



SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

September 9, 2021

www.fslt.org

Dates: Opening Night of FSLT's production of *Clue* will be Thursday, September 23. Regular performances will be September 24-25, 29-30, October 1-2. A Sunday Matinee will be offered on September 26.

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

Tickets:

Tickets will be available beginning **7:00 a.m. Saturday, September 11.** Purchase online at fslt.org or call the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn: 2) to purchase on the phone. All performances (including Opening Night) are \$12/person.

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.

Comic Whodunnit

CLUE

Reopens FSLT on September 23

Nobody. No body. Mr. Boddy's body. It's gone! – Clue

Mystery and comedy fans will be well satisfied when live performances return to the Fort Smith Little Theatre with *Clue* September 23 through October 2. The comedy is inspired by the classic board game *Clue* and the 1985 cult classic comedy film starring Tim Curry, Madeline Kahn, Lesley Anne Warren, and Eileen Brennan. The script is by Sandy Rustin, based on the works by Jonathan Lynn Hunter Foster, Eric Price, and David Abbinanti. Rikkee and Scott Black share the directing responsibilities.

It is a dark and stormy night, and uptight British butler Wadsworth (Greg Campell) and French maid Yvette (Victoria Walden) are preparing for an important dinner party. A series of wacky guests arrive using pseudonyms to disguise their true identifies – the bumbling Colonel Mustard (Brett Short), the frequently widowed Mrs. White (Monica Longoria), the batty wife of a senator Mrs. Peacock (Micki Voelkel), an earnest young political operative Mr. Green (Eric Wells), the amorous Professor Plum (John Hall) and the seductive Miss Scarlet (Tina Dale). Each of these characters is being blackmailed by the mysterious Mr. Boddy (Charles Belt), owner of the mansion.

As the suspects try desperately to get rid of the evidence Boddy is using to blackmail them, bodies begin to pile up in hilarious ways. Was it Miss Scarlet in the Library with the

See Clue on page 3

Sip Sip Hooray!



We always like to toast on Opening Nights – and especially this year! Courtesy of our friends at **Sodie's Wine and**

Spirits, quality wine and champagne will be served pre-show. At intermission, a special dessert will be served along with a special brew from **Fort Smith Coffee**. (Hors d'oeuvres will not be served.) Plus, as part of our Reopening Celebration, Opening Night tickets for 2021 productions are just \$12 – the same price as all other performances. You can Sip Sip...and Save!



Applause for Show Sponsors



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of FORT SMITH



We greatly appreciate two of Fort Smith's leading corporate citizens, **Landmark** (formerly Beall Barclay) and **First National Bank**, who are co-sponsoring *Clue*. By underwriting the cost of this production, their generosity helps us maintain affordable ticket prices.

As one of the largest locally owned public accounting firms in Arkansas, **Landmark** provides a full range of accounting, tax, assurance, and advisory services to a diverse client base. Let the experts at Landmark help you discover your financial direction.

As early as 1950, **First National Bank** was supporting FSLT by advertising in our show programs, and through the decades they have continued their generous patronage. Founded in 1872 and still locally owned, First National Bank is here to serve all of your banking needs. Our community... Your Bank!



Directors' Notes

"When will the theatre reopen?" It was a question we were all asking ourselves. In a year of unprecedented events, it was no different for FSLT. It saddened everyone as shows scheduled for 2020 were canceled one after another. Then, 2021 was looking to be the same way. But finally, things began to turn around, and the theatre was given the green light to start things going again! We were honored and excited when *Clue* was chosen to be our reopening production, and we weren't alone. As the first night of auditions got closer, messages on social media started pouring in with people asking how to get involved. And I can't begin to tell you how blown away we were by the number of people that came to auditions! It wasn't just the show itself that was getting people excited, it was just getting together. That's what the theatre does. It brings us together; it brings us closer as family and friends. Caring, sharing, talking, and laughing. That's what we hope *Clue* does for everyone. In a time of craziness in the world, people can take two hours to get distracted by the craziness in *Clue*. If the past year and a half has taught us anything, it's to be grateful for what we have and for all we take for granted. This may be a simple thing, a play, but it's brought us together and helped us to remember. Remember love. Remember laughter. Remember togetherness.

- Rikkee and Scott Black, *Directors*



HEALTH & SAFETY POLICIES

Please familiarize yourself with the following policies that will be in effect for *Clue*. Your cooperation and compliance will help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all our patrons and volunteers.

- In accordance with current CDC guidelines, **ALL attendees, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear face coverings inside FSLT** except when consuming food or drink.
- To offer the best possible live theatre experience for our audience, performers will not wear masks while on stage. All cast members are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Attendance may be at full capacity. Physically distanced seating will not be imposed.

Clue opens September 23

Candlestick? Mrs. Peacock in the Kitchen with the dagger? Colonel Mustard in the Lounge with the wrench?

Other characters adding to the fun are Sharla Cameron as the Radio Announcer, Gary Cameron as the Cop, Logan Davis as the Motorist, Megan Bagley as the Cook, Ashleigh Mathews as the Singing Telegram Girl, and Joe Graham as the Chief of Police.

A large crew is working in support of the show. In addition to directors Rikkee and Scott Black, Joanne Peterson serves as assistant director, and Meredith Rice is the producer. Audra Sargent serves as stage manager with the assistance of Jorgi Anderson. Scott Black designed the set and built it with the assistance of Gary Cameron, Ken Pevehouse, Brett Short, Dan Lane, and Joe Graham. Wardrobe mistress is Emilee Dale, and Janet Renwick assisted with special costume construction. Jamie Bolin serves as props mistress, while Margaret Clymer serves on the running crew. Jeremy Marston is the light designer.

Veteran performer Micki Voelkel is excited to return to the stage after FSLT's dark period that began in March 2020. "I'm so excited to be back on stage again and bringing live theatre to Fort Smith audiences. I remember the day I walked back into the theatre after the long break. It was exhilarating!" she said. Voelkel is also inspired by, but struggling with, the physical demands of the show. "This play is hilarious, fast and physical! We run up and down stairs, in and out of doors, fall on the floor, hyperventilate, and drag around 'bodies'. It's been really fun, but I have to admit I'm sore."

Eric Wells considers Mr. Green a dream role: "I remembered there had been a movie of Clue, but I had not seen it. After sitting down to watch it, I knew this would be a show I'd

love to be in. The story is full of comedy that everyone will enjoy. I am having the time of my life rehearsing for this show."

Rikkee Black is glad to see her vision of the show come to life at last. "This has been a long road. I originally submitted the show to our production committee a few seasons ago, but we couldn't get the performance rights. So FSLT requested an early securement of rights, and we scheduled *Clue* to open the 2021 season last February. Unfortunately our theatre was still shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic so the show was delayed until now," she said. Cast members are fully vaccinated and have rehearsed under conditions recommended by the CDC including use of masks during rehearsal.

Performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. September 23-25 and September 29-October 2. There will be a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee September 26.

Tickets for *Clue* go on sale September 11 at 7 a.m. All seats are \$12 per person including the opening night performance. Patrons may purchase tickets and select their seats online at fslt.org or call 479-783-2966 (extn 2) to leave a message and purchase through a box office volunteer.

So grab a friend, grab a mask, and come for some laughter. FSLT is reopening, and we hope to see you at *Clue*!



Online Order Fee

Online orders will be subject to a modest processing fee of \$2.00 per order, regardless of the number of tickets in the order. (Online order fees are waived for those who purchase Season Passes. Due to Covid-19, Season Passes were unavailable for 2021 but will be sold again for Season 2022.)

Seat Tickets Checked By Ushers

Tickets will be emailed so you can bypass the Box Office when you arrive and simply show an usher your print-at-home ticket or your ticket confirmation on your smart phone. Alternately, go to the Box Office upon your arrival, pick up a ticket slip, then proceed to an usher at either aisle.

Tickets Available To Everyone Sept. 11

Due to the pandemic, we were unable to offer Season Passes for 2021. Therefore, for 2021 productions, there will not be a period of early seat selection normally available only to Season Pass patrons. Tickets are available to everyone beginning September 11. (Patron Perks associated with buying a Flex Pass or Opening Night Subscription will be implemented again for 2022.)

Fond Memories And Generous Gifts

The families of two treasured volunteers have provided FSLT with some very special donations. In memory of their mother, Katy Boulden (deceased 2019), memorial gifts have been received from Dr. Tom Boulden, and Michael Boulden and his wife Susan. Special purchases will be made with these gifts and announced at a later date.

Additionally, the family of Bruce Birkhead, (deceased 2020) provided a memorial gift which helped purchase our new cyclorama curtain (see page 3). We are sincerely grateful for the generosity of these families as well as the many years that Katy and Bruce shared their friendship, time, and talent.



New Cyc Curtain!

Sherry Hester, FSLT President (right), and Pettus Kincannon, WACF Executive Director, have pushed our new cyclorama curtain off stage and into storage. As replacement for our worn and faded drape, this new "cyc" will provide a crisp backdrop for video projection and productions that do not require traditional set construction. Principal funding for this purchase was provided by the Western Arkansas Community Foundation. WACF is an affiliate of the Arkansas Community Foundation, a publicly supported non-profit organization that manages and distribute charitable funds.

Fort Smith Little Theatre
SPOTLIGHT

P.O. Box 3752, Fort Smith, AR 72913

www.fslt.org

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From the Top...

Welcome back! We have been waiting 18 months to say those words. What a long, long intermission this has been. Among the many losses caused by COVID-19 has been the opportunity for us to be together. We have missed the cultural as well as the social experience that live theatre provides. But finally FSLT is ready to reopen, and we look forward to seeing you in your favorite seat!

Let me take this opportunity to thank all of you who donated to FSLT during this challenging period. Your generous support made it possible for us to remain shuttered and emerge again to provide affordable, quality entertainment for our community.

As we make the transition back into full operation, you will notice some things will be different.

- We will have Health and Safety policies that may be revised for each production as conditions change. Please understand that we are following recommended guidelines to help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all our patrons and volunteers.
- We're celebrating our reopening – Sip Sip Hooray! For 2021 productions, all tickets will be \$12 – including Opening Nights when complimentary wine, champagne, and dessert will be served.
- Due to the pandemic, we were unable to offer Season Passes for 2021. Therefore, there will not be a period of early seat selection normally available to Season Pass patrons.
- The good news is that we plan on selling Season Passes again for 2022. It will be our 75th Anniversary season, and we can't wait to tell you about the great line up of shows we have planned.

We do hope you'll join us for *Clue*. After the impact COVID has had on us all, we need to come together and laugh! The set is massive, the cast is superb, and your seat is waiting.

- Sherry Hester, *President*

Next Up

Auditions for *Parfumerie*, directed by Jamie Lambdin-Bolin, will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, October 4. Callbacks will be held on Tuesday, October 5. The cast calls for 7 males approximately 15-60+ and 5-10 females approximately 20-60+. Production dates will be November 11-20. For more information, visit fslt.org or find us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.



Tickets for *Clue* will be available beginning September 11