

SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

February 2, 2019

www.fslt.org

Dates: Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *Happily Ever After: A Wedding Comedy* will be Thursday, Feb. 14. Regular performances will be Feb. 15-16 and 20-23. A Sunday Matinee will be offered on Feb. 17.

Show Times: All evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 6:45 p.m. The 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, Feb. 2. 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: Tickets available beginning 7:00 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 7. Purchase online at fslt.org or call the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn: 2) to purchase on the phone. Gala Opening Night tickets \$27 / 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. During variable hours, volunteers will return calls in the order they are received.

Reminder: To reach the Box Office, select Extn: 2

NEW FOR 2019

Online ticketing and seat selection now available at www.fslt.org.

FSLT Opens 2019 with Romantic Comedy

"The human heart is a mysterious organ."
~ Gwenjane Searcy, *Happily Ever After: A Wedding Comedy*

Romance, comedy, and a little Texan spice are the ingredients of *Happily Ever After: A Wedding Comedy* directed by Eric Wells and opening February 14 at FSLT. This family-friendly comedy promises to be the perfect Valentine to warm the hearts of FSLT patrons this cold winter.

Bride-to-be Francie Renfro (Victoria Walden) has locked herself in the nursery room of Piney Woods Bible Methodist Church; should she marry steady fiancé Kyle Longacre (Aaron Ray) or take a chance on mysterious dream man Gert Fleers (Randall Marks) who just happens to be in a coma? Caterers Polly Rosenhaus (Summer Robinson) and Gwenjane Searcy (Jamie Lambdin) struggle to save the food, while harried mother-of-the-bride Adelle Renfro (Micki Voelkel) frets over her daughter's happiness. Cash-strapped father-of-the-bride Chester Renfro (Noel Harvey, Jr.) threatens to break down the door. Sarcastic best man Cash Renfro (Tyler Huntington) flirts with Gwenjane. Pastor Bruce Puff (John Hall) juggles the wedding, a dog funeral, and Polly's amorous advances. Meanwhile, maid-of-honor Renee Purdy falls for Francie's comatose-love herself. All of these antics are set against the backdrop of a Presidential speech and motorcade that goes comically wrong.

See *Happily Ever After* on page 3



Show Sponsor Shows Strong Support



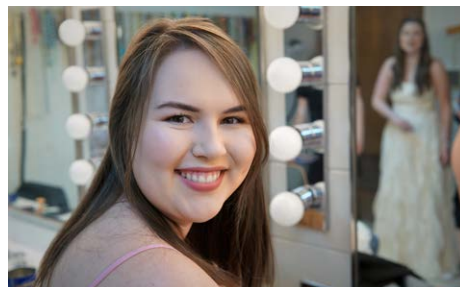
AT&T is a corporation whose generosity is greatly appreciated, as their show sponsorship helps us maintain affordable ticket prices. One of the largest telecommunications companies in the world, AT&T provides mobile and fixed telephone service as well as Direct TV. Their commitment to product and service innovations is matched by their dedication to improving communities where they live and work. FSLT is grateful to AT&T for their sponsorship support, and we applaud them as a shining example of caring corporate citizenship.



Director's Letter

2019 marks my tenth year being involved with FSLT, and with a season ahead that is going to rock Fort Smith, I am honored to be opening the year with this hilarious show. After directing 2018's *Calendar Girls* and *Mythical Creatures and How to Approach Them*, I intended to step away from the director's chair for a while. I'm working full-time while completing my education degree, so I planned to spend time onstage and backstage until my degree was complete. Little did I know that the thrill of directing would make me want to do it all again. So I caved in and began searching for the right script. I found all kinds of comedies and murder mysteries that would have been crowd pleasers, but often, they had roles that I longed for myself. That is when I stumbled upon *Happily Ever After: A Wedding Comedy*. This story was a gem of a find with its ensemble characters that are all unique and relatable. The script gives them each their own time to shine – plus all the twists and turns in this play make for a fun story with laughs aplenty. I have found myself with a cast and crew every director dreams of, and it has been a fun ride since day one of auditions. I encourage everyone to come and invite family and friends to see *Happily Ever After: A Wedding Comedy*. Offering a welcome break from the grey and gloom of winter, it's a show you won't want to miss!

- Eric Wells, *Director*



2018 Annual Meeting

The FSLT Annual Membership meeting was held on November 26, 2018 at 7 p.m. Reports were given by officers and committee chairs. Five new Board members were elected to three-year terms: Rikkee Workman-Black, Steve Dwiggin, Jeremy Marston, Melissa Vitale, and Eric Wells. Three members-at-large were elected to a one-year term on the nominating committee: Sherry Hester, Jill Ledbetter, and Valerie Valentine. The newly elected Board then met to elect officers for the coming year: Deepu Thomas, President; Melissa Vitale, Vice President; Neal Goodwin, Treasurer; Rikkee Workman-Black, Secretary.

Happily Ever After opens February 14

Director Eric Wells has recruited an experienced crew including producer Sherry Hester, stage manager Audra Sargent, costumer Monica Longoria, light operator T.J. Dudley, props mistress Susan Hickam, and artist Zack Valentine.

Wells is in his 10th year as an FSLT volunteer onstage, backstage, and being on the governing board. "I was attracted to this script for several reasons – one being that it is a light-hearted comedy and perfect to open on Valentine's Day. Also the acting opportunities are pretty balanced – meaning that each character gets their moment to shine on stage. There are a lot of plot twists and laughs at every turn – well, most weddings have a little behind the scenes drama or crisis – but never has there been a wedding with circumstances like this...!"

Actress Jamie Lambdin has a special reason to be excited about the show. "I'm getting married later this year, so what better way to prepare for the wild wedding craziness than to be in a wedding comedy! My character lives in a world of her own, and that is not always easy to play. Another pertinent challenge about being in a comedy is trying hard to not laugh when a comic situation is happening on stage, but to stay in character."

Noel Harvey is excited to return to FSLT. "I've performed in many shows and musicals (even here at FSLT). But it's been a while since I've been on stage, and now with my new fiancée's urging, I decided it was time to get back at it. This comedy seemed like the perfect

opportunity to get my feet wet again in the world of theatre. I love the dedication of everyone involved, and the importance that is placed on producing a great show for the FSLT audiences."

New volunteer Morgan Henderson has embraced the challenge of performing in an intimate space: "The small and intimate stage here is something new for me, but I think it will be fun to experience the audience being so up close that they become a part of the show in some manner."

Novice FSLT volunteer Audra Sargent has also enjoyed the challenges. "After having handled props for the last show at FSLT, *Noises Off*, I wanted to learn another backstage skill. I am so glad that Eric gave me the chance to be a Stage Manager and to sit in during the casting process – which was really difficult because there were so many talented people who had auditioned."

Happily Ever After opens with a champagne gala February 14 at 7:30 p.m. Additional evening performances run February 15-16 and 20-23 at 7:30 p.m. A Sunday 2 p.m. matinee is scheduled for Feb 17. Seat selection for Season Flex Pass patrons begins at 7 a.m. on Saturday, February 2. Tickets will be sold to the general public beginning at 7 a.m. on Thursday, February 7. Purchase online or call 479-783-2966 (extn: 2) to purchase through a box office volunteer. Tickets for opening night are \$27. All other performances are \$12.



A Round of Applause

On the back of our pre-printed seat tickets during 2019, you'll find coupons for two locally-owned, long-time supporters of FSLT, **Calico County** and **Golden Corral**. Enjoy the savings and their delicious food!

A round of applause for **Consolidated Printing** of Van Buren, who donated our colorful pre-printed seat tickets again this year. This is a generous contribution for which we are very grateful!

Opening nights at FSLT will be really special again this year thanks to **Sodie's Wine and Spirits**. We appreciate their donation of quality wine and champagne for our patrons attending Gala Opening Night performances.



Seat Selection / Ticketing

For Season Flex Pass patrons, seat selection begins 7:00 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 2. 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. For the general public, tickets will be available beginning 7:00 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 7. Purchase online at fslt.org or call the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn: 2) to purchase on the phone.

Seat Tickets Checked By Ushers

Seat tickets will be checked at the aisles. 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.

Online Order Fees

Online orders will be subject to a modest processing fee of \$2.00 per order, regardless of the number of the tickets in the order. Order fees will be waived for Season Flex Pass patron transactions. To maintain our affordable ticket prices and fees, we hope you will consider making a donation to FSLT.

Spend Time With Your Valentine

Gala Opening Night for our upcoming performance will be February 14. Attendees will enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres, wine and champagne prior to the performance, with dessert and coffee at intermission. General public tickets are \$27. Flex Pass patrons may upgrade to the Gala show for \$15.

Fort Smith Little Theatre
SPOTLIGHT

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

www.fslt.org

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From the Top...

The Fort Smith Little Theatre provides lots of choices: two types of season pass packages; eight or more performances for each production; evening shows or matinees. FSLT offers a broad choice of plays – comedy, drama, musical, mystery – and lots of ways to join the fun. You can volunteer onstage, backstage, answer phones, serve coffee, usher, build sets, and more.

As we begin our 2019 season, we are pleased to offer yet another choice – a new, convenient way to buy tickets and select your seats. Our online ticketing system will provide an efficient vehicle for patrons to select their seats and purchase tickets from their computer or mobile device. But since technology is not for everyone, Box Office volunteers will still be available to handle seat selection and ticket sales on the phone.

This decision to implement online ticketing was not made lightly. Over the past year, we researched systems, sat through countless software demos, and consulted with more than 20 other community theatres for their advice. We will be grateful for your patience and cooperation as we implement computerization and new procedures to improve box office accuracy and provide you with an online choice.

As we launch our 72nd season, I am honored to assume the presidential reins from Carole Rogers - I have big shoes to fill! I hope to see you at the theatre, and hope you will continue to choose FSLT for the best of live entertainment.

- Deepu Thomas, *President*

Next Up

Auditions for *The Graduate*, directed by Micki Voekel, will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, February 25. Callbacks will be held on Tuesday, February 26. The cast calls for 6 males ages 25-65+ and 5 females ages 20-55+. Production dates are April 4-13. For more information, visit our website, www.fslt.org, or find us on Facebook.



Season Ticket holders are urged to call before February 7 for reservations.