

SLT BACKSTAGE

Smithfield Little Theatre Bi-Monthly Newsletter

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



Main Stage

FOUR OLD BROADS

Show Dates: October 6th - 29th, 2023
Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 pm, and
Sundays at 2:30 pm.

Director: Al Buchanan

Assistant Director: April Jones



To purchase tickets visit

<https://www.smithfieldlittletheatre.org/> or
call the Box Office at (757) 357-7338

Upcoming Events

JACOB MARLEY'S CHRISTMAS CAROL

Show Dates: **December 8th - 17th, 2023**

Fridays at 8:00pm

Saturday at 2:30 pm and 8:00 pm

Sundays at 2:30 pm

Directed by **Nina Martin**

Starring:

Kelly Flick as Marley

Kaiti Edwards as The Bogle

John Post as Scrooge

Joey Pendleton as Record Keeper



“Marley was dead, to begin with...” –and what happens to Ebenezer Scrooge’s mean, sour, pruney old business partner after that? Chained and shackled, Marley is condemned to a hellish eternity. He’s even given his own private tormentor: a malicious little hell-sprite who thoroughly enjoys his work. Desperate, Marley accepts his one chance to free himself: To escape his own chains, he must first redeem Scrooge. So begins a journey of laughter and terror, redemption and renewal, during which Scrooge’s heart, indeed, is opened; but not before Marley—in this irreverent, funny and deeply moving story—discovers his own.



Future Audition Dates

EXIT LAUGHING

Director: Rob Fortner

Audition Dates:

December 10th and 11th at 7pm at SLT.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Director: Dillon Bates

Audition Dates:

January 7th and 8th at 7pm at SLT

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



Want to be a Director at SLT?

SLT is now accepting show submissions for our 63rd season. To submit a play or musical please visit our website at <https://www.smithfieldlittletheatre.org/play-reading-committee.html>



Volunteer Spotlight

Dan Steiger



1. How did you first get involved with SLT?

Volunteered to be Big Julie for "Guys and Dolls" for the 2000-2001 season, Final season in the old theater.

2. How long have you been volunteering with SLT?

Since the 2000-2001 season

3. What do you do as a volunteer?

Several jobs, the main one being the Technical Chair - Lighting.

TRICK
OR
TREAT

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 Four Old Broads & Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol
Areas needed are:

Box Office, Concessions and Ushers



Volunteer Spotlight

4. Describe SLT in 3 words.

Just need 1 - family

We come from all walks of life and different beliefs but we come together as 1 family. We work together to bring productions to the community.

5. What should someone who doesn't already volunteer know about SLT?

We have many interests for people. You do not need to be on stage to act, we have many opportunities for people who are interested.

6. Do you have a fun or unique memory with SLT?

Most unique was during "Harvey". At 1 show I saw someone I knew who was going through one life trying trouble, her daughter was terminal. She was there one night. I really appreciated her being at the show. I just hoped we had let her forget about her troubles for 2 hours. I shared this with the cast during the cast call on the next night, reminding them people do come to forget about life. The cast did give one of their best performances.

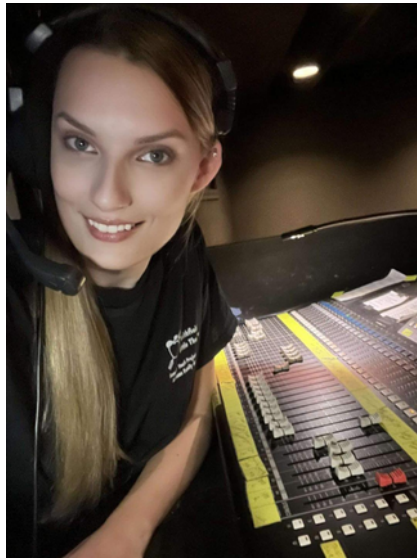
Happy Halloween

Four Old Broads Photos



Volunteer Spotlight

Jessie Morrison



1. How did you first get involved with SLT?

I first got involved during the production of Clue in 2022 where I debuted as the Chef, Telegram girl, and an officer. I'm so glad I took the chance to audition as I really missed having theater in my life.

2. How long have you been volunteering with SLT?

A little over a year and a half

3. What do you do as a volunteer?

Since that first show, I've also volunteered for several shows and two Summer Youth Programs in the sound booth. As well as operating lights and sound for half of our productions of "Four Old Broads".



Volunteer Spotlight

4. Describe SLT in 3 words.

Zany, diligent troupe!

5. What should someone who doesn't already volunteer know about SLT?

SLT is home to such a welcoming group of people and it really is a blast to be part of creating an experience for a packed audience of people.

6. Do you have a fun or unique memory with SLT?

At one rehearsal of Clue, I tripped over a new step up and ACTUALLY fell out of the fridge onto Matt as Mr. Green. No one was injured so it was actually very funny!



Double, Double Toil and Trouble

BY JEFF JOHNSON

...Fire burn and caldron bubble. Is one of the most quoted lines from Shakespeare's Scottish play. Theatre is rich in history and superstition. Now that Fall has come, let's take a look at some of the more common and uncommon superstitions you may or may not know. Speaking of Shakespeare - his play, Macbeth, is one word no actor dares to utter once they are inside a theatre. In fact, during a trip to NYC, this show was in production on Broadway and I noticed signs were posted on the doors of the theatre asking patrons to not speak the name of the show once they entered the building. It is believed that Shakespeare used real curses in the show and that lore continues to haunt the show. The show has a long history of mishaps, misfortunes, and even deaths taken place during the run. Thus, actors do not reference the name of the show while in a theatre.

What is a ghost light you say? Today's modern and practical purpose is to have some sort of light cast on stage so that when the first person enters the theatre they can see and do not trip or harm themselves when opening the building. It is commonly believed that each theatre has a ghost, and the light on stage allows the ghost to perform, appeasing the ghost. Some believe it does the opposite and is used to ward off any spirits.

When was the last time you watched a show on stage and one of the actors whistled? It is a very uncommon thing for an actor to do. The superstition of not whistling on stage grew out of practicality. Before modern technology and automated sets and fly systems, everything was moved manually. Stagehands and fly men positioned backstage and even above the lights in the rafters would use a series of whistles as a form of communication during a show. The whistles couldn't be heard by the audience, but they were cues to move sets or lower or raise curtains and scenery. Whistling by actors on stage has been interpreted as a cue and actors have even gotten injured.

"Break a leg" is the best thing to ever say to an actor before their show. But why? The phrase can be dated back as far as the early 1920's. Back then, actors traveled vaudeville circuits in hopes to perform. The curtains on the side of the stage, used to mask off the backstage area are called "legs." Actors only got paid if they performed or broke the plane that separated the onstage and backstage area. Thus, words of encouragement such as wishing someone "Break a leg" became a way to wish the other acts good luck in hopes that they made it on stage, to be paid.