

FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE



# SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

October 27, 2022

www.fslt.org

**Dates:** Opening Night of *Coffee Shop* will be Thursday, November 10. Regular performances will be November 11-12 and 16-19. A matinee will be offered on Sunday, November 13.

**Show Times:** Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 6:45 p.m. The matinee will 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, October 29** 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, November 3.** 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 \$20. All other performances are \$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.

## Sip Sip Hooray!

Oh the excitement of Opening Night! Courtesy of **Sodie's Wine and Spirits**, 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.)

## coffee shop

A Southern Slice Of Life

On-Stage premiere presented by the  
Fort Smith Little Theatre

Nov. 10-19



Offerings in the Fort Smith Little Theatre's 75th season have run the gamut. There have been encore productions from our past; shows that were well established but new to our stage; and now *Coffee Shop* making it's on-stage debut when it opens on November 10.

Written and directed by FSLT volunteer Jamie Lambdin-Bolin, the script was inspired by her own experiences working at local coffee shops. When she took a new job to explore her career opportunities, Lambdin-Bolin realized she missed the flavor (excuse the pun) and the family-feel of the coffee shop. Thus, her barista experiences became the subject of her script.

The story revolves around a coffee shop staff that gets along well. They work as a team when it's busy, and they share a lot with each other when it's not. Unfortunately, the business is not doing well, so the owner Gale (Joanne Peterson) asks her business-savvy sister Margot (Tina Dale) for help. While this leads to improvements, it also creates friction, especially between Margot and employee Irene (Audra Sargent).

Among the coffee shop clientele are two brothers, Gordon (Ian Miller) and Nicholas (Eric Wells). Drama swirls around ditzy Luanne (Megan Bagley) and her fiancé Marty (Christian Meurer), for Luanne enjoys men as much as she does her arts and crafts. There's also a frequent customer (Charles Belt) who is so annoying that no one on the staff wants to wait on him. Customers and deliverymen include Steven Howard, John Nation, Joe Graham, Ember Whitt, Shelton Sargent, Lynette Pina, Jon Gustafson, Lynne

See *Coffee Shop* on page 3

## Season Subscriber Deadline - Oct 31

Patrons who had Opening Night or Wednesday Packages for 2022 must renew their order for 2023 by October 31 in order to retain their same seat assignments. Questions? Contact us at [fsltseasontickets@gmail.com](mailto:fsltseasontickets@gmail.com) or call 479-783-2966 (extn. 5)

## Shopping Made Easy

### Gift Certificates

You can purchase a Gift Certificate in any denomination online at [fslt.org](http://fslt.org) or by calling the Box Office. The recipient can apply the gift toward the purchase of a Season Package or individual show tickets. It's the perfect present!

### Purchasing a Gift Package

If you specifically want to purchase a Season Package (not a Gift Certificate) as a gift, please call 479-783-2966 (extn. 5) or email to [fsltseasontickets@gmail.com](mailto:fsltseasontickets@gmail.com). By handling the gift purchase for you, we can collect all the pertinent recipient information.

## Director's Letter

Since writing *Coffee Shop* in early 2020, I have been dreaming of seeing it come to life onstage. Now that we're here, I am thrilled to share what we've been working on. November 2022 marks my tenth anniversary as a volunteer with FSLT and rounds out our organization's 75th season. I could not be more thankful to the Board of Directors for allowing me the space to premier my show on this stage!

I didn't know exactly where I was going when I started writing the script, only that I wanted it set in my favorite type of coffee shop – one where you feel right at home just by walking through the door. I found bits of dialogue as I went – and the story eventually came together. I knew I wanted to create a place where people feel safe, where they come to forget their troubles, where they daydream, and where they can laugh with their friends over good coffee. The amazing people of this cast and crew have brought this feeling and my vision to life. I couldn't have asked for a better group of volunteers to experience this with.

Thank you to my husband, Brandon, for your unwavering support, to the Fort Smith Coffee Company and Bookish for their assistance, and to this team for your hard work. And to our wonderful patrons – many thanks for supporting our volunteer organization. Your patronage makes community theatre happen!

**-Jamie Lambdin-Bolin, Director**



## Here Comes Season 2023!

### 3 Types of Packages / 4 Ways to Buy

You're gonna love the line up we have planned for next season! For complete show information, go to [www.fslt.org](http://www.fslt.org). We offer three types of Season Packages – all with plenty of perks. You can purchase your preferred package in the lobby before all performances of *Coffee Shop*, buy online at [fslt.org](http://fslt.org), call to order on the phone, or send in the order form you received in the mail.

**February 9-18:** *All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten*

**April 13-22:** *Dilemmas With Dinner*

**June 1-10:** *Deathtrap*

**July 27-Aug. 12:** *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*

**Sept. 21-30:** *Arsenic and Old Lace*

**Nov. 9-18:** *A Christmas Carol*

## Coffee Shop opens November 10

Gustafson, Gary Cameron, and Sharla Cameron.

Behind the scenes is a capable crew. Scott Black, set designer, is assisted in construction by Gary Cameron, Rusty Peoples, and Kim Peoples. Logan Davis and Jorgi Anderson comprise the technical crew, and properties are handled by Sharla Cameron. Logan Davis is stage manager, Brandon Bolin is producer, and Emilee Dale and Shannon Stoddard are production consultants.

While the storyline is not based on real events, the characters are a loose composite of people well known to Lambdin-Bolin including some very strong Southern women. Lambdin-Bolin was raised in Alma, Arkansas surrounded by many of those. She confides, "They often drive us crazy but we love them just the same."

Autumn Howard who plays employee Sam commented, "It's exciting to be part of a show at FSLT after seeing so many on this stage as part of the audience." This will be her first time under the lights since high school.

Audra Sargent is also marking a first by taking the role of Irene. Sargent has assisted backstage in numerous productions over the years. She even met and married her husband, Charles Belt, while volunteering at FSLT. But *Coffee Shop* will mark her performance debut. "I'm honored to have the chance to bring Irene and her vulnerability to life – and I've developed a new appreciation for learning lines!"

According to active FSLT volunteer, Joanne Peterson, "I wanted to say 'I was in the premiere cast of *Coffee Shop*' – plus I wanted a new challenge. I've worked in numerous crew capacities and had small parts in two productions, but this is my

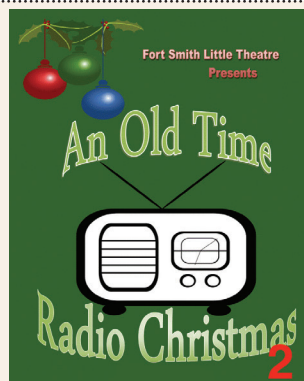
first prominent on-stage role. It's ironic, though, that my character, Gale, owns the coffee shop, when in reality, I don't even like coffee!"

"Delivering Luanne's lines with as much Southern twang and sass as I can muster" is a key goal for Megan Bagley. She also wants the audience to feel the full range of emotion. Ian Miller who plays Gordon agrees. "This script plays well on all levels. Audiences will have the chance to shed a tear and laugh out loud."

Director/Author Lambdin-Bolin describes *Coffee Shop* as a slice of life. "It's about relationships that give us a safe place and shelter when life doesn't go our way. The story also reminds us that we don't have to love everything about the people we love. After all, they probably don't love everything about us. And we might draw strength in life from where we least expect it."

Evening performances November 10-19 begin at 7:30 p.m. There will be a 2 p.m. matinee Sunday November 13. Seat selection for Season Flex Pass patrons begins at 7 am **Saturday, October 29**. Tickets will go on sale to the general public at 7 a.m. **Thursday, November 3**. Tickets are \$20 for opening night and \$12 for all other performances. To purchase tickets, go to [www.fslt.org](http://www.fslt.org) or call the theatre at 783-2966.

For quirky characters, family friction, and heart-warming moments – join us for the stage premiere of *Coffee Shop*! It's a very special brew.



### Coming Soon: *An Old Time Radio Christmas II*

Enjoy the songs and stories of the holidays, presented as if you and your family were huddled around the radio. Head back to the good ole days for some old-fashioned Christmas joy. Directed by Jill Ledbetter, this is an updated, equally entertaining version of the Old Time Radio Christmas production staged at FSLT in 2017.

This off-season production will be performed at 7:30 pm, December 8-10. There will be no reservations or assigned seats. Doors will open at 6:45 p.m. Admission will be \$7 at the door.



## 75th Commemorative Booklet

Our anniversary publication has received great reviews! Pick one up in the lobby while quantities last.

### Celebratory Selfie

Check out the selfie mirror in the lobby during *Coffee Shop* and capture your FSLT 75th Anniversary photo. Thank you Choctaw Casino!

**CHOCTAW** CASINO & RESORT  
POCOLA

## Ushers Check Tickets

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.

## Remembering Lindy

We appreciate the donation from Byron and Linda Ware given in memory of Lindy Cotner who was a member of our theatre family for many years.

## Annual Meeting Notice

The Annual Meeting of the Fort Smith Little Theatre will be held Monday, November 21 at 7 p.m. Season Pass holders are eligible to attend and vote at this meeting. Officers and Committee Chairs will give reports on the past year. Five members will be elected to three-year terms on the Board, and three members from the membership-at-large will be elected to one-year terms on the Nominating Committee.



Fort Smith Little Theatre  
**SPOTLIGHT**

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

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**2022 FSLT Board of Directors**

Sherry Hester, President

Joanne Peterson, Vice President

Lora Rice, Treasurer

Jamie Lambdin-Bolin, Secretary

Charles Belt

Scott Black

Gary Cameron

Tina Dale

Joe Graham

Ashleigh Mathews

Jennie Mathews

Brad Nance

Meredith Rice

Audra Sargent

## From the Top...

In September, we enjoyed love's twists and turns in *The Philadelphia Story*. Next, FSLT will present the premiere on-stage production of *Coffee Shop* written by a member of our family of volunteers. After some locally brewed java, December will bring us a delightful Christmas off-season production and a break from the holiday hustle. In the middle of all this, we've announced Season 2023 and three types of season packages. Buy your preferred package today – and keep in mind that a FSLT gift certificate makes the perfect present!

As this is my final Spotlight letter to you, I want to say what a privilege it has been to serve my second term as President during FSLT's 75th Anniversary year. Our yearlong celebration has included a diamond bracelet raffle, Facebook photo albums, and an online collection of remembrances. We've also enjoyed visits from descendants of our "Founding Mother" and our Harlequin Man creator and published a beautiful commemorative booklet. If you haven't seen this publication, please pick up your complimentary copy in the lobby. We are proud to share this story of our long and colorful past.

While celebrating our 75th and the major milestone it represents, we have enjoyed looking back. But now it's time to turn our eyes to the future. Live theatre has returned, FSLT is alive and well, and we're looking forward to reaching 100. Thank you for your support of our community theatre these last two years. I can't wait to see you at the theatre!

- Sherry Hester, *President*

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Fort Smith, AR  
Permit No. 12

## Auditions – Join The Fun!

Auditions for *All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten* will be held **Monday, January 2**. Callbacks will be held Tuesday, January 3. (Upon request, earlier audition appointments may be available.) Director: Shannon Stoddard.

Musical Director: Barry Law. Be prepared to tell a brief (one minute) story of a childhood memory and sing (a cappella or with prerecorded music) a brief portion of a song of your choosing. The cast calls for 3-5 males and 2-5 females approximately 30-65+ years of age. Production dates are February 9-18. Based on the best selling book and combining music and storytelling, this on-stage adaptation takes a funny, insightful, heartwarming look at everyday life.



**Season Flex Pass patrons are urged to select seats before November 3.**