

Biographies

• Bill Stephens

This is the third FSLT production Bill has been in this season. He is hosting a foreign exchange student from Germany this year and there is never a dull moment in his household.

• Mary Beth Kaprovic

"I don't sing, I sign."

• George Mann

George is reprising the role of Burl, one that he never actually got out of his system. That North Carolina mountain country feeling has been reinforced by frequent trips to visit in-laws near Asheville.

• Dennis Brown

Dennis Brown is a relative newcomer to theatre who has jumped in with both feet. He is now involved in many facets-from acting to being on the board of FSLT. His great goal is to sing and cut hair at the same time. Maybe "Sweeney Todd"?

• Sammi Sue Welch

Sammi Sue Welch graduated sometime in the last millennium from Henderson State University where she was in such productions as *Anything Goes*, *West Side Story* and *Grease*. Here at FSLT she has stepped in to help with such things as *Ocette*, *Bridge Club*, *Smoke On the Mountain* and *Cabaret*. This is her first real lead in anything anywhere.

• Meredith Dye

"I'm sorry-I know I am not supposed to witness. I've never felt so grown up and in charge of my life when I can sing and entertain for the wonderful audiences at FSLT."

• Richard Van Wagoner

"I enjoyed being Stanley in *Smoke On the Mountain* and did not believe a show could be anymore fun. Wrong. You will have fun tonight and carry these smiles into the Christmas season. Having played several silly parts, serious roles and musicals I am pleased to be here. Thanks to Kyra, Richelle, Alex, Annalisa and Commander William."

• Myrna Wells

"Nanny Myrna" made her FSLT debut in the cast of *Smoke On the Mountain* four years ago. She actually was an accompanist for the state wide singing conventions in the late 1940s and sang with the popular Hartford Harmonettes quartet. When she isn't giving musical rub board lessons she's a cyber-granny surfing the net and e-mailing genealogy research around the world.

• Linda Ridener Dickson

"Cousin Linda's" association with FSLT began about 30 years ago in the musical *Celebration* directed by Soni Foti. She holds a degree in vocal music and composed music and lyrics for the Arkansas Sesquicentennial production *Little Town On the Border* in 1986. Through the years FSLT has given her the opportunity to serve on the board, produce, sing, dance, design and build sets, and perform on stage with her mother.

• Linda Schultis

"I grew up with "singings" in North Carolina and am delighted to be making music with the Sanders family for Christmas."

Jim Baker

Jim is back on stage with all his energy and talent . . . pickin' and singing.

Thank You

Carl McCauley, Jeanne McKim, Ed Drimmel, Lynn Wasson/Entertainment Fort Smith, Debbie Carney, Prime Chime Bell Ringers-Goddard United Methodist Church, John A. and Betty Griffin, James and Nina Brown and Kenneth Roberds.

Fort Smith Little Theatre
presents

Sanders Family Christmas

by Connie Ray

Conceived by Alan Bailey

Musical arrangement by

John Foley and Gary Fagin

Directed by Soni Foti

November 14-23, 2002

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

THE CAST

Mervin Oglethorpe	Bill Stephens
Burl	George Mann
Vera	Sammie Sue Welch
Stanley	Richard Van Wagoner
Dennis	Dennis Brown
Denise	Meredith Dye
June	Mary Beth Kaprovic

MUSICIANS

Cousin Linda	Linda Ridener Dickson
Nanny Myrna	Myrna Wells
Ed Earl	Jim Baker
Aunt Ida Lou	Lorna Schultis
Bass Player	Sammie Sue Welch

CONGREGATION

Gayle Ross	Kameron Morton
Alesia Sexton	Jack Bangs
Jo Ann Waldrop	Kyra Jenner
Mickey Matthews	Alexis Johnson
Cheryl Stephens	Debbie Echols
Bob Wells	

CREW

Soni Foti	Director
Phanita Williams	Producer
Kaye Birkhead	
Wilma McCauley	Wardrobe
Pete Warner	Properties
Jeanne McKim	
Michael Richardson	Stage Manager
Dennis Brown	Hair Stylist
Rhonda Rieder	Technical
Ron Watson	Set Design
Darrell Smith	
Ron Watson	
Debbie Echols	Set Construction
Bruce Birkhead	Lobby Display
Mike Tickler	Lights and Sound
Charlie Dye	Assistant Stage Manger
George Mann	Music Director
Sammie Sue Welch	
Soni Foti	Choreography
Debbie Echols	Signing
Photographer	Zena Featherson

ACT I

“Christmas Time’s A-Coming”
“Angels We Have Heard On High”
“A Country Kind of Christmas”
“Cactus Christmas Tree”
“Merry Christmas Down Home”
“I Wonder as I Wander”
“Christmas In the Mountains”

War Medley

“Onward Christian Soldiers”
by Arthur Sullivan and Sabine Baring-Gould,
“I’m On the Battlefield”
“Keep On the Firing Line”
“Hold Fast to the Right” and “Joy To the World”

ACT II

“Did You Ever Go Sailing?”
“Longing For That Hallelujah Day”
“I’ve Been Changed”

Christmas In Other Lands Medley

“Noche de Paz”
“Grandpa’s Done Gone Crazy” by Joel McNeely and Connie Ray
“Bring a Torch , Jeanette Isabella”
and “Nose to Nose” by Joel McNeely and Connie Ray.
“Away In a Manger”

Bell Medley

“Caroling, Caroling” by Wihla Hutson and Alfred Burt,
“Jingle Bells”, “Christmas Bells” by Harry Filler and Leonard Rosen and “With
Bells On” by Dolly

“Beautiful Star of Bethlehem”

Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long

“Smoke On the Mountain” and “Go Tell It On the Mountain”

Dear Patrons,

The Sanders Family is back! It’s been four long years since they were at the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church and we have sorely missed them. They are back to present what may be their last family sing for a long while, on Christmas Eve, 1941, since Dennis will soon be leaving to join the army. These family members once again “witness”, telling their personal stories that relate to their own trials of faith. Their stories are embellished with Gospel singing, the likes of which you haven’t heard for four years.

Welcome to this delightful show. We hope that you have every bit as much fun watching as the cast and crew had preparing it to be watched. Sit back and enjoy.

Soni Foti, Director

Cast and crew—a simply wonderful group.