



SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

March 26, 2026

www.fslt.org

Dates: Opening Night of *Drinking Habits* will be Thursday, April 9. Regular evening performances will be April 10-11 and 15-18. The matinee will be Sunday, April 12.

Show Times: Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 6:45 p.m. The matinee begins at 2:00 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 1:15 p.m.

Season Flex Pass Seat Selection:

Seat selection begins 7:00 a.m.

Saturday, March 28 for Flex Pass patrons. Select seats online at fslt.org or call the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn. 2) to request seats on the phone. Flex Pass patrons may also purchase an additional ticket for every pass they have.

General Public Tickets: General public tickets available beginning 7:00 a.m. **Thursday, April 2.** Purchase online at fslt.org or call the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn. 2) to purchase on the phone. Opening Night tickets \$20. All other performances \$14.

Box Office Phone Calls: Be prepared to leave a message with details about your seat/ticket request including a phone number where you can easily be reached. Volunteers will return calls during variable hours.

SIP SIP HOORAY!

Oh the excitement of Opening Night! Courtesy of **Sodie's Wine and Spirits**, wine and champagne is served pre-show. At intermission, dessert is served along with brew from **Fort Smith Coffee**. Tickets are \$20. (By calling the Box Office, Flex Pass, Wed. and Thurs. Night Subscribers can attend for a \$6 fee.)



FARCICAL "DRINKING HABITS" OPENS IN APRIL AT FSLT

"Wine? What wine? That's holy water... fermented." – Sister Augusta, *Drinking Habits*

The fast-paced farce *Drinking Habits* by Tom Smith is up next at FSLT as Season 2026 continues. Jill Ledbetter returns as the director of this uproarious comedy set in a convent. *Drinking Habits* is a popular production for community theaters across the country. In fact, the show debuted in 2004 at Branch County Community Theatre in Coldwater, Michigan.

The convent, Sisters of Perpetual Sewing, is struggling for financial survival, but praise be, two devoted nuns – the kind and gentle Sister Philamena (Tina Dale) and the energetic Sister Augusta (Danielle Stover) – have a scheme to save the day! They have been secretly producing and selling wine disguised as holy water. The problem is they must keep their successful business a secret from Mother Superior (Mary Beth McAlvain), who refers to alcohol as “the Devil’s brew.”

The scheme begins to unravel when local newspaper reporters and former lovers Paul (Ian Miller) and Sally (Lexi Gartman) show up to investigate. Their cover disguise? A priest and a nun. Caretaker George (Eric Wells), novice nun Sister Mary Catherine (Ragan Price), and wine enthusiast Father Chenille (Adam Cox) round out the comical characters. Paranoia that Rome has sent spies to shut down the order adds to the chaos. Accusations, mistaken identities, and potential romances soon cause both wine and secrets to spill.

See *Drinking Habits* on page 3



SHOW SPONSOR APPLAUDED

We are proud to recognize BHC Insurance as our *Drinking Habits* Show Sponsor. For more than 100 years, BHC Insurance has been the region’s trusted insurance agency dedicated to protecting what matters most – from your business to your personal assets. From understanding your risk exposure to structuring employee benefit programs – they partner with you for your success. BHC’s dedication to customer satisfaction is evident in their focus on building long-lasting relationships and offering expert guidance to every client.

In addition to being our Show Sponsor, FSLT is also proud that BHC partners with us as our insurance broker. Their generosity is crucial in helping us maintain affordable ticket prices. Bravo BHC!

Director’s Letter



As director of *Drinking Habits*, I am delighted to invite audiences to enjoy one of the most spirited and delightfully chaotic comedies to grace the stage at the Fort Smith Little Theatre this season. Written by Tom Smith, *Drinking Habits* is a fast-paced farce set in a convent where secrets, misunderstandings, and disguises collide in the most hilarious ways imaginable.

The story follows two well-meaning nuns who secretly make wine to keep their convent afloat. When two reporters arrive to investigate rumors of miraculous happenings, their curiosity sparks a whirlwind of mistaken identities, hidden bottles, and comedic chaos. Doors slam, disguises appear, and each twist raises the stakes as the characters try to keep their secrets intact.

What makes this show especially fun is the precision and energy required for a farce. Timing is everything, and our cast has embraced the physical comedy and quick dialogue with incredible enthusiasm. Watching the story unfold during rehearsals has been a joy, as each rehearsal brings new layers of humor and character discovery.

Drinking Habits reminds us that laughter is one of the best forms of community. In a world that often feels serious, this play invites us to relax, laugh loudly, and enjoy an evening of pure entertainment. We look forward to sharing this lively and joyful production with you!

Jill Moody-Ledbetter, *Director*



Drinking Habits opens April 9

The talented cast, including newcomers and some of FSLT's most popular performers, is supported by a veteran crew. Director Jill Ledbetter's team includes producer Debbie Andrews Kraus, assistant director Robyn Fowler, and second assistant director James Nicholson. Micheal Fox is stage manager, Monica Longoria is handling costumes with the assistance of Mary Rollins, TJ Dudley is the lighting designer, and Megan Bagley serves as light and sound technician. Set design and construction is by Gary Cameron with assistance from Adam Cox and Michael Kennedy. Sharla Cameron is in charge of props, Jim Moody serves as blocking specialist, and Grace Andrews assisted with casting.

Jill Ledbetter is returning as a main season director for the first time since *Splendor in the Grass* in 2014. She said, "It feels wonderful to be back in the director's chair! I've truly missed working closely with a cast and production team to bring a story to life. I selected *Drinking Habits* because it is such a delightful, fast-paced comedy with wonderfully quirky characters and nonstop physical humor. In times when people often need a chance to laugh and escape for a while, this show offers exactly that."

She added, "The best part of the rehearsal process is watching the show grow day by day. As the actors start discovering their characters, the comedy sharpens and the energy builds. Seeing those moments of discovery – when a joke lands perfectly or a character suddenly clicks – is truly the most rewarding part of directing."

Cast member Adam Cox said, "I am excited to appear in *Drinking Habits* as Father Chenille, the well-mannered but often bewildered priest. This is my fourth production at FSLT. Most recently I performed here as Ali Hakim in *Oklahoma!* and Colby from *Closed for the Holidays*. He added, "My favorite part of Father Chenille is his ability to adapt in almost any situation. I also enjoy the rehearsal process as it moves from people just sitting around reading lines to opening night when those same people really become their characters. I hope you enjoy this hilarious show full of twists and turns as much as the cast has enjoyed bringing it to life."

Fellow cast member Tina Dale said, "This play is so much fun! It's been way too long since I've been on stage in a farce, and I'm having so much fun in this one. The energy and pacing are just amazing. We have some very talented actors in this show. It's a joy working with them; they really keep me laughing. Audiences are going to have a blast!"

Drinking Habits opens Thursday, April 9 followed by evening performances April 10-11 and 15-18. Flex Pass patrons can begin selecting seats at 7 am Saturday, March 28. General public ticketing begins Thursday, April 2. Purchase tickets/select seats online at fslt.org or call 479-783-2966 (extn. 2) to purchase through a box office volunteer. From the minute they set foot on stage, these characters will make you laugh out loud. Don't miss *Drinking Habits*!

ATTN Same Seat Subscribers

If you cannot attend on your assigned performance date, please call the Box Office by 6 PM on your assigned night and leave a message. We can move you to another date or release your tickets so that someone else can purchase those seats. Please don't let your seat be empty.

Seating Late Arrivals

To minimize disruption for patrons and actors, those arriving after curtain time will be seated only at a suitable break in the performance. It is also possible that you may be placed in a more accessible seat then moved to your purchased seat at intermission. Seating after a performance has begun is subject to the discretion of FSLT.



Fort Smith Little Theatre
SPOTLIGHT

P.O. Box 3752, Fort Smith, AR 72913
www.fs.lt.org

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From the Top...



When we revealed our newly remodeled auditorium to project contributors at last month's "Preview Party", we frequently heard the comments "Wow" and "Wonderful." Because I love alliteration, I would add the word "Whew"! Our wonderful vendors, generous donors, and Micki Voelkel's cast and crew all made sacrifices to accommodate our very tight

timeline. Everything had to take place between our last performance mid-December 2025 and our first one in February 2026...a small window that also meant working around Christmas and New Year's. "Whew" indeed!

Now, following the wonderful production of Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*, we are totally shifting gears to bring you *Drinking Habits*. Secretly made wine and mistaken identities will have you laughing out loud in this fast-paced, funny, farce (sorry...couldn't resist a little more alliteration).

We invite you to take a break from your spring yard chores and make plans now to enjoy our new seats, enjoy the laughs, and enjoy some big entertainment on our small stage. Those weeds can wait – see you at the theatre!

- Joanne Peterson, *President*

Fort Smith Little Theatre presents
Last of the **RED HOT** *Lovers*
By: Neil Simon
AUDITIONS: Monday, April 20 @ 7pm
Callbacks: Tuesday, April 21

AUDITIONS – Join The Fun!

Auditions for Neil Simon's *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, directed by Kim Pierson, will be held at 7 p.m. on **Monday, April 20**. Callbacks will be Tuesday, April 21. The cast calls for 1 male age approx. 45-60 plus 3 females: 1-20s, 2 40-60ish. Production dates are May 28-June 6. A middle-aged married man is intent on having an affair. He plans three seductions, but each attempt is an abysmal failure. One woman is neurotic, one is beyond kooky, and the third is as depressed as he is. Visit fs.lt.org/auditions for role descriptions and complete details.



Season Flex Pass patrons are urged to select seats before April 2.

Thank
You!

TAKE A SEAT



CAMPAIGN DONORS



We are so very grateful to these businesses and individuals who contributed to our Take A Seat Campaign. Their generosity made it possible for us to refresh our auditorium with strong sturdy risers, paint, new carpet and new seats. With their help, we can comfortably entertain our patrons for decades to come.

You can still be a part of this exciting project! Learn more about naming a seat at fslt.org/take-a-seat-campaign.

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