

THEATRE!
ROCKS!

Presents:



A CHRISTMAS STORY

Adapted by Philip Grecian

Based on the motion picture *A Christmas Story*, © 1983 Turner Entertainment Co., distributed by Warner Bros., written by Jean Shepherd, Leigh Brown and Bob Clark; and on the book *In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash* by Jean Shepherd.

Fridays & Saturdays

December 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16 7:30 PM


Sunday Matinee, December 17 2:30 PM

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in memoriam ~
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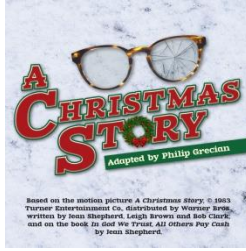
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FARMERS
INSURANCE



Adapted by Philip Grecian
Directed by Adrian Arteaga

Cast

Ralphie Parker.....Felix Binder
Ralph Parker/Salesman.....Gene Ryan
Esther Jane Alberry.....Vivienne Ryan
Helen Weathers..... Maribelle Ramsey
Miss Shields.....Charlene Andrews
Mrs. Parker.....Kelly Kovar
Schwartz.....Zealand Jones
The Old Man.....Mike Hall
Randy.....Jayce Arteaga
Flick.....Layton Gerky
Scut Farkus.....Jonas Ramsey
Students.....Rachel Book, Gennevieve Ryan
Desperadoes.....Layton Gerky, Zealand Jones
Bumpus Hounds.....Rachel Book, Gennevieve Ryan

Based on the motion picture *A Christmas Story*, © 1983 Turner Entertainment Co., distributed by Warner Bros., written by Jean Shepherd, Leigh Brown and Bob Clark; and on the book *In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash* by Jean Shepherd.

“Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find;
knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”

~ Luke 11:9

Cast Biographies



Charlene Andrews (Miss Shields)—Charlene has been part of the Theatre Rocks! family for many years, either on stage, helping back stage, or working the lights/sound board. Her first time on stage was under the direction of Bill Rhoten in the role of “Beth Bailey” in *'Til Beth Do Us Part* in February 2012. Some of her other roles include “Geneva Musgrave” in *Christmas Belles*, “Viney” in *The Miracle Worker*, “The Sheriff” in *A Bad Year for Tomatoes*, “Sookey” in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and “Charlene Woodnot” in *KFLU Floydada, Country that’s Contagious*. She was thrilled to be able to “play” with the Phoenix Repertory Players when she was cast as “The Queen” in *Cinderella*, “Flick” in *Snow White*, and multiple characters in *A Little Princess*. When not on stage, she has done lights/sound or helped behind the scenes for such plays as *Bus Stop*, *The Lion in Winter*, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *Southern Comfort*, *Deathtrap*, *Dixie Swim Club*, *The Last Romance*, *The Cemetery Club*, *Mojave*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Where’s Santa?*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *A Trip to Bountiful*, *On Golden Pond*, *Moonlight & Magnolias*, *Steel Magnolias*, and *The Ashes of Aquitaine*. She is very thankful to Bill and Suzanne for all the wonderful opportunities in which she’s been involved.

Charlene loves snow, a fire in the fireplace, animals, swimming, working outside, and re-organizing, but most of all laughing and joking around with her husband Tim Andrews.



Jayce Arteaga (Randy) — Jayce is 7 years old and is making his acting debut at Theatre Rocks! as Randy in *A Christmas Story*. He is an only child and loves to spend his time playing sports and going to karate practice. Jayce is extremely excited to perform in front of his family and community!

Cast Biographies



Felix Binder (Ralphie Parker) — *A Christmas Story* is Felix's acting debut. But Felix is no stranger to Theatre Rocks! His older brothers enjoy acting at Theatre Rocks!, and Felix has seen every show that he can. He saw five of their performances of *Sense & Sensibility* and declared himself the #1 fan of the play.

Felix is looking forward to his 10th birthday soon. He's hoping for more Legos. When he's not building Lego creations, he's coming up with creative games to entertain his younger sisters — or hoping for a chance to play on the Playstation with his older brothers. He also enjoys reading great books like the Green Ember series, The Lord of the Rings trilogy, and the Chronicles of Narnia.

Felix is humbled and grateful for the opportunity to act with such a great theatre community.



Rachel Book (Student/Bumpus Hound) — Rachel is a first grader in Ennis. This is her first show with Theatre Rocks! Rachel would like to thank Adrian for giving her this opportunity and her family and friends for supporting her through this new adventure!



Layton Gerky (Flick/Desperado) — Layton brings a unique presence to the stage. He is maturing in his love and talent for theatre arts. His prior stage experience has involved school choir performances and reenactments and portraying the humble Joseph in the church Christmas story play. He enjoys the challenge of taking on new characters and roles while having fun in the process.

Cast Biographies



Mike Hall (The Old Man) — Mike was most recently seen on the Theatre Rocks! stage as “Curly Joe” in *Mojave*. Raised in the East Texas town of Mabank, Mike grew up using his imagination since small-town life didn't offer much in way of entertainment. Raised by his grandparents, he graduated from Mabank High School in 1987 and went to college at Trinity Valley Community College. It was after college that Mike discovered theater and was hooked. Some of his stage credits include “Mr. Gilmer” in *To Kill A Mockingbird*, “George Bailey” in *It's A Wonderful Life*, and “Mr. Van Daan” in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. He also has appeared in the Theatre Rocks! productions of *Skin Deep* (Best Actor), *The Traveling Lady* (Best Performance), *My Favorite Christmas*, *Cabin Fever*, and *The Ashes of Aquitaine*. In the last several years, Mike has been more involved in film/television work and writing, appearing in the films *Something in the Woods*, *Devil's Deal*, *Loveland*, and *The Alamo*, as well as TV shows *Dallas*, *Chase*, *Gilmore Girls*, and *The Practice*. He recently won the Best Screenplay Award at the Lake Charles Film Festival with his comedy screenplay *My Dad, Arlo and Me*.



Zealand Jones (Schwartz/Desperado) — Zealand is a gregarious 10-year-old who loves acting. This production of *A Christmas Story* will be his second acting role. He made his acting debut last year in Camp Hoblitzelle's musical production of *Stolen Christmas*. Zealand is homeschooled and actively involved with Ellis County Christian Homeschool Organization (ECCHO). When home, he enjoys cooking for his family. He also loves rough-housing with his older brother and sister, as well as playing with his younger sister and cousins. He enjoys visiting with friends, attending church at First Baptist Red Oak, and playing Roblox. Zealand has really enjoyed working with Adrian, Sarah, and Bill on this production, and he would like to thank them for their direction and help in developing his character. He would also like to thank his family and friends for their love, encouragement, and support. He has a heart for God and his Savior, Jesus Christ, and loves sharing his faith with others.

Cast Biographies



Kelly Kovar (Mrs. Parker) — Kelly has acted in regional theatre and done sets, props, and costumes in metroplex venues such as WaterTower Theatre, KD Studios, Texas Theatre, The Warehouse Living Arts Center, St. Peter's Players, Inspiration Inc., Ennis Public Theatre, and Theatre Rocks! Some of her favorite roles were in *Hallelujah Girls*, *A Little Princess*, *The Boys Next Door*, *A Bad Year for Tomatoes*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Other great theatre memories were made in *Christmas Belles*, *Dearly Departed*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *The Traveling Lady*, and *Steel Magnolias*. Her acting career has been rich with beloved friends, some of whom have gone on to their second act. This is her fourth appearance as "Mrs. Parker" in *A Christmas Story*, and she would like to dedicate this run to her brothers Rickey Crenshaw and Mike Johnson.

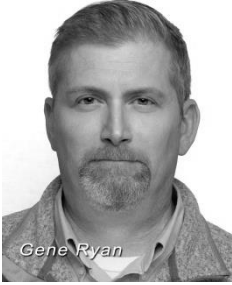


Jonas Ramsey (Scut Farkas) — Jonas has been involved in acting and videography from a very young age. Some of his roles include: "Mr. Beaver" in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, "Peter Crachit" in *A Christmas Carol* and "Anthony" in *Everyone's a Critic*. In addition to acting, Jonas served as Assistant Director for the world premiere of *The Ashes of Aquitaine*. Jonas enjoys making theatrical trailers for the various plays at Theatre Rocks!, including *A Kiss for Cinderella*, *The Ashes of Aquitaine*, *Twelve Angry Men*, and *Mojave*. Jonas would like to thank the director, Adrian Arteaga, for giving him the opportunity to be a part of this show.



Maribelle Ramsey (Helen Weathers) — Maribelle is a 9-year-old artist who has been involved in acting, writing, and filmmaking for several years. She has previously appeared as "Tiny Tim" in *A Christmas Carol*, as "Marie Therese" in *A Kiss for Cinderella*, a dancer in *The Ashes of Aquitaine*, and one of Aslan's followers in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Maribelle enjoys playing the piano, doing artwork, and creating films with her siblings. She would like to thank Adrian for giving her the opportunity to be involved in this production.

Cast Biographies



Gene Ryan (Ralph/Red Ryder/Christmas Tree Salesman/Delivery Guy) — Gene returns to the Theatre Rocks! stage fresh off a supporting role as “Col. Burke” in *Mojave* and “Juror 4” in *Twelve Angry Men*. Gene joined Theatre Rocks! in 2021 as “Sheriff Jasper Tidwell” in *KFLU Floydada, Country that’s Contagious* and appeared later that year as “Mr. Walker” in *My First Date*. Gene also starred as “Gibby Hayden” in Duncanville Community Theater’s production of *’Til Beth Do Us Part* earlier this year. “Theatre Rocks! is such a good place to be. Getting to work alongside the wonderful directors and all the magnificent talent creates the best learning and acting environment a performer could ask for.” He began acting when he was 11 years old, playing the role of “Jacob Marlowe” in a children’s performance of Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*. That same year, Gene was in a Kankakee Valley Theater musical production of *The Wizard of Oz*, pulling double duty as the head of the Lollipop Guild and as a General in the Army of Oz. In his teen and college years, he played Jesus Christ in a traveling performance of *The Passion*, “Rosencrantz” in *Hamlet*, and “Pale” in *Burn This*. He also worked as a stagehand for the Bishop McNamara (Bourbonnais, Ill.) community theater’s production of Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*. Gene is a voiceover artist, as well as voice actor, for commercials characters in books and shows. Gene moved here with his wife and three daughters seven years ago. He was born on the Southside of Chicago, the oldest of seven children. Shhh! — no one knows he’s here.



Gennevieve Ryan (Student/Bumpus Hound) — Gennevieve is making her Theatre Rocks! debut. Previously, she co-starred alongside her sister Vivienne as a lead in the *History of Spanish Dance* in the flamenco the age of 6. Now 8, she is excited for her big stage debut.

Cast Biographies

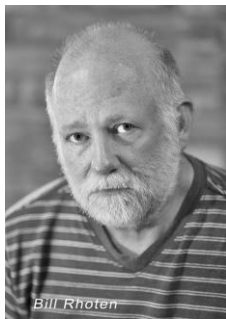


Vivienne Ryan (Esther Jane Alberry) — Vivienne is making her Theatre Rocks! debut. She began acting at the age of 6, landing the lead as the Christmas Tree in the musical *The Meaning of Christmas*. At the age of 7, she played a lamb in the manger in the musical version of *The Nativity*. She was last seen on stage at age 9 for a dance production of the *History of Spanish Dance*, leading during the flamenco and the Columbian traditional dance. Now 11 years old, she is excited for her first role in a drama/comedy.

The Director



Adrian Arteaga is a student at the University of Texas at Arlington majoring in performance. He has been seen many times on the Theatre Rocks! stage since first appearing in the 2017 production of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* as “Sir Dandiprat Bombas.” He was most recently seen as “Lieutenant Reuben Twist” in *Mojave*. He played “William Talvas” in *The Ashes of Aquitaine* and “Jesus” in the 2018 world premiere as well as last year’s production of *Hyer House*. He appeared as “Lloyd Barnett” in *Crimes of the Heart*, as “Mr. Carrisford” in *A Little Princess*, and twice as “Bob Cratchit” in the holiday show, *A Christmas Carol*. He made his directorial debut last season with *A Christmas Carol* and has returned as a director for this production of *A Christmas Story*. He would like to thank all his family and friends for the continued support.



Bill Rhoten Theatre Rocks! Co-Founder and Artistic Director

Bill Rhoten was born in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas. He has more than 40 years of diversified acting, directing, producing, and writing experience, in over 100 stage productions in Ennis and the Dallas area. He founded Dallas Theatre on Tour, the Prairie House Dinner Theatre, Ennis Public Theatre, and — eight years ago — Theatre Rocks! Some career highlights include:

directing Pulitzer Prize and Tony winner Tracy Letts in his early career in Dallas in four productions; Bill performed in and directed William Mastrosimone's ***The Woolgatherer***, for which he received the coveted "Critics Choice" award by the Dallas Times Herald; he directed ***Electric Angel*** by Brad Bailey, which had its world premiere in Dallas and was later produced in Los Angeles; and ***The Real Queen of Hearts Ain't Even Pretty*** by Brad Bailey was produced twice by Bill, who later co-produced and directed the feature length film.

His writing credits include two screenplays, a TV pilot, ***Jessie's Diary***, a short film now available on Amazon.com, and his film entitled ***New Hope*** (writer/director) which was selected with 30 other shorts in its category (of 1,800 submitted) for competition at the Palm Springs International Film Festival. "***New Hope*** was the wisest, the smartest, and truthfully the most passionate of all the films we submitted....." (The Desert Sun, Palm Springs, California)

He has authored eight stage plays: ***My Favorite Christmas***, ***Where's Santa?***, and ***Life's Little Miracles***, as well as five award-winning plays, all of which premiered on the Theatre Rocks! stage: ***Mojave***, ***Hyer House***, ***My First Date***, ***Forever***, and ***KFLU Floydada, Country that's Contagious***.



Suzanne Rhoten Theatre Rocks! Co-Founder and Executive Director

Suzanne's background is in film and theatre production. She was formerly a founder and executive director of the Miss Plano Pageant, a preliminary to the Miss Texas/Miss America pageants. She has extensive acting experience, having been cast in numerous film, commercial, and industrial productions, as well as theatre in the Dallas area. Working alongside her producer, writer, director husband, Bill, she has experience in the areas of production management, script supervision, and set design. A certified non-profit manager and ordained minister, she serves as executive director of Theatre Rocks!

Bill Rhoten's students have worked for these clients:

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AS THE WORLD TURNS / THE LIFE OF DAVID GALE

Production Staff

Theatre Rocks! Artistic Director & Co-Founder Bill Rhoten
Theatre Rocks! Executive Director & Co-Founder Suzanne Rhoten
Director Adrian Arteaga
Lights & Sound Sarah Ramsey
Set Design & Construction Dirk Kovar, Kelly Kovar, Jack Kovar,
and Jessica Kovar
Costumes Sarah Ramsey
Costumes crew Katelyn Jack and Korbin Pitchford
Props Elijah Ramsey and Noah Ramsey
Playbill Rebecca Perry
Box Office Suzanne Rhoten
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as these donations and season ticket purchases come in.*

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2023-2024 Season

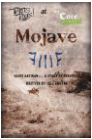


Twelve Angry Men

By Reginald Rose, Directed by Bill Rhoten

Following the closing arguments in a murder trial, the twelve members of the jury must deliberate, with a guilty verdict meaning death for the accused, an inner-city teen.

August 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26, 27



Mojave

Written and Directed by Bill Rhoten

Based on a true account from the American expansion west. One young woman's journey with her pioneer family takes a tragically unexpected turn, but through it all, her hope is not lost and she learns the strength of family also can come from those outside one's own bloodline.

October 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28, 29



A Christmas Story

By Philip Grecian, based on the motion picture *A Christmas Story*, © 1983 Turner Entertainment Co., distributed by Warner Bros., written by Jean Shepherd, Leigh Brown and Bob Clark; and on the book *In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash* by Jean Shepherd, Directed by Adrian Arteaga

Humorist Jean Shepherd's memoir of growing up in the Midwest in the 1940s follows 9-year-old Ralphie Parker in his quest to get a genuine Red Ryder BB gun under the tree for Christmas.

December 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17



The Last Romance

By Joe DiPietro, Directed by Larry LeMaster

A heart-warming comedy about love and its power to transform.

February 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 25



The Secret Garden

Adapted from novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett by C. Warren Robertson, Directed by Rebecca Perry

The classic story of two emotionally stunted children who discover, through their love for a garden and the teachings of a boy of the English moors, that the key to happiness lies in caring for others.

April 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27, 28



Criminal Mischief - Winner, 2023 National Playwriting Competition

By William Cameron, Directed by Bill Rhoten

Freddy, Angie, and Spencer think they are in love. The problem is who's in love with whom? This sets off a series of comical yet criminal misadventures. All of this is right in the sights of Detective Lieutenant Alice Ford, who has issues of her own. **Criminal Mischief** takes a humorous look at love, relationships, family and forgiveness, crime and punishment.

June 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30

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