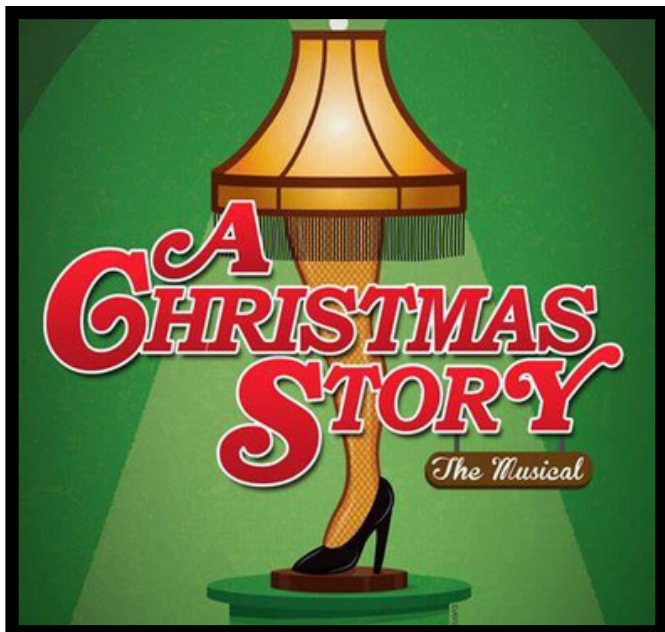


PLAYBILL

The Shawnee Playhouse



Nov 24th - Dec 23rd, 2023

www.TheShawneePlayhouse.com

Shawnee Institute Artistic Division

The Shawnee Playhouse and WORTHINGTON PLAYERS

The artistic arm of The Shawnee Institute was formed in

December of 1999 as a 501(c)(3) organization. Our mission

statement is to provide diverse, quality artistic programs to the residents of the historic village of Shawnee; its neighbors and visitors. As a not-for-profit organization, the Institute has flourished in its endeavors creating original programs here at Shawnee.

PLAYHOUSE STAFF

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS.....Ginny & Charlie Kirkwood
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.....Midge McClosky
GROUP SALES.....Tansy Morgan
PRESS WRITER.....Sam Cameron
BOX OFFICE.....Barb Dickinson, Cyndi Valcukas
MEDIA MANAGER.....Robert McClosky
COMPANY PHOTOGRAPHER.....Kenneth R. Card
COMPANY VIDEOGRAPHER.....Paul Valcukus

CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR & SCENIC DESIGN.....Max Kubiak
CHOREOGRAPHER & STAGE MANAGER.....Megan Fry
MUSIC DIRECTOR.....Julian Gajewski
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.....Meg Gallo
COSTUME DESIGN.....Barbara Beltz
SPOTLIGHT OPERATORS.....Jake Weidenbaum, Nevaeh Ramirez
.....Shane Weston, Jude Maltempo

2023
Playbills



TheShawneePlayhouse.com

CAST

JEAN SHEPHERD/NARRATOR.....	Michael DiGioia
RADIO STATION ASSISTANT.....	Mikayla Lipitz
RALPHIE.....	Finn Naughton
MOTHER.....	Naomi Yvette
THE OLD MAN.....	Ryan Cook
RANDY.....	Chase Cameron & Daniel Stone
SCHWARTZ.....	Kasper Valentin
FLICK.....	Sabastian Pariso
ESTHER JANE.....	Peyton Cook
MARY BETH.....	Esther Vough
SCUT FARKUS.....	Kash Crowley
GROVER DILL.....	Hugh Rothweiler
NANCY.....	Phoebe Reeder
MISS SHIELDS.....	Juliet Dunham
SANTA.....	Rocco Martincic
ENSEMBLE.....	Abigail Silva, Abigail Weidenbaum
.....	Adeline Maltempo, Alex DiDuca
.....	Brian Bollinger, Cadence Bohdal
.....	Cara Heffernan, Carlos Valentin
.....	Christopher Cameron, Gozum Pul
.....	Grace Roberts, Julianna Mosser
.....	Kara John, Lars Philipps
.....	RJ Cooney, Saturn Coyne
.....	Teagan Maltempo, Vanessa Kim

SPECIAL THANKS: Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort, Shawnee Presbyterian Church, Marissa Rachjaibun, Backstage Parents, Ushers, Parking Attendants, Ted Kubiak, Curtiss Burton, Capozzolo and Brothers Slate

Musical Numbers

Act One

"It All Comes Down to Christmas".....	Ralphie, The Parkers, Kids, Ensemble
"Red Ryder Carbine Action BB Gun".....	Ralphie
"The Genius on Cleveland Street".....	The Old Man, Mother
"When You're a Wimp".....	Ralphie, Randy, Schwartz
.....	Flick, Esther Jane, Mary Beth
.....	Farkus, Dill, Kids
"Ralphie to the Rescue!".....	Ralphie, Miss Shields, The Old Man
.....	Mother, Randy, Ensemble
"What a Mother Does".....	Mother
"A Major Award".....	The Old Man, Mother, Ensemble
"Parker Family Sing-along".....	The Parkers
"Act I Finale".....	Ralphie, The Old Man, Mother, Randy, Ensemble

Act Two

"Sticky Situation".....	Ralphie, Schwartz, Flick
.....	Policeman, Doctor, Fireman, Kids
"You'll Shoot Your Eye Out".....	Miss Shields, Farkus, Dill
.....	Schwartz, Flick, Ensemble
"Just Like That".....	Mother
"Up on Santa's Lap".....	Santa, Elves, Ralphie
.....	Randy, Mary Beth, Kids
"Before The Old Man Comes Home".....	The Parkers
"Somewhere Hovering Over Indiana".....	Ralphie, Randy, Kids
"Christmas Morning".....	Ralphie, Randy
"Ralphie to the Rescue! (Reprise).....	Ralphie, Ensemble
"A Christmas Story".....	The Parkers, Company

SETTING:

LUX Radio Station, Late 1960s

Indiana, December in the Early 1940s

A Christmas Story, The Musical



Michael DiGioia (JEAN SHEPHERD/NARRATOR)- SUNY Purchase Acting Conservatory grad Michael DiGioia (BFA) excelled as King Arthur in *Camelot* and King Charlemagne in *Pippin* at Shawnee. Other works include: Kris Kringle in *Miracle on 34th St.* and Toad in *A Year With Frog & Toad* at Scranton's Ritz Theater. Michael's diverse career spans Off-Broadway, TV commercials, regional theaters, and film festivals. www.M-DiGioia.com - [youtube.com/@michaeldigioia](https://www.youtube.com/@michaeldigioia).



Mikayla Lipitz (RADIO STATION ASSISTANT)- is happy to be on stage at Shawnee again. She was recently seen in their production of *Joseph* as well as *Oliver Jr.* Other credits include *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Beauty and the Beast*. She is thankful to her family for all of their support and love.



Finn Naughton (RALPHIE)- is a student at Notre Dame and is ecstatic to be doing a show with his actual mom. Favorite shows include: **Shawnee Playhouse-** *Mame* (Patrick), *The Little Mermaid Jr.* (Prince Eric), *Oliver Jr.* (Oliver, NEPTA Winner), *Elf* (Michael), *Pippin* (Theo). **Rebel Stages-** *Schoolhouse Rock*, *Lion King Jr.* (Pumbaa), *Addams Family Jr.* (Pugsley), *Suessical Jr.* (Jojo). **Notara-** *The Nutcracker*. He is thankful for his supportive family.

A Christmas Story, The Musical



Naomi Yvette (MOTHER)- has been performing in musical theatre for several decades. Some favorite roles include Grizabella in *Cats*, The Narrator in *Joseph...Dreamcoat*, and Diana Morales in *A Chorus Line*. Naomi is particularly delighted to be playing Mother to her son, Finn (**RALPHIE**), who she also enjoys mothering in real-life (along with his 3 brothers).



Ryan Cook (THE OLD MAN)- is ecstatic to be on stage with his daughter! Favorite stage credits: *Full Monty* (Jerry), *JCS* (Judas), *Footloose* (Willard), *Victor/Victoria* (Squash), *Kiss Me Kate* (Gangster), *Mamma Mia* (Sam). He has also directed many area productions most recently *Joseph... Dreamcoat* (SPH) and *Jekyll and Hyde* (Rebel Stages). Special thanks to the entire production team and staff at SPH. Lindsey and Peyton, you are my world. This and all performances are dedicated to his father.



Daniel Stone (RANDY Nov. 24 - Dec. 3rd)- is excited to once again be performing on The Shawnee Playhouse stage. Some of his other recent performances include *Mame* and *Little Mermaid Jr.* as well as *A Christmas Carol* from last holiday season. Enjoy the show and Happy Holidays!

A Christmas Story, The Musical



Chase Cameron (Dec. 8th - Dec. 23rd)- is thrilled to be back on the Shawnee Stage. Past performances: Scuttle in *The Little Mermaid Jr.*, *A Christmas Carol, The Musical,* *The Addams Family,* Tickle the Dog in *Junie B. Jones,* and Toto in *A Christmas Wizard of Oz.* He thanks his mom, dad, and his six amazing older sisters, for their love and support, and Midge McClosky and Max Kubiak, for giving him the opportunity to be a human in this show, although he loves playing animals! Enjoy the show!



Kasper Valentin (SCHWARTZ)- is an avid performer who this year performed as Ariel in *The Little Mermaid Jr.* and as Young Simba in *The Lion King Experience!* She performed the role of Tiny Tim in last year's Xmas production of Michael DeMaio's *A Christmas Carol* at the Shawnee Playhouse. Kasper wishes everyone a Happy Holiday Season!



Sebastian Pariso (FLICK)- hailing from Sussex County New Jersey, is having the time of his life performing in his second Shawnee Playhouse production! His previous roles include Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid Jr.*, Shawanda in *Elf Jr.*, and Scab in *Newsies Jr.* Sebastian's favorite day of the week is when there is the rehearsal, and he can't wait to continue performing with Shawnee Playhouse!

A Christmas Story, The Musical



Peyton Cook (ESTHER JANE)- is thrilled to be participating in her third production at Shawnee! You have probably seen Peyton in STARS camp, A Winter Cabaret, Josie in *Junie B. Jones* and her first main stage production of *Joseph/Dreamcoat!* Peyton takes Piano and Ballet and is a fourth grader at Swiftwater Intermediate School. Thank you always to Shawnee and Mom & Dad for your love and support.



Esther Vough (MARY BETH)- is 12 years old. She is in 6th grade at Lehman Intermediate School. She was last seen, on stage, in the ensemble of Rebel Stages production of *School House Rock*. This is her first musical with The Shawnee Playhouse.



Kash Crowley (SCUT FARKUS)- attends Arts Academy Charter Middle School where he majors in Guitar and Theater. He has been on stage in numerous plays and musicals with In2youarts since he was 7 years old. This summer he played Aladdin in *Aladdin Kids*, Thomas O'Malley in *The Aristocats Kids*, and Carols in *Descendants The Musical*. This is his first performance with Shawnee Playhouse and is very excited to extend his theater family.

A Christmas Story, The Musical



Hugh Rothweiler (GROVER DILL)- is a 6th grader at JT Lambert with varied interests. He plays football and is in Chess Club and Robotics. Hugh is very excited to have his first role with this show. *A Christmas Story* is Hugh's 3rd appearance at Shawnee; having previously appeared in *Joseph...Dreamcoat* this past summer and last year's *A Christmas Carol*. Hugh thanks his mom, dad & brother for their support. Penn State class of 2034. WE ARE!



Phoebe Reeder (NANCY)- is so excited to be a part of *A Christmas Story*. This is her second Christmas production at Shawnee. She was previously a Mersister in the *Little Mermaid Jr.* over the summer. Christmas is her favorite time of year and can't wait to share some holiday spirit. Enjoy the show!



Juliet Dunham (MISS SHIELDS)- excitedly returns to SPH this holiday season! A lifetime performer with a BA in Theatre Arts, Juliet enjoys performing, directing, choreographing, and being an audience member, equally. Her favorite roles include Amanda in *Private Lives*, Nancy in *The Sunshine Boys*, Mina in *Dracula*, Fastrada in *Pippin*, and several characters in *A Chorus Line*. Merry Christmas...and don't shoot your eye out!

A Christmas Story, The Musical



Rocco Martincic (SANTA)- is 18 and is a freshman theatre student at ESU. In his 8 months doing musical theatre, this will be his 5th musical (4th performed at Shawnee). In his free time, Rocco works on his singing, works out, and plays video games. He wants to thank the entire theatre community that he's been involved with for making him feel welcome and can't wait to continue his theatre journey.



Abigail Silva (ENSEMBLE)- has just been doing musical theater for 7 years. Her recent musical was *The Little Mermaid* last year at East Stroudsburg South High School as the character Alana. She has also been in *Percy Jackson* as a half-blood and in *Highschool Musical* as a thespian. Abigail was most recently in the fall play *12 Angry Jurors*. Additionally, she is also in the marching band, choir, and the choraliers. This is Abigail's first Shawnee Playhouse show and she is so excited about it.



Abigail Weidenbaum (ENSEMBLE)- is 14 years old, and is thrilled to be in *A Christmas Story* this year. Her first show at the Shawnee Playhouse was *Oliver Jr.* She was also in *A Christmas Carol* last winter, and *Spongebob the Musical Youth Edition* this past summer. Merry Christmas and enjoy the show!

A Christmas Story, The Musical



Adeline Maltempo (ENSEMBLE)- is excited to be in the ensemble of *A Christmas Story* to celebrate this Christmas season! You may have seen her in the ensembles of Shawnee's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolored Dreamcoat* or in Rebel Stages' *Jekyll and Hyde* this year. She hopes you enjoy the show and have a very merry Christmas!



Alex DiDuca (ENSEMBLE)- has been performing at Shawnee and Notre Dame High School for quite some time now. Over the Summer, he served as an intern for the Shawnee Playhouse, participating in every summer show one way or another. Whether it be behind the scenes helping with tech or acting in the shows, you can bet that Alex will be there. His most recent show was *Jekyll & Hyde*, for which he thanks Ryan Cook and Max Kubiak for a wonderful performance.



Brian Bollinger (ENSEMBLE)- is an American Actor, Screenwriter, and Martial Artist. He graduated from East Stroudsburg University with a Bachelor of Acting and Screenwriting while attending martial arts classes at Impact Martial Arts. His first performance was at the Playhouse back in 2013 where he played four characters in *The Twarting of Baron Bolligrew*. He is so excited to be back and wishes everyone a Happy Holiday!

A Christmas Story, The Musical



Cadence Bohdal (MRS. SCHWARTZ/ENSEMBLE)- is 14 years old and loves acting and singing. She has done many shows at shawnee Playhouse including *Oliver Jr*, *Christmas Carol*, and *Spongebob*. She also interned and helped with other shows during the summer. She has also done other productions at school and In 2 You Arts and does voice lessons with Midge!



Cara Heffernan (ENSEMBLE)- is a very happy 8-year-old who just loves to sing and perform for others. The Shawnee Playhouse has been a wonderful and inspiring base for her to start her theatre experience. She is thrilled to be a part of the cast for this year's production of *A Christmas Story*. This will be Cara's third show at the Shawnee Playhouse and she cannot wait to perform for you this Christmas season. Happy Holidays!



Carlos Valentin Jr. (ENSEMBLE)- is excited to be a part of *A Christmas Story* as this is his 2nd experience in a theater production and very first musical! Carlos thanks Kasper Valentin for inspiring him and Mrs. Midge McClosky for the opportunity and sends his best wishes to the cast and crew of *A Christmas Story*!

A Christmas Story, The Musical



Christopher Cameron (ENSEMBLE)- is thrilled to be back on the Shawnee Stage in this production of one of his favorite Holiday classics. Past performances include Jacob Marley in *A Christmas Carol*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Born Yesterday*, *Sliding into Seniorhood*, and *The Full Monty*. Chris would like to thank his lovely wife, Samantha, and their seven beautiful children, for their love and support, and Midge McClosky, for giving him this wonderful opportunity!



Gozum Pul (ENSEMBLE)- is a senior at Kocaeli University, Faculty of Fine Arts. She has previously taken part in commercials, TV series, film projects, as well as many stage plays. She has even directed a short film before! Other works including modeling, as she has modeled for 3 different children's and young women's brands.



Grace Roberts (ENSEMBLE)- is a fifth grader this year and this is her first performance as a cast member. She participated in Summer 2023, STARS camp and performed with the cast of *The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition*. Grace is a member of a swim team, as well as her school choir, and band as a flute player. She enjoys singing, drawing, and visiting the beach. Grace would like to thank Shawnee Playhouse and her family for this opportunity.

A Christmas Story, The Musical



Julianna Mosser (ENSEMBLE)- is a Freshman Vocal Major at Charter Arts High School. Previous Shawnee Playhouse roles include: Karen Plankton in *SpongeBob Jr.*, Lucille in *Junie B. Jones Jr.*, Martha Cratchit in *Christmas Carol*, Ensemble in *Elf*, and 2023 Summer Intern. Additional roles Scab/Brooklyn in *Newsies Jr.*, Cook in *Frozen Jr.* (Civic Theatre Allentown), and u/s Susan Walker, in *Miracle on 34th Street* (DeSales University's Act I).



Kara John (ENSEMBLE)- born in East Stroudsburg, PA, is a budding actress entering 6th grade at 10. Her acting journey started at Shawnee Playhouse S.T.A.R.S. camp, featuring in productions like *A Christmas Carol* and *One Bad Apple*. She cherishes friendships from the Shawnee Playhouse, often attending their shows. Grateful for this opportunity, Kara, a self-proclaimed cookie enthusiast, wants you to know: Shawnee's Playhouse RULES!!!

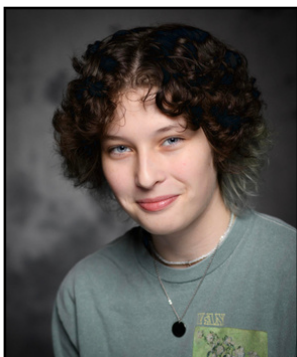


Lars Philipps (ENSEMBLE)- is a 13-year-old actor from Brodheadsville, PA. He goes to school at Pleasant Valley. After graduation, he hopes to attend The Ohio State University and major in history education. He was most recently in *Jekyll and Hyde* at Rebel Stages as an ensemble member. He enjoys playing video games, acting, and performing. Lars has a grey tabby cat he loves more than anything.

A Christmas Story, The Musical



RJ Cooney (ENSEMBLE)- loves *A Christmas Story: The Musical!* He thoroughly enjoyed working in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* last summer and looks forward to more theater experiences in the future. RJ is a fan of musical theater, particularly Andrew Lloyd Webber. He triple-dog-dares you to have a great time at the show!"



Saturn Coyne (ENSEMBLE)- has been doing shows for a little over a year now. Most recently, Saturn was Electric Skate #1 in *Spongebob the Musical Jr.* this past summer at the playhouse. They are currently a freshman at Stroudsburg Jr. High School. They are very excited for another winter show here at Shawnee.



Teagan Maltempo (ENSEMBLE)- is delighted to play the part as an ensemble member in Shawnee's production of *A Christmas Story*. She has previously been cast as ensemble in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolored Dreamcoat* and *A Christmas Carol*. She hopes everyone enjoys the show and has a great holiday season.

A Christmas Story, The Musical



Vanessa Kim (ENSEMBLE)- likes theater and singing. She has experience at the Shawnee Playhouse attending S.T.A.R camps and plays. She also enjoys art, cheerleading, dancing, and loves to spend time with her friends. She wants to act when she gets older, so in the meantime, she will continue to practice more to become an aspiring actress.

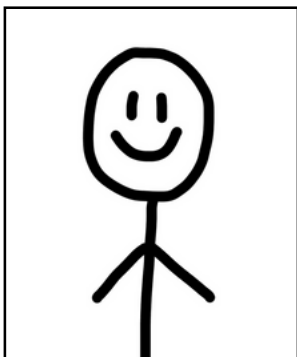


Max Kubiak (DIRECTOR /SCENIC DESIGN)- could not be happier to be doing another Christmas musical @SPH. Midge McClosky, thanks for giving me an opportunity to work with a timeless classic. Meg Gallo, your creativity and professionalism is remarkable. Julian Gajewski every show has been a joy. You impress me in each and every one. Megan Fry, without you coming home from Korea and keeping me on task, I couldn't have done this. Thanks to my family/friends for always giving me the love and support that I do not always deserve but always need. Congrats to the cast, you deserve the world!



Megan Fry (CHOREOGRAPHER/STAGE MANAGER)- is overjoyed to be back at her “home theatre”! She recently returned from a year in South Korea, where she was a Resident Artist at English Musicals Korea. Favorite Shawnee credits include: Catherine in *Pippin*, Morticia in *The Addams Family*, and Gertie Cummings in *Oklahoma!*.

A Christmas Story, The Musical



Julian Gajewski (MUSIC DIRECTOR)- is a senior at Stroudsburg High School and is honored to be a part of this show's creative team. He has previously directed and been a part of Stroudsburg High School's *Beauty and the Beast*, In2YouArts's *The Last Five Years*, and more. He hopes you sit back, relax, and enjoy this Christmas story!



Meg Gallo (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR)- is making her assistant directorial debut. She has been expanding on her love of theater and thanks her mother and Max Kubiak for giving her the opportunity to do what she loves. Her plans to continue theater education lie with Broadway Evolved. Shout out to Betsy and Cynthia! You can find Megan on instagram @meg_gallo”



Barbara Beltz (COSTUME DESIGN)- has been a supporter of SPH for many years and is excited to be an active member of the team that produces the magic on stage. Barbara worked on *Mame* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and is proud to be handling the costuming for *A Christmas Story*. Much appreciation to my husband Ray and the wonderful people at SPH who have been so supportive.

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**Worthington Players
Shawnee Playhouse**

TheShawneePlayhouse.com

ADA ACCESSIBLE RESTROOM & AED located in lobby

UPCOMING EVENTS



October 27th
-
October 29th



November 3rd
-
November 5th



November 24th
-
December 23rd

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