

# SLT BACKSTAGE

Smithfield Little Theatre Bi-Monthly Newsletter

## NEWS & SHOWS

Main Stage

PAGE 1

It Takes a Village

PAGE 2 - 3

SLT Season 62

PAGE 4

Volunteer Spotlight

PAGE 5



## Main Stage

SHE LOVES ME

Show Dates: May 5th - May 28th, 2023

Fridays and Saturdays 8:00 pm

Sundays at 2:30 pm

Director: Jenn Melms

To purchase tickets visit

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

call the Box Office at (757) 357-7338



# It Takes a Village



BY JEFF JOHNSON

Every year, April is known as Volunteer Appreciation Month. When it comes to theatre, the old saying is true, it really does take a village to put on a show. Directors spend months in advance of their auditions getting ready. The actors spend months rehearsing a show. But what most people don't realize is how many people behind the scenes it truly takes to bring a show to life.

Let's take a simple small comedy as an example. A typical production staff might reflect a small cast of 4, a director, assistant director, lighting and sound designers, lighting and sound board operators, a stage manager, the stage crew usually of 4-5 people, 1-2 costumers, a props person, and a producer. That can be anywhere between 18-20 different people. These people work upwards to 3 months on a show before opening night. Typically, 3-4 nights a week averaging 3 hours a night. That alone is approximately 486-man hours dedicated in 3 months. But let's not forget the people that build and paint the sets. Here at SLT we have a small group of extremely dedicated retirees that come down to the building 2-3 days a week, during the day and usually work 3-4 hours a day, just building and painting sets and scenery. That's another 48 hours a week, more than a full-time job! It is very easy to say, for this small simple comedy that our loving volunteers easily put in 1062 hours over the course of 3 months.

Continued on Page 4



# It Takes a Village



Now, change that simple show into a musical, add a choreographer, musical director, larger casts, more people on stage crew and a band. SLT is extremely lucky to have a pool of band members that volunteer to provide live music for our shows. With a musical that small group of 18-20 can now become 40-45 different people. 1062 hours can easily be tripled if not more with longer rehearsals and more people. Wait, there's more! We haven't forgotten all the volunteers for the front of the house. The ones we see every time we enter the front doors and walk to our seats. There are the ushers, concessions, and box office volunteers that come to be the warm smiling face to greet you each and every show.

I can easily say that it can take anywhere between 4000-to-5000-man hours for each show we bring to the stage. We can't do it without you! A big THANK YOU to each and every volunteer!!! Without your love, dedication, and generosity it wouldn't be possible.

This year SLT held their first ever Member and Volunteer Appreciation event to thank all those for make SLT come to life. SLT appreciates all of those for who help from the front of house to working backstage to working set design.

WE THANK YOU ALL!



# SLT Season 62 2023 - 2024

## The Kitchen Witches Photos



### THREE EXCITING NEW SHOWS NEXT SEASON

Our 62nd Season has been announced!

Beginning in Fall 2023, we will be opening the season with "Four Old Broads" directed by Al Buchanan! Our Winter 2024 pick-me-up show will be "Exit Laughing" directed by Rob Fortner! Our final show of the season, in Spring 2024, will be "The Sound of Music" directed by Dillon Bates!

**\*\*Tickets will go on sale at a later date!\*\***



# Volunteer Spotlight

## Cindy Cole Wersosky



How did you first get involved with SLT?

I had previously done some musical theater work in the 80s and 90s in another state. It all got put on the back burner because life got in the way. After my children were grown and I had retired I decided to seek out the theater again.

How long have you been volunteering with SLT?

My debut with SLT was in December, 2017 with The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of A Christmas Carol: A Comedy.

I've been involved with several shows since then.

What do you do as a volunteer?

You can usually find me in the stage band playing the piano. I did the props for Mousetrap, and I would like to branch out further and try other things.

Describe SLT in 3 words.

Excellent! Awesome! Fun!

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

It's a great place to meet new people and I often sit in the audience to watch rehearsals. It's fun to watch how a show comes together from beginning to end.

Do you have a fun or unique memory with SLT?

The cast parties are the best!

# 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 She Loves Me!

Areas needed are:

Box Office, Concessions and Ushers

