

Fort Smith Little Theatre

Spotlight

March 22, 2013

Dates: Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *Steel Magnolias* will be April 4. Regular performances will be April 5, 6 and 10-13. The Sunday Matinee performance will be April 7.

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 ticket patrons are encouraged to call March 23-27 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 March 28.

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

Steel Magnolias, a real treat

From the mouths of sages:

"True friendship is shown in times of troubles; prosperity is full of friends." – Euripides, 300 BC

"Laughter through tears is my favorite emotion." –Truvy, 2013 AD

You're in for a treat. *Steel Magnolias*, written by Robert Harling and directed by Summer Ferguson, opens at FSLT on April 4 and runs through April 13. It is an

exaltation of the steel-like strength of Southern Belles found tenderly hidden under the softness of a magnolia's velvet petals. The story is set in a small town in northern Louisiana where there were "beauty shops," not spas. These personal shops were havens for women with a southern drawl. The owner of one particular such haven is Truvy (Lora Rice), a veteran beautician and a friend of all. She

See Magnolias on page 3



Director's Notes...

“Fantastical” flair adds new light to popular production

Steel Magnolias – the title itself is the heart and soul of this play. I’m so pleased to be directing such a powerful show. Six women made of steel, who face life’s joys and tragedies – this has always been a great favorite of mine and just about every other southern woman I know. The talent I have in this cast is unlike any other I’ve ever directed before. They bring the story to a whole new light, and with the “fantastical” aspect I have in store, this show will be unlike any other ever performed at the Fort Smith Little Theatre.

—*Summer Ferguson*, Director

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THIS OFF-SEASON PRODUCTION

An Evening of One-Acts

In the month of April, FSLT is set to showcase not only the main production of *Steel Magnolias* but also an Off-Season showing of three different One-Acts, with three different directors.

The evening is slated to kick-off with the light comedy *Stacks of Wax*, which features a large cast of FSLT veterans as figures in a wax museum. Written by Shirley Ullom, this play is directed by Rebekah Stoltz.

Next to be performed is John Millington Synge’s classic Irish play, *Riders to the Sea*, directed by Duff Taylor, a tale about an old woman who loses the men in her family to the sea.

Finally, to wrap up the evening, Wesley Rester will be directing a relationship drama written by Damian Trasler called *A Time for Farewells*.

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|---------------------|---|
| • Dates: | April 18-20 (Thursday, Friday, Saturday) |
| • Time: | Curtain-time is 8 p.m. / Doors open at 7:15 p.m. |
| • Reservations: | No reservations will be accepted |
| • Admission Cost: | \$5 at the door |
| <i>Please Note:</i> | As this is an off-season production, admission is not included in your Season Ticket. |

Mercy⁺

A Word from Our Show Sponsor

“Mercy, Fort Smith is pleased to partner with the Fort Smith Little Theatre for this wonderful production of *Steel Magnolias*. FSLT is one of the ‘Quality of Life and Place’ jewels of our community. Mercy is proud to support the art and craft of theatre that is so well represented by all who help bring these entertaining performances to life for all of us to enjoy. Long live theatre, and long live FSLT!”

Renovation Progress Report

Our *Back To The Future* renovation project continues, with changes big and small appearing each week. For the opening of *Hickory Dickory Dead*, our primary construction goal was



to have our lobby restrooms operational. For *Steel Magnolias*, we are focusing all energies on the light booth. At this writing, it is stripped bare to allow for rewiring and reconfiguration of the small but critically important workspace. Still to come are exterior improvements, and finishing touches including artwork and furniture.

Thank you to all those who have

made a donation to finance this huge undertaking; to the vendors and professionals who have contributed in-kind materials and services; to our patrons who have kindly overlooked our progress mess; and to all our uncomplaining volunteers who continue to work in-and-around the construction. To learn more about this project, or to make an online donation, please go to fslt.org.

Harling's *Steel Magnolias* opens at FSLT April 4

Continued from page 1

is breaking-in a new assistant, Annelle (Kristel Biggs). The novice is new in town and closed-mouth about her youthful past. It looks to be a busy day.

One of Truvy's patrons, M'Lynn (Monica Longoria), is engulfed in putting on her daughter's wedding scheduled for later that day. Her daughter, Shelby (Victoria Walden), is also on the premises having her hair done. It is a big social event for a small town such as this. Everyone wants to look their best. Soon on the scene are Clairee (Pattie Smith) the newly widowed wife of the former mayor, and Ouiser (Angie Ellis) a tough, dog-loving, wealthy matron. All

these interesting women have interesting men in their past and some in the present. You won't get a line from these fellas, but you will get a peek at them. First is the shotgun-toting father-of-the-bride, Drum (Oscar Kourany), and next is the groom, Jackson (Cy Morgan). Following them is a doctor (Joe Graham), and two others, Jonathan (Eric Wells) and Tommy (Drew Smith). This is a play filled with memorable lines that invoke tears and laughs, just like in real life.

Summer Ferguson, who is debuting as a director at FSLT, is well prepared with a theatre degree. She has collected a stalwart crew to support a talented cast. She has Theresa Starr and Rikkee

Workman-Black as co-producers, Wesley Fox to stage manage, and Cheree Spann as the production stage manager. Props have been placed in the capable hands of Neal Goodwin and Martha Gooden, while costumes will be taken care of by Jacie Jones and Siobhan Kremers. Megan Johnson and Kayla Thompson will handle the big southern hairstyles and make-up. Set design is by Ron Stice, while the Stoltz-duo, Rebekah and Lucas, will take care of the lighting design for this production. The tech-board will be in the hands of Chuck Howard, Josh Smith, and Wade Gordon. Set builders include Ron Stice, Summer Ferguson, Chuck Howard, and Neal Goodwin. This is the kind of show in which you'll find some character in the cast you will recognize—someone to make you laugh or cry. But isn't that what friends are for?

Make your reservation early because this southern favorite will fill the house quickly. **FSLT box office will begin accepting reservation requests for season ticket holders on Saturday, March 23**, and will begin accepting general admission requests on March 28. The number to call is (479) 783-2966 (press 2).



2013 ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

The Fort Smith Little Theatre is proud to bring you another winning season, and with support from our Annual Fund Donors, we'll continue doing so for generations to come.

Please consider offering your support of our all volunteer community theatre by making a tax-deductible contribution to our 2013 Annual Fund Campaign at one of the following levels. In recognition of your gift, we will proudly list your name in our programs and on our website, www.fslt.org.

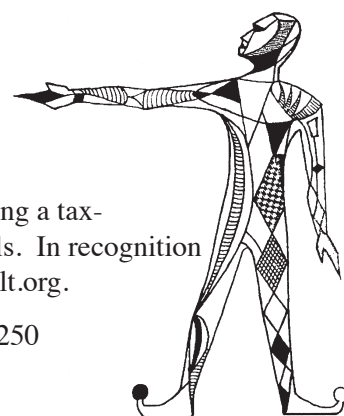
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www.fslt.org

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From the Top...

A Round of Applause

Thank you to the cast and crew of *Hickory Dickory Dead* for providing a wonderful season opener. Not only were they able to navigate the normal hurdles that accompany a production, but they also worked around the forces of wintery mother nature. Such was their dedication to our audience, that they carved out an unscheduled performance in their very busy schedules when our Wednesday evening show was blanketed in snow.

On another note, we congratulate the theatre students of UAFS for their production of *Dromnium*, which recently received the Director's Choice Award and other honors from the Kennedy Center

American College Theatre Festival regional festival.

Let me conclude by pointing out that the Fort Smith Little Theatre is able to stand strong because of numerous individuals. The volunteer staff is irreplaceable and accountable for everything in this brick and mortar, from changing light bulbs to meticulous record keeping, and fiscal responsibilities that allow this entity to operate in the black, which is no small feat. This is also supported by our patrons' donations and ticket sales. The present renovations are only possible with the generous gifts from individuals and businesses, and also in-kind supplies and

Next Up

Auditions for FSLT's next season production, *Barefoot In the Park* by Neil Simon, directed by Luke Perkinson, will be held on April 22 and 23 at 7 p.m. at the theatre. The cast call is for two females and four males, 18-65 years-of-age. Production dates are May 30 to June 8.

services. We are very fortunate that Fort Smith supports the arts and especially the FSLT.

Voltaire once wrote, "Appreciation is a wonderful thing: it makes what is excellent in others, belong to us as well."

Cecilia Woods-McDonald, President

Season Ticket holders are urged to call before March 28 for reservations.