



# SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

July 13, 2023

[www.fslt.org](http://www.fslt.org)

**Dates:** Opening Night of *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* will be Thursday, July 27. Regular performances will be July 28-29, August 2-5 and 10-12. Matinees will be offered on **TWO SUNDAYS** July 30 and August 6.

**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.

**Flex Pass Seat Selection:** Seat selection begins 7:00 a.m. **Saturday, July 15** for Flex Pass patrons. Select seats online at [fslt.org](http://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 are available beginning 7:00 a.m. **Thursday, July 20.** Purchase online at [fslt.org](http://fslt.org) or call the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn. 2) to purchase on the phone. Opening Nights are \$25. All other performances \$20. See page 2 for info on Half Price Kids Tickets.

**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.



## Magical Musical *Cinderella* Up Next At FSLT

*"Look - it is true that everything starts with a wish.  
But it is what you do with a wish that counts."* – Fairy Godmother

*Cinderella* will don her glass slippers and win the heart of her prince in *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* which opens July 27 at Fort Smith Little Theatre. Eric Wells directs the show with musical direction by George Mann. This much loved production features music by Richard Rodgers and book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II. It was adapted for the stage by Tom Briggs from the original 1957 teleplay by Robert L. Freeman. The musical was originally written as a television vehicle for Julie Andrews. The show was adapted for theater in several versions and was rewritten for the pop star Brandy in 1997.

*Cinderella* (Allie Gooden) lives unhappily with her wicked stepmother (Charlotte Scott) and her vain and haughty stepsisters Grace (Rebekah Nickell) and Joy (Carly Austin). Mistreated and lonely, *Cinderella* wishes to go to the Prince's (Grant Huneycutt) ball. Her wish is magically granted by her Fairy Godmother (Shannon Stoddard) who gives her the night of her dreams – but it will all disappear at the stroke of midnight.

Supporting characters include Landon King as Lionel, Carrie French as Queen Constantina, Barry Law as King Maximilian, and Ryleigh Gathright and Rory Nickell alternating as Young *Cinderella*. The ensemble includes Gary Cameron, Carol Cannedy, Steve Dwiggin, Loni Elliott, Madelyn Frye, John Hall, Lily Hall, Lexi Housley, Steven Howard, Jamie Lambdin-Bolin, Avrey Laster, Monica Longoria, Brenna Ralston, Isabella Ree, Meredith Sanders, Coleman Smith, and Brynn Tucker.

## Extra Performances

THREE additional evening performances – August 10, 11, 12 – have been added to the regular run for *Cinderella*. In addition, TWO Sunday matinees (July 30 and August 6) will be performed. We appreciate this awesome cast and crew for performing this demanding, expanded schedule!



See *Cinderella* on page 3






We are pleased to recognize **Baptist Health** as our show sponsor for *Cinderella*. From humble beginnings more than 100 years ago to the healing ministry it is today, Baptist Health's purpose has remained the same – to create a healthier community through Christian compassion and innovative services. Baptist Health is Arkansas' most comprehensive health care organization with more than 250 points of access that include 11 hospitals, urgent care centers, a senior living community, more than 100 primary and specialty care clinics, a college with studies in nursing and allied health, a graduate residency program and access to virtual care anytime, anywhere. It is also the largest private not-for-profit health care organization based in Arkansas, providing care through the support of approximately 11,000 employees, groundbreaking treatments, renowned physicians and community outreach programs. At Baptist Health, care of the whole person – body, mind and spirit – is an expression of Christian faith. For more information about Baptist Health, visit [Baptist-Health.com](http://Baptist-Health.com), call Baptist Health HealthLine at 1-888-BAPTIST or download the myBaptistHealth app.



## Director's Letter



*Cinderella* is a story with various adaptations that have been loved and treasured by many people over many generations, including myself. Like most fans, I was familiar with the earliest adaptations of *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* with performances from both Julie Andrews and Leslie Ann Warren, and my love for that version grew even more in the ABC adaptation starring Whitney Houston and Brandi. The story of a young girl following her dreams and taking her destiny in her own hands by going to the ball, despite the demands her Stepmother gives her, is a theme I think we can all relate to on some level. If we want to have a "happily ever after," sometimes it may take a miracle with help from your own Fairy Godmother, but ultimately it's up to you – following your own heart and going after what you want most! I'm very excited for the audience to see this story come to life. These performers truly make the fairytale into a reality, and I think their efforts will make our audience feel as though they are in the story as well!

A huge shout-out and sincere thank you to my creative team – Music Director George Mann, Assistant Director Grace Andrews, and Choreographer Wesley Fox – and my entire cast and crew for being by my side as we bring this beautiful story to life. Their talents and dedication have made this experience magical for me, and I hope it will be magical for you as well.

–Eric Wells, *Director*



Enjoy affordable family fun! Half Price Kids tickets will be available for *Cinderella* thanks to FSLT patron, **Bill Engles (Engles Financial Services)**. Bill's generosity will help parents and grandparents to acquaint their special kiddos with this uplifting musical and the joy of live theatre. Check out the details below, and please say "thank you" to Bill when you see him!

- Half Price Kids Tickets are available only on Thursdays, Aug. 3 and Aug. 10. Quantities limited.
- Orders including Half Price Kids Tickets can only be processed by calling the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn. 2). This special offer is not available online.
- Half Price Kids Tickets are available to those who have a season package or those who purchase a full price ticket to *Cinderella*.
- For each adult ticket you have, up to two Half Price Kids Tickets may be purchased for children (through age 12), while supplies last.
- Those with Opening Night or Weds. Season Subscriptions can contact the Box Office to move their seats to August 3 or 10 if they wish to purchase Half Price Kids Tickets.
- The full price ticket and Half Price Kids Ticket must be for the same performance date and be processed in one transaction.





## Cinderella opens July 27

Director Eric Wells has a veteran crew including music director George Mann, assistant director Grace Andrews, choreographer Wesley Fox, producers Joe Graham and Brett Short, and stage managers Michael Fox and Elysa Turner. Props are handled by Sharla Cameron while costume design is by Janet Renwick. Additional costume team members are Jennifer Tipton Kelly, Sierra Hagen Laddusaw, Margaret Clymer, and Elizabeth Momand. Stagehands include Gabby Devaro, Neil Goodwin, Emilee Hatwig and Randy Pace. Set Design is by Reece Whitt; set construction team includes Ember Whitt, Gary Cameron, Coleman Smith and Stephen Nickell.

Wells comments, “*Cinderella* is such a charming story that it is beloved by many generations. I think bringing this fairytale to life will inspire others to follow your dreams and know that anything is possible! There are so many portions of the show I’m excited for. The colorful characters, beautiful music, wonderful dancing, and the magic on and off stage will make it an experience that no one will forget!”

Allie Gooden says, “The opportunity to play Cinderella has been a dream come true. I absolutely adore Julie Andrews, who originated this role in 1957. I grew up listening to and watching so many of her performances and films. I’ve always wanted to play one of the roles she’s performed, so the chance to play a role that she originated is an incredible honor.”

Veteran musician and actor Barry Law says, “There are not a lot of roles for men over 50 in musical theater. I am very proud to play



King Max, a role I have wanted to play for many years. As an actor, I love roles that are fun and have a lot of heart. Musically, this show is a joy to sing. And I’m thrilled to be singing again with Carrie French!”

One of the most challenging aspects of the musical is costuming according to Janet Renwick. “I’ve been sewing since I was big enough to reach the sewing machine, but costuming for FSLT has been a real joy. The challenge of creating the onstage transformation into Cinderella’s ballgown was exciting to me from the beginning. And nothing says “ballgowns!” more than *Cinderella*. It’s a big cast, and everyone has multiple costumes. More than 400 yards of fabric have gone into creating them. I’ve had many helpers and am grateful for each one. Managing all the pieces is difficult, but I believe we’ve managed it well. I hope our audience will love the colors and costumes as much as I do.”

Evening performances will be at 7:30 p.m. July 27-29, August 2-5 and 10-12. Two Sunday matinees will be offered at 2 p.m. July 30 and August 6. Seat selection for Flex Pass holders will begin at 7 a.m. Saturday July 15. Tickets go on sale for the general public at 7 a.m. Thursday, July 20. Opening Night tickets are \$25; all other performances are \$20. Half Price Kids Tickets will be available August 3 and 10. You can buy tickets and select your seats online at [fslt.org](http://fslt.org) or by calling 479-783-2966 (extn. 2). Don’t miss the music, magic and family-friendly fun of *Cinderella*!



## 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 \$25. (By calling the Box Office, Flex Pass and Wednesday Night Subscribers can attend Opening Night for a \$5 fee.)

## Family Friendly Guidelines

While *Cinderella* is certainly a family friendly show, it is a live performance in a small setting, not a movie theatre. Please keep that in mind when deciding whether your little ones are mature enough to remain in their own seat and enjoy the show. Note: a ticket is required for every person in attendance.

## Remembering Brad

We are grateful for the following donations given in memory of Bradley Kidder Sr. who passed away in April. Their gifts were a fitting tribute to Brad who was active at FSLT for more than 60 years.

**Marshall and Pam Yantis**  
**Mike and Bonnie Smets**  
**GFWC Junior Civic League**  
**Robert and Judy Dawson**

## 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.

## Cinderella's Royal Party

Saturday, July 22nd  
2pm-3:30pm

**Cinderella’s Royal Party** Join Cinderella and her friends for snacks and fun entertainment at FSLT from 2 pm to 3:30 pm, **Saturday, July 22**. The children will enjoy storytime, musical performances, having their photo taken with Cinderella, as well as other surprises.

Tickets are \$25 (admits one child and one adult). Additional siblings are \$15/each. Children must be 4 or older. Seating is limited and tickets are non refundable.

Purchase tickets by calling 783-2966 (Extn. 2) or email [fslt.communications@gmail.com](mailto:fslt.communications@gmail.com).

For your convenience, tickets to all performances of *Cinderella* will be available for purchase during the party.

Fort Smith Little Theatre  
**SPOTLIGHT**

P.O. Box 3752, Fort Smith, AR 72913  
[www.fslt.org](http://www.fslt.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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## From the Top...

Kudos to the cast and crew of our last production, *Deathtrap*, which was loaded with surprises, thrills and chills. Next up is our big summer musical, the beloved *Cinderella*. While we tend to think of this as a children's tale, it's actually a great story for all ages to enjoy. Dreams that come true, romance, and a happy ending – what's not to love?!

There's also magic in the story, but bits of it actually start occurring long before the curtain rises on opening night. It's magical when you see a timid newbie who has never been on stage blossom as they make new friends in the cast. It's amazing when talented costumers create everything from rag dresses to an elegant king's cape. It's inspiring when beautiful singing fills the room and dancers fill the stage. Lights, sound, set, and props all add their own special touch – and together, it creates the magic of the theatre. If you don't believe in magic, come to *Cinderella*. Even without the benefit of a fairy godmother's wand, I bet you'll be transformed.

– Joanne Peterson, *President*

P.S. - Remember that Half Price Kids Tickets are available on two Thursday evenings thanks to Bill Engles, a generous patron who wants children to experience the magic of live theatre that he so enjoys.



## AUDITIONS – Join The Fun!



Auditions for *Arsenic and Old Lace*, directed by Brandon Bolin, will be held **Monday, August 14**. (For those who cannot come on Monday, a limited number of slots will be available on Sunday afternoon. These will be scheduled only by appointment, on a case by case basis.) Callbacks Tuesday, August 15. The cast calls for 11 males between 20-70+ years of age, 1 female approximately 20-30+ and 2 females 50-70+. Production dates are September 21-30. For more information on this classic comedy, visit [fslt.org](http://fslt.org) or find us on social media.



**Season Flex Pass patrons are urged to select seats before July 20.**