

FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE

SPOTLIGHT



401 North 6th Street

May 18, 2023

www.fslt.org

Dates: Opening Night of *Deathtrap* will be Thursday, June 1. Regular performances will be June 2-3 and 7-10. A Sunday Matinee will be offered June 4.

Show Times: Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 6:45 p.m. Matinees begin at 2:00 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 1:15 p.m.

Season Flex Pass Seat Selection:

Seat selection begins 7:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 20 for Flex Pass patrons.

Select seats online at fslt.org or call the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn. 2) to request seats on the phone. Flex Pass patrons may also purchase an additional ticket for every pass they have.

General Public Tickets: General public tickets available beginning 7:00 a.m. **Thursday, May 25.** Purchase online at fslt.org or call the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn. 2) to purchase on the phone. Opening Nights are \$20. All other performances \$12.

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. Volunteers will return calls during variable hours.

NOTE:

Deathtrap is not recommended for audience members younger than 13 due to implied adult situations, use of weapons and simulated gunshots.



COMIC THRILLER DEATHTRAP COMING TO FSLT JUNE 1-10

**DEATHTRAP. A THRILLER IN TWO ACTS. ONE SET, FIVE CHARACTERS.
A JUICY MURDER IN ACT ONE. UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS IN ACT TWO.
HIGHLY COMMERCIAL. – SIDNEY BRUHL, DEATHTRAP**

A modern classic, *Deathtrap* by Ira Levin, will play June 1-4 and 7-10 at Fort Smith Little Theatre. Directed by Micki Voelkel, the comedy thriller stars a cast of FSLT veterans in this 1978 hit that ran on Broadway for four years. Levin (1929-2007) is best known for his novels *Rosemary's Baby*, *A Kiss Before Dying*, and *The Stepford Wives*. *Deathtrap* starred John Wood, Marian Seldes and Victor Garber on Broadway and was later adapted into a 1982 film starring Michael Caine, Christopher Reeve, and Dyan Cannon.

It's October 1978. Sidney Bruhl (Duff Taylor) is a brilliant playwright who wrote the classic thriller *The Murder Game* 18 years ago. His successive plays have been commercial failures and money, supplied by his rich wife Myra (Tina Dale) is growing short. One morning while working in his study decorated with weapons used in his theatrical productions, Sidney receives a play in the mail written by Clifford Anderson (Charles Belt). Clifford, one of Sidney's students in a summer workshop, has written a masterful play destined to rival *Dial M for Murder*, *Angel Street*, and *The Murder Game* itself. Can Sidney resist the temptation to knock off the younger playwright and pass off *Deathtrap* as his own work? Will his



See *Deathtrap* on page 3

SHHHH!

PLEASE DON'T REVEAL THE SECRETS OF DEATHTRAP SO THAT PATRONS ATTENDING FUTURE PERFORMANCES WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE SURPRISES AND TWISTS!



Director's Letter



Thrilleritis malignis. The main character of *Deathtrap* describes the all-encompassing love for thrillers and mysteries this way. I admit it. I am a victim of this particular malady and have been all my life.

When I was 15, I saw the original Broadway production of *Deathtrap*. The group of students with whom I traveled were slightly more interested in night life than plays, so I made my way to the TCKTS booth and purchased a discounted matinee ticket for *Deathtrap*. Sitting alone, I was swept away by the show, until just before the end of Act I when something so shocking and unexpected happened that I screamed out loud and grabbed the poor gentleman next to me in genuine fear. Bless him for his kindness. I've loved *Deathtrap* ever since.

I hope you have the same roller coaster thrill ride I did during that pivotal theatre experience!

-Micki Voelkel, Director



Seating Late Arrivals

- To minimize disruption for patrons and actors, those arriving after curtain time will be seated only at a suitable break in the performance. It is also possible that you may be placed in a more accessible seat then moved to your purchased seat at intermission. Seating after a performance has begun is subject to the discretion of FSLT. Thank you for your cooperation.

Deathtrap opens June 1

neighbor, Dutch psychic Helga Ten Dorp (Rikke Black), see his true intentions? Will Sidney and Myra's attorney Porter Milgram (John Hall) suspect Sidney's actions? To reveal any more would be to spoil the roller coaster twists and turns that made the play legendary.

The experienced crew includes director Voelkel, producer Joe Graham, assistant directors Jamie Lambin-Bolin and Ashleigh Mathews, and stage manager Audra Sargent. Scott Black designed and built the set with the help of Gary Cameron and Bradley Nance. Janet Renwick designed the late 1970s wardrobe while Sharla Cameron served as prop mistress. Sherry Hester provided guidance on the wide array of weapons displayed on the set and used in the show. Rebekah Martin designed the lights, Micki Voelkel designed the sound, and Eric Wells served as casting consultant.

Voelkel originally submitted *Deathtrap* for the 2020 season, but the COVID-19 lockdown led to the cancellation of the show a few weeks before auditions. "Three years late, but just as exciting," Voelkel notes. "Deathtrap has been a favorite of mine since I saw the original production on Broadway when I was just 15 years old. While I've often performed in murder mysteries and thrillers, this is my first time directing one."

Actor Duff Taylor is enjoying taking on the towering role of Sidney Bruhl. "I'm very excited to play someone who has so many levels of characterization. Sidney appears to be self-confident, humorous, loving and creative. Yet beneath this thin veneer lurks another person whose secrets consume him," Taylor says. "I've never had so much fun with a character as I am having with this playwright in the midst of a dry spell. The thriller is filled with dark humor and mental whiplash turns. Some patrons might scream out loud; others may require a bathroom break."

Charles Belt was not familiar with *Deathtrap* before auditioning for the show. "Micki

directed *The Graduate* which was my first play at FSLT and it was a wonderful experience! When I found out she was directing again, I couldn't wait to audition. After being cast, I was happy to discover that I love this play and can't wait for opening night."

In the role of Helga Ten Dorp, Rikke Black is enjoying new challenges: "She is so fun and outside of any character I've ever done. She is pushing my comfort level and helping me grow as an individual and as an actress."

Playing the role of Myra, Tina Dale commented, "I'm so happy to be back on stage at FSLT as part of this suspenseful production. In every scene, I feel like there is so much happening just beneath the surface, going unsaid but portrayed just the same. I'm sure our patrons will really enjoy the ride."

"The five performers in this show are exceptional," says Voelkel. "There were so many talented performers at auditions that it was hard to narrow them down. This particular group of performers has not only individual talent, but chemistry that lets them work together and create scenes that go beyond what any of them could do individually. It's a joy to watch."

Please note that *Deathtrap* is for more mature audiences due to implied adult situations, use of weapons and simulated gunshots. The show is not recommended for audience members younger than 13.

Deathtrap opens June 1 with additional 7:30 pm performances scheduled for June 2-3 and 7-10. A matinee will be performed at 2 p.m. Sunday June 4. Tickets for the opening night performance are \$20; all other performances are \$12. For Season Flex Pass patrons, seat selection will begin at 7:00 a.m. Saturday, May 20. Tickets will go on sale to the general public beginning 7:00 a.m. Thursday, May 25. You can buy tickets and select your seats online at fslt.org or by calling 479-783-2966 (extn. 2).



Sip Sip Hooray!

Oh the excitement of Opening Night! Courtesy of **Sodie's Wine and Spirits**, quality wine and champagne is served pre-show. At intermission, a special dessert is served along with brew from **Fort Smith Coffee**. Tickets are \$20. By calling the Box Office, Flex Pass and Wednesday Night Subscribers can attend Opening Night for only \$8.

Business Bravos!

We greatly appreciate **Sutherlands** for donating landscaping plants and **Cintas** for donating mats for our backstage area. Bravo to these businesses!

Seat Tickets Checked By Ushers

If you selected your seats online, you can bypass the Box Office when you arrive and show your print-at-home ticket or your ticket confirmation on your smart phone to an usher. Alternately, go to the Box Office upon your arrival, pick up your seat ticket, then proceed to an usher at either aisle.



Fort Smith Little Theatre
SPOTLIGHT

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

www.fslt.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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From the Top...

You may have heard that Bradley Kidder, Sr. passed away in April. I did not have the privilege of knowing Brad – but I certainly have heard a lot about him. Brad began his long association with FSLT in 1958. In April of 1986, he had the honor of delivering the last lines spoken on FSLT's old North O Street theatre in the play *Born Yesterday*. He continued acting, directing, and volunteering with our community theatre for many years. From what I understand, he was equally entertaining on and off the stage. He's been described as a tremendous talent, a real "character," a good man, and a good friend. What a fine epitaph!

And what a fine time we had last month thanks to the cast and crew of *Dilemmas with Dinner*. Oh, how I love the sound of laughter reverberating in our theatre!

Next up – *Deathtrap*. I greatly enjoyed the movie and can't wait to watch Director Micki Voelkel bring this comic thriller to life on our stage.

Yes, I realize that summer has arrived, along with summer chores. There are grills to clean, lawns to water, and grass to mow. But don't forget to spend time with your pals or your partner and come to FSLT for some great entertainment. After all, no one ever said, "I wish I'd spent more time weeding"! Come see us!

– Joanne Peterson, *President*

AUDITIONS –

Join The Fun!

Auditions for the iconic musical *Cinderella* will be held at 7 pm Monday, May 22 at Goddard United Methodist Church. Monday will be music only auditions. Be prepared to sing a 2 min. portion of a song of your choice. Tuesday, May 23: callbacks and cold readings. Thursday, May 25: cast member read through. Tuesday, May 30: music rehearsals begin. Production dates are July 27-August 12. Director Eric Wells. Music Director George Mann. Cast: Principal roles for 6 females ages approximately 20-60+ and 3 males ages 20-60+. Several young female roles ages approximately 16+. Adult male and female ensemble roles of all ages. **COMPLETE DETAILS AT FSLT.ORG/AUDITIONS.**



Season Flex Pass patrons are urged to select seats before May 25.