

# SLT BACKSTAGE

Smithfield Little Theatre Bi-Monthly Newsletter

## NEWS & SHOWS

Upcoming Events  
PAGE 1 & 2

SLT Student Youth Program  
PAGE 3 & 4

SLT New Season  
PAGE 5

Volunteer Opportunities  
PAGE 6



## Upcoming Events

### **AUDITIONS: THE SAVANNAH SIPPING SOCIETY**

Show Dates: October 7th - 30th, 2022  
Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 pm, Sundays at 2:30 pm.

Director: Robert Cox

**Auditions:** Sunday, August 21st and Monday, August 22nd, 2022 at 7:00pm.

Smithfield Little Theatre Stage  
210 N Church Street, Smithfield, VA

**Rehearsals will be Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. starting August 28th.**

Continued on Page 2

# Upcoming Events

## **AUDITIONS: THE SAVANNAH SIPPING SOCIETY**

In this delightful, laugh-a-minute comedy, four unique Southern women, all needing to escape the sameness of their day-to-day routines, are drawn together by Fate—and an impromptu happy hour—and decide it's high time to reclaim the enthusiasm for life they've lost through the years. Over the course of six months, filled with laughter, hilarious misadventures, and the occasional liquid refreshment, these middle-aged women successfully bond and find the confidence to jump start their new lives. Together, they discover lasting friendships and a renewed determination to live in the moment—and most importantly, realize it's never too late to make new old friends. So raise your glass to these strong Southern women and their fierce embrace of life and say "Cheers!" to this joyful and surprisingly touching Jones, Hope, Wooten comedy!

### **Roles:**

#### **RANDA COVINGTON** (stage age 49)

Randa is a perfectionist and workaholic, struggling to cope with a surprise career derailment that, unfortunately, reveals that she has no life and no idea how to get one.

#### **DOT HAIGLER** (stage age 69)

Dot is still reeling from her husband's recent demise and the loss of their plans for an idyllic retirement. She also faces the unsettling prospect of starting a new life from scratch – and all alone.

#### **MARLAFAYE MOSLEY** (stage age 53)

Earthy and boisterous, Marlafaye is a good ol' Texas gal. She has blasted into Savannah in the wake of losing her tom-cattin' husband to a 23-year-old dental hygienist. The strength of her desire to establish a new life is equaled only by her desire to wreak a righteous revenge on her ex.

#### **JINX JENKINS** (stage age 53)

Also new to town, Jinx, a spunky ball of fire, offers her services as a much-needed life coach for these women. However, blinded by her determination and efforts to get their lives on track, she overlooks the fact that she's the one most in need of sage advice.

#### **RANDA'S GRANDMOTHER** (NON-SPEAKING ROLE; stage age 81)

Grandmother of Randa who appears and dies. Elegant matriarch of powerful, southern family.

# Future Audition Dates

## **A CHARLES BROWN CHRISTMAS**

Director: Meredith Marchant

Assistant Director:  
Andrew Smith

Audition Dates:

October 9th and 10th at 7pm at SLT

## **THE KITCHEN WITCHES**

Director: Jeff Johnson

Assistant Director:  
Adam Dennison

Audition Dates:

December 11th and 12th at 7pm at SLT

Callbacks, if needed,

December 13th at 7pm at SLT

## **SHE LOVES ME**

Director: Jenn Melms

Audition Dates:

February 12 and 13th at 7pm at SLT

To keep updated on auditions and audition form visit our Facebook and website.

# SLT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

This year at SLT, we saw the return of the Smithfield Little Theatre Summer Youth Program. The SLT SYP is a 6-week theater workshop and summer stock theater experience for youth ages 12-17. All participants were vetted through an audition after their orientation and preparatory audition workshop. The project included a full rehearsal schedule and a full weekend (Thursday-Sunday) of public shows, not to mention workshops that include the eight disciplines of theatre, fun activities and friendship opportunities. This year, SLT had 14 participants. Of those participants, 9 were new to the program.

Their production this year was "Stepsisters", which tells the totally-true-and-not-at-all-made-up version of the little cinder girl. When Drew and Beth are thrown into the dungeon for conspiring against the throne, these stepsisters, who are not wicked, evil, and certainly not ugly, are forced to tell their fellow prisoners the real story of what happened with Cinderella.

This year, we had opportunity to interview one new and one returning participant of the SLT SYP. One of the participants that was new to the program was Erika Lynn. Erika Lynn played the role of Victoria. She heard about SYP through her uncle, Mark Hall, who is actively involved with the theatre. She has also seen many shows at SLT and has always wanted to be on the SLT stage. Her favorite show she saw was "Legally Blonde".



During SYP, she loved doing all of the fun improv involved in the show. She stated that "improv is really hard for me and it has been a good learning experience." Her favorite part of "Stepsisters" was the the Ball scene at the beginning of Act 2 because of the the dancing and partner work that went into it. When asked about her favorite part of SYP, she stated that "everyone here is so nice and it has really been an amazing experience."

Outside of SLT, Erika Lynn spends her free time either at the Tada School of Performing Arts or the Dynamic Movements School of Performing Arts Inc. She has been with the Tada School of Performing Arts since since she was 8 and has been with Dynamic Movements for 12 years. She also dances, takes voice lessons, is part of the chorus at her school and plays piano.

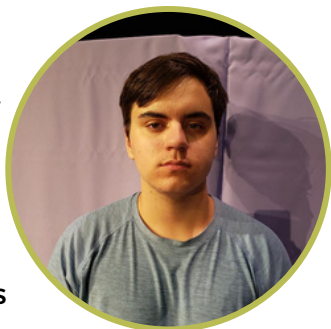
Continued on Page 4



# SLT SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

We also had the opportunity to talk with an SLT SYP participant who has been in the program since Trey Gwaltney and Judy Winslow started it. Ethan has participated in the program for 7 years now. This year, Ethan played the roles of the King and the Jailor. He heard about SYP through his mother, Marie Miguel, who is also actively involved with the theatre.

Even though Ethan has been in the program for 7 years, he still learned new things when it comes to running a show. Ethan stated that "most of the workshops that we have done in the past, I learned lighting, costumes and how stressful it can be to put on a show like remembering all of your lines and all the things you have to do."

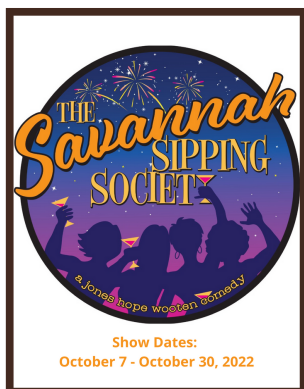


When asked what role he liked most, he preferred being the Jailor over the King. Before Covid-19 shut the theatre down, he knew majority of the SYP participants but this year with 9 new participants, he really enjoyed was seeing new faces in the program. In his free time, he sings in his school's chorus group and is going to New York to sing on Broadway with them later this year.

We at SLT are so proud of Erika Lynn, Ethan and the other participants in the program this year for their dedication and hard work. We hope to see them again next year and in future shows at SLT. The future looks bright for SLT with this future talent.



# Three Show Season!!



## Our Covid-19 Policy

### IMPORTANT COVID UPDATE

Following CDC guidance, Smithfield Little Theatre has updated its policy and no longer requires masks or vaccinations. Volunteers and patrons may continue to wear masks at their own discretion.

As always, the health and safety of our volunteers and patrons is a priority for SLT. We will continue to monitor the CDC and VDH for updated guidelines.

## SLT New Season

### 61ST SEASON

Our 61st season will feature three amazing shows, starting with "The Savannah Sipping Society" in October. Then, in our winter slot, we be showing "The Kitchen Witches" in February. The final show of our 61st season will be the musical "She Loves Me" in May. We are looking forward to putting on these amazing shows for you. Season tickets will be on sale soon!

To keep updated on our Season Subscriptions visit our website at [www.smithfieldlittletheatre.org](http://www.smithfieldlittletheatre.org) or call our Box Office at 757-357-7338.





## Volunteer Opportunities

**SMITHFIELD LITTLE THEATRE IS AN ALL-VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION. VOLUNTEERS, MANY WITH NO PRIOR THEATRE EXPERIENCE, HANDLE ALL RESPONSIBILITIES FROM ACTING TO USHERING. THERE ARE NEEDS WHICH CAN TAKE UP AS LITTLE OR AS MUCH TIME AS YOU WISH TO CONTRIBUTE. FILL YOUR LEISURE TIME WITH FUN. MAKE NEW FRIENDS. TREAT YOURSELF TO A NEW EXPERIENCE! JOIN THE SLT FAMILY!**

Volunteers needed for Savannah Sipping Society!

Areas needed are: Box Office, Concessions and Ushers

