

Good Company Players presents

Directors
Emily Pessano
Robert Sanchez

Choreographers
Emily Pessano
Jessica Sarkisian

Vocal Coach
Shannah Estep

Costume Designer
Ginger Kay Lewis-Reed

Set Designer
David Pierce

Rehearsal Pianist
Laurie Bridges



Stage Manager
Dave Filipczak

Sound Operator
Jeff Gwin

Lighting Designer
Andrea Henrickson

Props
Gabrielle Burton

Crew
Athena Bryant
Jennifer Money

Follow Spot Operators
Martin Martinez
Brad Money

Book by **JOSEPH ROBINETTE**
Music and lyrics by **BENJ PASEK** and **JUSTIN PAUL**

Based upon the motion picture *A Christmas Story* distributed by Warner Bros.,
written by Jean Shepherd, Leigh Brown, and Bob Clark,
and upon *In God We Trust: All Others Pay Cash* written by Jean Shepherd.

*Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY
of Woodstock, Illinois*

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Originally Produced on Broadway by Gerald Goehring, Roy Miller, Michael F. Mitri, Pat Flicker
Addiss, Peter Billingsly, Timothy Laczynski, Mariano Tolentino, Jr., Louise Beard, Michael
Filerman, Scott Hart, Alison Eckert, Bob Bartner, Michael Jenkins, Angela Milonas,
and Bradford W. Smith

THE COMPANY

Jean Shepherd..... DAN PESSANO
Ralphie..... CONNOR POFAHL
Mother..... JESSICA SARKISIAN
The Old Man..... TEDDY MALDONADO
Randy..... VINNY FOLMER
Schwartz..... COLBY PRIEST
Flick..... PETER HARTLEY
Miss Shields..... LAURIE PESSANO
Santa/Fantasy Villian/Doctor..... SHAWN WILLIAMS
Scut Farkus..... LIAM OLSON
Grover Dill..... TREVIN PAULSON
Esther Jane..... ANNA SMITH
Mary Beth..... KARLIE STEMLER
Goggles Kid..... LAUREN CARTER
Nancy..... CAROLINE HUEY
Female Chief Elf..... ETHEL BIRRELL
Mrs. Schwartz..... ASHLEY WILKINSON
Flick's Mother..... MALLORY PARKER

Mobster Tap Specialty..... JOY SMITH
Waiter..... ALEX FIGUEROA
Male Chief Elf..... DE'ANDRE JEAN-PIERRE
Fireman/Grouchy Townsman..... JASON FREGOSO
Policeman..... JACOB COZZI

Kids:

HANNAH AWBREY, LAUREN CARTER, GIGI DICKERSON,
KENNEDY ELLIS, PETER HARTLEY, CAROLINE HUEY,
GRACE LOTT, EMERSYN PIRES, COLBY PRIEST,
DAVID SARKISIAN, ANNA SMITH, JOY SMITH,
KARLIE STEMLER, ALLISON STEMPEL

Adults:

ETHEL BIRRELL, JACOB COZZI, ALEX FIGUEROA,
TONY FOLMER, JASON FREGOSO, KIMI GALANG VILLEGAS,
LONDON GARCIA, JAMES HARVEY, DE'ANDRE JEAN-PIERRE,
CAITLYN LOPEZ, MALLORY PARKER, ASHLEY WILKINSON,
SHAWN WILLIAMS

On stage at Roger Rocka's Dinner Theater
November 10th, 2016 - January 8th, 2017

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Time: 1940

Place: Hohman, Indiana

ACT ONE

OVERTURE

It All Comes Down to Christmas (Part 1)Ralphie,
The Parkers
It All Comes Down to Christmas (Part 2) The Parkers,
Adults, Kids
Higbee's Window Ralphie, Kids, Ensemble
Red Ryder Carbine-Action BB GunRalphie, Jean
It All Comes Down to Christmas (reprise)..... Full Company
The Genius on Cleveland Street The Old Man,
Mother
When You're a Wimp..... Kids
Ralphie to the Rescue!Ralphie, Full Company
What a Mother Does..... Mother
A Major Award..... The Old Man, Mother,
Adults
Parker Family Sing-AlongThe Parkers
Act I Finale Ralphie, Full Company

GCP Costume Shop:

Ginger Kay Lewis-Reed, Sue Jameson,
Marie Q. Kramer, Renata Lewis, & Jana Price

GCP Scene Shop:

David Pierce, Joielle Adams,
Teddy Maldonado, & Wayne Montgomery

UNDER STUDIES

Understudies do not appear without prior notice

HANNAH AWBREY (*Esther Jane*) ~ ETHEL BIRRELL (*Mother*)
LAUREN CARTER (*Schwartz*) ~ GIGI DICKERSON (*Major Award swing*)
KENNEDY ELLIS (*Graver Dill*) ~ TONY FOLMER (*Scut Farkus*)
JASON FREGOSO (*Santa*) ~ GRACE LOTT (*Mary Beth*)
LLAM OLSON (*Flick*) ~ MALLORY PARKER (*Mrs. Schwartz*)
TREVIN PAULSON (*Ralphie*) ~ EMERSYN PIRES (*Nancy*)
COLBY PRIEST (*Mobster Tap*) ~ DAVID SARKISLAN (*Randy*)
ASHLEY WILKINSON (*Miss Shields, Female Chief Elf*)
SHAWN WILLIAMS (*Jean Shepherd, The Old Man*)

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ACT TWO

ENTRACTE

Sticky Situation Ralphie, Schwartz, Flick, Kids,
Miss Shields, Flick's Mom, Nurse,
Policeman, Doctor, Fireman
To the NightclubFarkus, Dill, Schwartz, Flick, Kids
You'll Shoot Your Eye Out!Miss Shields, Kids
The Fight Kids
Just Like That Mother
Red Ryder (reprise) & At Higbee's Ralphie, Elves
Up on Santa's LapSanta, Elves, Mary Beth, Nancy,
Goggles Kid, Kids
Before The Old Man Comes HomeThe Parkers
Somewhere Hovering Over Indiana Ralphie, Randy, Kids
Christmas Morning Ralphie, Randy
Ralphie to the Rescue! (reprise) Ralphie, Full Company
A Christmas Story The Parkers, Full Company

Orchestration provided by
Music for Musicals & Laurie Bridges

What we want for Christmas...

Is a delightful audience and a performance free of cell phones,
electronics, and noisy conversations (and BB guns, of course!)

Oh fudge!

The video and audio recording (including photography) of this per-
formance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.

*Give yourself A Major Award and stay off of Santa's Naughty List:
return to a simpler time by turning off all electronic devices.*

SPECIAL THANKS

Laurie Bridges ~ Jacob Cozzi
Kodie Egenolf ~ Suzy Jane Edwards
Jason Fregoso ~ Jim Irvine
Kim's Wigs ~ Henry Montelongo
Wayne Montgomery ~ Abigail Nolte
Dan Pessano ~ Laurie Pessano
Daniel Sutherland ~ Patrick Allan Tromborg
Sarah Van Bindsbergen ~ Ashley Wilkinson
Shawn Williams

THE COMPANY

HANNAH AWBREY (*Kids Ensemble*) is a member of GCP's Junior Company who performed in GCP's mainstage productions of *Camelot* (Ensemble), *Meet Me in St. Louis* (Esther) and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Doris). She has performed with Reedley's River City Theatre Co. in *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Annie*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Hannah has taken several classes with GCP and was the Genie in CMT's *Aladdin Jr.*

ETHEL BIRRELL (*Female Chief Elf/Adult Ensemble*) graduated with a B.A. in Theatre Arts from California State University Sacramento. She trained in Improv with The Groundlings Los Angeles. With CSUS, Ethel performed in *Real Women Have Curves* and she recently performed with Centerstage in *Mary Poppins* (Mrs. Corry) and *Big River*. Ethel performed with GCP in *Always a Bridesmaid* (Deedra), *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Chef Louis) and *My Fair Lady* (Mrs. Pearce).

LAUREN CARTER (*Goggles Kid*), originally from Bakersfield, is a member of Good Company Players' Junior Company. She performed with California Arts Academy in *Legally Blonde Jr.* (Brooke Wyndham) and *Dr. Doolittle Jr.* (Madeline Mugg), and with Grandstreet Theatre in *Oliver!*. Lauren's mainstage performance credits with GCP include last year's *A Christmas Story the Musical* and *Hello, Dolly!*.

JACOB COZZI (*Policeman/Adult Ensemble*) is a member of GCP's Junior Company and has performed with Good Company Players in *Camelot* (Clarius), *Meet Me in St. Louis* (John Shephard), *An Ideal Husband* and *My Fair Lady*. He currently attends Buchanan High School where he is a member of the Chamber Choir. At Alta Sierra, he studied Intermediate Drama with Eric Estep and performed in *Dear Edwina Jr.* (Billy).

GIGI DICKERSON (*Kids Ensemble*) is a current member of Good Company Players' Junior Company. She has taken several classes in the Central Valley including GCP's Acting Workshop. With Baila Baala, Gigi performed in *Masquerade* (Dancing Clown), in *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Windward) at Buchanan High School, and performed at the Southern Baptist Convention in *4 Minute Monologue*.

KENNEDY ELLIS (*Kids Ensemble*) participated in GCP's All-Kids productions of *Hello, Dolly!* (Barnaby) and *Oliver!* and the annual Theatre Skills Workshop. With Liberty High School, he performed in *School House Rock* and *Oklahoma!*. Kennedy made his mainstage debut in last year's production of *A Christmas Story the Musical* and is a member of GCP's Junior Company.

ALEX FIGUEROA (*Waiter/Adult Ensemble*) attended University High School where he performed in school productions of *Into the Woods* (Jack) and *The Adams Family* (Lucas). He also worked with Fresno Grand Opera in *South Pacific* and with Stageworks Fresno in *The Who's Tommy*. With Good Company Players, Alex performed in *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Flotsam), *Shenandoah* (Corporal), *All Shook Up*, *West Side Story* (Baby John) and *Bye Bye Birdie* (Randall Macafee).

TONY FOLMER (*Adult Ensemble*) performed with Good Company Players in *Camelot* (Tom/Page), *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Ralph), *Shenandoah* and *My Fair Lady*. He participated in GCP's All-Kids Workshop Productions of *Hello, Dolly!* (Horace Vandergelder), *Oliver!* (Bill Sykes) and *The Pirates of Penzance* (Samuel). At school he was in *Little Red Riding Hood* (Jack Horner) and *Princess Whatsername* (Rumpelstiltskin). Tony is a member of GCP's Junior Company.

VINNY FOLMER (*Randy*) is making his mainstage debut in *A Christmas Story the Musical*. He is enrolled in GCP's tap class taught by Ashley Wilkinson. Vinny is a current member of Good Company Players' Junior Company and performed in GCP's All-Kids Production of *Hello, Dolly!* (Manny).

JASON FREGOSO (*Fireman/Adult Ensemble*) is a member of 144th Fighter Wing for Fresno Air National Guard. He attended Fresno State University where he studied vocal performance and was a member of the Chamber Singers and Concert Choir. *My Fair Lady* marked Jason's theatrical debut as well as his Good Company Players debut.

KIMI GALANG VILLEGAS (*Adult Ensemble*) is a member of GCP's Junior Company and performed in *My Fair Lady* (Ensemble), *A Christmas Story, the Musical* (Kids Ensemble), *South Pacific* (Ngana) and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Roberta). She also performed in *The Nutcracker* (Arabian, Marie's best friend, Barbie Girl, Angel) with Central California Ballet. Kimi participated in a summer intensive at the American Ballet Theatre in New York.

LONDON GARCIA (*Adult Ensemble*) currently attends Clovis Community College and is a graduate of Bullard High School where she performed in *Moby Dick* (Esta) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Constance). She studies voice with Allison Saleh. London performed with GCP in *Disney's The Little Mermaid* and *Hello, Dolly!*.

PETER HARTLEY (*Flick*) is a current member of GCP's Junior Company. He has performed with GCP in *A Christmas Story the Musical* (Flick), *Oliver!*, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Leroy), *The King and I* (Louis), and *A Christmas Carol*. Peter was in GCP's All-Kids Workshop Performances of *Hello, Dolly!* (Horace Vandergelder), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Major-General Stanley) and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Fyedka).

JAMES HARVEY (*Adult Ensemble*) participated in Fresno High School's productions of *Mystery at the Murder Mystery* (Brian) and *Little Lost Girl* (Silly). He was also a member of Fresno High School's Chamber Choir and is currently taking acting classes at Fresno City College. James performed with Good Company Players in *An Ideal Husband* (Mr. Montford) and *Witness for the Prosecution*.

CAROLINE HUEY (*Nancy*) performed with Good Company Players in *A Christmas Story the Musical*, *Oliver!*, and *The King & I*. She is a former member of GCP's Junior Company. Caroline performed with Reedley's River City Theatre in *Annie* (Molly) as well as the ACDA Honor Choir.

DE'ANDRE JEAN-PIERRE (*Male Chief Elf/Adult Ensemble*) is a student at California State University, Fresno. With Fresno State's theatre department, he performed in *Hands Up: 7 Playwrights. 7 Testaments. Sty of the Blind Pig* (Doc), *1st Breeze of Summer* (Milton), and *Our Lady of 121st* (Vic). De'Andre performed with GCP in *A Christmas Story the Musical* and *9 to 5 the Musical*.

CAITLYN LOPEZ (*Nurse/Adult Ensemble*) performed with GCP in *A Christmas Story the Musical* and *9 to 5 the Musical* and worked on crew for *Disney's The Little Mermaid*. She attended Roosevelt High School where she took several theatre, music, and dance classes. At RHS, Caitlyn performed in *Into the Woods* (Cinderella) and *Once On This Island*. She recently performed with Raisin Cain Players in *Heathers: The Musical*.

GRACE LOTT (*Kids Ensemble*) is a former member of GCP's Junior Company who performed in the mainstage productions of *Hello, Dolly!* and *The King and I* (Princess Ying Yawwalak). She also performed in our annual All-Kids Performance Workshops of *The Sound of Music* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. With Copper Hills Elementary School, Grace was in *The Wizard of Oz* (Dorothy).

TEDDY MALDONADO (*The Old Man*) has appeared in such GCP shows as *My Fair Lady* (Alfred P. Doolittle), *9 to 5 the Musical* (Franklin Hart, Jr.), *A Christmas Story, the Musical* (The Old Man), *Crazy For You* (Bela Zangler), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Frederic), *Shrek the Musical* (Lord Farquaad), *The 39 Steps* (Clown), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Perchik), *Monty Python's Spamalot* (Dennis Galahad), *Calamity Jane* (Danny), *Legally Blonde* (Emmett), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Feldzieg), and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (Benjamin).

LIAM OLSON (*Scut Farkus*) participated in GCP's All-Kids productions of *Hello, Dolly!* (Barnaby Tucker), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Ensemble), and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Fyedka). He has taken many classes with Good Company Players including the Theatre Skills workshop and Improv Yourself Jr. Liam made his GCP mainstage debut in *Camelot* (Herald).

MALLORY PARKER (*Flick's Mother/Adult Ensemble*) is a former member of the Junior Company who made her main stage debut in *Singin' in the Rain*. She has since performed with GCP in the company's productions of *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Adella), *Hello, Dolly!*, *9 to 5 the Musical*, *A Christmas Story the Musical*, *Shenandoah*, *The King and I*, and *Paint Your Wagon*. Mallory also performed in Good Company Players' All-Kids Workshop productions of *Hello, Dolly!* (Dolly Levi) and *Oliver!* (Nancy).

TREVIN PAULSON (*Grover Dill*) is making his Good Company Players debut and is currently a member of GCP's Junior Company. Trevin performed in Center-Stage's production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Pig Pen) and in Reburn Intermediate's production of *Alienated* (Brian) and *Fractured Fairy Tales* (Big Bad Wolf). He also performed in Reagan Elementary's *Winnie the Pooh* (Pooh) and *Cosmic Pinball* (President).

DAN PESSANO (*Jean Shepherd*) has staged such shows as *My Fair Lady*, *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, *Oliver!*, *South Pacific*, *Crazy for You*, *The Addams Family*, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *The Sound of Music*, *When We are Married*, *Paint Your Wagon*, *A Good Company Christmas*, and *Beauty and the Beast*. In addition to being GCP's Managing Director, Dan is also a performer with the company, having appeared as Jean Shepherd in *A Christmas Story, the Musical*, Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*, The Hermit in *Young Frankenstein*, The Stage Manager in *Our Town*, Henry Miller in *Calamity Jane*, Pseudolus in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and Underling in *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

LAURIE PESSANO (*Miss Shields*), GCP's Creative Director, has directed such GCP shows as *An Ideal Husband*, *Shenandoah*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *Calamity Jane*, *Seven Brides*, *All Shook Up*, *Our Town*, and *Cabaret*. She has been seen in such memorable performances as *A Christmas Story the Musical* (Miss Shields), *Curtains* (Carmen Bernstein), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Mrs. Tottendale), *The King & I* (Anna), *Annie* (Grace), *Camelot* (Guenevere), *When We Are Married* (Clara), and *Grace and Glorie* (Gloria).

EMERSYN PIRES (*Kids Ensemble*) recently performed in Good Company Players' All-Kids production of *Hello, Dolly!* (Ernestina Money). She also participated in Good Company Players' annual Theatre Skills Workshop. Emersyn is making her GCP debut in *A Christmas Story the Musical*.

CONNOR POFAHL (*Ralphie*) is a former member of GCP's Junior Company and performed in the mainstage productions of *A Christmas Story the Musical* (Schwartz), *Shenandoah* (Boy), *The Addams Family* (Pugsley Addams), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Dill), *A Christmas Carol* (Boy Scrooge), and *The Grapes of Wrath* (Winfield). With StageworksFresno, he performed in *The Music Lesson* (Eddie). Connor participated in several of GCP's All-Kids Workshop Performances including *Fiddler on the Roof* (Motel).

COLBY PRIEST (*Schwartz*) has been a member of Good Company Players' Junior Company since 2011. Colby has performed with GCP in *A Christmas Story the Musical*, *Shenandoah*, *Oliver!*, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *A Christmas Carol*, *A Christmas Story*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Dad's Christmas Miracle* and has participated in several workshops and classes offered by GCP. At FCCA, Colby performed in such productions as *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Joseph) and *Beauty and the Beast* (LeFou)

DAVID SARKISIAN (*Kids Ensemble*) participated in GCP's Theatre Skills Workshop for the past three years. He was an out-of-cast understudy in GCP's production of *Shadowlands* at 2nd Space Theatre. David's GCP mainstage debut was in last year's production of *A Christmas Story the Musical*.

JESSICA SARKISIAN (*Mother*) has been a member of GCP since the year 2000 and has been seen in such productions as *The Addams Family* (Alice Beineke), *A Christmas Story the Musical* (Mother), *Curtains* (Georgia), *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Logainne), *Beauty and the*

Beast (Belle) and *Funny Girl* (Fanny Brice). She has also choreographed for the Junior Company on several occasions as well as GCP's productions of *Little Women* and *Nunsensations!*

ANNA SMITH (*Esther Jane*) is a member of Good Company Players' Junior Company. She was in GCP's mainstage productions of *My Fair Lady*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Oliver!*, and *Meet Me In St. Louis* (Agnes). Anna performed with Children's Musical Theatreworks in *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* (Chip) and in *Mary Poppins* (Jane) with Selma's Raisin Cain Players.

JOY SMITH (*Mobster Tap Specialty/Kids Ensemble*) performed in GCP's mainstage productions of *Oliver!*, *My Fair Lady*, *Hello, Dolly!*, and *Meet Me In St. Louis* (Tootie). She performed with CMT in *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* (Chip) and in *The Music Man* (Amaryllis) with Center Stage Clovis. Joy is a member of Good Company Players' Junior Company.

KARLIE STEMLER (*Mary Beth*) is a member of GCP's Junior Company and has been in such Good Company Players' mainstage productions as *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, *A Christmas Story the Musical* (Mary Beth), *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Beth), *The Grapes of Wrath* (Ruthie), *Shrek the Musical* (Young Fiona, Elf), *Dad's Christmas Miracle* and *The Sound of Music*. Karlie was in Stageworks Fresno's *Les Miserables* and in CenterStage's *Mary Poppins* (Jane Banks).

ALLISON STEMPLE (*Kids Ensemble*) performed in GCP's productions of *Oliver!* (Bet) and *My Fair Lady*. She performed with Liberty High School's Ranchos Drama in *Schoolhouse Rock Jr.* and *Once on this Island* and in Sierra View Elementary's *Mysterious Case of the Missing Ring*. Allison participated in GCP's Theatre Skills Workshop and is a current member of Good Company Players' Junior Company.

ASHLEY WILKINSON (*Mrs. Schwartz/Adult Ensemble*) was in both GCP productions of the hugely popular *Hairspray* (Tracy Turnblad) and has performed with Good Company Players in *Crazy For You* (Tess), *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, *The Addams Family* (Ancestor), *Shrek the Musical* (Mama Ogre, Blind Mouse, Tapping Mouse), *42nd Street* (Anytime Annie), *Footloose*, *The King & I* and *Sugar*. Ashley teaches dance and has choreographed for GCP's Junior Company on several occasions. She most recently choreographed GCP's mainstage productions of *Camelot* and *Disney's The Little Mermaid*.

SHAWN WILLIAMS (*Santa/Fantasy Villian/Doctor/Adult Ensemble*) is a former member of Good Company Players' Junior Company. Shawn has been in such mainstage productions as *Camelot* (Castor), *Hello, Dolly!* (Ambrose), *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Flounder), *9 to 5 the Musical* (Joe), *A Christmas Story the Musical* (Santa/Villian), *Shenandoah* (James), *All Shook Up*, *South Pacific*, *Crazy for You* (Wyatt), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Fyedka), *Curtains* (Detective O'Farrell/Ens.), *Shrek the Musical* (Pied Piper), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Protean), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Sergeant of Police), and *The Addams Family* (Ancestor).

MEET OUR FAN CLUB:

Jenny Akina	Dawn & Elena Diestelkamp	Roxie Jizmejjan	Terri Monson
Jake Bane & Jeanne Eastman	Marilyn & Gary Erickson	Mark & Laura Kalchik, Arlene	Virginia Mott
Al Boutte	Patrick & Michele Evans	Kalchik, Darryl & Irene Hoover -	Marie Motta
Richard Caglia	Karen Haigh	<i>in memory of Norma Kalchik</i>	Evan & Judy Orme
Judy Cavaletto	Carol J. Haun	David & Jennifer Keran	Jean Pepper
Don & Vicki Cohn	Kathy Hayes - <i>to Mary Anne</i>	Earl & Beverly Knobloch	Rayna & Douglas Perry
Debra & Jeffrey Coleman	<i>MacDonald in memory of Darrell</i>	Art & Becky Maldonado	Jay & Clytee Ramsey
Jim Daggs	<i>"Mac" MacDonald</i>	Julie Lucido - Marketing Plus	John & Barbara Smith
Ed & Jan Darden	<i>In memory of Jack Jones</i>	Ken & Carol Maul	James Wagoner & Wendy Lloyd
Guy Debbas - Chocolatier	Jim & Judy Irvine	Pat Moffat	Duane Wamsley
			Linda Wilkinson

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BEHIND THE SCENES WITH A CHRISTMAS STORY

EMILY PESSANO (*Director/Choreographer*) has been in such GCP shows as *Camelot* (Guenevere), *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Ariel), *9 to 5 the Musical* (Judy), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Mabel), *The 39 Steps* (Annabella/Pamela/Margaret), *Shrek the Musical* (Fiona), *Monty Python's Spamalot* (Lady of the Lake), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Hodel), *Legally Blonde* (Elle Woods), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Janet), and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Emily often teaches classes and workshops for GCP including the current Improv Yourself! class.

ROBERT SANCHEZ (*Director*) was the director of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *A Christmas Story*, and *Grace and Glorie* at Good Company Players' 2nd Space Theatre. He has performed in numerous GCP productions including *Is He Dead?* (Chicago), *Amadeus* (Salieri), *The Boys Next Door* (Lucien), *Oklahoma!* (Ali Hakim), *Sugar Babies*, and *Crazy For You*. Robert frequently directs GCP's Junior Company and has stage managed such shows as *Calamity Jane*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, and *Private Eyes*.

JESSICA SARKISIAN (*Choreographer*) has been a member of GCP since 2000 and has been seen in such productions as *The Addams Family* (Alice Beineke), *Curtains* (Georgia), *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Logainne), *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle), and *Funny Girl* (Fanny Brice). She has also choreographed for the Junior Company on several occasions as well as GCP's productions of *Little Women* and *Nunsensations!*

SHANNAH ESTEP (*Vocal Coach*) is a veteran member of Good Company Players. She has worked as the vocal coach countless times for the Junior Company, including the annual JCF performances. As a performer with GCP, Shannah has been seen in *The Women*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *The Sound of Music*, and *The Music Man*. Shannah often works with CMT and has performed with other theatre companies throughout the Central Valley.

GINGER KAY LEWIS-REED (*Costumes*), GCP's costumer, started designing for the company in 1983. Her credits include *The Comedy of Errors*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *The Man Who Came to Dinner* at GCP's 2nd Space, as well as GCP's productions of *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Shrek the Musical*, *Curtains*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *Hairspray*, and *Beauty and the Beast* at Roger Rocka's Dinner Theater.

DAVID PIERCE (*Sets*), GCP's scenic artist since 1986, designed such sets as *Shenandoah*, *All Shook Up*, *Oliver!*, *The Addams Family*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Shrek the Musical*, *Curtains*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Monty Python's Spamalot* for GCP shows at Roger Rocka's Dinner Theater and *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *Wait Until Dark* at GCP's 2nd Space Theatre.

DAVE FILIPCZAK (*Stage Manager*) is the Group Sales Coordinator for Good Company Players' 2nd Space Theatre and Roger Rocka's Dinner Theater. He has been the stage manager for such GCP productions as *9 to 5 the Musical*, *South Pacific*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Curtains*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *Beehive*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Hairspray*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and *Singin' in the Rain*.

JEFF GWIN (*Sound Operator*) ran sound for *Camelot*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *A Christmas Story the Musical*, *Shenandoah*, *All Shook Up*, *Crazy For You*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Shrek the Musical*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Paint Your Wagon*, *The Wedding Singer*, and *Sugar Babies*. A former Junior Company member, Jeff has also performed in *Oliver*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *The King & I*.

ANDREA HENRICKSON (*Lighting Designer*) has been a lighting designer, stage manager, and sound board operator for Good Company Players since 1991. Her other stage managing credits include *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, *Shenandoah*, *Oliver!*, *The King and I*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Wedding Singer*, *The Wiz*, and *Annie Get Your Gun*. Andrea has designed lighting for many shows including the recent *My Fair Lady*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, and *A Christmas Story the Musical*.

GABRIELLE BURTON (*Props*) works for GCP as House Manager of GCP's 2nd Space Theatre and a box office employee. She worked on props for *Camelot*, *My Fair Lady*, *9 to 5 the Musical*, *Shenandoah*, *All Shook Up*, *The Addams Family*, *South Pacific*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *West Side Story*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The King and I*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Spamalot*, and *Bye Bye Birdie*. She regularly lends her artistic abilities to GCP's Costume Shop and was seen onstage in *Sugar Babies* and *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*.

ATHENA BRYANT (*Crew*) a graduate of McLane High School, has attended many Good Company Players' productions at both Roger Rocka's Dinner Theater and GCP's 2nd Space Theatre in recent years which has sparked her interest in theatre. Athena made her GCP debut by working on crew for *The Glass Menagerie*.

MARTIN MARTINEZ (*Follow Spot*) has been in such Good Company Players productions as *Witness for the Prosecution*, *South Pacific*, *Calamity Jane*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Stalag 17*, and *Cyrano de Bergerac*. He worked behind the scenes as assistant stage manager for *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* and operated follow spot during several GCP shows such as *Hello, Dolly!*, *Shenandoah*, and *Oliver!*

BRAD MONEY (*Follow Spot*) made his theatrical debut as well as his Good Company Players debut by operating follow spot for *All Shook Up*. Brad graduated from Clovis Christian High School and currently attends Fresno City College.

JENNIFER MONEY (*Crew*) ran follow spot for *All Shook Up*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Paint Your Wagon*, and *Nunsensations!* and was on crew for *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Beehive*, and *Calamity Jane*. She worked on costumes for Roosevelt High's *Cinderella*, *Little Women*, and *Epic Proportions*.

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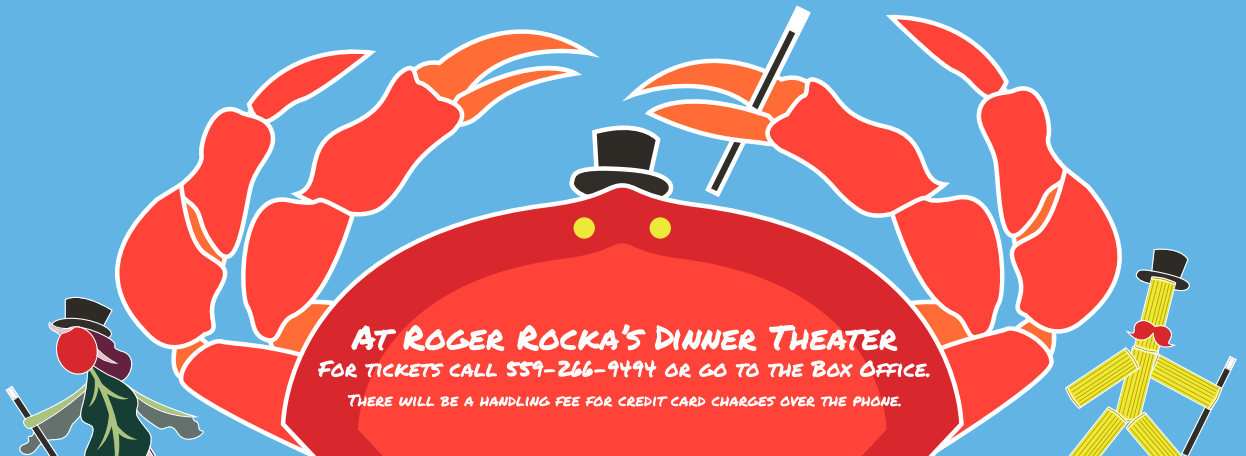
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Rope Tricks and Pointed Quips

Good Company Players' 2017 Season at Roger Rocka's begins January 12 with *The Will Rogers Follies*.

The show covers the life of a beloved actor and writer remembered for his humor, his wisdom, and his just plain common sense. It is presented in the style of a Ziegfeld Follies show and filled with music and laughter.

The youngest of eight children, Will was born in 1879 on a ranch near Oologah, Oklahoma to parents who were both of part Cherokee ancestry. Proud of his Indian heritage, Rogers used to say, "My ancestors didn't come over on the Mayflower, but they met the boat."

As a youngster he was trained to rope and ride and worked on the family ranch for a few years. Near the end of 1901, he and a friend left home with aspirations to work as gauchos in Argentina. They spent five months trying to make it as ranch owners. Rogers and his partner lost all their money, so the two friends separated and Rogers sailed for South Africa.

While in Africa he began his show business career as a trick roper in "Texas Jack's Wild West Circus," a small tour-



Will Rogers pre-1900

Please see page 2



**November 10, 2016 –
January 8, 2017**



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Will Rogers (From page 1)

ing Wild West show. "I did some roping and riding, and Jack, who was one of the smartest showmen I ever knew, took a great interest in me. It was he who gave me the idea for my original stage act with my pony. From him I learned the great secret of the show business—knowing when to get off. It's the fellow who knows when to quit that the audience wants more of."



Anxious to move on, Rogers quit the circus and went to Australia. He continued to perform as a rider and trick roper, and worked on his pony act. He returned to the United States in 1904, appeared at the St. Louis World's Fair, and then began to try his roping skills on the vaudeville circuits. Showman Willie Hammerstein saw his vaudeville act, and signed Rogers to appear on the Victoria Roof with his

pony. For the next decade, Rogers worked at the Roof and at the city's many vaudeville theaters.

In 1908, Rogers married Betty Blake and the couple had four children: Will Jr. became a World War II hero, played his father in two films, and became a member of Congress. Mary became a Broadway actress, and Jim was a newspaperman and rancher; Fred died of diphtheria at age two. The family lived in New York, but they spent summers in Oklahoma.

In the fall of 1915, Rogers began to appear in Florenz Ziegfeld's *Midnight Frolic*. The variety revue began at midnight in the top-floor night club of Ziegfeld's New Amsterdam Theatre. By this time, Rogers had refined his act. His monologues on the news of the day followed a similar routine every night. He appeared on stage in his cowboy outfit, nonchalantly twirling his lasso, and said, "Well, what shall I talk about? I ain't got anything funny to say. All I know is what I read in the papers." He then made jokes about what he had read in that day's newspapers.

Rogers' growing popularity led to an engagement on the more famous *Ziegfeld Follies*. Bashful at first, Will first offered jokes as apologies when his rope failed to spin. The audience roared and backstage pals encouraged the banter. Soon, his gags became more popular than his ropes.

No media escaped Will Rogers' masterful performances. Beyond the wild west shows and the stage, Will became a pioneer in early silent pictures, starring in fifty. Sound was added to film in 1929 and introduced Will's voice to a new media for Fox Film Corporation. He made 21 "talkies."

Will Rogers was a natural for radio. His first radio appearance was in 1922 and he continued broadcasting through the first half of the 1930s. Not surprisingly his shows earned high ratings.

Rogers was an indefatigable worker. He toured the lecture circuit. The New York Times syndicated his weekly newspaper column from 1922 to 1935. Going daily in 1926, his short "Will Rogers Says" reached forty million newspaper readers.

Rogers became an advocate for the aviation industry and his newspaper columns frequently emphasized the safety record, speed, and convenience of this means of transportation. In 1935 Rogers asked famed aviator Wiley Post, a fellow Oklahoman, to fly him through Alaska in search of new material for his newspaper column. On August 15, they left Fairbanks, Alaska. They were a few miles from Point Barrow when the engine failed at low altitude and ended up inverted in the shallow water of a lagoon.

Tickets for *The Will Rogers Follies* (Rated PG) are now on sale at the Box Office, by phone at 266-9494 or 800-371-4747. Military, Student and Senior Dinner and Show discounts as well as specially priced Kids and Young Adult Dinner and Show tickets are available at select performances.

Order tickets online at www.RogerRockas.com.



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Roger Rocka's Dinner Theater and Good Company Players' 2nd Space Theatre provide groups of all sizes an unforgettable theater experience.



A holiday classic comes to life in *IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A LIVE RADIO PLAY* at GCP's 2nd Space Theatre through December 18.

A Holiday Treat and a Mischievous Ghost

Good Company Players' production of *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* brightens the holidays at the 2nd Space through December 18.

Revisit Bedford Falls, fall in love again with George and Mary, and discover the magic of an angel named Clarence. It's Christmas Eve in 1947, and inside a radio studio, a live broadcast brings to life Frank Capra's timeless film in all of its feel-good glory! Join the cast and crew as they take you on a journey through the most important evening in one man's life. It's the perfect holiday outing for the entire family! *Rated G.*

GCP's 2017 2nd Space season opens January 5 with Noel Coward's other-worldly comedy *Blithe Spirit*. Charles Condomine, a successful novelist, wishes to learn about the occult for a novel he is writing, and he arranges for an eccentric medium, Madame Arcati, to hold a séance at his house. At the séance, she inadvertently summons Charles's first wife, Elvira, who has been dead for seven years. Only Charles can see or hear Elvira, and his second wife, Ruth, does not believe that Elvira exists. The ghostly Elvira makes continued, and increasingly desperate, efforts to disrupt Charles's current marriage in this hilarious comedy. *Rated PG.*

Tickets for *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* and *Blithe Spirit* are on sale at the Box Office, by phone at 266-0660 or 800-371-4747, or online at www.2ndspacetheatre.com

2017 Season Tickets Available Now

With Good Company Players' 2017 Season coming soon, now is a great time to purchase Season Tickets! Ask the Box Office or the Door Person for details! (Hint: Season Tickets make great gifts!)

The Will Rogers Follies

January 12 – March 12

America's beloved humorist shares his folksy wit on a show-stopping Vaudeville tour. PG

Peter and the Starcatcher

March 16 – May 14

In this ingenious prequel to Peter Pan, a handful of actors play over 100 hilarious characters. You'll be hooked! PG

Damn Yankees

May 18 – July 9

A die-hard Washington Senators' fan strikes a bargain with the devil and becomes the long-ball hitter the Senators need to defeat the New York Yankees for the pennant. PG

Sister Act

July 13 – September 17

This feel-good musical is based on the hit film about an aspiring disco diva who witnesses a murder and hides in a convent disguised as a nun. PG-13

The Drowsy Chaperone

September 21 – November 12

When an avid theatre buff places an old record on his phonograph, his favorite 1928 musical comes to life in his living room. PG

Breaking Up is Hard to Do

November 16 – January 7, 2018

The nostalgia, music, and laughter keep on rolling in this comedy as the cast belts out Neil Sedaka's greatest hits including "Sweet Sixteen" "Where the Boys Are" and "Calendar Girl" just for starters! PG



Elaine Colett
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From the Bar

Our mixologist Lyndsie June has some festive drink specials for the run of *A Christmas Story*, *The Musical*:

- **RED RYDER BB GUN** – A Festive Cranberry Vanilla Margarita with Patron Tequila, Triple Sec, Lime Juice, and Sweet and Sour. Finished with Cranberry Juice and a splash of Vanilla. Served on the Rocks with a Salted Rim.
- **CHRISTMAS PUNCH** – Smirnoff Passionfruit Vodka, Pink Grapefruit Juice, Blood Orange Torani Syrup and a splash of Sprite. Served on the Rocks.
- **SUGAR AND SPICE** – Lyndsie's Homemade Mulled Wine. Cinnamon, Cloves, Cardamom, Allspice, Orange Peel, and Brown Sugar Simmered with Brandy and Red Wine.
- **STICKY SITUATION** – (non-alcoholic) – A Peppermint Hot Chocolate made with Torani Peppermint Syrup. Topped with Mini Marshmallows and Drizzled with Chocolate Sauce.

SHAKES -

All shakes are available using
Non-alcoholic substitutions.

- **CANDY CANE** - A Peppermint and Baileys Milkshake. Peppermint Schnapps, and Bailey's Irish Cream blended with Old Fashioned Vanilla Ice Cream.
- **FROZEN FLAG POLE** - Dark Chocolate Chip and Cherry Shake. Spiked with Svedka Cherry Vodka and White Creme de Cacao. Served in a Chocolate lined glass with Whipped Cream, Chocolate Sprinkles and a Cherry!
- **A MAJOR AWARD!** – A Caramel Apple Shake Blended with Sour Apple and Butterscotch Schnapps, Topped with Whipped Cream and drizzled with Salted Caramel.

Before the show starts, order any drinks and desserts you would like served at intermission. Your server will bring them to your table as soon as the first act ends.