



# SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

May 16, 2015

www.fslt.org

**Dates:** Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *The Best of Everything* will be May 28. Regular performances will be May 29-30, and June 3-6. The Sunday Matinees will be May 31 and June 7.

**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 are \$25. Tickets for all other performances are \$10.

**Season Ticket Holders:** Regular season ticket patrons are encouraged to call May 16-20 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 21.

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

## "The Best" Is On Stage at FSLT

"All I want is the best of everything, and there's very little of that left." – Cecil Beaton

In 1952, society stressed that a woman's place was in the home – cooking, cleaning, raising children, and such. But the workforce was changing, and women were at the helm of that change.

An adaptation of Rona Jaffe's 1958 bestseller about ambitious secretaries in the big city, *The Best of Everything*, directed by Micki Voelkel, takes a look at girls working in the secretarial pool of a publishing house. These girls want thrilling careers and wonderful adventures – and husbands and children.

And while these "girls" are written as typical 1950s-style characters, they are real and emotional, said Voelkel. In fact, these women are dealing with issues that women deal with today – how to manage a career, love life, and family all at the same time.

Set at Fabian Publishing, the women – Summer Ferguson as Caroline Bender, a broken-hearted young woman hoping to catch a break; Jessica Fisher as April Morrison, a beautiful small-town girl; Cassie Mikel as Gregg Adams, an actress working and temp; Meghan Partain as Mary Agnes Russo, a gossipy secretary; Allison Claye as Brenda Zieleski, the schemer; and Susan Sudar as Amanda Farrow, the only woman publisher at the firm – weather relationship failures,

See *The Best of Everything* on page 3





# Director's Letter

Can a woman have a career without being “mean?” Can she have both the man AND the job she loves? What does it mean to be “ambitious?” Those sound like modern topics, but they are the focus of *The Best of Everything* – a retro dramatic comedy with a heart.

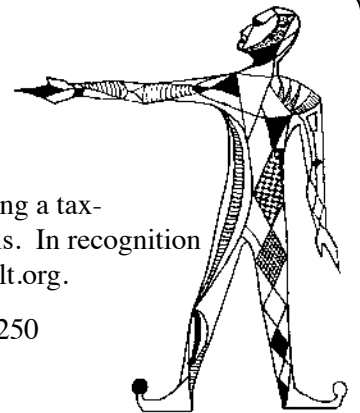
Although the play is based on a racy 1958 novel by Rona Jaffe, this brand new adaptation by Julie Kramer is a unique and modern script. The actors play their roles with the commitment of a drama but in the heightened style of a 1950s melodrama. Modern stagecraft devices including fantasy and dream sequences, cardboard cutout dance partners, and authentic period music, clothing, and cosmetics all contribute to make this script special. Despite its 1950s setting, please consider the performances as PG-13. While the language is very mild, the characters have busy love lives and discuss them very frankly.

As the director, I’ve been blessed with a terrific cast and crew that include some of the most talented young actors in the area, some seasoned FSLT veterans, and a few newcomers to the FSLT stage. So please join me and three very different young women – ambitious Caroline, naïve April, and flamboyant Gregg – as we explore the world of Manhattan publishing in the 1950s. You deserve “the best of everything.”

**- Micki Voelkel**



## 2015 ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN



The Fort Smith Little Theatre is proud to bring you another winning season, and with support from our Annual Fund Donors, we'll continue doing so for generations to come.

Please consider offering your support of our all volunteer community theatre by making a tax-deductible contribution to our 2015 Annual Fund Campaign at one of the following levels. In recognition of your gift, we will proudly list your name in our programs and on our website, [www.fslt.org](http://www.fslt.org).

- Producers \$2,000 +     Directors \$1,000     Stars \$500     Patron Donors \$250
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# *The Best of Everything* opens May 28

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and strive to gain more as they deal with men they see as just another stiff in a suit, which is portrayed beautifully with cardboard cutout paper doll male extras.

Rounding out the cast are Victoria Jones as the voice of Lorraine; David Harris as Eddie Harris, Caroline's ex-fiance; Landon Satterfield as Mike Rice, the alcoholic editor; Brad Kidder Jr. as the lecherous Mr. Shalimar; Mike Papacoda as the dashing David Wilder Savage; and Jacob Hiatt as Ronnie White, a sweet small-town boy.

To bring the show to life, Voelkel will depend on much behind the scene help including: Assistant Director,

Nathan Stockemer; Stage Manager/ Assistant Director, Ian Miller; Producers, Joe Graham and Mike Papacoda; Set design and Construction, Scott Black; Light Design, Joseph Reed; Wardrobe, Valerie Baldwin and Victoria Jones; Properties, Duff Taylor and Kim Kidder; Crew, Chuck Howard, Will Paget, and Lindsay Vickery; and Prompter, Martha Gooden.

Though the language is mild, *The Best of Everything* is considered PG-13. These ladies discuss their love lives a lot.

Is it possible for women to have it all? Make your reservations by calling 479-783-2966 (press 2), and find out. Show dates are May 28–June 7.



## It's Important To Press 2

When calling FSLT, **be sure to press 2** if you wish to leave a message for our Box Office volunteers. This applies to all calls to request, change, or cancel a reservation.

## 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, please call and leave a message if you will be unable to attend. "No shows" are costly. Please do your part to keep our seats full.

## 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:

Your reservation requests will be accepted beginning Saturday, 12 days before each show opens. Once box office opens, call 479-783-2966 (press 2) to reserve seats for your preferred performance.

## 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 [fstseasontickets@gmail.com](mailto:fstseasontickets@gmail.com) or call 479-783-2966 (press 4).

## Season Ticket Patrons – Take Note

Please keep your Season Ticket Pass in your wallet, and bring it with you to each and every 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...

Some 23 years ago, while in the throes of empty nest syndrome, I was invited to audition for a play at FSLT. Being of a “mature age” and never having done this before, you could say I was more than hesitant. My husband encouraged me to try. Actually, he pushed me out the door! I was cast; my husband got involved building the set; I listened, followed directions and learned. Within 2 weeks I was hooked. I met wonderfully talented, hard-working people who loved live theatre. Over the years, I have helped raise money, worked on many projects, and in every capacity both onstage and backstage. I became involved in the administrative process of the theatre as a member of the Board and on the executive committee. Many people preceded me in the same way, and left a viable, sustainable organization for us to build on.

In the last few productions, I have had the opportunity to work with some very gifted young people who are enthusiastic and energetic about FSLT. I can see that with some training and hands-on experience, they will pick up the flag and carry on the mission and heritage of this wonderful organization. I truly believe our treasured theatre is in good hands for the future. I wish for them the same joy and fulfillment that the theatre has brought to so many volunteers who have come before them. I hope they will cherish it and continue to improve it over the years to come.

- Carole Rogers, *President*

## Next Up - *The Wizard of Oz*

Auditions for *The Wizard of Oz*, directed by George Mann, will be held at 7 p.m., May 18 and 19 at Goddard United Methodist Church, 1922 Dodson Avenue. Production dates are July 23-August 8. The cast calls for 3 female principals (1: 18-25 years of age, 2: 25-60s) and 4 male principals (25-60 years of age), plus a large chorus of older teens through mature adults.

**Season Ticket holders are urged to call before May 21 for reservations.**