

FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE



# SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

March 20, 2025

www.fslt.org

**Dates:** Opening Night of *Picnic* will be Thursday, April 3. Regular evening performances will be August 4-5 and 9-12. The matinee will be Sunday, April 6.

**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 22** 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 27.** 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, Wed. and Thurs. Night Subscribers can attend Opening Night for a \$7 fee.)

Fort Smith Little Theatre Presents

**Picnic**  
By William Inge Directed by Micki Voelkel

**APRIL 3-12**

COMPLETE INFO AT  
**FSLT.ORG**



## CLASSIC ROMANCE "PICNIC" AT FSLT APRIL 3-12

*"I'm telling you, Seymour. Women are getting desperate!" – Hal, Picnic*

Complex characters, lush romance, and gentle humor combine to make an unforgettable experience in *Picnic*, the Pulitzer Prize winning drama by William Inge. Directed by veteran director Micki Voelkel, the story explores how routine, stagnant lives are disrupted by long-dormant desires and unfilled dreams.

*Picnic* debuted on Broadway in 1952 featuring Paul Newman and Eileen Heckart. The 1955 classic film starring William Holden, Kim Novak and Rosalind Russell was followed by various tv, film and stage productions.

Described by the author as a "summer romance," *Picnic* focuses on the lives of the Owens family – mother Flo (Megan Bagley), beautiful Madge (Jamie Lambdin-Bolin), and intellectual tomboy Millie (Lexi Housley). Next door neighbor Helen Potts (Mary Rollins) and the Owens's boarder, the self-described "old maid schoolteacher" Rosemary (Tina Dale), comprise an intensely feminine domain. The men in the play are all objects of intense interest. Will Alan (Eric Wells), Madge's rich boyfriend, propose and give her the life that Flo wants for her? Will Rosemary's reluctant suitor Howard (John Hall) take her away from her suffocating life? And most explosively, how will the handsome young drifter Hal (Ian Miller) affect their lives when he sets the women all aflutter?

See *Picnic* on page 3



## SHOW SPONSOR APPLAUDED

We applaud AT&T for their long time support and for generously sponsoring *Picnic*.

For well over a century, AT&T has been connecting America to help people live, learn, work, and succeed. In Arkansas, AT&T invested nearly \$1.2 billion in its network infrastructure from 2019-2023 to connect more people to greater possibility. Through the AT&T Connected Learning® initiative, AT&T is working to address the digital divide through investments in internet accessibility, affordability and the safe adoption of technology.

## Director's Letter



*Picnic* is a special play to me. I read it first as a teen and found myself captivated by these small-town characters and their big hopes and dreams. A character actor even at 17, I chose one of Rosemary's big scenes to do for my college theatre program auditions. A few years later, I had the opportunity to play Rosemary in the 1988 production of *Picnic* at FSLT even though I was years too young for the part. Last year when I was thinking about plays to direct, *Picnic* began to haunt me. I knew I had to bring these beautiful lives back to the FSLT stage again.

I'm so excited for audiences to see the show. Our cast is so talented and hardworking. You will see some FSLT favorites like Ian Miller, Jamie Lambdin-Bolin, Eric Wells, Tina Dale and John Hall in roles that are different for them. Other performers like Megan Bagley and Lexi Housley are moving up into bigger, more complex roles for the first time. And of course, I'm very excited to bring new faces to FSLT with the return of Mary Rollins, and the first-time appearances of Sam Glover and Kivalina Lawrence. Even the smallest characters are bringing something special to the mix as Logan Davis and Margaret Clymer are proving every night. Come join our *Picnic*! You won't want to miss it!

Micki Voelkel, *Director*



# Classic Romance *Picnic* opens April 3

Supporting characters in this small Kansas town include amorous paperboy Bomber (Logan Davis), Helen Potts's invalid mother (Margaret Clymer), and Rosemary's friends – the persnickety Irma (Sam Glover) and awkward Christine (Kivalina Lawrence).

Voelkel's talented cast is supported by an equally talented crew. Charles Belt is assistant director, Joanne Peterson producer, and Micheal Fox stage manager. Scott Black is set designer and builder with help from Brad Nance, Sean Cox, Janelle Cox, Aslyn Cox, and Kivalina Lawrence. Costume designer, Janet Renwick, is assisted by Sally Story, Lynne Gustafson, Mary Rollins, James Nicholson, Shirley Anderson, and Sheila Busby. T.J. Dudley is lighting designer and booth technician, Rikkee Black sound tech, Scott Black art designer, Monica Longoria props mistress, with Ryleigh Gathright and Porter Black running crew.

FSLT favorite Ian Miller discusses his role as Hal: "I am thrilled to play the iconic role of Hal, a guy who has had it bad his whole life; it seems like nothing is ever going to go his way. But he has great passion and drive."

Romantic lead Jamie Lambdin-Bolin is focusing on the nuances of her character: "Madge is curious and playful. She dares to think that there's more to life that she can discover. And I love that she sees beauty in life and in people that others might miss."

Actresses Megan Bagley and Lexi Housley are stepping into roles of greater complexity than their previous FSLT performances. Bagley says, "Flo and I are similar in age and we both have children who are 18 and 16 years old. As a mother of teenagers, I understand that she wants her girls to have a better life than she had. I also relate to her meddling, her joy, and her fears." Housley is thrilled to be playing tomboy Millie. "Millie is a progressive young woman. While she

wants to be seen as beautiful, she wants her intellect to be her defining feature. My favorite thing about Millie is that she isn't afraid to fight for what she believes."

A trio of new faces appear alongside FSLT veterans in *Picnic*. Mary Rollins (Mrs. Potts) is a former volunteer who has been away from our stage for a couple of decades. "My return to FSLT has been all I could have hoped for. My life long love of theatre started here. While many of the faces are different after all these years, the feelings of acceptance, love and support are the same. It's like coming home."

Another new FSLT actor is Sam Glover (Irma). "I'm very lucky to get to work in this space and with a whole new group of people! I do enjoy the intimate setting of this small stage. I find I'm more emotionally engaged when I am closer to the audience."

Kivalina Lawrence as Christine is fulfilling a lifelong dream by taking the stage for the first time: "I have always been drawn to theatre, but I was never able to participate. I decided to make 2025 the year I would step into the world of theatre. I was really nervous when I came to audition and almost backed out, but I'm glad I didn't. FSLT has been so welcoming, and I'm excited to see where this train takes me!"

*Picnic* opens Thursday, April 3 followed by evening performances April 4-5 and 9-12. A matinee is scheduled for Sunday, April 6. Opening night tickets are \$20; all others performances are \$13. Season Flex Pass patrons can begin selecting seats at 7 am Saturday, March 22. General public ticketing begins at Thursday, March 27. 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.

## 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**

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Fort Smith, AR  
Permit No. 12

## From the Top...

Last month, Mother Nature delivered a blanket of snow and ice; but she was no match for our team of FSLT volunteers. Our Wednesday performance of *Savannah Sipping Society* faced cancellation, but we didn't want anyone to miss the great one-liners this popular comedy had to offer. On the surface, our decision to postpone to the following Wednesday might seem like an easy solution. In truth, it took a lot of cooperation by a lot of people.

The "SSS" cast and crew, plus ushers, hospitality, and box office workers all had to rearrange their schedules. But because FSLT runs back-to-back productions, the next show *Picnic* was also impacted. The rescheduled Wednesday performance landed in the middle of the first week for *Picnic* auditions, read through, and blocking – so that entire team was inconvenienced as well. And let's not forget the communications required. Notices were posted on our website and across social media, and an email was sent to every patron who had a Wednesday ticket. Additionally, box office volunteers texted or called every one of those patrons as well! All total, nearly fifty volunteers stepped up to make the rescheduled date happen. And that doesn't include the full house of patrons who kindly agreed to rearrange their schedules to accommodate the new date!

In conclusion, I hope Mother Nature smiles fondly on our future performance schedule. FSLT is a formidable opponent, for the show must go on! Now – spring has arrived, and it's time for *Picnic*. Don't miss this Pulitzer prize-winning tale of romance, desire and dreams. See you at the theatre!

- Sherry Hester, *President*

Fort Smith Little Theatre Presents

**auditions**  
April 21  
Callbacks  
April 22

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

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

**AUDITIONS –  
Join The Fun!**

Auditions for *Girls' Weekend*, directed by Tina Dale, will be held at 7 p.m. on **Monday, April 21**. Callbacks will be Tuesday, April 22. The cast calls for 4 males and 4 females ages approximately 20-60+. Production dates are May 29-June 7. It was planned as a getaway for four women sharing friendship, wine, and a review of their book club's selection. But a porch light signal causes confusion, secrets spill out, men sneak in, and chaos takes over. This madcap farce will have you laughing til you cry! Visit [fslt.org/auditions](http://fslt.org/auditions) for role descriptions and complete details.

  

**Season Flex Pass patrons are urged to select seats before March 27.**