

Fort Smith Little Theatre

Spotlight

February 1, 2014

Dates: Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *The Dixie Swim Club* will be Feb. 13. Regular performances will be Feb. 14-15, and 19-22. The Sunday Matinee performances are Feb. 16 and 23.

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 Feb. 1-5 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 Feb. 6.

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

Enduring friendships stand test of time

"A friend is someone who gives you total freedom to be yourself."

— Jim Morrison

Starting this season at FSLT, we bring you a Jones-Hope-Wooten comedy directed by Angela Covey—a play that will make you laugh, and fondly remember your school/college friends. True to Southern sentiments, it's the tale of five women whose enduring friendship stands the test of time, as they meet every August, free of husbands, kids, jobs, and sometimes bras. *The Dixie Swim Club* opens on February 13 and runs through February 23.

Having bonded as members of the Pemberton College Swim Team, their friendship stays strong over the years, despite their unique differences. You will meet Sheree (Susan Sudar) – who is the glue that keeps this group together with her organizing skills and mother-hen nature. There is Sexy Lexie (Debbie Carney) – the evergreen divorcee, who only has time to keep herself young, always on the prowl for the next best male of our species. Dinah (Nikki McDaniel) is the workaholic attorney – practical, successful, devoid of emotion, and aggressive

See *Dixie* on page 3





Show Sponsor Applauded

As early as 1950, First National Bank was recognized in our show programs for their support of FSLT, and through the decades they have remained a generous patron. We are pleased to recognize this civic-minded bank as *The Dixie Swim Club* show sponsor. First National offers expertise, convenience, and exceptional service at 13 locations and 17 ATMs. With a wide range of products to serve personal banking needs and help businesses thrive and prosper, First National's commitment to our community continues.

Many Thanks

We greatly appreciate the support of these locally owned businesses. What they provide to FSLT, helps provide you a lower ticket cost.

Marie's Lock & Safe – donated rekeying door locks and new keys
Bedfords Camera & Video – donated scanning of cast photos
Kolor Key – discounted lobby windowcoverings
Arkansas Glass & Mirror – discounted wall mirror

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.

2013 Annual Meeting

The FSLT Annual Membership meeting was held November 25, 2013 at 7 p.m. Reports were given by officers and committee chairs. Five new Board members were elected to three-year terms: Neal Goodwin, Nikki McDaniel, Suzanne Thomas, Carole Rogers, and Amanda Elkins-Hiatt. Three from the membership-at-large were elected to one-year terms on the nominating committee: Bruce Birkhead, Melissa Vitale, and Rikkee Workman-Black. The newly elected Board then met to elect officers for the coming year:

Director's Notes...

Thank you after nearly 40 years

Back in 1975, I walked through the doors of FSLT – then located at 3800 North "O" Street. I had no idea that evening how my life would change due to a gentleman named Bob Wanslow taking a chance on, at that time, a relatively young woman with an English accent. Through the following years, I have had the honor of meeting many great talented people.

Due to the nature of this organization, most of us, me included, can get quite emotional and have no difficulty in expressing ourselves – but if one is hurting or in trouble, without a doubt we are there for each other. Our backgrounds are varied, but for those tried and true FSLT workers, we all have the same goal, which is to support each other and produce the best theatre we can.

So, now as I come close to my 40th anniversary and possible retirement from FSLT, I say thank you to fellow thespians, patrons, my family, and the many folks who I now call friends.

—Angela Covey, Director

Cecilia Woods-McDonald—President,
Rham Cunningham—Vice President, Paula
Sharum—Treasurer, Lora Rice—Secretary.

Newsletter Delivery

You are urged to receive our Spotlight newsletter by email (instead of "snail mail") to ensure easy, dependable, on-time delivery, while reducing our printing and mailing costs. To switch to email delivery, email paulafsltar@aol.com or call 479-783-2966 (press 4).

Bargains On The Back & Special Thanks

On the back of all seat tickets during 2014, you'll find coupons for **Calico County** and **Golden Corral**. We don't tear our tickets, so you can enjoy the savings. Also, we hope you'll join us in a round of applause for **Consolidated Printing** of Van Buren, who generously donated the printing of our seat tickets again this year.

Special Gift

From A Special Lady

Thanks to Connie Lichty-Smith, comfortable chairs (with arms!) have been purchased to replace the folding chairs we use for overflow seating. We appreciate Connie's generosity, and when you are seated in the new chairs, you'll appreciate it as well.

Last Chance to Buy Season Tickets

2014 Season Tickets will be sold in the lobby before all performances of *The*

Dixie Swim Club. If you plan to buy your season ticket when you arrive to attend the show, please go to the Season Ticket desk **before** going to the Box Office window to pick up your seat assignments.

Requesting A Reservation

Gala Opening Night patrons: Because your same seats are automatically reserved for all Galas, you only need to call box office if you wish to cancel your Gala seat and/or request a regular performance reservation.

Regular Season Ticket patrons: After you receive your Spotlight newsletter, decide which performance date you want to attend, then call 479-783-2966 (press 2) to request your reservation. Calls will be returned in the order they are received. Your reservation requests will be accepted beginning **Saturday** (12 days before each show opens) and not before.

No-Shows Are A No-No

All reservations are held until 15 minutes before showtime, when they may be made available for walk-ins; but, advance notice of a cancellation makes it far more likely that a seat can be filled. If you have a reservation, please call and leave a message if you will be unable to attend. "No shows" are costly; please do your part to keep our seats full.

Season Ticket Patrons

– Take Note

Please keep your Season Ticket Pass in your wallet, and bring it with you to **each and every** performance.

The Dixie Swim Club opens at FSLT February 13

Continued from page 1

enough to drive men away. You'll also meet dear o'l Vernadette (Mary Beth Koprovic) – perpetually under a dark cloud of woes that follow her all through life. And finally, we have sweet and sunny Jeri Neal (Melissa Vitale), or should we say, Sister Mary Esther.

Over the many years that pass in the course of this play, we peek at some of their annual gatherings to watch them face the ebbs and tides of life. By their laughter and true friendship, we are inspired to pick up the pieces from our past, and welcome them into our future.

Having gathered a wonderful Cast, Director Covey also assembled a great Crew to back her up behind the scenes. Charlie Dye and Cecilia Woods-McDonald serve once again as her Producers, while Carole Rogers, takes on the role of the Stage Manager. Martha Gooden is the Prompter, and the Set Crew includes Blake Young, Ron Rouse, and Duff Taylor. Duff is also helping with Props along with Neal Goodwin, Joe Graham, and Carol Smith. Michael Tickler is working on Lights, with Wesley Rester on Sound. Wardrobe is being handled by Kaye Birkhead, Clara Jane Rubarth, Anna Schodowski, Jan Nelson, and Carmen Taylor. Finally, Bruce Birkhead is lending his expertise

with floral arrangements.

You'll undoubtedly enjoy this hilarious and touching comedy. Their friendships last forever, but empty seats won't. So remember to mark your calendars and call 479-783-2966

(press 2) to reserve your seat. The box office will begin accepting reservations from Season Ticket patrons on **Saturday, February 1**. General Admission requests will be accepted beginning Thursday, February 6.



Fort Smith Little Theatre

Spotlight

P.O. Box 3752 • Fort Smith, AR 72913

www.fslt.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2014 FSLT Board of Directors

Cecelia Woods-McDonald, President

Rham Cunningham, Vice President

Lora Rice, Secretary

Shannon Stoddard, Interim Secretary

Paula Sharum, Treasurer

Scott Black

Amanda Elkins-Hiatt

Neal Goodwin

Jennie Mathews

Nikki McDaniel

Carole Rogers

Clara Jane Rubarth

Suzanne Thomas

Sherri Tickler

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From the Top... *Listening...*

As president of the Fort Smith Little Theatre, it is my job to make sure that we are using our resources to the fullest – the facility, our funding, and the knowledge and expertise of our elected Board and volunteers – so that we have an impact on the community and contribute to the offerings of our wonderful city.

I could list a litany of leadership qualities that are beneficial to this office, but foremost among them is actively listening to those around me. The Voices include people who have long been associated with the theatre and bring experience; new and young Voices with fresh viewpoints that know no limits; and Voices from those who simply value a unique organization such as this.

It is the ability to really hear what others are saying, and understand

why they have such passion to bring forth their concerns, suggestions or grievances, that I can be effective in this role of president.

There will undoubtedly be many surprises, challenges, rewards, and yes, even a few hurdles that await me as I serve in this capacity for 2014. I am thrilled to usher in this new season and I will do my best to see our theatre has another successful year.

The first show, *The Dixie Swim Club*, actually reminds me a lot of this organization. The characters form a passionate, lasting bond that sees them through thick and thin, year after year. They laugh. They cry. They support one another. And they have a good time. *The Dixie Swim Club* and FSLT both offer great stories. We just need to listen.
Cecilia Woods-McDonald, President

Next Up

Auditions for the FSLT production, *Boeing Boeing* by Marc Comoletti, directed by Suzanne Thomas, will be held at the theatre Feb. 24 and 25 at 7 p.m. The cast calls for two males 25-35 years of age, three females 20-35 years of age, and one female 40-60 years of age. Production dates are April 3-13.



Season Ticket holders are urged to call before Feb. 6 for reservations.