

A Christmas Story, The Musical

Book by Joseph Robinette
Music & Lyrics by Benj Pasek and
Justin Paul

Based on 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 with permission of Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures and Dalfie Entertainment.

Directed by Karen Azenberg

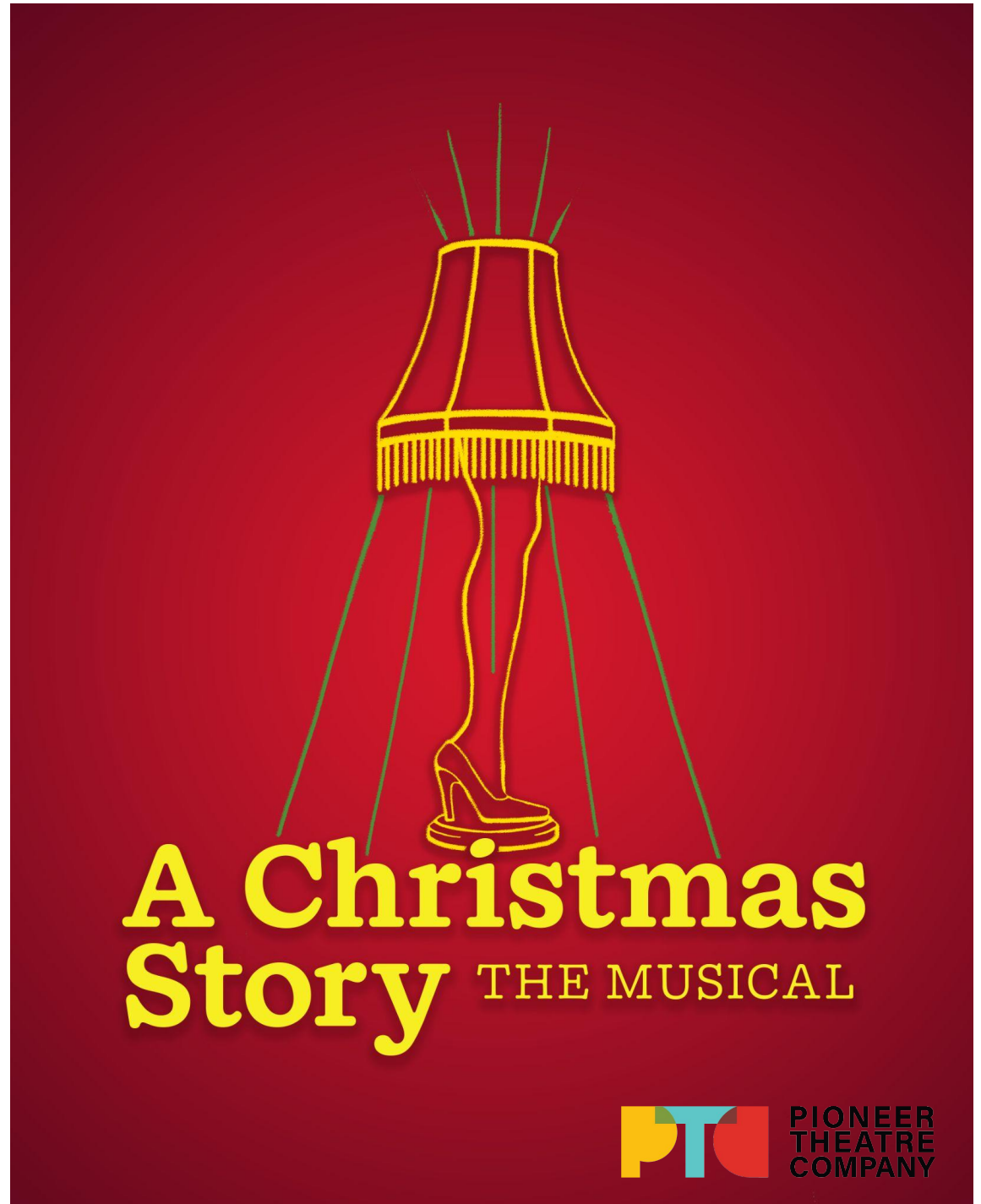
Dec. 9th - 24th, 2022

SPOTLIGHT STUDY GUIDE

For Teachers and Students



Pioneer Theatre Company's Student Matinee Program is made possible through the support of Salt Lake County's Zoo, Arts, and Parks Program, The Simmons Family Foundation, and The Meldrum Foundation Endowment Fund.



It's really Jean Shepherd's story!

A Christmas Story, The Musical

is based on the 1983 Warner Brother's movie classic, *A Christmas Story*, which itself was based on stories by legendary radio humorist Jean Shepherd and his book, *In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash*, with songs both funny and sentimental by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, and a faithful, yet inventive, book by Joseph Robinette.

The musical paints a refreshing holiday portrait of simpler time in America - unforgettably capturing every child's holiday wonder with deliciously wicked wit, a nostalgic eye, and a heart of gold.

A CHRISTMAS STORY, THE MUSICAL began life in the mind of author, radio host, raconteur, and comic genius Jean Shepherd. Based on his childhood in 1930s Indiana, Shepherd spun a series of tales that he either published as short stories, read for his radio audience, or presented live on the college circuit. Among these tales were *Duel in the Snow* or *Red Ryder Nails the Cleveland Street Kid*, *Flick's Tongue*, and *My Old Man and The Lascivious Special Award That Heralded The Birth of Pop Art*.

These stories and others were woven together by Shepherd, screenwriter Leigh Brown, and director Bob Clark into a screenplay for the 1983 film, *A Christmas Story*. Shepherd's voice is heard as the narrator in the film and he even makes a cameo appearance in the film as one of the disgruntled customers waiting in line for Santa Clause.

In the seventies, Shepherd took his talents to television in a series of humorous narratives for PBS called *Jean Shepherd's America*, later continued on the PBS New Jersey Network as *Shepherd's Pie*. Here he was able to show us the more offbeat aspects of America, particularly his own home state, which he loved to ridicule. This led to a series of teleplays for PBS/WGBH's *American Playhouse*: *The Phantom of the Open Hearth*, *The Great American Fourth of July and Other Disasters*, *Ollie Hopnoodle's Haven of Bliss*, and *The Star-Crossed Romance of Josephine Cosnowski*. Shepherd passed away on October 16, 1999 at the age of 78.

<https://broadwayincincinnati.news/2017/06/20/irreverent-nostalgia-enduring-affection-for-a-cult-holiday-classic/>



ACTIVITY: *What memories do you have around the holiday season? Any interesting characters, challenging times, or rewarding experiences you can remember?*

The Story Becomes a Movie

In the late 1960s, *A Christmas Story* director Bob Clark was driving to a date's house when he heard a broadcast of radio personality and writer Jean Shepherd's recollections of growing up in Indiana in the late '30s and early '40s. Clark wound up driving around the block for almost an hour, glued to the radio until the program was over. "My date was not happy," Clark said, but he knew right away he wanted to make a movie out of the stories.

To find an American city resembling the fictional Hohman, Indiana of the 1940s, director Clark sent his location scouts to twenty cities before selecting Cleveland, Ohio, as the site for filming. The decision to film in Cleveland was due to the willingness of Higbee's (an actual department store) to allow the movie to be filmed inside the store. The house from the movie is located just outside of downtown Cleveland and the Higbee building still stands in downtown Cleveland.



The modestly budgeted movie opened in 1983 the week before Thanksgiving on fewer than 900 screens. It was a good showing, but not great. At the same time, home video and cable television were just beginning to grow in popularity, and *A Christmas Story* crept into the mainstream through videotape and cable broadcasts. The cable network TNT first aired its 12 show, 24-hour marathon as a stunt in 1988, but popular demand turned stunt into tradition. The annual marathon (now aired on TBS) starts every Christmas Eve and attracts more than 40 million people who tune in at some point to watch. *A Christmas Story* is now one of the most popular holiday movies of all time, earning a place along side *It's A Wonderful Life* and *Miracle on 34th Street*.

<https://www.achristmasstoryhouse.com/a-christmas-story-movie-facts/trivia/>

Higbee's Department Store

Higbee's was the first department store in the greater Cleveland area. The 12-floor Higbee Company building was the anchor for Cleveland's Public Square from its opening in 1931 until its eventual closure on Monday, Jan. 7, 2002.

Higbee's is named for Edwin Converse Higbee. Edwin Higbee opened the Hower & Higbee Dry Goods store in 1860 with partner John G. Hower. After Hower's passing, Edwin Higbee became President and the name of the store was changed to the Higbee Company.

Edwin Higbee served as President from 1897 until his death in January 1906. The company lived on and opened its department store in 1931. In the decade of the 1960s, Higbee's established six stores in the Cleveland suburbs. The profitable chain was sold in 1987 to Dillard Dept. Stores and Edward J. DeBartolo. At that time Higbee's was the area's largest sales volume retailer of high-end fashion merchandise, with 14 stores in northeast Ohio. When DeBartolo sold his share in July 1992, the chain was renamed Dillard's.



When the Higbee's closed on Monday, Jan. 7, 2002, it was the last of the downtown department stores in Cleveland.

<https://www.achristmasstoryhouse.com/filming-locations/higbees/>

Meet the Music Men

Benj Pasek & Justin Paul are two friends who ended up writing the music and lyrics for the stage version of *A Christmas Story*.

Pasek and Paul first teamed up in college after not getting cast in the shows they wanted to be in. They decided to start writing their own material. An album of loosely related songs were written in 2005 called *Edges*. Together, Pasek and Paul have also written the music and lyrics to the 2010 musical *James and the Giant Peach*, *Dogfight*, and the popular Broadway musical, *Dear Evan Hansen*.

Audiences will also recognize their work in films such as *La La Land*, *The Greatest Showman*, the Live action *Aladdin*, and *Dear Evan Hansen*.



Although Pasek and Paul were not the first music writers for the project, they were brought on in 2009 to write a completely new score for the show. *A Christmas Story* was their Broadway debut as songwriters. It opened on Broadway in 2012, and the two songwriters were nominated for a 2013 Tony for Best Original Score.

<https://pasekandpaul.com>

ACTIVITY: There are always many ways to tell the same story. Because the stage show of **A CHRISTMAS STORY, THE MUSICAL** is live, the presentation is very different from the movie.

- *What changes and adaptations have been made from the original movie so that the story could be told onstage?*
- *How do the music, lyrics and underscoring enhance the scenes?*
- *What about the sets, lights, sound, costumes and props – what are some other examples of how scenes are brought to life by production design choices?*

A Can of Simoniz

is given to the Old Man on Christmas morning. This is a hard paste car wax which guaranteed a deep, long-lasting shine. Founded in 1910 by George Simons, who developed a cleaner and a carnauba wax product for car finishes, along with Elmer Rich of the Great Northern Railway.



The Movies One of the most popular forms of entertainment was at the local movie house where the family might have seen *National Velvet*, *Lassie Come Home*, *Flash Gordon*, *Roy Rogers*, and *Superman*. Ralphie could go to see a double feature like an old time western with newsreels and a cartoon-plus buy a candy bar-for only a dime!

The World of the Story

The year is 1940. This was just as the Great Depression was coming to an end and just before the United States entered World War II.

The world of Ralphie Parker in *A Christmas Story* is very different from life today. Televisions were very rare. Instead, radios and newspapers provided an information lifeline for Americans. Whole families gathered around the radio to listen to news broadcasts and popular programs like *Little Orphan Annie*, quiz shows, mysteries, dramas, music, and sports.

Here are just a few toys and popular items of the day in Ralphie's world...

Zeppelin Randy receives a toy Zeppelin or airship for Christmas. A Zeppelin was pioneered by the German Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin in the early 20th century. Given the outstanding success of the Zeppelin design, the term "Zeppelin" in casual use came to refer to all rigid airships.



Decoder Rings were all the rage during the golden age of radio, lending an air of participation to popular radio shows like the *Little Orphan Annie Show*.



Ovaltine is a brand of milk flavoring created in 1904 in Switzerland and is still available today. The powdery mix, made of sugar, malt extract, cocoa and whey, is often mixed with warm or hot milk. As a sponsor for *The Little Orphan Annie Show*, Ovaltine offered Secret Decoder Rings in exchange for proofs of purchase.

ACTIVITY: *Toys and technology all change over time. Can you remember any toys, games, or technology you once used that are no longer around today?*

The World of the Story

The Little Orphan Annie Show was one of the first 15-minute daily radio serials made for children. The show was sponsored by Ovaltine and ran from 1930 to the early 1940s. It was inspired by the daily American comic strip by Harold Gray about a young orphan girl, her dog Sandy, and her guardian, Daddy Warbucks. They encounter many adventures including gangsters, spies, and kidnappers.



Lionel Trains were electric toy trains and model railroads that were embellished with hand-painted details and authentic elements. Elaborate train displays were often featured as part of department store Christmas displays and a Lionel Train Set was routinely found under the tree on Christmas morning.



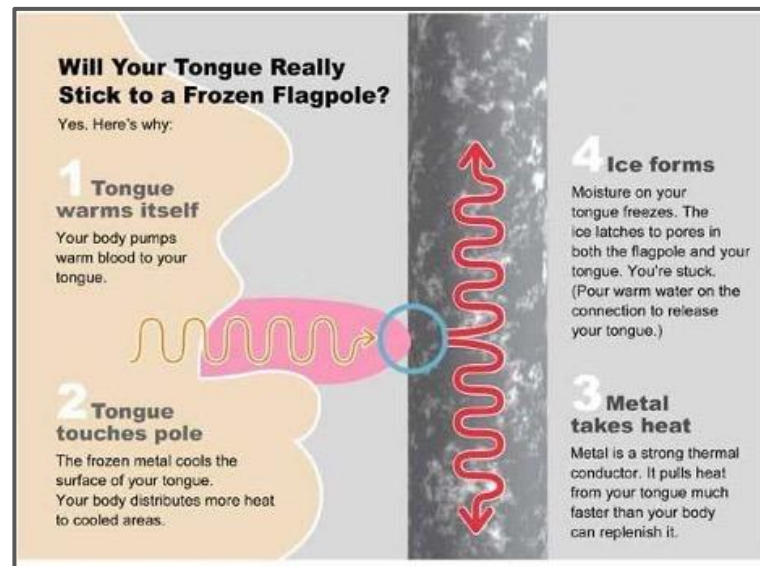
Will Your Tongue Really Stick to a Frozen Flagpole?

Apparently there are no shortage of kids willing to triple-dog dare their friends to try what they see in the movies. Take it from us, though, this is something that CAN happen and WILL happen, so don't try it yourselves!

Why it happens is just a matter of science. Since it sits inside your warm mouth all the time, your tongue is naturally coated with moisture. That moisture will quickly freeze if the temperature drops below 32°F.

So why doesn't your tongue freeze when you eat something cold, like ice cream? Your body keeps the tongue from freezing by pumping warm blood to your tongue. When you eat ice cream, for example, your body continually warms the tongue from the inside out.

Why doesn't this work if you lick a flagpole then? The reason your tongue sticks to a flagpole is the thermal conductivity of metal. Metals conduct heat extremely well. In fact, metal conducts heat about 400 times better than your tongue.



When your tongue freezes to a metal flagpole, the metal robs your tongue of heat much faster than it can be replaced

by your body. When you add in the fact that your tongue has all sorts of grooves and crevices where moisture hides, it's easy to see why it can freeze so quickly and get stuck so solidly to a metal flagpole — or any other type of very cold metal.

If you ever get your tongue — or any exposed skin — frozen solid to a flagpole or any other type of metal, just relax and don't panic. **Don't try to pull it off right away, as you'll leave a nice coating of skin on the metal...and that won't feel very good at all!**

Instead, just get help from someone as quickly as possible. Pouring warm water on and around your skin and the metal should heat things up, so that you can thaw your skin enough to separate it from the metal without permanent injury.

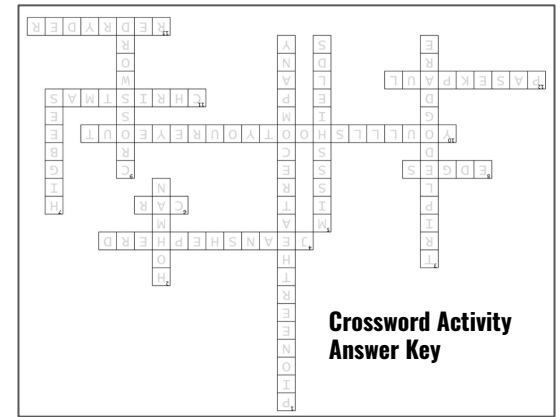
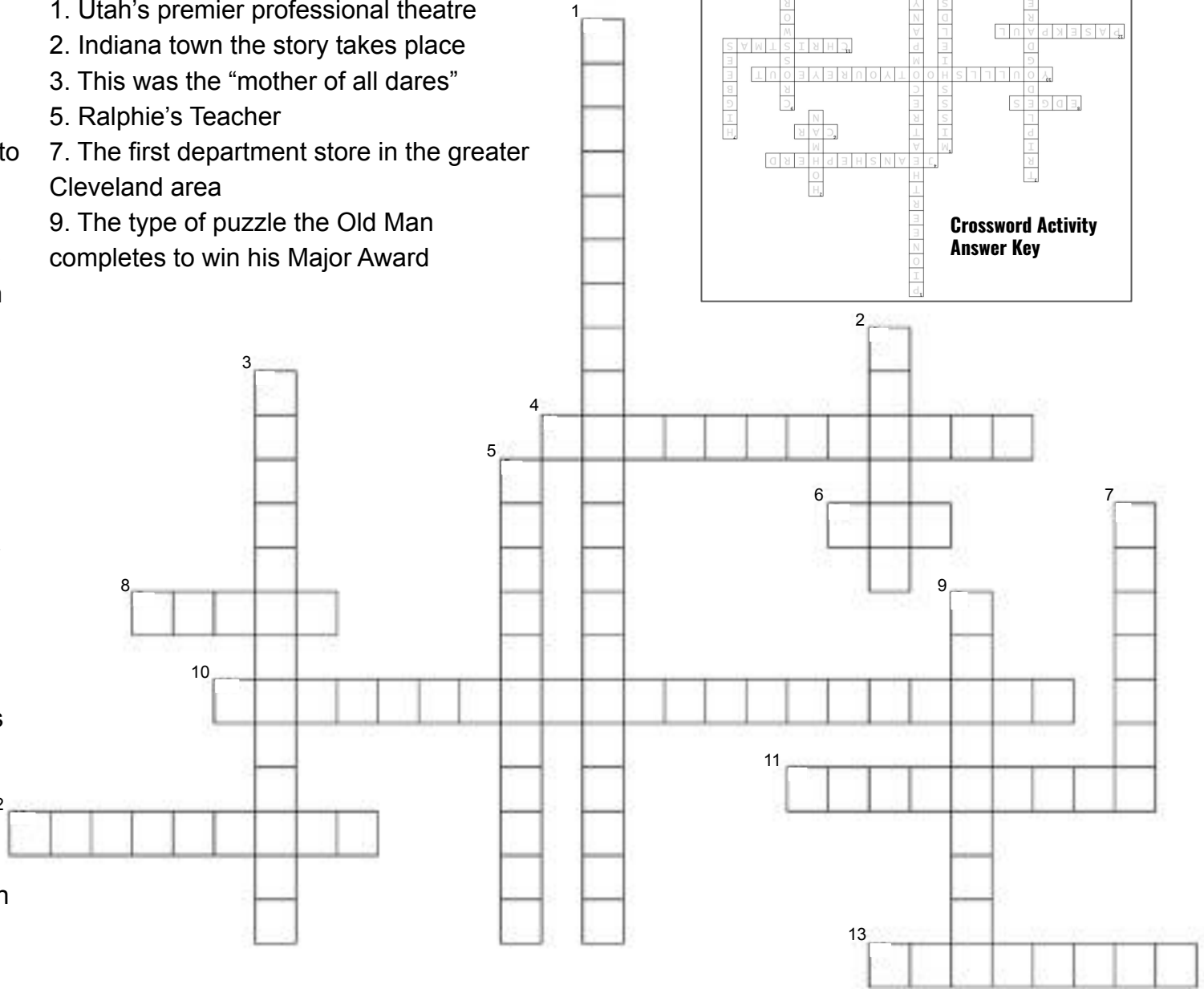
A Christmas Story, The Musical Crossword Activity

ACROSS

4. The voice heard as the narrator on the film
6. Simoniz is what type of wax, given to the Old Man for Christmas
8. The name of the 2005 album written by the composer and lyricist of *A Christmas Story, The Musical*
10. What Ralphie's mother tells him when he asks for a BB gun
11. The Holiday celebrated in the story
12. The last names of the writing team for the Musical version of *A Christmas Story*
13. Type of BB Gun Ralphie wants

DOWN

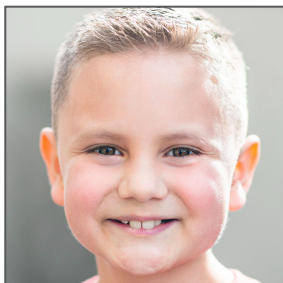
1. Utah's premier professional theatre
2. Indiana town the story takes place
3. This was the "mother of all dares"
5. Ralphie's Teacher
7. The first department store in the greater Cleveland area
9. The type of puzzle the Old Man completes to win his Major Award



Meet Our Cast (In order of appearance)



DON NOBLE* (Narrator/Jean Shepherd) Delighted to be here at Pioneer! Don has appeared in the Broadway productions of *Once* and *End Of The Rainbow*, the National Tours of *Mamma Mia!* (Sam Carmichael) and, most recently, *An American In Paris* (Monsieur Baurel), as well as regional productions across Canada and the United States. Some favorites: *As You Like It* (The Dukes), Jane Austen's *Emma* (Mr. Weston), *To Kill A Mockingbird* (Atticus Finch), James Joyce's *The Dead* (Gabriel Conroy), *Funny Girl* (Nicky Arnstein), *An Ideal Husband* (Lord Goring), *Candida* (Reverend Morell), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Jack Worthing), *Blood Brothers* (The Narrator), *Henry IV*, *The Tempest*, *Elizabeth Rex*, and *Road*. Recent TV shows include *New Amsterdam*, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *FBI*, *Madam Secretary*, and *The Blacklist*. Christmas wish: to be home with family!



MACK BOYER (Ralphie) Mack Boyer is ecstatic to make his Pioneer Theatre Company debut as Ralphie in *A Christmas Story!* His previous roles include *Frozen Kids* (Olaf) at HCT, *Willy Wonka* (Mike Teavee) and *Matilda* (Bruce) at CHAC, and *Newsies* (Les) at CCHS. He would like to thank his family and friends who always support him, and the mentors who have helped him get here!

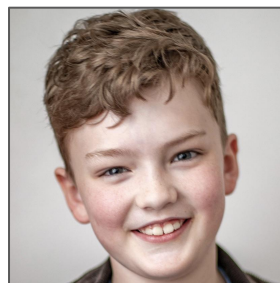


SOREN RAY (Ralphie) Making his Pioneer Theatre Company debut, Soren is excited to return to the exotic city of Hohman, Indiana in a role he adores. Stage credits include: *A Christmas Story* (Ralphie), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Child Ensemble), and *Newsies* (Les) at Centerpoint Legacy Theatre. Outside of theatre, Soren enjoys choir, learning Chinese, swimming, and pickleball. "Thank you

Tara Wardle and Jules Snarr for the voice help and confidence boost! Love to Miriam, Byron, Mom and Dad!"



STACIE BONO* (Mother) Stacie Bono joins *A Christmas Story* straight from the critically-acclaimed New York City Center, Encores! revival of *Parade*. Prior to that, Stacie could be seen touring the country as Ellen in *Miss Saigon*. Off-Broadway: *Sweeney Todd* (Beggar Woman/Pirelli), *Avenue Q* (Kate Monster/Lucy). Regional Highlights: Guthrie Theater - *The Music Man* (Marian); Tuacahn - *Les Miserables* (Fantine), Denver Center - *Sense and Sensibility* (Lucy); Flat Rock Playhouse - *My Fair Lady* (Eliza); Infinity Theater - *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey). Awards: NHTA Award - Best Actress in a Musical (*The Apple Tree*). Training: MFA in Acting - Royal Central School of Speech and Drama; BFA from NYU Tisch. Love to DSR and Mama B. Instagram: @stacie_bono



ASHER NEHRING (Randy) Asher is thrilled to join Pioneer Theatre Company's, *A Christmas Story* as Ralphie's kid brother, Randy. At the beginning of his stage career, credits include: in Utah as Jeremy Potts in HCT's *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and ensemble in Parker Theatre's production of *The Sword in the Stone*; *Peter Pan Jr.*'s Michael Darling in Beijing, China; and many Storybook Theatre children's productions in Eastern Idaho.



DANNY BERNARDY* (The Old Man) Pioneer Theatre Company Debut! NYC: PEMDAS (59e59, Edinburgh Stage Award, Excellence in Acting), *Balls* (59e59), *Cougar the Musical* (St Luke's), *Clue* (original development, Playwright's Horizons) alongside productions at Cherry Lane, The York, SoHo Playhouse, NY Classical Theater, and NY Theater Workshop. Nat'l Tour: "Sex Tips..." Regional: Prof. Henry Higgins in Haye's nominated *My Fair Lady* (Olney Theatre Center), *Shear Madness* (Kennedy Center), *Spamalot* (North Carolina Theater), and principal roles at American Conservatory Theatre, Cape Playhouse, Florida Studio Theatre (Nominee, Best Actor, *Alabama Story*), Virginia Stage Co, Delaware Theatre Co, and Florida Rep. TV/ Film: *Magnum P.I.* (Maxwell), *As the World Turns*, *One Life to Live* (recurring). Member: OYL Theater Company, SAG-AFTRA, & AEA. Danny is a first responder in FEMA's Reservist Corps. Carnegie Mellon, BFA.

Meet Our Cast (In order of appearance)



ETHAN MARCHANT (Schwartz, Ensemble) Ethan is thrilled to perform in Pioneer Theatre Company's *A Christmas Story!* Favorite roles include: Michael in *Peter Pan*, Jeremy in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, a Storyteller in *Once On This Island*, and Pabbie in *Frozen Kids*. He would like to thank his family for their loving support.



DANIEL SOROKINE (Flick, Ensemble) Daniel Sorokine is thrilled to be making his Pioneer Theatre Company debut! Credits: Hale Centre Theatre: *A Christmas Carol* (Fredrick Cratchit/Carol boy). CenterPoint Legacy Theater: *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Jr.* (Toby), *Annie Jr.* (Rooster Hannigan), Legacy Prep. Academy: *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Man in Chair), *Matilda Jr.* (Trunchbull), *Beauty and the Beast* (D'Arque).

Draper Historic Theater: *Mary Poppins* (Chimney sweep). Daniel also enjoys Orchestra and bass guitar.



AUSTIN FLAMM (Scut Farkus, Ensemble) Austin is thrilled to be back performing at PTC! You may have seen him as Michael in *Elf* at PTC, Charlie in *Willy Wonka* at Cottonwood Heights Arts, Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol* at Hale, Olaf in *Frozen*, and Michael in *Mary Poppins* at Midvale Main Street Theater. Austin loves soccer, skiing, and playing guitar. He'd like to dedicate his performance to his sisters, Millie and Cece.



KIYAN R. WYNESS (Grover Dill, Ensemble) Kiyan is excited to make his PTC debut in *A Christmas Story*. Kiyan has been training at the Conservatory of Performing Arts (COPA) for 4 years and has performed in *Willy Wonka*, *Matilda*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *The Wonderful World of Disney*. Kiyan is passionate about everything to do with performing. Outside of performing, Kiyan enjoys martial arts (Krav Maga & Muay Thai), guitar, and drums.



EJ ZIMMERMAN* (Miss Shields) EJ is ecstatic to return to Pioneer! Broadway: *Les Misérables* (Eponine u/s, Ensemble). National Tour: *Avenue Q*. Other favorites: Sally Bowles in *Cabaret* (Gulf Coast Symphony); Nancy in *Oliver!* (Goodspeed Opera House); Kim in *Miss Saigon* (Riverside Theatre, Arvada Center - Henry Award); Reza in *Once* (Geva Theatre, Pioneer Theatre); Julia in *Writing Kevin Taylor* (Meadow Brook Theatre);

Maureen in *Rent* (Oguma Playhouse); and Mira in *The Porch on Windy Hill* (Ivoryton Playhouse). Gratitude always to my loved ones and Avalon Artists Group for continued support. Representation matters. @ejzimmerman47, EJZimmerman.com



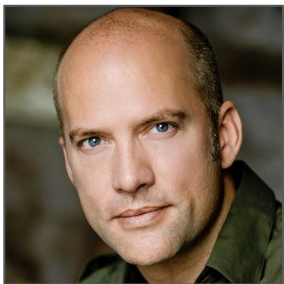
PARIS ALEXANDER NESBITT* (Santa, Ensemble) Broadway/National Tour: *The Book of Mormon*; Regional: *Curtains*, *My Way* (Walnut Street), *Sister Act*, *H2\$* (Marriott Lincolnshire). Upcoming: *ISAAC* (Kennedy Center).



KYLE CARESS* (Ensemble) Kyle is happy to be back for his third show at Pioneer Theatre Company! National Tour: Disney's *Aladdin*, Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. Off Broadway: *Seesaw* (J2 Spotlight). Select Regional: The Rev, Bucks County Playhouse, Studio Tenn. BFA Belmont University. Kyle sends his love to his friends, family, mentors, and Danny and Meghan at HAA for their support. KyleCaress.com IG: @kyle_caress

Meet Our Cast

(In order of appearance)



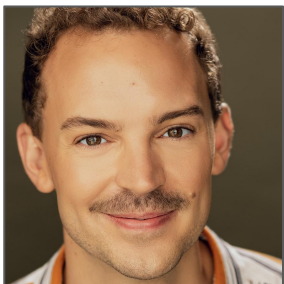
LENNY DANIEL* (Ensemble, Associate Director) Choreographed *Mary Poppins* (Utah Shakespeare Festival) and *Spamalot* (Geva Theatre Center and Arkansas Repertory Theatre). Directed and choreographed *Mid-Life! The Crisis Musical* (TexARTS); choreographed *The Little Mermaid* (Forestburgh Playhouse); assistant directed *The Wizard of Oz* National Tour starring Mickey Rooney and Eartha Kitt;

assistant choreographed *Gigi* (Papermill Playhouse); assisted Ann Reinking and performed in *Here Lies Jenny* starring Bebe Neuwirth (NYC & SF). Performing credits include Broadway: *Cats* (final original company) and *The Wizard of Oz*. NYC: *Sinatra* (Radio City Music Hall), *Wonderful Town* (NYC Opera). Tours: *Spamalot*, *Chicago*, *South Pacific*, *Camelot*, *Jekyll & Hyde*. Favorite Regional: *Something Rotten!*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, *Newsies*, *Chess*, *Oliver!*, *The Last Ship* (PTC), *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Baltimore Center Stage), *Mary Poppins*, *Peter Pan* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival), *Gigi*, and *Evita* (Paper Mill Playhouse).



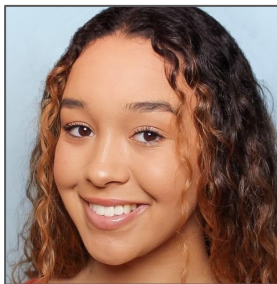
GENEVIEVE FLUCKIGER-ROBERTS (Ensemble) Genevieve is delighted to join the cast of *A Christmas Story* with Pioneer Theatre Company. She loves being onstage, and performed in Ballet West's *Snow White*, and many other ballet productions. She played the role of Indian Chief in the Southland Elementary musical *Lewis & Clark*. She has five years of ballet training, as well as piano and singing. Genevieve also enjoys

gymnastics, aerial arts, cooking, and horseback riding.



ANDY FRANK* (Ensemble, u/s The Old Man) Andy is thrilled to be back at Pioneer after appearing in *Hello, Dolly!* last season. Andy has toured the world performing in *West Side Story* (Big Deal). Regional theatre highlights include *Kiss Me, Kate* (Gremio), *The Sound of Music* (Rolf), *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (Gideon), as well as dancing in the ensembles of shows such as *42nd Street*, *Crazy for You*,

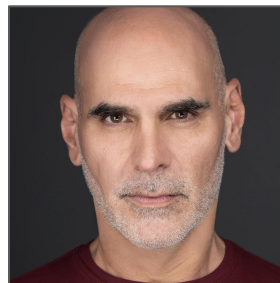
Cinderella, and *Spamalot*. Special thanks to Karen and Lenny for this opportunity and my parents for their love and support. May your days be merry and bright!



LANGLEY HAYMAN (Ensemble) Langley is thrilled to be making her Pioneer Theatre debut! Langley is a senior in the BFA Musical Theatre Program at the U of U. Recent credits: *Sister Act* (Sister Mary Robert), *Nine* (Saraghina, Claudia u/s), *In Pieces*, and *Les Miserables*. Endless gratitude for the love and support from my family, both given and chosen!
@langleyhayman

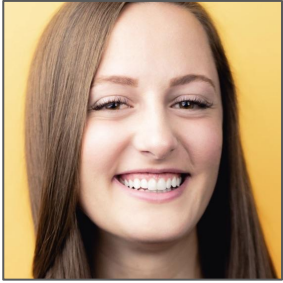


TESSA JENSEN (Ensemble) Tessa is so excited to be making her Pioneer Theatre Company debut! Her previous stage credits include: *Eccles—Waitress* (Lulu); Hale Sandy—*Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Jemima); Hale Orem—*Christmas Carol* (Little Fan/Want); Midvale Main—*Annie Jr* (Molly). Off-stage, Tessa loves jokes, science experiments, and dancing everywhere.



HOWARD KAYE* (Ensemble, u/s Narrator) Howard Kaye returns to Pioneer Theatre Company for his seventh production. Previous shows include *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *The Music Man*, *It Happened One Christmas*, *Oliver*, *Elf*, and *Something Rotten!*. As a native of Cincinnati, he is glad to come back to Salt Lake, his artistic home. Much thanks to Karen, Lenny, and the entire fantastic staff at PTC. He has appeared on Broadway, Off-Broadway, many regional theaters and one of his favorite credits as the original Broadway guest artist for the Disney Cruise Line. Howard is a graduate of CCM and Juilliard Drama School. Merry Christmas!

Meet Our Cast (In order of appearance)



JESSIE KRANZ (Ensemble) Jessie is so excited to be a part of this production! She is currently a senior in the Musical Theatre Program at the University of Utah, earning her BFA and graduating this spring. Her previous roles include Alex in *In Pieces* (Babcock Theatre), April/Shadow in *Liminal* (Studio 115), Esmeralda in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Hopebox Theatre), and Sophie Sheridan in *Mamma Mia!*

(Luminaire Theatre Co.). Thanks and love to my professors and parents for the last four years of supporting and encouraging me to pursue my dreams and goals. IG: @jessiekranz



TITO LIVAS* (Ensemble) Happy Holidays! Tito is thrilled to be back at Pioneer and to get to work with all these children! There's nothing quite like hearing several theatre kids sing their faces off for ten hours nearly every day for a month. The joy! The passion! The...volume! Such fun! Previous PTC shows include *Fireflies*, and the staged readings of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and *In the Heights*. Other local credits

include productions at Salt Lake Acting Company, Plan-B Theatre, and Utah Opera. Other credits include productions with Princess Cruises, Holland America, Disney World, National Theatre for Children, TheatreWorks USA, and Idaho Shakespeare Festival. You can also see him in several Hallmark and lifetime films during the Christmas season. And if you look up while driving past the Point of the Mountain you'll see him on a billboard.



STEPHANIE MALONEY* (Ensemble, u/s Mother) One pandemic and one baby later, Stephanie is excited to be back at Pioneer since last being seen in *Oliver*. Other credits include: national/international tour of Broadway's *Chicago*, The Wick Theatre (Carbonell Nominee for *Funny Girl*), Sacramento Music Circus, The Fulton, Pittsburgh CLO, Kansas City Starlight, Pittsburgh Public, Pittsburgh Symphony, Arc Stages, and Farmers

Alley. TV: *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*. UMich Alum. StephanieMaloney.com



ANNIE MAUTZ (Ensemble, u/s Farkus / Dill) Annie is thrilled to be returning to Pioneer Theater Company for *A Christmas Story*, *The Musical*. Annie recently appeared as Matilda in YTU's production of *Matilda Jr.-The Musical*. Other credits: *Elf the Musical* (PTC), and performing with YTU since age 6. Annie thanks Penny Caywood and Shalee Schmidt for their guidance and support. Love and thanks to her family and friends.



ELLA MURPHY (Ensemble) Ella is thrilled to be making her Pioneer Theatre Company debut. She is a senior in the Musical Theatre program at the University of Utah, where she recently Assistant Directed *The Thanksgiving Play* and appeared in *The Night Witches*. You can also see her in the University of Utah's production of *Cabaret!* this spring. Endless thanks to the entire *A Christmas Story* team, and to her family and

friends. Fine Arts Academic Excellence Scholarship recipient.



ELSA PARRY (Ensemble) Elsa feels like she won a major award by being cast in this show! Her favorite roles have been the Queen of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland* and Taylor in *High School Musical Jr.* She is currently playing Matilda in *Matilda the Musical* at her middle school. She trains in dance and musical theatre at Utah COPA and is grateful to her parents for driving her to rehearsals every single day.

Meet Our Cast (In order of appearance)



KATE CASSIDY RYAN* (Ensemble) Kate is thrilled to return to PTC for this holiday season! She was last seen in PTC's production of *Grease* as Jan. Off-Broadway: *Addy & Uno* (Kirk Theatre). Some favorite regional credits include Kate Monster in *Avenue Q* (MNM Theatre Company), Silly Girl/Puppeteer in *Beauty & the Beast* (Maltz Jupiter Theatre), and Tracy in *Hairspray* (Cape Rep Theatre). Proud member of AEA and Penn

State alum. Many thanks to Karen, Helen, Pantera/Murphy, the cast and crew. What a gift it is to make theatre again! All my love to my wonderful partner, Ashlynn, and Mom and Dad. IG: @kateryan37



TYSON RUSSELL (Ensemble, u/s Schwartz / Randy) Tyson is a 4th grader who has dreamed of being on the Big Stage his entire life. Being cast in this play is his dream come true. He loves to delight others with his talent for singing and dancing. He has done several plays with the OBT Theater Company in Draper and thanks them, and COPA American Fork, for teaching him so much.



TYLER SYMONE* (Ensemble, u/s Miss Shields) Tyler Symone is excited to make her Pioneer Theatre Company debut and spread some holiday cheer with this amazing cast and crew! Tyler is a New York City based-artist who has been fortunate enough to have her work featured all over the country. Favorite credits include: Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (Marie), *And The World Goes Round* (Woman 1), *Sister*

Act (Deloris Van Cartier), *Xanadu* (Kira), and many more. You can find out more about Tyler at TylerSymone.com. Many thanks as always to her wonderful friends and family for their endless love and support. Repped by Shirley Hamilton Talent Inc.



JANE E. WILKINS (Ensemble) Jane is excited to make her Pioneer Theatre Company debut. Recent credits include *The Audience* (Young Queen Elizabeth), Creekside Theatre Festival; *Frozen Jr.* (Middle Anna) and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Marta), Hale Centre Theatre; *The Sword and the Stone* (Meadow), Parker Theatre; and *Matilda* (Matilda), Cottonwood Heights Arts. When she isn't performing, Jane studies ballet

and loves writing her own plays.