

Fort Smith Little Theatre

Spotlight

May 17, 2013

Dates: Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *Barefoot in the Park* will be May 30.

Regular performances will be May 31, June 1 and 5-8. The Sunday Matinee performance will be June 2.

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 \$25. All other shows \$10.

Season Ticket Holders:

Regular season ticket patrons are encouraged to call May 18-22 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 May 23.

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

FSLT reprises *Barefoot in the Park*

For centuries, there has been a commonly held theory that opposites attract. Today, researchers say that this is really true in love relationships. We are drawn to those who are different than we are, and that can certainly make life exciting. For an example of this theory, simply attend our next production.

FSLT patrons are in for a delightful reprise of a show last performed on our stage in 1997. *Barefoot in the Park* is an early work of one of our country's most

prolific and talented playwrights, Neil Simon. You may have seen the play, or the 1967 movie starring Jane Fonda and Robert Redford. Director Luke Perkinson will present this comedy for those who have never seen it, as well as those who want to see it again. It will open at FSLT May 30 and run through June 8.

To follow the dots of the plot, start with the two opposites, Paul Bratter (Brenden Dahle), an introverted attorney focused on

See Barefoot on page 3



Director's Profile...

Luke Perkinson

A charming and efficient young chap, Luke Perkinson has steadily become a regular on the FSLT stage. However, in this production of *Barefoot in the Park*, it is his directorial skills that are taking center stage. With theatre education from Henderson State University, Luke stepped into the FSLT arena in 2010 playing Mr. Biggley in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. You might also remember him in later roles as Oscar Jaffe in *Twentieth Century*, Lawrence Garfinkle in *Other People's Money*, and Edgar Bean in *Titanic-The Musical*.

While this is his directorial debut at FSLT, it's not his first rodeo. Outside our community theatre, his former acting credits include George in *Our Town*, Stephen Belber in *Laramie Project*, Antipholus of Syracuse in *Comedy of Errors*, just to name a few. The first show he



directed was *Bringing it all Back Home* by Terrence McNally.

Having studied writing and improv. at the Second City Training Center in Chicago, Luke organized the group called Naturally Improvable last August. His goal was to make the Fort Smith community

more familiar with stand-up comedy, and dig-up the raw improv. talent found here.

Luke brings energy and passion to everything he does, and *Barefoot in the Park* will be no exception.



Show Sponsors Applauded

We greatly appreciate Cooper Clinic and Beall Barclay who are co-sponsoring *Barefoot in the Park*. By underwriting the cost of this production, their generosity helps us maintain affordable ticket prices. Both these locally owned companies have been long and strong supporters of FSLT. Whenever you have the chance, please tell them "thanks" for the support that they provide to the performing arts.

In Memory of Lisa

We gratefully acknowledge donations from Angela Covey, Paula Sharum, Katy Boulden, and Phil and Louise Barling given lovingly in memory of Lisa Henley.



Simon's *Barefoot in the Park* opens May 30

Continued from page 1

his career, and his new bride, Corie Bratter, nee Banks (Tina Dale), an extrovert who lives life to the fullest. You won't see him, but in the wings is Cupid who spies on them, reaches into his quiver, takes out an arrow, and aims at his prey. With one twang of his bow, the Batters are engulfed in love. Vows are made. A short honeymoon is taken. Then the newlyweds meet everyday life. Paul returns to his law books, and Corie goes in search of a place within their means where they can build their nest. What she finds is a small apartment in a NYC brownstone, up five flights of stairs and offering few amenities. The first to make the long climb is

the telephone man (Aaron Logan Ray) to install service. Next is Mrs. Banks (Carole Rogers) Corie's mother. After her, comes the Lord and Taylor's delivery man (Joe Graham), and last, before Paul arrives at their first home, is Victor Velasco (Cliff Scott), a charming, older gentleman who lives in the attic over the apartment.

Director Perkinson has garnered a large and able backstage crew. His producer is Melissa Vitale, assisted by Theresa Starr. His assistant director and stage manager is Joe Graham. Props are in the capable hands of Lora Rice, Thomas Iverson, and Pattie Meyer Smith. Costumes are put together by Kaye Birkhead and Clara Jane Rubarth.

Scene Designer is Michael McGehee. Lighting Design is by Rebekah and Lucas Stoltz, while Sound is perfected by Wade Gordon. Tech Designer is Zack Hiatt. Set construction is by Zack Hiatt, Luke Perkinson, and Chuck Howard. The poster has been designed by Bobby Rogne. The backstage running crew are Julia Blankenship, Tarrah Fears, Michelle Fetsko, Kiane French, Tanya Hall, Chuck Howard, Matt Hutchinson, Jamie Lambdin, Savannah Lambdin, Monica Longoria and Stephen Martin.

If you have never seen this romantic comedy, you should. If you have seen it before, see it again. If you have never run barefoot in a park on a snowy day, Corie recommends it. The number to call and reserve a seat is still (479) 783-2966.



Renovation Progress Report

After several years of compiling Board input, getting awesome plans provided by MAHG Architecture, then raising funds, FSLT brought in Crawford Construction last fall to start working around our productions. Yes, we've been on the road of our Back To The Future renovation campaign for quite some time. At first we often heard "When will we start?" Then, the question became "What construction phase is next?" followed by "When will we finish?" But now, we often hear "Wow!" From the added mezzanine storage for props and costumes, to the raised ceiling, to the flat screen monitors announcing events to come and shows of the past---all the pieces are coming together to give us durable, usable, energy efficient space. Once the exterior improvements are finished, and the artwork and furniture are in place, the Wow Factor will be complete.

To learn more about this project, please go to fslt.org. And if you haven't already contributed to help us finance this work, please consider doing so. You'll want to be part of the Wow.

Plugging the Holes in Our History

2012—The cast photos in our lobby were fading rapidly, and boxes of old programs were stored in attics and basements all over town.

2013—We've made great progress compiling, organizing and preserving our long and colorful history. A large amount of content has been scanned and posted for your enjoyment at fslt.org. But to complete our project, we need your help. Soon we will post on our website and on facebook a list of cast photos and show programs that are missing from our files. We are hopeful that someone associated with those productions will have the items we need.



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P.O. Box 3752 • Fort Smith, AR 72913

www.fslt.org

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From the Top...

Take a second look...

I grew up in a small town in Northeast Arkansas, where family was close-knit, and friends were lifelong treasures. While there were still plenty of people you didn't know personally, you recognized them from around town, or had some interaction with them in the community. There were many memorable events from family get-togethers and reunions, graduations and birthdays, to class trips, city parades, and award ceremonies. All of this was documented with mom's 110mm, and later her 35mm camera, or better yet, an old Polaroid camera. Those were the days. Now I love sifting through the old photos, newspaper clippings, and school

annuals; they bring back such fond memories. There is nothing like pulling out an old photo of yourself and your best friends at age seven, sitting in our old "secret spot."

Now I can add the Fort Smith Little Theatre's website to my well of photos. If you have not had a chance to peruse the website lately, give it a second look. The site has been updated with more cast/crew photos through the years, many of which had hung in the lobby before the renovation, others found tucked away in storage boxes. You might find an old photo of the first performance you ever attended at the Little Theatre. There is information on upcoming shows, ticket sales,

Next Up

Auditions for the next FSLT production, *Emma*, based on a novel by Jane Austen, adapted for stage by Michael Bloom, will be held at the theatre on June 10 and 11 at 7 pm. The cast calls for 8 females, 16 to 55 years of age, and 8 males, 16 to 70 years of age. Micki Voelkel will be directing. Production dates are July 18-27.

audition times, FSLT history, funding and donation opportunities, contact information, the newsletter, and of course, those time stamping photos. Our website www.fslt.org is a great way to keep up with the many announcements and exciting happenings going on here at the theatre. Go ahead, give us a look. *Cecilia Woods-McDonald*, President

Season Ticket holders are urged to call before May 23 for reservations.