FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE

SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street | October 29, 2026 | www.fslt.org

Dates: Opening *Night of Silver Belles: A Christmas Comedy* will be Thursday, November 12. Regular performances will be November 13-14 and 18-21. A matinee will be offered on Sunday, November 15.

Show Times: Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 6:45 p.m. The matinee will begin 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, October 31** 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 are available beginning 7:00 a.m. **Thursday, November 5**. Purchase online at fslt.org or call the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn. 2) to purchase on the phone. Opening Nights are $20. All other performances are $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. Reminder: To reach the Box Office select extn. 2.

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, a special 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 Opening Night for a $6 fee.)

SILVER BELLES: A CHRISTMAS COMEDY

"Gin!" "What? You said you wanted to play pinochle!" "But you wanted to play gin!" "How about Go Fish?"
Gertie and Vivienne, Silver Belles: A Christmas Comedy

The family friendly comedy *Silver Belles: A Christmas Comedy* will warm up chilly winter nights at FSLT November 12-21. The romantic comedy written by Lauren Grove marks the welcome directorial return of Jim Moody. The cast of FSLT regulars, returning veteran performers, and fresh faces will offer a cozy start to the holiday season.

Silver Meadows Retirement Home is the headquarters of spirited senior women collectively known as the Silver Belles. They include dramatic, outspoken Vivienne (Paula Sharum); gentle, romantic Clara (Louise Barling); maternal, caring Harriet (Lynn Spain); sweet, optimistic Pearl (Lora Rice); and unpredictable, eccentric Gertie (Sharla Cameron). Together with the Silver Meadows manager Kate (Grace Hankins), the women are busy preparing for the holidays. Little do they know that scheming real estate mogul Frank Davenport (James Lowe II) plans to purchase the home and turn it into a luxury hotel.

When Frank's son Nick (Jacob Howell) arrives to announce the news, he runs into the woman he still holds a torch for – his high school sweetheart Kate! Comic complications ensue as the

Silver Belles on page 3

Show Sponsors Applauded

We greatly appreciate two of Fort Smith's leading corporate citizens, **Landmark CPAs (formerly Beall Barclay)** and **First National Bank,** who are co-sponsoring *Silver Belles: A Christmas Comedy*. By underwriting the cost of this production, their generosity helps us maintain affordable ticket prices.

For more than 60 years, **Landmark CPAs** has served the Fort Smith community with accounting, tax and consulting services built around strong relationships. This Christmas season, the firm is proud to support local theater and the creativity that brings the community together.

As early as 1950, **First National Bank** was supporting FSLT by advertising in our show programs, and through the decades they have continued their generous patronage. Founded in 1872 and still locally owned, First National Bank is here to serve all your financial needs. Our community…Your Bank! Member | FDIC

Meet the Directors

Anyone who has been at FSLT over the past 50 years has probably heard the name "Moody." **Jim Moody** has been part of countless productions, but he is probably best known as a Director and his affinity for surrounding himself with strong women.. He often chooses scripts featuring female roles and selects capable women for his production team.

Silver Belles is no exception. The script centers around a group of witty and wise women residing at the Silver Meadows Retirement Home. And he has two very talented women in key roles to support him in what may be his last time in the Director's chair. **Allie Schneider**, Assistant Director, has performed, danced and sung at FSLT and previously directed *Silver Belles* on another stage. **Mary Beth McAlvain**, has directed at FSLT, but is best known for her performances that make us laugh-out-loud. For *Silver Belles* she serves as a busy Assistant to Directors Moody and Schneider.

Combining youthful energy, comic skills, and decades of experience, this impressive directorial team is well chosen to deliver the gift of laughter, tears and Christmas magic with *Silver Belles: A Christmas Comedy.*

Here Comes Season 2027!

4 Types of Packages / 4 Ways to Buy

Another great line up of shows is coming your way - 80th season! For complete show information, go to www.fslt.org. We offer four types of Season Packages – all with plenty of perks. You can purchase your preferred package in the lobby before all performances of *Silver Belles*, buy online at fslt.org, call to order on the phone, or send in the order form you may have received in the mail.

A Radio Christmas III-Rewind to the 80s. Dec 10-12

Grab your cassette player, rewind to the 1980s, and come enjoy the songs and stories of the holidays, presented as if you and your family were huddled around the radio. The third in a series of past Radio Christmas productions, this fun-filled show is packed with songs, commercials, comedy readings, and Christmas stories of a simpler time. Grab your friends and family and join us for a special night full of merriment, laughter, and music.
Performances are at 7:30 pm **December 10-12**. Admission is $10 per person. As an off-season production, admission is not included as part of a Season Package.
Beginning 7:00 a.m. Thursday, December 3, tickets will be available online or by phone (479-783-2966 extn. 2). Walk-ins are also welcome.

Silver Belles opens opens November 12

characters fight to find a way to preserve their home and caring community.

A large cast of supporting characters is on hand to tell the story including Mary Newton as Megan, Christian Meurer as Steve, Landon King as Jerry, Olivia Metzger as Young Clara, Evan Law as Tommy, Cliff Scott as Mr. Johnson, Joanne Peterson as Dr. Lee, Cindy Clark as Mama, and Kivalina Lawrence as Waitress.

Director Jim Moody has an experienced team to assist him including Allie Gooden Schneider as Assistant Director and Mary Beth McAlvain as Assistant to the Directors. His capable crew includes Sharla Cameron, Gary Cameron, Cliff Scott, Elysa Braum Turner, Kim Pierson, Brittney Jones, Rhonda Hayes, Megan Bagley, Joe Graham, and Debbie Kraus.

Jim Moody, possibly FSLT's most prolific director, said: "I made my directorial debut at FSLT with *The Women*, a production featuring an all-female cast and an almost entirely female crew. It feels fitting to bring my directing career to a close with *Silver Belles* – a show that celebrates the strength, support, and power of female friendship. From beginning to end, it seems my time at FSLT has been bookended by stories that celebrate the power of women and the connections we all share."

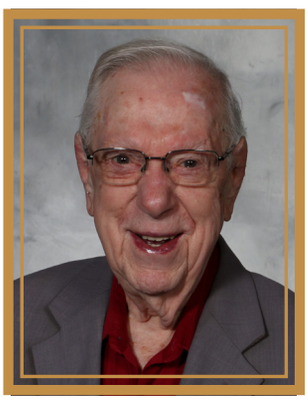
Allie Gooden Schneider, Assistant Director, discusses the on-stage talent: "The cast of Silver Belles is a wonderful mix of seasoned performers and newcomers to the FSLT stage. Audiences are sure to enjoy seeing Paula Sharum and Louise Barling return after their lengthy hiatus and Sharla Cameron and Lora Rice after several years off-stage – as these veteran actresses perform alongside fresh new talent. It is truly a privilege to work with such a talented cast and to see the unique gifts each performer brings to the production."

Grace Hankins returns to FSLT as the show's leading lady, Kate: "The challenge of playing Kate, for me, is that she is a "straight man" character in the play. Meaning, she's a grounded counterpart to some of the more comedic characters in the show. I love comedy so my goal with her is to find a few comedic moments that make sense for her, and to make sure she's multi-layered."

After a couple of years as a volunteer, Lynn Spain returns to the FSLT in a major role. She explains: "After 30 years away from the Fort Smith Little Theatre stage, I came back with a walk on part in *Savannah Sipping Society* and I've been serving as an Intermission Hospitality volunteer at nearly every show since then. This role is an exciting opportunity for me. Being part of FSLT has given me so many new friends and a chance to learn from some fine actors and directors. I encourage everyone to volunteer and experience this great group.

The Opening Night performance begins at 7:30 pm Thursday, November 12. Evening performances continue November 13-14 and 18-21. There will be a 2 pm matinee on Sunday November 15. Tickets for opening night are $20; all other performances are $14. Seat selection for Flex Pass patrons begins at 7:00 am Saturday, October 31. Tickets go on sale to the general public beginning at 7 a.m. Thursday, November 5. Tickets may be purchased online at fslt.org or by calling 479-783-2966 (extn. 2). Make plans now to join the wise and witty Belles for love, laughs, and tears!

Memorials Honoring Our Friend, Bill



We are grateful to those listed below who have made donations in memory of our long-time friend, Bill Engles. Bill proudly proclaimed that he was FSLT's oldest and longest patron. Even at 98 years of age, he sat in "his" front row seat for every show, and he claimed to have attended FSLT's first production in 1947. For 79 years, Bill supported our non-profit with his loyal attendance, loud applause, and financial generosity. He was a colorful character who loved our community theatre, and we loved him right back.

Bernard William Beall; Gino and Candy Berry; Judge Robert Dawson; Gammill, Boyd & Anderson; Jerry Gardner, Jr; Marci Kirby

Annual Meeting

The FSLT Annual Meeting will be held Monday, November 23 at 6 pm. 2026 Season Package holders are eligible to attend and vote at this meeting. Officers and Committee Chairs will give reports on the past year. Five members will be elected to three-year terms on the Board, and three members from the membership-at-large will be elected to one-year terms on the Nominating Committee.

NEW for 2027!

Ticketing will begin at 8:am (not 7am) - on designated Box Office opening dates

Easy Shopping

Gift Certificates- You can purchase a Gift Certificate in any denomination online at fslt.org or by calling the Box Office. The recipient can apply the gift toward the purchase of a Season Package or individual show tickets. It's the perfect present!

Purchasing a Gift Package- If you specifically want to purchase a Season Package (not a Gift Certificate) as a gift, please call 479-783-2966 (extn. 5) or email to fsltseasontickets@gmail.com. By handling the gift purchase for you, we can collect all the pertinent recipient information.

2027 Season Package Key Dates

Renewal Same Seat Subscriber Deadline-Oct. 31! 2026 subscribers must renew by Oct. 31 in order to retain their same seat assignments for 2027.

New Same Seat Subscriptions Available-Nov. 11! NEW orders for same seat subscriptions will be available online and through the box office.

Flex Passes Available-Now! Flex passes can be purchased now through the box office or online.

Questions? Contact us at fsltseasontickets@gmail.com or call 479-783-2966 (extn. 5)

Fort Smith Little Theatre
SPOTLIGHT
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From the top...

'Tis the season! At FSLT, this means 'tis the season to be crazy busy. We are selling season packages and program ads for 2027, rehearsing for our upcoming comedy, *Silver Belles*, and our family-friendly holiday off-season show, *A Radio Christmas III-Rewind to the 80s* – PLUS hosting auditions for *Southern Fried Funeral*. Whew!

It's also the season of thanksgiving. We are grateful that 2027 will mark our 80th year to be an all-volunteer non-profit providing quality, affordable entertainment and a stage for local talent. And speaking of talent…we are thankful for the powerful performances of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. While the show's dark themes were uncomfortable, the on-stage emotions were amazing.

And lastly, we hope you'll come "get your jolly on" at two delightful productions in Nov. and Dec. After all, 'tis the season!

– Joanne Peterson, *President*

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Silver Belles Set Sponsor

AUDITIONS –
Join The Fun!

Auditions for the hilarious comedy ***Southern Fried Funeral*** directed by Mary Rollins will be held at **7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 14**. Callbacks will be **Tuesday, Dec 15**. Production dates are February 11-20. The cast calls for 6 females approximately 30-60+ and 5 males 20s-60+. A family funeral becomes comically unforgettable with buried secrets, childhood rivalries, Southern charm and casseroles. Visit fslt.org/auditions for complete details.

Season Flex Pass patrons are urged to select seats before November 5.

Thank You!

TAKE A SEAT CAMPAIGN DONORS

FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE

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.

We are wrapping up this campaign - but you can still be a part of this exciting project! Learn more at fslt.org/take-a-seat-campaign.

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