

November 25-December 24, 2016 Fridays & Saturdays 7:30pm Sundays 2:00pm

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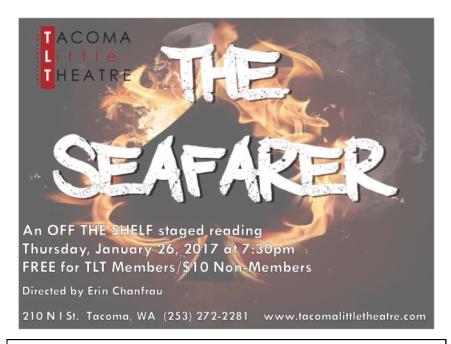






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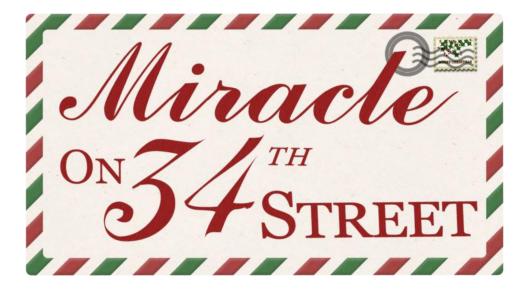
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Directed by Maria Valenzuela

Based upon the Twentieth Century Fox motion picture

Miracle on 34th Street

Adapted by Mountain Community Theater from the novel by Valentine Davies

Produced by special arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Company, Inc. of Woodstock, Illinois

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Director's Note

Most of us have an early memory of the story, *Miracle On 34th Street.* Whether it was seeing the 1947 film classic starring Maureen O'Hara, Edmund Gwenn, and a young Natalie Wood; one of the three made-for-TV movies (I am particularly fond of the 1955 version with Thomas Mitchell); the 1994 film remake; a stage play, the musical, or reading the actual novella by Valentine Davies, there are very few of us who don't at least know the gist of the story about the single mother who can no longer trust love and raises her young daughter to deny anything outside of reality. That is, until a chance encounter with a kindly old gentleman who encourages them both to allow themselves to use their imaginations and learn to have faith when all the answers just aren't obvious.

As we rehearsed this play and became more familiar with this particular rendition of the story, it became obvious that everyone involved had a very different recollection of the story and what things about their own experience were most important to that memory. At one point or another, we each found ourselves comparing this script to our favorite version of this tale. And then the realization hit... historical accuracies, believable events, and sensible expressions were, quite frankly, unimportant. Justifying our approach to the script was actually a contradiction to the message of the story itself. Every version of this story contains elements completely different from another, but we could not lessen anyone else's experience. The one thing everyone did have in common was that we each held on to those details that made this story memorable for us. We were encouraged as a team to take ownership of this new-to-us version and present to you another interpretation of this classic story. Our only expectations were believing in what we were doing and having a great time doing it. What a fantastic way to put on a show!

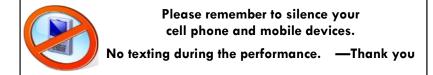
I am so proud to have a cast of such diverse theatrical experience to work with on this project. Our newest inductees into the Tacoma theatrical community were given the opportunity to learn directly alongside some the region's most seasoned actors. Everyone from age five to 75 had a job to do, and their contribution was just as respected and appreciated. There is nothing more exciting than providing a safe place for someone to try something new, and I am so thrilled that Tacoma Little Theatre continues to be that place.

"Faith is believing in something when common sense tells you not to."

Enjoy! Maria

Artistic Staff

DirectorMaria Valenzuela
Stage Manager Betzy Miller
Set Design/Master CarpenterBlake R. York
Assistant CarpenterRon Bauer
Resident Costume Designer Michele Graves
Resident Lighting DesignerNiclas R. Olson
Resident Properties ManagerJeffery Weaver
Photography Dennis K Photography
Graphic Design
Light Board Operator Emma Deloye
Build CrewDan Galagan & Blake York, Sr.
Paint CrewErin Chanfrau, Jen York
Ana Bury, Ron Bauer, Sarah Dohring
Betzy Miller, Robel Fessehai



Staff Biographies

Maria Valenzuela (Director)

Maria is an award-winning actress, singer, and stage and musical director who has performed throughout the U.S. and abroad. Her work as a stage director and music director has been seen locally at Tacoma Little Theatre (It's A Wonderful Life, Little Shop of Horrors), Vashon Opera, Dukesbay Theatre, TMP, ASTRA, OLT, and more. She is also currently the Director of Music and Drama at Saint Patrick School.

Betzy Miller (Stage Manager)

Realizing that she could not depend on her looks forever, Betzy decided to learn some other jobs in the theatre she might be able to do, other than act. Betzy would like to thank Maria for giving her a chance to try something new. This has been a great learning lessons. Stage Managers (good ones) work tirelessly, and keep everything together in order to make the show a smooth sailing endeavor. Betzy would like to thank this cast for hanging on during some of the wake she inadvertently caused. And, a very special thanks to Nena and Kerry for being the tug boats that guided this mystified dinghy.

Blake R. York (Technical Director/Master Carpenter/Set Design)

Blake has been involved with theatre in the area for the past 13 years. Blake serves as TLT's Technical Director, Set Designer, and this year as Graphic Designer for the season posters. Favorite designs in the area include: Sleuth, Sylvia, Scrooge! The Musical, A Christmas Story, Rabbit Hole, Cabaret (TLT), Oliver!, A Funny Thing...., The Lion in Winter (Lakewood Playhouse), Seussical, Pippi Longstocking (Tacoma Musical Playhouse), and The Tempest (Olympia Little Theatre). He would like to thank his wife Jen, his parents, and his friends for everything they have done and continue to do for him.

Michele Graves (Resident Costume Designer)

Michele has been the Resident Costume Designer for the past four seasons. The quality of the shows, casts, and crews make it a pleasure to be a part of this theatre. Whether doing a period production or a contemporary piece, she enjoys costuming the many actors and getting to know the characters they portray. "This has been my favorite season yet! The shows, production teams, casts, and costuming opportunities have been fabulous."

Staff Biographies

Niclas Olson (Resident Lighting Designer)

Niclas is pleased to return to TLT as resident lighting designer. Past designs for TLT include Someone Who'll Watch Over Me, The Joy Luck Club, Little Shop of Horrors, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and Cabaret. Other local design credits include: Oliver!, The Woman in Black, The Rainmaker (LPH), Tea (Dukesbay), and Doctor Faustus (New Muses). He is the managing artistic director of New Muses Theatre Company. www.NiclasOlson.com

Jeffery Weaver (Resident Properties Manager)

Jeffery is delighted to be the resident props master/hair consultant extraordinaire for another stellar year. He enjoys working with the amazing staff here at Tacoma Little Theatre. He would like to thank his wonderful husband Bruce, and children who continue to support his work both on and off stage. He would like to send love to his BFF and Wifey #1 Ms. Jen. As the wise Tallulah once said, "If you really want to HELP the American Theater don't be an actor datapling... BE an audience!!" Much



Special Thanks

Michael Dresdner
Micheal O'Hara

Pete & Cheryl Burgess
Pat Williams

Lakewood Playhouse
Mike Reynolds

Alisyn Christensen
Genevieve Long

Susan Rinker



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Session #2 February 21-March 25, 2017



ROBIN HOOD AND MAID MARIAN TAKE TO THE TLT STAGE!

Directed by Nena Curley

Robin Hood, the outlaw of Sherwood Forest, leads a merry life with his followers. Anyone who is hungry or who has no place to live is welcome in the greenwood. The citizens of the forest oppose wicked Prince John. He's taken the place of King Richard the Lion-Hearted, who has gone to the Holy Land on a crusade. One day a caravan cuts through the wood. In the convoy is Robin's childhood sweetheart, Maid Marian, ward of King Richard. Alas, the evil Lady Merle of Cornwall plans to force Marian to marry the Prince in an effort to make John more acceptable to the people of England. To arms! It's up to Robin to stop the marriage, defeat a nasty sheriff and secure Nottingham for the king's return.

All rehearsals/performances are held at Tacoma Little Theatre 210 N I Street Tacoma, WA253-272-2281

REHEARSALS

February 21-March 23 Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:00pm-6:00pm

PERFORMANCE

Saturday March 25 at 2:00pm



TUITION

\$185.00

All students enrolled are cast in the production (Some Financial Aid is available)

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Tacoma Little Theatre Board of Directors is delighted to have you in our audience, and we hope that you are enriched by this live theatre experience. Our Board has several goals for the upcoming year; please let us know if you want to be a part of achieving them!

- Provide greater access, on stage and off, to our community. While we have been known to cast broadly, we've taken it a step further, and our casting notices specify that auditions are open to all racial and ethnic backgrounds unless otherwise specified. We encourage auditions from people of all backgrounds.
- Provide clearer opportunities for volunteerism. We've always relied on our wonderful volunteers for ushering, and ticket taking, and event planning along with other work. We are now strengthening our Board committees and looking for people who are interested in volunteering with us on event planning, fundraising, facilities, and governance. If you have any interest in serving with any of those committees, please let Chris Serface (chris@tacomalittletheatre.com) know.
- Prepare for our upcoming 100th anniversary and begin planning for continued upgrades to our facility.

Tacoma Little Theatre is fortunate to have strong leadership in Chris Serface, and we look forward to continued success with his leadership and our connection to you and the rest of our community.

Enjoy the show!

The Tacoma Little Theatre Board of Directors



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Cast of Characters

Duncan/Lou/Johnny's Grandpa	Curtis Beech
Mrs. Mara	Cyra Benedict
Mr. Macy	Kerry Bringman
Elf Z	Makayla Broxton
Susan Walker (11/25, 27 & 12/3, 8, 10, 16, 18, 23)/Meagan	Mimosa Clyons
Drunk Santa/Halloran En	ric Cuestas-Thompson
Doris Walker	
Kris Kringle	
Sharon	Eva Hay
Dr. Pierce	Kenton Jackson
Fred Gayley	Cannon Jones
Ms. Leslie Sawyer	Diana Martin
Dutch Girl	Evie Merrill
Johnny	Luke Miller
Elf Q	Mary Norton
Finley/Sharon's Parent	Paul Parker
Mr. Bloomingdale/Al	
Mrs. Shellhammer	Marion Read
Judge Harriet Harper/Bag Lady	Mary Sheehan
Elf J	
Janet Mara	
Sydney Stewart/Foster Parent	Margie Stenberg
Susan Walker (11/26 & Dec 2, 4, 9, 11, 17, 22, 24)/Meagan	Abbie Wachter

Setting

Time & Place

Winter, 1949 New York, New York

Interlude Music played by Cyra Benedict & Marion Read

Act I: 60 minutes Act II: 50 minutes There will be a 15 minute intermission



Curtis Beech (Duncan/Lou/Johnny's Grandpa)

Curtis is very happy and proud to be part of this talented ensemble. Other shows at TLT include: *The Crucible, Orphan Train, A Flea in Her Ear, Frost and Nixon, It's a Wonderful* and *Miracle on 34th St* (2012). Love and thanks to Steve and all who believe in me. "Special thanks to LG and LSP."



Cyra Benedict (Mrs. Mara)

Cyra is thrilled to be making her TLT debut with a director she has long admired. Typically seen on stage as a vocalist, she has performed with the Seattle Symphony Chorale, at Carnegie Hall, New York, and at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. Cyra has recently relocated to Tacoma, where she lives with her husband, son, and crazy little dog.



Kerry Bringman (Mr. Macy)

Kerry has enjoyed acting for over 40 years; the last nine years locally. He was last seen as Cogsworth in *Beauty and the Beast* and Dr. Einstein in *Arsenic and Old Lace* at Manestage Theatre, and as Frisky in *Second Samuel* at TLT. He thanks you for keeping local theatre alive and well.



Makayla Broxton (Elf Z)

Makayla has been doing theater since she was seven years old. She was recently seen in *The Little Mermaid* as a "Mersister" at Paradise Theatre. Makayla wants to thank her friends and family for supporting her through her journey. "Enjoy the show!"



Mimosa Clyons (Susan Walker/Meagan)

This is Mimi's first performance at TLT. She has done two school plays at Pioneer MS where she is in the 6th grade. Mimi enjoys ice skating and acting. When she grows up, she would like to be an actor and an archeologist. Every other summer Mimi and her family travel to Italy to visit the home town of her mother.



Eric Cuestas-Thompson (Drunk Santa/Halloran)

Eric's recent Washington productions include *Death of a Salesman, Ghosts, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, The Addams Family,* and *Annie!* His favorite roles include Harpagon (*The Miser*), Mortimer (*Arsenic and Old Lace*), and Murray (*The Odd Couple*). He thanks hubby Michael, without whose love and support Eric would have never stepped on stage.



Nena Curley (Doris Walker)

This is Nena's first time on stage at TLT. You may have seen her running around and stage managing past shows (*Dracula, Smokey Joe's Cafe, Steel Magnolias*) or teaching the youth theatre class here, as well. She thanks Maria for this wonderful chance, Betzy and the stage crew for all their hard work, her family and Dylan for their support and assistance.



Michael Dresdner (Kris Kringle)

A theatre reviewer and Argosy Christmas Ship Santa, Michael's stage appearances include: The Chosen, Seven Year Itch, Much Ado About Nothing, Fiddler on the Roof, Black Coffee, Pirates of Penzance, 1776, Endgame, The Crucible, and Twelve Angry Men.



Eva Hay (Sharon)

Eva is 10 years old and attends Charles Wright Academy. This is her first mainstage show. Eva would like to thank her family, especially her older sister in college.



Kenton Jackson (Dr. Pierce)

Coming from McDonough, GA, this isn't Kent's first curtain call! Performing in many different plays he is highly motivated for the theater arts. He has gained his experience through many different places including New York in Bill Duke Actors' Boot Camp.



Cannon Jones (Fred Gayley)

Cannon is pleased to be performing in his first show at TLT. As a trial lawyer living in Texas the last 11 years, he's excited to be back in his hometown Seattle area. A scholarship baseball player in college, he still enjoys playing the game as well as flying, farming, and studying acting.



Diana Martin (Ms. Leslie Sawyer)

Diana is very excited to be returning to the TLT stage. She's been performing in the Puget Sound area for several years. Favorite roles include: Velma Kelly (Chicago), Esme Allen (Amy's View), Maria (Lend Me A Tenor), and Susan in the film "Daylight Savings Time". She is also a member of Turbo Turkey; a Seattle sketch comedy/improv group.



Evie Merrill (Dutch Girl)

Evie is 7 years old and attends Browns Point Elementary. She loves soccer and skiing. Actually, she says she really likes everything in life! She played Skip the Shepherd in her church's Christmas play last year and Bully the Bull Frog in *Swamped*. "I love being in this play and hope you love it, too!"



Luke Miller (Johnny)

Luke is 10 years old and in the 5th grade. Most recently, he played Coach Bolton in TLT's summer camp, *High School Musical*, and Randy in *A Christmas Story*. "Thank you, Mom, for all your help in assisting me in reaching my ultimate dream. Thank you, Dad, for picking me up and taking me out for special dinners."



Mary Norton (Elf Q)

Mary is extremely grateful to be in her first mainstage production. She has been participating in educational programs at local theaters and also played the title character in *Bugsy Malone* at St. Patrick School. Mary would like to thank Maria and Betzy for guiding her through this process and her family, friends, and cast mates for supporting her. Enjoy the show!



Paul Parker (Finley/Sharon's Parent)

A policy wonk by day, Paul is delighted to spend his free hours with Kris Kringle and friends, and especially the wonderful kids of NYC. He thanks Sally, Sophie, and Victoria for their support and patience.



William Michael Paul (Mr. Bloomingdale/Al)

William works and teaches on stage, in movies, commercials, print work, and voiceovers, directing or producing and lately, writing screenplays. The arts bring joy to this proud father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and husband of Katie. William would like to dedicate his performance to his to his daughter, whom the angels called home 6 years ago, Julia Anne.



Marion Read (Mrs. Shellhammer)

Marion is honored to be in her second production at TLT where she appeared in *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Calpurnia). Marion's professional credits span 30 years. She has appeared as a concert soprano soloist, and performed summer stock, regional theatre, and opera throughout the United States. She is thankful for her God-given talent and the support of her loving husband.



Mary Sheehan (Judge Harriet Harper/Bag Lady)

Mary is excited to be participating in TLT's spirited production of *Miracle on 34th Street*. She has been active in community theater in Edmonds, Woodinville, North Bend, Redmond and the San Francisco area. "Christmas shows are the best!" she says.



Jayda Slack (Elf J)

This is Jayda's first show at Tacoma Little Theatre! Jayda is 14 years old and a second-year student in Village Theatre's Musical Theatre Institute. Favorite roles are Motormouth Maybelle in *Hairspray* and the Queen of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland*. Jayda would like to thank her Mom for always supporting her and Betzy for being a wonderful stage manager!



Violet Brielle Spataro (Janet Mara)

Violet is excited about her first performance with TLT. Best known for her recurring role on The Ellen Show and co-hosting Evening of Excellence with Disney Channel's Ben Savage, Violet lives in Gig Harbor and recently wrapped filming for the Macy's Believe Campaign in which she is featured this holiday season.



Margie Stenberg (Sydney Stewart/Foster Parent)

This is Margie's first show at TLT. Her work history has been in cosmetic sales at Nordstrom's and Macy's. Margie graduated from Carolyn Hansen Modeling and Finishing School and worked as a professional model in print, runway, and film. She was also a teacher at the Vogue Modeling School.



Abbie Wachter (Susan Walker/Megan)

Abbie is excited to make her TLT debut. Her other roles include Sally in *A Charlie_Brown Christmas* and Molly in *Annie* at Tacoma Musical Playhouse. Abbie attends Tacoma's Saint Patrick School where she enjoys band, choir, and piano.

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A word from Chris Serface about TLT's Annual Fund Drive

Dear Patron of Tacoma Little Theatre:

Thank you for making our 98th Season start strong. The Underpants brought laughter to the theatre and was one of our most attended plays in the past three years. Last year you laughed with us, cried with us, and had a rock-n-rolling good time. We know that you'll join us as we entertain you with the rest of our great season coming up. During last season, through your generosity, you helped us raise funds for the installation of a new air conditioning system that has made the auditorium more comfortable. In less than 11 months you were able to help us fully fund and complete that project. **THANK YOU!**

"My partner and I are absolutely in love with TLT and always have a great time at every show we go to—we always leave impressed and happy! Thank you!!!." -A TLT patron

Tacoma Little Theatre has been your theatre for the past 98 years. We are one of only a handful of community theatres in the entire country that has survived this long. You've been with us through all the challenges, and all the successes that have come our way. Ticket sales alone can not sustain the performing arts in our community. It is only through the continued support of our community members that the arts can thrive. Last year we set our targets high with an Annual Fund drive of \$15,000. You not only helped us reach that goal, but we were able to exceed it by \$10,000. Because of this we retired some old debt, purchased a new lighting program, and acquired LED energy efficient lights to make your performance experience even better.

"As a long time season ticket holder, I am impressed with the improvements to TLT and how full the theatre is!" -A TLT patron

This season an anonymous donor (one of our angels) has pledged to match our Annual Fund donations dollar for dollar up to \$20,000. That means that if you donate \$100 today, that amount will be matched and will allow us to continue to present the high quality productions you have come to enjoy.

In addition to the improvements you helped us achieve last year, you also helped the future of theatre in our community. Twenty-two students were given scholarships to help them be a part of our After School and Summer Camp programs as a direct result of your donations. When you come to one of our youth performances this year, remember that some of those students are there because of you.

"My daughter loved 'everything' including learning and performing. I loved that I felt comfortable dropping her off each day and not worrying about her well-being." -A parent of a Summer Camp @ TLT student

Tacoma Little Theatre continues to flourish thanks to your continued patronage. We offer a range of donation options that are listed at the bottom of this letter. You can even pledge your donation amount over a monthly or quarterly payment schedule. If you are interested in establishing a legacy gift of support through planned (estate) giving or stock transfers, please contact me directly. Remember that any amount helps us, from \$1 to \$10,000. TLT is a recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization making your donation fully tax-deductible.

If you have already donated to us this season, thank you! If you are considering donating to us now, thank you! Please fill out the bottom portion of this letter or go to www.tacomalittletheatre.com to make a donation online. To donate over the phone, you may call me personally at 253-272-2281. Having the chance to speak with you is one of the best parts of my job.

All my best,

Chris Serface
Managing Artistic Director

Tacoma Little Theatre's Annual Fund Donors

Tacoma Little Theatre is a 501(c)(3) organization and survives through the continued support of our community. If you would like to donate, please fill out a form in our lobby or speak with any of our staff. This list is current as of November 25, 2016.

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