

FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE



# SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

October 26, 2019

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

**Dates:** Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *Miracle on 34th Street* will be Thursday, November 7. Regular performances will be November 8-9 and 13-16. A Sunday Matinee will be offered on November 10.

**Show Times:** All evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 6:45 p.m. The matinee begins 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 26. Select seats online at [www.fslt.org](http://www.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 ONE additional ticket for every pass they have.

**General Public Tickets:** Tickets available beginning 7:00 a.m. Thursday, October 31. Purchase online at [www.fslt.org](http://www.fslt.org) or call the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn:2) to purchase on the phone. Gala Opening Night tickets \$27 / 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. During variable hours, volunteers will return calls in the order they are received.

**Reminder: To reach the Box Office, select Extn: 2**

**NEW FOR 2019**

Online ticketing and seat selection now available at [www.fslt.org](http://www.fslt.org).

## *Miracle on 34th Street* Christmas Classic Concludes FSLT 2019 Season

*"Well, if you're really Santa, you can do it. And if you can't, then you're just a nice man with a white beard like Mother said."*

~ Susan Walker, *MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET*

There is no room for fantasy in the lives of a divorced mother and her young daughter until a dashing neighbor and an unusually realistic department store Santa come into their lives. The 1947 film classic *Miracle on 34th Street* plays November 7 through 16 at the Fort Smith Little Theatre under the direction of Brandon Bolin.

The show was adapted from the novel by Valentine Davies by the Mountain Community Theatre. It's based on the original Twentieth Century Fox feature starring Maureen O'Hara, Edmund Gwenn, and Natalie Wood as seven-year old Susan. The film is an established holiday classic that was remade in 1994 as well.

Doris Walker (Rikkee Workman-Black) is the personnel manager at Macy's Department Store, and she has just hired the best Santa Claus the store has had in years. Even her skeptical daughter Susan (Reese Moquett) is impressed. But Doris and her assistant Shelly Shellhammer (Tina Dale) are shocked to learn that this Santa Claus believes he is the genuine Kris Kringle (Jon Gustafson) complete with next of kin Donner, Dancer, Comet, and company. Attorney Fred Gailey (Scott Black), Doris and Susan's neighbor, is on a triple mission – win Doris's heart, help Susan believe in Santa Claus, and befriend Kris. When Kris is suspected of mental instability, Fred goes to court to prove that Kris is in fact the one and only Santa Claus.

A cast of FSLT favorites and newcomers will be on hand to tell the tale. Eric Wells portrays sympathetic Dr. Pierce, while Will Paget plays psychological evaluator Sawyer. Local politicians are portrayed by Steve Dwiggin as Judge Harper, Ryan Gonzales as political advisor Halloran,



*Show story continued on page 3*

## Applause for Show Sponsors



**FIRST NATIONAL BANK**  
*of FORT SMITH*

We greatly appreciate two of Fort Smith's leading corporate citizens, **Landmark** (formerly Beall Barclay) and **First National Bank**, who are co-sponsoring *Miracle on 34th Street*. 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 provides a full range of accounting, tax, assurance, and advisory services to a diverse client base. Let the experts at Landmark 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 is here to serve all of your banking needs. Our Community...Your Bank!



## Director's Letter

If you had told me back when I was preparing to submit this show that my full-season directorial debut would include a cast of 27, I would have told you there was no way! The off-season show that I had previously directed had a cast of three, so I panicked slightly when I counted the number of bodies I would be responsible for. However, I cannot imagine this show now without every single person who is a part of it. From the first rehearsal, this cast has come together and bonded with a singular purpose: to present to the community, the best version possible of this Christmas classic. I have looked forward to every rehearsal because these actors are all such a joy to be around. And the crew – a more helpful group of people I could not ask for! My wife Jamie has been a tremendous help to me as Stage Manager, as has producer Suzanne Thomas, and Micki Voelkel, who has done a wonderful job with costumes. I have every confidence that when you come to see this show you will fall in love with this story all over again, because the work by this cast and crew has been tireless from Day 1.

- **Brandon Bolin, Director**



## Announcing Season 2020

2 Types of Passes / 4 Ways to Buy

Another great line-up is planned for 2020, our 73rd season of community theatre. For complete show information, go to [www.fslt.org](http://www.fslt.org).

We offer two types of Season Pass packages. They both offer great value and plenty of perks, and purchasing your pass is easy! You can purchase your Season Pass in the lobby before all performances of *Miracle on 34th Street*, buy online at [www.fslt.org](http://www.fslt.org), call the Box Office to order on the phone, or send in the order form you received in the mail.

## 2020 Productions

February 13-22: *The Glitter Girls*

April 16-25: *A Southern Exposure*

June 4-13: *Deathtrap*

July 30-August 15: *Annie*

Sept. 24-Oct. 3: *The Tin Woman*

November 12-21: *Parfumerie*

## Miracle on 34th Street opens November 7

Sanielle Moquett as the tough prosecuting attorney Mara. John Hall and Jim McPherson play dueling department store owners Mr. Macy and Mr. Bloomingdale.

Additional performers include Hallie Post as Mara Jr., Chuck Howard as Finley, Gary Cameron as Duncan, Sandra McPherson as the Bag Lady, Johnny Brown as the postal worker, Sonya Hiatt as the Rich Lady, Elizabeth Marine as Sharon, Jennifer Roller as Johnny's Mother, Cass Moquett as Johnny, Joanne Peterson as Foster Mother, and Sadie Bagley as Dutch Girl. Lexi Gartman, Natalie Marine, and Adeena Thomas play Santa's elves. Porter Black will make a cameo appearance as a junior elf.

Director Bolin is joined by an experienced crew. Suzanne Thomas is the producer, Jamie Lambdin-Bolin is the stage manager, and Audra Sargent is the assistant stage manager while also gathering the props. Scott Black is in charge of set design, and Micki Voelkel is working with Lynne Gustafson, Janet Renwick, and Valerie Valentine to create the costumes.

Brandon Bolin is directing his first full season show after debuting with an off-season comedy in 2017. "This has been one of my favorite Christmas movies for years," Bolin says. "I love the story, particularly the relationships between each of the four main characters. But as a relatively new director, I certainly didn't do myself any favors by choosing a show with 27 actors in it. The small stage at FSLT definitely creates a bit of a challenge with regard to the set – especially one that would need to accommodate over 20 actors!"

Another Bolin is involved behind the scenes. Brandon's wife Jamie serves as the stage manager. "I definitely want to help my husband bring his directorial

vision to life on stage in any way I can," she says. "Oh, the things we do for love, right?!" She continues, "This show marks my seventh year at FSLT. This year I'm thankful to have gotten the chance to play 'Gwenjane' in *Happily Ever After* and 'Elaine' in *The Graduate* – after which I got to walk down the aisle and marry my love. Nothing beats doing theatre with this community of wonderful people, and when I get the chance to do it with my husband – life is good!"

The Bolins aren't the only married couple involved in the show. Rikkee Workman-Black plays the role of Doris and her real life husband Scott Black plays her love interest in the show. "I have had the pleasure of being a part of this wonderful community theatre in various ways since 2007. It is a home away from home, and most definitely a family. I met and married my husband here, and I am happy to be playing next to him in this production."

Yet another family is involved in this show. Eleven-year old Reese Moquett is excited to be playing Susan; her mother Sanielle and her brother Cass are also in the cast. "My brother played 'Chip' in *Beauty and the Beast*. I was at the theatre a lot during his rehearsals and decided to give acting a try, too. This is my first role. I feel like I can relate to 'Susan' a lot. In fact, it feels like I just get to be myself."

Jon Gustafson who plays Kris Kringle says, "I sincerely hope that audiences sit back and think for a minute, about what each of us can do during the Christmas season to spread peace, good will, and kindness. Some answers may be deep in our imagination – let's let them emerge!"

We are sure that you wouldn't want to miss this heartwarming production that is sure to put a smile on your face and set you in the right mood for the holidays.

## Annual Meeting Notice

The Annual Meeting of the Fort Smith Little Theatre will be held Thursday, 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.

## Seat Selection/ Ticketing

For Season Flex Pass patrons, seat selection begins 7:00 a.m. Saturday, October 26. Select seats online at [www.fslt.org](http://www.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 ONE additional ticket for every pass they have.

For the general public, tickets will be available beginning 7:00 a.m. Thursday, October 31. Purchase online at [www.fslt.org](http://www.fslt.org) or call the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn: 2) to purchase on the phone.

## Seat Tickets Checked By Ushers

You can bypass the Box Office when you arrive by showing 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.

## NEW! Two FSLT Gift Ideas

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

### Purchasing a Gift Pass

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

## Coming Soon: Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Jill Moody-Ledbetter will direct this merry off-season holiday production December 5, 6, and 7 at 7:30 p.m. In this hilarious Christmas classic adapted from the best-selling young adult book, a couple struggling to put on a church Christmas pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids – probably the most inventively awful kids in history. You won't believe the mayhem (and the fun) when the Herdmans collide head on with the Christmas story! Because this is an off-season production, there are no reservations and no reserved seats. Doors will open at 6:45 p.m. Admission, \$7 at the door, is not included with the purchase of a Season Pass.

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...

As we are coming up to the tail end of FSLT's 72nd Season, we are so happy and thankful to be recognized (yet again), as this area's premier spot for live theatre. On behalf of the Board of Directors and FSLT as a whole, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all of you who voted for us in Southwest Times Record's 2019 BEST OF THE BEST. This organization will not be successful without your continued support.

Having said that, I am hoping that you are all ready to pick up your FSLT Season Passes for 2020. We sure have another fantastic line-up of shows that have been carefully and thoughtfully picked for your enjoyment. Season Passes are now for sale!

But before we get into the details of the next season, let's congratulate Duff Taylor along with his cast and crew for a wonderful rendition of *Born Yesterday*. In spite of technical difficulties in the last minute, they pulled through and provided our community with some stellar performances on a gorgeous set.

And now, a holiday favorite that is part of many Christmas memories is being brought to life on the FSLT stage by Brandon Bolin. I can't wait to watch this talented cast whose joy is rumored to be spilling into the auditorium, along with the crew's enthusiasm. Hope you get your tickets early, and join in their Christmas Cheer with me.

On a final note, I would like to sign off from my year as the President, while also sadly closing my FSLT chapter, as my family and I make a transition to the East Coast. Just like the community of Fort Smith, this theatre welcomed us and made us feel at home. Thank you for the memories...

- Deepu Thomas, *President*

## Next Up

### EARLY AUDITIONS!

Auditions for *The Glitter Girls*, directed by Eric Wells, will be held at 7 p.m. at the theatre on Monday, December 16. Callbacks will be held on Tuesday, December 17. Cast member read through and blocking December 18-20. Rehearsals begin January 6. Production dates will be February 13-22. The cast calls for 3 males approximately 20-55 years of age and 7 females approximately 20-75. For more information, go to [www.fslt.org](http://www.fslt.org).



## Thank you!

Voted Best Live  
Theatre in the  
Fort Smith Area!

**Season Flex Pass patrons are urged to select seats before October 31.**