

# A CHRISTMAS STORY

PLAY BY  
**PHILIP GRECIAN**

BASED UPON A CHRISTMAS STORY  
©1983 TURNER ENTERTAINMENT CO.,  
DISTRIBUTED BY WARNER BROS.

WRITTEN BY  
**JEAN SHEPHERD,  
LEIGH BROWN,  
& BOB CLARK,**

IN GOD WE TRUST: ALL OTHERS  
PAY CASH, BY JEAN SHEPHERD

DIRECTED BY  
**JENNIFER YORK**



December 2-December 24, 2022

Evening Shows 7:30pm

Matinee Shows 2:00pm

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ASL Performance Sunday, December 18th at 2:00pm

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**"We gratefully acknowledge that we rest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup People where they make their home and speak the Lushootseed language."**

# A CHRISTMAS STORY

Play by Philip Grecian

based upon *A CHRISTMAS STORY*, ©1983

Turner Entertainment Co., distributed by Warner Bros.

written by

Jean Shepherd

Leigh Brown

Bob Clark

and *In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash*

by Jean Shepherd

Produced by special arrangement with

THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois

## TACOMA LITTLE THEATRE STAFF

Managing Artistic Director.....	Chris Serface
Office Manager.....	Karen Christensen
Technical Director .....	Blake R. York
Lead Carpenter .....	Frank Roberts
Education Director .....	Stephanie Kroschel
Production Manager .....	Dylan Twiner
Development Director .....	Diana George
Support Staff.....	Casey Brown & Nathan Lovitt
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SINCE 1918

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# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

“You’ll shoot your eye out !!” and Santa’s sardonic “Ho Ho Ho” as he crushes Ralpie’s dreams are phrases that pepper the holiday season for my family year after year. Ralpie Parker and his quest for a Red Ryder 200-shot carbine action range model air rifle, with a compass and this thing that tells time built right into the stock, were a big part of the holidays for me growing up in the mid-west. We came to feel like we knew these characters personally – because we did. They are everyday people, living an ordinary life. They just happen to exist in 1940 but we know them well; a pesky little brother, childhood best friends, that first school crush, neighborhood bullies, disgruntled holiday elves... the list goes on. And who can’t relate to the single-minded, tunnel vision approach, one gets in the pursuit of that one perfect gift? To this day I can’t try on a jacket without throwing my arms straight out and whining “I can’t put my arms down!!”

The 1983 film, on which this play is based, has become a holiday classic for families everywhere. Jean Shepherd’s original short stories celebrated the rituals of American life. This story is less about the holiday itself and more about the feelings and moments that happen along the way. These moments resonate with us and, through stories like this, we relive them over and over again.

I had the privilege of recreating these moments for TLT several years ago and am honored to bring them to audiences again this holiday season. With this cast of actors, both new and well seasoned, we hope to recapture your childhood and take you back to the moments you cherished as a child watching this story for the first time. So get comfortable, leave the stress of a busy holiday season at the door and reminisce with a grown-up Ralph Parker about holidays long past.

Merry Christmas!  
Jen



**Please remember to silence your  
cell phone and mobile devices.  
No texting during the performance.  
—Thank you**

# ARTISTIC STAFF

Director/Scenic Artist.....	Jennifer York
Stage Manager.....	Thomas Robinson
Technical Director/Scenic Designer.....	Blake R. York
Costume Designer.....	Michele Graves
Production Manager .....	Dylan Twiner
Lighting Designer.....	Niclas Olson
Lead Carpenter/Properties Designer .....	Frank Roberts
Sound Designer .....	Chandler Garry
Shop Assistant .....	Nate Lovitt
Assistant Stage Manager.....	J Wheeler
Backstage Technicians .....	Glenn Fischer & Natalie Jolly
Photography.....	Dennis K Photography
Graphic Design .....	Blake R. York
Build & Paint Crew .....	Erin Chanfrau, Chris Serface Dylan Twiner, Mike Reynolds Ron Bauer, Dana Galagan Jill Heinecke, Stephanie Kroschel



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# STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

## **Jennifer York (Director/Scenic Artist)**

Jen has been a part of the local theatre community for over 14 years, serving as director, scenic artist, actor, stage manager, prop master, and youth educator for many of the area's theatres. Her most recent directorial credits include: *Seussical*, *The Underpants*, and *Clue* at Tacoma Little Theatre, *Matilda* and *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* at Auburn Community Players, and *Inspecting Carol*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, and *Narnia* at the Lakewood Playhouse. She would like to offer love and thanks to her family and friends for their unwavering support of all of her theatrical endeavors- both well planned and hare-brained. -xoxo

## **Thomas Robinson (Stage Manager)**

Thomas Robinson has been the stage manager for recent Tacoma Productions such as *Kim's Convenience* and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. He also performs and writes for the sci-fi comedy podcast *Spacies!* He is thrilled to be a part of TLT and the holiday season.

## **Blake R. York (Technical Director/Scenic Designer/Visuals)**

Blake has been involved with theatre in the area for the past 16 years. Blake serves as TLT's Technical Director, Set Designer, and Graphic Designer for the season posters. Favorite designs in the area include: *Slenth*, *Sylvia*, *Scrooge! The Musical*, *A Christmas Story*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Cabaret* (TLT), *Oliver!*, *A Funny Thing....*, *The Lion in Winter* (Lakewood Playhouse), *Tom Sawyer*, *Pippi Longstocking* (TMP), and *The Tempest* (Olympia Little Theatre). Blake was named Best Director of the TLT production of *The Pillonman* at the AACT Regional Festival and won Best Scenic Designer in the AACT National Competition. He would like to thank his wife Jen, his parents, and friends for everything they have done and continue to do for him. In 2022, Blake was recognized as one of the *40 Under 40* by South Sound Business.

## **Frank Roberts (Lead Carpenter/Properties Designer)**

Frank is excited to continue at TLT as their Lead Carpenter and Properties Manager. His work with TLT started as a volunteer during the run of *Gypsy* and he enjoys the dynamic work and communal experience that this fine theatre provides. Frank wishes to thank Blake York and Jill Heinecke for all their contributions big and small. Additional thanks to his friends, family, Jill, and all who support local theatre.

## **Dylan Twiner (Production Manager)**

Dylan is glad to be returning as a designer for TLT. He grew up listening to old timey radio plays and has loved collaborative story telling ever since. His previous TLT sound credits include *Laura*, *A Doll's House*, *Macbeth*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Dracula*, and *The Pillonman*. He has also been seen onstage in several productions in the area over the past decade, including with the improvised theatre group Muh Grog Zoo. Thank you for coming to see this show and supporting live theatre.

# STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

## **Niclas Olson (Lighting Designer)**

Niclas is an actor, playwright, director, and designer based in Tacoma. Recent regional designs include lighting for *Dragon Country* (Civic Rep); *Jesus Christ Superstar* (BroadwayWorld Award), *Clue*, *Evil Dead: The Musical* (Tacoma Little Theatre); *Oleanna*, *Tribes* (Tacoma Arts Live); and sets for *Clybourne Park* (Tacoma Arts Live/UW Tacoma); *The Seagull*, *Saint Joan*, *The Last Five Years* (New Muses); and *The Ghost Train* (Centerstage). He is the managing artistic director of New Muses Theatre Company, resident lighting designer at Tacoma Little Theatre, and a founding member of Green Theatre Now, an organization specializing in sustainable design solutions for the performing arts. [www.NiclasOlson.com](http://www.NiclasOlson.com)

## **Michele Graves (Costume Designer)**

As Resident Costume Designer for Tacoma Little Theatre, Michele has the pleasure of designing for a variety of shows, be they musicals, comedies, dramas or tragedies. Each genre affords her the opportunity to work with talented cast members and production staff. This is Michele's ninth season with TLT as Resident Costume Designer. Along with designing costumes for the mainstage shows, Michele provides costumes for the youth education program. She also costumes productions at several area high schools and Rosebud Children's Theater Conservatory.

## **Chandler Garry (Sound Designer)**

This is Chandler's first show as a sound designer and his fifth working with TLT. Chandler has worked on TLT's productions of, *Scrooge*, *A Little Night Music*, and *Murder on the Orient Express*. Chandler will graduate in March from Western Governor's University with a bachelor's degree in software development. Chandler would like to thank his family for their support.

## **Mauro Bozzo (Hair and Wig Consultant)**

Mauro has been a cosmetologist for over 10 years, and a part of the theatre community for even longer. He enjoys helping his fellow thespians with their hair and makeup, as well as performing on stage himself. He would like to thank Chris and Michele for the opportunity to continue contributing to future productions with TLT. Enjoy the show!

## **J Wheeler (Assistant Stage Manager)**

J has been involved in Tacoma theater since childhood. They were last seen in LIT's productions of *Monty Python's Edukational Show* and *Much Ado About Nothing* in summer 2021. More recently, they have migrated backstage working as ASM for *Broadway Bound* at Lakewood Playhouse, and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* at Centerstage. Thank you to all the supporters of local theater who make this such a rewarding experience!

# SPECIAL THANKS

Pete & Cheryl Burgess

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# CAST OF CHARACTERS

Ralph Parker.....	Blake R. York
Ralphie Parker.....	Tyler Weston
Mother.....	Heidi Walworth-Horn
The Old Man.....	Andrew Fry
Randy.....	Gavin Weston
Miss Shields.....	Stephanie Kroschel
Flick.....	Jack Burns
Schwartz.....	Fletcher Kelley
Esther Jane Alberry.....	Maggie Savage
Helen Weathers.....	Maya Harris
Scut Farkas.....	Nigel Kelley
Ensemble.....	Glenn Fischer
Ensemble.....	Natalie Jolly
Ensemble.....	Zuzu Zimmer
Ensemble.....	Brynn Livengood

## **SETTING & TIME**

The 1940's

In and around the Parker household, Hohman, Indiana

**ACT I (1:05)**

**—15-minute intermission—**

**ACT II (0:55)**

# CAST BIOGRAPHIES



## **Jack Burns (Flick)**

Jack (he/him) is thrilled to return to the Tacoma Little Theatre stage in *A Christmas Story*. You may have seen him in *'Twas The Night Before Christmas* (ILT), *Hanukkah Lights in the Big Sky* (ILT), and *Seussical!* TYA at Tacoma Musical Playhouse. He would love to thank his family and his dog Violet for supporting him throughout the show. Happy Holidays!



## **Glenn Fischer (Ensemble)**

Glenn Fischer has performed over 10,000 concerts in the last 37 years around the country. Every Sunday morning, he does an hour concert for the Community Breakfast at Urban Grace Church. Previous theater credits include *Arsenic & Old Lace* (Teddy Brewster), *I Remember Mama* (Mr. Thorkelson), *Annie Get Your Gun* (Ensemble) & more. He is thrilled to be in his first TLT production & looks forward to more.



## **Andrew Fry (The Old Man)**

Andrew has performed in over 60 productions in the South Puget Sound area and is thrilled to be reprising his role as The Old Man in *A Christmas Story* for TLT. Other favorite roles at Tacoma Little Theatre include Mushnik in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Scrooge in *Scrooge the Musical*, Detective Tupolski in *The Pillonman*, Henry Bingham in *Fox on the Fairway*, and a multitude of Murder Mystery Dinners (and more!) He also appears on TV Tacoma's Business Matters in the segment Tacoma Means Business, and teaches at the University of Washington Tacoma. Thanks to his family for sharing his love of arts, music and theater: Julie, Savannah, Delaney, Valentine and Beau.



## **Maya Harris (Helen Weathers)**

Maya is 11 years old, in sixth grade, and loves theater. Her two prized possessions are her dogs, Daisy and Gemma. She participated in her first show in the summer of 2019, *Mary Poppins Jr.* She has done multiple shows since then, and has developed a passion for it. This is her first main stage show, as all of her shows until now were in TLT kids camp. She has enjoyed this experience and hopes to do it again.

# CAST BIOGRAPHIES



## **Natalie Jolly (Ensemble)**

Natalie is thrilled to be making her theatrical debut! She had no idea that when she asked her sons (Fletcher and Nigel) about a fun family activity, they'd suggest auditioning together... Ohhh Fudge! But she couldn't be happier to be spending the holidays with this delightful cast and crew and retelling this classic holiday story of childhood passion and the beauty of our dingblang fuzzle whizzen' families.



## **Fletcher Kelley (Schwartz)**

Fletcher is thrilled to be making his Tacoma Little Theatre debut with *A Christmas Story*! He would like to thank his four siblings for giving him lots of opportunities to practice triple dog dares, and his Pa for teaching him how to fire a BB gun without shooting his eye out. He'd also like to thank his Ma for going to that initial audition and his director, Jen York, who is the best... even better than meatloaf and red cabbage!



## **Nigel Kelley (Scut Farkus)**

Nigel is excited to return to the stage, and you might remember him from TLT's *Scrooge* or *A Doll's House*; Lakewood Playhouse's *Peter & The Starcatcher*, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, and *Something Wicked This Way Comes*; or even *The Taming of the Shrew* (Tol & Smol). As the oldest of five children, he wants you to know that he would never, ever make his younger siblings say that they are dirty little chickens. Or, almost never.



## **Stephanie Kroschel (Miss Shields)**

Stephanie has been part of the TLT community since she took on the role of Education Director in 2021, a career which combines her love of theatre arts and her passion for education. Although she spends her days holding space for kids to perform, it is Steph's great joy to step on stage with this cast and crew. In years past, she has performed with Edmonds Driftwood Players, Olympia Family Theatre and Olympia Little Theatre. She sends gratitude to the staff at TLT for being a supportive and dedicated team, and to you for coming out to enjoy live performance art.

# CAST BIOGRAPHIES



## **Brynn Livengood (Ensemble)**

This is Brynn's first production at TLT. She started acting on stage at age five, has been in over nine musicals. Last summer she was cast as the lead in *Annie Jr.* She currently attends 4th grade at Grant Center for Expressive Arts. She is very excited to be participating in her first non-musical production with TLT.



## **Maggie Savage (Esther Jane Alberry)**

Maggie has been acting on stage since she was three years old. Ever since then she has been an active participant in theatre education programs and school musicals. Her favorite roles include Matilda Wormwood in *Matilda Jr.*, Sharpay Evans in *High School Musical 2 Jr.*, and Young Nala in *The Lion King Jr.* Maggie would like to thank Ms. Jen and all the cast and crew for giving her this opportunity to do an amazing show with an amazing set of people!



## **Heidi Walworth-Horn (Mother)**

Heidi Walworth-Horn appreciates the opportunity to get to play Mother in this iconic Christmas production. You may have seen her on the stage at TLT in past shows such as *Annie*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Footloose*, *A Christmas Story*, *A Little Night Music*, *Holmes for the Holidays*, and others. During the day, she is a 9th grade Spanish and Beginning Acting teacher. She would like to thank Jen for casting her and giving her the opportunity to play Mother again; it has been a joy. She would also like to thank Joe, Jack, and Anna for their unfailing support and encouragement, and for being the founding members of her three person fan club. But most importantly, she would like to thank the audience for coming to the show and supporting TLT.



## **Gavin Weston (Randy Parker)**

This is Gavin's first performance at TLT and he is excited to play the role of Randy Parker. Past favorite roles include Linus in *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and Rooster Hannigan in *Annie Jr.*, both at TMP. A special thank you to his parents for supporting him in this great performance. Gavin is looking forward to dunking his face in oatmeal and hopes you enjoy the show!



# CAST BIOGRAPHIES



## **Tyler Weston (Ralphie Parker)**

Tyler is thrilled to perform the role of Ralphie from one of his favorite Christmas movies. Previous credits include Young Charlie in *Kinky Boots* and Charlie in *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, both at TMP. He wants to congratulate the cast for their hard work and dedication. He is excited to play brothers with his actual brother in a mainstage performance. Oh fudge, this is going to be a good show!



## **Blake R. York (Ralph Parker)**

Blake is excited to return to the role of Ralph after playing the role in TLT's 2015 production. TLT credits include: Dogberry (*Much Ado About Nothing*), Butch (*Leading Ladies*), Bozidar (*Dear Santa*), Norman Cornell (*Star-Spangled Girl*), Various Characters (*Jekyll and Hyde*), Tom/Phyllis/Leslie (*Sylvia*), Blake (*The Complete Works of William Shakespeare [abridged] {revised}*), David O. Selznick (*Moonlight and Magnolias*), Charlie (*The Foreigner*), and most recently as Felix in *Holmes for the Holidays*. He would like to thank his wife Jen, his parents, family, and friends for their continued support.



## **Zuzu Zimmer (Ensemble)**

This is Zuzu's sixth show at TLT. Her most recent roles include Chef Louis (*The Little Mermaid Jr*), Fletcher and Savannah (*Freaky Friday*), and Timon (*The Lion King Jr*). She would like to thank the cast and crew for making this show such a fun experience.

Interested in becoming involved with TLT?  
We are always looking for help on stage, and off.  
Audition information is on our website,  
or you can always sign up to volunteer for  
ushering, painting, set work, or office help.

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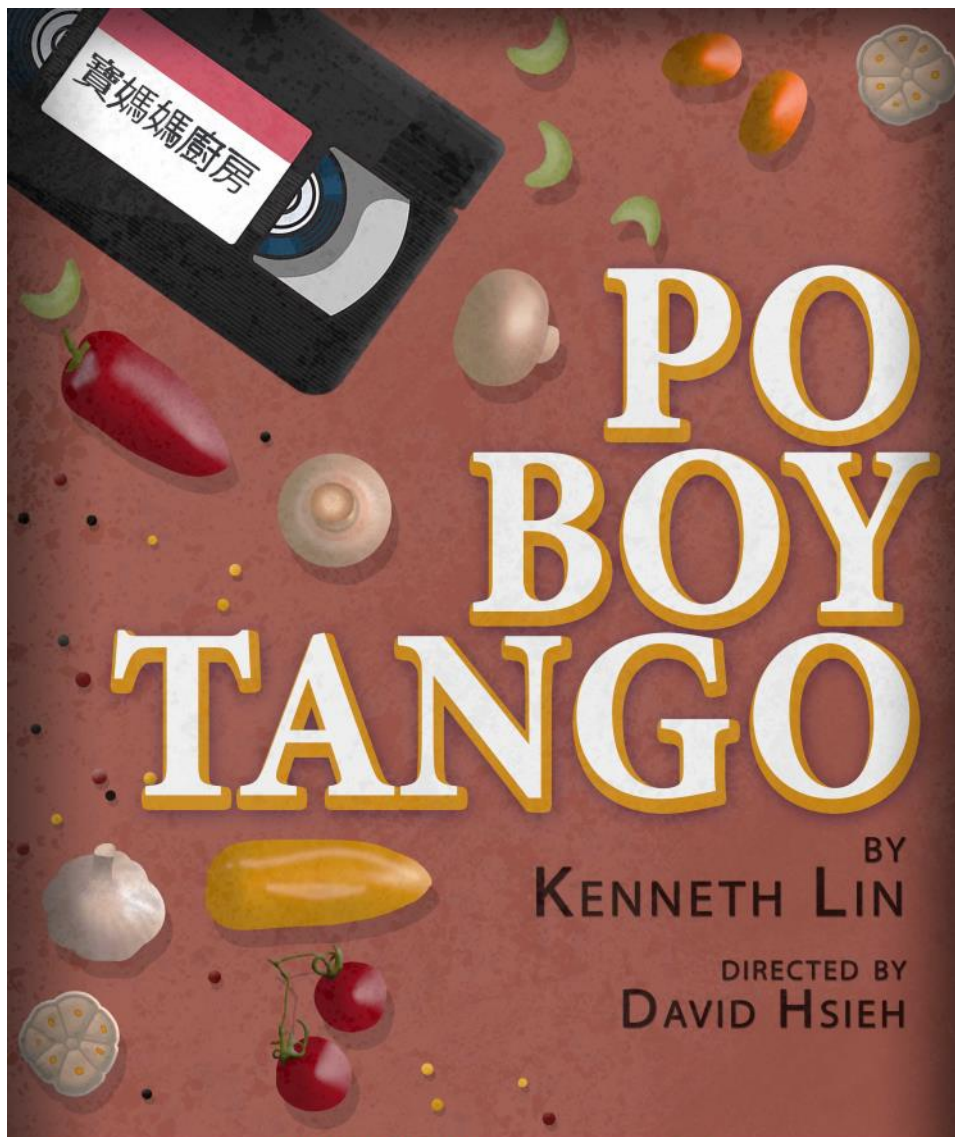
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