

Fort Smith Little Theatre

# Spotlight

July 14, 2012

## *Titanic* Offers Unsinkable Entertainment

**Dates:** Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *Titanic* will be July 26. Regular performances will be July 27, 28, 31 and August 1-4. The Sunday Matinee performance will be July 29.

**Times:** All evening performances begin at 8 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 7:15 p.m. The matinee begins at 2:30 p.m. Patrons may be seated after 1:45 p.m.

**Box Office Hours:** The box office is open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and on Saturdays from 5 to 7 p.m. during the run of the show.

**Reservations:** Reservations can be made by calling (479) 783-2966. Calls will be returned in the order they are received. Reservations will be held until 15 minutes before the show. Gala Tickets \$30. All other shows \$15.

**Season Ticket Holders:** Regular season tickets patrons are encouraged to call July 14-18 for preferred seating. They can also reserve a General Admission seat for every Season Ticket they have. General Admission reservations will not be filled until July 19.

**Reminder:** When you call to make a reservation, Press #2

In Greek mythology, the Titans were a family of giants who ruled the earth until the Olympian Gods overthrew them. In today's world, the adjective "titanic" means high in size, forces and power. That was also the apt name of a ship launched on April 10, 1912 from Southampton, England on its maiden voyage to New York City with 2,223 passengers and crew on board. On July 26, 2012 FSLT will have a launch of its own—the production of *Titanic/The Musical*

by Peter Stone with music and lyrics by Maury Yeston. The show will run through August 4th. Directing is George Mann, who is not afraid of a full stage or a big ship. Icebergs are another matter.

The *Titanic* was labeled "unsinkable." It was definitely big, fast, and strong; and had every bell and whistle available in the industrial revolution. And though the Victorian Era was waning, class

*See Titanic on page 3*



# Director's Notes

## *Titanic/The Musical* recreates the stories of the people aboard

Like so many other people around the world, I am inexplicably drawn to and fascinated by the fate of the RMS Titanic, and the tragedy of her maiden voyage. I was ensnared by a Reader's Digest article I read as a boy, and since that point, have read and watched every single thing available on the subject.

In 1997, two major things happened to feed this fascination: the release of James Cameron's blockbuster movie, and the premier of the Tony-award winning Broadway musical. It was a Titanic fanatic's dream! I didn't know of the musical's existence until Rosie O'Donnell had the cast perform the opening number on her show, and from that point onward, I have not been without the soundtrack at the ready, whether in a car CD player or my iPod.

So many folks have wondered aloud to me how such a story of epic proportions can be told on our stage; believe me, in my enthusiasm to do this show I have often asked myself the same question! But the answer is that ultimately the show is not about fantastic recreations of a ship; it is about the story, the people who lived and died, and the indescribably beautiful music created to tell the tale. Arrogance, humility, desire, love and fathomless loss—those stories can be conveyed with talented and passionate actors and singers, regardless of stage square footage. —George Mann, Director

### Applauded as Show Sponsor

We are pleased to announce that Sparks Health System will



sponsor our upcoming production of *Titanic/The Musical*. In 1947, the Young Ladies Guild of Sparks Memorial Hospital sponsored an amateur theatre production as a fundraiser to buy hospital equipment. That play, *Mr. and Mrs. North*, literally "sparked" an interest in the performing arts, and the Fort Smith Little Theatre was formed. Sixty-five years later, we applaud Sparks' civic spirit and their continued support of our community theatre. They are "positively" a great patron.

### In Memory of Ray Coleman

Donations have been received from Milt Earnhart, Paula and Steve Sharum, and Don and Delores McMillan in memory of Ray Coleman. A talented actor, director, and playwright, Ray graced our stage for many years. Indeed, he will be missed.

### Bequeath To Help Fund Archiving

In her life, Rosemary Weil loved the arts and was a long-time season ticket patron at the Fort Smith Little Theatre. Although she is

now deceased, her support for our organization will continue. Following Rosemary's death, a bequeath from her will was presented to FSLT, and it was decided that her gift be used to help purchase archiving materials required to preserve our 65-year history. We are fortunate to have photos, newspaper articles, and show materials dating back to our founding; but while those materials are precious, archiving them is labor intensive and expensive. Rosemary's support for FSLT spanned many years. Her patronage was a part of our past, and we are grateful that her bequeath will now help preserve it.

### Heading Back To The Future

Big things are happening at our Little Theatre with our Back To The Future Renovation Project. Cast pictures and posters have been removed from the lobby in preparation for their digital preservation, and Lora Rice is organizing boxes containing 65 years of history. Meanwhile, **Galen Hunter/MAHG Architects** is finalizing design details. Our goal is to preserve our past and prepare our building for the future by providing better utilization of space, more storage, safe light booth access, an improved box office area and a special place of prominence for our stained glass Harlequin Man, the symbol of FSLT.

Construction will be scheduled in stages to accommodate production dates and the availability of funding. With your financial support, the work can be accelerated and

completed more quickly.

At our website, [fslt.org](http://fslt.org), you can learn more about this project, view a complete donor list, print a donation form, or make your gift online.

We appreciate those listed below who have recently joined the growing list of supporters helping take us Back To The Future.

### *The Walton Family Foundation, Inc.*

Connie Lichty-Smith  
Regions Bank  
Dr. Ronald & Teresa Schlabach

### Off Season Show Coming Soon

*The Outrageous Adventures of Sheldon and Mrs. Levine* by Sam Bobrick and Julie Stein will be presented as an "off season" production. Directed by Rikkee Workman, this is the tale of two interesting characters, a controlling mother and her insecure son, who miscommunicate by letters over the years. Yes, just when you thought your family was a mess, along come the Levines. Goodbye Oedipus. Hello "shrink." Sparkling dialogue is delivered by hilarious, unique characters. Mark your calendar for the performance dates of September 27, 28, and 29. Admission is \$5. No reservations are necessary, and season tickets will not be accepted.

## NOTE: Extra performance of *Titanic*—Tuesday, July 31

In anticipation of a large demand for tickets, an additional performance of *Titanic* has been scheduled for 8 pm, Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. This is a regular performance, so both Season Tickets and General Admission reservations will be accepted. Call our Box Office to reserve your seat for this Tuesday evening show just as you would for any other performance.



# *Titanic/The Musical* launches at FSLT July 26

*Continued from page 1*

distinctions were still evident. Four days out of homeport, just south of Newfoundland, the Titanic met her fate—confrontation with a determined iceberg. Alarms were sounded. Passengers and crew were informed of their peril. Lifeboats were lowered, and quickly filled. But there was room for only one-third of those on board. Two-thirds were lost at sea. The Titanic's short life was over, but is now told 100 years later on our stage with wonderful music and narratives delivered by talented actors portraying those who lost their lives, and those who survived.

The Titanic tale is large, and it takes a large cast to tell it. Some of those who had a part in the famous tragedy were: Thomas Andrews (Anthony Yates), designer and builder of the ship; J. Bruce Ismay (Barry Law), owner of the White Star Line; Captain E. J. Smith (Steve Dwiggins); Harold Bride (Clay Kibbler), a telegrapher; Frederick Barrett (Dalton Jones), an escapee from coal mines; Henry Etches (Brandon Bolin), head steward; and Henry Beane

(Luke Perkinson), and his wife Alice (Mary Beth Koprovic) second class passengers.

Other cast members (many playing multiple roles) are listed alphabetically: Leah Carter, Shanna Prater Davis, Amanda Elkins, Trish Evans, Summer Ferguson, Joe Graham, Mackenna Hukill, Matt Hutchinson, Thomas Iverson, Victoria Jones, Brad Kessler, Cameron Law, Stanley Livengood, Shelia Mann, Stephen Martin, Wayne Mathews, Holly Murphy, Jenna Peach, Laura Pierson, Wesley Rester, Audra Sargent, Jane Ann Short, Drew Smith, Ron Stice, Nathan Stockemer, Shannon Stoddard, Haley Stone, Nicolette Sutfin, James Tanksley, Ron Watson, Eric Wells, Alex Williams, and Allison Williams.

Director Mann knows that a production as large as *Titanic/The Musical* couldn't come to fruition without a strong crew at his back, and his is an A-team crew all the way. Mary Beth Koprovic is his producer, while Shannon Stoddard is the cruise director, and Michael

Richardson is the assistant stage director, with Marcus Coker as the choreographer. Costumers are Janeann Saunders, Clara Jane Rubarth, Katy Featherston, Kaye Birkhead, Ron Stice, and Leah Carter. The set was designed by Zack Hiatt and Ron Watson, who also constructed it, with help from Wesley Rester, Thomas Iverson, Joe Graham, Matt Hutchinson, and Nathan Stockemer. Shanna Davis is the prop mistress and the stage manager. The lighting designer is Rebecca Stolz. A special thank you to Janeann Saunders and Leah Carter with Coffee and a Good Book in Van Buren for their help with the beautiful hats and costumes used in this production.

Winner of five Tony Awards, *Titanic/The Musical* has "sell out" written all over it. Don't tarry in making your reservations. The FSLT box office will begin taking reservations for season ticket holders Saturday, July 14 and for the general public Thursday, July 19. The phone number remains (479)783-2966.



Fort Smith Little Theatre

# Spotlight

P.O. Box 3752 • Fort Smith, AR 72913

www.fslt.org

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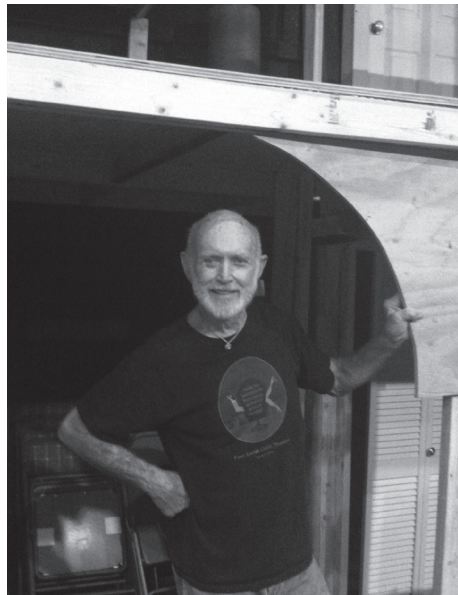
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From the Top...

## *The set that Watson built*

I hope that all our patrons are ready to walk the gangplank and board the Titanic. This will not be like the movie, but will tell the story of its illustrious beginning when it was still in its planning stage to its disastrous end.

George Mann has gathered a huge cast and Ron Watson is building what I know will be a fantastic set. Ron has been a set designer and builder extraordinaire at FSLT since the 1960s. A kind and generous man, Ron always has a smile on his face, and talent exudes from his fingertips. When he is not wielding hammer and nails, he is at rehearsals for his role as Isador Strauss in this show. What



a many faceted person he is, and how lucky we are to have him.

In fact how lucky we are to have many people who never step foot in front of the footlights, who never get the accolades the actors receive, but still put in many hours to see

## Next Up

Auditions for the next FSLT production, *The Hallelujah Girls*, by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and James Wooten will be held at the theatre on August 6 and 7 at 7 p.m. The director of this comedy is Angela Covey. The cast calls for two men and six women all between the ages of 35 and 65. Production dates are September 13-22.

that our performances are as close to professional as we can muster. Thank you to all people who work as crew. My hat is off to all of you, and I offer you all a well deserved round of applause.

—Angela Covey, President

**Season Ticket holders are urged to call before July 19 for reservations.**