



# SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

October 31, 2024

www.fslt.org

**Dates:** Opening Night of *The Outsider* will be Thursday, November 14. Regular performances will be November 15-16 and 20-23. A matinee will be offered on Sunday, November 17.

**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, November 2** 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, November 7.** 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.)

## POLITICAL COMEDY PROMISES HILARITY AT FSLT



*The campaign did a poll. 66% of respondents said Larry was the kind of guy they'd like to have a beer with. 70% said they were wondering if I would drive them home from the bar. - Ned Newley, The Outsider*

The political comedy, *The Outsider*, written by Paul Slade Smith, opens November 14 at FSLT. Directed by veteran FSLT volunteer Tina Dale, this good natured, non-partisan farce revolves around a scandal in the governor's office of an unnamed state.

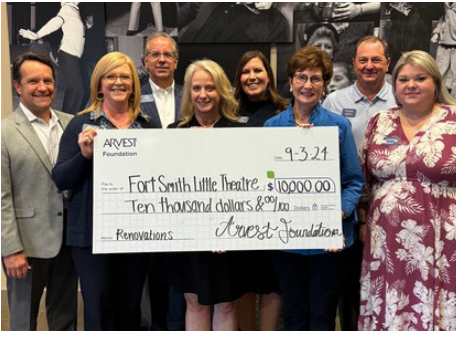
*The Outsider* is an award-winning play that has had more than 150 productions. Most recently the show won two 2023 Helen Hayes Awards.

The hilarity revolves around Ned Newley (Brett Short), the tongue-tied lieutenant governor of a small state who has a serious problem. The governor's affair with the runner up of a beauty pageant has led to his resignation and the resignations of all gubernatorial staff leaving Ned with a sudden and unwanted promotion.

Ned's loyal Chief of Staff Dave Riley (Ian Miller) is doing his best to help Ned recover from his disastrous televised swearing in ceremony. Ned seems destined to fail, so Dave calls in Paige Caldwell (Janelle Cox), the kind of hard-core professional pollster and television surrogate we see on the news every night.

Ned and Dave are soon joined by famous political operative Arthur Vance (John Hall) who holds court on the national cable news programs. Ned also has a secret weapon – the inept but supremely confident temp Louise Peakes or "Lulu" (Joanne Peterson) whose innate political talent sweeps her up into unthought of heights.

See *The Outsider* on page 3



## Arvest Foundation Makes Major Gift

BIG news. BIG gift! FSLT is very excited to announce that the **Arvest Foundation** has made a \$10,000 donation toward an upcoming major capital improvement to our facility.

This generous gift will launch fundraising for an important project to be announced in the coming year. Stay tuned for more details!

Thank you Arvest Foundation for stepping up to show your support, and stepping out front to initiate our fundraising efforts!

Representatives of Arvest Bank presenting the Foundation's check to FSLT are shown from left: Mike Jacimore, president; Lori Winesburg, sales manager; Bill Hines, Sr. Client advisor; Tina Dale, FSLT President; Kristen Carroll, Private Banking Manager; Nancy Blochberger, FSLT Funding Chairman; Trace Andres, Loan Manager; Lacey Klemm, private banking advisor.



## Here Comes Season 2025!

### 4 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](http://www.fslt.org). We offer four types of Season Packages – all with plenty of perks. You can purchase your preferred package in the lobby before all performances of *The Outsider*, buy online at [fslt.org](http://fslt.org), call to order on the phone, or send in the order form you received in the mail.

## Director's Notes



Sometimes you just have to laugh, and I'm thankful to Fort Smith Little Theatre for allowing me the opportunity to close our season laughing.

When I read *The Outsider* in early 2023, I knew I wanted to bring it to our stage. It has some of the best written characters and most fun dialogue I've read in years. And I love a good political satire. I had no idea how much I would need a good laugh to close out this year.

I cannot wait for this talented cast and crew to bring this hearty dose of laughter to our FSLT audiences. I do believe a good dose of laughter and a fun night at the theatre is what we all need to close out 2024!

-Tina Dale, *Director*



## Coming Soon: *A Hall and Mark Christmas*

Meet big city businesswoman (Hall) who returns home for her least favorite holiday, Christmas. Her parents' small town toy factory is in trouble, she connects with an old flame (Mark), and without even trying, she learns the true meaning of Christmas. Wholesome jokes, Christmas carols, and a little romance.

The off-season production directed by Grace Andrews will be performed at 7:30 pm, **December 12-14**. There will be no reservations or assigned seats. Doors will open at 6:45 p.m. Admission will be \$7 at the door.

FORT SMITH LITTLE THEATRE

Season  
2025



# The Outsider opens November 14

The test of the new political team comes with the arrival of beautiful and ambitious tv reporter Rachel Patterson (Nicole Bostick) and her near silent but all-seeing cameraman A.C. Peterson (Scott Black). When these personalities collide, the political shenanigans begin!

Director Tina Dale has recruited an experienced crew to keep backstage running smoothly. Lexi Housley serves as assistant director and Joe Graham is the producer. Michael Fox is the stage manager and Gary Cameron is the set builder. Dolores Chitwood is in charge of costuming. Additional crew members include Rikkee Black, Sharla Cameron, and Aslyn Cox.

Dale says, "I submitted this show for November of this season because I thought it would be timely. Little did I know just how much we would all need a good laugh after this wildly political and partisan election year. *The Outsider* is a comedy that pokes lighthearted fun at politics while celebrating democracy – and it gives us the chance to step back and see just how absurd our political processes can sometimes be. Regardless of their political affiliations, I know our audiences will all appreciate the excellent comic writing of *The Outsider*.

Experienced actor Brett Short is excited to bring the newly promoted governor to life: "Governor Ned Newley is very capable at government, but when it comes to speaking on television, or to people for that matter,

he has a complete lack of confidence. He is a genuinely good guy who cares deeply about helping people through his position as governor. The subtleties of bringing a character like Ned to life on stage make for a complex set of challenges. His genuineness paired with his simple, yet funny approach to things, makes for an exciting role for me as an actor."

Actress Joanne Peterson, who returns to centerstage after a year-long break, is thrilled to perform as the hilarious character Lulu. "She is confident in everything she does, but clueless as to how things work. So, bringing her to life without turning her into a caricature will be the challenge. Lulu is also very positive and encouraging. The way she approaches things can be quite humorous, and that will be a joy for me in this role."

Performances are scheduled at 7:30 pm November 14-16 and 20-23. There will be a 2 pm matinee on Sunday November 17. Tickets for opening night are \$20 while all other performances are \$13. Seat selection for Flex Pass patrons begins at 7:00 am Saturday, November 2. Tickets go on sale to the general public beginning at 7 a.m. Thursday, November 7.

Dale concluded, "November can be a busy time of year, but we hope you'll leave the holiday hustle behind and join us for this witty comedy." Tickets may be purchased online at [fslt.org](http://fslt.org) or by calling 479-783-2966 (extn. 2).



## SHOPPING MADE EASY

**Gift Certificates-** You can purchase a Gift Certificate in any denomination online at [fslt.org](http://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](mailto:fsltseasontickets@gmail.com). By handling the gift purchase for you, we can collect all the pertinent recipient information.



## Annual Meeting Notice

The Annual Meeting of the Fort Smith Little Theatre will be held Monday, November 25 at 7 p.m. 2024 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.

## 2025 Season Package Important Dates

**Renewal Same Seat Subscriber Deadline-Oct. 31!** 2024 same seat subscribers must renew for 2025 by Oct. 31 in order to retain their same seat assignments.

**New Same Seat Subscriptions Available-Nov. 13!** New orders for same seat subscriptions will be available online and through the box office.

**Flex Passes Available-Now!** Flex passes can be purchased now through the box office or online.

Questions? Contact us at [fsltseasontickets@gmail.com](mailto:fsltseasontickets@gmail.com) or call 479-783-2966 (extn. 5)

Fort Smith Little Theatre  
**SPOTLIGHT**

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

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**2024 FSLT Board of Directors**

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Brett Short  
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## From the Top...

They say life is all about choices. Actors and actresses choose to spend every evening for a month or more to be part of a production at FSLT. Backstage volunteers choose to stay in the dark to perform an important but often unseen role. Some volunteers choose to serve coffee at intermission, sweep floors, or balance checkbooks to operate our all-volunteer non-profit. Others read scripts and debate submissions so they can recommend choices for the next season of shows. All these involve choosing to give time and talent so that quality theatre can come to life for the enjoyment of others.

The Board of Directors also made a choice this year when they selected me as President. In view of other commitments, it would have been easy for me to say no thank you. But I chose to say yes, and I'm ever so grateful I did. It's been an honor to serve in this capacity. Thank you for your trust and support.

And now, you can make a choice! Choose to be part of the fun – come to auditions. Choose from four season packages for 2025 and enjoy live theatre on your terms and your schedule all year long. One thing's for sure – FSLT is grateful that you choose to spend your time and entertainment dollars with us. See you at the theatre!

- Tina Dale, *President*



Auditions for the comedy *Savannah Sipping Society* directed by Joanne Peterson will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, December 16. Callbacks will be Tuesday, December 17. Cast read through Wednesday, December 18. Rehearsals begin January 6, 2025. Production dates are February 13-22, 2025. The cast calls for 5 females approximately 40-65+. In this delightful, laugh-a-minute comedy, four unique Southern women are seeking to escape the sameness of their daily routines. Drawn together by Fate and an impromptu happy hour, they decide it's high time to reclaim their enthusiasm for life and renew their determination to live in the moment. Visit [fslt.org/auditions](http://fslt.org/auditions) for role descriptions and complete details.

**Auditions Dec 16 - Join the Fun!**

**Season Flex Pass patrons are urged to select seats before November 7.**