

**Center Stage Theatre Presents:**



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

**Director: Stephen Fort**

**Music Director: Jim Hohmeyer**

**Choreographer: Christina Compean**

**Stage Manager: Rachel Jingles**

**Auditions:**

Wednesday September 21 from 6-9pm in Rehearsal Room A

Thursday September 22 from 6-9pm in Rehearsal Room A

**Callbacks:**

Saturday September 24 from 1-5pm in Rehearsal Room A. By Invitation only.

***Please enter through the Rehearsal Entrance door on the side of the Auditorium (use sidewalk around the Center's south side towards Dow Gardens), and follow signs downstairs to the Rehearsal Room A.***

*Thank you for your interest in Center Stage Theatre's Production of*

## ***A CHRISTMAS STORY: The Musical***

Based on the perennial holiday movie favorite, and from the songwriting team behind the smash-Broadway hit, *DEAR EVAN HANSEN* and the film *LA LA LAND*, we bring you the hilarious musical, *A CHRISTMAS STORY, THE MUSICAL*. This now-classic story follows bespectacled Ralphie Parker as he schemes his way toward the holiday gift of his dreams, an official Red Ryder® Carbine-Action 200-Shot Range Model Air Rifle ("You'll shoot your eye out kid!").

An infamous leg lamp, outrageous pink bunny pajamas, a maniacal department store Santa, and a freezing flagpole are just a few of the distractions that stand between Ralphie and his Christmas wish. Don't miss this special triple-dog-dare hilarious collaboration between our Center Stage and Youth Theater companies!

### A note from Director Stephen Fort:

A Christmas Story is one of those stories that has always been present throughout my life. I was born in 1985, two years after the movie debuted; consequently, there was never a Christmas where the film wasn't playing in the background at one point or another. Due to the prevalence the film has had in American pop culture for almost forty years, it is easily dismissed. It exists in our minds as a simple story of a child questing after that one special toy (in this case, a Red Ryder BB Gun). In the musical, the BB gun is still there, plus the lamp, and all the things you remember. But at its core, this musical retelling is about a family struggling to communicate, and in the end realizing it wasn't all the stuff that was important, but each other. That focus is where this show truly finds its heart and revels in the joy found in the holiday season. I invite you to come be a part of this show and take a deeper dive into what makes this story truly worth presenting on our stage this December.

*Those who would like to read the full play before auditions may do so by contacting Manager Of Produced Theatre & Theatre Education, Travis Kendrick, at [kendrick@midlandcenter.org](mailto:kendrick@midlandcenter.org).*

## AUDITIONS: What to Prepare/Expect?

1. Fill Out: the [Audition Form](#) before attending auditions  
*\*\*\*List any and all conflicts that you have with the [Tentative Rehearsal Calendar](#) in your audition form*
2. Email For Audition Appointment Time: Please email Programming Coordinator, Anna Rudnitsky, at [rudnitsky@midlandcenter.org](mailto:rudnitsky@midlandcenter.org) with your preference for audition date to receive your appointment time (either Wednesday September 21st or Thursday September 22nd). Auditionees under 18 will be given an appointment time between 6-7pm; Adult auditionees will be given an appointment time from 8-9pm.  
*When Anna emails an appointment time to you, you must respond to that email to confirm the audition slot.*
3. Please Prepare: A **one-minute song** (approximately 32-bars) in the style of the show.
  - a) **Bring sheet music with your cuts clearly marked.**
  - b) **If you're interested in being considered for the role of Jean Shepherd, please also prepare either a brief one-minute monologue of your own choosing or this monologue from the play: [Jean Shepherd Monologue](#)**
4. Dance/Movement Call: Please be prepared to dance from 7:00-8:00pm on the day of your scheduled audition appointment.
  - a. All performers interested in being considered must participate in the dance/movement call
  - b. Please dress in clothing that allows you to move, and wear appropriate footwear you can dance in.
5. Please Note: Actors will be considered for multiple roles, as appropriate, and may be asked to read acting sides at the audition. Physical copies of the Audition Sides will be available at the audition.

## REHEARSALS & PERFORMANCES:

The Tentative Rehearsal & Performance Calendar (subject to change) can be found [HERE](#)

*\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: Performers MUST be available for all technical rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and performances. NO exceptions.*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

### Vaccination Policy-

All Center Stage Theatre volunteers are required to be vaccinated and show proof of vaccination upon the start of each production process.

### Mask Policy-

Masks are encouraged while inside Midland Center For The Arts facilities.

### Build/Strike-

Center Stage Theatre asks that actors donate a minimum of four hours to the scenic or costume shop in some capacity, or assist with strike.

### Costume/Make-up Policies-

Center Stage Theatre asks that the actor provide shoes, dance tights, undergarments, and standard make-up (base, eyeliner, blush, powder, lipstick, etc.).

*\*More information regarding Center Stage Theatre and the policies please view the [Volunteer Relations Manual](#).*

## **CHARACTERS:**

**Narrator/Jean Shepherd:** (Age: to play 40's-60's) The actual Jean Shepherd is the author of the books that this story is based on, as well as the voice of the narrator in the 1983 film. He is a warm, charismatic, and engaging storyteller. An omniscient, good-natured curmudgeon with a deadpan sense of humor. Jean focuses the action, keeps the story moving, and holds the audience's attention with his presence and spark. This is a non-singing role.

**Ralphie:** (Age: to play 9-12) He is a bright, winsome, mischievous, and cute kid. The type that you wouldn't mind having as a neighbor. Ralphie's imagination tends to run wild at times as he dreams of the Red Ryder Carbine Action BB Gun he desires for Christmas. Vocal range: F#3 to D5

**The Old-Man:** (Age: to play 30's to 40's) Ralphie's father is a gruff and grumbly individual. However, inside he has a good heart and love for his family. More than willing to wear his frustrations on his sleeves, he is not above reveling in a little showmanship. Vocal range: B ♭ 2 to G4

**Mother:** (Age: to play 30's to 40's) Ralphie's mother is the force that keeps the household together. She keeps a calm exterior despite the struggles that are thrown her way constantly by her husband and two children. Vibrant, warm, and affable, but she is no pushover. Vocal range: G3 to D ♭ 5

**Randy:** (Age: to play 8-9) Ralphie's younger brother. He is cute, cuddly, and lovable, but also whiny. He revels in being the baby of the family to his advantage. He looks up to his brother despite not seeing eye to eye with him at times. Vocal range: F#3 to D5.

**Miss Shields:** (Age: to play 30's-50's) Ralphie's 5th grade teacher, a stereotypical 1940s educator. She is prim, proper, stern when necessary, though warm and even humorous when the situation merits it. Must be able to tap dance or be willing to learn. Vocal range: F#3 to D5.

**Santa:** (Age: to play 30's-60's) The Santa Claus at Higbee's Department Store is ill-tempered, slightly inebriated and very unhappy with his job--nothing like the "Jolly Old Elf" of the Christmas stories. Vocal range: B ♭ 2 to F4

**Scut Farkus:** (Age: to play 12-15) This truant is a year or two older than Ralphie and is a textbook example of a schoolyard bully. Scut is loud, obnoxious and intimidating.

**Grover Dill:** (Age: to play 10-12) Grover is Farkus's toady and is always at his side. Younger and smaller than Farkus, Grover idolizes Farkus and delights assisting him with his dastardly deeds.

**Kids:** The Kids' Ensemble is heavily featured throughout the show. This group contains various classmates and supporting parts. Including but not limited to: Flick, Schwartz, Mary Beth, Nancy, and Esther Jane. Ages 8 and up.

**Adult Ensemble:** In addition to the kids' ensemble, the adult ensemble will play a major role in bringing this show to life. We are seeking a diverse group to fill out the various side characters, elves, and townspeople that populated 1940s small town Indiana.

***All actors will be considered for all roles, regardless of gender identity/expression, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, age, ability, etc.***