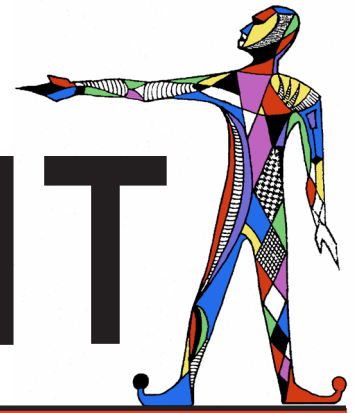


FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE



# SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

May 14, 2026

www.fslt.org

**Dates:** Opening Night of *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* will be Thursday, May 28. Regular evening performances will be May 29-30 and June 3-6. The matinee will be Sunday, May 31.

**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, May 16** for Flex Pass patrons.

Select seats online at [fslt.org](http://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, May 21.** Purchase online at [fslt.org](http://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.



## NEAL SIMON CLASSIC BRINGS SUMMER LAUGHS TO FSLT

*Are you talking soft because you think that's sexier? Because I don't find it sexy.  
I find it hard to hear. - Elaine, Last of the Red Hot Lovers*

### 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.)

FSLT kicks off the summer with a Neal Simon classic comedy, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* playing May 28-June 6. Kim Pierson makes her directorial debut at FSLT with this well-known comedy which played on Broadway for 706 performances. The Broadway play was later made into a successful 1972 film starring Alan Arkin, Sally Kellerman, Paula Prentiss, and Renée Taylor.

Neil Simon is one of America's most popular and prolific playwrights. Simon wrote more than 40 Broadway plays in his lifetime and contributed to numerous films and television programs. Some of his notable plays include *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Odd Couple*,

*Last of the Red Hot Lovers on page 3*



## SHOW SPONSOR APPLAUDED

We are grateful to AT&T for their long-time support and for generously sponsoring *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*. Their sponsorship is crucial in helping us maintain affordable ticket prices. Bravo AT&T!

For well over a century, AT&T has been connecting America to help people live, learn, work, and succeed. In Arkansas, AT&T invested nearly \$1.2 billion in its network infrastructure from 2019-2023 to connect more people to greater possibility. Through the AT&T Connected Learning® initiative, AT&T is working to address the digital divide through investments in internet accessibility, affordability and the safe adoption of technology.

## Director's Letter



This show is full of the best of the old and the best of the new. Personally, I have been a volunteer at FSLT since 1987 when I acted in *The Night of the Iguana*, but I've never directed at FSLT until now.

Playwright Neil Simon, famous for his wit and wisdom, is certainly tried and true, but our take on this play surprises. Our cast is putting their own spin on the script and are delving into their characters' backstories in an enlightening way. This makes for a refreshing show, and I know the cast is going to impress. Crowd-favorite John Hall is our lead and the only male role. He has a tremendous line load and a swath of emotions to play. All three of our women are newer to FSLT and have jumped in with an inspiring ferociousness.

The set is certainly unique. We've raised the floor to create the feel of a New York City apartment. Our set designer and builder, Robert Montgomery, is experienced, but this is his first time to lead at FSLT.

Our crew brings a nice mix of experience and firsts, with some veteran volunteers doing jobs they've never done before. Combined, the "tried and true" and "new" parts of this show make for delightful theater, and I'm sure you'll leave with a smile on your face.

Kim Pierson, *Director*



## REMEMBERING CAROLE



We are grateful for those listed below who gave donations in memory of Carole Rogers. An active volunteer at FSLT for more than 30 years, she was a popular actress with natural comic timing, a beloved director, and frequent Board President. A well-respected leader and a good friend to many, Carole will be long remembered. We especially want to thank Carole's sons (Jimmy and Michael) for their generosity and for allowing FSLT to host visitation for Carole's family and friends.

Jimmy and Michael Rogers Families, Tim and Peggy Geiger Family, Edward Bravo, Charles and George Sloan Families, Edward Graham, Jim Malatino, Cyndi and Jerry Glidewell, Preston Frazier, Anne Quinn, Angela Covey, Tim and Courtney Quinn Family



# *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* opens May 28

and *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. He is the winner of a Pulitzer Prize, three Tony Awards, and a Golden Globe.

Middle-aged and neurotic Barney Cashman (John Hall) wants to experience the sexual revolution. He plans a series of seductions in his mother's apartment – each more disastrous than the next. First up is sexpot Elaine Navazio (Rhonda Hayes), a gal who likes cigarettes, whiskey, and unavailable men. Barney then moves on to actress Bobbie Michele (Maarz Chase) who is kooky, funny, and perhaps actually crazy. Finally, Barney tries unsuccessfully to make a love connection with his wife's best friend, Jeanette Fisher (Ragan Price). As Barney's love adventures take one wrong turn after another, the results are always hilarious.

Director Kim Pierson is making her FSLT directorial debut after years of working with child actors with Young Actors Guild. She says, "I chose the *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* because it is a classic with a great story. Everyone loves a funny love story! When I was reading it, I caught myself laughing alone."

Pierson has an experienced crew backing her up. Megan Bagley is the producer, Joanne Peterson and Mary Rollins are assistant directors, and Marcus Coker is stage manager and responsible for set decoration. Cindy Clark is the costumer, Mary Beth McAlvain is props mistress, and Robert Montgomery is set designer and builder. Gray Ashton is the lighting designer, and Laura Carlisle is handling hair and makeup.

FSLT favorite John Hall takes on the challenging role of Barney who is the central character of the play. Hall describes his work process: "I always start with the script. I bake it into my brain and then I think about how I can better facilitate the story. This show has a specific voice because it's set in a very specific locale – Great Neck Long Island, NY." Despite the centrality of his character, Hall says, "Really none of it works without the ladies, though. I have

to make sure I'm listening to and facilitating their performances so we work together."

FSLT newcomer Maarz Chase is playing Bobbie Michele: "The challenge of playing this character is that she is so scatterbrained that it's hard to follow her thought process. She definitely has a loose screw; her moods change sporadically and she constantly makes up stories. Even so, she is a super funny and interesting character. I am excited to showcase her spunky personality!" Chase is also grateful for the welcome she has received. "The rehearsal process has been easy breezy. Everyone here is really nice and I'm having so much fun!"

Active FSLT volunteer Rhonda Hays recently transitioned from backstage roles to onstage in 2025's *Exit Laughing*. She says of her character: "In playing Elaine, I'm finding the balance between her vulnerability and her humor. She is quite a complex character, yet still relatable. Like most of us, she's just trying to figure things out in life. She is awkward, funny, and a bit messy. I am having a blast digging into her emotional journey."

Ragan Price, who debuted at FSLT in *Drinking Habits*, describes her character, Jeanette: "She doesn't downplay her anguish in the slightest – in fact, she makes a big show of it. Even though it can be read as pathetic and overdramatic, I feel there's something quite beautiful about a woman who allows herself to express the weight of her troubles."

Don't miss Neil Simon's wit and wisdom in *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*. The show opens May 28 with additional 7:30 pm performances scheduled for May 29-30 and June 3-6. A matinee will be performed Sunday May 31. Tickets for opening night are \$20; all other performances are \$14. For Season Flex Pass patrons, seat selection begins at 7:00 a.m. Saturday, May 16. Tickets go on sale to the general public beginning 7:00 a.m. Thursday, May 21. You can buy tickets and select your seats online at [fslt.org](http://fslt.org) or by calling 479-783-2966 (extn. 2).

## 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.



Fort Smith Little Theatre  
**SPOTLIGHT**

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**2026 FSLT Board of Directors**

Joanne Peterson, President  
Tina Dale, Vice President  
Rhonda Hays, Treasurer  
Monica Longoria, Secretary

Megan Bagley  
Sharla Cameron  
Micheal Fox  
Jamie Lambdin-Bolin  
Mary Beth McAlvain  
Ian Miller  
Brad Nance  
Janet Renwick  
Charlotte Scott  
Brett Short  
Coleman Smith

**Supplemental Board Members**

Adam Cox  
Lynne Gustafson  
Mary Rollins

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Fort Smith, AR  
Permit No. 12

## From the Top...



As one of my FSLT volunteer duties, I enjoy working some Box Office phone shifts for each production. That means talking with patrons who have left phone messages at the theatre. Frequently, I hear people say “Wow - only \$14 for a ticket? What a bargain! You could really raise your prices.” And yes, they are correct. So why do we remove screws to reuse lumber and scrim and save on supplies

when we could just increase the price of tickets? The answer is simple. We do not want the price of admission to be a barrier to those wanting to experience live theatre. While some of our patrons may attend professional performances in Fayetteville, Tulsa or even New York, there are many more whose exposure to theatre is only, or predominantly, within our walls. And with the price of gas and groceries, some must make a conscious choice to spend \$14 for entertainment.

So how do we help our family, friends, and neighbors to enjoy local talent and quality live theatre at an affordable price? We sell program ads and show sponsorships and ask you to donate to our Annual Fund Campaign. That support, every gift large and small, helps offset ever rising production costs and thus maintain affordability.

We hope you'll thank our advertisers and sponsors for their support and consider contributing to our Annual Fund. It's not just a gift to our non-profit, but a gift to an entire community who can proudly call our 79-year-old theatre their own.

- Joanne Peterson, *President*

## AUDITIONS – Join The Fun!

Auditions for *The Addams Family Musical* were held May 4-5. Production dates are July 16- August 1.

The next audition opportunity will be **Monday, August 17 at 7 pm** when casting will be conducted for *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Directed by Scott Black, this production calls for 4 females 25-45+ plus 1 African American female any age and 1 Hispanic female 65+; 6 males 20-50 plus 1 teen male 16+. Production dates are Sept. 24-Oct. 3. Set in New Orleans, this is a Pulitzer Prize-winning drama packed with sensuality and class tensions. Character descriptions and complete details will be posted at [fslt.org/auditions](http://fslt.org/auditions).



**Season Flex Pass patrons are urged to select seats before May 21.**

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](http://fslt.org/take-a-seat-campaign).

.....

### Legacy Donor

Michael & Susan Boulden

### Campaign Launch Donor

Arvest Foundation

### Construction Partners

Scott & Deborah Clark    Yeagers Ace Hardware    Carman, Inc.  
D&D Floor Covering    Galen Hunter    Plunkett Distributing

.....

### Take A Seat Donors

Cindy Clark    Benny & Martha Gooden    Marie Haurert  
Taylor & Mary Prewitt    Paula & Steve Sharum    Beth Watson

Cynthia G. Ashley    Chief Danny & Becky Baker    Louise Barling    George & Carole Beattie    Gimo & Candace Berry  
Family Of Bruce & Kaye Birkhead    Kent & Nancy Blochberger    Gary & Jo Ann Campbell    Jim & LauraNell Cavin  
Gina & Chuck Chunn    Dana & David Craig    Todd & Melissa Curry    Bill Engles    Joyce Faulkner  
Derek & Elishevah Godfrey    Joe Graham    Karen & Dan Haggard    Brad Jr. & Kim Kidder  
Bill & Betty Klusmeier Family    Nancy & James Llewellyn    Mary Beth & Mike McAlvain  
Methodist Village Senior Living    Jim Moody    Grant & Kim Pierson    Jim & Sue Rose  
Dr. Ronald D & Teresa A Schlabach    Kathy Smith & Hal Adams    Tom & Marypat Stoddard

Connie & David Adrion    Nancy Dunn Ahlert    Dr. & Mrs. Ben Baker    Friends & Family Of Katy Boulden  
Roger Boone & Joseph Chasteen    Richard M. Bushkuhl    Gary & Sharla Cameron    Debbie Carney  
Kristen Carroll    Sue Cooley    Gary Cooper    Friend of Angela Covey    Tina Dale  
Grayce Dewitt Dance Studio    Daniel Dorman    Larry & Mickey Drennan    Friends of Steve Dwiggins    Cecil Engles  
Diane Fagan    David & Betsy Farris    Ross Feezer    Louise Owens Finney    Larry & Cindy Forsgren    Rick Foti  
Robyn Fowler    Wesley & Micheal Fox    Jerry & Cyndi Glidewell    Janie Glover    Louanna & Jack Green  
Doris Henley    Gene & Sherry Hester    Rosemary Johnson    Sherri Karber & Norman Wilkinson  
Michael & Cindy McClurkin    Marcia Melvin    Chloe' Mims    Ed & Gail Newlin    Lucy O'Neal  
David Phillips    Friends of Shanna Prater    Grant Purdy    Carolyn Ratterree    Jim & Kathy Remerscheid  
Wrenetta Ritchie    Penny Pattee Robertson    Friends of Carole Rogers    Sarah Farris Samuelson    LeAnn Simms  
Brenda Smith    Christine Smith    Becky Southern    Shannon Stoddard & Eric Wells  
Steven & Nancy Stiles    Jane Ann Short & Grayce Dewitt    Jim & Dixie Spears    Joe & Candy Svetleic  
Marlene Tate-Brown    Lynn & Carmen Taylor    Pamela Thames    Mike & Sherri Tickler    Angela Venum  
Melissa Vitale    Charles & Missy Warren    Dusty Westfall    Amanda Whitman    Danny Williams