

Fort Smith Little Theatre

Spotlight

March 22, 2014

Dates: Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *Boeing Boeing* will be April 3. Regular performances will be April 4-5 and 9-12. The Sunday Matinee performances are April 6 and 13.

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

Box Office Hours: The box office is open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and on Saturdays from 5 to 7 p.m. during the run of the show.

Reservations: Reservations can be made by calling (479) 783-2966. Calls will be returned in the order they are received. Reservations will be held until 15 minutes before the show. Gala Tickets \$25. All other shows \$10.

Season Ticket Holders: Regular season ticket patrons are encouraged to call March 22-26 for preferred seating. They can also reserve a General Admission seat for every Season Ticket they have. General Admission reservations will not be filled until March 27.

Reminder: When you call to make a reservation, Press #2

Plan to Laugh Out Loud at *Boeing Boeing*

"All in the timing" – quote by David Ives, winner of the John Grassner Playwriting Award.

FSLT audiences can laugh-out-loud at the second offering of our 2014 Season – *Boeing Boeing*, written by Marc Camoletti and translated by Beverly Cross and Francis Evans. This bedroom comedy will open April 3 and run through April 13. Director Suzanne Thomas, who remembers this play from her teens, is delighted to have found the script and is looking forward to bringing it to our

stage. She has gathered a talent-heavy cast and crew to transport our patrons back to the 1960s in France, the superfast *Boeing Boeing* way.

The story unfolds as Bernard (Ian Miller), an American businessman, is well-settled into a systematic life in his chic Parisian apartment close to the Orly Airport. His busy routine is kept organized by a sarcastic yet efficient housekeeper, Bertha (Jane Wineland). His heart (and libido)

See Boeing on page 3





Show Sponsor Applauded

We would like to recognize Sykes Enterprises as our show sponsor for *Boeing Boeing*. By underwriting the cost of this production, their generosity helps us maintain affordable ticket prices. A customer-support services company with headquarters in Tampa, Sykes is a premier employer in the Greater Fort Smith Region and makes a significant impact in this area as a patron of the arts. FSLT is indeed proud to have Sykes as our community partner.

Two Big Changes for 2014

Two Sunday matinees will be performed for all regular productions. New Curtain times are: evenings—7:30 PM; matinees—2:00 PM.

Director's Notes...

Rather naughty and romantic comedy has international appeal

Growing up in India, *Boeing Boeing* was a part of my teenage memories – having first watched it as an Indian movie of the same name, in my mother-tongue Malayalam. I distinctly recall laughing my heart out, over the various nuances that came from its slapstick and rather ‘naughty’ and romantic comedy. However, when my dad found a copy of the 1965 American movie (from which the Indian movie was copied), I was thrilled that this farce was actually rather international. Then to my utter surprise and joy, Dad got me the script of the original play (both in French, and in English) – and I immediately fell in love with the style of boudoir comedy. But never in my wildest dreams did I imagine being able to direct this very show, years down the line, at FSLT.

From a rather young age I beamed under the spotlight, and thrived on the backstage energy – however directing is something I took time to come-into. For this, I am rather thankful to FSLT – for honing my skills over the past five years, since my move to Fort Smith, from Southern India.

Marc Camoletti’s writing is funny and intriguing, yet he leaves enough room by being flexible in his instructions towards prospective directors. This helped me a great deal in the planning of this production. However, I got really lucky in being able to find actors who not only fulfill my vision, but also help me keep this play as close to the original as possible. And then of course, I struck it big with a winning crew backing me up.

Team *Boeing Boeing* and I have thoroughly enjoyed putting this play together – now, we hope that you enjoy our efforts, and laugh your hearts out.

— *Suzanne M. Thomas*, Director



Boeing Boeing opens at FSLT April 3

Continued from page 1

are tended by a “merry-go-round” of stewardesses – Gloria (Tina Dale), a clever California Blonde; Gabriella (Tabatha Plymale), a passionate Italian; and Gretchen (Jennifer Canada), a real German darling. Tight timetables make it possible for the three rotating fiancées/lovers to entertain him, not knowing the others exist. But, just as an old school friend, Robert (Aaron Ray), drops in from Wisconsin to renew acquaintances, the tightly managed love-fest falls apart. Chaos ensues

and laughter erupts.

Director Thomas has gathered an overly able backstage crew. Producers are Deepu Thomas and Shannon Stoddard. Technical Advisor is Carole Rogers. Stage Manager is Sherry Hester, assisted by Nathan Stockemer. Set designer, Scott Black, is assisted by Duff Taylor, while Prop Mistress, Audra Sargent has Kerri Nally for an assistant. Costume Mistress is Jill Ledbetter assisted by Wendy Quick, with Summer Ferguson as the Hair and Make-up Expert.

Lighting Designer is Mark Honeycutt, and Sound Engineer is Justin Johnson. Wesley Fox is the Choreographer. The crew is rounded out with a Help-Team consisting of Joe Graham, Rhonda Fawcett, and Kiame French.

Now is the time to make a reservation. Our phone number remains the same (479-783-2966 /dial 2). Remember that Curtain Time is now 7:30 p.m. for evening shows, and 2 p.m on Sundays. You don't want to be late and miss a single minute.

Make Believe To Be Performed Off-Season

Natasha Lisenko is twenty-two years old. She's clever, creative, can describe the plot of every episode of *Battlestar Galactica*, and hasn't left the house in five years. Her sister, Lena, is an energetic, popular, occasionally cruel high-school cheerleader – or was, the last time Natasha saw her. As Natasha works her way through delayed adolescence and a strangely evolving relationship with her tutor, her family works to move forward without a sister, without a daughter, and without answers to the questions surrounding her disappearance. When the case is suddenly re-opened, Natasha is forced to make a decision. Reality or imagination? Make believe or truth? Or can she – as she's been doing for the past five years – go on existing someplace in between?

Examining the way a family deals with grief, this dramatic comedy, titled *Make Believe*, will be directed by Valerie Baldwin. Her cast includes Amanda Hiatt, Jamie Lambdin, Jill Ledbetter, Duff Taylor, Stephen Martin, and Robert Montgomery who will also serve as crew along with Chuck Howard and Eric Wells.

Performances are scheduled for **THURSDAY - SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 25, and 26 at 7:30 pm**. Admission is \$5 at the door. No reservations will be accepted. This production is not part of our regular season, so admission is not provided by your season ticket.

Thanks (Again) To The Hennessy Foundation

Several improvements are being made in the actor's Green Room, courtesy of the William T. and May P. Hennessy Foundation. Their gift will allow us to install a new wall mirror, a flat-screen TV to display on-stage activity, and a custom-built bookcase to house our large inventory of scripts. Managed by the First National Bank Trust Department, the Hennessy Foundation has been a long-time supporter of FSLT, and we are so grateful for their continued generosity.

Samuel Terry, First National Bank Trust Officer presents a flat-screen tv to Cecelia Woods-McDonald, FSLT President on behalf of the Hennessy Foundation.



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P.O. Box 3752 • Fort Smith, AR 72913

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From the Top...

Laughter and Changes

Are you still dabbing at your eyes from the touching moments or chuckling audibly at the humor? *The Dixie Swim Club* Cast and Crew gave us a fantastic maiden show of the season. Watching the friendship shared by five friends through the years, added the perfect warmth to buffet the cold, gray, and dreary skies of February. Thank you, *Dixie Swim Club*, for all your hard work and for putting smiles on our faces.

The comedy and laughter will continue with our second show, *Boeing Boeing*. A playboy juggling a handful of beautiful, jet-setting women is sure to leave us in stitches, as we watch him try to extricate himself from a few potentially embarrassing and troubling spots.

The first show brought with it a number of changes to our overall season layout—beginning with earlier curtain times for all shows. Thank you, dear patrons, for remembering the time changes of 7:30 pm for evening shows and 2:00 pm for matinees. There were very few latecomers, which proves you really do read our *Spotlight* newsletter. Although a periodic late arrival is sometimes unavoidable, please remember that trying to seat someone at that time is not only disruptive, but also difficult once the auditorium is darkened.

We also added a second matinee in response to requests from many patrons. There has been a lot of positive feedback to these adjustments. Implementation of

Next Up

Auditions for the FSLT production, *Leading Ladies*, a comedy by Ken Ludwig, directed by Duff Taylor, will be held at the theatre at 7 p.m. on April 28 and 29. The cast calls for 3 females 21-75 years of age, 5 males 24-65 years of age, plus 10 ensemble members (men and/or women). Production dates are June 5-15.

the changes brought its own set of challenges to our volunteers. To help make their job a little easier, advance notification of any cancellations is always appreciated. Thank you for your cooperation, and as always, please continue to offer your suggestions in order for us to provide the best experience possible.

Cecilia Woods-McDonald, President

Season Ticket holders are urged to call before March 27 for reservations.