

SLT BACKSTAGE

Smithfield Little Theatre Bi-Monthly Newsletter

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**SMITHFIELD
LITTLE THEATRE**
Hamming it up since 1962



Main Stage

THE KITCHEN WITHCES

Show Dates: February 10th - March 5th, 2023

Fridays and Saturdays 8:00 pm

Sundays at 2:30 pm

Director: Jeff Johnson

Assistant Director: Adam Dennison

To purchase tickets visit

<https://www.smithfieldlittletheatre.org/> or

call the Box Office at (757) 357-7338



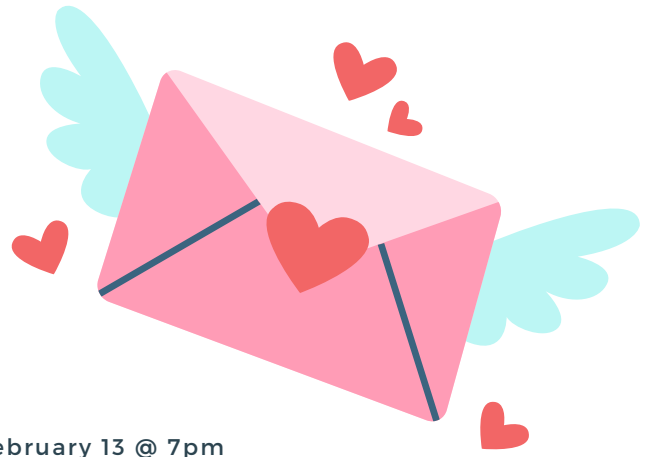
Upcoming Events

AUDITIONS: SHE LOVES ME

Show Dates: May 5th - May 28th, 2023
Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00pm
Sundays at 2:30 pm

Director: Jenn Melms
Music Director: Trey Gwaltney
Producer: Mark Hall

Auditions: Sunday, February 12 @ 7pm and Monday, February 13 @ 7pm
Callbacks: Wednesday, February 15 @ 7pm, if needed



Set in a 1930s European perfumery, we meet shop clerks, Amalia and Georg, who, more often than not, don't see eye to eye. After both respond to a "lonely hearts advertisement" in the newspaper, they now live for the love letters that they exchange, but the identity of their admirers remains unknown. Join Amalia and Georg to discover the identity of their true loves... and all the twists and turns along the way!

Considered by many to be the most charming musical ever written, *She Loves Me* is a warm romantic comedy with an endearing innocence and a touch of old-world elegance. The Mikos Lazlos play *Parfuemerie*, on which it is based, has inspired many adaptations, including the beloved film *You've Got Mail* starring Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks.

Casting:

Arpad Laszlo - male 16-19, tenor
Ladislav Sipos - male 45-55, baritone
Ilona Ritter - female 25-35, alto/soprano
Steven Kodaly - male 25-35, tenor/baritone
Georg Nowack - male 25-35, tenor/baritone
Mr. Maraczek - male 55-70, baritone
Amalia Balash - female 20-30, soprano
Ensemble - approximately 4-6 females and 6-8 males 16+, any range



*Note: Some ensemble roles will have featured vocal parts, specifically at least 3 females and 1 male.

All are encouraged to audition regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, or size.

Please prepare a song no more than 2 minutes in length in a similar style to the show's music. A pianist will be available to accompany you if you are bringing your own sheet music. If you do not have sheet music, please bring a karaoke style track using CD or Bluetooth (no vocals on the track). Music from the show will not be allowed at auditions, but may be required at callbacks.

There will be cold readings at auditions and a brief dance/warm-up.

Rehearsals: Rehearsals are planned to be Sundays from 6pm-9pm and Mondays-Thursdays from 7pm-9:30pm. There will be some Sundays with earlier and/or longer rehearsal times as opening night approaches. Full show runs will start April 16 and tech week will start April 23. No absences will be allowed during this period. There will be a set schedule for rehearsals and actors may not be required to be present every night. Accommodations to one's specific schedule will be made as much as possible, but is not guaranteed.

*Note: There will be no rehearsal April 6-9 for the Easter holiday.

Performances: Family night will be held on April 30 (in the evening). The show will open on May 5 and run through May 28. Actors must be available all four weekends. Shows start at 8pm on Fridays and Saturdays and at 2:30pm on Sundays. Call time is anticipated to be one hour before the show. *Note: Pickup rehearsals are scheduled for each Wednesday in between shows, but will only be done as needed. The hope is that these will not be needed.

If you have any questions, please contact the director, Jenn Melms, at jenn.melms@gmail.com.

For more information please visit our website at www.smithfieldlittletheatre.org

Smithfield Little Theatre: The Modern Day Yente?

BY JEFF JOHNSON

“Matchmaker, Matchmaker, make me a match, find me a find, catch me a catch.” We’ve all heard the familiar lyrics before. In fact, Smithfield Little Theatre produced the musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, back in the Fall of 2011. In the show, Yente is the local matchmaker of the village of Anatevka. Some can say that SLT is the modern day Yente.

In the past 62 seasons there have been a number of SLT volunteers who have come to find their match while working on a show. In honor of Valentine’s Day (month), let’s meet a few of those familiar SLT faces:

The year was 1978. While Mike Willard was no stranger to the Smithfield stage, this was the first time for Karen, a recent college graduate from Concord, NC. The show was *Once Upon A Mattress*. “I thought Mike was the cutest guy on stage in his tights (that were too tight)”, Karen told me.

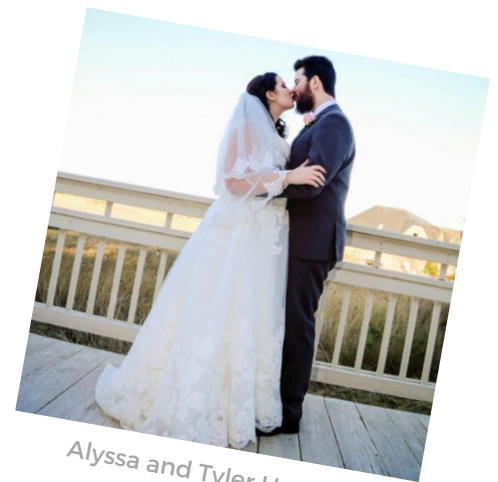
They made it official several shows later and sixteen months after that, they were newlyweds. They worked on shows together such as *Lil’ Abner* and *Barnum*, but, after their twins were born, they took turns acting in shows. When asked what SLT means to them, they both quickly replied, “Family and Friends.” They have raised their family together and have even had their children involved in shows down at the theatre.



Karen and Mike Willard

It is often said that you never know who you’ll bump into, especially down at the theatre. And when Alyssa Harney almost knocked into musician Tyler Harney during a rehearsal of *The Addams Family* musical, they knew it was meant to be. Alyssa had graced the stage numerous times in musicals since 2009, but *The Addams Family* in 2014 was Tyler’s first show.

If you were lucky enough to see the musical *Spamalot*, you might have been in the audience when Tyler proposed to Alyssa at the end of one of the shows. “It’s our favorite memory together at SLT.”



Alyssa and Tyler Harney



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Smithfield Little Theatre: The Modern Day Yente?

James Clarke first got involved with SLT in 2005 during *Beauty and the Beast* while Jeff Johnson wouldn't become a regular at the theatre until 2008. As fate would have it, they crossed paths in 2009 when they both were in *Grand Hotel* together. Not wanting it to be another showmance, "We barely talked during the show, so we definitely waited for the show to close before making it official." One unique memory was Jeff always asking James to review choreography with him. "It was strategic, it allowed us to talk while also working on something for the show." They have since worked on many shows together, usually with Jeff as director and James as an actor, but it wouldn't be until 2016 when they would share the stage again in the musical, *Children of Eden*. When asked about the impact of SLT, James said "It's a second home. We've met some of our best friends here. I'd encourage anyone with the slightest interest to get involved!"



Jeff Johnson and
James Clarke

Not everyone can say that during a show you can kill your fiancé, but Adelaide Dennison can! She was the Assistant Stage Manager for *Clue: On Stage*, and also the gloved hand that whacked the police officer, Adam Dennison, in the head every night. Adelaide has been involved backstage since 2010. Adam, on the other hand, showed up to an audition on a whim and got cast in *Play On!* in 2018. They have since worked on several shows together. When asked what they would tell others about SLT they agreed, "It's a great place to get started in any aspect of theatre and find your tribe. We know how to have fun and put on a good show!"



Adelaide and Adam Dennison



Two-Show Subscriptions

A Charlie Brown Christmas Photos



The Perfect Gift!

JUST IN TIME FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

Still looking for the perfect Valentine's Day gift this year? Smithfield Little Theatre can help with that! Our Two-Show Subscriptions are now on sale on our website. Subscriptions include a ticket to *The Kitchen Witches* (opens February 10th) and *She Loves Me* (opens May 5th).

If you don't feel comfortable selecting seats for your gift recipient, an SLT gift certificate would be perfect! Our gift certificates are available online. You can purchase a gift certificate for any amount and it can be printed at home or emailed directly to the recipient.

To keep updated on our Season Subscriptions visit our website at www.smithfieldlittletheatre.org or call our Box Office at 757-357-7338.



Volunteer Spotlight

Leah Klinger and Kirk Klinger

How did you first get involved with SLT?

We started our involvement at SLT when our daughter Rachel signed up for the Summer Youth Program in 2014. It was so fun and interesting to see and hear what it takes to put on a show at a community theater!

How long have you been volunteering with SLT?

5 Years

What do you do as a volunteer?

We have been volunteering doing mostly concessions and occasional ushering. We really enjoy meeting others who love and dedicate their time and energy to theater.

Describe SLT in 3 words.

Creativity, Excitement and Laughter

What should some who don't already volunteer know about SLT?

Volunteering at SLT is a great way to meet fun, energetic, interesting community members and to give back, especially knowing that concession donations goes to youth scholarships!

Do you have a fun or unique memory with SLT?

A unique and enjoyable experience at SLT is being able to meet with the characters/actors after the play and speak with them giving personal accolades! Very cool!



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
The Kitchen Witches!

Areas needed are:

Box Office, Concessions and Ushers

