

FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE

# SPOTLIGHT



401 North 6th Street

March 19, 2016

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

**Dates:** Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *Crimes of the Heart* will be March 31. Regular evening performances will be April 1-2 and 6-9. Matinees will be offered Saturday, April 2 and Sunday, April 3.

**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.

**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 March 19-23 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 March 24.

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

## *Emotions Erupt In Crimes of the Heart*

"The worst crimes are the crimes of the heart" — Jane Austen

Fort Smith Little Theatre patrons will find themselves getting a close-up look at the comedy and drama of human flaws in this season's second production, *Crimes of the Heart* directed by Micki Voelkel.

"I've loved this play since the first time I read it in the early 80s. It's about three Southern sisters who grew up in the shadow of a tragedy – their mother's suicide. And while the circumstances sound sad, this is a very funny play," Voelkel said.

While it has been described as a comedy that deals with serious issues, the story of the Magrath sisters is not a farce. Deeply emotional, the tragicomedy looks at past resentments, strained relationships, dysfunctional families, and enduring hardships.

"*Crimes of the Heart*, written by Beth Henley, really started the Southern gothic comedy/drama approach. So audiences can expect to connect with the show emotionally," Voelkel said.

The story revolves around three sisters – Lenny Magrath, the oldest sister fighting growing older alone played by Jordan Garton; Meg Magrath, a talented

*See Crimes of the Heart on page 3*





## ROLAND

### *Show Sponsors Applauded*

We are pleased to recognize our show sponsor, **Cherokee Casino & Hotel, Roland**. Their generosity helps us maintain affordable ticket prices.

Just minutes from Fort Smith, Cherokee Casino offers thrills and excitement 24 hours a day in their 170,000 square-foot casino and 120 room hotel tower. From electronic games to table games and poker, it's an exciting place to test your luck as well as enjoy delicious food at 'The Buffet'.

When you head to Cherokee Casino to get in on all the winning action, be sure to thank them for their support of FSLT.



## Director's Letter

When I was looking for a play to direct, I chose a show that has been close to my heart for decades as well as a show that could showcase the phenomenal twenty-something actresses at FSLT. Playwright Beth Henley won the 1981 Pulitzer Prize for this Southern gothic tale of the three Magrath sisters who grew up in the shadow of a family tragedy - their mother hung herself along with the family cat when the girls were young. Part hilarious Southern comedy and part drama, this show will make you laugh out loud and perhaps brush away a tear.

*Crimes of the Heart* has a cast where no character is over 30 years old - and boy did I have the cream of the crop show up for auditions! The two nights of grueling auditions for this show revealed just how much talent we have in this community. I'm blessed to be working with actors who are phenomenally talented as well as genuinely nice people.

We're also enjoying the 1974 setting of the play. Costumer Jill Ledbetter and I have spent more than a few hours giggling over the polyester knits, the Farrah Fawcett flips, and the mint green eyeshadow of the period!

If you enjoy the show half as much as we're enjoying the rehearsal process, I know you will love it!

**- Micki Voelkel, Director**





# Crimes of the Heart opens March 31

singer dealing with a few issues, played by Summer Ferguson; and Babe Botrelle, the youngest sister who has just shot her husband and is fighting to keep her skeletons hidden, played by Jessica Smith. Doc Porter, played by Christian Meurer, and Barnette Loyd, played by Brandon Bolin, attempt to bring sympathy to the play, while Valerie Valentine's character, Chick Boyle, does not see reason for any such thing.

"This show is also a gift for actors because it showcases both comic and dramatic acting skills. All the characters in the play are 30 and under; that appealed to me because we have so many talented young adults working with FSLT right now," Voelkel said.

The cast is supported by the backstage expertise of Eric Wells - assistant director; Joe Graham and Mike Papacado - co-producers;

Susan Hickam - stage manager; Jill Ledbetter - wardrobe; Neal Goodwin - props; Will Paget - set design and construction; Joseph Reed - lighting design; Chuck Howard and Mike Tickler - light and sound operators; Tina Dale, Cassie Mikel, and Rhonda Fawcett - running crew; Martha Gooden - prompter; and Landon Satterfield - artwork.

This production is sure to make audience members reflect on the complicated strings of the heart, weep for the fragile human psyche, cheer for the strength of family, and laugh at the humor of it all. The Gala Opening Night performance is 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 31. Regular evening performances will be 7:30 p.m. April 1-2 and 6-9; afternoon matinees are scheduled at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 2 and Sunday, April 3. Be sure to call 479-783-2966 (dial 2) to reserve your seat and join us for this Pulitzer Prize winning production.



## Frankenstein Performed As Off-Season Show

It's not Halloween, but anytime is the right time for a classic horror story like *Frankenstein*, which will be performed as an off-season production on April 21, 22, and 23. Directed by Summer Ferguson, this version of the famous tale explores the beginning and ending stages of the relationship between Victor Frankenstein and his Creation. The audience gets to be a part of Victor's mind and madness as the story unfolds. Through all the manipulation and fear, a love story blossoms between Victor and his childhood companion, Elizabeth. This play is a highly theatrical and emotional thriller. Will the Creature's jealousy and rage bring about death or life? Which side of the Creature will you enjoy more—the intelligent side, the sensitive side, or the violent side? "Variety" describes the play as an intriguing drama ... delving into the powerful subtext of the novel ... transcending the monster-story foundation to become a complex psychological drama.

Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. (doors will open at 6:45 p.m.). Tickets are \$5 per person at the door (open seating). As this is an off-season production, no reservations will be accepted, and admission is not provided by your season ticket. Join us for a night of thrills brought to you by a very talented cast with Aaron Ray playing Victor Frankenstein, Nathan Stockemer as The Creature, Cassie Colvet as Elizabeth, Duff Taylor as Professor, Wayne Mathews as Father, Meghan Partain as Justine, Will Paget as Walton, Jennifer Roller as Mother, and Lindsay Vickery as The Mate.

## 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 (dial 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 earlier.

## 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, please email [fsltseasontickets@gmail.com](mailto:fsltseasontickets@gmail.com) or call 479-783-2966 (dial 4).

## No-Shows are a No-No

All reservations are held until 15 minutes before curtain-time, 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 and will be unable to attend, please call and leave a message to cancel. "No shows" are costly; please do your part to keep our seats full.

## Matinees in 2016

While deciding when to attend FSLT productions in 2016, keep in mind that for most productions we will be offering a Saturday and a Sunday 2 p.m. matinee. Show dates are listed in each newsletter and online at [fslt.org](http://fslt.org).

Also, if you leave a phone reservation message requesting seats for a Saturday, please be sure to specify whether it is for the evening or matinee performance.

Fort Smith Little Theatre

# SPOTLIGHT

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

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

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## From the Top...

I'm back home after my trip to the Reel 'Em Inn fishing lodge in Mayhew, AR. I hope you enjoyed the journey as much as the cast and crew of *Farce of Nature* enjoyed bringing it to you.

And speaking of home, this summer will mark the 30th year that 401 N. 6th has been "home" to FSLT. Like all homes, our wonderful facility requires constant care and maintenance, and sometimes major renovation projects. In 1996, we paved our parking areas and installed lighting. In 2006, we added costume and prop storage to the back of our building which completed the original facility design. In 2013, we renovated our lobby and restrooms and expanded mezzanine storage, then made drainage and HVAC improvements while re-roofing in 2015. These projects are far outside our ability to learn lines, sew costumes, and build sets. They also result in significant costs that greatly exceed our normal operating budget. Thus, we rely heavily on generous professionals and businesses to assist us with their expertise, donations, and discounts.

None of these huge projects could have been accomplished without the skilled knowledge of architects, engineers, construction crews, electricians, painters, plumbers and many more too numerous to list. It is said it takes a village to raise a child. I am not sure about that, but I am absolutely positive it takes a lot of caring individuals and companies with a community spirit to keep a live theatre going and growing. To all of these wonderful firms, I want to say both personally and on behalf of FSLT, thank you. We are proud of our home, and grateful for your help. We literally could not have done it without you.

Now, we are on to *Crimes of the Heart* and the saga of the Magrath sisters, showcasing a cast of very talented young actors. Hope to see you at the theatre.

- Carole Rogers, President

## Next Up

Auditions for *The Lights Are Warm And Coloured* by William Norfolk will be held at 7 p.m. on April 25 and 26 at the theatre. The cast calls for 6 females ages 20-60 and 2 males ages 30-50. Melissa Vitale will be directing. Production dates are June 2-11. For more information, go to [fslt.org](http://fslt.org).

**Season Ticket holders are urged to call before March 24 for reservations.**