



# SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

May 15, 2025

www.fslt.org

**Dates:** Opening Night of *Girls' Weekend* will be Thursday, May 29. Regular performances will be May 30-31 and June 4-7. A Sunday Matinee will be offered June 1.

**Show Times:** Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 6:45 p.m. Matinees 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, May 17** 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 22.** 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 \$13.

**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, 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 \$7 fee.)

Fort Smith Little Theatre Presents

*Girls' Weekend*  
by Karen Schaeffer  
Directed by Tina Dale

May 29 through June 7

Tickets are available at [www.fslt.org](http://www.fslt.org)  
(479) 783-2966

Produced by special arrangements with  
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC., of Woodstock, Illinois



## WINE, SECRETS, & LAUGHS MAKE FOR A HILARIOUS "GIRLS' WEEKEND"

"Ladies, to a girls' weekend!" – Dot, *Girls' Weekend*

Characters climb ladders, stow the hostess in closets, salsa dance, and indulge in too much wine in the contemporary farce *Girls' Weekend* written by Karen Schaeffer. Tina Dale directs the fast-paced comedy which plays May 29-June 7 at FSLT.

Director Dale says, "When I originally read the script, I laughed so much I was crying. I knew directing a show with this much physical comedy would be a challenge. But I also knew it would be fun, and I wanted to bring all that laughter to our theater."

Playwright Schaeffer started as a community theatre volunteer in Des Moines, Iowa. She wrote *Girls' Weekend* in response to a scarcity of comic roles for mature women in contemporary theatre. Originally produced by Des Moines Community Playhouse in 2014, the show has become a popular choice for community theatres nationwide which has led Schaeffer to write other comic scripts.

It starts as a simple plan. Divorcees Dot (Micki Voelkel) and Meg (Rikkee Black) travel to a remote cabin in Minnesota to host a book club meeting/girls' weekend. Joining them are ditzzy book club member Carol (Carol Sikes) and Meg's daughter Ellie (Jamie Lambdin-

See *Girls Weekend* on page 3



## SHOW SPONSOR APPLAUDED

We are proud to recognize **BHC Insurance** as our *Girls' Weekend* 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



I absolutely love the sound of laughter filling the Fort Smith Little Theatre so full that the laughter echoes off the rafters. I think that will be the case through every performance of *Girls' Weekend*. I have laughed myself to tears through every reading of this play since the day I first read more than a year ago.

Watching this outstanding group of actors deliver the lines and throw in the many comedic stunts makes me laugh even more. Everyone onstage, backstage and in between has had so much fun preparing this high-energy farce for FSLT audiences. I hope all our patrons have just as much fun watching it.

The talent in this area is amazing, and I am so blessed to have so much of that talent involved with this production. Get your tickets quickly. I guarantee you are not going to want to miss this girls weekend getaway that turns into so much more than anyone could ever imagine.

Tina Dale, *Director*



## Girls' Weekend opens May 29

Bolin). While wild child Dot is ready to relax and go a little crazy, the more conventional Meg is wrestling with a big secret – she has been dating Dot's thirty-year-old son Stephen (Ian Miller). When Stephen shows up at the cabin ready to take the relationship to the next level, chaos ensues. To complicate matters, Carol is desperately trying to get pregnant. When her temperature reveals she is ovulating, she invites her husband Rick (Logan Parks) back to the cabin to make a baby – in secret. Meg's daughter Ellie also is not short of male companionship as she runs into old college acquaintance Bubba (Robert Montgomery) who invites her to visit a local bar for karaoke. Why the secrecy? No one wants to ruin Dot's much anticipated girls' weekend. As the evening becomes steadily more chaotic, small town Sheriff Tom (Brett Short) shows up to announce that the weekenders are snowed in – and he immediately becomes smitten with Meg. Will Dot's girls' weekend survive the onslaught of men? Select your seat soon to find out!

To accompany the talented and experienced cast, director Dale is supported by assistant director Kim Pierson, stage manager Robyn Fowler, and producer Joe Graham. Set design is by Gary Cameron with construction help from Brad Kidder, Robert Montgomery, Scott Black, and Robyn Fowler. Prop master is Sharla Cameron; T.J. Dudley is lighting designer; Sam Glover will be in the tech booth; and the running crew includes Kivalina Lawrence and Lexi Housley.

New to the FSLT stage is Logan Parks who has extensive theatre experience elsewhere: "After a break from acting, it's been wonderful dipping my toes back into the theatre world at FSLT. Everyone has been welcoming, kind and so funny!"

FSLT veteran Brett Short loves how his character introduces himself as 'Sheriff. Sheriff Tom Lane.' Short explains "Tom

wants to announce his presence with authority and assurance, but the second he lays eyes on Meg he is immediately smitten...he begins to stumble over his words as he is struck by some powerful amorous lightning."

Carol Sikes is finding the technical factors of doing a fast-paced farce to be a fun challenge: "Coordinating the timing of entrances and exits with other characters even down to doors opening/closing requires razor sharp precision and focus. Just like a dance!" FSLT favorite Ian Miller finds the physical challenge exhilarating: "My favorite part of playing Stephen is the situations he gets into and all the physical comedy bits I get to perform."

Robert Montgomery loves being back at FSLT after a long absence: "Performing in a modified thrust theatre is always special. I love the fact that when on stage here, you're among the audience sharing the show, breathing in the moment."

Long time FSLT veteran Micki Voelkel says, "I'm having a glorious time. Dot is much less risk averse than I am, so I am enjoying the physical challenge of rolling around the floor and behaving outlandishly." Rikke Black agrees: "Micki and I are basically playing a modern-day version of Lucy and Ethel from *I Love Lucy*!" It is so much fun!" Jamie Lambdin-Bolin sums it up: "It's controlled chaos!"

*Girls' Weekend* opens May 29 with additional 7:30 pm performances scheduled for May 30-31 and June 4-7. A matinee will be performed at 2 p.m. Sunday June 1. Tickets for the opening night performance are \$20; all other performances are \$13. For Season Flex Pass patrons, seat selection will begin at 7:00 a.m. Saturday, May 17. Tickets will go on sale to the general public beginning 7:00 a.m. Thursday, May 22. You can buy tickets and select your seats online at [fslt.org](http://fslt.org) or by calling 479-783-2966 (extn. 2). Don't miss the fun!



### 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.

### Consider Partnering With FSLT

Ranging from \$550 to \$3,000, partnerships include such options as being a show's set or wardrobe sponsor, providing kids tickets for our summer musical, or helping to underwrite a particular production. All options offset rising production costs to help FSLT provide affordable live theatre. And they all provide excellent sponsor recognition. To learn more, please email [fsltfunding@gmail.com](mailto:fsltfunding@gmail.com) or leave a message at 783-2966 Extn 4.

Fort Smith Little Theatre  
**SPOTLIGHT**

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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## From the Top...

Despite repeated rehearsals and best laid plans, live theatre is fraught with the risk of the unexpected. An actor skips a line, a crew member in the dark sets a prop in the wrong place, a sound or light cue comes early or late. Adjustments are made on the fly, for the show must go on.

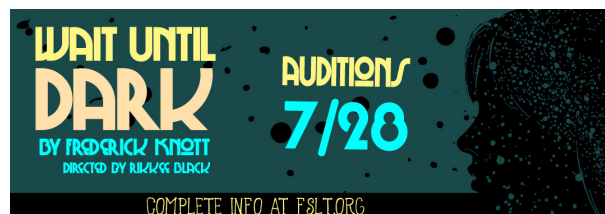
Just like on the stage, life events can be unexpected as well. After more than 20 years in Fort Smith, an unplanned job change will mean my husband and I will soon move out of state. It will be challenging for me to leave my FSLT friends and our wonderful patrons. Over the past 14 years, I have painted sets, worked hospitality and box office shifts, handled accounting functions, served as Board president, and coordinated program ad sales. I am living proof that if you want to learn new skills or use your current ones, just raise your hand – there's a job waiting at FSLT!

I'm pleased to say that Joanne Peterson will slide effortlessly into the Board presidency as she has served in that capacity before. And I'm so proud of the volunteers who are stepping up to fill other roles that I regularly perform. The show must go on!

I want to close with a shout out for the cast and crew who brought us the love story of *Picnic* and invite you all to attend *Girls' Weekend*. In this my final performance to enjoy at FSLT, you'll see the characters juggling the unexpected. How fitting.

To all my FSLT friends – carry on, enjoy the ride, and thanks for the memories.

- Sherry Hester, *President*



## AUDITIONS – Join The Fun!

Auditions for *Oklahoma!*, our upcoming summer musical, were held May 12. Production dates are July 17-August 2.

The next audition opportunity will be **Monday, July 28** at 7 pm when casting will be conducted for *Wait Until Dark*. Directed by Rikkee Black, this production calls for five males ages approximately 30-60+, one female approximately 35+, and one girl approximately 10-14 years of age. Production dates are Sept. 25-Oct. 4. Three sinister men meet their match when they try to con a blind yet very capable woman. A classic thriller! 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 22.**

