



July 21, 2013

Theater fans turn out for the 'lagniappe' opening of Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carre



[Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carre](#) drew back the curtain on its recent renovations this weekend with a production of "Love, Loss and What I Wore." The theater, which went through a tumultuous couple of years due to financial issues, described this show as "lagniappe" for theater fans. It's full season doesn't start until the fall.

The production features actresses Tracey Collins, Lara Grice, Claire Moncrief, Janet Shea and Mary Louise Wilson this weekend. And, on July 26-28, the cast features Leslie Castay, Cecile Monteyne, Nell Nolan, Janet Shea, Carol Sutton. Carl Walker directs.

Le Petit suspended its season in 2010 while facing default on a bank loan, and its future seemed in doubt until the Dickie Brennan restaurant group purchased 60 percent of its expansive building, helping to pay off the theater's debts. Brennan's [**Tableau has since opened.**](#)

The 365-seat Le Petit, which opened to the public in 1916 and is often described as the nation's oldest community theater still in operation, occupies its original space on the right side of the building next to Jackson Square.

The performances are serving as fundraisers for Dress for Success New Orleans, a nonprofit dedicated that provides clothing for women entering the workforce. Theater-goers are asked to bring “gently worn” professional attire to the theater and/or to purchase raffles for prizes, with all proceeds going to Dress for Success.

Le Petit's full season of five plays kicks off Sept. 6-21, with "Lombardi." For more details, visit **[the theater's website](#)**.