



SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

January 26, 2023

www.fslt.org

Dates: Opening Night of *All I Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten* will be Thursday, Feb. 9. Regular evening performances will be Feb. 10-11 and 15-18. The matinee will be Sunday, Feb. 12. **A special Valentines performance will be Feb. 14.**

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

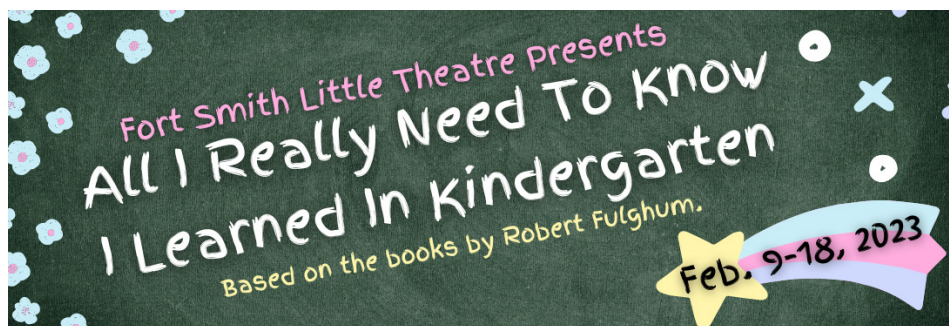
Season Flex Pass Seat Selection: Seat selection begins 7:00 a.m. Saturday, **Jan. 28** for Flex Pass patrons. Select seats online at fslt.org or call the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn. 2) to request seats on the phone. Flex Pass patrons may also purchase an additional ticket for every pass they have.

General Public Tickets: General public tickets available beginning 7:00 a.m. Thursday, **Feb. 2**. Purchase online at fslt.org or call the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn. 2) to purchase on the phone. Opening Night and Valentines tickets \$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.

Atten: Flex Pass Patrons

Your 2023 pass code was included in the email you received when you purchased your Pass. That code is required to select your seats online. If you don't know your code, and it does not appear when you log in for seat selection, a Box Office volunteer can provide it to you on the phone.



FSLT OPENS 2023 WITH KINDERGARTEN FEB. 9-18

Fort Smith Little Theatre opens Season 2023 with a unique production blending monologues, storytelling, and music. Running February 9 through 18, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* is based on the best-selling book by Robert Fulgham. The script was adapted by Ernest Zulia with music and lyrics by David Caldwell.

With a graduate degree in theatre education from NYU, Director Shannon Stoddard has directed more than 50 productions over the last decade for children and adults. As she directs her first full-run show at FSLT, she will be ably assisted by Music Director Barry Law.

Stoddard is very connected to the show's material and themes: "As a director, I've always loved an ensemble cast. There are no stars in this production; the entire cast is telling this beautiful story. It's about the life lessons you learn from childhood through old age and it's written with these fun moments of comedy as well as touching, heartfelt moments – just as life is in general."

The first vignettes are set in kindergarten – playing games and putting on a school play. Other scenes are typical of teen years like being grossed out by the gunk in the kitchen sink. Some present adults dealing with hopes, dreams, illness, loss, or looking back at the sandbox code of ethics.

See *Kindergarten* on page 3

Applause For Show Sponsors



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We greatly appreciate two of Fort Smith's leading corporate citizens, **Landmark CPAs** (formerly Beall Barclay) and **First National Bank**, who are co-sponsoring *All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten*. By underwriting the cost of this production, their generosity helps us maintain affordable ticket prices.

As one of the largest locally owned public accounting firms in Arkansas, **Landmark CPAs** provides a full range of accounting, tax, assurance, and advisory services to a diverse client base. Let the experts at Landmark CPAs help you discover your financial direction.

As early as 1950, **First National Bank** was supporting FSLT by advertising in our show programs, and through the decades they have continued their generous patronage. Founded in 1872 and still locally owned, First National Bank is here to serve all of your banking needs. Our community... Your Bank!

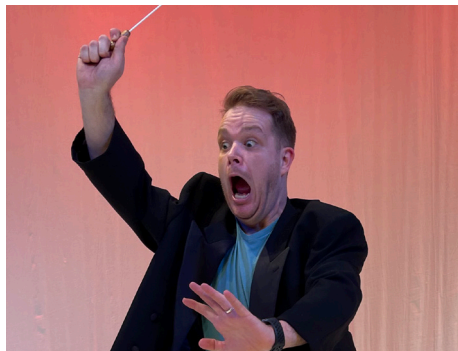
Director's Letter

You might be wondering why I chose to direct *All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten*. After all, it sounds a bit like a children's play, but it's not at all. Based on the popular book by Robert Fulgham, it deals with emotional subjects every adult faces as they're growing up. With music and creative storytelling, it reminds us of life lessons that we learned in kindergarten such as: sharing, playing fair, saying you're sorry, cleaning up your own mess, and most importantly letting your light shine!

Each of the eleven actors on stage plays multiple roles of differing ages, and the characterizations change with each vignette. For instance, early scenes include Hide and Seek and a children's production of Cinderella in which a little boy insists on playing a new role as "the pig." Later, as adults, a mother-of-the-bride watches the wedding she perfectly planned become a disaster, and a philosopher finds the meaning of life from a broken mirror from WWII.

So, why did I choose this script? Partly because it utilizes an ensemble cast; no one actor is more important than the others. And it gives me the chance to work with an incredible production team, including Barry Law as Music Director and Meredith Rice as Asst. Director. Most of all, the script was totally entertaining. It made me chuckle, made me think, and made me mindful of the sandbox code of ethics. I am sure it will do the same for you.

-Shannon Stoddard, Director



Spend Time With Your Valentine

A special Valentines Night performance will be offered Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 7:30 pm. Attendees will enjoy wine, champagne and soft drinks prior to the performance as well as dessert and coffee at intermission. Plus there will be some special Valentines perks and prizes.

General public tickets are \$20. By calling the Box Office, Flex Pass and Wednesday Night Subscribers may attend for just \$8.00. Don't miss out on this unique evening!



Kindergarten opens February 9



Fulgham published his collection of essays *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* in 1988. The book stayed on the New York Times bestseller list for two years. This theatrical adaptation was created in 1992 and since has been performed all over the world.

Director Stoddard leads a cast of 11 veteran FSLT performers who each plays a variety of characters. The actors are John J. Bishop, Nancy Blochberger, Nicole Bostick, Gary Cameron, Sharla Cameron, Shanna Prater, Wesley Fox, Mary Beth McAlvain, Brad Nance, Charlotte Scott and Eric Wells.

The experienced cast is supported by an equally experienced crew. Along with Stoddard and Law, the crew includes assistant director Meredith Sanders, producer Cliff Scott, stage managers Lexi Housley and Elysa Brunm-Turner, and Margaret Clymer backstage assistant. Mark Huneycutt is designing the set. Tina Dale serves as the costume designer and Gary Ashton creates the lighting design. Jamie Lambdin-Bolin serves as props and lighting tech, while

Coleman Smith is the audio-visual tech.

Assistant director Sanders describes the show as “very different even from the ensemble shows I’ve been a part of. The stories seem segmented in that you may not see how one scene relates to another, but it has an ending that ties everything together. It’s multiple stories with a central message.”

Performer Brad Nance comments, “Some of these stories are funny; others are poignant. I think everyone will find a few they really relate to and they’ll have a good laugh or find a lump in their throat.”

Cast member Nicole Bostick says, “I would like audiences to take with them a reminder of the little person they used to be. The awe and wonder and excitement that once was. Over the last few years the whole world has been flipped upside down. It would be nice to just come together and be reminded that this life is temporary and the important things are the people we love and the legacy we leave with them. A reminder to be kind. As one line says, making a living and making a life are not the same. And really, it has been a great reminder for myself as well that everything we really do need to know, we DID learn in kindergarten...let’s get back to that!”

Evening performances of *Kindergarten* are scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 9-11 and 15-18. A 2 p.m. matinee is scheduled for Sunday Feb. 12, and a special Valentine’s performance will be offered Tuesday Feb. 14. Seat selection for Flex Pass Patrons begins 7:00 a.m. Saturday Jan. 28. General public ticketing begins 7:00 a.m. Thursday,

Feb. 2. Tickets are \$20 for Opening Night and Valentines performances. All other performances are \$12. Purchase tickets/select seats online at fslt.org or call 479-783-2966 (extn. 2) to purchase through a box office volunteer.

Whether you need a refresher of childhood lessons or just want some good entertainment – hold hands, look both ways, and buy your tickets for *Kindergarten*.

2022 Annual Meeting

The FSLT Annual Membership meeting was held Nov. 21, 2022 at 7 p.m. Reports were given by officers and committee chairs. Five new Board members were elected to three-year terms: Jessica Smith, Shannon Stoddard, Melissa Vitale, Micki Voelkel, and Eric Wells. Three members-at-large were elected to a one-year term on the nominating committee: Sherry Hester, Rikkee Workman-Black, and Audra Sargent. The newly elected Board then met to elect officers for the coming year: Joanne Peterson, President; Vice President, Melissa Vitale; Treasurer, Lora Rice; Tina Dale, Secretary.

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**. By calling the Box Office, Flex Pass and Wednesday Night Subscribers can attend Opening Night for an \$8 fee.

Last Chance To Buy A 2023 Season Package!

Opening Night Same Seat Subscriptions (\$100/person) and Wednesday Same Seat Subscriptions (\$80/person) may be purchased through January 27. Flex Passes (\$70/person) are available through February 8. Buy online at fslt.org, call 479-783-2966 (extn. 5), or email fsltseasontickets@gmail.com.

Fort Smith Little Theatre's
Improv Review
Improvised *acting presented
by the rich talent pool of FSLT!

Door opens 6:45
Showtime 7:30
Tickets \$7

March 2-4
*Audience participation encouraged! Directed by: Wesley Fox

FSLT'S IMPROV REVIEW MARCH 2-4

Ready for fun? Join us for an evening of improvised acting presented by the rich talent pool of FSLT. Comic character actors, musicians, and thespians who are quick on their feet will not only make you laugh, but will involve you in making the laughter. Every scene will be packed with punch! Directed by the multi-talented Wesley Fox, performances on March 2, 3, and 4 will begin at 7:30 p.m. (doors will open at 6:45 p.m.). Admission is \$7 per person at the door (open seating). As this is an off-season production, no reservations will be accepted, and admission is not included with your season pass.

Fort Smith Little Theatre
SPOTLIGHT

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

www.fslt.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2023 FSLT Board of Directors

Joanne Peterson, President

Melissa Vitale, Vice President

Lora Rice, Treasurer

Tina Dale, Secretary

Charles Belt

Scott Black

Gary Cameron

Ashleigh Mathews

Jennie Mathews

Brad Nance

Meredith Rice

Jessica Smith

Shannon Stoddard

Micki Voelkel

Eric Wells



From the Top...

Over the last two years, Past-President Sherry Hester led FSLT through a challenging post-pandemic reopening followed by a yearlong 75th Anniversary celebration. As FSLT President for 2023, I have big shoes to fill, but I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve such a wonderful organization.

As I look at the first show of this season, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned In Kindergarten*, it reminds me of some things I've learned being a part of this community theatre. Through music and poignant storytelling, the show reminds us of the importance of sharing, caring, supporting each other, using our talents to "reflect the light"- and above all, having some fun along the way. Covering topics from childhood to adulthood, you won't want to miss this thoroughly entertaining show.

You also shouldn't miss the opportunity to buy a Season Package. All three packages include six excellent productions and plenty of perks. And while we're discussing opportunities – how about taking advantage of the opportunities FSLT provides to meet new friends and learn new skills? Not everyone has big talent or a big amount of time. But there are plenty of ways, big and small, for you to be a part of our community theatre.

After moving to Fort Smith a few years ago, my husband sent me the link to the FSLT website. While looking at upcoming performances, I clicked the audition tab out of sheer curiosity and saw "no experience necessary." I showed up to paint sets, offered to do other backstage jobs, then found myself performing, directing, and serving on the Board of Directors. My path of participation may not be one you desire, but even for those with limited time, there's an opportunity to learn new skills and make new friends. For more information about volunteering, check fslt.org, call the theatre, or find us on social media. It's a new year; try something new.

- Joanne Peterson, *President*

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AUDITIONS – Join The Fun!

Auditions for *Dilemmas With Dinner*, directed by Tina Dale, will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 6. Callbacks will be Tuesday, March 7. The cast calls for 4 males and 4 females approximately 20-55+ years of age. Production dates are April 13-22. In this fast paced comedy, Junior-Exec Brooke invites her boss and his wife for dinner in the hopes of securing a promotion. Before their guests arrive, the hosts discover their hired help is the boss's ex-daughter-in-law. And that's not the worst of it! Laughter abounds when a candlestick attack, appetizer toss, and general chaos ensue.



Season Flex Pass patrons are urged to select seats before February 2.