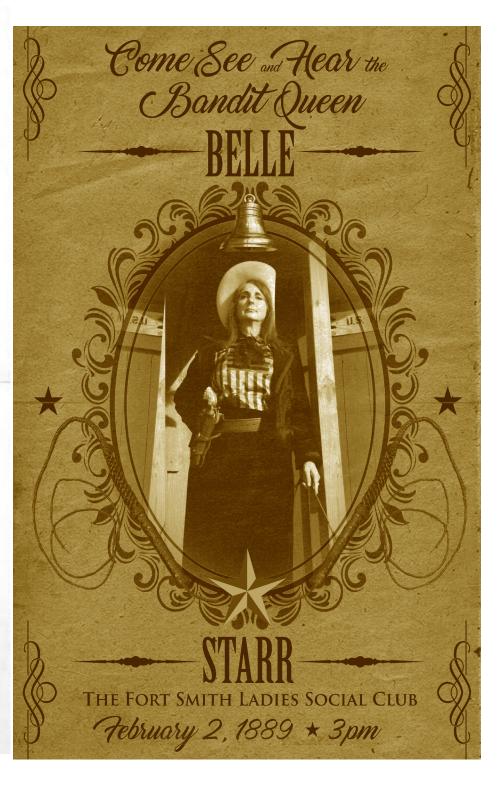


- rearl tried for larceny.

Dearl Starr once spent summer here Jim Middleton found here.

- Where Jim Reed's relatives lived
- Scott County Courthouse



# Belle Starr: By Herself

Written by Ray Coleman

Directed by Jim Moody

Starring Cindy Clark

#### **Production Team**

Executive Producer	Jane Ann Short
Stage Manager	Shanna Davis
Research/Archivist	Carson Dickson
Scenic Design	Carson Dickson
Scenic Construction	Brian Lindon
Graphic Design	Aaron Ray
Publicity	Suzanne Thomas

# **Setting**

Belle Starr did not have a presentation at the Fort Smith Ladies Society, but all other events described are true.

## **Cindy Clark**

I first came to the FSLT in 1978 as a very shy girl who opened my mouth only to say my lines. Needless to say, all that has changed! I never, ever would have believed 40 years later I'd be doing a one-woman show!

My favorite productions over the years have been: Come Back to the 5 and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean; Vanities; Summer and Smoke; and The Little Foxes.

My favorite line from this production, *Belle Starr: By Herself*, is "Lord, ain't it always the preacher's daughter?"

For Ray Coleman- writer, actor, and friend whom I've heard in my head this entire journey- I hope you would be happy with this show.

For Don- who always believed I could.

#### **Director's Note**

When I agreed to direct Cindy "Cate" Clark in *Belle Starr:* By Herself I had no idea of the ride it was going to be. I could see the challenge for her nearly 200 pages of dialogue, but what was there for me to do?

After four months, I can say making sure we stayed true to Ray Coleman's words was my first task. Ray was a very particular stylist who chose his words carefully. Our aim was to stay true to his version.

Second, my job was to ensure that what was said was truthful. Three of us, Cindy, Carson and myself checked facts to be sure we were historically accurate. We learned a lot about the late 19th century history of the South Western U.S.

My third goal was to help set a tone that made this one woman monologue entertaining- not a lecture but a conversation that allowed this Bandit Queen to come alive. A woman who lived a full vibrant life and met the challenges thrown at her and could hold her own, had to be brought to life.

After the show, my aim is for members of the audience to feel they have gotten to know Belle Starr: by herself.

## **Special Thanks**

- Fort Smith History Museum
- Tim Smith
- Kim & Bob Redo, owners of Dry Creek Training
- Eva Roberson
- Rick Roberson and
- Incredible Wolf: 6 time
  World Champion Tennessee
  Walker

- Connie Hyatt
- Tami Green
- Jeannie Smith
- Janice Ross
- Gail Hocutt
- Wendy Quick
- John-Mark Scales
- Rick Tinder
- Buster Sharp