

Jean Santana: The lush from "You Can't Take it With You" says she is redeemed in this play because she's " . . . gone to school and is helping humanity."

Jane Ann Short: "Of course I couldn't let a year go by without setting foot on the FSLT stage. For better or worse, here I am again! Hope you enjoy the show!"

Nan Stark: Nan returns for the third time in two years to the FSLT, and is enjoying "Bethlehem." Her last Christmas play was a long time ago, when she was a child growing up in Scotland.

David Steadham: Listed last alphabetically, David keeps increasing his FSLT line load in just one year! First a reading in "Waiting for Lefty," then "You Can't Take it With You," now, as Jack Laughlin.

From the Director:

It's been a long journey, but thanks to the willingness of FSLT to present original scripts, we are finally here. As you can see, our cast and crew represent a lot of experience. I'm sure if we added up the number of years it would be mind boggling! We are grateful that they were willing to "take a flyer" with us. Special thanks to Soni Foti for being my advisor and support as well as producer. We couldn't have made it without any of them.

There are no shepherds and wisemen, but Bethlehem is a Christmas play. We think you will find the true spirit in it. Hope you enjoy the search!

Gayle

Author's comments:

Now I understand why Oscar winners thank everyone from mom and dad to their next-door neighbor for their good fortune! Without the dedication of so many talented people, "Bethlehem" would never have happened. At this writing, I'm still married to the director, but we have learned that author and director should probably never be constantly under the same roof until any play is ready for opening night. At times it has been like a light-hearted custody battle! Seriously, I still can't believe this is all happening -- the reality of it all! And some day we're going to Bethlehem (PA) to see what it's really like! Never been there. Merry Christmas!

Dave Ross



Bethlehem

An original play by
Dave Ross

FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE

DECEMBER 10, 11 & 12, 1998

DIRECTED BY GAYLE ROSS

PRODUCED BY SONI FOTI

CAST (in order of appearance)

Barney McGuire Rhed Khilling
 Jack Laughlin David Steadham
 Marylynn Brunswick Jane Ann Short
 Lucas Brunswick Lane Tait
 Bus Station Announcer John Gallagher
 Andy Benatti Orin Frank
 Ruth Benatti Nan Stark
 Ted Torgeson Jim Baker
 Irma Nelda Burks
 Wilma Sampson Louise Barling
 Alice Shockley Carole Rogers
 Ace (Laces) Strykovich Roy Mosher
 Molly Manchester Cindy Clark
 Eleanor (Grandma) Parkins Angela Covey
 Bernie Kreeger Patrick Moore
 Flash Robert Cloninger
 Nurse Abernathy Jean Santana

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

Scene One - Christmas Eve morning, 1959 . . . Rockville State Prison (PA)
 Scene Two - later the same day . . . Allentown Bus Station

(15-MINUTE INTERMISSION)

ACT TWO

Scene One - Christmas Eve . . . an older home in Bethlehem
 Scene Two - early Christmas morning
 Scene Three - several hours later . . . a hospital in Bethlehem

PRODUCTION CREW

Director Gayle Ross
 Producer Soni Foti
 Props Hannah Foti, Phanita Williams
 Wardrobe Phanita Williams, Carole Rogers, Angela Covey
 Set Darrel Smith, Cast & Crew
 Lights/Sound John Gallagher
 Stage Manager Jean Santana
 Prompter Hannah Foti

THANK YOUs

Jack Moseley
 Dave Burdue
 Ralph Obana
 Faith United Methodist Church

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Jim Baker: I'm back! And glad to be!

Louise Barling: Performed on and off in various FSLT productions since 1986, most recently "Dinner at Eight."

Nelda Burks: Lives in Alma, was in FSLT "Brigadoon; current member of Mulberry Community Theater, shows there include "Odd Couple" and "Wizard of Oz."

Cindy Clark: She has been starring in FSLT productions for more than a dozen years. Most recently in "Vanities," this time Cindy's a might-have-been cheerleader carrying a little front-end weight!

Robert Cloninger: A drama student at Northside, he is making his FLST debut in this play, but played Charlie in "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," and has appeared in other school-related dramas.

Angela Covey: Having been involved with the FSLT for 23 years, I've done just about everything from directing to cleaning toilets. Now I'm a feisty old bag lady!

Orin Frank: I was last seen on the FSLT stage in "My Three Angels," and more recently directed "Fallen Angels." And in between I do this and that, now and then.

John Gallagher: Fresh from a real "on stage" role in "You Can't Take it With You," John returns to his familiar production booth duties, but can be heard loudly calling buses in the first act. It's all in the timing!

Rhed Khilling: "Hey, I'm back! It's been a long year recovering, but I'm not going to let heart trouble slow me down! Being on stage is good therapy anyway. Merry Christmas!"

Patrick Moore: "Making my second consecutive appearance on the FSLT stage as Bernie, I'm trying this role with one hand tied behind my back! I'm glad to be involved with all these people!"

Roy Mosher: Too modest to submit an official biography, Roy is making his first FSLT appearance in several years. He made his directing debut with "Boys Next Door."

Dash RipRock????: As Lucas, this is his first FSLT production not in uniform. Dash's motto remains "I never let a lack of talent stand in my way of having of good time. Still awaiting my big kissing scene."