

Fort Smith Little Theatre

# Spotlight

May 24, 2014

**Dates:** Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *Leading Ladies* will be June 5. Regular performances will be June 6-7 and 11-14. The Sunday Matinee performances are June 8 and 15.

**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 May 24-28 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 May 29.

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

## Heels will click in FSLT's *Leading Ladies*

*"All the world is a stage, and all men and women are players."*  
—William Shakespeare

*"When you are a young man, MacBeth is a character part. When you're older, it is a straight part."*  
—Sir Laurence Olivier

Readers of the above quotations are not merely players, they are lovers of live theatre and are in for a theatrical treat. *Leading Ladies*, by Ken Ludwig, will open at FSLT on June 5 and will run through a second matinee on June 15. Director Duff Taylor, a veteran volunteer

at our community theatre, has assembled a talented cast and crew who will have audiences laughing-out-loud (LOL for you texters).

The story begins in Merry Old England. Two English actors, Leo Clark (Ben Baldwin) and Jack Gable (Aaron Ray), make a living presenting "Scenes from Shakespeare" to group audiences. Afflicted with empty tummies and pockets, Clark and Gable opt to hop the Atlantic Ocean to ply their talents in the U S of A. They bomb out on this continent, too,

See *Ladies* on page 3





### Show Sponsors Applauded

We greatly appreciate two of Fort Smith's leading corporate citizens, Cooper Clinic and Beall Barclay, who are co-sponsoring *Leading Ladies*. By underwriting the cost of this production, their generosity helps us maintain affordable ticket prices. Residents in this area have trusted Beall Barclay with their accounting and financial needs for more than 50 years, and trusted Cooper Clinic with their healthcare for over 90. And we trust that you will join us in applauding these locally owned companies for being long and strong supporters of FSLT and the performing arts.

### Director's Notes...

#### *"Dying is easy. Comedy is harder."*

More than six years ago, I directed my first play at the Fort Smith Little Theatre, and I loved the experience! My cast and I worked very hard to bring Arthur Miller's tragedy, *All My Sons*, to stage in April of 2008. Despite an epic hail storm and personal tragedies amongst the cast, it was a great success. I knew my next directorial attempt should be just as rewarding: a comedy.

"Dying is easy. Comedy is harder." are the attributed last words of the great actor, Edmond Kean in 1833. It is true! Directing comedy is harder than drama. It requires more subtlety to bring out the laughter every night. Some lines are light, some are heavy, some are not even noticed the first time (thus the double-take), but all are required to bring out a masterpiece of comedy.

I can't imagine doing this without a group of actors who have the talent and natural instincts to take the lines to the next level. I thank them for their patience as I experiment with the pallet of blocking and delivery. I can't believe there is a more dedicated crew than those who tell this story from the wings. Thank you all. All oxymoron's aside, we have a great little theatre and I am proud to direct this show.

I hope you enjoy viewing the love story of our *Leading Ladies* as much as I enjoy telling it.

—Duff Taylor, Director



# Leading Ladies opens at Fort Smith Little Theatre, June 5

Continued from page 1

when their Shakespeare is not well received on the Moose Lodge circuit in Amish Pennsylvania.

But Clark and Gable are resilient and creative. They hatch a plan and the real fun begins. They learn of a wealthy old lady who is about to die and leave her fortune to two long lost English nephews. They plan to pass themselves off as the nephews and claim the fortune, but get hit with a mix-up on gender. Desperate and creative, they continue the scheme in high heels. You get the picture.

Their new Yankee friends and love interests are involved in the farce and the fun: Meg (Victoria Jones) and her fiance/minister, Duncan (Mike Papacoda); Meg's Aunt Florence (Angela Covey); Doctor Myers (Joe Graham) and his son, Butch (Robert Montgomery); plus Audrey (Jessica Fisher), a waitress on wheels.

Director Taylor is experienced enough to know the importance of a four star crew, for without such crews, no show could get through Act 1 Scene 1. Assistant Director is Rikke Workman-Black. Theresa Starr and Melissa Vitale are co-producers. Stage Manager is Micki Voelkel. Neal Goodwin is prop

manager. Lighting technician is Rebekah Bateman. Sound Technician is Joseph Reed. Costumers are Jill Ledbetter, Kaye Birkhead, and Carmen Taylor. Duff Taylor designed the set, and he and Scott Black constructed it.

So, to lovers of things theatrical—kick back, check your calendar, pick your day, and call to make

your reservation. For Season Ticket holders, reservations will be accepted beginning Saturday, May 24. General Admission seating requests may be made beginning Thursday, May 29. Ludwig's *Leading Ladies* is a mood lifter that will fill FSLT seats quickly. The number to call is still 479-783-2966 (press 2). Exit laughing.



Fort Smith Little Theatre

# Spotlight

P.O. Box 3752 • Fort Smith, AR 72913

www.fslt.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
Organization

U.S. Postage

**PAID**

Fort Smith, AR

Permit No. 12

## 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

Micki Voelkel

## From the Top...

### *Leading Ladies and Men...*

Wow—what an enjoyable trip. Hopefully, you were able to schedule a flight and book a seat for our most recent production, *Boeing Boeing*. The cast delivered a hilarious play that kept us all intrigued and guessing. Like many of you, I enjoy plays in which people are popping in and out of doors, trying to avoid one another.

Depending on the night you attended, you may have been entertained by the Director, Suzanne Thomas, donning the role of Gabriella. This isn't the first time, and probably won't be the last, that we've had a last minute cast member change. When you see the actors and actresses on stage at FSLT, there

aren't any understudies waiting in the wings to take their place. We don't have other leading ladies and men who have been studying the script for weeks, attending rehearsals, and learning the blocking (where to move/stand on stage). When those crisis moments arise, we work hard to find someone to fill in on short notice. Sometimes the actor has a week to learn what others have had six weeks to perfect, but more often than not, the notice is 24 to 48 hours. That really speaks to the dedication, professionalism, and talent of our volunteer actors—and to the spirit of teamwork required for live theatre.

Our next production promises to keep the laughter coming, with two

## Next Up

Auditions for the FSLT production, *9 to 5: The Musical*, directed by George Mann and Dwight Curry, will be held at 7 pm, June 2 & 3 at Goddard United Methodist Church, 1922 Dodson. The cast calls for 4 females 25-50 years of age, 3 males 25-50 years of age, 1 male teen 15-18 years of age, plus chorus. Production dates are July 31-August 10.

money hungry men masquerading as the nieces of an ailing older woman. In *Leading Ladies*, these leading men will keep us in stitches. Don't miss the fun.

*Cecelia Woods-McDonald*, President

**Season Ticket holders are urged to call before May 29 for reservations.**