



SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

October 26, 2023

www.fslt.org

Dates: Opening Night of *A Christmas Carol* will be Thursday, November 9. Regular performances will be November 10-11 and 15-18. A matinee will be offered on Sunday, November 12.

Show Times: Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 6:45 p.m. The matinee will 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, October 28 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 are available beginning 7:00 a.m. **Thursday, November 2.** Purchase online at fslt.org or call the Box Office at 479-783-2966 (extn. 2) to purchase on the phone. Opening Nights are \$20. All other performances are \$12.

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. Reminder: To reach the Box Office select extn. 2.

Season Subscriber Deadline-Oct. 31

Patrons who had Opening Night or Wednesday Packages for 2023 must renew their order for 2024 by October 31 in order to retain their same seat assignments. Questions? Contact us at fsltseasontickets@gmail.com or call 479-783-2966 (extn. 5)



A CHRISTMAS CAROL HOLIDAY CLASSIC OPENS AT FSLT

“GOD BLESS US, EVERY ONE!” —TINY TIM

Usher in the holidays with the Charles Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol* November 8 through 18 at FSLT. Co-directed by Rikkee Black and Tina Dale, the show was adapted by Mike Ferrians and Brenda Chapman. The 1843 novella has been adapted into countless theatre, television and film adaptations. Among the best known are the 1951 British adaptation starring Alistair Sim as Scrooge and *The Muppet Christmas Carol* from 1992 starring Michael Caine.

On Christmas Eve miserly Ebenezer Scrooge (Jon Gustafson) spurns the holiday cheer of his poor clerk Bob Cratchit (Ian Miller) and dismisses the dinner invitation of his nephew Fred Hollowell (Eric Wells). Later Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his former partner Jacob Marley (Duff Taylor) who warns him that three spirits will visit him this night to show him Christmas Past (Isabella Ree), Christmas Present (Megan Henley) and Christmas Yet to Come (Joanne Peterson). Will Scrooge learn the error of his ways and find the spirit of Christmas?



See *Christmas* on page 3



Coming Soon: *A Wacky Tacky Christmas Spectacular*

Back by popular demand is our fourth installment of the Wacky Tacky Christmas series! An original show featuring hilarious renditions of popular Christmas songs with an extra flair for all things ridiculous. This show will leave you laughing and even more excited for the upcoming holidays.

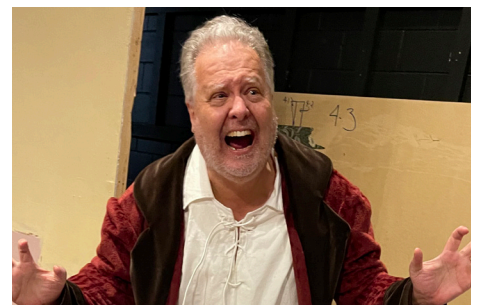
This off-season production will be performed at 7:30 pm, **December 14-16**. There will be no reservations or assigned seats. Doors will open at 6:45 p.m. Admission will be \$7 at the door.



Directors' Letter

It's fall 2023, pumpkin spice, ghouls and goblins are making their way to town. And ghosts are finding a different way of haunting the Fort Smith Little Theatre. Marley, the ghost of a tortured soul, the Spirit of Christmas Past, the Spirit of Christmas Present and the Spirit of Christmas Yet to Come will be walking the halls and the stage in just a matter of weeks. This ghost story has been one of our favorites for as long as we can both remember. From the first night of auditions, we found we weren't alone. What better way could there be to usher in this holiday season than with this timeless classic brought to life on the FSLT stage? We have a largely talented cast working hard, eager to bring this classic to our patrons. Familiar and new faces are working on stage and behind the scenes to tell this story in a new and magical way, and we couldn't be more impressed with their efforts. We believe this show will bless each and every one of those who experience it. We know this experience has blessed us.

-Rikkee Workman-Black and Tina Dale, *Co-Directors*



Here Comes Season 2024!

3 Types of Packages / 4 Ways to Buy

Another great line up of shows is coming your way! For complete show information, go to www.fslt.org. We offer three types of Season Packages – all with plenty of perks. You can purchase your preferred package in the lobby before all performances of A Christmas Carol, buy online at fslt.org, call to order on the phone, or send in the order form you received in the mail.

February 15-24: *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (winter musical)

April 4-13: *The Lost Boy*

May 30-June 8: *Light Up The Sky*

July 18-August 3: *Hello, Dolly!* (summer musical)

Sept. 12-21: *Murder On The Orient Express*

Nov. 14-23: *The Outsider*

A Christmas Carol opens Nov 9

The cast is rounded out by John Hall as the Narrator, Rebekah Nickell as Mrs. Cratchit, Barry Law and Joanne Peterson as Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig, Griffin Ray as Tiny Tim, Malcum Nobles as Young Ebenezer, and Ashleigh Mathews as Belle. The large cast also features Kurt Marine, Logan Davis, Elizabeth Marine, Porter Black, Lily Hall, Rory Nickell, Amelia Nickell, Madelyn Frye, Megan Bagley, Brandon Stone, Wayne Mathews, Lynne Gustafson, Sandra McPherson, Lexi Housley, and Sadi Soto.

The large production requires a large crew including directors Black and Dale, producers Meredith Sanders and Debbie Kraus, stage manager Michael Fox, set designer Scott Black, prop mistress Nicole Bostick, costumers Lynne Gustafson, Sandra McPherson and Janet Renwick, seamstresses Judi McNeil and Rachel Clark. Sound designer is Tina Dale, while Gray Ashton serves as the Light Designer. Micki Voelkel serves as choreographer and light technician.

Directors Rikkee Black and Tina Dale are excited to bring the show to FSLT. Black says "I love working with Tina as a co-director. I find her ideas and vision inspiring. We have different strengths and directing styles, but rather than fighting against each other, they complement and work together well." Dale agrees: "Directing a show with this large a cast is a challenge. It would be so intimidating to attempt it by myself. Fortunately, Rikkee makes it not only doable but fun."

Jon Gustafson is "honored to be given an opportunity to portray a classic character, excited to work with a fabulous group of crew and actors on stage to produce the story, and in awe of the challenges before

me to find and portray all the feelings Scrooge experiences as the Spirits take him through the journey of his life."

Nine-year-old Porter Black who plays both Ebenezer as a schoolboy and Peter Cratchit is excited because the show gives him "new characters to play with."

Cheerful and joyful Fred is a fun character for Eric Wells: "Fred and I are very alike in the fact that I think we both have a heart of gold. We look to the bright and positive sides of life. Always striving for a positive outlook and hope. Whether it be with people in our lives or the experiences life brings us. This makes it much harder for me to find that we have any differences. There may be things that may to attempt bring us down, whether that be a "Bah Humbugging" uncle or dark realities of the world. But like Fred, I too always look for the good."

Megan Henley is thrilled to be playing the Spirit of Christmas Present. "Coming back to the FSLT stage after a hiatus of seven years has been a wonderful experience; one that truly feels like coming home. It fills my heart with joy to make magic with friends both old and new."

Flex Pass patrons can begin seat selection at 7 a.m. October 28. Tickets go on sale to the general public on Thursday, November 2. Opening Night (November 9) tickets are \$20. All other performances are \$12. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. November 9-11 and 15-18. A Sunday matinee is scheduled at 2 p.m. Sunday November 12. Tickets may be purchased online at fslt.org or by calling 479-783-2966 (extn. 2).

Join us for this holiday classic and be prepared for a heart-warming production!

Annual Meeting Notice

The Annual Meeting of the Fort Smith Little Theatre will be held Monday, November 20 at 7 p.m. Season Package holders are eligible to attend and vote at this meeting. Officers and Committee Chairs will give reports on the past year. Five members will be elected to three-year terms on the Board, and three members from the membership-at-large will be elected to one-year terms on the Nominating Committee.

SHOPPING MADE EASY

You can purchase a Gift Certificate in any denomination online at fslt.org or by calling the Box Office. The recipient can apply the gift toward the purchase of a Season Package or individual show tickets. It's the perfect present!

Purchasing a Gift Package- If you specifically want to purchase a Season Package (not a Gift Certificate) as a gift, please call 479-783-2966 (extn. 5) or email to fsltseasontickets@gmail.com. By handling the gift purchase for you, we can collect all the pertinent recipient information.

BRING A CAN, IF YOU CAN

A Christmas Carol is about counting our blessings and finding the joy of giving, so it is only fitting that FSLT is conducting a Food Drive in conjunction with this production. To participate, you are invited to bring a canned or non-perishable food item when you attend. All contributions will be delivered to the Antioch Youth and Family Food Pantry. So please bring a can, if you can!



Fort Smith Little Theatre
SPOTLIGHT

P.O. Box 3752, Fort Smith, AR 72913

www.fslt.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2023 FSLT Board of Directors

Joanne Peterson, President

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Tina Dale, Secretary

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Ashleigh Mathews

Jennie Mathews

Brad Nance

Meredith Rice

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Shannon Stoddard

Micki Voelkel

Eric Wells



From the Top...

It's fall, y'all – and that means transitions. Leaves have changed, temperatures have dropped, and pumpkin candles are burning. This time of year means transitions for FSLT as well. Last month, we visited the Brewster home in *Arsenic and Old Lace* which was full of laughs and poisonous elderberry wine. Now we're heading into the holidays, so we will present A Christmas Carol in November quickly followed by the off-season show, *A Wacky-Tacky Christmas Spectacular*, in December. Attend those two productions and you'll undoubtedly be in the holiday spirit.

We also transition this time of year to the next season of shows. Three types of Season Packages are being sold and each one offers plenty of perks. And if that's not enough change going on, FSLT also transitions to a new Board of Directors. I began my term on the Board in January 2021 at a time when we were closed due to the pandemic. It was a time of great uncertainty. Fortunately, toward the end of that year we were allowed to reopen and are once again filling the house. What an honor it's been to witness that transition! As this will be my final letter to you as President, I want to say thank you for your support of me, and your support of FSLT. Now put a log on the fire, drink your pumpkin latte, and buy your Season Package. We'll transition to 2024 before you know it!

– Joanne Peterson, *President*

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AUDITIONS – Join The Fun!



You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown auditions will be held at 7 pm at Goddard United Methodist Church, 1922 Dodson Avenue, on **Monday, Dec. 4, 2023**. Director is Brandon

Bolin; Music Director is George Mann. Be prepared to sing a portion of a song of your choice. You may bring sheet music, accompaniment track, or sing a capella. Callbacks and cold script readings Tuesday, Dec. 5. Cast member read through Thursday, Dec. 7. Rehearsals begin Jan. 2, 2024. Production dates: Feb. 15-25. The cast calls for 4 men and 2 women, ages approximately 20-40+. In this musical adaptation of the "Peanuts" comic strip, adults portraying Charlie Brown and his gang, deliver worldly wisdom, lots of laughs, and great family friendly fun.



Season Flex Pass patrons are urged to select seats before November 4.