

FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE



SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

September 7, 2019

www.fslt.org

Dates: Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *Born Yesterday* will be Thursday, September 19. Regular performances will be September 20-21 and 25-28. A Sunday Matinee will be offered on September 22.

Show Times: All evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 6:45 p.m. The matinee begins at 2:00 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 1:15 p.m.

Season Flex Pass Seat Selection: Seat selection begins 7:00 a.m. Saturday, September 7. Select seats online at www.fslt.org or call the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn:2) to request seats on the phone. Flex Pass patrons may also purchase ONE additional ticket for every pass they have.

General Public Tickets: Tickets available beginning 7:00 a.m. Thursday, September 12. Purchase online at www.fslt.org or call the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn:2) to purchase on the phone. Gala Opening Night tickets \$27 / All other performances \$12.

Box Office Phone Calls: Be prepared to leave a message with details about your seat/ticket request including a phone number where you can easily be reached. During variable hours, volunteers will return calls in the order they are received.

Reminder: To reach the Box Office, select Extn: 2

NEW FOR 2019

Online ticketing and seat selection now available at www.fslt.org.

Comedy Classic

BORN YESTERDAY

BROCK: What's a peninsula?
BILLIE: It's that new medicine!
~ *Born Yesterday*

Garson Kanin's classic 1946 comedy *Born Yesterday* played four years on Broadway and made actress Judy Holliday a star. Director Duff Taylor brings the still-hilarious comedy back to the FSLT stage this fall. The play was made into a 1950s film starring Judy Holliday, Broderick Crawford, and William Holden. Holliday went on to win the Best Actress Oscar for her performance in the movie. A 1993 remake starred Melanie Griffith, Don Johnson, and John Goodman.

Born Yesterday revolves around wealthy but crude businessman Harry Brock (Charles Belt) who arrives in 1946 Washington, D.C. ready to buy himself some influence in the political world. When his spectacularly beautiful yet spectacularly ignorant former showgirl girlfriend Billie Dawn (Summer Robinson) embarrasses him, Brock hires a journalist Paul Verrall (Greg Campbell) to tutor her, a decision he later regrets. The tutoring sessions work so well that Billie begins to question Brock's unscrupulous business deals. The now savvy Billie confronts Brock's corruption with hilarious results.

This cast is loaded with talented FSLT veterans in supporting roles including Brad Kidder, Jr. as attorney Ed Devery; Mike Southern as Senator Norval Hedges; MaryBeth McAlvain as

See Born Yesterday on page 3



Applause for Arvest Foundation



Children from the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Clubs and other youth organizations enjoyed a special performance of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*. Their attendance was made possible thanks to a \$1,000 gift from the **Arvest Foundation**. The donation was presented to FSLT by Heather Polk, Property & Security Manager for Arvest in Fort Smith. To match the children's robust response at the performance, FSLT now applauds **Arvest Foundation** for their community spirit and support of the arts.



Director's Note

April 1986, I appeared in the last show at FSLT's North O street location. It was my first show! In that show, directed by Jim Moody, was Brad Kidder, Sr. He also appeared in FSLT's production of *Born Yesterday* during the 1959 season. In 1986 we felt we had a fitting bookend for this, our first, great era. Yet, like a book collector who can't stop, the anthologies of our magnificent shows continue to push these bookends over with new productions and old favorites. So, these lines that once graced our stage sixty years ago are back and they are just as fresh and timely as they ever were. Paul Verrall says in this play, "A world full of ignorant people is too dangerous to live in." Everyone involved in this production believes this, as well. We could all use a little "smartening up" like Billie.

We hope you welcome back this production and a familiar face in a different role: Brad Kidder, Sr., as Assistant Manager, née Ed Devery, née Eddy (60+ years of community theatre).

I want to thank the cast and crew for their hard work – and you, our patron, for your time and support.

- Duff Taylor, *Director*



Born Yesterday opens September 19

Mrs. Hedges; John Hall as Eddie Brock; and Brad Kidder, Sr. as the Assistant Manager. Additional cast members include Margaret Clymer, Ethan Womack, Bradley Nance, Kim Kidder, and Angela Bugeja as members of the hotel staff.

Taylor directs the show with a deft hand, while also having designed the set. His efficient crew includes producer Karen Yada Mills; assistant producer Cliff Scott; stage manager Kelsey Flippo; properties mistress Audra Sargent; hair stylist Summer Robinson; lighting designer T.J. Dudley; light operator Mike Tickler; and sound designer Eric Krigbaum. The running crew members are Eric Krigbaum, Kim Kidder, and Karen Yada Mills.

Director Duff Taylor has a special place in his heart for *Born Yesterday*, since his debut performance at FSLT was in the role of Paul Verrall in our 1986 version of the same production. He says, "This show has been produced here three times in the past 70 years, and it's still timeless!" Taylor hopes that audiences will take away the message that "People need to be smart." As Paul Verrall says "A world full of ignorant people is a dangerous place to live."

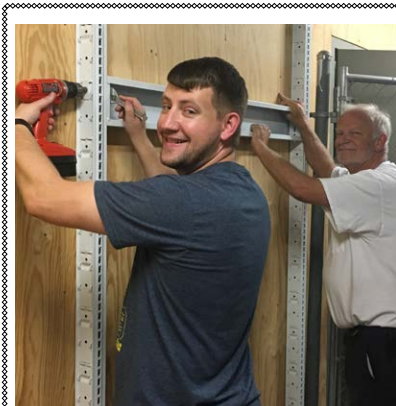
This show is a reprise for two other actors in the cast. Brad Kidder, Sr. played the role of Ed Devery in 1986, which is now being played by his son, Brad Kidder, Jr., while Sr. takes on the role of the assistant manager at the hotel. Kidder Jr. says the line load is his biggest challenge in the show, but he hopes that the audiences will come away with "an appreciation of Summer Robinson" in the star role of Billie Dawn.

The show's performers are not all long-time veterans. The show's "bad guy" Charles Belt made his FSLT debut this April as Mr. Robinson in *The Graduate*, and then played a major role in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* in June. He says, "I love getting to be a part of plays at FSLT, and I love the new family that I've made here."

As for Greg Campbell, he is debuting at FSLT as Paul Verrall. "The cast and crew have been so welcoming to me in my first show here," he said. He also mentions that the small, thrust stage at FSLT has been a new challenge for him. "It's a different type of stage than I have acted on."

Seasoned Stage Manager Kelsey Flippo stresses that the welcoming attitude goes for those on the backstage side of the house too: "I am thankful for the love and support FSLT has given me. I walked in three years ago not knowing a single person. Now I feel at home walking through the door."

There are many reasons this classic was a success on Broadway and in film. It features well-crafted characters that deliver sharp and witty dialogue. Plus the story is just as relevant today as it was when it was written, and the ending is just as delightful. Remember, seat selection for Season Flex Pass patrons begins September 7. Tickets will be available for the general public starting September 12. Don't miss *Born Yesterday*.



Volunteers Tyler Huntington and Steve Dwiggin (from left) have completed assembling new racks and shelving to expand our costume storage. The purchase of this heavy-duty hanging system was made possible by a gift from the **William T. and May P. Hennessy Foundation**.

We are very grateful for our new racks and our assembly crew, and equally appreciative of the continued generosity of the **Hennessy Foundation**.

Seat Selection / Ticketing

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Seat Tickets Checked By Ushers

You can bypass the Box Office when you arrive by showing your print-at-home ticket or your ticket confirmation on your smart-phone to an usher. Alternately, go to the Box Office upon your arrival, pick up your seat ticket, then proceed to an usher at either aisle.

Set Builders Needed

Make new friends and use your handyman skills to build sets on weekdays or weekends. You don't need to be a master craftsman; just be able to use a saw, screwdriver, hammer or paintbrush. Work as little or as much as you want, and be part of something fun and creative. Learn more: 479-783-2966 (extn: 4) or info@fslt.org.

Special Opportunities for 2020

Looking for a cost-effective way to market your business or non-profit in the coming year? Consider being an FSLT Show Sponsor or program advertiser, or purchase an exclusive performance as a fundraiser for your group or entertainment for your clients. Options range from \$110 to \$3000, but opportunities are limited. Email to fsltfunding@gmail.com for more information.

Fort Smith Little Theatre
SPOTLIGHT

P.O. Box 3752, Fort Smith, AR 72913
www.fslt.org

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From the Top...

What a fantastical undertaking this year's musical was. Our version of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* brought magic and wonderment into the community, and filled hearts (both young and old) with so much joy. It was such a delight to see the faces of little ones light up, while other audience members awed at the technical enhancements that were seen onstage. My heartfelt congratulations go out to Carol Rogers (Director), George Mann (Music Director), the talented Crew, and the outstanding Cast for the magic they created on our small stage.

The true magic is in the volunteer power that is behind the success of FSLT as an organization. Just as the Cast and Crew of each production works hard to put on a show, our doors wouldn't open to audiences without the volunteers of various committees who spend hours doing thankless jobs. These are the smiling faces of those who welcome you, or the kind voices that help you out on the phone, or the polite words which answer your queries online, or the deft hand of the photographer who captures rehearsal scenes. Let's salute them for their quiet efforts on the backend.

I sincerely hope that you would consider volunteering with FSLT – we have opportunities galore for those who might just want to spend an hour, or for those who are looking for a hobby in the evenings. Chat with any one of us to find out how much fun we have being involved, while we'll also gladly give you a break down on how you can get started.

So, as one production closes and another one opens, we are always happy to see new comers join our group, bringing in fresh perspective and adding value – while we still have volunteers like Duff Taylor and Brad Kidder, Sr., who have now come back to put on a play in which they had performed many many years ago. *Born Yesterday* is as relevant today as it was in 1959 and 1986 when it was performed by FSLT.

- Deepu Thomas, *President*

Next Up

Auditions for *Miracle on 34th Street*, directed by Brandon Bolin, will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, September 30. Callbacks will be held on Tuesday, October 1. The cast calls for 7 males ages 20-70, 2 females ages 25-45, 1 girl approximately 7-12, plus other roles with genders and ages variable. Production dates are November 7-16. For more information, visit our website, www.fslt.org, or find us on Facebook.

Season Flex Pass patrons are urged to select seats before September 12.