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ACT
ARGENTA
COMMUNITY THEATER

ACT

Celebrating

TEN YEARS

2019-2020 SEASON

ARGENTA
COMMUNITY THEATER

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wwwargentacommunitytheater.org

ACT Administrative Staff



Laura Grimes (Executive Director) Laura became ACT's Executive Director in 2018, having been involved as an actor and volunteer since 2015, and enjoys helping the theater grow while fostering collaborations with area nonprofits and outreach to the surrounding community. Laura has enjoyed a rich career over the past twenty years as a performer in New York City, Europe, regionally and locally. She has more than a decade of experience in marketing and promotion of artists and brands. In 2019, Laura launched a new adult education program, Second ACT, at ACT with her husband and fellow artist Ben Grimes. She looks forward to helping ACT continue to grow in the central Arkansas arts landscape.



Sydney Wolfe (Business Manager) Sydney is so excited for ACT's 10th anniversary season! Sydney earned her AAS in Hosptality Management in 2017, and is currently pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Sydney loves Argenta Community Theater and is very thankful for the opportunity to work with such amazing people! Special thanks to Laura, Vince, and Judy for all that they do!



Valerie Linker (Event Coordinator) Valerie is thrilled to be a part of the team at ACT. She offers over 25 years of Event/Wedding Planning and Coordinating experience to increase and enhance theater rentals and events. As a lifelong performer she is able to support and encourage the cast and crew. She is a native of NLR and is extremely invested in the growth of arts education in our area, especially as it pertains to giving children and young adults a positive environment to express themselves.

The Argenta Community Theater Board of Directors

Judy Tenenbaum, *Board Chair*

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Christen Burke Pitts, *Secretary*
Chad Rodgers
Mandy Shoptaw
Laura Grimes, *Ex Officio*

Mary Steenburgen, *Honorary Board Member*

ARGENTA COMMUNITY THEATER PRESENTS



By Charles Dickens
Adapted by Judy B. Goss
December 4-14, 2019

Starring
Matt Patton as Ebenezer Scrooge

The Spirits
Eric Harrison Anna Reynolds Shaun Hartman Steven Jones

The Cratchit Family
D. Brent Miller Katie Eisenhower
Emmarie Wilson James Stewart Bella Insalaco Beck Huddleson Lauren Lasseigne
-and- Walt Wenger as Tiny Tim

With
Ben Davis Lily Hirscheider Emla Holsted Jackson Karl Madison Meek Tricia H. Spione Jamie Stewart

Ensemble
Trystan Benson Eliah Boles Jamie Boshears Julia Dempsey Penelope Eggleton Adelyn Eiler August Gasper
Lorelei "Rory" Gasper Robert Gatlin Coen Hartman Connor Keeler Aubrey Nelson Hardy Peacock
Jacob Rivera Jada Shorter Sarah Siria Ava St. Ana Sara Grace Stewart Jim Watkins Lori Wenger
-and-
Dr. Charles Friedman as the Fiddler

Set Design & Technical Director Sara Cooke
Lighting Design Dena Kimberling
Costume Design Shelly Hall
Set Engineer Jimi Brewi
Stage Manager Maggie Simpson

Choreographer Christen Burke Pitts
Prop Master Lauren Nicholas
Vocal Director Jamie Stewart
Youth Captain Abby Cansler

Directed By
Vincent Insalaco & Jamie Stewart

Assistant Stage Manager Christian Tobler
Sound Engineer Nathan Abshire
Master Electrician Manuel Angeles
Lighting Assistant George Chambers III
Sound Assistant Maria Aranda

Special Effects Quincy Thurston
Spotlight Operators Nick Hill & Lily Sernel
Dressers Dannah Loria & Donna Bryant
House Manager Beverly Williams
Dialect Coach Dr. Greg Robinson

Scenic Painters
Suzette Patterson, Kathy Kemp, Barbara Rhodes, Donna Bryant, Barbara Lusk, Sue Fortner, William Greenup, Kay Owens, Emily Leger

Presented By:

CENTENNIAL BANK

In Partnership With:

LEGACY TERMITE & PEST CONTROL

The Tenenbaum Foundation

NLR NORTH LITTLE ROCK

About the Playwright...



Judy B. Goss has loved seeing and reading plays for well over half a century! Adapting A Christmas Carol has been wonderful fun. Did you know that, according to American Theatre magazine (published by Theatre Communications Group), twenty-three professional productions of the Dickens classic, plus variations like A Christmas Carol, the Musical, A Christmas Carol, a Ghost Story of Christmas, and A Christmas Carol, the Radio Play, will be presented during 2019 holidays? Imagine how many more community theaters will also stage this favorite story! South Coast Repertory (San Diego) and Goodman (Chicago) theatres have produced it for over forty years! One of Judy's great aunts wrote that her father annually read the story aloud to his family in the early 1900's, in Dallas, Texas, where Judy was also born.

Judy holds a B.A. in theatre arts with honors from Hendrix College, and adapted scripts from poetry and fiction to earn the M.A. in oral interpretation of literature at the University of Texas, Austin. She directed theatre at the Southeast Arkansas Arts & Science Center before marriage to Pat Goss. Raising daughters Jamie (Dempsey) and Margie (Buzbee), she taught creative dramatics and poetry writing as an Artist-in-Education and directed plays for Community Theatre of Little Rock and Pulaski Heights UMC. Earning the M.Ed. in secondary education from UALR in 1988, she taught drama and creative writing at Parkview Arts/Science Magnet High School, where she sponsored the literary magazine, helped create "Tales of the Crypt" at Mount Holly Cemetery, and led classic scenes students to adapt Shakespeare for the UALR annual festival. She received an Arkansas Arts Council Fellowship in playwriting and participated in playwrights' workshops at the Sewanee Writers' Conference in 2009, 2010 and 2012 with mentors Lee Blessing, Beth Henley, Daisy Foote and Dan O'Brien. Her network of theatre collaborators sustains her playwriting. The premiere production of First Farewell at Argenta Community Theater (ACT) was sponsored by The Clinton School of Public Service, Laman Library, Argenta Arts Foundation and others. Hendrix College commissioned her children's play, "Lost My Shoe to a Wallaroo," in 2013. ACT commissioned her to write the premiere stage adaptation of the classic film, based on the book Mrs. Miniver, a career highlight. In 2018 her play Life Science was directed by Nathan Adam Sullivan as a staged reading for Plays in Progress at the REP.

Judy's thankful for the vision of generous ACT producers Vince Insalaco and Judy Tenenbaum, who bring such delightful holiday entertainment to Argenta year after year. They also marshal the design and technical talents of artists Sara Cooke, Jimi Brewi, Dena Kimberling, and Shelly Hall, and outstanding casts and crews under Vince's imaginative direction and Maggie Simpson's sure stage management! Judy is ever grateful to her family for constant support and to Vince and Judy for staging her work with excellence!

Judy is a member of the Dramatists Guild. **Visit www.judybgoss.com**

Cast

in alphabetical order

Trystan Benson.....Jane
Eliah Boles.....John/Ensemble
Jamie Boshears.....Mrs. Fezziwig
Ben Davis.....Fred
Julia Dempsey.....Ensemble
Penelope Eggleton.....Want/Ensemble
Adelyn Eiler.....Caroline/Ensemble
Katie Eisenhower.....Mrs. Cratchit
August Gasper.....Boy Scrooge/Ensemble
Lorelei "Rory" Gasper.....Ensemble
Robert Gatlin.....Youth Scrooge/George/Ensemble
Eric Harrison.....Marley/Old Joe
Coen Hartman.....Ignorance/Ensemble
Shaun Hartman.....Spirit of Christmas Present
Lily Hirscheider.....Fan/Ensemble
Emla Holsted.....Claire
Beck Hudelson.....Henry Cratchit
Bella Insalaco.....Belinda Cratchit
Steven Jones.....Mr. Fezziwig/Spirit of Christmas Future
Jackson Karl.....Clerk Scrooge/Ensemble
Connor Keeler.....Dick Wilkins/Ensemble
Lauren Lasseigne.....Anne Cratchit
Madison Meek.....Young Belle/Ensemble
D. Brent Miller.....Bob Cratchit
Aubrey Nelson.....Fred's Maid/Ensemble
Matt Patton.....Ebenezer Scrooge
Hardy Peacock.....Clergyman/Ensemble
Anna Reynolds.....Spirit of Christmas Past
Jacob Rivera.....Topper/Ensemble
Jada Shorter.....Laundress/Ensemble
Sarah Siria.....Mary/Ensemble
Tricia H. Spione.....Housekeeper/Curtain Speech
Ava St. Ana.....Dollseller/Ensemble
James Stewart.....Peter Cratchit
Sara Grace Stewart.....Sally/Ensemble
Jamie Stewart.....Charles/Undertaker
Jim Watkins.....Gentleman/Schoolmaster
Lori Wenger.....Mature Belle
Walt Wenger.....Tiny Tim
Emmarie Wilson.....Martha Cratchit

-and-

Dr. Charles Friedman as The Fiddler

Creative Team

Producer.....Vincent Insalaco
Co-Directors.....Vincent Insalaco & Jamie Stewart
Scenic Design & Technical Direction.....Sara Cooke
Costume Design.....Shelly Hall
Lighting Design.....Dena Kimberling
Stage Manager.....Maggie Simpson
Prop Master.....Lauren Nicholas
Set Engineer.....Jimi Brewi
Vocal Director.....Jamie Stewart
Choreographer.....Christen Pitts
Assistant Stage Manager.....Christian Tobler
Youth Captain.....Abby Cansler
Sound Engineer.....Nathan Abshire
Sound Assistant.....Maria Aranda*
Master Electrician.....Manuel Angeles
Assistant Electrician.....George Chambers III
Spotlight Operators.....Nick Hill* & Lily Sernel
Special Effects.....Quincy Thurston
Dressers.....Dannah Loria & Donna Bryant
Dialect Coach.....Dr. Greg Robinson
House Manager.....Beverly Williams
Photography & Social Media.....Warren McCullough
Production Photography.....Royce West
Scenic Painters.....Suzette Patterson, Kathy Kemp
Barbara Rhodes, Donna Bryant, Barbara Lusk,
Sue Fortner, William Greenup, Kay Owens, Emily Leger

*Denotes UA Pulaski Technical College PACT Scholarship Intern

CAST

(In alphabetical order)



Trystan Benson (Jane) Trystan is extremely excited to debut in "A Christmas Carol" at Argenta Community Theater. She is typically seen back stage working as assistant stage manager or doing actors/actresses costume changes for Shelly Hall. Her previous shows were "A Christmas Carol"2018 "Newsies" "A Chorus Line" and "A Streetcar named Desire". She was also Cecily Cardew in "The Importance of Being Earnest" at the University of Arkansas Pulaski Tech. She wants to thank everyone at Argenta for this amazing opportunity!



Eliah Boles (Johh/Ensemble) This is Eliah's first production with Argenta Community Theater, but hopefully not the last! Prior to this opportunity, he debuted on the big stage as an Oompa-Loompa in The Arkansas Rep's production of "Willy Wonka Jr." this past summer. He is a Los Angeles native who is now a vibrant 5th grader attending Maumelle Charter where he has appeared in a number of school productions. Eliah also loves reading, soccer, creating comic books, and is always prepared with a hilarious joke!



Jamie Boshears (Mrs. Fezziwig) Jamie is so happy to once again bring Mrs. Fezziwig to life in ACT's latest production of A Christmas Carol. She has also performed locally in War Paint, The Secret Garden, Follies, Guys and Dolls, Oliver, Sister Act, The Sound of Music, and Big River. She is always thankful for the opportunity to participate in an art form she loves so dearly. Heartfelt thanks to her daughter Haley, and extraordinary mother-in-law Cynthia. To her beloved wife Shannon, thank you for your love, encouragement, compassion, patience and support.



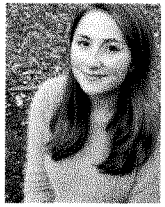
Ben Davis (Fred) Ben is eager to make his debut on Argenta's stage with this stellar cast! He is a senior at Catholic High, and hopes to pursue performance in college. He recently performed in Once Upon a Mattress as King Sextimus. Favorite past credits include A Midsummer Night's Dream (Oberon), The NeverEnding Story (Atreyu), Burying the Devil at the Arkansas Young Playwright's Competition (Doc Jude Anthony), Anyone (Noah Bohd), and Sister Act (Joey). He is also a member of the Rep's Teen Ensemble and the improv troupe Armadillo Rodeo. Merry Christmas and enjoy the show!



Julia Dempsey (Ensemble) Julia Dempsey is in second grade at Pulaski Heights Elementary. She is thrilled to be part of the Ensemble in A Christmas Carol for her theatrical debut!



Penelope Eggleton (Want/Ensemble) This is Penelope's first stage appearance. She is an Arkansas native that hopes to make it BIG one day as an actress and singer. She attends third grade at eStem Elementary and is the eldest of three. She has looked forward to this acting experience with The Argenta Community Theater and sees a future with unlimited possibilities.



Adelyn Eiler (Caroline/Ensemble) Adelyn is happy to be returning to ACT for the third time. Past productions at Argenta include Newsies (ensemble) and A Christmas Carol (Doll Seller/ Fred's Maid). Outside of ACT she has been involved in multiple productions such as The Crucible (Abigail Williams), The Survivor (Halina Goldman), Singin' in the Rain Jr (Lina Lamont), and many more. This January she will be part of the ensemble in Heathers at The Royal Theater. She'd like to that Vince for casting her, her family and friends supporting her, and God for everything she is today. Enjoy the show!



Katie Eisenhower (Mrs. Cratchit) This is Katie's second year with A Christmas Carol and wow, she loves being Mrs. Cratchit! Favorite roles at ACT include Eunice, Streetcar Named Desire and Mme. Dindon, La Cage Aux Folles. Other productions she's loved have been War Paint and Into the Woods (Studio Theater) and If/Then (Weekend). When not at her day job (Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield), Katie can be found enjoying life with her wife, Angela, her pride and joy every day, and their two dogs. They have a granddog on the way.



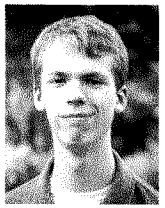
Charlie Friedman (Fiddler) Charlie is once again proud to play the Fiddler for this season's performance of A Christmas Carol, reprising his role from ACT's initial production of the play in 2017. Prior to A Christmas Carol, he performed the role of the Fiddler in the ACT production of Fiddler on the Roof as well as combo orchestra violinist for Mrs. Miniver and Big River. He is delighted to work with such a talented and supportive cast. Happy holidays to one and all!



August Gasper (Boy Scrooge/Ensemble) August Gasper is a second-grader at Pulaski Heights Elementary School and this is his first stage production. He loves super heroes, playing video games, listening to Imagine Dragons, playing with his friends, and traveling with his parents, Courtney and Brent, and his sister, Rory



Lorelei "Rory" Gasper (Ensemble) Lorelei "Rory" Gasper is in fourth grade at Pulaski Heights Elementary School and has previously appeared in Broadway: A Revue at her school and in Frozen, Jr. at The Studio Theater in Little Rock. Rory loves her dogs, Dobby and StanLee, playing with her friends, and would like to thank her parents, Courtney and Brent, and her brother, August.



Robert Gatlin (Youth Scrooge/George/Lamplighter) Robert Gatlin is making his return to Argenta to reprise his role as Youth Scrooge. However, a new and exciting change has befallen him for he is happy to say he's also playing George for the first time! This is the second time he's been in an Argenta production, but you may still see him acting all over Little Rock. He is also an improviser for the improv group, Armadillo Rodeo. He hopes you all enjoy this wonderful show with an even more wonderful cast. Be sure to have the ghostbusters on speed dial in case a ghost shows up.



Eric Harrison (Marley/Old Joe) returns to ACT and "A Christmas Carol," following performances as Weisel and Mr. Jacobi in "Newsies," Mr. Huggins in "Mrs. Minniver," Lazar Wolf in "Fiddler on the Roof" and Gentleman/Old Joe in the 2017 "Christmas Carol" world premiere. Other recent tours-de-force include his performances as the Mayor of the Munchkin City in "The Wizard of Oz," the Narrator in "Into the Woods" and the Dread Pirate Samuel in Praeclara's "The Pirates of Penzance" at Wildwood Park for the Arts; the Judge in "Inherit the Wind" and F.D.R. in "Annie" at the Weekend Theater; Mother Ginger in "The Nutcracker" with Ballet Arkansas; Smee in "Peter Pan" with the Arkansas Festival Ballet; and William Blore in "And Then There Were None" and Dr. Einstein in "Arsenic and Old Lace" at Murry's Murry's Dinner Playhouse.



Coen Hartman (Ignorance/Ensemble) Coen Hartman is delighted to be a part of A Christmas Carol. This is his debut performance, alongside his Papa. He has loved acting and the theater for as long as he can remember. Since the age of five, he has been writing, directing, and performing plays on a backyard stage with his grandmother. Coen would like to thank his incredibly supportive network of family and friends, with special thanks to his newest friends- the staff, cast and crew at Argenta Community Theater.



Shaun Hartman (Spirit of Christmas Present) Shaun Hartman is stoked to embark on his first ever theatrical performance alongside his son Coen. When Coen showed interest in the theatre, Shaun dove right in. This may be his first time acting, but he is no stranger to the stage. His band Charlie Virgo has toured from Austin to Chicago & San Francisco to Toronto. He would like to thank Vincent Insalaco & Jamie Stewart for this extraordinary opportunity.



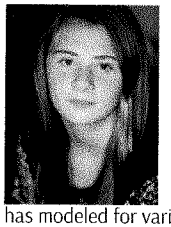
Lily Hirscheider (Fan/Ensemble) Lily couldn't wait to return to the ACT family after appearing as Anne Cratchit in last year's show! She is so thankful to all the cast and crew who have become great mentors and friends. Most recently, she played Young Elsa in the Studio Theatre's Frozen Jr. Lily is a sixth grader at North Little Rock Middle School who loves the Lord, all things theater, camping, and goofing off with her friends and siblings. "Enjoy the show and 'be sure to keep Christmas all the year!'"



Emla Holsted (Claire) Emla is thrilled to make her debut at Argenta Community Theater. She recently performed in Willy Wonka, Jr. as Mrs. Beauregarde at the Arkansas Repertory Theatre. Other credits include Les Miserables, School Edition (Madame Thenardier), Fame Jr. (Iris Kelley), Alice In Wonderland Jr. (Tall Alice) and Elf Jr. (Macy's Manager) with Red Curtain Theatre, Tuck Everlasting (Ensemble) with The Studio Theatre and The Music Man (Ensemble) with Arkansas Shakespeare Theater. She was also a member of the Rep's Teen Ensemble for two years.



Beck Hudelson (Henry Cratchit) Beck is excited to be making his debut performance at Argenta Community Theater. Most recently he appeared as MacDuff's son in Macbeth with The Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre and Bastian in The Neverending Story at The StudioTheatre. He would like to thank the theatre for this amazing opportunity and hopes you all have a Merry Christmas!!



Bella Insalaco (Belinda Cratchit) Bella is overjoyed to be returning to the stage here at Argenta Community Theater to reprise her role as Belinda. Bella's previous acting experiences at ACT include all productions of A Christmas Carol, Jesus Christ Superstar, and Newsies. Bella has been acting, dancing, and involved in theatre since she was 3 years old. She has performed for Ballet Arkansas and Arkansas Festival Ballet in multiple productions including the Nutcracker at Robinson Center Music Hall and Snow White at Arkansas Arts Center. She is signed with the Agency Inc. and has modeled for various clothing lines including Dillard's. Bella has also been featured on the cover of Leisure Arts Magazine. Bella is delighted to be a part of such a wonderful production, cast, and crew.



Steven Jones (Mr. Fezziwig/Spirit of Christmas Future) Steven is delighted to be joining the ACT cast for A Christmas Carol. This is Steven's ACT debut and first return to the stage since his undergrad, where a few of his roles included Caliban in The Tempest, Philip in Orphans, The Wolf in Into The Woods, Hank in Marvin's Room, and Stubbs in States of Shock. He has graduated with degrees in Broadcast Communications from Northeastern Oklahoma, Theatre from Oklahoma State, Theatrical Production from Montclair State, and Entertainment Technology from Carnegie Mellon. Steven has worked professionally as a sound designer, voice-over actor, radio dj, video editor & master control operator, and currently as a multimedia specialist at Camp Robinson.If you really must know more... feel free to visit stevenswebpage.com. Steven would like to thank everyone at the ACT for being so welcoming.



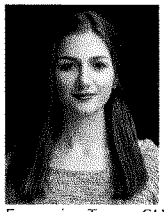
Jackson Karl (Clerk Scrooge/Ensemble) A Christmas Story (Flick), Willy Wonka (Phineous Trout) , and Really Rosie (Soloist) at the Arkansas Repertory Theatre, The Music Man (Winthrop Paroo), Fiddler on The Roof, The Winter's Tale, A Midsummer Night's Dream (Ensemble) at Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, as well as CHICAGO (Fred Casely, Featured Dancer), Les Miserables (Marius Pontmercy), and FAME (Dancer, Schlomo) at Red Curtain Theatre. Jackson would like to thank the entire creative team and staff at Argenta Community Theater for their continuous support and dedication to the arts in Central Arkansas. For more visit jacksonkarl.weebly.com.



Connor Keeler (Dick Wilkins/Beggar) is a sophomore at Sylvan Hills High School and is excited to be making his Argenta Community Theater debut in a Christmas Carol. Connor comes to us from multiple summers of intensive training at The Arkansas Repertory Theater. He was selected to appear on stage at The Arkansas Repertory Theater in The Putnam County Spelling Bee and The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged). Connor also plays French Horn with the Arkansas Youth Symphony and plays French Horn, Trumpet, and Piano for his High School.



Lauren Lasseigne (Anne Cratchit) This is my 3rd year to be in A Christmas Carol at Argenta and I'm so blessed to be back this year in the role of Anne Cratchit. I also played Ruthie Stroud in the world premiere of During Wind and Rain at ACT. Some of my other theater roles include Gretl from Sound of Music, Molly from Annie both at The Weekend Theater. Elsa in Frozen Junior at the Studio Theater. Understudy Charlie/young ensemble in Wonka Junior at Arkansas Repertory Theater and Munchkin/Poopy in Wizard of Oz with Praeclara/Wildwood. I had a supporting lead in the feature film It Knows on Amazon as well as the short films the Birthday Bully and The Foundling. Thank you to Vince and Jamie for believing in me and casting me and to Judy Goss for another wonderful script. Always thankful for Mama Judy's love and support at Argenta. I love all of my ACT family so much! I love to dance and sing. I play volleyball and run track for Christ the King in Little Rock where I am in 6th grade.



Madison Meek (Young Belle/Ensemble) Madison is thrilled to be returning for her second year with this heart warming production of A Christmas Carol. She was last seen in Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre's production of Macbeth. Some of her other favorite credits include JoJo in Newsies(Conway High School), Connie in Good News(Conway High School), Jovie in Elf Jr.(Red Curtain Theatre), and Clarice in West Side Story(Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre). Madison is a Senior at Conway High School where she is currently a member of the CHS Forensics Team, CHS Mock Trial Team, Advanced Chamber Choir, Swim Team, and the Cross Country Team. Madison would like to thank the director, cast, and crew for allowing her to be a part of this exciting adventure



D. Brent Miller (Bob Cratchit) D. Brent Miller is originally from Warren, Arkansas, and holds a BA in music, emphases in musical theater, voice, and piano from the University of Arkansas, Monticello. Miller made his professional debut with the Louisiana Lyric Opera in 2008. He made his first appearance in the Little Rock theater scene with ACT in 2014 as Motel the tailor (Fiddler on the Roof), followed by Charlie Dalrymple (Brigadoon), Jacob (La Cage Aux Folles), Dickon (Secret Garden), Luther Jones in Michael Rice's original musical drama (During Wind and Rain), and played Jacob Marley (A Christmas Carol). Recently, he served as music director for Hunchback of Notre Dame, Big River, Sweet Charity, A Christmas Carol, and Follies. Brent has conducted pit orchestras in Houston and surrounding areas for various theaters. Some of those credits include Les Miserables, Camelot, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Anything Goes, and Sweeney Todd. He has also been guest conductor for the Brazosport Symphony Orchestra. Some of his previously performed stage roles include John (Miss Saigon), Tobias Ragg (Sweeney Todd), Seymour (Little Shop of Horrors), Matt (The Fantasticks), Papageno (The Magic Flute), Scarecrow (Wizard of Oz), and Phil (White Christmas), and will appear in February 2020 as Younger Brother in Ragtime!



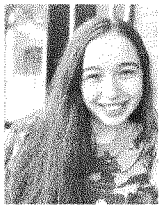
Aubrey Nelson (Fred's Maid/Ensemble) Aubrey is so excited to be in A Christmas Carol this year! In Aubrey's free time, she competitively swims and enjoys sailing! She has been in multiple different productions, however this is her first one here at Argenta Community Theatre. She thanks the crew and cast for this wonderful opportunity and hopes that everyone enjoy the show!



Matt Patton (Ebenezer Scrooge) In a professional career spanning more than thirty years, Matt has worked in theaters from coast to coast. Locally, he has performed at the Arkansas Rep, Murrys, and with the Conway Symphony Orchestra. He appeared at ACT in the staged reading of the play 8; otherwise, this is his ACT debut. Matt is on the board of the Ozark Living Newspaper Theater, and next May for that company he will be directing Pinterist, a collection of the short works of Harold Pinter. His artistic passions not limited to theater, Matt spent eight years as a producer and host of classical programming at KLRE, Classical 90.5.



Hardy Peacock (Clergyman/Ensemble) Hardy is very happy to be back at the Argenta Community Theatre for the annual production of "A Christmas Carol." He has previously appeared in "During Wind and Rain," "To Kill a Mockingbird," and "Big River." Hardy has played rascals, heroes, cowboys, con men, rapscallions, kings, queens, lawyers, rogues, preachers, curmudgeons, self-propelled scenery, a dancing waiter, murderers, police officers, a Russian dairyman, and many other roles over the years. The ACT is very special to him. Hardy was raised in Winchester, Arkansas, and was involved in business, farming, free-lance writing, and the trucking industry. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas and a Marine. He and his wife, Kathryn, have one daughter, Pearce, and they all work hard at taking care of Chuck W. Martini, the world's greatest dog. Hardy is currently the pastor at the Wilmar, Andrews Chapel, Rock Springs, and Mount Pleasant (Campground) United Methodist Churches. Hardy would like to thank his family and his church families for allowing him to participate in theatre. He believes that it is the only way to have this much fun in public, keep all your clothes on, and not get arrested. Other than theatre his hobbies include cultivating comb-overs and lying to fellow passengers on airplanes. He tries to have a little fun, wherever he goes. If you enjoy the show, this one is dedicated to you.



Anna Reynolds (Spirit of Christmas Past) Anna is a student at Parkview High School, and is thrilled to be making her ACT debut! Previously, she has been seen in Merry Wives of Windsor, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Music Man, King Henry IV: Part 1 (Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre), Rapunzel (Arkansas Children's Theatre), and most recently, as Ms. Teavee in Willy Wonka Jr. (The Rep). Anna would like to thank her family for being so supportive, and Vince and Jamie for giving her such an amazing opportunity! Thanks for believing in me!



Jacob Rivera (Topper/Clerk) Jacob Rivera is excited for his first performance with the Argenta Community Theater. His other plays included: A Midsummer Night's Dream at MSM, Arsenic and Old Lace at CHS,,The Survivors at the Weekend Theater, and Once Upon A Mattress at MSM. He hopes you enjoy the show and that you become filled with Christmas cheer at the sight of this fantastical performance.



Jada Shorter (Laundress/Ensemble) Jada is excited to be performing in this year's production of A Christmas Carol. This is not only her first time performing on the ACT stage, but also her first time doing community theater. She has previously performed in Children of Eden (Ensemble), Fiddler on the Roof (Ensemble), Radium Girls (Kathryn), Big Fish (Josephine), and The Addams Family (Ancestor Bride) at Episcopal Collegiate School. She would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her in all of her acting endeavors and the ACT staff for giving her this wonderful opportunity.



Sarah Siria (Ensemble) Sarah Siria is a 7th grader at Holy Souls School, where she is active in a variety of activities, including volleyball. Sarah is making her stage debut with The Christmas Carol and is thrilled to be joining such a talented cast and crew! When she isn't dreaming of the stage, you can find Sarah hitting the mountain bike trails with her NICA competitive team or creating some super fun (and funny) videos with friends. Sarah would like to thank her parents and brother Luke, and her friends who have supported her in many ways to make it to her first theater experience.



Tricia H. Spione (Housekeeper/Curtain Speech) Tricia is so very happy to again be back in ACT's production of A Christmas Carol. You might have seen her in ACT's productions of A Christmas Carol and To Kill A Mockingbird last season. She has performed around central Arkansas, in To Kill a Mockingbird at the Arkansas Repertory Theater, Intimate Apparel and Titanic, the musical at the Weekend Theater. Other performances have included the Sound of Music as Fraulein Schraeder at TWT, Diary of Anne Frank, Reader's Theater, CTLR, Cabaret, and Jesus Christ Superstar(ACT). Last year, she directed Life is Short atthe Community Theatre of Little Rock. Tricia has been involved in all aspects of theater throughout herlife. She has extensive experience as a director, actor and teacher and has taught theater to all ages andserved on various boards. In February,look for her in The Weekend Theater's production of Sweat, aPulitzer Prize winning play. Thanks to Vince, ACT and the cast and crew for a wonderful experience! Shethanks her husband, family and friends for their continued support and love. She thanks YOU forsupporting live theatre!



Ava St. Ana (Dollseller/Ensemble) Ava St. Ana is delighted to be making her debut in "A Christmas Carol" at the Argenta Community Theatre. She was previously in the Pre-Show Choir for the production of "Willy Wonka Jr." at the Rep Theatre and played the daughter in the short film The Tricycle. She is a student at eStem Elementary Public Charter School, takes dance at Rock City Dance Studio, and voice lessons from Sydney McGill. She is a Girl Scout and enjoys making crafts. She also has her own cookie business, Ava and Joseph's Homemade Cookies.



James Stewart (Peter Cratchit) This is James's third show at ACT, playing John in last year's production of A Christmas Carol, and most recently, Oscar Delancy in Newsies. A student of Southwest Christian Academy, James's prior roles include Bert in Mary Poppins, Rooster Hannigan and Bert Healy in Annie, Charlie in Willy Wonka, and Jack in Into the Woods.



Sara Grace Stewart (Sally/Ensemble) A Christmas Carol is Sara Grace's first non-school production. A dance student for three years, Sarah has also played ensemble roles in Mary Poppins and Annie among other productions at Southwest Christian Academy. She would like to thank her family for allowing her to learn be a singer and an actress.



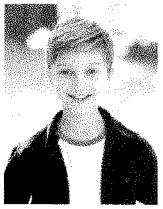
Jamie Stewart (Charles/Undertaker) Jamie returns to the ACT stage to reprise his roles in A Christmas Carol as well as serve as co-director for the production. Jamie has also been seen in other ACT productions such as Mrs. Miniver and Fiddler on the Roof. Currently the performing arts director and conductor of the SCA Singers at Southwest Christian Academy, Jamie enjoys teaching, singing and producing shows. He wishes to thank his wife, Jan and his three children for their love and support.



Jim Watkins (Gentleman/Schoolmaster) Jim is pleased to revisit this wonderful Christmas story having performed as Jacob Marley in Community Theater of Little Rock's production in 2008. In 2002 he directed 1940's RADIO HOUR. He has served on the Board of Directors for 6 years, and performed in 12 other shows. He also served in some capacity on their technical team on 9 CTLR productions. Most recently' Jim performed in TITANIC, THE MUSICAL with The Weekend Theater, in CTLR'S THE PRODUCERS. For Acansa, he participated in their 10 MINUTE PLAY FESTIVAL this spring. Jim enjoyed being a caroler last year for ACT'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL.Many thanks to Vince, Jamie, and Judy for this opportunity. Thanks also to Tricia and Tom for their love and support. "Jolly and Merry to you!"



Lori Wenger (Mature Belle) Lori Wenger is so happy to be making her community theater debut at ACT. She couldn't think of a better way to spend this holiday season than sharing the stage with her favorite actor, her 10 year old son, Walt. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support and ACT for this opportunity.



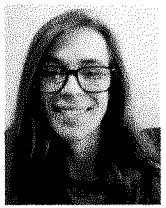
Walt Wenger (Tiny Tim) Walt Wenger is honored to be making his debut at Argenta Community Theater playing the beloved character Tiny Tim. Walt's theater credits include: Tike and Moppet (The Arkansas Arts Center), The Wizard of Oz (Murry's Dinner Playhouse), Elf (Murry's Dinner Playhouse), Charlotte's Web (The Arkansas Arts Center), Willy Wonka Jr. (The Arkansas Repertory Theater) and Frozen Jr. (The Studio Theater). Walt would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!



Emmarie Wilson (Martha Cratchit) Emmarie is elated to be making her debut at Argenta Community Theater as Martha Cratchit. Her most recent production was Chicago High School Edition where she played Mary Sunshine at Red Curtain Theatre. Other productions with Red Curtain Theatre include Singin' In The Rain (Featured Dancer), Matilda (Featured Dancer), Les Miserables, School Edition (Ensemble), and Shrek (Ensemble). Emmarie has also participated in numerous school productions such as Our Town (The Stage manager), Miss Julie (Miss Julie), The Insanity of Mary Girard (Polly Kenton and Fury 3), and Radium Girls (Mrs. Roeder and Madam Curie).

CREATIVE TEAM

(In alphabetical order)



Nathan Abshire (Sound Engineer) Nathan has worked on ACT's productions of The Secret Garden, During Wind and Rain, Sweet Charity, A Christmas Carol (2017 & 2018), Follies, To Kill a Mockingbird, Big River, Newsies, A Chorus Line and A Streetcar Named Desire. He also serves as ACT's resident technician. Happy Holidays and enjoy the show!



Jimi Brewi (Set Engineer) Jimi received his MFA from the University of Memphis . He was an actor and company member of Arkansas Arts Center Children's Theatre for 28 years, during which time he took over as technical director. Now in semi-retirement, Jimi oversees set construction, dabbles in scene design, and does all the "honey-do's" at Argenta Community Theater while also helping technically at Murray's Dinner Playhouse. Jimi is married to Kandy Jones, the garage sales queen. Live long and prosper.



Abby Cansler (Youth Captain) Abby is pleased to be involved in this year's production of A Christmas Carol. Her role as support and mentor to the young actors in our production has proven to be invaluable to the entire cast. An accomplished actor and singer herself, Abby's experience includes roles in Mary Poppins, Annie, and Willy Wonka, while also singing regularly as a member of the worship ensembles at both Southwest Christian Academy and New Life Fellowship Church.



Sara Cooke (Technical Director) Sara is returning as technical director for her 16th show here at Argenta Community Theatre. She is a retired theatre teacher and throughout those 27 years she earned the honors of PCSSD Fine Arts Teacher of the Year and the Arkansas Communication and Theatre Arts Association Teacher of the Year. And in 2017 she was an inaugural recipient of the Nellie Award for her outstanding volunteer work in community theatre in central Arkansas. She thinks it's groovy to hang out with the local theatre community and supporting all the actors and technicians who love to do theater. She is surrounded by wonderful volunteers and staff who make her day the brightest. Sara is proud to see that ACT has become a great training ground for young theatre technicians and is the ACT coordinator for the Pulaski Tech/ACT intern scholarship. Sara is also proud of her husband John who has retired this year and can now help her with difficult theatrical mishaps!



Shelly Hall (Costume Designer) Costuming is Shelly's joy andpassion, and she feels blessed to be on board for the 10th anniversary season of the Argenta Community Theatre and designing A Christmas Carol for the third time around. Before coming to ACT, Shelly was on the costume shop staff at The Rep for several years where she served as costume designer for the young artist program, SMTI and also designed many main stage shows such as; Elf, Avenue Q, Putnam Co. Spelling Bee, A Christmas Story (2010), The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged, and Next to Normal. Her most recent design credits include; The Old Maid and the Thief for Opera in the Rock, Follies, To Kill a Mockingbird, Big River, Newsies, A Chorus Line, and A Streetcar Named Desire for ACT. Other design credits include two Christmas productions for the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, as well as several individual award-winning dance and promotional costumes.



Vincent Insalaco (Producer, Co-Director) Vince is the co-founder and Artistic Director of ACT and has been active in the performing arts since childhood. He believes that a script or a paintbrush is as important as a football or baseball to a child's development. In addition to his work in theater and politics, Vince produced the feature War Eagle, Arkansas and the documentary Warrior Champions and recently Giving Voice, one of the only Slave Dedications in the United States at the Historic Arkansas Museum. He has directed many shows at ACT, including Jesus Christ Superstar, Mrs. Miniver, Brigadoon, The Secret Garden, A Christmas Carol, Follies, To Kill a Mockingbird, Newsies and A Chorus Line. He was honored with the Arkansas Arts Council Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008.



Dena Kimberling (Lighting Designer) Dena is excited to be Light Designer for her 13th show at Argenta. She has been involved in the theatrical lighting industry since 1986 where she started her professional career at Stageworks. She is now the owner of Let There Be Light, here in Little Rock. She has also been very active with the drama ministry at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. Dena gives a big shout out to Sara Cooke for being her friend since she was 14 and for writing this bio for her.



Lauren Nicholas (Prop Master) Lauren has worked behind the scenes in over 20 theater productions over the last 8 years. She has worked with Maumelle Players, The Studio Theater, The Royal Theater, and Argenta Community Theater. Some of her favorite productions include Noises Off, Bonnie & Clyde, Harvey, Big River, To Kill a Mockingbird, Rock of Ages, Doubt, Buyer and Cellar. Lauren's creativity lends to her craft as the Props Master here at Argenta. She has the ability to create realistic props out of common materials. Aside from her love of theater, she is Senior and Sophomore English Teacher for Jacksonville Lighthouse College Prep. She wants to thank Vincent, Judy, Sara, Christen, Shelly, and Maggie; without ya'll she would be able to be herself and create such wonderful props. Lastly, to my parents, all my love and admiration, Thank you. Break All the Legs and Enjoy the Show!



Christen Burke Pitts (Choreographer) Christen Burke Pitts has been a dance instructor in central Arkansas for more than 30 years and is Founder/Director of the Theatre Dance Program and Dance Troupe at North Little Rock High School where she has taught since 1996. Christen is also a Teaching Artist for the AR Arts Council. She is the recent recipient of the inaugural Argenta Community Theater Award for Excellence in Arts Education. She received the Governor's Arts in Education Award from the Arkansas Arts Council and was named the Arkansas Communication and Theatre Arts Association Teacher of the Year in 2012. Christen holds an MEd from UALR, a BA in Drama/minor in Dance Performance from the U of A. She has performed and danced professionally in more than 50 shows, plays, and musicals. She appeared on both the Disney and Family Channel and in numerous commercials, films, and shows. She is a board member/co-founder of the Arkansas Dance Network, the Argenta Community Theater, Acansa Arts Festival, TeeBoDans, and Untapped. Christen has choreographed more than 60 musicals and is thrilled to work with the amazing cast and creative team of A Christmas Carol- her twelfth show at the ACT! She is married to Kyle Pitts and has two children, Grace and Corbin, who all share in her love of the arts! Enjoy the show!



Maggie Simpson (Stage Manager) Maggie joined the ACT staff in November 2015 and it has been a wild, beautiful ride ever since! She would like to thank Papa Vince and Mama Judy for their unwavering support and care, Laura, Nathan, Sydney and Valerie for being the greatest co-workers in history (like, ever), and Sara Cooke for being the hardest working, kindest, silliest, coolest, GROOVIEST woman in the world. Finally, a BIG thank you to the cast and crew who have worked so hard to make this production possible. Enjoy the show and keep supporting community theater!



Jamie Stewart (Co-Director, Vocal Director) Jamie has enjoyed many successful years as head of the music and theater department at Southwest Christian Academy in Little Rock. Although he served as music director for last year's production of A Christmas Carol, this year's show is Jamie's first to co-direct at ACT. Jamie is thankful for the opportunity to collaborate with Vincent Insalaco and the fabulous artistic team on this production.

SPECIAL THANKS

Charles Frazier & Rock Region Metro
Whole Hog Cafe of North Little Rock
Warren McCullough
Anastasia & Eddie Boles
Kelly & Wesley Lasseigne
Southwest Christian Academy & Jamie Stewart
Judy Tenenbaum
Katie Eisenhower
Eric Harrison
Greg Robinson
Janet Perry
Jennifer Keeler
Kirsten Wilson
ACT's fabulous team of volunteers