



**2009-2010 Season  
Share the Laughter!!**

<p>Neil Simon's <b>THE STAR-SPANGLED GIRL</b></p>	<p><b>LEND ME A TENOR</b> A COMEDY BY KEN LUDWIG</p>	<p>Jean Shepherd's <b>A Christmas Story</b></p>
<p><b>Over the River and through the Woods</b> a comedy by Joe DiPietro</p>	<p><b>N...SES FF..</b> THE HILARIOUS COMEDY BY MICHAEL FRAYN</p>	<p><b>MAJOR BARBARA</b> a Comedy by Bernard Shaw</p>

**Don't miss your chance to share some laughs with us this season!!**

**Also as a special bonus!!**

**A Tuna Christmas with our own Artistic Director, Scott Campbell and Lakewood Playhouse's Marcus Walker**

**A TUNA CHRISTMAS**  
by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears, & Ed Howard  
A co-production of Tacoma Little Theatre & Lakewood Playhouse

**TACOMA LITTLE THEATRE Since 1918**

**2009-2010  
Share the Laughter**

**Season Support provided by Gray Lumber**

## Director's Notes

What is it that makes *A Christmas Story* such a holiday favorite for so many? Is it the childhood memories evoked from watching the movie over and over? Could it be the lively, entertaining characters? The sharp, clever dialogue? The ridiculously funny situations? In all respects, I'd have to say YES. But mostly, we love to see this story because we can identify with its dilemmas and enjoy laughing at them (and ourselves). *A Christmas Story* is a virtual feast of scrumptious, delicious laughter. I have to admit that when I was approached to direct this play, I was just a bit hesitant. It is an icon! Where could I find someone to equal Darren McGavin as the "Old Man", or discover a child star to play "Ralphie"? But the hesitancy melted away once the cast was assembled and rehearsal began; I had found them all and so much more! Philip Grecian has done a wonderful job of crafting a script that keeps all the same flavor as the original story and movie by Jean Shepherd. The "voice" is the same, though the weave is different. And our production has taken on its own special life so that all the familiar and favorite elements of the movie remain, while presented in its own unique way. Although somewhat challenging, we always had a great deal of fun working together and that has made my "Christmas Story" experience really meaningful. I can't thank TLT enough for allowing me to play with *A Christmas Story* and its characters. I hope you have a great time too. Happy Holidays!

Julie Halpin

A black and white promotional poster for the play 'A Christmas Story'. The central image is a young boy (Ralphie) wearing a plaid shirt, glasses, and a large hat, holding a large, wooden toy gun. He has a wide-eyed, excited expression. The background is dark. Text is overlaid on the image.

TACOMA  
LITTLE  
THEATRE  
Since 1918

A  
Christmas  
Story

sponsored by  
COMIC  
BOOK  
EST. INK 2003

Directed by  
Julie Halpin

Produced by special arrangement with  
the Dramatic Publishing Company

## Cast

Ralph, The Cowboy,  
The Tree Lot Owner, The Delivery Man, and  
The Voice of the Neighbor..... Bryan K. Bender  
Ralphie Parker..... Caleb Wilkerson  
Mother..... Jefri Peters  
The Old Man, Santa, The Voice of Pierre Andre..... Brian Lewis  
Randy..... Grace Wilkerson  
Miss Shields..... Molly Callendar  
Flick and Desperado One..... Mason Wilkerson  
Schwartz..... Joshua Bode  
Esther Jane Alberry and Desperado Three..... Savanna Balmer  
Helen Weathers and Desperado Two..... Amy Nygard  
Scut Farkas and Black Bart..... Jackson Milton  
Schwartz's Mother..... Heather Bode

## Setting

The action takes place in  
Hohman, Indiana in 1938

## Act I

Events occurring during the three weeks before Christmas

### A 15 minute Intermission

**(Refreshments are available in the lobby)**

## Act II

Events occurring one week before Christmas  
and Christmas Day

## **Tacoma Little Theatre**

210 North I Street  
(253) 272-2281

Box Office Hours: 3-6 Tuesday-Saturday

Visit Our Website

**[www.tacomalittletheatre.com](http://www.tacomalittletheatre.com)**

And Join TLT's Email List for Ticket Deals! Show Announcements!  
and general information on how to get involved!!

## Artistic Staff

Director..... Julie Halpin  
Stage Manager..... Kerry Bringman  
Production Manager..... Kelly Herremans  
Technical Director..... Matt Osier  
Set Designer..... Scott Campbell  
Lighting Designer..... Jason Burg  
Costume Designer..... Frances Rankos,  
Dorothy Kephart and Larry Rankos  
Sound Designer..... Alex Smith  
Props..... Tracy Berryman and Julie Halpin  
Light Board Operator..... Kerry Bringman  
Sound Board Operator..... Sarahann Rickner  
Assistant Stage Manager..... Heather Bode  
Set Construction..... Matt Osier, Mike Valentine  
Muralist..... Angela Valenzuela  
Painting..... Sarahann Rickner, Kelly Herremans,  
Alex Smtih, Jason Burg, and Matt Haring  
Hang and Focus..... Jason Burg and Alex Smith  
Back Stage Crew..... Alex Smith, James Carey and Linda Nygard  
Programs..... Kelly Herremans  
Photography..... Dean Lapin

## Special Thanks To:

Jim Halpin, Chris Anderson, Kim Peters, Justine and Mark Tvedt,  
Dick Byassee, Christain Geye, Micheal O'Hara, Robbie Lapin,  
Northwest Costume, Lakewood Playhouse, and Gray Lumber Co.

## Tacoma Little Theatre Staff

Managing Artistic Director..... Scott Campbell  
Operations and Education Director..... Casi Wilkerson  
Office Manager..... Lorelei Ives-Keeler  
Box Office Manager..... Kelly Herremans  
Box Office Assistant ..... Christopher Cline  
Travis Hancock and Sarahann Rickner

## Tacoma Little Theatre Board of Directors

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Mark Solomon, Justine Tvedt

## About the Cast



**Savannah Balmer (Esther Jane Alberry)** A Puget Sound native and fan of musical theater, Savannah May has most recently performed in Tacoma Musical Playhouse's presentation of *The Wizard of Oz* as well as *Annie Jr.* and *Beauty and the Beast* at the Auburn Ave. Theater. She is very excited to play in TLT's *A Christmas Story* as Esther Jane!



**Bryan K. Bender (Ralph)** This is Bryan's second show at TLT, and he is pleased to be back. He was last seen here as Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Other area credits include Macbeth in *Macbeth* and Mozart in *Amadeus* at Lakewood Playhouse, as well as Hamlet in the Pork Filled Players show *Living Dead in Denmark*.



**Joshua Bode (Schwartz)** *A Christmas Story* is Joshua's second production at TLT, his first was playing the Newsboy in *Orphan Train* earlier this year. Joshua is 11 years old and part of a military family. He gained his first acting experience while stationed in Australia in 2008. Joshua also enjoys singing and is part of the Tahoma Boys Choir. He enjoys reading, writing, swimming and fencing. He would like to thank his family for encouraging him to pursue acting and the Lord for his abilities.



**Molly Callender (Miss Shields)** Molly is pleased to join the wonderful cast of *A Christmas Story* as Miss Shields. Molly was last seen at TLT as Meg in the production *Leading Ladies*. You may also have seen her in *Lend Me a Tenor*, at Auburn Regional Theater, as well as Lakewood Playhouse in *The Sound of Music* and *Hard Knock Christmas*. When not at the theater, Molly spends the majority of her time in her own classroom, lamenting the misuse of margins, semicolons and periods. Molly thanks her family and friends for their love and support

## About the Cast cont.



**Brian Lewis (The Old Man)** This is Brian's first experience at Tacoma Little Theatre and his first play since he starred as Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* at Paradise Theatre. He has had the great pleasure to be in many plays and projects in the surrounding area including playing D'Artagnan in Lakewood Playhouse's *The Three Musketeers*, Orin the Dentist in Paradise Theatre's *Little Shop of Horrors*, Slim in *Of Mice and Men* and Judd Fry in *Oklahoma!* both at Stagedoor Productions in Enumclaw. He was also in a feature film called *Gamers: Dorkness Rising* (which is available for rent on Netflix), and will also be appearing soon in a web series that was formally called *Capes*; but recently needed to be renamed. Brian would like to thank all his supportive family members who are constantly in his corner in all the endeavors he pursues. "Especially my lovely wife Tiffani and darling daughter Scout."



**Jackson Milton (Scut Farkas)** Jackson "Kingston" Milton has made majority of his stage appearances in school drama productions (*A Cold Day in Hell*, *The Adventures of Pooh Bear*, *Speed Dating*, *Chicken Bones for the Teenage Soup*, and more), as well as a few camps and classes through the Tacoma Little Theatre. He is currently a freshman at Wilson High School, but is pondering a transfer to SOTA in order to pursue his passion of both acting and music. He owes his experience here, as well as his sanity and sunny disposition to his loving parents and wonderful friends. He would also like to thank you (Yes, YOU) for attending this performance and helping him accomplish his dream.



**Amy Nygard (Helen Weathers)** Amy is a blonde hair blue eyed cutie from Puyallup. Amy has performed in several school plays and recently played Little Lucy in *Orphan Train* at TLT. Amy is very excited and looking forward to playing Helen in *A Christmas Story*. Outside of the theater she sings in choir and hopes to continue acting and singing. Amy wants to thank her friends and family for their love and support.

## About the Cast cont.



**Jefri Ellen Peters (The Mother)** Is proud to be in her second production at the TLT after a 10 year stage hiatus. Earlier this year she was seen as Mrs. Hannah Snyder and Ms. Witherspoon in the *The Orphan Train*. She would like to dedicate these performances to her Dad Kim, Mom Genie, Sister Bailey, Brother Lars and Nephew Kashton, whom have enjoyed our own family tradition of Chinese food every Christmas for the past 24 years.



**Caleb Wilkerson (Ralphie)** is so happy to be a part of this fantastic cast sharing a story he cherishes every Christmas. Caleb began his theatrical journey in TLT's Youth Education Program enjoying such roles as: Troy & Chad in *High School Musical* and Cat in the Hat in *Seussical Jr.* Some of Caleb's main stage favorite roles include Young Patrick in *Auntie Mame* (TLT); Charlie Chaplin in *A Final Toast* (Theatre Northwest) and Spud in *Heaven Help the Potaters'* (Lighthouse Christian School). Caleb thanks his family for all of their support especially his cool brother and sister.



**Mason Wilkerson (Flick)** Mason Lahd Wilkerson was most recently seen on the TLT stage playing the role of Raymond in *Orphan Train* last season. Mason began his theatrical training in TLT's Youth Education Program at an early age. Some of Mason's favorite roles include Zeek in *High School Musical* (TLT Youth Program), Jojo in *Seussical Jr.* (TLT Youth Program), The Wizard of Oz/Chief Flaming Arrow and Billy the Kid in *The Wizard of Oz in the Wild West* (TLT Youth Education Program) and James in *James in the Giant Peach* (Gig Harbor Academy.) Mason thanks his family for all of their support especially his cool brother and sister.



**Grace Nicole Wilkerson (Randy)** Grace is 6 years old and began her theatrical journey in Tacoma Little Theatre's Drama School at the young age of 3. She played the role of Sissy in *High School Musical* and Baby Kangaroo in *Seussical Jr.* This is Grace's first main stage production and she is thrilled to share the stage with her two cool brothers and wonderful cast! She thanks everyone for their love and support!

## About the Cast cont.



**Heather Bode (Assistant Stage Manager/Mrs. Swartz)** A Christmas Story is Heather's second experience at Tacoma Little Theatre. Her first was working behind the scenes during *Orphan Train* earlier this year as her son, Joshua, performed. This production marks Heathers on-stage debut! She is excited to play the role of Schwartz's mother and continue to work backstage as well. She loves seeing the production develop from the first read through, followed by blocking, and then seeing the actors bring it together when the house lights dim. She would like to thank Julie and Kerry for allowing her to be a part of A Christmas Story.

## About the Artistic Staff

**Kerry Bringman (Stage Manager)** This marks Kerry's seventh play here at Tacoma Little Theater but his first as the Stage Manager. Last year he was seen in *The Orphan Train*, *The Crucible*, *Dear Santa*, and *Much Ado About Nothing*. Other TLT productions include *Auntie Mame* and *Wait until Dark*. Originally from Florida, he currently lives in Puyallup and works as a civil servant and as an adjunct professor for Southern Illinois University. Thanks to my boys Korey and Kody and break a leg Kody in *Stardust Follies!*

**Jason Burg (Light Designer)** This is Jason's third production at Tacoma Little Theatre. He previously designed for *Lend Me A Tenor* and *Woman in Black*. He has a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Southern Oregon University and plans on attending grad school next year for Lighting Design. This is the second show Jason has worked on with Julie Halpin since being introduced to technical theatre when she was his High School drama teacher. ZIMBABWE!

**Scott Campbell (Set Designer)** Scott is the Managing Artistic Director at Tacoma Little Theatre. He has created dozens of scenic designs including *Holes*, *Appointment with Death*, *Seussical*, and many others. In addition to scenic designing, Scott is a noted area director as well as an accomplished sound and lighting designer. Scott is the winner of two Emmy awards and numerous other television awards. Last year, his production of *Macbeth* was named "Best Drama of the Year" by The News Tribune. Scott is currently starring in *A Tuna Christmas*. He thanks Julie, Sydney, and Paige for their tremendous love and support.



## About the Artistic Staff cont.

**Julie Halpin (Director)** *A Christmas Story* makes the second show Julie has directed at TLT. She seems to have become the "Christmas Lady" having previously directed *Dear Santa* in 2008. Other community adventures include: *Angry Housewives*, *Into the Woods* and *Once on this Island*, at Lakewood Playhouse. Julie received her BA in Theatre from PLU and MFA in directing from the University of Washington. She recently retired from a 36 year career teaching drama at Washington and Curtis High Schools, and has directed over 100 plays. During her tenure there, her students won many nominations and awards at the WATA festivals and the prestigious 5th Aver High School Musical Theatre Festivals. She has been a master teacher (acting, mime, theatre, movement) at a number of community colleges also, and has been an adjudicator for the American College Theatre Festival. In her younger years, Julie was a professional mime, performing her one woman show *The Human Dilemma* in many venues throughout Washington, Oregon, and California. She also performed in a number of shows in local community theatre, most notable at the Tacoma Actors Guild. Once again, it has been a real pleasure to work at the TLT with such a warm supportive administrative staff. A special thanks to the artistic team (Kerry, Kelly, Jason, Alex, Scott, Frances and crew) and a wonderfully entertaining cast. Rehearsals with you were always a joy! Love to you Jim, Haus, Chris and Angel Fa.

**Kelly Herremans (Production Manager)** has worked at TLT for the last year as the Box Office Manager. She was also the Stage Manager for *Dear Santa* here at TLT. 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.

**Alex Smith (Sound Designer)** Alex is excited for his first opportunity to work at TLT, and any chance to work with Halps! Graduating Whitworth University with a B.A. in Performance and Technical Theatre, Alex is a self-proclaimed "Theatrician"; one can find him joyfully wedging himself into every aspect of theatre. Recent designs include *Angry Housewives*, and recent performances include *The Mousetrap*, both at Lakewood Playhouse. Thanks to everyone for everything!

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## Wanted

**Old picture frames as a donation to be part of the scenic design for our production of *Over the River and Through the Woods* which opens on January 15th, 2010**

**Drop off at the Box Office by December 31st!**

**Or call us at  
253-272-2281**

**Thank You!**

**Don't Miss....**



# A TUNA CHRISTMAS

by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears, & Ed Howard

**Nov. 27**  
through  
**Dec. 6**

DATE	SHOW	TICKETS	TIME	SEAT	PRICE
Nov 27	A Tuna Christmas	8:00	7:30	8:00	8:00
Nov 28		8:00	7:30	8:00	8:00
Nov 29	A Tuna Christmas	8:00	7:30	8:00	8:00
Nov 30		8:00	7:30	8:00	8:00

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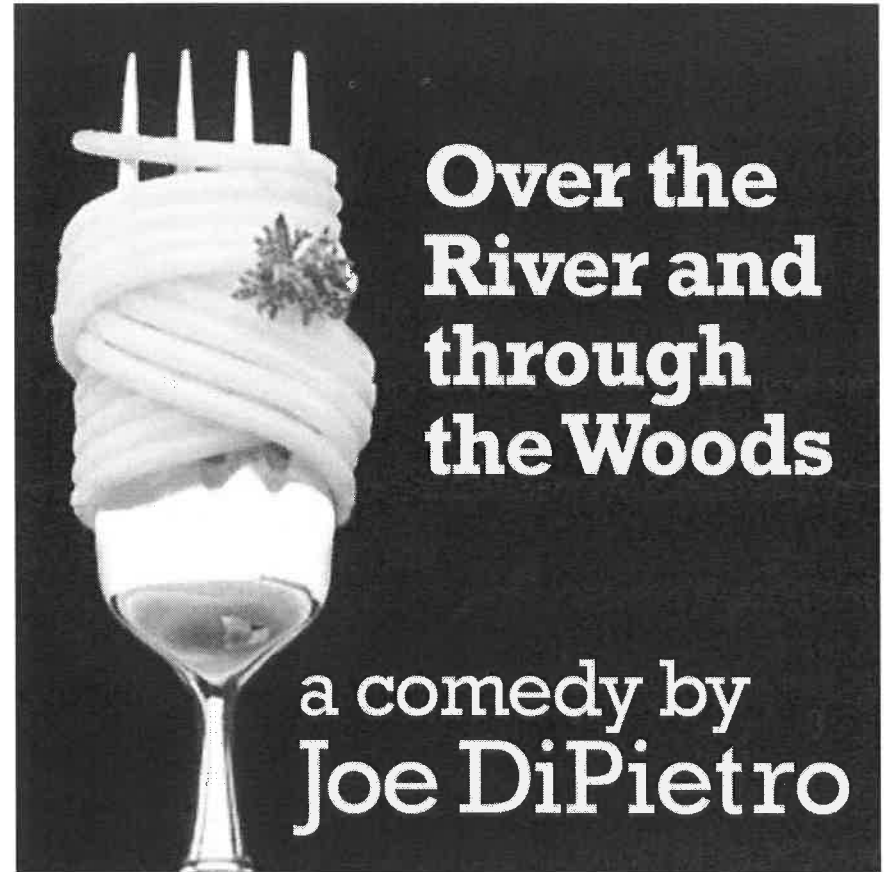
**Dec. 11**  
through  
**Dec. 20**

DATE	SHOW	TICKETS	TIME	SEAT	PRICE
Dec 11	A Tuna Christmas	7:30	7:30	7:30	7:30
Dec 12		7:30	7:30	7:30	7:30
Dec 13	A Tuna Christmas	7:30	7:30	7:30	7:30
Dec 14		7:30	7:30	7:30	7:30

**Tacoma**  
253-272-2281  
tacomalittletheatre.com  
Reserve Seats  
Online

**Coming up Next.....**

Our next production this season  
is the notoriously enjoyable show...



Nick, a single Italian-American guy, dines every Sunday evening with both sets of hilarious grandparents. One day he breaks the news that his long awaited dream job has just arrived – across the country in Seattle. Things get as twisted as spaghetti as his grandparents plot to keep Nick in New Jersey.