

# A CHRISTMAS STORY

The Musical



PRESENTED BY THEATRE 7



Decatur, IL

*Civic*  
Center

**DECEMBER 9, 10, 15, 16, 17**  
7:30PM FRI/SAT | 2PM SUNDAY  
**DECATUR CIVIC CENTER**

*Book by Joseph Robinette. Music and lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul. Based on the motion picture A Christmas Story distributed by Warner Bros., written by Jean Shepherd, Leigh Brown and Bob Clark, and upon In God We Trust: All Others Pay Cash written by Jean Shepherd. Produced with permission of Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures and Dalfie Entertainment.*

# A CHRISTMAS STORY The Musical

A THEATRE 7 PRODUCTION

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**Co-Directors:** Kathy Zientara & Evan Miller

**Producer:** Emily Steele

**Vocal Director:** Lyn Sly Mallard

**Orchestra Director:** Lyn Sly Mallard

**Choreographer:** Timber Ziegler

**Costumer:** Dina Fryman

**House Manager:** Penny Williams

**Stage Manager:** Evan Miller

**Set Designer:** Jerry Johnson

**Props:** Cheryl Laskowski

**Lighting Designer:** Otis the Cat

**Program Designer:** Emma Roark

## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This program is partially supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Illinois Arts Council Agency, and the Decatur Area Arts Council.



**CONTENT WARNING:** Curse words & gunshot sound effects are used in this show.

# CREWS

**Set Construction:** Scott Magruder, Stephen Trout, Jerry Johnson

**Set Painting:** Jerry Johnson, Scott Magruder, Stephen Trout, Teresa Goller

**Costume Assistants:** Mary Wilking, Cheryl Laskowski, Delia Larkins, Laura Philips

**Backstage Crew:** Scott Magruder, Doug Fryman, Noah Hamilton, Teresa Goller

**Orchestra:** Lyn Sly Mallard (Keyboard), Manley Mallard (Bass), Dave Burdick (Bass), Tim Montgomery (Drums), Evan Hill (Drums)

**Family Activity Organizers:** Kathy Zientara, Mary Wilking, RuthAnn Holmes, Lesa Andrick, Penny Williams



SINCE 1970  
**DBS**  
DECATUR BICYCLE STORE

TUESDAY-SATURDAY 10AM-4PM  
1230 E. PERSHING ROAD, DECATUR  
(217) 875-3271

Unwrap something magical this season



**Seeking Justice  
Spreading Kindness  
Embracing Inclusion**

## **First Presbyterian Church**

**204 W. Prairie Ave., Decatur, IL  
217-429-4195 [fpcdecatur.org](http://fpcdecatur.org)  
PC(USA)**



**8:45 NewSong Service  
11:00 Sanctuary Service**

Please be considerate of the actors and fellow audience members and silence digital devices.



*Audio and/or visual recordings of this production are strictly prohibited. They are a violation of the author's rights, and actionable under copyright law.*

# SETTING

*Time: 1940 | Place: Hohman, IN*

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## ACT I

**IT ALL COMES DOWN TO CHRISTMAS (PART 1**

RALPHIE, THE PARKERS

**IT ALL COMES DOWN TO CHRISTMAS (PART 2)**

THE PARKERS, ADULTS, KIDS

**HIGBEE'S WINDOW**

RALPHIE, KIDS, ENSEMBLE

**RED RYDER CARBINE-ACTION BB GUN**

RALPHIE, JEAN

**IT ALL COMES DOWN TO CHRISTMAS (REPRISE)**

FULL COMPANY

**THE GENIUS ON CLEVELAND STREET**

THE OLD MAN, MOTHER

**WHEN YOU'RE A WIMP** - KIDS

**RALPHIE TO THE RESCUE!**

RALPHIE, FULL COMPANY

**WHAT A MOTHER DOES** - MOTHER

**A MAJOR AWARD**

THE OLD MAN, MOTHER, ADULTS

**PARKER FAMILY SING-ALONG** - THE PARKERS

**ACT 1 FINALE** - RALPHIE, FULL COMPANY

—— **INTERMISSION: 15 MINUTES** ——

# ACT II

## STICKY SITUATION

RALPHIE, SCHWARTZ, FLICK, KIDS, MISS SHIELDS, FLICK'S MOM, NURSE, POLICEMAN, DOCTOR, FIREMAN

## TO THE NIGHTCLUB

FARKUS, DILL, SCHWARTZ, FLICK, KIDS

**YOU'LL SHOOT YOUR EYE OUT!** - MISS SHIELDS, KIDS

**THE FIGHT** - KIDS

**JUST LIKE THAT** - MOTHER

## RED RYDER (REPRISE) & AT HIGBEE'S

RALPHIE, ELVES

## UP ON SANTA'S LAP

SANTA, ELVES, MARY BETH, NANCY, GOGGLES KID, KIDS

## BEFORE THE OLD MAN COMES HOME

THE PARKERS

## SOMEWHERE HOVERING OVER INDIANA

RALPHIE, RANDY, KIDS

**CHRISTMAS MORNING** - RALPHIE, RANDY

## RALPHIE TO THE RESCUE! (REPRISE)

RALPHIE, FULL COMPANY

## A CHRISTMAS STORY

THE PARKERS, FULL COMPANY



## JOIN THEATRE 7

**ACT | SEW | BUILD | DIRECT**

Talk to an usher, email [dectheatre7@gmail.com](mailto:dectheatre7@gmail.com), or message us on social media to get involved!

# CAST

Jean Shepherd.....	Jerry Johnson
Ralphie .....	Branson Duffer
Mother .....	Emily Steele
The Old Man .....	Josh Sowa
Randy .....	Elaina Kater
Schwartz/Goggles Kid .....	Owen Sowa
Flick .....	Jonah Lyon
Miss Shields .....	Timber Ziegler
Scut Farkus/Black Bart .....	Isaac Medler
Grover Dill .....	Andi Mitchell
Santa/Villain .....	Scott Kelly
Esther Jane/Girl #3 .....	Alexis Mears
Mary Beth/ Girl #1 .....	Jolene Nelson
Nancy/Girl #2 .....	Coralin Medler
Mrs Schwartz .....	Madison Grider
Flick's Mother .....	Leta Burch
Female Chief Elf .....	Heather Harlow
Male Chief Elf/ Fireman.....	David Gilpin
Policeman/Bank Robber #1 .....	Taner Eiswald
Bank Robber #2 .....	Sunset Ziegler
Nurse .....	Kaitlyn Wond

**Specialty Tappers:** Timber Ziegler, Sunset Ziegler, Madison Grider, Kate Ciambella-Eiswald, Alexis Mears

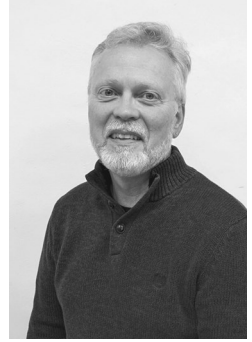
**Adult Ensemble:** Leta Burch, Kate Ciambella-Eiswald, Taner Eiswald, Bette Felstead, David Gilpin, Madison Grider, Heather Harlow, Scott Kelly, Kaitlyn Wond, Sunset Ziegler

**Kids Ensemble:** Jonah Lyon, Alexis Mears, Coralin Medler, Isaac Medler, Andi Mitchell, Jolene Nelson, Owen Sowa

# PUT THE NAMES TO FACES

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**Jerry Johnson (Jean)** - Jerry Johnson is a Decatur native and has been active in the local theatre scene for more than 40 years as an actor, director, and set designer. He recently directed Theatre 7's production of "Something Rotten" and performed in the Decatur Area Arts Council's production of the "Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged Revised Again." Jerry has a BFA in art from Millikin University and a master's degree in theatre from Illinois State University.



**Branson Duffer (Ralphie)** - Branson is 11 years old. He loves performing in plays and playing football. His hobbies are collecting Transformers, reading, and playing video games. He loves watching "A Christmas Story" during the holidays, which is why he is so excited about playing Ralphie! OHH FUDGE!!



**Emily Steele (Mother)** - Emily is so jolly and joyful to be back on stage with Theatre 7 as Ralphie and Randy's mother! You may have seen her previously as Vera in "Stepping Out," Poppy in "Noises Off," Frau Blucher in "Young Frankenstein the Musical," or backstage in a variety of roles. When not competing with a lamp, you can find Emily's legs pedaling a bicycle or walking her comfort dog Sophie.





**Josh Sowa (The Old Man)** - Josh is excited to be back on the stage with Theatre 7! He has done many shows with them including: "Leaving Iowa," "Spamalot," "The Explorer's Club," and "Young Frankenstein." He is especially thrilled to be sharing the stage with his son Owen Sowa, who will be performing in his very first show!



**Elaina Kater (Randy)** - Elaina's friends and family call her Lainie. She is a fourth grader at Meridian Elementary School who has 2 dogs and 2 cats. She likes doing theatre a lot and wishes to continue performing after this musical. In her free time, Lainie likes to draw, do crafts, and watch musicals/plays on Disney+ or YouTube.



**Owen Sowa (Schwartz/Goggles Kid)** - This is Owen's very first show, but definitely not his last! He is excited to be performing in this production and has had so much fun doing it. Owen runs his own YouTube channel, OwieOhTV and has been featured on MTV's hit show "Ridiculousness."



**Jonah Lyon (Flick)** - Jonah first discovered and developed an interest in theatre in fourth grade. His love for it has only grown since then. When he isn't busy with a play/musical, you can find him listening to music and playing guitar or video games. "A Christmas Story" is his second favorite Christmas movie—right behind "A Nightmare Before Christmas."

**Timber Ziegler (Miss Shields)** - Timber is thrilled to be a part of this production! She has performed in many shows and recitals in the area. Most recent productions include: "Rock of Ages" (The Muni) and "Dearly Departed" (Theatre 7). Timber would also like to thank her family for their neverending support.



**Isaac Medler (Scut Farkus/Black Bart)** - This is Isaac's first musical with Theatre 7. In the past, he has performed in "Grease," "Aladdin," and "Mamma Mia!" through Warrensburg School District. He loves various art mediums — including clay sculpting, pencil, paper, and painting.



**Andi Mitchell (Grover Dill)** - Andi has a pet cat and gecko. She is a fifth grader at Montessori Academy for Peace. She loves Minecraft and being part of this show!

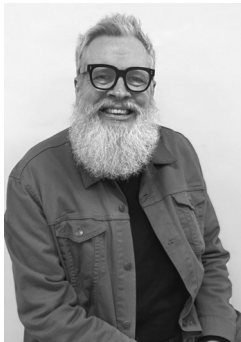


## THE CENTRAL SOURCE



**DID YOU KNOW?**

You can recycle  
your program  
after the show!



**Scott Kelly (Santa)** - Scott has been on stage with Theatre 7 before in shows like "The Point" and "Gyrant the Terrible Tyrant." He has been doing improv and stand-up comedy since he was 16. You may recognize him from when he was on Price is Right or when he was an extra in Legally Blonde 2. Scott dedicates this show in memory of his parents, Frank and Pat Kelly. Merry Christmas!



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FACEBOOK: @Theatre7Decatur | INSTAGRAM: @theatre7

**Pipe Dreams**

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**2023-2024**

**Season**



1099 W Wood St,  
Decatur, IL 62522

BASED ON THE FAMOUS STORY BY  
**Stephen King**  
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Sep. 22-30th

March 1-10th



Oct. 27th - Nov. 11th

April 12-27th



# Our Supporters

**Thank you to our generous patrons!** Theatre 7 is a 501(c)3 non-profit. Patronages are tax deductible. Recently purchased patronages may not be listed to accommodate the print deadline.

## **Producer - \$1,000**

Mark & Kathy Sorensen

## **Director - \$500**

Alan & Beth Frigy  
Dina & Doug Fryman  
Laura & Matt Philips  
Scott Magruder

## **Actor - \$225**

Sharon K Butler  
Barb & Marty Hipple  
Julie & Ernie Marsh  
Adib & Lyn Tashakkor  
Otis the Cat  
Kathy Zientara

## **Patron - \$150**

Connie & Mike Albert  
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Alice & Bill Huebner  
Jerry Johnson  
Patsy Johnson  
Everett & Shirley Kuhn

## **Friend - \$75**

Patty Barr  
Cheryl Laskowski  
Ross Moyer  
Mike Stubblefield  
Patricia Tarallo

# Coming Soon

## **Drinking Habits**

Feb. 24 & 25 and March 1-3 | 7:30P/2P  
Decatur Civic Center

## **Star on the Door**

April 27 & 28 and May 3-5 | 7:30P/2P  
Decatur Civic Center

**Tickets available on [deaturciviccenter.org/events](http://deaturciviccenter.org/events).**

## ABOUT THEATRE 7

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Theatre 7 is a 501(c)3 non-profit, volunteer-run organization, dedicated to fostering the theater arts in the Decatur area.

Every season, the cast and crew made up entirely of volunteers produce three mainstage productions as well as several dinner theaters.

**Get Involved:** We need actors, builders, musicians, graphic designers, and more! Learn more by attending our membership meeting on the second Monday of the month at 7 pm at 131 N. Water St., Decatur. Or, contact us at [dectheatre7@gmail.com](mailto:dectheatre7@gmail.com) or (217) 362-2008.

**Become a Patron!** Ticket sales do not cover production costs or upkeep of our aging downtown headquarters. Support Theatre 7 by becoming a patron, purchasing a program ad, making a charitable donation, being a corporate sponsor, or hosting a dinner theatre.

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