

Fort Smith Little Theatre

Spotlight

May 19, 2012

Black Comedy, Reserve Your Seat Early

"It's all going to be a disaster. An A1, copper-bottomed, twenty-four carat disaster."

—*Brindsley, Act One*

From May 31 through June 9, FSLT audiences attending performances of *Black Comedy* by Peter Shaffer, will find themselves beamed back to the psychedelic '60s and the London flat/studio of a young sculptor. Director Suzanne Thomas has acted often on our stage and others, but *Black Comedy*

is her directorial debut. She is up to the challenge of making us laugh.

The young sculptor, Brindsley Miller (Rham Cunningham), who suffers from artist's poverty, finds delight in his promised bride, Carol Melkett (Amanda Elkins); but, there are pot-holes on the way to the marital aisle. Carol's father, Colonel Melkett (Wayne Matthews) is dubious of Brindsley's financial

See *Comedy* on page 3

Dates: Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *Black Comedy* will be May 31. Regular performances will be June 1, 2 and 6-9. The Sunday Matinee performance will be June 3.

Times: All evening performances begin at 8 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 7:15 p.m. The matinee begins at 2:30 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 1:45 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 tickets patrons are encouraged to call May 19-23 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 May 24.

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



Director's Notes

***Black Comedy*, a crazy ride filled with mad chaos and absolute fun**

As a novice Director, I approached this production with a cautious yet tenacious foothold. Well-prepared with tons of lists and an in-depth knowledge of this play's intricacies, I was gearing up to try out novel ideas in getting the Cast & Crew to understand the technicalities involved in putting on such a show. This meant (in layman's terms) that I put people through a crazy ride filled with mad chaos and absolute fun – including a workshop of sorts, where my Cast had to walk an obstacle course and find each other IN THE PITCH DARKNESS that I subjected them to; act depressed; scream with fright; play fetch and roll-over like a happy dog; be silly girls in an amusement park, etc.

AND, all of this was just the beginning...

But there was definitely a method to my madness – a vision for this play with which I started this whole process and continued down a fantastic learning curve. Every crew member in my team, every character I cast, every blocking decision I made, has proven to bring this vision to life – and we hope that you laugh until tears fill up your eyes. That would be our validation. To see this door-slamming, laugh-out-loud, tummy-hurting, seemingly-British-sounding comedy take shape – ah well, how thoroughly exhausting, yet, completely soul-satisfying.

Meanwhile, the bonds of friendship created within this space and period of time, will definitely serve the purpose of cherishing the memories of this production for a long time to come...

—Suzanne M. Thomas, Director



Shelton TREE SERVICE

Please join us in a big round of applause for Dave Shelton ([479 646 8733](tel:479-646-8733)) who recently provided FSLT with tree trimming. The back of our property along 5th street looks soooooo much better after brush was removed and the trees received a "haircut." We greatly appreciate his willingness to volunteer his time, his crew, and his equipment.

Memorials Received

We appreciate the following memorial gifts given by

- Paula Sharum in memory of Roy Mosher
- Cooper Clinic Business Office Staff in memory of James Rogers
- Neal Goodwin in memory of James Rogers

Many Thanks To.....

Home Depot for their donation of landscape flowers.

Sale of Original Sculptures to Benefit FSLT

When you attend our upcoming production of *Black Comedy*, pay special attention to the metal sculptures. Created (and donated) by local artist and FSLT actor, Zack Hiatt, the sculptures will be displayed in our lobby and used on stage. Some are large, some are small, but they're all creative, cool, and contemporary. Here's your chance to own a Hiatt original and support FSLT, as all proceeds will help finance our Back To The Future renovation project.

Back To The Future

We are pleased to say that plans for our Back To The Future renovation project are steadily moving forward. The project will include the digital preservation of photos and newspaper articles from our past 65 years. In preparation for the future, we'll make repairs to our 25-year-old building and

improve our lobby, restrooms, and lightbooth.

Design details are being finalized by **Galen Hunter/MAHG Architecture**. Construction will be scheduled in stages to accommodate production dates and the availability of funding. With your financial support, the work can be accelerated and completed more quickly.

At our website, fslt.org, you can learn more about this project, view a complete donor list, print a donation form, or make your gift online.

We appreciate those listed below who have recently joined the growing list of supporters helping take us Back To The Future.

Stephens Production Company Arkansas Oklahoma Gas Corp. Jim and Reesa Novak

**Carolyn Philpot
Joe Graham
Woody and Grace Nutter
Ronnie and Susan Cook**

Peter Shaffer's *Black Comedy* opens May 31

Continued from page 1

status. The two lovebirds have a plan. One of Brindsley's metallic art works is up for sale, and they have invited an elderly German millionaire art collector, Georg Bamberger (Matt Hutchinson) to view it. To set the stage, they plot surreptitiously to "borrow" the antique furnishings from a friend and neighbor, Harold Gorringer (Stephen Martin). However, he's away in Northern England and is unaware of their scheme. Brindsley and Carol want to titillate Bamberger's love of antiques and soften him up. This A1, copper-bottomed, twenty-four carat disaster gets messier with the entrance of Miss Furnival

(Micki Voelkel), an middle-aged spinster and secret friend of John Barleycorn, Clea (Siobhan Kremers) Brindsley's ex-mistress, and a guy named Schuppanzigh (Joseph Owen) a happy German refugee and full-time employee of the London Electricity Board. The plan stumbles on. Music is played. A fuse is blown. Darkness breeds confusion, zany encounters, and loads of laughs.

While a wacky comedy entertains on stage, skill and sanity prevail backstage. Without a crew you can't have a play, and Director Thomas has gathered a great crew. Her producer is Melissa Vitale, and Carole Rogers is her technical advisor. Set design is by Scott Black, and Zack Hiatt is her metal artist. Rikke Workman-Black

is properties mistress, while Wendy Quick is the costumer assisted by Candace Cuello. Rebekah Stoltz is the lighting designer, and Wesley Rester is the sound expert, with Deepu Thomas doing the graphics. Sherry Hester holds the fort down as the stage manager, with Prutha Kulkarni-Sainanee as general assistant.

FSLT box office will begin taking reservations for season ticket holders **Saturday, May 19**, and for general admissions patrons on Thursday May 24. The phone number is still 479-783-2966 (press 2).

Monty Python sang a song titled "I've Got A Lovely Bunch of Coconuts." Maybe they escaped to the FSLT stage. Very funny and very English. Make your reservations early.



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P.O. Box 3752 • Fort Smith, AR 72913

www.fslt.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Fort Smith, AR

Permit No. 12

From the Top...

New generation stepping forward with enthusiasm & innovative ideas

The upcoming production of *Black Comedy* marks the halfway point in our season, and the older I get, the quicker the time seems to go by. Thinking back on 2012, I again realize how many people give of their time, talent, and money to see that FSLT runs smoothly. I especially like to see the new generation stepping forward to take the reins from those of us like myself who have been around for years. They are full of enthusiasm and innovative ideas. I strongly believe that no organization can continue without

new blood.

In all the years I have been involved with theatre in England, Little Rock, Saudi Arabia, and of course FSLT, I am always amazed at how age, social status, color, or creed makes no difference. All you need is a love of theatre, the place where magic happens, and where you can be transported to another place or time. It can be thought provoking and it can make you laugh. It can also make you cry but no matter what, theatre is magic.

—Angela Covey, President

Next Up

Auditions have been held for *Titanic, the Musical*. However this is a large cast production and there may still be openings for additional adult cast members. Rehearsals have not yet begun, so if you are interested in being a part of this award-winning musical, contact George Mann ([479-461-5413](tel:479-461-5413)) or Mary Beth Koprovic ([479-414-8041](tel:479-414-8041)).

Season Ticket holders are urged to call before May 24 for reservations