



SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

July 4, 2024

www.fslt.org

Dates: Opening Night of *Hello, Dolly!* will be Thursday, July 18. Regular performances will be July 19-20, 24-27, August 1-3. Matinees will be offered on **TWO SUNDAYS** July 21 and July 28.

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, July 6 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 available beginning 7:00 a.m. **Thursday, July 11.** Purchase online at fslt.org or call the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn. 2) to purchase on the phone. Opening Night tickets \$25. All other performances \$20.

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.

EXTRA PERFORMANCES

THREE additional evening performances – August 1-3 – have been added to the regular run for *Hello, Dolly!*. In addition, TWO Sunday matinees (July 21 and 28) will be performed. We appreciate this awesome cast and crew for performing this demanding, expanded schedule!

MUSICAL CLASSIC TAKES THE STAGE



Before the parade passes by, I've gotta get some life back into my life!
- Dolly Levi, *Hello, Dolly!*

1964 Broadway classic *Hello, Dolly!* debuts at FSLT July 18 through August 3. The beloved musical is directed and choreographed by Shannon Stoddard with musical direction by Brandon Bolin.

Featuring a book by Michael Steward, with music and lyrics by Jerry Herman, *Hello, Dolly!* is based on the Thornton Wilder play *The Matchmaker*. The show is forever associated with Carol Channing in the role of Dolly Levi. The musical was also a popular 1969 film starring Barbra Streisand.

The story follows the adventures of Dolly Gallagher Levi (Jane Ann Short) as she travels to Yonkers, New York in her role as a “professional meddler.” She intends to arrange the marriage of “half-a-millionaire” Horace Vandergelder (Barry Law). Along the way, Dolly encourages relationships among artist Ambrose Kemper (Tate Carnley), Vandergelder’s weepy niece Ermengarde (Ellie Caruthers), the clerks Cornelius Hackl (Casey Cowan) and Barnaby Tucker (Coleman Smith), hat shop owner Irene Molloy (Rebekah Nickell) and her assistant Minnie Fay (Allie Gooden). Despite the amorous adventures of her charges, we learn Dolly is intent on marrying the miserly Vandergelder herself.

The cast is rounded out by a talented male ensemble including Gary Cameron, Adam Cox, Wesley Fox, Grant Huneycutt, Isaac Scoggins, Wesley Terry, Ethan Womack, and Eric Wells. The equally talented female ensemble members include Bridget Caruthers, Joanna Crites, Gentry Duncan, Loni Elliot, Alyssa Foley, Sarah Hurley, Kendall Maddox, Mary Beth McAlvain, Lynzee Owens, and Charley Toney.

The show could not be produced without a large and experienced crew. Led by Stoddard and Bolin, top aides include Asst. Director Jamie Lambdin-Bolin, Rehearsal Accompanist

See *Hello Dolly!* on page 3



SHOW SPONSOR APPLAUDED

For more than a century, **Baptist Health** has delivered all our best in health care through Christian compassion and innovative services. Baptist Health, Arkansas' most comprehensive health care organization is here For You. For Life. – with more than 250 points of access that include 12 hospitals; urgent care centers; a senior living community; over 100 primary and specialty care clinics; a college with studies in nursing and allied health; and a graduate residency program. It is also the largest private not-for-profit health care organization based in Arkansas, providing care through the support of approximately 11,000 employees, groundbreaking treatments, renowned physicians and community outreach programs. For more information about Baptist Health, visit Baptist-Health.com, call Baptist Health HealthLine at 1-888-BAPTIST or download the [myBaptistHealth app](#).



Director's Notes



My love for *Hello, Dolly!* began on Broadway in 2018, where its music, dancing, and heartwarming story enchanted me from the first note. Since then, I've dreamed of bringing this classic to our stage.

Our creative vision is a testament to our team's talent and dedication. Janet Renwick's costumes, Gary Cameron's set design, and Lora Rice's backdrops create a stunning visual experience. Under Brandon Bolin's direction, the music reaches new heights, thanks to our hardworking and delightful cast.

Brandon shared how much fun he's having working with this cast and how impressed he's been with their ability to learn all of this music in such a short amount of time!

I'm incredibly proud of our extraordinary performers. Jane Ann Short embodies Dolly Levi with charm, while Barry Law brings Horace Vandergelder to life with love and exasperation. Casey Cowan and Coleman Smith light up the stage with their comedic chemistry as Cornelius and Barnaby, joined by Rebekah Nickell and Allie Gooden, who shine as Mrs. Malloy and Minnie. Our ensemble's infectious energy adds depth to every scene.

Join us for this family-friendly spectacle. Whether you're a longtime fan or new to *Hello, Dolly!*, there's something for everyone to enjoy. See you at the show!

-Shannon Stoddard, *Director*

HALF PRICE KIDS TICKETS
Thursdays 7:30 pm, July 25 & Aug 1

Enjoy affordable family fun! Thanks to the **Walmart Neighborhood Market #2744 and Supercenter #388**, half price kids tickets will be available for *Hello, Dolly!* Their grants made through Walmart's **Spark Good** program will help parents and grandparents to acquaint their special kiddos with the fun and excitement of live theatre.

- Half Price Kids Tickets are available **only** on Thursdays, July 25 and August 1. Quantities limited.
- Orders including Half Price Kids Tickets can only be processed by calling the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn. 2). This special offer is not available online.
- Half Price Kids Tickets are available to those who have a season package or those who purchase a full price ticket to *Hello Dolly!*
- For each adult ticket you have, up to two Half Price Kids Tickets may be purchased for children (through age 12), while supplies last.
- Those with Opening Night or Weds. Season Subscriptions can contact the Box Office to move their seats to July 25 or Aug. 1 if they wish to purchase Half Price Kids Tickets.
- The full price ticket and Half Price Kids Ticket must be for the same performance date and be processed in one transaction.



Hello Dolly! opens July 18

Carol Sikes, Asst. Rehearsal Accompanist
Nancy Sikes, and Asst. Choreographer Ellie Caruthers.

Producers Joe Graham and Joanne Peterson and Stage Managers Micheal Fox and Elysa Braunm-Turner take the lead backstage. Key designers include Lighting Design Gray Ashton, Set Design Gary Cameron, Costume Design Janet Renwick, Backdrop Design Lora Rice, and Props Design Sharla Cameron. Les Johnson, Sheila Busby, Sara Iannone, Caitlin Yoakum, Brittany Bright and Madelyn Frye comprise the Costume Team. Cliff Hiatt and Bradley Kidder, Jr. are construction leaders, and Lawanda Jones is backdrop artist.

Gary Cameron, Set Designer, says “The willingness of FSLT volunteers working on this show has been amazing. At last count, more than 25 volunteers have stepped up to work on this huge set, and the list grows every day, so we’re going to wait and recognize them all at a later date.”

Director Stoddard is thrilled to be back at the helm at FSLT. She said, “Working on this show has been an INCREDIBLE experience! First of all, my creative leaders are a true dream team! All of the technical and creative elements are just piecing together so beautifully! Second, this cast is INSANELY talented! The ensemble in particular blows me away every night!”

Leading lady Jane Ann Short makes a very welcome return to FSLT center stage as Dolly. Short explains her character as “Dolly Levi, born Gallagher, is a red headed fireball who loves to meddle, and she makes no bones about it. But underneath the meddling, she has a heart of gold and wants everyone to be in love and be happy. I have loved her ever since I saw *Hello, Dolly!* starring Carol Channing, the original Dolly Levi, way back when. I admire Dolly and her ability to make things happen. And I appreciate the fireball part, too – maybe because I’ve been called that a few times during my life.”



Frequent musical performer Barry Law says, “I’m so grateful to FSLT for allowing me to play Horace Vandergelder. This is a bucket list role for me. Horace describes himself as rich, friendless, and mean! I hope none of these are my attributes, but I do think we share one thing. Underneath his brash exterior, he’s got a good heart, but it takes Dolly a while to find it. You might say Horace and I are both old softies.”

Ensemble member Loni Elliott appreciates the summer musical experience: “The thing I like about community theatre is that you have a different mix of people for every show, but everyone still has the same goal – to put on the best show possible. *Hello, Dolly!* is no different. Everyone’s working hard on the music, choreography, sets and costumes, and having a great time doing it.”

Coleman Smith agrees, “The cast has great chemistry both on and off stage and that really makes a difference in the atmosphere of the show.”

One of the key challenges of a big summer musical is the costuming. Veteran costumer Janet Renwick says, “The 1890s is a beautiful era for clothing. It has taken a real team of costumers to construct these garments. And I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the need for hats, hats and more hats! No self respecting lady in this era would go outside her home without an elaborate hat.”

Hello, Dolly! opens July 18 at 7:30 pm. Additional evening performances are July 19-20, July 24-27, and August 1-3. Two Sunday matinees will be performed July 21 and 28. Opening night tickets are \$25; all other performances are \$20. Half price tickets for children are available on Thursdays July 25 and August 1.

Seat selection for Flex Pass holders begins at 7 a.m. Saturday July 6. Tickets go on sale to the general public at 7 a.m. Thursday July 11. You can buy tickets and select your seats online at fslt.org or by calling 479-783-2966 (extn. 2). Don’t miss the music, costumes, and family-friendly fun of *Hello, Dolly!*



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**. Tickets are \$25. (By calling the Box Office, Flex Pass and Wednesday Night Subscribers can attend Opening Night for a \$5 fee.)

Family Friendly Guidelines

While *Hello Dolly!* is certainly a family friendly show, it is a live performance in a small setting, not a movie theatre. Please keep that in mind when deciding whether your little ones are mature enough to remain in their own seat and enjoy the show. Note: a ticket is required for every person in attendance.

Memorial Received

A memorial has been received from Colana and Dennis Mathis given in memory of Bob Wanslow who was an active FSLT volunteer for many years.

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.



Fort Smith Little Theatre
SPOTLIGHT

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2024 FSLT Board of Directors

Tina Dale, President
Melissa Vitale, Vice President
Shannon Stoddard, Treasurer
Eric Wells, Secretary

Megan Bagley
Scott Black
Gary Cameron
Sherry Hester
Monica Longoria
Ashleigh Mathews
Mary Beth McAlvain
Barbara Richardson
Brett Short
Coleman Smith
Micki Voelkel



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID

Fort Smith, AR
Permit No. 12

From the Top...

The phrase “it’s like a family” has often been said when talking about Fort Smith Little Theatre – but what does that really mean?

The assumption is that it means we embrace each volunteer who walks through the door, welcoming them into our fold. But that’s only part of it. The FSLT family is special because it’s our chosen family of friends – the “family members” aren’t inherited or assigned at birth; we choose to be with them.

Like in any other family, squabbles do arise. But more often than not, there are celebrations, prayers for good health, and hugs to let you know someone is there. I’ve experienced that care and support myself, just when I needed it most. Unfortunately, as in any family, there is also loss.

In the second week of June, our family was hit with a double blow as we learned that two of our members died. One was somewhat expected; one was a total shock. But both weighed heavily on our hearts. It was a time to shed some tears, nurse the hole their passing left in our hearts, and remember the great joy these two amazing men brought to our lives and to our theatre. I hope you will join me in wishing Godspeed to Steve Dwiggin and Ron Watson. We love you guys - you will be sorely missed.

In typical FSLT fashion, we now pick ourselves up - for the show must go on. *Hello, Dolly!* opens July 18. An amazing set, amazing costumes, amazing talent – it’s a big, big production that you will not want to miss.

- Tina Dale, *President*



Auditions for *Murder on the Orient Express* directed by Duff Taylor will be Monday, **Aug. 5 at 7 pm**. Callbacks Tuesday, Aug. 6. Production dates are September 12-21. Based on Agatha Christie’s most enduring novel, the cast calls for five males ages approx. 30-65+ and five females ages approx. 25-75+. It’s a clever, comic mystery and sure to deliver loads of fun! Character descriptions and complete details are posted at fslt.org/auditions.



Season Flex Pass patrons are urged to select seats before July 11.