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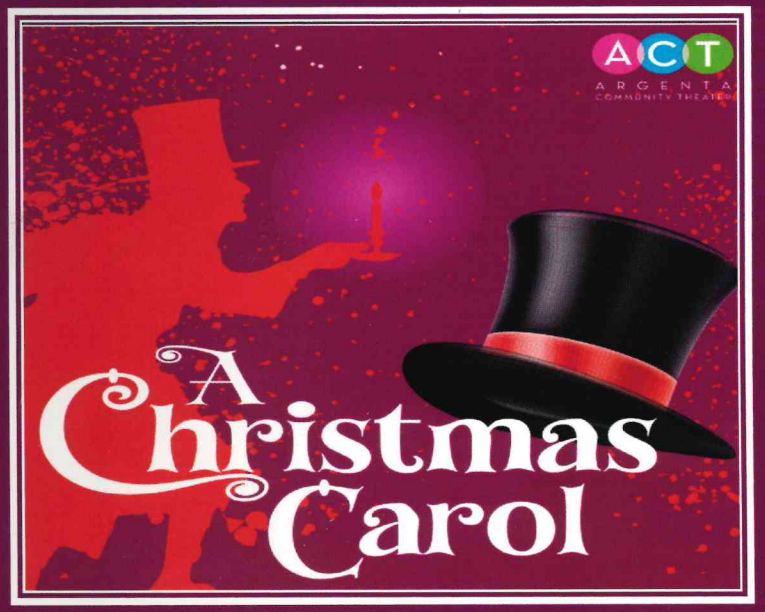

by Charles Dickens
Adapted for the stage by Judy B. Goss

December 4-15, 2018

Presented by

CENTENNIAL BANK

In Partnership With

The Tenenbaum Family Foundation

NLR NORTH LITTLE ROCK

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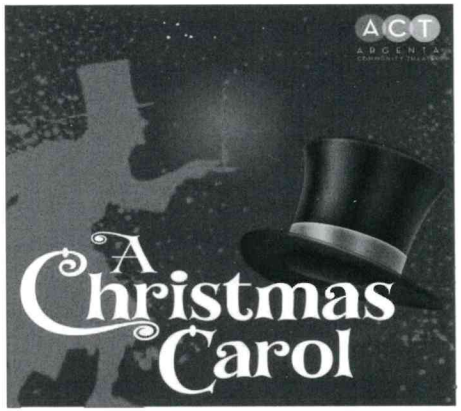

by Charles Dickens
Adapted for the stage by Judy B. Goss

The Cast

Ben Barham as Ebenezer Scrooge

Michael Harmon Ben Grimes Laura Grimes Tricia Spione Shelton Harden Byron Taylor
Walter Dodd Geneva Galloway Tony Clay Madison Meek Joseph Tully
Robert Gatlin Holli Goff Isabella Insalaco Lennon Morgan Lily Hirscheider
Katie Eisenhower Jamie Stewart Jamie Boshears Adelyn Eiler Lauren Lasseigne
Aaron Harris James Stewart IV Emma Smith Lexi Aquino Will Porter Max Green
John Barham as Tiny Tim and Dr. Charles Friedman as the Fiddler

Technical Staff

Stage Design and Technical Director
Sara Cooke

Costume Design and Construction
Shelly Hall

Stage Manager
Maggie Simpson

Lighting Design
Dena Kimberling

Prop Master
Lauren Nicholas

Vocal Director
D. Brent Miller

Choreographer
Christen Pitts

Dialect Coach
Greg Robinson

Sound Engineer
Nathan Abshire

Set Construction
Jimi Brewi

Producer
Judy Tenenbaum

Directed by
Vincent Insalaco

ACT Staff: ACT Staff: Laura Grimes - Paula Lively - Sydney Waters – Maggie Simpson – Nathan Abshire
House Manager: Beverly Williams
UA-Pulaski Tech Interns: Naomi Gower, Trystan Benson, Quincy Thurston, Maria Aranda
Set Crew: Christian Tobler Costume Dresser: Sabrina Kertz Prop Assistant: Claire Green
Scene Painters: Donna Bryant, Sue Fortner, Kathy Kemp, Barbara Lusk,
Kay Owens, Suzette Patterson, Barbara and John Rhodes
Christmas Carolers: Jan Chmielewski, Karen Fraley, Hannah Gross,
Mary Hoey, Elis Pippenger, Susan Reed, Libby Smith

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A Christmas Carol

Cast

(In alphabetical order)

LEXI AQUINO ..... Sally, Mature Belle's daughter/ Want
BEN BARHAM ..... Ebenezer Scrooge
JOHN BARHAM ..... Tiny Tim/Ignorance
JAMIE BOSHEARS ..... Mrs. Fezziwig
TONY CLAY ..... Clergyman/Topper
WALTER DODD ..... Fred
ADELYN EILER ..... Doll Seller/Fred's Maid
KATIE EISENHOWER ..... Mature Belle/Laundress/ Housekeeper
CHARLIE FRIEDMAN ..... Violinist
GENEVA GALLOWAY ..... Claire, Fred's wife
ROBERT GATLIN ..... Peter Cratchit/Youth Scrooge/ Ensemble
HOLLI GOFF ..... Martha Cratchit/Ensemble
MAX GREEN ..... Clerk/Waiter/Delivery Man
BEN GRIMES ..... Bob Cratchit
LAURA GRIMES ..... Mrs. Cratchit
SHELTON HARDEN ..... Spirit of Christmas Present
MICHAEL HARMON ..... Mr. Fezziwig/ Spirit of Christmas Future
AARON HARRIS ..... Gentleman/Lighthouse Keep 1/ Merchant
LILY HIRSCHEIDER ..... Anne Cratchit/Ensemble
ISABELLA INSALACO ..... Belinda Cratchit/Ensemble
LAUREN LASSEIGNE ..... Fan/Ensemble
MADISON MEEK ..... Jane, Claire's siter/Nurse
LENNON MORGAN ..... Henry Cratchit/Boy Scrooge/ Ensemble
WILL PORTER ..... Lamplighter/Clerk Scrooge
EMMA SMITH ..... Produce Seller/Young Belle/ Caroline, Debtor's Wife
TRICIA SPIONE ..... Spirit of Christmas Past/Charwoman
JAMES STEWART IV ..... John, boy on the street/ Fezziwig's Neighbor
JAMIE STEWART ..... Undertaker/Charles, Belle's husband/ Lighthouse Keep 2
BYRON TAYLOR ..... Jacob Marley/ Patient/ Old Joe
JOSEPH TULLY ..... Beggar/Dick/George Debtor

TIME

Christmas Eve and Day 1843

PLACE

Camdentown, London, England
Victoria is Queen of England

Lobby Christmas Carolers: Jan Chmielewski, Karen Fraley, Mary Hoey, Kristen Knight, Cory Olsen, Elizabeth Reha, Jim Watkins

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

A Christmas Carol

Creative Team

(In alphabetical order)

ACT Sound Technician ..... NATHAN ABSHIRE
Construction Engineer ..... JIMI BREWI
Technical Director ..... SARA COOKE
Playwright ..... JUDY B. GOSS
Props Assistant ..... CLAIRE GREEN
Costume Designer ..... SHELLY HALL
Director ..... VINCENT INSALACO
Lighting Designer ..... DENA KIMBERLING
Vocal Director ..... D. BRENT MILLER
Props Master ..... LAUREN NICHOLAS
Choreographer ..... CHRISTEN BURKE PITTS
Dialect Coach ..... GREG ROBINSON
Stage Manager ..... MAGGIE SIMPSON
Producer ..... JUDY TENENBAUM

ACT Staff

(In alphabetical order)

Executive Director ..... LAURA GRIMES
ACT General Manager ..... PAULA LIVELY
Social Media Manager ..... WARREN McCULLOUGH
ACT Sales Coordinator ..... SYDNEY WATERS
House Manager ..... BEVERLY WILLIAMS

Stage Crew

Set Crew ..... CHRISTIAN TOBLER
Costume Dresser ..... SABRINA KERTZ
Spotlight Operators ..... ELISSA KASPER, BELLA CONNOR
Light Crew ..... GEORGE CHAMBERS, MANUEL ANGELES
Scene Painters ..... DONNA BRYANT, SUE FORTNER, KATHY KEMP, BARBARA LUSK, KAY OWENS, SUZETTE PATTERSON, BARBARA RHODES, JOHN RHODES

ACT SCHOLARSHIP

The Argenta Community Theater is proud to partner with UA Pulaski Tech (PACT). This unique Scholarship program allows interns to receive both college credit and a joint scholarship when working on a production here at ACT. It is the only program of its kind in Arkansas.

This semester our Scholarship interns are NAOMI GOWER, TRYSTAN BENSON, QUINCY THURSTON, MARIA ARANDA for their work on A Christmas Carol.

Special Thanks to:

Dr. Margaret Ellibee and Shannon Boshears of UAPTC, The Vincent and Sally Insalaco Scholarship Foundation and the Arkansas Community Foundation.

CAST

(In alphabetical order)



LEXI AQUINO – Sally, Mature Belle's daughter/ Want
Lexi is so excited to be playing the roles of Sally and Want in *A Christmas Carol* at Argenta Theater. Her most recent play was *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* at The Royal Theatre in Benton where she was part of the Ensemble. Lexi loves to perform. Her other interest are piano, tennis and traveling. Lexi would like to thank her family for their support and Vincent Insalaco for allowing her to be a part of this wonderful play.



BEN BARHAM – Ebenezer Scrooge
Ben is very happy to return to Argenta Community Theater for this wonderful story. This is his fourth *Christmas Carol*, having played Bob Cratchit at the Thunder Bay Theater in Michigan, Assistant Directed a production at the San Diego Repertory Theater, and played The Ghost of Christmas Present here at Argenta last year. Ben has worked in professional theater at other such companies as the Arkansas Repertory Theater, La Jolla Playhouse (CA), the Old Globe (CA), McCarter Theatre Center (NJ), Penguin Rep (NY), the Drove Theatre Company (NY), and The Juilliard School (NY). He has a BFA in Theater Arts from Rutgers University and studied classical theatre at Shakespeare's Globe in London. Ben is most proud of his role as John and Natalie's dad and Jill's husband.



JOHN BARHAM – Tiny Tim/Ignorance
John Barham is a second Grader at Pulaski Academy and this is his first play. He loves Pokemon, Monopoly, 3DS, Basketball and winning arguments. He had a wonderful time getting to know his stage siblings and pestering Max Green. Special thanks to Momma, Natalie, Pawpaw, Nana, Buh, Grammy, Grandad, and Uncle Eric for their love and support. And his Dad, Ebenezer!



JAMIE BOSHEARS – Mrs. Fezziwig
I am beyond thrilled to be cast as Mrs. Fezziwig in *A Christmas Carol*, my third ACT production! My former ACT performances were in *The Secret Garden* and *Follies*. Other company performances include *Guys and Dolls, Oliver, Sister Act, The Sound of Music* and *Big River*. As always, I am thankful for the opportunity to once again participate in an art form I love so dearly. To the cast of this show, I love being on the boards again with those of you I know, and am so happy to be among such amazing talent whom I now call friends. Heartfelt thanks to my beautiful daughter Haley, and my extraordinary mother-in-law Cynthia. To my beloved wife Shannon, thank you for your love, encouragement, compassion, patience and support. #lovewins #theartsmatter



TONY CLAY – Clergyman/Topper
Tony is excited to be playing the role of Topper in this timeless classic. Tony is returning to the Argenta Stage after being Pap Finn in *Big River* this summer, which was one of the best experiences of his life. Tony is so thankful to Vince for inviting him and his family into the Argenta Family. Some of Tony's credits are Seymour Krelbourn in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Constable Jo in *Tuck Everlasting*, Phil Davis in *White Christmas*, Elyot Chase in *Private Lives*, Oliver Warbucks in *Annie* and Directed *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Tony has been seen in over 34 shows and 260 performances in Little Rock, Benton, Hot Springs and Pine Bluff. Tony wants to thank his wife Lee Ann, who still takes his breath away for putting up with his stage addiction and also thanks his daughter Annslee for inspiring him to be a better dad and performer. Tony hopes you enjoy the show and it helps each of you get in the Christmas Spirit.



WALTER DODD – Fred
Walter is a playwright and actor from Little Rock, Arkansas. He graduated from Ouachita Baptist University with a BA in Theatre Arts and is currently a student of the Hollins Playwrights Lab in pursuit of a MFA in Playwriting. He most recently portrayed David in *If/Then* at The Weekend Theatre, and his play *Gather Your Thoughts* was produced as part of ACANSA and The Yarn's first annual Ten Minute Play Showcase.



ADELYN EILER – Doll Seller/Fred's Maid
Adelyn is ecstatic to be in her first show with ACT. She has been acting since fourth grade. Favorite roles include Lina Lamont (*Singing in the Rain, Jr*), Cogsworth (*Beauty and the Beast, Jr*), Miss Hannigan (*Annie, Jr*), and Brook (*Vilomah*, short film). Outside theatre she enjoys painting, writing, songwriting, and playing her ukulele she named Ushavi. She'd like to thank God, Vince, her parents and sister, and her friends Kate, Natalie, Veronica, Max, Jacob, Mairyn, and Drew for their support. She hopes you enjoy the show.



KATIE EISENHOWER – Mature Belle/Laundress/ Housekeeper
Katie dedicates this show to those who may find the holidays difficult. There is hope! Previous shows in central Arkansas: *Into the Woods, La Cage Aux Folles, The Secret Garden, If/Then*. Immense appreciation for her wife, Angela, for her forbearance, being the OG laundress and housekeeper, keeping her (and the dogs) well-fed, and protecting our bubble.



CHARLIE FRIEDMAN – Fiddler
Charlie is honored to be a cast member of *A Christmas Carol*, his fourth ACT production after *Fiddler on the Roof* (in the role of the Fiddler and also as the ensemble violinist) and *Mrs. Miniver* (as ensemble violinist). He has been a cast and/or ensemble member of many local theater productions over the past few years, including *Fiddler on the Roof* at The Weekend Theater and more recently at the Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, *Legally Blonde, The Last Five Years, Annie Get Your Gun, and Bonnie and Clyde*. He is the first violinist of the Four Seasons String Quartet and a singer in the River City Men's Chorus and the Acapella Rising Chorus. As a physician, he serves as a Medical Consultant at the Arkansas DDS. Charlie wishes to thank Vincent Insalaco for the wonderful opportunity of being in this show as well as to extend thanks to fellow cast members and the production's crew members who comprise such a delightful community of talented artists. Happy Holidays.



GENEVA GALLOWAY – Claire, Fred's wife
Geneva is thrilled to be making her ACT debut this Holiday season! Originally from Little Rock, Geneva has spent most of her professional career working in theatre management and fundraising. In 2014 she received her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and Marketing from the University of Central Arkansas, and in 2015 she was selected to take part in the highly competitive apprenticeship program at the legendary Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago, Illinois. In 2016 Geneva moved back to Arkansas and began working as the General Manager of the Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre. During this time she helped create and execute a fall school tour that brought quality performances of Shakespeare's works to student across Faulkner County. Geneva would like to dedicate this performance to her husband, Jordy, for all the love and support he has shown her throughout the years. Happy Holidays to you and yours!



ROBERT GATLIN – Peter Cratchit/Youth Scrooge/ Ensemble
Robert is making his debut in Argenta Community Theater with this performance. This is his second performance in public theater, and he could not be more thrilled. He has always watched *A Muppets Christmas Carol* every year on Christmas Eve, so being in *A Christmas Carol* has made him incredibly happy.



HOLLI GOFF – Martha Cratchit/Ensemble
Holli is delighted to be making her ACT debut in *A Christmas Carol!* She is a senior at Southwest Christian Academy and has been a part of their performing arts department for four years. Holli is thrilled to share the stage with her high school music director Jamie Stewart and his son James. She is also captain of the cheerleading squad and a member of the volleyball and golf team. Holli has been dancing at Irby's Studio of Dance since she was 3 years old, studying classical ballet, jazz, tap and pointe. Thanks to Vince, Judy Goss and Judy Tenenbaum for letting me be part of this wonderful production and to the cast and crew for making this a truly memorable experience!



MAX GREEN – Clerk/Waiter/Delivery Man
Max Green, 16, is happy to be appearing in his third ACT production. He played clerk Scrooge and the lamplighter in the 2017 version of *A Christmas Carol* and was the young fool who sang "Arkansas" in *Big River* in July. Other favorite past acting credits include Brian, the singing mathlete in *The Legend of Fancybeard* the Bully Pirate at the Arkansas Arts Center, Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* at Bearden Productions, Drew Yallow in *Little Brother* at The Weekend Theater and Peter in *The Diary of Anne Frank* at Community Theater of Little Rock. Max is a high school sophomore in his second year of taking Early College classes at the University of Arkansas-Pulaski Technical College, where this semester he took Calculus II and Anatomy and Physiology. In his free time, Max is involved in Boy Scouts, volunteers at the Museum of Discovery, competes in Stoa, a homeschool debate league, and studies organ/church music with Jason Saugey. Max wants to thank North Little Rock School District teacher Amanda Ware for introducing him to *A Christmas Carol* and Charles Dickens in fifth grade at Indian Hills Elementary School and for encouraging him to always dream big. To adapt *A Christmas Carol* quote: There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious ... as a teacher's belief in you.



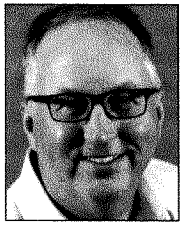
BEN GRIMES – Bob Cratchit
Ben is honored to reprise the role of Bob Cratchit and to again share the stage with his immensely talented wife Laura. ACT audiences last saw Ben in *Big River*, and as Boo Radley in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Ben is a native of Little Rock and a graduate of Parkview Fine Arts Magnet High School. After high school, he received a BFA in Regional Theatre from The Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University. Professionally he has appeared in off-off Broadway productions and regional theaters across the country to include, in Arkansas, Murray's Dinner Playhouse, The Rep, Arkansas Shakespeare Festival, and Argenta Community Theater. Ben and his old partner in crime, Ben Barham, were founding members of Moment to Moment Productions' production Arles and they also directed and produced scrappy theater with Drove Theater Company in New York City. Ben's day job now is as full-time commissioned officer in the Arkansas Army National Guard. He recently returned from his second deployment to Iraq. In 2017, Ben was accepted to the University Of Arkansas, Clinton School of Public Service where he is currently studying and developing plans for a theater company that addresses and highlights common veteran issues. Cheers to Vince, Judy, and the whole ACT family for the love and community. Huge thank you to Dan and Nancy for watching the kids and buckets full of help and support!



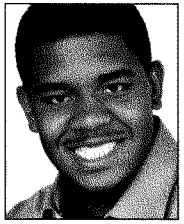
LAURA GRIMES – Mrs. Cratchit
Laura is thrilled to be reprising the role of Mrs. Cratchit, after playing it in ACT's inaugural production in 2017. She was most recently seen in *Unemployment* and *Life Science* as part of the Arkansas Rep's Plays in Progress series. Laura holds a B.A. in Theatre from Hendrix College and is a graduate of NYC's Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre. She was the Associate Artistic Director of The Real Theatre Company in NYC and has acted in numerous roles in New York and Europe and locally. Favorite productions include: *Mrs. Miniver* (ACT), *Hair* (Off-Broadway), Peter Gabriel's *US* (NYC Workshop), *The Bride of Olneyville Square* (Off-Off-Broadway), *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Arezzo, Italy), *Summer and Smoke* (Hendrix), *Doubt* (Miramax Films) and *Julie & Julia* (Columbia Pictures). Laura was recently named Executive Director of Argenta Community Theater, and thanks Vincent Insalaco, Judy Tennenbaum and Judy Goss, for making her a part of this vibrant community of artists. All my love to Bob Cratchit and our "real" little ones, Buzz and Birdie.



SHELTON HARDEN – Spirit of Christmas Present
Shelton is thrilled to be back at Argenta Community Theater in *A Christmas Carol*. After playing two rather unsavory characters earlier this year on this stage - Bob Ewell in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and The King in *Big River*, it's great to be playing Spirit of Christmas Present. Shelton was seen recently in Werner Trieschmann's new play *Unemployment* at the Arkansas Repertory Theatre's PLAYS IN PROGRESS reading series. A few of Shelton's acting credits include *The Producers* (Max Bialystock), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Tevye), *1776* (John Adams), *The Music Man* (Harold Hill), *Smoke On the Mountain* (Burl Sanders), *Pirates of Penzance* (Pirate King), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Mr. Mushnik), and *Meet Me in St. Louis* (Grandpa). He has also directed dozens of shows, especially for children's theater (many at South Arkansas Arts Center, El Dorado). Shelton teaches children's drama at Arkansas Arts Center Children's Theater, and is listed on the Arkansas Arts Council's Arts in Education Artist Roster.



MICHAEL HARMON – Mr. Fezziwig/ Spirit of Christmas Future
Michael, who plays the role of Fezziwig, is extremely proud to be in the cast of *A Christmas Carol*. Michael first appeared on the stage at Argenta Community Theater in *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Michael's favorite roles have included Vanya (*Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, The Studio Theatre), Sheriff (*To Kill A Mockingbird*, Argenta Community Theater), and Mr. Robinson (*The Graduate*, The Studio Theater). Michael has a B.A. from Hendrix College and a J.D. from the University of Arkansas. Michael is an attorney with the Arkansas Supreme Court when he's not performing on stage. Michael includes running, photography, and travel among his hobbies. Shout out to his canine buddy, Gary The Dog, for his patience during the production.



AARON HARRIS – Gentleman/Lighthouse Keep 1/ Merchant
This is Aaron's Argenta Community Theater debut. He was recently seen as Kent Levay in *Stickfly* at The Weekend Theater. He would like to thank the cast and crew for this experience.



LILY HIRSCHEIDER – Anne Cratchit/Ensemble
Lily is a fifth grader at Lakewood Elementary in North Little Rock. She is a member of her school choir and drama squad and has attended the ACTing Up theater camp for three years as well as classes at the Arkansas Arts Center Children's Theater. This is her debut play performance.



ISABELLA INSALACO – Belinda Cratchit/Ensemble
Bella is beyond thrilled to be returning to the stage here at the Argenta Community Theatre. Bella's previous acting experiences at ACT include the Inaugural production of *A Christmas Carol* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. 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 the Robinson Center Music Hall and *Snow White* at the 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. She is also excited to be working with her Papa and Aunt Judy again.



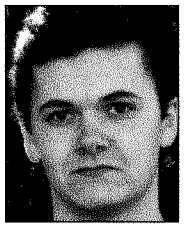
LAUREN LASSEIGNE – Fan/Ensemble
I am thrilled to be in my third show at the Argenta Community Theater. I played Ruth Stroud in the world premiere of *During Wind and Rain* and was part of the cast of last years *A Christmas Carol*. I have played Gretl in *The Sound of Music*, Molly in *Annie* and Sara Lerner in *Karski's Message* all at The Weekend Theater. I had a supporting lead role in the feature film *It Knows*, as well as a supporting lead in the short film *The Birthday Bully*, and played a supporting role in the short film *Vilomah*. Many thinks to Vince for casting and believing in me and to Judy Goss for the adaptation. Thank you to Mama Judy for all you do for the theater. I couldn't do any of this without God and his love. I am grateful for the support of my mom, dad and sister. I love to sing and dance and I play volleyball and tennis. I am in fifth grade at Christ the King in Little Rock.



MADISON MEEK – Jane, Claire's siter/Nurse
Madison is thrilled to be making her ACT debut with this heart warming production. She was last seen in Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre's production of *My Fair Lady*. Some of her other favorite credits include 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 Junior at Conway High School where she is currently a member of the CHS Forensics Team, Advanced Chamber Choir, Swim Team, and the Cross Country Team. Madison would like to thank the director, crew and cast for this exciting adventure.



LENNON MORGAN – Henry Cratchit/Boy Scrooge/ Ensemble
Lennon is thrilled to be returning to the ACT stage for his second production of *A Christmas Carol*. In his spare time, he enjoys training in the Vietnamese mixed martial art of Cuong Nhu at Unity Martial Arts in Little Rock, sculpting figures with clay, and playing Fortnite with his friends. His career is budding; look for him in HBO's *True Detective* Season 3 in January co-starring alongside Academy Award winner Mahershala Ali, Stephen Dorff and Carman Ejogo.



WILL PORTER – Lamplighter/Clerk Scrooge
Will, 15, is grateful to be back on the stage of Argenta Community Theater in the classic tale, *A Christmas Carol*. He just finished as Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Midterm* with Cast N Crew, central Arkansas' homeschool drama group and as Race in *Newsies* with the Royal Theater. Will enjoys playing the piano, leading worship in his youth group and playing chess. A huge thanks to Vincent, Judy, Maggie and Brent for investing in Will's studies on the stage! Enjoy the show and Merry Christmas!



EMMA SMITH – Produce Seller/Young Belle/ Caroline, Debtor's Wife
Emma is thrilled and honored to make her Argenta Community Theater debut in *A Christmas Carol* with such a wonderful supportive cast and crew. She is a 16-year-old junior at H.O.P.E. Homeschool Co-Op and actively participates in Cast 'N' Crew Homeschool Drama League, where she most recently appeared as Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Midterm*. She was also an original member of the Arkansas Repertory Theater's Teen Ensemble. Alongside acting, Emma enjoys reading, writing, singing and frequenting coffee shops. All glory goes to her Lord for every opportunity and gift He has given her. She hopes you enjoy the show!



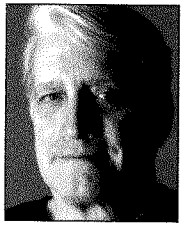
TRICIA SPIONE – Spirit of Christmas Past/Charwoman
Tricia is pleased to return to Argenta Community Theater. You may have seen her in ACT's recent production of *To Kill A Mockingbird* as Miss Maudie. She has performed around central Arkansas, in *To Kill a Mockingbird* at the Arkansas Repertory Theater, *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*, Fraulein Schneider. Last spring she directed *Life is Short* at the Community Theatre of Little Rock. Tricia has been involved in all aspects of theater throughout her life. She is an experienced director and teacher and has taught theater to all ages and served on boards of various community theater organizations. Thanks to Vince, ACT and to the cast and crew. She thanks her husband, family and friends for their continued support and love.



JAMES STEWART IV – John/Fezziwig's neighbor/Lighthouse Keep
James is excited to be a part of his first community theatre experience in *A Christmas Carol*. James has been in productions for Southwest Christian Academy including *Into The Woods*, and *Annie*. James enjoys singing and preforming in shows. He wishes to thank his parents, Jamie and Jan, his two siblings Thomas and Sarah, and girlfriend Haley, for their love and support.



JAMIE STEWART – Undertaker/Charles/Lighthouse Keep
Jamie is extremely proud to return to the ACT stage to reprise his roles in *A Christmas Carol*. 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.



BYRON TAYLOR – Jacob Marley/ Patient/ Old Joe
Byron is a little too excited to be playing Marley - a character he grew up with in many forms - in his first ACT production. Although The Weekend Theater, Little Rock's social issues theater, has been his base of operations for 18 years and over 40 shows, he has appeared in shows with Benton Royal Players, CTLR and the Rep. His last acting role was The Grinch in *Seussical* at Wildwood with Praeclara. He has also directed several shows, most recently *Inherit the Wind*. "I'm really looking forward to performing with what I already know to be a great cast and crew. Thanks always for the love and support of Amanda, Claire, Poppy and Olivia."



JOSEPH TULLY – Beggar/Dick/George the Debtor
Joseph is ecstatic to be making his Argenta Community Theater debut in *A Christmas Carol*. Jo is a homeschooled senior and a regular participant in Cast 'N' Crew Homeschool Drama league, his most recent favorite parts being Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and Perchik in *Fiddler on the Roof*. He would like to thank everyone who made his first production with ACT so enjoyable, and he hopes you enjoy the show.

Special Thanks

Argenta Downtown Council and Chris Kent
Ben E. Keith Company and Rusty Mathis
Centennial Bank
Christen and Kyle Pitts
City of North Little Rock
Debbie and Bobby Rawn
Laman Library and Crystal Gates
Mary Beth Bowman
Mayor Joe Smith and the NLR City Council
North Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau and Bob Majors
North Little Rock Drama and Arts students and Michael Klucher
North Little Rock Economic Development and Todd Larson
First United Methodist Church of North Little Rock
North Little Rock High School
Royce West
Simply the Best Catering
Sylvan Hills High School Drama Department
Taggart Architects and Bill Gray
Tennenbaum Family Foundation

CREATIVE TEAM



VINCENT INSALACO – Director
Vince is the co-founder of ACT and has been active in the performing arts since childhood. He believes that a script or 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. This is his eighth show to direct at ACT including *Jesus Christ Superstar*, the World Premiere of *Mrs. Miniver, Brigadoon* and *The Secret Garden*. He was honored with the Arkansas Arts Council Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008.



JUDY TENENBAUM – Producer
Judy is the co-founder of ACT and has been active in the arts and philanthropy her entire adult life. She has served on countless boards and began working in the performing arts with her involvement in the films *War Eagle* and *Warrior Champions*. Judy was honored to be chosen the Women's Foundation of Arkansas "Woman of the Year" and in 2007 made it possible for the THEA Foundation to make its home in Argenta. The THEA Foundation honored Judy with the Pillar of the Arts Award. She has been a producer for all of ACT's productions and also serves on the board of the Arkansas Repertory Theater.



JUDY B. GOSS – Playright
Judy is an Arkansas playwright born in Dallas, Texas. She earned 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. Judy directed theatre at the Southeast Arkansas Arts & Science Center before marriage to Pat Goss. Raising daughters Jamie and Margie, 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. In 1988 she began teaching drama and creative writing at Parkview, where she sponsored the literary magazine, helped create *Tales of the Crypt* at Mount Holly Cemetery, and taught classic scenes students to adapt Shakespeare for the UALR annual festival. In 2000, she received an Arkansas Arts Council Fellowship in playwriting. She 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 *Mrs. Miniver*, a career highlight, only to be matched by adapting Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* for ACT's fantastic director, designers, cast and crews! Judy is a member of the Dramatists Guild: www.judybgoss.com – All my thanks to Vince Insalaco and Judy Tenenbaum!



MAGGIE SIMPSON – Stage Manager
Maggie joined the ACT staff in November 2015 and its been a wild, beautiful ride ever since! She would like to thank Papa Vince and Mama Judy for their unwavering support and care, Laura, Paula, Nathan, and Sydney for being the greatest coworkers 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 theatre!



SARA COOKE – Technical Director
Sara is retired from a 27 year career as a high school speech and theater teacher. During her tenure she was awarded the Pulaski County Special School District Fine Arts Teacher of the Year Award and the Arkansas Speech and Theatre Teacher of the Year Award. She has also been involved in several performing arts camps for youth. This is her 12th production to be involved in here at ACT, and once again she is surrounded by great people who love putting on great theatre. She is very grateful to Vince and Judy for offering a place for local actors, artists and technicians to do quality work in a community endeavor. Sara was the recipient of the 2017 Nellie award for her outstanding volunteer work in community theater for central Arkansas. She wants to thank her husband John and is happy to work with Stage Manager Maggie Simpson again.



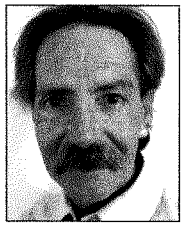
CHRISTEN BURKE PITTS – Choreographer
Christen is the Founder/Director of the Theatre Dance Program and Dance Troupe at North Little Rock High School where she has taught since 1996. She is also a Teaching Artist on the Arts in Education Roster for the Arkansas Arts Council. In 2012, Christen received 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. She holds her MEd from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and a BA in Drama/minor in Dance Performance from the University of Arkansas. Christen worked as a professional dancer, actor and choreographer in over 50 shows including *Damn Yankees* at the Arkansas Repertory Theatre, the *Shoji Tabuchi Show, The Crystal Gayle Show,* numerous commercials, films, and industrial shows, and has been seen on *The Disney Channel* and *The Family Channel.* Christen has choreographed over 60 musicals including: *Big River, The Little Mermaid, Sweet Charity, Hairspray, La Cage Aux Folles, In the Heights, Fiddler on the Roof, West Side Story, Beauty and the Beast, Shrek the Musical, Cabaret, 42nd Street, Jesus Christ Superstar, Crazy for You, Peter Pan, Grease,* and many others. She is a Board member of the Argenta Community Theater, Untapped, ACANSA Arts Festival, TeeBoDans, and is a co-founder/board member of the Arkansas Dance Network. She is married to Kyle Pitts and they have two children, Grace and Corbin. Christen is thrilled to work with the amazing cast and creative team of *A Christmas Carol,* her 10th show at the ACT! Special thanks to her wonderful family for supporting and sharing in her love of the arts!



SHELLY HALL – Costume Designer
Shelly has been the costume designer for the last several productions at ACT including *During Wind and Rain, A Christmas Carol, Follies* and *To Kill a Mockingbird.* Prior to coming to Act, Shelly was on the costume shop staff at the Arkansas Repertory Theatre from 2007 to 2015. During that time she served as costume designer for the Young Artist Program (SMTI) and also designed several mainstage productions, such as *Elf, Avenue Q, Putnam CO. Spelling Bee, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged, A Christmas Story* (2010), and *Next to Normal.* Other design credits include two Christmas productions for the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, as well as several individual award winning dance and promotional costumes. She has been designing and building costumes for more than 25 years, and holds a BA degree from Jacksonville State University in Alabama. Shelly is proud to add *Big River* for the Argenta Community Theatre to her resume and hopes you enjoy the show!



DAVID BRENT MILLER – Vocal Director
David Brent is originally from Warren, holds a BA in music, emphases in musical theater, voice, and piano from the University of Arkansas, Monticello, and 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*), 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 *Sweet Charity, A Christmas Carol,* and *Follies.* Brent has conducted pit orchestras in Houston 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, and worked with the HGO Chorus. 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*). "I'm so glad to have the opportunity to work with the Weekend Theater crowd! IF/THEN has been such a journey for me!"



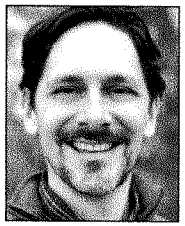
JIMI BREWI – Set Construction Engineer
Jimi received his MFA from the University of Memphis in the late Triassic Period. He was an actor and company member of Arkansas Arts Center Children's Theatre for 28 years, during which time he took over as technical director. Now, in semi-retirement, Jimi acts at Murry's Dinner Playhouse and oversees set builds at Argenta Community Theater. Jimi is married to Kandy Jones, the Garage Sale Queen. He hopes that you enjoy this holiday classic.



LAUREN NICHOLAS – Props Master
Lauren, by day is the 12th grade English teacher for Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter School in Jacksonville. She would like to thank the Maumelle Players for introducing her into the magic that is theater. Over the years she has been busy BEHIND the stage in over 20 productions. She has been a director, light board tech, stage manager, set designer, and finally props designer/master. Her favorite shows thus far are *Harvey, Noises Off, Rock of Ages, To Kill a Mockingbird,* and this current production. Lauren is the secretary of the Arkansas Community Theater Association. She is grateful for Vince, Sara and Maggie for entrusting her to be the props designer/master for Argenta for this production. She is thankful for all the friends she has made on and off the stage. Shine Bright friends. All my love.



CLAIRE GREEN – Props Assistant
Claire, 14, loves being a "backstage ninja" and is delighted to be helping with her fifth Argenta Community Theater production. She previously has experience running the light and soundboard at The Weekend Theater and also has served on the student run crew with The Arkansas Arts Center Children's Theater. Local arts organizations ACANSA and the The Yarn recently featured a play she wrote about breed specific language laws titled *Rescuing Killer* in their 10-minute play festival. Outside of theater, Claire takes Early College classes at the University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College, participates in Girl Scouts, plays in her church bell choir, volunteers at Hearts and Hooves and debates in Stoa, a homeschool league.



GREG ROBINSON – Dialect Coach
Greg is excited to be assisting with the second annual production of *A Christmas Carol*, after playing Ebenezer Scrooge in 2017's inaugural production. He was previously seen on the ACT stage as Archibald Craven in *The Secret Garden* and as Jesus in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. In addition to these roles at ACT, Greg has performed at The Arkansas Repertory Theater, Arkansas Shakespeare Theater, Murry's Dinner Playhouse, The Weekend Theater, The Studio Theatre, as well as theaters in Hot Springs, Springfield, Missouri, and Bramwell, West Virginia. Other favorite roles include: Thenardier in *Les Miserables*, Jekyll/Hyde in *Jekyll and Hyde*, Roger in *Rent*, Berger in *Hair!*, Reverend Oglethorpe in *Smoke on the Mountain*, Ali Hakim in *Oklahoma!*, and Nicely, Nicely Johnson in *Guys and Dolls*. In addition to acting, Greg is also an Associate Professor of Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. He would like to thank his family for their love and support.

DENA KIMBERLING – Lighting Design
Dena has been associated with Stage Works and in Lighting Design for decades. She has worked with dozens of arts organizations throughout Arkansas and owns Let There be Light. She has been lighting designer for many shows at ACT.



NATHAN ABSHIRE – ACT Sound Director
Nathan has worked with us on *The Secret Garden, During Wind and Rain, Sweet Charity*, last year's *A Christmas Carol, Follies* and has run sound for *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Big River*. He is excited to be back for this Christmas classic.

THE ARGENTA COMMUNITY THEATER STAFF



LAURA GRIMES – ACT Executive Director
Laura recently joined the full time staff of Argenta Community Theater as the Executive Director. She has been involved with ACT as an actor and volunteer for several years, and looks forward to helping the theater grow while fostering collaborations with area non-profits 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 and locally. She has more than a decade of experience in marketing and promotion of artists and brands. In 2019, Laura will launch a new adult education program along with her husband and fellow professional actor, Ben Grimes. She looks forward to helping ACT continue to grow and thrive in the Central Arkansas arts scene.



PAULA LIVELY – ACT General Manager
A North Little Rock native, Paula joined the ACT family in 2013. She has more than 16 years of newspaper marketing and sales experience working in Beaumont, Texas, and in Jackson and Hattiesburg, Mississippi. She also brings extensive management and marketing experience with more than 15 years in the Arkansas hospitality industry. Paula is a local business owner of Deal Promos. She sells entertainment memorabilia through her eBay store with her 88-year-old dad.



SYDNEY WATERS – ACT Sales Coordinator
Sydney became the sales coordinator at ACT in July 2018. She graduated with her degree in Hospitality Management in 2017 and has worked in the hospitality industry ever since. She also owns her own event planning business. Sydney loves being at ACT and is very excited for her first full season of shows!



BEVERLY WILLIAMS – House Manager
Beverly Williams is a North Little Rock native and a graduate of NLRHS, Hendrix College (BA) and the University of Arkansas (Masters). Retired Educator after 40 years and now on Sherwood City Council. She also sang in Hendrix Choir and toured Europe with the choir one summer.

WARREN McCULLOUGH – Social Media Manager

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