

Fort Smith Little Theatre

Spotlight

July 5, 2013

Dates: Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *Emma* will be July 18. Regular performances will be July 19, 20 and 24-27. The Sunday Matinee performance will be July 21.

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 July 6-10 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 11.

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

Emma sure to delight FSLT audiences

Sammy Cahn and Jimmy Van Heusen wrote it. Frank Sinatra sang it..

"Love and marriage,
Love and marriage,
Go together like a horse and carriage.

This I tell you brother,
You can't have one without the other"...and Emma Woodhouse would agree.

Emma, based on Jane Austen's 19th century novel and adapted for the stage by Michael Bloom in the 21st century, will open at FSLT on

July 18 and run through July 27.

Director Micki Voelkel, an artistic trouper, chose to present a play that will lighten our loads with love and a laugh.

Emma Woodhouse (Valerie Baldwin) is a very attractive, young woman who is devoted to taking care of her elderly father, Mr. Woodhouse (Chuck Howard). She has no desire to become married, but sees her mission as being a matchmaker for those she knows. One of her young friends, Harriet

See *Emma* on page 3



Director's Notes...

Austen classic perfectly modern entertainment

Emma is a story about a girl who is so busy matchmaking that she fails to understand her own heart. It's also a classic Jane Austen novel near and dear to my heart. Although published in 1815, the story is as fresh and modern as it was when first published.

This adaptation by Michael Bloom is a treat. Hilarious dialogue simplified a bit for modern audiences, secret romances, singing, dancing, and gypsies—this show has it all. The talented and dedicated cast is guaranteed to wow you. Come and get your summer romance with us.

Micki Voelkel, Director

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

We gratefully acknowledge the following memorials—from Maxine Donaldson in memory of Arliss Daniels; from the River Valley Readers Book Club in memory of Wilburn Graham; from Kent and Nancy Blochberger in memory of Betty Klusmeier.

RACKS FUNDED BY ARVEST

As a result of our lobby renovation, patrons can now enjoy two seating areas with bright yellow walls located on the north and south ends of the building. But there is an added bonus. Unseen, we now have added storage on the enclosed mezzanines above those seating spaces. Our wardrobe committee is grateful for the expansion for hats, shoes, and military uniforms. Our set shop volunteers are thrilled that tables, chairs, and other set furniture now have their own storage space. The racks and shelves for the mezzanines were provided by a gift by **Arvest Bank**. We greatly appreciate their generosity and continued support of FSLT. Thank you, Arvest!



RENOVATION PROGRESSES

At the time of this writing, some of our new energy efficient windows have been installed, some of our awesome wall art has been completed, and some of our lobby seating has been delivered. Watch for more changes and final details to appear as

our lobby renovation continues.

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. We couldn't do it without our many generous vendors, and without your financial support.

Austen's *Emma* opens at FSLT on July 18

Continued from page 1

Smith (Victoria Jones), who has no family and little wealth, is on Emma's list. Another is Jane Fairfax (Jessica Smith) whose old maid aunt, Miss Bates (Hannah Curlin), carries a full purse. Mrs. Weston (Monica Longoria) is successfully married to an older gentleman, Mr. Weston (Duff Taylor). Others on the male side of Emma's efforts are Mr. Knightly (Terry Dilley), a family friend; Mr. Elton (Nathan Stockemer), an attractive young clergyman; Frank Churchill (Dalton Jones), Mr. Weston's son; and Robert Martin (Blake Robertson), a young and worthwhile farmer. Now, back to the female side. Those ladies include Mrs. Elton (Sarah Curlin), who also carries a heavy purse into the parsonage. Untitled and unnamed are an ensemble of actors, but not on Emma's list: Shannon Stoddard, Jamie Lambdin, Julianne Meyerriecks, Hayley Stone, Robert Montgomery, Joe Graham, and Eric Wells. They carry trays, answer bells, and dance. There are also two dancing gypsy children,

Ashleigh and Caitlin Mathews.

Director Voelkel has a very able backstage crew to keep the wheels turning for the action onstage. Her assistant director is Rikkee Workman-Black. Co-producers are Angela Covey and Carole Rogers. Stage manager is Jennie Mathews, assisted by Robin Fowler. In charge of props are Neal Goodwin and Lachan Morlan. Set is by Scott Black. Lighting design is by Rebekah Stoltz. Sound and Light

operators are Jennie and Wayne Mathews. Costume designer is Wendy Quick, and costume constructioners are Kaye Birkhead, Clara Jane Rubarth, and Ron Stice. Make your reservations now to return to a time and place where citizens belonged to a class, and were transported by carriages pulled by horses. They had no telephones, but FSLT does. The number to call is still 479-783-2966. FSLT will begin taking reservations for Season Ticket holders on Saturday, July 6.



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P.O. Box 3752 • Fort Smith, AR 72913

www.fslt.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Non-Profit
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Fort Smith, AR

Permit No. 12

From the Top...

Unplug and enjoy the show

Thank goodness for the theatre...

Like so many of you, I wish I could find just an extra hour in the day. There are always a million tasks waiting to be added to the never ending "to do" list. I feel as if I rush from one task to another, completing one while starting two new ones.

Technology has added so much to our lives. It has made us more efficient and organized while simultaneously increasing our workload. We are constantly plugged in via multiple email accounts, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Pinterest and a smattering of blog sites. With social media and so many work/family obligations, as well as the mundane tasks that simply keep our lives

afloat, it is sometimes difficult to squeeze in "breathing space."

Some days, I long for a slower pace of life, with a few less commitments; but honestly, I wouldn't survive well without my digital devices, instantaneous updates via the internet, and my myriad duties. And, although all wisdom and modern science tout the benefits of taking time for oneself and letting go mentally, realistically, it seems nearly impossible.

That is where the Theatre steps in and works its magic. By 8 p.m. Opening Night of every show, I am "unplugged." A sitter is watching my child, my phone's ringer is turned off, and I find my "breathing space." The perfect

Next Up

Auditions for the upcoming FSLT production, *Twelve Angry Men*, by Reginald Rose, will be held at 7 p.m, July 29 and 30 at the Theatre. The cast calls for 14 men, 20 to 80 years of age. Amanda Elkins is directing. Production dates are Sept. 5-14.

moment is when I am sitting in my reserved seat, the room lights dim, and the auditorium goes quiet as the stage lights come up. And for two hours I am entertained without any other expectations required of me from the performance other than I enjoy myself. Maybe you too experience the same when attending our shows, because that is our aim. *Cecilia Woods-McDonald*, President

Season Ticket holders are urged to call before July 11 for reservations.