

Fort Smith Little Theatre

Spotlight

Sept. 6, 2014

Dates: Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *Splendor in the Grass* will be Sept. 18. Regular performances will be Sept. 19-20 and 24-27. The Sunday Matinee performances are Sept. 21 and 28.

Times: All evening performances begin at **7:30 p.m.** Patrons may be seated after 6:45 p.m. The matinee begins at **2 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 Sept. 6-10 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 Sept. 11.

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

Ledbetter debuts directorial skill with *Splendor*

*Though nothing can bring
back the hour
Of splendor in the grass,
of glory in the flower;
We will grieve not, rather find
Strength in what remains behind.*
~ William Wordsworth

Fall brings change, and FSLT will change this month from our summer-musical-comedy to a well-known romantic drama, *Splendor in the Grass*. William Inge was awarded an Oscar for his original screenplay that became a 1961 movie starring Natalie Wood and Warren Beatty. It was adapted for

the stage by F. Andrew Leslie. FSLT will offer performances from Sept. 18-28.

Director Jill Ledbetter is no stranger to FSLT – with plenty of backstage and onstage experience, she makes her directorial debut bringing to life a story she fell in love with as a teen. The setting is a small mid-western town in the late 1920s, where everybody knows everybody.

The story revolves around the physical desires, love, and heartbreak of two teens – no longer kids, and not yet adults – a high school beauty, Deanie (Victoria

See *Splendor* on page 3



Bravo for Time Striping

Thanks to TIME STRIPING, our parking lot has been re-sealed and re-striped. We truly appreciate the generosity of this locally owned business, in helping us protect and preserve our asphalt parking areas.

Memorials

Donations in memory of Lou Johnston have recently been received from: Katy Boulden, Leah Schaefer, Dale and Kathy Boaz, and Carl Brent Roberson.

Reminder: Reservations and Cancellations

It is a long-standing policy at FSLT that reservations are held until 15 minutes prior to the start of each performance. After that time, Box Office volunteers may sell those unclaimed tickets to “walk-ins” who are present and waiting for available seats. This policy is printed under “Reservations” on the first page of every *Spotlight* newsletter and included in the policy letter sent with season tickets.

Please keep in mind that you may pick up your tickets ahead of the performance you plan to attend. Our box office is staffed from 11 am to 1 pm and 5 pm to 7 pm, Monday through Friday, beginning ten days prior to production openings, and 5-7 pm on Saturdays during the run of each show.

If you realize you cannot attend, please call 479-783-2966 (dial 2) to cancel your reservation with as much advance notice as possible.

Director's Notes...

Bringing the Story of Young Love to Life

About 14 years ago my husband Rob and I were lunching at George's Restaurant when we met our high school English/Drama teacher, Jim Moody, and his friend Katy Boulden. They were discussing “Proposals” – an upcoming play at the Fort Smith Little Theatre. Jim encouraged both of us to audition. I practically had to drag Rob to the auditions. I was the one who wanted to be on stage and Rob was only there to support me. Well guess who was cast? If you said not me, you are correct. However, this play opened the stage door to so many theatre experiences for me where I learned about acting, costuming, producing, collecting and setting props, dressing a set, selecting a script, and assistant directing. I worked in all areas to gain the knowledge to helm my own production.

Splendor in the Grass has long been a goal of mine to see on the FSLT stage. I am pleased to make my directorial debut with this play. I am honored that with my talented actors and crew I get to bring to life the story of young love.

~ Jill Moody-Ledbetter

EDGAR ALLAN POE featured in Off-Season

On October 2, 3 and 4, *Nightfall with Edgar Allan Poe* will be performed. In this off-season production, written by Eric Coble and directed by Rikkee Workman-Black, you will enter the mind of the one and only, Edgar Allan Poe. At the start of the play, Poe addresses the audience – stating that he's not a mad man, but asking them to be the judge. Then he proceeds throughout the rest of the play with efforts to convince them of his sanity. The production includes four tales that the author thought to be his best: *The Raven*, *The House of Usher*, *The Pit and the Pendulum*, and *The Tell-Tale Heart*.

The cast includes Terry Dilley as Edgar Allan Poe; Wayne Mathews as Roderick Usher; Mike Papacoda as Edgar and Sante; Melissa Vitale as Madeline Usher; Victoria Jones as Raven; Chuck Howard as the old man. Policemen will be played by Wayne Mathews and Mike Papacoda. Providing backstage support are: Eric Wells, Producer; Jennie Mathews, Stage Manager; Valerie Baldwin, Costumes; Victoria Jones, Props; Micki Voelkel, Lights and Sound; Scott Black, Set.

Performances will begin at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$5 per person at the door. As this is an off-season production, no reservations will be accepted, and admission is not provided by your season ticket.



Splendor in the Grass opens at Fort Smith Little Theatre Sept. 18

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Jones) and her boyfriend Bud Stamper (Ian Miller). Bud is a handsome high school senior and son of the richest couple in town, Ace Stamper (Mike Southern) and Mrs. Stamper (Louise Barling). The two young lovers are devoted to each other, but youthful hormones have clouded the immediate future. Others involved in the story are Deanie's parents, Mrs. Loomis (Micki Voelkel) and Del Loomis (Brad Kidder, Jr.); Bud's sister, Ginny Stamper (Summer Ferguson); Ginny's gentleman friend, Glen (Duff Taylor); a high school English teacher, Miss Metcalf (Jane Wineland); Deanie's girlfriends, Kay (Taylor Engel), June (Emilee Dale), and Juanita (Valerie Baldwin); Bud's schoolmates, Toots (Aaron Ray), Rusty (Landon Satterfield) and Arnold Ross (Eric Wells); Doc Smiley (Joe Graham); Deanie's hospital friend, Johnny Masterson (Robert Montgomery); Doc Judd (Matt Ortega); and Angelina (Kayla Thompson).

An onstage cast need strong

backstage support, and Director Ledbetter has assembled a four-star crew. Assistant Director is Carole Rogers, and Co-Producers are Suzanne Thomas and Debbie Andrews Kraus. Stage Managers are Robyn Fowler and Nathan Stockemer, aided by the Stagehand Marie Hadder. Props will be handled by Neal Goodwin, while Wendy Quick is the Costume Designer, assisted by Kaye Birkhead, Stephanie Ward, Logan Ledbetter, and Tina Dale. Hair and Make-up artistry is in the hands of Summer Ferguson, Tina Dale, and

Wendy Quick. Lighting Designer is Rebekah Bateman. Lights and Sound Operation will be handled by Jennifer Canada. Set and Poster Design is by Dusty Westfall. Set construction is by Rob Ledbetter and Fred Ward.

Have you ever been a teenager, parented one, or fallen in love as a minor? Then you will be enamored and intrigued by *Splendor in the Grass*. For reservations, the number to call is still 479-783-2966 (dial 2). **Do note that the adult subject matter of this play makes it unsuitable for children.**



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P.O. Box 3752 • Fort Smith, AR 72913

www.fslt.org

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From the Top...

Volunteers Work Round the Clock

“Working Nine to Five, What a Way to Make a Livin’...” If you are like me, that song is still on a loop in your mind, and your foot is keeping time even when you flub a few of the words. Musicals are unique in that we may not remember a spoken quote from a play, but we can often remember and sing a few of the lyrics or hum the melody after seeing a musical only once.

And face it, there are many songs that when simply spoken don’t have nearly the same emotional effect or sound downright corny. But put those same lines to music, and we accept it, and it works. That’s because straight dialogue can only do so much. When music is added,

using musical tones that subtly convey the necessary mood, be it sad, happy, or fearful, and dialogue is heightened into lyrics, things can be expressed on stage, often in metaphor, that could never be expressed in mere words.

Musicals have a powerful draw. Each year our annual musical is sold out quickly, and for that we say “Thank You.” In one evening, you will see a conscious melding of story lines, music, lyrics, dance, live performers, and costumes that you’ll find nowhere else. The finished product seeming effortlessly executed.

The cast and crew of our most recent production really worked “9 to 5” and then some, to present

Next Up

Auditions for *A Talent For Murder* by Jerome Chodorov and Norman Panama, will be held at 7 p.m. on October 6 and 7 at the theatre. The cast calls for 3 females 25-80 years of age and 4 males 30-80 years of age. Melissa Vitale will be directing. Production dates are November 13-23. For more information, go to fslt.org.

a wonderful show for your enjoyment. The same goes for those who weren’t directly involved in this show, but work around the clock to make the Little Theatre memorable, enjoyable, and a valuable part of the community landscape.

Cecelia Woods-McDonald, President

Season Ticket holders are urged to call before Sept. 11 for reservations.