Suits), resides in the guesthouse. Her household overseer is Rashi (Eric Wells), an East Indian former convict who serves as driver, housekeeper, and wizard who keeps all the electronic bells and whistles running. Others who orbit around “Planet Anne” are her granddaughter, Pamela Harrison (Sara Davis), a young woman with the mind and maturity of a teen, and Pam’s husband Mark (Ian Miller), who deals in foreign cars. Next is Anne’s firstborn son, Lawrence (John McCawley), an editor/poet and his ambitious wife, Shelia (Summer Ferguson), who runs an art gallery. Anne’s relatives wouldn’t mind killing her (or each other) to get their hands on a Matisse or two—and they’re not bashful about revealing their intentions. Indeed, when the heroine describes her household as “a nest of vipers,” she’s only being polite. Anne reins over all while smoking cigars, watching late night television, imbibing hearty spirits, reminiscing her promiscuous past with famous artists, and carefully watching money-hungry family

and friends. Who can be trusted? Is Anne now a doddering old fool, or is she more wily than she lets on?

Vitale’s strong crew includes Assistant Director, Lora Rice, and Producer, Paula Sharum. Stage Manager is Kiane French and creating a high-wired yet artistic set are Wesley Rester, Wayne Mathews, and Thomas Iverson. Props Managers are Joe Graham

and Susan Sudar. Wesley Rester is Lights and Sound Technician. Artworks are by Scott Black.

Talent is a gift from those who enjoy writing mysteries to those who enjoy watching them unfold. It is also a gift from those talented persons who bring it to life on stage. Enjoy the tale and the talent and make your reservation early by calling 783-2966 (press 2).



Fort Smith Little Theatre

# Spotlight

P.O. Box 3752 • Fort Smith, AR 72913

www.fslt.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**

Fort Smith, AR  
Permit No. 12

## 2014 FSLT Board of Directors

Cecelia Woods-McDonald, President

Rham Cunningham, Vice President

Lora Rice, Secretary

Paula Sharum, Treasurer

Scott Black

Neal Goodwin

Jennie Mathews

Nikki McDaniel

Carole Rogers

Shannon Stoddard

Suzanne Thomas

Sherri Tickler

Micki Voelkel

## From the Top... *End of the Year Tally*

I have often said someone should write a play depicting life at our own Little Theatre. It is quite amazing, what it takes to deliver season after season. The story would have its heartfelt moments of friends helping friends, reminiscent of *The Dixie Swim Club*. A small mystery plot would surround a misplaced but well-loved antique prop. There would be a fast paced backstage farcical scene in which nothing goes as it should, but somehow the cast and crew pull it off so the audience is none the wiser. Don't forget a little drama, ok maybe more than a little, and lots of comedic relief, to balance the serious business of running a theatre. I know it would be a sold out show. Maybe we can work on

that for a future season.

Our current season is quickly coming to a close. As with anything that has been enjoyable, when looking back we wonder where did time go and what did we do? It's only natural to want to see the numbers. So here we go. 10 board meetings with 2 more to go. 12 nights of auditions. 6 regular season shows plus 2 off-season shows resulting in 66 performances, and still 1 more off-season show to go. Over 650 hours of rehearsals. 9 directors. 78 actors graced our stage supported by 147 crew members and counting. 1 musical. More than 220 costumes. We said Thank You to 36 community members for their assistance with our performances. 7 show sponsors. 6 Dark Night performances. 146

## Next Up

Auditions for *Pride and Prejudice* by Jon Jory, adapted from the Jane Austen novel, will be held at 7 p.m. on January 5 and 6 at the theatre. The cast calls for 6-11 men and 8-13 women between the ages of 15 to 70. Duff Taylor will be directing. Production dates are February 12-22. For more information, go to fslt.org.

annual fund donors. And an invaluable and incalculable amount of support from our Patrons.

This is the last time I will write a letter as the President of the Fort Smith Little Theatre. I am honored to have served for these past two years and thank you for the opportunity.  
*Cecelia Woods-McDonald, President*

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