



BELLE STARR COUNTRY

- 1 Belle Starr born here.
 - 2 Belle lived here in her late teens and early twenties - Made love to Cole Younger.
 - 3 Younger's Bend, Belle Starr's Indian Territory home, and site of her grave.
 - 4 Belle Starr was a familiar figure on Fort Smith streets, and in the court of Federal Judge Isaac C. Parker.
 - 5 Belle's son - Ed Reed - killed here.
 - 6 Belle and Pearl Starr frequently summered here.
 - 7 Body of Jim Middleton found here.
 - 8 Pearl Starr once spent summer here.
 - 9 Pearl tried for larceny.
 - 10 Where Jim Reed's relatives lived.
 - 11 Where John Middleton burned the Scott County Courthouse.
- Route followed by Belle Starr on her frequent visits to Fort Smith.
- Route followed by Belle at time John Middleton was killed.
- Route of her frequent pleasure trips to Dardanelle, Burnett Springs and Chickasha.

Come See and Hear the
Bandit Queen
BELLE



STARR

THE FORT SMITH LADIES SOCIAL CLUB

February 2, 1889 ★ 3pm

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