



SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

May 26, 2022

www.fslt.org

Dates: Opening Night of *Moon Over Buffalo* will be Thursday, June 9. Regular performances will be June 10-11 and 15-18. A Sunday Matinee will be offered June 12.

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.

Season Flex Pass Seat Selection: Seat selection begins 7:00 a.m. Saturday, **May 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, **June 2**. Purchase online at fslt.org or call the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn. 2) to purchase on the phone. Opening Nights are \$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. Reminder: To reach the Box Office select extn. 2.

Facial coverings are no longer required inside our facility

Moon Over Buffalo Returns to FSLT for Encore Production

“Now listen to me young lady! The theatre may be dying. The glamorous invalid may be crawling through the desert with but a single lung in its feeble chest, but it is still breathing and it is all we’ve got!”

- Ethel, *Moon Over Buffalo*

June brings to the Fort Smith Little Theatre, the reprise of a modern comedy classic *Moon Over Buffalo*. The Ken Ludwig favorite is directed by Duff Taylor who has an affinity for Ludwig’s work; Taylor has directed several Ludwig shows including *Leading Ladies*, *The Game’s Afoot*, and *Fox on the Fairway*. Previously performed at FSLT in 1999, the show was first produced on Broadway in 1995 starring Carol Burnett and Phillip Bosco in Tony-award-nominated performances. The script is popular with audiences and actors alike, for it offers loads of laughs, fast paced physical humor, and razor sharp dialogue – plus a happy ending!

The story revolves around traveling stage actors Charlotte and George Hay (Sally Story and Brett Short) who are playing *Cyrano de Bergerac* and *Private Lives* in repertory in 1953 Buffalo, New York. While George is satisfied with his stage career, Charlotte dreams of Hollywood stardom. When famed film director Frank Capra agrees to watch their performance to consider the duo for parts in a film, mishaps and misunderstandings ensue. At one point, the actors are even confused about which play they are performing!

Adding to the hijinks is George’s affair with ingenue Eileen (Meghan Partain) which has driven Charlotte into the arms of successful lawyer Richard (John Hall). Daughter

See *Moon Over Buffalo* 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 *Moon Over Buffalo*. 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

It is a privilege and an honor to be a part of the 75th Anniversary celebration. I joined the FSLT family in 1986 for North O's last show, *Born Yesterday*, and then reprised it in 2019 as director.

Shortly after that production when the pandemic arrived, our lights went black, yet our hearts still beat because of your generosity. Our patrons paid for shows that never ran, bills that never stopped, and repairs that never end. We are not just grateful, we are indebted forever.

The arts will never die in Fort Smith. The seeds planted by the Young Ladies Guild of Sparks Hospital in 1947 at the urging of Flo Pattee blossomed and grew into a strong tree known as the Fort Smith Little Theatre (an apple tree for FSLT volunteers; just ask a "older" volunteer what that means).

During this production of *Moon Over Buffalo*, we are blessed to honor a few of the 1999 cast who still volunteer at FSLT: Nancy Blochberger, Cindy Clark, Angela Covey, Jim Moody, and Michael Richardson. We will also recognize the Pattee family descendants who will attend our Opening Night.

If you do the math, you can tell the better part of my life is in community service to the theatre and you, our patrons. The cast and crew of this play give you a standing ovation for your continued support. Bravo!

-Duff Taylor, Director



Seat Tickets Checked By Ushers

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.

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 \$20. (By calling the Box Office, Flex Pass and Wednesday Night Subscribers can attend Opening Night for an \$8 fee.)

Moon Over Buffalo opens June 9

Rosalind (Carole Sikes Cannedy) is visiting with new fiancé Howard (Hunter Seegers), Charlotte's hard of hearing mother Ethel (Kiane Anderson) creates complications, and Rosalind's old flame Paul (Ian Miller) still holds a torch. All this is played out on a stage with five doors requiring well-timed entrances and exits.

Director Duff Taylor is supported by an experienced crew. Jamie Lambdin-Bolin serves as producer while Cliff Scott serves as both assistant director and stage manager. Janet Renwick is the costume designer. Properties are handled by Sharla Cameron, Carol Smith, and Tiffany Parker. T.J. Dudley is the lighting designer, Ashleigh Mathews is handling sound design, and Mike Tickler will serve as the light/sound technician. Duff Taylor and Gary Cameron are in charge of set design and construction.

Leads Brett Short and Sally Story are welcome new faces at FSLT. Short made his FSLT debut last fall as Colonel Mustard in *Clue*. Short praises "the classic and nostalgic feel of the story. The quick pace and humor remind me of comedies from 1950s television." Story is making her acting debut at FSLT as Charlotte, bringing years of experience acting and directing. She appreciates the atmosphere inside FSLT: "There isn't a bad seat in the house. Plus the intimacy of the space gives the audience a chance to connect with the actors (and vice versa), feeding off each other's energy." Story has focused on directing more in recent years, so she is excited to get back to the stage. "The physical demands are pretty challenging because the pacing for *Moon Over Buffalo* is super fast."

FSLT veteran Kiane Anderson admires the script, "I saw it years ago starring Carol Burnett and I loved it!" She also has affection for her character: "Ethel is

self-confident, sure of who she is, and who she loves and doesn't love." Carol Sikes Cannedy is happy to return to FSLT post pandemic. "After a long and tumultuous two years, we all need a reminder that what united us in laughter before all of this discord still makes us laugh today."

FSLT veteran Meghan Partain agrees, "I would love our audiences to laugh until their bellies hurt at this show. So many things distract us, and it can be easy to focus on the things that are bringing us down. Coming to the theatre and working on this hilarious show with an incredible cast and crew has been a more than welcome distraction for me. I love getting to laugh with my friends every night, and I hope we can give our audience the same experience."

Moon Over Buffalo opens June 9 with additional 7:30 pm performances scheduled for June 10-11 and 15-18. A matinee will be performed at 2 p.m. Sunday June 12. Tickets for the opening night performance are \$20; all other performances are \$12. For Season Flex Pass patrons, seat selection will begin at 7:00 a.m. Saturday, **May 28**. Tickets will go on sale to the general public beginning 7:00 a.m. Thursday, **June 2**. You can buy tickets and select your seats online at fslt.org or by calling 479-783-2966 (extn. 2).

If you are ready for good times with good friends and good theatre – don't miss *Moon Over Buffalo*!



Bravo For Baptist!

The founding of our community theatre – the first in Arkansas – was literally "sparked" by a fundraising project of the Young Ladies Guild of Sparks Hospital. While Baptist Health-Fort Smith continues the legacy of quality care previously provided by Sparks, they also continue their support for FSLT as our 75th Anniversary Sponsor.



Honoring Flo Pattee

Pre-show on Opening Night June 9, we will honor Flo Pattee who is considered to be FSLT's "founding mother." Five of Flo's descendants will travel from Louisville to attend that performance of *Moon Over Buffalo* and experience Flo's legacy first hand. Learn more on page 4.

75th Commemorative Booklet

Our anniversary publication is receiving great reviews! Pick one up at *Moon Over Buffalo* and future shows, while quantities last. A printing cost donation (\$5) would be appreciated, but is not required.

75th Diamond Bracelet Raffle

The raffle for a Newton's Jewelers Vahan Diamond Bar Bracelet (valued over \$2,200) continues. At each performance, tickets are sold and one name is selected to go into the final draw on August 13. The latest lucky entrants (selected during *A Southern Exposure* and *The Whole Shebang*) are: Elaine Brecker, Nancy Krehbiel, Wanda Gray, Caroline Speir, W. LeAnn Lee, David Craig, Melissa Vitale, Christina Lira, Kiane Anderson, Karen LeRosen, and Janette Roberts. Tickets will be sold pre-show at the next two productions – so bring your rabbit's foot and join the fun!

Anniversary Apparel

A limited quantity of 75th Anniversary shirts are still available. Purchase in the lobby pre-show or order online at fslt.org.

Worth A Thousand Words

Check out our collaborative Facebook album called "Your FSLT" for fond memories and good laughs. Upload your own pictures at <https://www.yogile.com/yourfslt/upload>.

Walk Down Memory Lane

Collected remembrances from volunteers and patrons are now available for your reading enjoyment. Through links at the bottom of our home page (fslt.org) you can read the memories of others and add your own.

Coming Soon!

Watch for two additional online activities: Volunteers Make It Happen (cast and crew photos) and The Rest Is History (the past in print).

Fort Smith Little Theatre
SPOTLIGHT

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

www.fslt.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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From the Top...

Honoring Descendants of FSLT's "Founding Mother" June 9



In the mid-1940s, Florabel Kennebrew, a theatre graduate of Northwestern University, came to Fort Smith to visit her sister whose husband was stationed at Fort Chaffee. During that visit, Flo was set up on a date with another Chaffee soldier, James Pattee, Jr. If Flo and James had not hit it off, wed, and started their married life in Fort Smith, it's unlikely our community theatre would have been started, and you would not be reading this today.

In 1947, Flo (shown above) persuaded the Young Ladies Guild of Sparks Hospital to produce a theatrical production as a fundraiser. Following that proposal, a community theatre – the first in Arkansas – was organized. It would be sponsored by the Guild with Flo in the driver's seat. The group of amateur thespians flourished under Flo's tutelage and by 1952, when the Pattees moved to Louisville, FSLT was strong enough to buy their first "home" on North O Street and operate independently without a sponsor. Flo did more than make a proposal; she provided a firm foundation for the organization that still thrives today.

On June 9, we will have the opportunity to recognize the descendants of FSLT's "founding mother" who are traveling from Louisville to attend the opening night of *Moon Over Buffalo*. Obviously all of our patrons and volunteers won't be able to attend that one performance, so here's an idea. Stop what you're doing, put your hands together, and applaud Flo Pattee for using her energy, training, and leadership to make a lasting legacy in our community. Thank you, Florabel!

- Sherry Hester, *President*

Auditions – Join The Fun!

Auditions for *Annie* were held May 23.
Production dates are July 28-August 13.

The next audition opportunity will be **Monday, August 15** for *The Philadelphia Story*, directed by Tina Dale. Callbacks will be held on Tuesday, August 16. The cast calls for 9 males between the ages of approximately 25-60+ and 6 females approximately 15-60+. Production dates are September 22-October 1. For more information on this Broadway hit that became a classic movie, visit www.fslt.org or find us on social media.



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