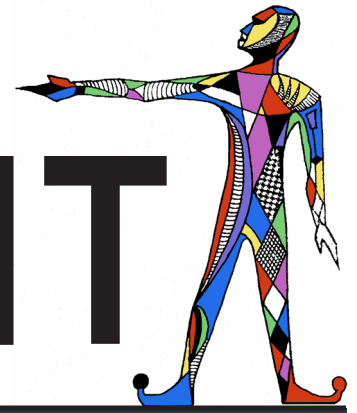


FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE



SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

March 21, 2024

www.fslt.org

Dates: Opening Night of *The Lost Boy* will be Thursday, April 4. Regular evening performances will be April 5-6 and 10-13. The matinee will be Sunday, April 7.

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, March 23 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, March 28.** Purchase online at 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 and Wednesday Night Subscribers can attend Opening Night for a \$7 fee.)



THE LOST BOY BRINGS DRAMA AND A FLUTTER OF MAGIC TO FSLT

Don't you see? You will always be strong, perfect, and full of promise. - Barrie in *The Lost Boy*

Like many the world over, we have all enjoyed the story of Peter Pan. Now, *The Lost Boy* will present FSLT audiences a fictionalized account of how this beloved tale was conceived. Directed by Joanne Peterson, *The Lost Boy* is a beautiful story of how one man's creative mind dealt with love, loss and heartache. Performances will be April 4-13.

This fantasy drama was written by Ronald Gabriel Paolillo. Fans of the 1970s sitcom "Welcome Back, Kotter" may recognize Paolillo as the actor who portrayed Arnold Korshack.

The Lost Boy revolves around Scottish author and playwright James Barrie (John Hall) who has secured status, money, and a fashionable marriage to Mary (Carol Sikes). Despite his success, Barrie is still haunted by the death of his older brother 13-year-old Davey (Sadie Bagley) when Barrie was a child. Blamed for Davey's death by his rejecting mother Margaret (Mary Beth McAlvain), Barrie struggles emotionally until he exorcises his past by creating another "lost boy" – the magical Peter Pan (also played by Bagley). Through the surprising friendship of bartender Sean (Brett Short) and his wife Maureen (Rebekah Nickell), Barrie creates the world of Neverland and slowly comes to terms with his past.

See *The Lost Boy* on page 3



Director's Notes



When I read *The Lost Boy* script, it touched my heart, and I knew I wanted to bring it to FSLT. The story follows James Barrie through the creation of Peter Pan's story to deal with the loss of his brother Davey. We see how Barrie was able to overcome his grief and find a way to forgive himself for not being able to save his brother by making Davey into this beloved character. The storytelling process also allows him to reconnect with his mother after years of trying to live up to his brother's memory and form a friendship with a childhood bully and his wife. It is a powerful reminder that we can overcome trauma from our past if we find the right way to deal with it. While this is such an emotional topic, *The Lost Boy's* author, Ronald Gabriel Paolillo (who played Arnold Horshack in "Welcome Back Kotter"), includes some lighthearted moments in the play with a sassy Tinkerbell and swashbuckling Captain Hook. Because of the range of emotions and imagery that the actors need to portray, this script gives me a great opportunity to develop as a director. And the cast and crew that have agreed to go on this journey with me have such an array of talents that I believe this will be a magical show that I cannot wait for our patrons to experience.

-Joanne Peterson, *Director*



April 26th & 27th 7:30pm
April 28th 2:00pm

FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE PRESENTS

Tickets - \$10-

Rodgers & Hammerstein's

A Grand Night For Singing

Directed By: Barry Law

Music By: Richard Rodgers
Music Arrangements By: Fred Wells

Lyrics By: Oscar Hammerstein II
Conceived By: Walker Bobbie

401 N. 6TH STREET FORT SMITH, AR

Rodgers and Hammerstein's A Grand Night For Singing

Don't miss *A Grand Night for Singing*, directed by Barry Law! This engaging one-act review of Rodgers and Hammerstein's most popular songs will be performed by some of the area's finest vocalists: Lindsay Vickery, Katy Featherston, SK Thomas, Grant Harper and Brandon Bolin. You'll also enjoy Gini Law's piano accompaniment and a special guest appearance by a popular FSLT performer. It's like seeing all your favorite R&H musicals in 90 minutes. You'll be humming your favorite tunes for days! Performances are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, **April 26 and 27**, and a Sunday 2:00 p.m. matinee on **April 28**. Admission is \$10 per person at the door. As an off-season production, there are no reserved seats. Doors will open 45 minutes before curtailtime. Admission is not included with a Season Package.

The Lost Boy opens April 4

Other performers include Aaron Ray as the Old Crow/Captain Hook, Isabella Ree as Tinkerbell, Nicole Bostick as Liza, Wendy and Ursula, and Jeremy Smith as Deacon and Ned.

Along with a talented cast, the show has a large crew headed by director Joanne Peterson and assistant director Eric Wells. Key crew members include: Shannon Stoddard, stage manager; Charlotte Scott, producer; Lexi Housley, co-producer; Gary Cameron, set design; Tina Dale, costumes; Sharla Cameron, props; and Scott Black, graphic design. Gray Ashton designed the lights while Megan Bagley and Logan Davis serve as light and sound technicians respectively. Set construction crew includes Gary Cameron, Steve Dwiggin, Cliff Hiatt, Joshua Davis, Rebekah Nickell, Stephen Nickell, Jeremy Smith, Brett Short, Aaron Logan Ray, and Joanne Peterson.

Having directed the off-season comedy *The Whole Shebang* in 2022, Peterson is excited to direct her first full-run production. She commented, "Since this is my first full-run show, this was my first experience preparing for auditions. First I worried if the right people would show up for each of the roles. We had an abundance of talent at auditions, so then casting decisions were tough. While this process was challenging, I am now reaping the rewards as this cast is doing a great job bringing the story to life. They can evoke such emotion, not just within their characters, but from those of us watching as well."

John Hall is a versatile actor best known as McMurphee in 2019's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. He is focusing on the psychology as well as the technical aspects of his role as Mr. Barrie: "For every role I start by digging into the text and the subtext, looking for clues as to how the character would think and speak. This is especially true for the role of Barrie for he's a complex, conflicted man." Hall has studied Barrie's

recorded interviews and will use the Scottish dialect indicative of Barrie's upbringing in his portrayal.

A FSLT favorite, Mary Beth McAlvain returns to our stage to play Barrie's difficult mother: "Margaret Barrie has spent her life consumed with anguish and grief. She lost her husband and then she lost Davey, her favorite son. She's a proud woman and cannot make herself apologize for her resentment and bitterness. At the end, she tries to come to terms with her behavior and make amends with her son James."

Teen actress Sadie Bagley is up to the challenge of performing dual roles as Davey Barrie and Peter Pan: "The character Peter Pan is based on the author's deceased older brother Davey; Peter is adventurous and sometimes stubborn, but he can also be very childlike because that's how Barrie remembers his brother. Like all brothers, they act more playful and silly around each other, and are a lot tamer when interacting with someone like their mother. For me, the part I like most playing is Peter, because I get to put myself into a fantasy world that slowly develops throughout the play."

Another teen actress Isabella Ree is enjoying playing the iconic character of Tinkerbell: "Playing Tinkerbell is so much fun! She's very sassy, sarcastic, and funny. I love getting to play the character than can help lighten the mood and make people laugh."

The Lost Boy opens at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 4 followed by evening performances April 5-6 and 10-13. A matinee is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday, April 7. Opening night tickets (including a champagne reception preshow and dessert at intermission) are \$20; all others performances are \$13. Season Flex Pass patrons can begin selecting seats at 7 am Saturday, March 23. Tickets go on sale to the general public at 7 am Thursday, March 28. Purchase tickets/select seats online at fslt.org or call 479-783-2966 (extn. 2) to purchase through a box office volunteer.



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 than moved to your purchased seat at intermission. Seating after a performance has begun is subject to the discretion of FSLT. Thank you for your cooperation.

Let's Hear It For HSM



Thanks to the generosity of HSM, their employees plus children from the Fort Smith Boys & Girls Club and other organizations were entertained at the Dress Rehearsal of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Shown here are a few of the kiddos posing with the show's talented cast. Thank you HSM!



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...

Bravo to the cast and crew who entertained us with beautiful music, laughter, and childlike wisdom in *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. What a great way to start Season 2024. Now, while you are shopping for safety glasses and planning your eclipse watch party, FSLT is crazy busy preparing for three (yes three!) events in April.

The Lost Boy will bring us the fictionalized account of the birth of Peter Pan on April 4-13. Don't miss this beautifully written story of love, forgiveness, and unexpected friendship. Then we have *Light Up The Sky* auditions April 22. Here's your chance to do something different and make new friends. Come to auditions and join the fun! As if that's not enough for one month, a group of very talented singers will perform *A Grand Night For Singing*, a musical review of Rodgers and Hammerstein's most popular songs, April 26-28. What a month - whew!

As you know, FSLT keeps a busy schedule year round; one show closes, the set is torn down, and rehearsals begin for the next production. It can be quite painful to witness lovingly constructed sets dismantled. Fortunately, in this case, Lucy's psychiatry booth, Snoopy's doghouse, and the other clever set pieces for *Charlie Brown* will have a second life. A drama teacher from Dallas loaded them into a rental truck and drove them back to Texas for an upcoming high school production of this delightful musical. Charlie and his gang sang "Happiness is five different crayons and climbing a tree," but I'd say happiness is knowing that the creativity of our volunteers will bring joy to another audience across state lines. See you at the theatre!

- Tina Dale, President



AUDITIONS – Join The Fun!

Auditions for *Light Up The Sky*, directed by Melissa Vitale, will be held at 7 p.m. on **Monday, April 22**. Callbacks will be Tuesday, April 23. The cast calls for 9+ males ages approximately 20-60+, and 4+ women ages approximately 20-50+. Production dates are May 30-June 8. In a hotel suite in the 1940s, a temperamental leading lady, flamboyant director, low brow producer, and others await critics' reviews of their theatrical production. You'll enjoy the witty dialogue of this throng of theatrefolk who go from friends, to enemies, to friends again. Ah, show business! Visit fslt.org/auditions for role descriptions and complete details.



Season Flex Pass patrons are urged to select seats before March 28.