

AUTHOR'S NOTE

There is no way to convey my love and appreciation for the hundred or so friends, associates and members of Ann Richards' family who helped me understand her in a way that would have been utterly impossible without them.

I was compelled to write this play...the notion to do it at all, the idea for how to write it- its shape and style came all in a rush, leaving me wide-eyed with surprise. And in I plunged. During the darkest hours of trying to shape a tumultuous mountain of material, in a daydream I would see Ann in the fifth row, beaming happily and elbowing our mutual old friend. Liz Smith. Six years of work later, I have made a journey I could never have imagined. But I went in whole hog, and stayed in working hard and doing the best I could which gave me a hint of how I'll bet Ann Richards felt every single day.

I hope Ann would like this. People loved to please her...one of her children said to please her was to get hit with a million suns. So, of course, now I want to please her, too.

Texans have welcomed me in my endeavor, which I find incredibly generous (Yankee that I am), and I will always be grateful for their affection and fun and open hearts.

As this is a piece of writing based on research. I should say something about the text itself. I had intended by now to annotate it, to say who told the story something was based on, what chunk was cobbled from this, what sliver was taken from that and what large sections were stitched up out of whole cloth, though based on sure and certain knowledge of my subject. But, of course, the tide sweeps me along. and I haven't done that yet. (I never did master footnotes in school.)

Most of the play is based on years of overlapping stories told me in significant detail, including fragments of fabulous dialogue, by the players themselves.

The office scenes in the play have been created based on many, many anecdotes and, in some areas, profound and lengthy study though the play's ending, for obvious reasons, is purely a dream about someone I do think of now as a friend I know pretty well, and love.

Holland Taylor

SPECIAL THANKS

Don Clark	Tina Dale
Tammy Davis	Aaron Ray
David Mattas	Vernon McNabb
Mike Mulhern	Shannon Stoddard
Kameron Dewitt Elkins	Duff Taylor
Janet Renwick	Shawn Bearden
Goddard Design Group	Tyler Housley
Sebastian County Democratic Party	St. Paul United Methodist

FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE
PRESENTS



WRITTEN BY
HOLLAND TAYLOR

DIRECTED BY
JIM MOODY

STARRING
CINDY CLARK

OCTOBER 3rd, 4th, & 5th - 7:30pm

CAMPAIGN STAFF

ANN RICHARDS.....CINDY CLARK
VOICE OF NANCY KOHLER.....MARY BETH McALVAIN

DIRECTOR.....JIM MOODY
PRODUCER.....JANE ANN SHORT
STAGE MANAGER.....DEBBIE CARNEY
STAGEHAND.....JUSTIN MOORE
SCENIC DESIGN.....DUSTY WESTFALL
SCENIC BUILDER.....GARY CAMERON
LIGHTING DESIGN.....REBEKAH MARTIN
LIGHTS AND SOUND.....LEXI HOUSLEY
HAIR & MAKEUP.....WESLEY FOX
PROPS MANAGER.....SHARLA CAMERON
POSTER DESIGN.....ANNA STROUD

(IG: @FRISKYMOSQUITO)

SETTING

Act I

The school auditorium at an imaginary college in the middle of Texas.

The present.

Act II

The same.

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Thank you Fort Smith Little Theatre for allowing this old man to direct again. Thanks to Anna Stroud for the amazing poster design. Thanks to Dusty Westfall for his set design, advice and support on this journey. Thanks to the "offstage voice", you helped make this a joyful journey. Lastly, I am elated to get to work with my partner in so many crimes, Cindy Clark. Watching Ann emerge from her body, brain and soul has been one of the best adventures of my life. Much appreciation.

PS: Tim Smith Thanks for "the use of the hall". Could not have done it without you.

Jim Moody

MESSAGE FROM THE CANDIDATE

Six years ago, I performed the one-woman show "*Belle Starr: By Herself*" as part of the yearlong celebration of the bicentennial of Fort Smith. It never entered my head that I would do it again; this time about another woman who was also a force of nature. I guess I'm just a glutton for punishment!

A big thank you to my wonderful husband, Tim Smith (and Nick, Lennon and Winston), who listened to each rehearsal for the past 8 months without complaining once!

And for Carole Rogers--this show is dedicated to you--it really should have been your show!

Cindy Clark

FSLT PRESIDENT'S NOTE

I have been waiting for this show since the 2024 season was announced. Seldom does one get to watch the story of a hero on stage at Fort Smith Little Theatre.

I was a girl growing up on a ranch in Texas when Ann Richards came on the scene, and I was fascinated. I grew up in a home where politics and policies were openly discussed and hotly debated. I made up my mind early. The day I turned 18, I registered to vote. I was off at college by then. I would have to vote absentee. I did, and I proudly cast my very first vote in a public election for this woman who spoke her mind and seemed to have no fears.

I continued to stay fascinated over the years by her success and failures. Richards broke glass ceilings and fueled a fire in an entire generation of women. When I think of her today, it still gives me a little push to keep going, to keep trying, to keep aiming to succeed. I'm certain bringing her STORY to life on this stage will light a fire in many, many more.

Tina Dale
FSLT President, 2024