

Fort Smith Little Theatre

# Spotlight

July 19, 2014

**Dates:** Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *9 to 5: The Musical* will be July 31. Regular performances will be Aug. 1-2 and 6-9. The Sunday Matinee performances are Aug. 3 and 10.

**Times:** All evening performances begin at **7:30 p.m.** Patrons may be seated after 6:45 p.m. The matinee 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 \$30. All other shows \$15.

**Season Ticket Holders:** Regular Season Ticket patrons are encouraged to call July 19-23 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 July 24.

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

## Violet, Doralee & Judy take stage at FSLT

*Whether women are better than men I cannot say, but I can say they are certainly no worse.*

—Golda Meir

*Men never make passes at a girl that surpasses.*

—Franklin P. Jones

Oh golly Miss Molly, what have you wrought? FSLT patrons are in for a jolly theatrical treat this summer. *9 to 5: The Musical*, book by Patricia Resnick, music and lyrics by Dolly Parton, opens July 31 and will run through a second Sunday matinee on August 10.

This musical version of the 1980s film (also titled *9 to 5*) opened on Broadway in 2009. Starring Dolly Parton, Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin, and Dabney Coleman, the film was ranked number 74 on the American Film Institute's "100 Funniest Movies."

Co-Directors, George Mann and Dwight Curry, have garnered a talented cast and crew to tell the story of men and women working together in the late 1970s when things were changing fast. Among the female workers you will meet at Consolidated Industries are the office manager—Violet Newstead

See *9 to 5* on page 3





# Sparks

Health System

## **Show Sponsor Applauded**

We are pleased that Sparks Health System will sponsor our upcoming production of *9 to 5: The Musical*.

In 1947, the Young Ladies Guild of Sparks Memorial Hospital sponsored an amateur theatre production as a fundraiser to buy hospital equipment. That play, *Mr. and Mrs. North*, literally “sparked” an interest in the performing arts, and the Fort Smith Little Theatre was thus formed.

For 125 years, Sparks has provided quality medical care to the River Valley; for 67 years, they have shown their support of FSLT. That continued commitment deserves a big round of applause.

## **Many Thanks**

We greatly appreciate these vendors who have discounted or donated services to FSLT:

Marie’s Lock & Safe – provided new keys

Home Depot – landscape flowers

Turnquist Carpets – vinyl base repair

Mainer Ironworks – iron railing repair

## Director’s Notes...

### ***Talented, Sharp, Eager and Tireless***

For many years, both of us (Dwight and I) have been involved in the presentation of musicals in the Fort Smith area, though usually in different venues. There were even those occasions where we worked together, with Dwight directing/conducting, and me at a keyboard, playing in the pit orchestra. It has only been in recent years that, in the course of our friendship, we began to dream and scheme about co-directing a show together. Numerous possibilities have been weighed and discussed, and eventually *9 to 5* floated to the top as the most fun possibility.

When during the course of an afternoon or evening I am channel surfing, there are a few movies which I will instantly and consistently stop to watch, regardless of the number of times previously viewed; 1980’s *9 to 5* is always one. The charming combination of Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda, and Dolly Parton is like deadly candy which, once started, one cannot stop munching. Dwight is a frequent visitor to New York and an avid Broadway visitor, so when a couple of years ago he brought back reports that he had seen the show that Dolly Parton had fleshed out into an entire musical, one featuring Allison Janney, Megan Hilty, and Stephanie J. Block, the idea that we might do this together here was pretty much irresistible.

For this summer’s production (which incidentally is my fifth and Dwight’s first here at FSLT) we have assembled a marvelous cast. They are talented, sharp, eager, and tireless in their efforts. We have had fun and produced some astounding work from our very first rehearsals together, and as the show takes shape, we are becoming more and more eager to present this show to the theatre crowd. It is funny, energetic, at times moving, and (at least for me) captures and enhances all the best moments of that iconic movie. The story of the ultimate triumph of these oppressed secretaries over a bullying bigot of a boss, and the charming and enhanced musical score, create in us the hope that *9 to 5* will both delight longtime devotees of the movie and create new fans as well.

—George Mann and Dwight Curry



## 9 to 5: The Musical opens at Fort Smith Little Theatre, July 31

Continued from page 1

(Nancy Blochberger); Doralee Rhodes (Molly Armour), a sexy country girl; and Judy Bernly (Alisha Smedley), a new employee newly divorced. The women rate their boss, Franklin Hart (Steve Dwiggins) poorly, and see him as a sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical, bigot. The narcissistic boss Hart has a female executive assistant, Roz Keith (McKendrea Brodie), who gives her boss four stars and intense loyalty. A company accountant, Joe (Nathan Stockemer), aids and abets the women workers and keeps his eye on Violet, while Mr. Tinsworthy (Matt Hutchinson) serves as Chairman of the Board.

Other males with no company strings include Dwayne (Brandon Bolin), Doralee's husband; Josh Newstead (Chance Hevner), Violet's son; Dick Bernly (Donny Anderson), Judy's ex; and Thomas Iverson (Doc). Those with minor speaking roles and major talent comprise the ensemble: Katie Bushkuhl, Vicki Anderson, Shanna Davis, Shannon Stoddard, Eric Wells, Joseph Reed, Jessica Smith, Erin Decker, Raegan

Thomas, Cody Walls, Joe Reed, and Lynne Gustafson.

In any production, there are unseen workers who play crucial roles backstage. Directors Mann and Curry have an experienced crew including Brandon Bolin as Assistant Director and Paula Sharum as Producer. Stage Manager is Joseph Reed. Choreographers are Shannon Stoddard and Colten Hall. Set Design and Construction is by Zack Hiatt. Thomas Iverson and Joe Graham serve as Set Crew. Lighting Designer is Rebekah Bateman, and Lighting Operator is Chuck Howard. Costume Mistress,

Kaye Birkhead, is assisted by Clara Jane Rubarth, Jan Nelson and Mariah Midgley. Props Mistress is Shanna Davis, Logo Designer is Rhonda Rieder, and Hair/Make-up is in the hands of Zeke Cook.

*9 to 5: The Musical* is a comic tale of overcoming adversity amidst the old boys club, sexual discrimination, and corporate corruption. It's sure to lighten the load of anyone who has ever had a job and send everyone out the door whistling the uplifting tunes. Make your reservations by calling (479) 783-2966 (press 2). And boys — watch out for scorned women.



Fort Smith Little Theatre

# Spotlight

P.O. Box 3752 • Fort Smith, AR 72913

[www.fslt.org](http://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

Amanda Elkins-Hiatt

Neal Goodwin

Jennie Mathews

Nikki McDaniel

Carole Rogers

Clara Jane Rubarth

Shannon Stoddard

Suzanne Thomas

Sherri Tickler

Micki Voelkel

## From the Top...

### *We Are Unique...*

The theatre is unique among all entertainment choices. It is an art that must continue to be valued in our community and schools. There are many reasons why it is like no other.

One, it takes a village. Even if it is a two-character play, there are at least thirty people or more responsible for bringing it to production—all collaborating and arranging their busy lives for one event.

Two, it needs an audience. It speaks to our desire to project narratives. I see this in my five year old as he acts out events he is retelling; he can't sit still and "just" tell a story, he has to "act it out."

Three, it requires pretenses. I pick apart movies, question the

validity of character choices and scenarios, and the realness of special effects. That doesn't happen when watching a play. If a character changes their clothes and asks the audience to pretend that they magically morphed into someone else, I go with it.

Four, it requires you to be present. You can't pause, rewind or zone out on electronic devices. You have to pay attention to both the dialogue and the action, or you will miss something.

Five, it teaches us. Depending on the type of play, we learn about human motivation, psychology, history, leadership, culture, and maybe even how to handle tricky situations in our own lives.

Six, it is just good fun. Whoever

## Next Up

Auditions for *Splendor in the Grass* by William Inge, adapted by F.A. Leslie, will be held at 7 p.m. on August 11 and 12 at the theatre. The cast calls for 9 women and 10 men, all between the ages of 18 to 60. Jill Moody Ledbetter will be directing. Production dates are September 18-28. For more information, visit [fslt.org](http://fslt.org).

ran into trouble just sitting and watching a play?

Thank you for supporting us, and I hope you continue to find the Little Theatre a valuable and irreplaceable venue.

*Cecelia Woods-McDonald*, President

**Season Ticket holders are urged to call before July 24 for reservations.**