

MUSIC
ON
STAGE

PRESENTS



NOVEMBER
2016

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PRESENTS

A CHRISTMAS STORY *The Musical!*

Book by **JOSEPH ROBINETTE** Music and Lyrics by **BENJ PASEK & JUSTIN PAUL**

Based on the motion picture *A Christmas Story*

Distributed by Warner Brothers

Written by

Jean Shepherd, Leigh Brown and Bob Clark

And upon In God We Trust All Others Pay Cash written by Jean Shepherd

Tap Choreography by **ANNIE JO ERMEL** Vocal Direction by **CHRISTINE SHELTON**

Directed & Choreographed by
FRANK ROBERTS

A CHRISTMAS STORY THE MUSICAL is presented by arrangement with
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois

CUTTING HALL is a facility owned and maintained by the Palatine Park District

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

Jean Shepherd.....	PATRICK YOST
Ralphie.....	ALEX LASKY
Mother.....	ASHLEY PETER
Randy.....	BRANDON NIEVES
The Old Man.....	STEVEN PETER
Schwartz.....	LOGAN HERSHEY
Flick.....	HAYDEN EDWARDS
Esther Jane.....	ARIEL WILLIAMS
Mary Beth.....	JULIA BOSTROM
Scut Farkus.....	GARRETT HERSHEY
Grover Dill.....	QUENTIN BREGE
Other Children.....	ALLIE BURDICK, LILY EDWARDS, COURTNEY MILLER, JOEY RICHARDS
Miss Shields.....	KARA VOMBRACK
Fantasy Villain.....	JOHN FOGARTY
Delivery Men.....	JOHN FOGARTY, PAUL C. STOWICK
Policeman.....	TYLER CALLAHAN
Doctor.....	NATE CARLSON
Fireman.....	JOHN FOGARTY
Flick's Mother.....	ALMA LUMABAS
Nurse.....	JOELLYN ROMANO
Mrs. Schwartz.....	JULIE BURDICK
Santa Claus.....	JOHN FOGARTY
Ensemble.....	JULIE BURDICK, TYLER CALLAHAN, NATE CARLSON, JOHN FOGARTY, ALMA LUMABAS, JOELLYN ROMANO, PAUL C. STOWICK, ALEXA WILLIAMS

PRODUCTION STAFF

Producer.....	Kathy Zimmermann
Director/Choreographer.....	Frank Roberts
Vocal Director.....	Christine Shelton
Tap Choreographer.....	Annie Jo Ermel
Set Design	Frank Roberts
Set Construction.....	Mack Anderson, Steve Zimmermann &Members of the Cast
Set Painting.....	Sharon Damisch & David Geinosky
Stage Manager.....	Debbie Szczesniak
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Kaitlin Moser
Running Crew.....	Mack Anderson,Chris Entwistle & Samantha Thielman
Lighting Design.....	Steve Nickerson
Lightboard Operator.....	Pascale Trouillot
Spot Light Operators.....	Jean Fitzpatrick & Steve Zimmermann
Sound Design / Operator.....	Mikayla Auerswald
Props	Jean Fitzpatrick, Ann Stewart & Debbie Szczesniak
Playbill.....	Frank Roberts
Lobby Board Design and Construction.....	Ann Stewart
House Managers.....	Heide Gotsch, Kathy Heinze & Kathy Pazdioch
Staff Photographers.....	Rick Johnson & Mia Williams
Usher Coordinator.....	Jan Blaheta
Ushers.....	Members and Friends of Music On Stage
Wardrobe / Dressers.....	Kim Miller, Trisha Pazdioch & Mia Williams

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathy Zimmermann - Chairman
 Frank Roberts - Artistic Director
 Chris Entwistle - Treasurer
 Kathy Blaheta - Secretary
 Ann Stewart - Resident Musical Consultant-Historian

ORCHESTRA

BASS

Libby Louiseau
Alex Meza

BRASS

Brian Anderson
Dave Crook
Chip Gross
Bill Kort
Stan Louiseau

REEDS

Diane Hansen
Les Olds
Frank Rebeka
Karen Stein
Bob Thompson

DRUMS

Paul Betz

PIANO

Nick Kabat
Kailey Rockwell

KEYBOARD

Erik William Scheele

CONDUCTOR

Frank Roberts

WHO'S WHO

Julia Bostrom (Mary Beth) is thrilled about her second MOS production and is honored to be in this amazing cast! Julia is 11 years old and has done 16 shows. Some include MOS's *Music Man* (Gracie Shinn), Metropolis' *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle), *Into the Woods* (Little Red Riding Hood), Setting the Stage's *Grease* (Sandy), *Little Mermaid* (Ariel), *Peter Pan* (Peter), *Sound of Music* (Liesl), Schaumburg On-Stage's *Annie* (Orphan), *Joseph* (Family Child), St. James' *Peter Pan* (Lost Boy). Julia thanks her family for everything!

Quentin Brege (Grover Dill) is so excited to be back with Music on Stage! He was first cast in the kid ensemble in *The Music Man* and he caught the acting "bug"! In addition to his acting he enjoys basketball, and Hip Hop dance. He'd like to thank his voice teacher Francesca for helping him get the part of Grover Dill. He would also like to thank his family for support. Enjoy the show!

Allie Burdick (Ensemble) is thrilled to making her MOS debut in *A Christmas Story The Musical*, and she's happy to be sharing the stage with both her mom and her gym teacher! She has performed in several productions at the Gorilla Tango Theater, and loves to participate in musical theatre productions at her amazing school, where she is in eighth grade. Favorite roles include Sally in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, Gertrude McFuzz in *Seussical*, and Taylor in *How Music Came to the World*. A SAG eligible actress, Allie has also performed in many films and television commercials, including the leading role of Lizzie in the webseries *Intervention*. Allie loves all forms of dance, especially ballet, and has been performing in dance productions since she was three years old. Allie would like to thank her wonderful family and friends for all their love and support.

Julie Burdick (Ensemble) is pleased to be returning to Music on Stage, having previously performed as Chava in *Fiddler on the Roof*. South Florida equity credits include Lily and Young Julia in James Joyce's *The Dead* (Carbonell Award winner), Nurse Flynn in *Cuckoo's Nest*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Carbonell Award winner), Martha in *The Secret Garden*, and Rosie in *Sweet Charity*. She also portrayed Eve in the National tour of *Songs of Paradise*, and many more, both in Chicago and Florida. She has also appeared in many TV shows, movies, and commercials. *A Christmas Story The Musical* has been a wonderful experience, mostly because, for the first time she's sharing the stage with her beautiful, talented, sweet, brilliant daughter Allie. I love you, Alliecat!!! XOXOXO

Tyler Callahan (Ensemble) is excited to return to Music on Stage in their spectacular production of *A Christmas Story The Musical*. Tyler has appeared in many productions with other theater groups such as Williams Street Rep, Music on Stage, Theater Nebula, Highland Park Players, and Up and Coming. He studied music and jazz vocal technique with David Bloom and Spider Saloff at the Bloom School of Jazz and is continuing vocal studies with the fabulous Christine Shelton. Tyler wants to give all his love and thanks to his family and friends for their inspiration and support.

WHO'S WHO

Nate Carlson (Ensemble) is thrilled to be returning to MOS after performing in the male ensemble for *Guys and Dolls* this fall. Previous shows include *The Christmas Schooner* with Tesseract, *How to Succeed...* with FSTC, *Titanic the Musical* with Second Suburb Players, and *Romeo and Juliet* with PHS (Friar Laurence). Special thanks to Frank for the opportunity and to friends and family for their support.

Hayden Edwards (Flick) is excited to be in his first Music on Stage production. He was previously cast as Winthrop in *The Music Man* over the summer with Forte Productions at White Pines Dinner Theatre. He is an 8th grader who loves doing theatre and also does Spotlight Youth Theatre with his twin sister. He hopes you enjoy the production. Long live bow ties!!

Lily Edwards (Ensemble) is thrilled to be in her first Music on Stage production. She also has been doing Spotlight Youth theatre for about four years. She is an 8th grader who enjoys hanging out with her friends and all her many pets. Please enjoy the show!

John Fogarty (Santa/Ensemble) is excited to be a part of his second Music On Stage show. He has recently been in MOS's *Guys and Dolls* (*Rusty Charlie*), Up And Coming Theatre's *Heathers* (*Officer Milner*), LPZ's *Sunset Boulevard* (*Sheldrake*), Harper's *Journey's End* (*Colonel*), UAC's *Wild Party* (*Max*), Harper's *Gypsy* and UAC's *American Idiot* (*Favorite Son*). Thank you to my friends and family for all of their support and enjoy the show!

Garrett Hershey (Scut Farkus) is honored to be returning to Music on Stage, having previously appeared in *The Music Man*, *Meet Me in St. Louis* and *Damn Yankees*. Other favorite roles include Young Peter in *Pride Film and Play's The Boy from Oz*, Young Karl in Tesseract's *The Christmas Schooner*, Flounder in Central High School's *Little Mermaid*, and Jojo in *Seussical Jr.* at Lundahl Middle School. Garrett wishes to thank Frank Roberts and MOS for their support.

Logan Hershey (Schwartz) is honored to be appearing in his first Music on Stage production. He has appeared in ten musicals with Spotlight Youth Theatre including *Schoolhouse Rock*, *Wizard of Oz*, and *Oklahoma*. When not on stage, he also plays the baritone horn in his school band and the electric bass. Logan wishes to thank Frank Roberts and MOS for their support.

Alexander Lasky (Ralphie Parker) is excited to return for another Music on Stage production! Last spring, he played Winthrop in *The Music Man* at Cutting Hall (Palatine) and White Pines (Oregon, Illinois). Previously, he played multiple roles, including Young Shrek, in *Shrek the Musical*. Most recently he was Flounder in *The Little Mermaid* for The King's Players in Mount Prospect. Alex thanks Frank and the MOS staff for this opportunity and their support!

WHO'S WHO

Alma Lumabas (Ensemble) is so excited to be part of *A Christmas Story The Musical* after a four-year hiatus from stage work. For VPA, Alma played the Mysterious (wo)Man in *Into The Woods* and Maurice in *Beauty and The Beast*. For Music On Stage, memorable roles include Poopsie in *The Pajama Game*, Yvette in *Miss Saigon*, Gloria Rasputin in *Bye Bye Birdie*, Irene Roth in *Crazy for You*, the Fishmonger/Sword dancer in *Brigadoon*, Nellie in *Jekyll and Hyde*, and Consuela in *West Side Story*. For Theatre Nebula in collaboration with Music On Stage, she was a soul sister in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and most recently as a phantom in *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. During the day she practices physical therapy, specializing in pediatrics, orthopedics, and wound care. As always, her undying gratitude and love go out to her very supportive husband Damon and daughters Michaela and Natasha. A special shout out to Boo and Creature (of the Night)!

Courtney Miller (Nancy) age 10, is a 5th grader at Carpenter Elementary School in Park Ridge. Recent roles include Mother/Daughter Ensemble in *Hairspray*, Molly in *Annie*, Storyteller/Egyptian in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and Fairy Silvermist in *Peter Pan*. Courtney was an Assistant Costumer for *Hairspray* and *Les Miserables*. When Courtney is not on stage, she can be found singing, dancing, swimming, reading, or most likely, sewing. She loves creating her own clothing and accessories.

Brandon Nieves (Randy Parker) is 12 years old and a 7th grader at Kenyon Woods Middle School in South Elgin. He has been in 10 productions with Spotlight Youth Theater, and this is his first production with Music on Stage. Brandon would like to thank his amazing directors and cast, his parents for their love and support, as well as his friends & family. Enjoy the show!

Ashley Peter (Mother) is excited to be Mother in *A Christmas Story The Musical*. She frequently performs here at Cutting Hall and was last seen as Janet Weiss in *The Rocky Horror Show*. Some of her favorite past rolls include: Miss Dorothy (Thoroughly Modern Millie), Dolores (The Wild Party), Johanna (Sweeney Todd), Norma Cassidy (Victor/Victoria), Christine Daae (Phantom), Genevieve (The Baker's Wife), Ulla (The Producers), and Amber Von Tussle (Hairspray). Ashley is thrilled to be sharing the stage once more with her husband, Steve (The Old Man).

Steven Peter (The Old Man) is happy to be performing as The Old Man in *A Christmas Story The Musical*. Steve was previously seen performing on the Cutting Hall stage as Brad in *The Rocky Horror Show*. Favorite roles include: Willard (Footloose), Frank Butler (Annie Get Your Gun), Anthony (Sweeney Todd), Curly (Oklahoma!), Mr. Black (The Wild Party), Leo Bloom (The Producers), Gaston (Beauty And The Beast), and Corny Collins (Hairspray). Off stage, Steve enjoys singing in his rock band with his wife, Ashley (Mother).

WHO'S WHO

Joey Richards (Ensemble) is a 5th grader at Seth Paine Elementary School in Lake Zurich, Illinois. *A Christmas Story The Musical* is his third production this year, following roles in the musicals *James and the Giant Peach* and *Peter Pan* with Cricket Theatre Company. In addition to his theatre work, Joey is trained in tap, jazz, and ballet.

JoEllyn Romano (Ensemble) is thrilled to be dancing in this show! Recent Music on Stage shows include *White Christmas*, and *Singing in the Rain*. JoEllyn is a former ballerina who spent 12 years dancing in two ballet companies. Currently, she dances Hawaiian hula with the Halau I Ka Pono, and tap dances with The Tree Town Tappers. JoEllyn would like to thank Frank Roberts for giving her the opportunity to dance in another musical!

Paul C. Stowick (Ensemble) is excited to be back on stage with MOS! This is Paul's third show with MOS, the first being *The Music Man*, and he recently appeared in *Guys and Dolls*. Paul has been in many shows with a wide variety of groups, but Paul's favorite theatre credits include: Bert in *Mary Poppins*, Max in *Lend Me a Tenor*, Nephew Fred in *A Christmas Carol*, and the three times he has done *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Paul would like to thank all of his friends and family who came out to support him, the cast, and MOS. Enjoy the show everyone!!

Kara Vombrack (Miss Shields) has been performing for the past 19 years. She is a proud graduate of ISU with a double major in Musical Theatre and Choral Music Education. Recently, she was seen as Anytime Annie in *42ND STREET* with Fremont Street Theater Company. Favorite roles: Fiona in *Shrek* (Big Deal Productions) Millie in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Glenview Theatre Guild), and Ariel in *Footloose* (Up & Coming Theatre). Love to her family, friends, and Music On Stage.

Alexa Williams (Ensemble) is happy to be back at Cutting hall in this new production! A senior at EGHS, she is pursuing an education and future in the performing arts. In the Chicagoland area, she has most recently been seen in *The Music Man*, *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel), and *Heathers*. This is a bittersweet show for Alexa, as it may be one of the last times she can perform alongside her sister, Ariel. To the cast: "Break a Leg Lamp!"

Ariel Williams (Esther Jane) is an 8th grader from Elk Grove and is thrilled to be in her 4th Music On Stage production. Other MOS shows include *The Music Man*, *Shrek* (TYA), and *Meet Me In St. Louis*. It has been a blast working with such fun people in this cast! Thank you, Frank and MOS, for the opportunity to be a part of this! Thank you all for supporting our show, and have a great holiday season!

Patrick Yost (Jean Shepherd) is enjoying his first MOS production. Patrick retired a year ago from 31 years in law enforcement, is an Army veteran and thrilled to be back on stage. His most recent role (July 2016), was as Commander Harbison in *South Pacific*. Other roles include Peter in *Company*, Orrin in *Carousel*, and Finch in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. Patrick thanks family and friends for their encouragement.

PRODUCTION PROFILES

Annie Jo Ermel (Tap Choreographer) is a Chicagoland educator, choreographer and performer. Recent choreography credits: *Fancy Nancy* (Northbrook Theatre). *Aida* (GBN High School), *Heathers* (UAC Theatre). Upcoming: *Edwin Drood* (Carthage College). With 25 years of tap experience, AJ teaches dance and Master Class workshops across the Chicago Suburbs. Currently you can find her performing in *Singin' In The Rain* at the Marriott Theatre. Enjoy!

Frank Roberts (Director/Choreographer) is thrilled to be directing a *Christmas Story The Musical* for Music on Stage. From 1999-2002, as Resident Director for Stage Right Productions he directed such shows as *Guys & Dolls*, *She Loves Me*, *Victor/Victoria*, *Anything Goes*, *You Can't Take It With You* and *Mame*. As an actor, Frank has played such roles as the Baker in *Into The Woods*, Pseudolus in *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, Edna Turnblad in *Hairspray* and Max Bialystock in *The Producers*. In 2013 he was named Artistic Director for Music on Stage and serves on the Board of Directors. Enjoy the show!!!!

Christine Shelton (Vocal Director) is honored to be making her debut with MOS as vocal director. "I am thrilled to be working with such an amazingly talented professional cast!" Other directorial jobs include *Fiddler on the Roof, Jr.* with Big Deal Productions, and *The Music Man* and *The Sound of Music* with BAAC. Christine has enjoyed assistant vocal directing *The Christmas Schooner* with Tesser Act, and also many Barrington productions while teaching in the district. She has been acting "on stage" and playing "in the pit" for many years. Her favorite shows include: *The Wizard of Oz* (Miss Gulch), *Annie Warbucks*, *Cinderella* (wicked stepmother), *Kiss Me Kate*, *The Pajama Game*, *White Christmas*, *La Cage aux Folles* (Jacqueline), and *Meet Me in St Louis*. She currently teaches private voice in her home studio and at Barrington High School. Christine's currently starring in her most favorite role...as mother to Tim, Tamara and Ashley and grandmother to Grace, Paul, Connor, Jackson and Annie. Thank you MOS for your confidence in me and for this wonderful opportunity.

Debbie Szczesniak (Stage Manager) This is her fifth show with MOS and she is happy to be asked back. She has just finished a successful run of *Seussical the Musical* with Big Noise Theater as Stage Manger and Props Mistress. Debbie has been working as Stage Manager or making props for the past 20 years, working with North Shore Theater of Wilmette, Wilmette Children's Theater, Starlight, Citadel, BNT and Gaslight players. She really enjoys doing both of these jobs. Always has fun going shopping for props with her husband Jim and very good friend Martha.

Kathy Zimmermann (Producer) A Christmas Story The Musical is Kathy's 19th show with Music On Stage as producer. Kathy has also appeared in 16 productions with MOS. Her favorites as Lady Thiang in *The King and I* and Doris in *Damn Yankees*. Kathy joined the MOS Board of Directors in 1997. Since then she has produced, helped with costumes, worked stage crew, helped with set painting and decorating, and in a pinch has run lights. Whatever needs to be done, Kathy is there. She thanks her husband of 41 years for his support and also for letting her drag him into running spot lights and set building for our shows. A big thank you to the cast for giving their time and talents to this show. Now sit back, relax and enjoy the show!

PRODUCTION PROFILES

Mikayla Auerswald (Sound Design / Operator) is a newcomer to Music On Stage and ran sound for our recent production of *Guys & Dolls*. Mikayla is a staff member here at Cutting Hall and has also designed lights for Theatre Nebula.

Sharon Damisch (Set Painting / Decoration) has decorated Music On Stage sets since 2005 when she joined the group on our production of *The Music Man*. Since then she has decorated such shows as *Guys and Dolls*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Damn Yankees* and many more. Sharon's work has also appeared on the stages of Big Noise Theatre, Lzp Productions, Fremd High School and Palatine High School.

Jean Fitzpatrick (Props / Spotlight) has been creating and running props with Music On Stage since 2002. As Prop Mistress for Stage Right Dinner Theatre she has been working with Artistic Director Frank Roberts since 1992. Her work has also appeared on the Cutting Hall stage for such groups as Lzp Productions, Theatre Nebula and Music On Stage.

David Geinosky (Set Painting / Decoration) is thrilled to join MOS again on *A Christmas Story The Musical*. Most recently he has appeared as John Truitt in *Meet Me In St Louis* and Phil Davis in *White Christmas for Music On Stage*. Other Scenic Credits include. *Shrek*, *Little Shop*, *Annie & Cath Me If You Can (Big Deal)*, *Ragtime*, *Ruthless*, *Legally Blond & Cabaret* (Big Noise). David is a proud graduate of The American Musical and Dramatic Academy and a recipient of the Broadway World Award for Best Scenic Design (Ragtime)

Steve Nickerson (Lighting Design) has designed the lights for many many years with Music on Stage. He has also lit shows for many of the companies that perform here at Cutting Hall. Music on Stage wishes to thank Steve for his loyalty to our productions and for making them shine!

Trisha Thompson Pazdioch (Dresser) This is her 11th show with MOS. A special thanks to Kathy and Frank for getting her started 10 shows ago on this wonderful adventure. She enjoys helping the cast look their best for you. Please, sit back, relax and let this talented cast/crew take you back to the 1940s with *A Christmas Story The Musical!*

MISSION STATEMENT

Music On Stage is a community of performers, musicians, artisans, designers and volunteers dedicated to the preservation and development of quality, live theatre in our Northwest Suburban Community. Our goal is to provide an open venue for the individual to be creative, inspired and to stretch the limits of their imagination.

SPECIAL THANKS

All Saints Lutheran Church of Palatine
Steve Cohen / Coldwell Banker
Kevin Barthel
Kathy Evans
Tom French
Grand Rapids Civic Theatre
Paramount Theatre Aurora
The Presbyterian Church of Palatine
St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly
Steve Zimmermann

And to all those people who have helped along the way
in so many aspects of this production of
A CHRISTMAS STORY THE MUSICAL

We are eternally grateful!!