



SPOTLIGHT

401 North 6th Street

January 28, 2017

www.fslt.org

Dates: Opening Night Gala of FSLT's production of *Sense & Sensibility* will be Feb. 9. Regular performances will be Feb. 10, 11, and 15 - 18. A Sunday Matinee will be offered on Feb. 12

Times: All evening performances begin at **7:30 p.m.** Patrons may be seated after 6:45 p.m. The matinees begin at **2:00 p.m.** Patrons may be seated after 1:15 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 production run.

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 each performance. Gala Tickets \$27. All other shows \$12.

Season Ticket Holders: Regular season ticket patrons are encouraged to call Jan. 28 to Feb. 1 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 Feb. 2.

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

Sense and Sensibility

"A fool with a heart and no sense is just as unhappy as a fool with sense and no heart." — Fyodor Dostoyevsky

To open the Fort Smith Little Theatre's 70th Season, FSLT veteran, Micki Voelkel, will bring to life Jane Austen's classic romantic comedy, *Sense and Sensibility*. While it was not the first novel she wrote, *Sense and Sensibility* was the first that Austen published.

Though the stage adaptation omitted some of the characters and parts of Austen's novel, it captures the tale of Elinor and Marianne Dashwood (Valerie Valentine and Jessye King) in such a charming way that every Austen fan, as well as those yet drawn into her clutches, will be thoroughly entertained.

"Even though the story itself is 205 years old, the characters in this story are so very human and quite modern," Voelkel said. "I think we can all recognize someone we know or see ourselves in these people."

The play follows the story of the two eldest Dashwood sisters and the theme of finding a workable middle ground between passion and reason. The audience will be a part of their heartaches and joys following the death of their father

See Sense and Sensibility on page 3



Show Sponsors Applauded

Choctaw Casino and Resort in Pocola, Oklahoma is proud to support our upcoming production, *Sense and Sensibility*. Their sponsorship allows us to provide our patrons with affordable ticket prices. Just minutes from Fort Smith, Choctaw Casino and Resort provides the perfect place for a recharging weekend getaway or a rewarding weekday retreat. Whether you're in the mood for an exciting selection of gaming options ranging from the latest slot machines to Blackjack and live Poker, or a show at the CenterStage, **Choctaw Casino and Resort** is your place to play.

Director's Letter

Comedy. Drama. Romance. A bit of singing. A lot of dancing. Mix it all together and you get – Jane Austen? Absolutely.

I'm proud that FSLT will be among the first community theatres in the country to perform this brand new adaptation of *Sense and Sensibility* by Kate Hamill. This script has been a sensation off Broadway as produced by Bedlam Theatre Company. For Jane Austen fans, the show is true to the language and spirit of the 1811 novel. For general audiences, the show is a clever and fast-paced comedy that touches the heart and tickles the funny bone.

Every time I direct, I am so grateful for the level of talent in our community. This show with its cast of 24 is a perfect example. Our cast includes such a diversity of talent. From FSLT legend, Angela Covey, as the dreaded and mean Mrs. Ferrars, to grade-schoolers, Adeena Thomas as a Gossip and Rebekah Willson as Margaret Dashwood, we have actors and actresses of every generation in this show! It's a true family affair. We have accomplished musicians, dancers, and actors of all ages.

So you want laughs? Feeling sentimental? Want to relive your first love? Book your reservations and come see *Sense and Sensibility*! I'm sure you will love the show and this cast as much as I do.

- Micki Voelkel, Director



Sense and Sensibility opens February 9

and their subsequent move with their mother (Tina Dale) and young sister (Rebekah Willson) to a small cottage on the estate of their cousin, Sir John Middleton (Barry Law).

No Austen story is complete without romantic heroes and cads, and this play has its share in Edward Ferrars (Brandon Bolin), Colonel Brandon (John Hall), and John Willoughby (Eric Wells.)

A group of Gossips (Alyssa Baker, Eric Krigbaum, Alex Marrin, Kathy Shinaut, Adeena and Suzanne Thomas) keep the action and story going in Greek chorus style that will delight all audiences.

Rounding out the cast – in beautiful period costumes – are: Scott Black and Summer Ferguson as John and Fanny Dashwood; Coleen Montgomery as Mrs. Jennings; Jessica Smith as Lady Middleton, Jamie Lambdin and Sarah Curlin as Lucy and Anne Steele; Tyler Huntington as Robert Ferrars; Cliff Scott as Thomas; Thomas Iverson as Doctor; and Angela Covey as Mrs. Ferrars.



To support the action onstage, Voelkel will rely on the backstage help of: Victoria Walden, assistant director; Joe Graham and Mike Papacoda, co-producers; Cassie Mikel, stage manager; Robyn Fowler, assistant stage manager; Scott Black, set design; Scott Black and James Kirkendall, set construction; Hannah Curlin, costume design; Hannah Curlin and Janet Renwick, costume construction; Courtney Honaker, lighting design; Chuck Howard and Mike Tickler, light and sound board; Kiané French and Jordan Garton, props; Rikkee Black, casting consultant; and Eric Wells, dance captain.

The Opening Night Gala performance will be 7:30 p.m. February 9. Regular evening performances will be 7:30 p.m. on February 10-11 and 15-18. A matinee performance is scheduled for 2 p.m. February 12.

Sense and Sensibility is the perfect way to celebrate February, the month of romance. To lose you heart and come to your senses, call the box office, 479-783-2966 (dial 2) and reserve your seat.



2016 Annual Meeting

The FSLT Annual Membership meeting was held on November 28, 2016 at 7 p.m. Reports were given by officers and committee chairs. Five new Board members were elected to three-year terms: Rhame Cunningham, Hannah Curlin, Tina Dale, Rhonda Fawcett, and Summer Ferguson. Three members-at-large were elected to a one-year term on the nominating committee: Rikkee Workman-Black, Neal Goodwin, and Suzanne Thomas. The newly elected Board then met, to elect officers for the coming year: Michael Richardson - President; Jill Ledbetter - Vice President; Melissa Vitale - Treasurer; Sherry Hester - Secretary.

Bargains On The Back & Round of Applause

On the back of all seat tickets during 2017, you'll find coupons for two locally-owned, long-time supporters of FSLT, **Calico County** and **Golden Corral**. We don't tear our tickets so you can enjoy the savings. Also, we hope you'll join us in a round of applause for **Consolidated Printing** of Van Buren, who donated the printing of all our seat tickets again this year. This is a generous contribution for which we are very grateful!

General Admission Pricing

Those who attend regular performances without purchasing a Season Ticket will notice a modest increase in general admission pricing in 2017. While summer musical tickets will remain at \$15/person, all other regular performances will increase to \$12/person. This modest \$2 increase is the first general admission price adjustment at FSLT in over 10 years.

Last Chance to Buy Season Tickets

2017 Season Tickets will be sold in the lobby before all performances of *Sense and Sensibility*. If you plan to buy your season ticket when you arrive to attend the show, please go to the Season Ticket booth before going to the Box Office window to pick up your seat assignments.

You can also purchase season tickets online, safely and securely, at fslt.org. (Please note that Paypal may require you to create an "account," but you can still use your debit or credit card for payment. Simply click: "Create a PayPal account.")

ALL Season Ticket Patrons – Take Note

Please keep your Season Ticket Pass in your wallet, and bring it with you to **each and every** performance.

Fort Smith Little Theatre
SPOTLIGHT

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

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From the Top...

Welcome to our 70th year of providing live theatre to Fort Smith, the River Valley, and beyond! We are very pleased to kick off our 2017 season with *Sense and Sensibility*, an enduring Jane Austen classic, directed by Micki Voelkel.

For those new to FSLT, here's a little something you may not know. We are all volunteers – the Board, the Officers, the Directors, the Casts and Crews. In nearly seven decades of continuous operation, we have never had a paid employee! Instead, we rely on a very successful partnership with faithful volunteers, loyal patrons, and generous business leaders.

In addition to providing theatre-goers with an excellent entertainment value, we also give back to our community in other ways. For instance, during the run of three productions in each season, we make our theatre available to other non-profit organizations for their own fund-raising event. The ticket sales from those specific performances go to the non-profits to help fund their individual missions.

As we transition to a new year, I want to say thank you to our outgoing Board members. Your service is very much appreciated. Thank you to Carole Rogers for her past leadership and for her future advice and guidance. Welcome to our new Board members as well. Together with them, I am excited about the year ahead!

As a reminder, if you have not yet purchased your season tickets, you may do so online at fslt.org or before any performance of *Sense and Sensibility*. Here comes another great season at FSLT!

- Michael Richardson, *President*

Next Up

Auditions for *Things My Mother Taught Me*, directed by Ian Miller, will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, February 20. Callbacks will be held on Tuesday, February 21. The cast calls for 4 males and 3 females between the ages of 20 to 60. Production dates are March 30 - April 8. For more information, visit our website, www.fslt.org, or find us on Facebook.

Season Ticket holders are urged to call before February 2 for reservations.