

## Director's Notes

Welcome to the world of the North Pole! In Norm Fosters' "Dear Santa", we are given some insights into the inner workings of this place, ripe with mischievous elves, an adle-brained shop manager, a Malvolian Chief-of-Staff, and a ditzzy little housekeeper. Even Santa, in all his omnipotence, is really a great big kid (with a great big heart). Throw into the mix a slick super-sonic sleigh salesman (try saying that 3 times fast) and you've definitely got something out of the ordinary. Even the stereotypes are slanted in this cartoonish, light hearted faire. That's why it is perfect for the whole family to see, during a season where joy and laughter is sometimes hard to find. It is not meant to be taken very seriously, but it does have a gentle, sweet message that affects every character in the story. Even Kit, the "little girl with attitude" comes away with a new outlook on the old holiday phrase "Good will towards men". Having spent 36 years in educational theatre, it is really fun for me to step outside the box and do something different. This is my mainstage directorial debut at TLT (although I worked in the TLT Youth Summer Theatre Program MANY years ago) and it is nice to get back to work in the community. I didn't know community theatre could be this fun but I credit that to a great group of people working here. The cast, crew and administrative staff have made every day of rehearsal a delight! So I guess the spirit of this cheesy little holiday show has affected us as well. We hope you'll relax from the holiday stress and just plain enjoy watching "Dear Santa" as much as we will enjoy presenting it to you. Happy Holidays!

Julie Halpin



**Direction and Costume Design**

Julie Halpin

**Stage Manager**

Kelly Herremans

**Scene Design**

Ryan Coleman

**Light Design**

Matt Oiser

## Cast

Santa.....Kerry Bringman  
Algernon Gladstone.....James Thomas Patrick  
Kit Bishop.....Katie McClure  
Bozidar.....Blake R. York  
Octavia.....Kate Russell  
Lou Flapdoodle.....Christopher Cline  
Fiddlesticks/Michael Bishop.....Joseph Allegro  
Phooey.....Bryan Hanner  
Balderdash.....Kaijona Wade  
Piffle.....Monica Meyer  
Skiffle.....Kelsey Harrison  
Mrs/ Bishop.....Kelly Herremans

### Setting: The North Pole

#### Act I

Scene 1: Santa's Office  
Scene 2: Santa's Workshop  
Scene 3: Santa's Office  
Scene 4: Santa's Workshop  
Scene 5: Santa's Office  
Scene 6: Santa's workshop

**A 15 minute Intermission**  
**(refreshments are available in the lobby)**

#### Act II

Scene 1: Santa's Workshop  
Scene 2: Santa's Workshop

## Artistic Staff

Light and Sound Board Operator.....Krista Grimmett  
Set Construction.....Mike Valentine, Matt Osier, Doug Kerr  
Set Painting.....Cindy Taylor, Kim Izenman  
Sound Design.....Ryan Coleman  
Programs.....Kelly Herremans  
Photography.....Dean Lapin

### Special Thanks To:

Lakewood Playhouse, Mary Johnson, Lakewood Costume, Justine Tvedt,  
Jennifer Niehaus-Rivers, Helen McClure, Micheal O'Hara, Dawn Hanner,  
Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints (Summit Ward)  
and the Board of Directors

### Tacoma Little Theatre Staff

Interim Artistic Director.....Doug Kerr  
Education Director.....Casi Wilkerson  
Office Manager.....Loralei Ives-Keeler  
Box Office Manager.....Lauren James  
Assistant Box Office Manager.....Kelly Herremans  
Volunteer Coordinator.....Brittany Henderson

### Tacoma Little Theatre Board of Directors

President.....Micheal O'Hara  
Vice President.....Helen McClure  
Secretary.....Justine Tvedt  
Treasurer.....Jennifer Niehaus-Rivers  
Jay Iseli, Mark Thoman, M.D., Jennifer Lackman

**Tacoma Little Theatre**  
**210 North I Street**  
**(253) 272-2281**

**Box Office Hours: 3-6 Tuesday-Saturday**  
**[www.tacomalittletheatre.com](http://www.tacomalittletheatre.com)**

*Dickens's Festival at Stadium*

### Open House

Saturday, Dec 13 11-2:00  
Children's Temporary Tattoos  
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View the Dear Santa set  
Treats for All!

## About the Cast

**Joseph Allegro (Michael/Fiddlesticks)** is making his TLT debut. He has appeared at the Lakewood Playhouse as Zero in *Holes* and in several Missoula Children's Theatre productions including the Mayor's son in *The Pied Piper* and in *Hansel and Gretel*. He attends Mason Middle School and in his spare time enjoys playing the piano, art and lacrosse.

**Kerry Bringman (Santa Claus)** This is his fourth show for TLT. Other productions here include *Wait Until Dark*, *Auntie Mame*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. Originally from Florida, he currently lives in Puyallup. He works as a civil servant and as an adjunct professor for Southern Illinois University.

**Christopher Cline (Louis Flapdoodle)** Chris has been a stage and film actor and backstage technician for the past ten years in the Puget Sound area. He was last seen here in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Currently he attends Tacoma Community College and works as an overnight freight stocker for Target. He works with the improv group, *The Tokens*.

**Bryan Hanner (Phoey)** is making his TLT debut. He has appeared in Broadway Trioka Asia, *The Sound of Music* (International Tour), *Peter Pan* (National Tour), as Mowgli in *The Jungle Book*, Winthrop in *The Music Man*, Young Abel in *Children of Eden* and Tiny Tim in *The Christmas Carol*. Film credits include: *Project London* and *War of the Worlds*.

**Kelsey Harrison (Skiffle)** has appeared in TLT's Summer Break Camp as Mayzie la Bird in *Sussical, Jr.*, *Voyage of the Basset* as well as performing for the Missoula Children's Theatre's *The History of the World*. Currently a freshman at Ayles Junior High in Puyallup.

**Katie McClure (Kit Bishop)** is an 8th grader at Curtis Junior High. She was last seen at TLT as Little Mary in *The Women*. Was seen in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* at The Lakewood Playhouse as well as other local children's theatre productions. She has studied with voice teacher Leischen Moore. When not on stage she can be seen on the soccer field playing for the U.P. Blue Starz.

**Monica Meyers (Piffle)** has appeared in several main stage shows including Helen Keller in *The Miracle Worker*, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *Our Town*, *Anne of Green Gables* at The Lakewood Playhouse. She also played the lead role in the short film *Free Parking*. She is a sophomore at Curtis High School, but missed taking classes from Julie Halpin who taught there for many years before retiring two years ago.

**James Thomas Patrick (Algernon Gladstone)** has been seen here at TLT as Don Pedro in *Much Ado About Nothing*, as Master Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at the Lakewood Playhouse and as Walt Barnes in *Book of Days* for Theatre Artists Olympia and as Seksdon Mowbray in *Noises Off* at South Puget Sound Community College. Jim's most recent retirement is from Horizon Airlines.

## About the Cast cont.

**Kate Russell (Octavia)** has performed in many plays, musical, and operas in California including *The Apple Tree* and *I Do, I Do*. Seen as Aldonza in *The Man of La Mancha* at the Warehouse Theatre in Yakima. At Tacoma Actors Guild was seen in *Dracula*. Has appeared here in *The Bad Seed* and *The Importance of Being Ernest*. Currently she is a health para at Narrows View Intermediate School and directs plays for the after school enrichment program.

**Kajiona Wade (Balderdash)** attends Bryant Montessori and is in the 8th grade. This is her TLT debut, but has performed in several plays at her school. In her spare time she enjoys basketball, singing and playing five musical instruments. She plans to major in the arts (theatre and music) as well as business management.

**Blake R. York (Bozidar)** was recently seen here as Butch in *Leading Ladies* and *Dogbery* in *Much Ado About Nothing*. His favorite roles include: Rick Steadman in *The Nerd*, Barry Cahmplain in *Talk Radio*, Cheswick in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and Max Prince in *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. He is majoring in theatre so that he can one day become a theatre instructor.

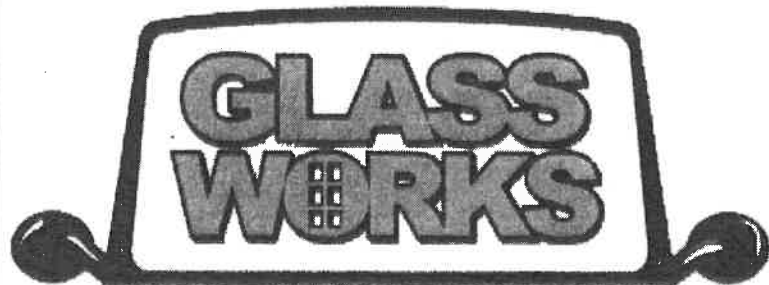
## About the Artistic Staff

**Julie Halpin (Director and Costume Design)** *Dear Santa* marks Julie's bridge to the adult stage at TLT. Previously she directed *Once Upon This Island* last spring at Lakewood Playhouse. Previous to that Julie was the drama director at Curtis High School and Washington High School logging 36 years of educational theatre in the Northwest. On the professional acting side of life, Julie was a mime artist with her one woman show entitled the *Human Dilemma* as well as an actress in the early days of the Tacoma Actors Guild. She has received a number of honors from the 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle for her work in the High School Musical Theatre Festival. Her last experience at TLT was with the children's summer drama program twenty years ago.

**Kelly Herremans (Stage Manager)** has recently moved to Tacoma from New York City. *Dear Santa* marks her return to the Theater world after being away for almost seven years. She works for TLT as a Box Office Assistant. She has a B.A. in Theatre from Hope College, Michigan. Kelly's past credits include being a personal dresser Off-Broadway in NYC, member of the Bear Creek Players Improv Toupe in Michigan, and the leading role in two different short films, *Pious*, and *Broken Oblivion*, which debuted at the Wilmington Film Festival in Wilmington, North Carolina.

**Ryan Coleman (Scene Design)** previously served as the Technical Director for six years at TLT. Currently the Production Manager for the newly formed Theatre Northwest. Works as a project manager for Puget Sound Builders. His last show here was designing lights for *Blythe Spirit*.

**Matt Osier (Light Design)** began his "career" at Tacoma Little Theatre through the youth program several years ago. He has performed every back stage duty at one time or another. After a busy summer when he was Technical Director for *Sussical, Jr.*, he is working on his fourth show this season. He has been the master carpenter for *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Leading Ladies*, set decorator for *Give 'em Hell, Harry*.



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**INSURANCE  
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WELCOME**

It seems trite to say that most non-profit organizations depend greatly on volunteerism. Tacoma Little Theatre is certainly no exception and relies heavily on volunteers. Currently, TLT has only three part time and two full time employees—those being the Artistic Director as well as the Education Director.

Actors and the stage crews are not paid; however, a small stipend is paid to the artistic staff (the director, and design teams) of each production. So the vast majority of the people associated with each show that you see at Tacoma Little Theatre are comprised of volunteers.

At TLT volunteers perform many tasks which range from an all-volunteer Board of Directors to the actors, to the ushers, to the set builders, to the cleaning crews. Without these dedicated people, producing plays at Tacoma Little Theatre simply would not happen.

In my short tenure here as the Interim Artistic Director, I have been impressed and thankful for those unselfish, theatre-loving individuals who keep this place afloat. I can tell you that these people are hard working, passionate, and committed supporters of this ninety-year-old icon. They have given countless hours of service to our community theatre.

TLT is fortunate to have several individuals on its Board of Directors who have weathered tough times and continue to serve. They deserve the thanks of all of us for their persistence and diligence.

And then there are those unsung heroes (in my mind) who have built the sets, hung the lights, painted the scenery, and vacuumed the backstage time and again. Three people deserve special mention. Matt Osier, Mike Valentine and Cindy Taylor. Matt began his tenure at TLT when he was a kid in the education program several years ago. Today he has become the master carpenter for most shows. He has an inspiring work ethic and attitude, which makes him a pleasure to have here. Mike Valentine is one of those people who always says, "Call me if you need help." And then he shows up. Mike is a skilled and reliable carpenter, too. His friendly nature makes building sets and any backstage work a lot more fun and enjoyable. He also makes sure that the premises are kept clean and that we get our trash to the dump when needed. Cindy Taylor is a busy woman as well as a masterful scene painter. For years, she had been working at TLT in that capacity and then took a hiatus while working on sets for the Tacoma Opera, Tacoma Musical Playhouse, and The Revels. This fall she came back to TLT and we are all the better for her return. Her talent, her pleasant demeanor and her work ethic make me feel good about calling upon her to give us a hand. Like Matt and Mike, she is one of those people on whom I can rely knowing that the job will be done right.

The set you see for *Dear Santa* was built and painted in six days by these three dedicated volunteers. They also did similar work for the recently closed hit *Leading Ladies*. Without their dedication and commitment to Tacoma Little Theatre, you would not be getting the quality sets and lights that you see tonight.

Any theatre must survive with dedicated volunteers like Matt, Mike and Cindy. Working backstage in the shadows of anonymity always demands the most time out of our unseen volunteers. There are several other people like, Kim, Brett, Alex and Erin who also have helped to make the production values as high as they are this season. They, like Matt, Mike and Cindy, all deserve a loud round of applause. They, the other volunteers, the actors, the production staffs, the Office staff, and the Board of Directors have made this a pleasant journey for me so far this season.

Sincerely,

Doug Kerr, Interim Artistic Director