



# SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

January 30, 2025

www.fslt.org

**Dates:** Opening Night of *Savannah Sipping Society* will be Thursday, Feb. 13. Regular evening performances will be Feb. 14-15 and 19-22. The Sunday matinee will be performed on Feb. 16.

**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, Feb. 1** 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, Feb. 6.** 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

**Atten: Flex Pass Patrons**

Your 2025 pass code was included in the email you received when you purchased your Pass. That code is required to select your seats online. If you don't know your code, and it does not appear when you log in for seat selection, a Box Office volunteer can provide it to you on the phone.



Fort Smith Little Theatre Presents

**Show Dates:**  
February 13 – 22

**For more information:**

[www.fslt.org](http://www.fslt.org)

479-783-2966

Directed by Joanne Peterson



**LAUGHTER FUELED BY FEMALE FRIENDSHIP AND LIFE MAKEOVERS IN SAVANNAH SIPPING SOCIETY**

“You certainly lasted longer than I did. I thought “hot yoga” meant it was fun and hip. Who knew we signed up for Lucifer’s little sweatshop?” - Dot, *Savannah Sipping Society*

Sample a slice of Southern Fried Life in *Savannah Sipping Society*, on stage at Fort Smith Little Theatre February 13-22. Comedies by playwrights Jones, Hope and Wooten including *Dearly Departed*, *Dixie Swim Club*, *Hallelujah Girls*, and *Farce of Nature* have been perennial favorites for our audiences. Director Joanne Peterson promises “the themes of personal growth and the power of friendship resonate deeply” as well as do “humor and a charming Southern setting.”

Recent widow Dot (Sharla Cameron), uptight and newly fired architect Randa (Charlotte Scott) and recent divorcee Marlafaye (Mary Beth McAlvain) join a hot yoga class and find each other while beating a hasty retreat from the heat and the strenuous moves. They gel immediately as they find they are all at a crossroads, transitioning from an old life to whatever comes next.

As the new friends meet for happy hour, Dot surprises the group by inviting a “fireball” named Jinx (Tina Dale) to join them. Jinx owns a beauty business and is a newly minted

See *Savannah Sipping Society* on page 3





## Director's Letter



I am thrilled to be directing FSLT's upcoming production, *Savannah Sipping Society*. As the director of this charming play, I can confidently say it is a delightful celebration of friendship, laughter, and the beauty of southern spirit. This heartfelt comedy brings together four women from different walks of life who, through a series of unexpected twists, find themselves forging a bond that transcends their differences. Over cocktails, secrets are shared, advice is offered, and life's complexities are met with humor and heart. In our busy, often overwhelming lives, it's easy to forget the importance of genuine connection—and this play beautifully reminds us of that. The characters are rich, relatable, and filled with life; they are women who, despite their individual struggles, learn that a true sense of belonging can be found in the most unexpected of places. But beyond its heartwarming message, *Savannah Sipping Society* will be simply a joy to experience. The humor is sharp, the dialogue sparkling, and the moments of introspection are balanced perfectly with lighthearted fun. With our talented cast and stunning set design, this play is both a visual and emotional treat. I hope you will join us!

-Joanne Peterson, *Director*



### LAST CHANCE To Buy A 2025 Season Package!

Four types of season packages may be purchased online through January 31. After that date, please call 479-783-2966 (extn. 2 or 5) or email [fsltseasontickets@gmail.com](mailto:fsltseasontickets@gmail.com) for assistance. Don't miss out on this great line up of shows.

# Galentine's Or Valentine's ?

**CELEBRATING FRIENDS OR ROMANCE?  
COME SEE SAVANNAH SIPPING SOCIETY!**

Celebrate "Galentines" with your lady friends, or spend some time with your Valentine, by attending *Savannah Sipping Society* on Friday, Feb. 14. You'll enjoy lots of laughs in this well-written story of four Southern women whose friendship leads them to reclaim their enthusiasm for life. Make plans to join us!



# Savannah Sipping Society opens February 13

life coach. Reluctantly, the group agrees to become Jinx's inaugural life coaching clients; little do they know Jinx doesn't have it all together herself. Through friendship and mutual support, the women navigate what comes next when you have to reinvent yourself later in life.

Director Joanne Peterson has an able crew to support the cast. Lynn Spain joins the actresses in the cameo role of the grandmother. Eric Wells is producer; Joshua Davis and Nicole Bostick are assistant directors; Micheal Fox is stage manager; Megan Bagley does double duty as props and technical booth operator; T.J. Dudley is lighting designer; Gary Cameron is set designer and builder; and Lynne Gustafson assists with costumes.

Tina Dale says her character Jinx "just wants to help people. That's her main motivation in all she does. However, she might not always know how best to do that. It's her coaching that drives the action of the play. She has what she believes to be great ideas and is incredibly spontaneous. Often that works, but sometimes it doesn't, which makes for hilarious outcomes!"

Veteran FSLT performer Mary Beth McAlvain is something of an expert in plays by this playwriting team: "This is my fifth Jones, Hope, Wooten comedy whose FaceBook motto is 'plays full of heart and hope'. These playwrights create terrific parts for Southerners, especially Southern women. I am typically cast as a wacky gal who loves life and is not afraid to make fun of herself. That pretty well sums up my character MarlaFaye. In real life, I'm not quite as wacky. Well, most of the time..."

Charlotte Scott started her journey at FSLT in musicals. Now, in the role of Randa, Scott says she relates to her character's perfectionism: "I'm a lot like Randa in that I tend to over-think and over-plan, and when

things don't go the way I expect them to, I panic! I'm not as afraid to try new things as she is though, and I learned a long time ago how important it is to have a tribe of supportive women on my side."

Sharla Cameron has been a fixture backstage at FSLT since 2019. As Dot, she's tackling her second major role onstage. "Working backstage has been a great introduction into the world of theatre. It helps you learn the many roles that are needed behind the scenes to make a production succeed. As an actor, I appreciate everyone who helps behind the curtain. It's different, too, being in front of an audience, since I have other people counting on me to remember all of these lines! It's somewhat nerve-wracking, but also loads of fun!"

This is Director Peterson's second mainstage FSLT show after her debut last year with *The Lost Boy*. "For this production, I have the opportunity to focus more deeply on character development. With a smaller cast of only four women, I'm able to create more intimate connections between the actors, allowing for nuanced performances and more detailed character work." Peterson describes herself as eager to "embrace the challenge."

*Savannah Sipping Society* opens Thursday, Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. with additional evening performances Feb. 14-15 and 19-22. The Sunday matinee is at 2 p.m. Feb. 16. Opening Night tickets are \$20. All other performances are \$13. Seat selection for Flex Pass Patrons begins 7:00 a.m. Saturday Feb. 1. General public ticketing begins 7:00 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 6. Purchase tickets/select seats online at [fslt.org](http://fslt.org) or call 479-783-2966 (extn. 2) to purchase through a box office volunteer.

Join us for this delightful, laugh-a-minute comedy, and watch how an impromptu happy hour leads to a renewed enthusiasm for life.



## 2024 Annual Meeting

The FSLT Annual Membership meeting was held Nov. 25, 2024 at 7 p.m. Reports were given by officers and committee chairs. Five new Board members were elected to three-year terms: Brad Nance, Brett Short, Ian Miller, Joanne Peterson, and Sharla Cameron. Three members-at-large were elected to a one-year term on the nominating committee: Rikkee Workman-Black, Tina Dale, and Gary Cameron. The newly elected Board then met to select officers for the coming year: Sherry Hester, President; Vice President, Joanne Peterson; Treasurer, Monica Longoria; Eric Wells, Secretary.

## Sip Sip Hooray!

Oh the excitement of Opening Night! Courtesy of **Sodie's Wine and Spirits**, quality wine and champagne is served pre-show. At intermission, a special dessert is served along with brew from **Fort Smith Coffee**. By calling the Box Office, Flex Pass and Weds/Thurs Night Subscribers can attend Opening Night for a small fee.

## 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

**2025 FSLT Board of Directors**

Sherry Hester, President  
Joanne Peterson, Vice President  
Monica Longoria, Treasurer  
Eric Wells, Secretary

Megan Bagley  
Sharla Cameron  
Mary Beth McAlvain  
Ian Miller  
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## From the Top...

The first time I served as FSLT President was 2021. That year was a doozy. Due to Covid-19 we were closed, but that didn't stop us from countless meetings to plan our 2022 75th Anniversary – all the while unsure when or if we would be allowed to reopen. Fortunately, the lights came on and seats filled that fall after being completely dark for 18 long months.

My second term, 2022, was incredible. We were grateful to see our patrons, sponsors, and volunteers excitedly return and join us for a year's worth of anniversary events.

I'm honored to now begin my third term at the helm of this wonderful organization. While I don't know the details of what this year will bring, I do know we have a terrific line up of shows ready to entertain you, and lots of opportunities for you to join the fun as a volunteer.

The season starts with four very talented actresses on stage in *Savannah Sipping Society*. Seeking to escape their comfort zone, they lean on each other and reclaim their enthusiasm for life. I know you'll enjoy the show, and I hope this year you'll follow the *Society's* lead to embrace new experiences, make new friends, and live a little more in the moment. If you'd like FSLT to help you with that...just let us know!

- Sherry Hester, *President*



## AUDITIONS – Join The Fun!

Auditions for *Picnic*, directed by Micki Voelkel, will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 24. Callbacks will be Tuesday, Feb. 25. The cast calls for 4 males ages approximately 16-60+ and 7 females ages approximately 16-70+. Production dates are April 3-12. This Pulitzer prize-winning drama has been referred to as a lush summer romance. Visit [fslt.org](http://fslt.org) for role descriptions and complete details.



Season Flex Pass patrons are urged to select seats before February 6.