



SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

July 16, 2016

www.fslt.org

Dates: Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *Singin' In The Rain* will be July 28. Regular evening performances will be July 29-30, August 3-6 and 11-13. Matinees will be offered on two SUNDAYS, July 31 and August 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 \$25. All other shows \$10.

Season Ticket Holders: Regular season ticket patrons are encouraged to call July 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 July 21.

Reminder: When you call to make a reservation, Dial #2.

Singin' In The Rain

"Some people feel the rain. Others just get wet." — Bob Marley

Fort Smith Little Theatre patrons will definitely want to experience the singing, dancing, fun, and feelings of *Singin' In The Rain* which opens later this month. A familiar face (and voice) on our stage, Nathan Stockemer, makes his debut as director of a musical production at FSLT. Using his love for the story, his stage experience, and a talented cast and crew, Director Stockemer will bring the beloved tale by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, with music by Nacio Herb Brown and Arthur Freed, to life.

Fort Smith's very own maestro, George Mann, directs the music for his favorite nephew, Nathan, while Adrein Parmenter and Summer Ferguson are the brilliant choreographers behind this dance-heavy production.

Brandon Bolin will be filling Gene Kelly's dancing shoes as Don Lockwood, a popular silent film star being pressured to transition into "talkies" with his vain leading lady, Lina Lamont (played by Sarah Curlin). With sidekick Cosmo Brown (Jonathan Curlin), and talented, young newcomer, Kathy Selden (Jessica Smith), Lockwood saves the day by turning his next movie into a musical sensation despite Lina's lack of vocal talent.

See *Singin' In The Rain* on page 3





***Sparks Health System
Applauded as Show
Sponsor***

We are pleased to recognize Sparks Health System as the sponsor for our upcoming production of *Singin' In The Rain*. In 1947, the Young Ladies Guild of Sparks Memorial Hospital sponsored an amateur theatre production as a fundraiser to buy hospital equipment. That play, *Mr. and Mrs. North*, literally “sparked” an interest in the performing arts, and the Fort Smith Little Theatre was formed. Sixty-nine years later, we applaud Sparks’ civic spirit and their continued support of our community theatre. We are grateful that they care for the health of our community and the performing arts.

Director’s Letter

It’s been an honor and a privilege to be able to direct *Singin’ In The Rain* this year at the Fort Smith Little Theatre. I’m grateful to have such an incredibly talented and devoted cast to help bring this show to life. I’ve been blessed with an abundance of actors and crew from this wonderful community.

Although *Singin’ In The Rain* is a very technically daunting show, I don’t doubt that we can excel and prove that the level of skill and performances often seen in touring shows around the country and even on the Great White Way itself can be found just as close as our very own diminutive stage here in Fort Smith.

So, our audiences can expect to see not only the singing and music they’ve come to know and love, but also a greater degree of dancing than the usual from an FSLT summer musical. Thanks to the hard work of our astounding choreographers, we hope these dances will take you back to an era of spectacle and glamour.

I am truly thankful for the opportunity to present this show to the community, and I hope our patrons have just as much fun watching our performances as we have in presenting them.

- Nathan Stockemer

Musical Director’s Letter

As blasphemous as this sounds, before work began on the summer production of *Singin’ In The Rain*, I had never seen the movie – well, at least not in its entirety and in one sitting. Along with probably everyone else in the world who owns a TV, I have seen the legendary scene where Gene Kelly does his never-to-be-forgotten dance in a Hollywood created rainstorm. I also knew a few isolated facts – like it was the first role for a 19-year old Debbie Reynolds. But luckily I didn’t have to know any more, because our Director (Nathan Stockemer) and our Cosmo (Brandon Bolin) know and love every scene of the show and every measure of the music. They have developed a vision for us all!

What I did not realize, however, is that so many tunes that I have heard throughout the years are actually from this show. For example, there is a frequently heard commercial for orange juice that features the Act I song “Good Morning.” That song kicks up a little dust, but to tell the truth, with so much dancing in this show the dust never truly has time to settle.

The tunes are catchy and memorable, the cast is young and enthusiastic, and Nathan has assembled the voices and choreographers to pull off a terrific evening of entertainment. Director Stockemer and I, as well as the talented cast and crew, will be pleased to see you all this year, at FSLT’s summer production of *Singin’ In The Rain*!

- George Mann

Singin' In The Rain opens July 28

The talented supporting cast includes: Eric Krigbaum - Lead Tenor/Diction Coach/ensemble; Steve Dwiggins - R.F. Simpson; Will Paget - Rosco Dexter/ensemble; Jordan Garton - Zelda Zanders/ensemble; Eric Wells - Rod/ensemble; Meghan Partain - Dora Bailey/ensemble; Hannah Curlin - Ms. Dinsmore; Nathaniel Russell - Sid Phillips/Police Officer/ensemble; Alex Marrin, Tyler Huntington, Austin Williams - Assistant Directors/ensemble; MiKayla Hatfield - Hairdresser/ensemble; Jeremy Marston - Sound Engineer/ensemble; Lindsay Vickery - Olga Mara/ensemble; Charity Smith - Mary Margaret/ensemble; Victoria Jones - Mrs. Simpson/ensemble; Thomas Iverson - Sam the Butler; and Matt Hutchinson - Villain. Rounding up the storytelling is the beautiful dance ensemble consisting of Ashley and

Abby Williams, Ashleigh and Caitlin Mathews, and Ashley Cindle.

Finally, bringing up the rear and holding everything together behind the scenes are Deepu and Suzanne Thomas - producers; Jennifer Roller, Shanna Davis, and Matt Hutchinson - stage managers; Hannah Curlin - costumer, Zack Hiatt - set designer; Will Paget, Matt Hutchinson, and Donny Anderson - set construction; Rebekah Martin - lighting designer; Jacob Hiatt - sound engineer; Aaron Ray - graphic designer; Bobby Rogne and Aaron Ray - film crew.

For pleasant music you will hum all the way home, make your reservation promptly and join us this summer at the Fort Smith Little Theatre to watch *Singin' In The Rain*. Call 479-783-2966 and "press 2" for tickets.



Shout Outs And Thank Yous

With the generous support of our community, we've been able to complete several facility projects over the past few months.

- **Mainer Iron Works** once again came to our rescue by donating a beautiful set of iron handrails for the new concrete stairs behind our building.
- Our casts and crews depend heavily on backstage TV monitors that show the action on stage. We were able to upgrade our camera/cable/monitor installation thanks to a donation by **Carters Audio Video**.
- Our frequently used shop restroom looked like it belonged in an old gas station, and the metal folding chairs backstage had seen a better day (about 20 years ago). In addition, the backstage hallway that connects the Green Room and Dressing Rooms featured threadbare carpet and flickering florescent lights. Now all these have been upgraded thanks to the following generous vendors:

Alford's Carpet One – donated hallway carpet, vinyl flooring and cove base

J&B Supply – donated toilet, vanity light fixture, faucet, hallway LED lights and dimmer

Meek Manufacturing – donated vanity mirror

Fort Smith Paper Company – donated paper product dispensers

Commercial Drywall and Acoustical – donated ceiling tiles

McCourt Manufacturing – discounted folding chairs

Lowe's – discounted vanity counter and sink

PPG Pittsburgh Paint – discounted paint products

We can't say it often or loudly enough – THANK YOU to all these fine folks!

2 Sunday Matinees

For other productions this season, we are offering 2 Saturday matinees. However, for *Singin' In The Rain*, our 2 p.m. matinees will be performed on SUNDAYS, July 31 and August 7.

3 Additional Evenings

In anticipation of a large demand for tickets, 3 additional evening performances – **Thursday, Friday, Saturday August 11, 12, and 13** – have been added to the full run of show dates for *Singin' In The Rain*. Season Tickets and General Admission reservations will be accepted. Call our Box Office to reserve your seat for these extra dates just as you would for any other performance. And be sure to thank this awesome cast and crew for performing this extended schedule.



Fort Smith Little Theatre

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

www.fslt.org

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From the Top...

Let me start by thanking the cast and crew of *The Lights Are Warm and Coloured* for a fantastic run in May. Director Melissa Vitale did a wonderful job of bringing to stage what could have really happened at the captivating trial of Lizzie Borden. But mysteries are not all that have been buzzing around FSLT lately.

In June, we hosted the Downtown Rotary Club for their weekly meeting, as well as the Department of Education's professional development workshop for drama and choir educators. As we conducted tours and offered up a bit of FSLT history for our guests, we were reminded of how many people, including those who have lived in Fort Smith a considerable amount of time, have never been to our community theater. These events were an eye opener for them, and for us. These visitors were genuinely impressed with our facility and amazed that we operate year-round without any paid staff. The ultimate compliment came from a Little Rock educator who said she had always been intensely proud of their local theatre – until she visited ours.

So in the spirit of FSLT pride, I would like to offer you the following challenge. Our next production, *Singin' In The Rain*, is sure to have familiarity and appeal to a great many people. Why don't you use this popular production as the opportunity to introduce a friend to live theatre at FSLT? I hope you'll go out of your way to acquaint someone you know to the best value entertainment around.

Now to the cast and crew of our summer musical – break a leg! We are looking forward to uplifting fun in the weeks to come. What a great way to beat the heat.

- Carole Rogers, *President*

Next Up

Auditions for the comedy, *Money Matters*, directed by Carole Rogers, will be held at 7 p.m. on August 15 and 16 at the theatre. The cast calls for 3 females and 3 males, approximately 30-60 years of age. Production dates are September 22 to October 1. For more information, go to fslt.org.

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