Artistic Director Nathaniel Shaw Managing Director Phil Whiteway





JOSEPH ROBINETTE

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY BENJ PASEK AND JUSTIN PAUL

Based upon the motion picture A Christmas Story distributed by Warner Bros., written by Jean Shepherd, Leigh Brown, and Bob Clark And upon In God We Trust: All Others Pay Cash

Written by Jean Shepherd.

Produced with permission of Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures and Dalfie Entertainment.

Originally Produced on Broadway by Gerald Goehring, Roy Miller, Michael F. Mitri, Pat Flicker Addiss, Peter Billingsley, Timothy Laczynski, Mariano Tolentino, Jr., Louise Beard, Michael Filerman, Scott Hart, Alison Eckert, Bob Bartner, Michael Jenkins, Angela Milonas and Bradford W. Smith.

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGEMENT Christi B. Spann*

SOUND DESIGN Derek Dumais

SET DESIGN Brian C. Barker COSTUME DESIGN Jeanne Nugent LIGHT DESIGN Joe Doran+

ANIMALS TRAINED BY William Berloni

MUSIC DIRECTION Ben Miller CHOREOGRAPHY Nicole Oberleitner

DIRECTION Chase Kniffen

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CAST (in order of appearance)

Jean Shepard Ralphie	Brandon McKinney Andrea Rivette* Cole Johnson
The Bumpus Hounds .	
Schwartz	
Flick	
Esther Jane	-
Mary Beth	
Scut Farkus	
Grover Dill	
Other Children	,
	pollina, Tess Delice, Audrey Kate Taylor,
Anna Jackson,	Audrey Kate Lavior.
	• • •
Mice Shields	Keane Younger
Miss Shields	Keane Younger
Fantasy Villain	Keane Younger Susan Sanford* Derrick Jaques
Fantasy Villain Policeman	Keane Younger Susan Sanford* Derrick Jaques Trent Williams
Fantasy Villain Policeman Fireman	Keane Younger Susan Sanford* Derrick Jaques Trent Williams Austin Taylor Smith
Fantasy Villain Policeman	Keane Younger Susan Sanford* Derrick Jaques Trent Williams Austin Taylor Smith Sord Flanagan
Fantasy Villain Policeman Fireman Doctor Nurse	Keane Younger Susan Sanford* Derrick Jaques Trent Williams Austin Taylor Smith Ford Flanagan Alana Thomas
Fantasy Villain Policeman Fireman Doctor Nurse Flick's Mother	Keane Younger Susan Sanford* Derrick Jaques Trent Williams Austin Taylor Smith Ford Flanagan Alana Thomas Megan Tatum
Fantasy Villain Policeman	Keane Younger Susan Sanford* Derrick Jaques Trent Williams Austin Taylor Smith Ford Flanagan Alana Thomas Megan Tatum uren Conley Bolding
Fantasy Villain Policeman	Keane Younger Susan Sanford* Derrick Jaques Trent Williams Austin Taylor Smith Ford Flanagan Alana Thomas Megan Tatum uren Conley Bolding Ford Flanagan
Fantasy Villain Policeman	Keane Younger Susan Sanford* Derrick Jaques Trent Williams Austin Taylor Smith Ford Flanagan Alana Thomas Megan Tatum uren Conley Bolding Ford Flanagan

Nancy..... Tess Delice Waiter Rav Sheen Waitress..... Anna Jackson Neighbors, Shoppers, Parents, Students, Townspeople, Elves, and Others: Lauren Bolding, Casi Briggs, Zoe Brown, Isabella Cipollina, Denver Crawford, Tess Delice, Ford Flannagan, Anna Jackson, Derrick Jaques, Mallory Keene, Geoff Morgan, Nicole Morris, Portia Murphy, Scott Neely, Susan Sanford, Ray Sheen, Bridget Sindelar, Austin Taylor Smith, Cohen Steele, Megan Tatum, Audrey Kate Taylor, Alana Thomas, Trent Williams, Killian Winn, Raif Winn, Keane Younger Swings: Caleb Wade, Katherine Wright Understudies: For The Old Man: Derrick Jaques. For Mother: Casi Briggs. For Miss Shields: Megan Tatum. For Ralphie: Bridget Sindelar.



*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the U.S.A.

+Member of USA. United Scenic Artists'. local 829

Conductor/Keyboard..... Ben Miller Keyboard.. Ryan Corbitt, Blanton Bradley* Drums..... Mike Boyd, Scott Clark* Bass Derrick Englert, David Yohe* Trumpet..... Craig Taylor, Ben Court* Trombone Chris Leitch, Erik Stegall* Reed 1.... John Winn, Jonathan Gibson* Reed 2 Doug Jemison, Emily Avesian* * At select performances

Deck/Fly Crew..... Joel Ernst

Follow Spot. Brandon James Johns,

Billy Christopher Maupin, Christian Rennie

Light Board Op Linwood Guyton

performance by any means whatsoever are

The video and/or audio recording of this

strictly prohibited.

FOR THIS PRODUCTION

Animal Handler AJ Sullivan Assistant Lighting Designer.. Emma Sheehan Assistant Stage Manager.... Lydia Crush, Live Sound Engineer..... Nic Creery Head Flyman Jason Winebarger Wardrobe Tyler Carlton Williams. Chelsea Kuehnel Children's Wrangler/ Wardrobe

Jeremiah Rosmarin

SPECIAL THANKS

BAND

Hohman, Indiana: December, 1940

PLACE AND TIME

MUSICAL NUMBERS AND SCENES

ACT I

Overture Orchestra It All Comes Down to Christmas Ralphie, The Parkers, Kids, Ensemble
Red Ryder Carbine-Action BB Gun Ralphie, Jean No. 25
It All Comes Down to Christmas (Reprise) . Ralphie, Ensemble, Townsmen, Kids, Mother
The Genius on Cleveland Street The Old Man, Mother
When You're a Wimp Ralphie, Randy, Schwartz, Flick, Esther Jane, Mary Beth, Farkus, Dill, Kids
What I Want for Christmas Orchestra
Ralphie to the Rescue! Ralphie, Miss Shields, The Old Man, Mother, Randy, Ensemble What a Mother Does
A Major Award The Old Man, Mother, Townspeople, Kids Parker Family Sing-along
Act I Finale Ralphie, Townspeople, The Old Man, Mother, Randy

There will be one 15-minute intermission between acts.

ACT II

Entr'acte	
Policeman, Doct	or, Fireman, Flick's Mom, Nurse
You'll Shoot Your Eye Out! Farkus, Dill, Scl	wartz, Flick, Kids, Miss Shields
Just Like That	Mother
Red Ryder (Reprise) & At Higbee's	Ralphie and Elves
Up on Santa's Lap Santa, Mary Beth,	Elves, Ralphie, Randy and Kids
Before The Old Man Comes Home	The Parkers
Somewhere Hovering Over Indiana	Ralphie, Randy and Kids
Ralphie to the Rescue! (Reprise) A Christmas Story	
A GIIII SUITAS SUOLY	The Farkers and Full company

DEDICATION

Ted Santarella

We dedicate this production, with loving memory, to Ted Santarella, our dear friend and neighborhood champion – owner of Tarrant's and Max's on Broad. He helped us develop the Arts District into the vibrant "place to be" on West Broad Street. Prayers and love to Frances and Max. You will be missed dear friend.





Virginia Rep is a proud sponsor of Salvation Army Angel Tree in partnership with NBC12.

We are delighted to help collect gifts for dozens of families.



Brandon McKinney (Ralphie) is thrilled to be back on the stage at the November Theatre in his dream role! He is 13 years old and an 8th grader in Henrico County. Recently he performed with Virginia Rep in *Gypsy* (Newsboy), *Goodnight Moon* (Bunny), *Mame* (Patrick), *Music Man* (Winthrop), '*Twas the Night Before Christmas* (Young Boy), and with Cadence Theatre/Virginia Rep in *Caroline or Change* (Noah) where he won an RTCC award for best supporting actor. He has also

performed with Richmond Triangle Players in *The Boy from Oz* (Young Peter Allen), with Second Stage, VCU Theatre, SPARC, and CharacterWorks. He would like to thank his family for their constant love and support. He hopes you enjoy the show, Merry Christmas!



Garet Chester (Jean Shepherd) Singing for seniors, making Masai chiefs laugh, directing and performing in over 30 Christian plays citywide or one-man shows for bored corporate clients nationwide, delivering smiles to impoverished kids worldwide...basically "spreading Jesus' Joy by inducing smiles." That's what Garet's been doing since playing the Wizard in Virgina Rep's *The Wizard of Oz*, or Boolie in *Driving Miss Daisy* at Virginia Rep's Hanover Tavern. For over 40 years

he's performed at Virginia Rep, Barksdale, Swift Creek Mill, the Haymarket, The Barn Theatre, and Virginia Rep's touring troupe. If not on stage, you heard him on Richmond Morning Radio's WRNL, WRVQ, B-103,7, or as Bubba Massey Valentine III with Bill Bevins on Lite 98, or saw him on late night TV on WRIC, Battle of the Brains on WCVE-23, or even caught him Live at comedy clubs in L.A. or here. Just making folks laugh...what else CAN I do?



Duke Lafoon (The Old Man) is thrilled to be back at Virginia Rep having last appeared here as Dan in Cadence Theatre/Virginia Rep's *Next to Normal.* New York credits include *Clinton The Musical* (Off Broadway); *The Audience* (Transport Group); *I Love My Wife* (Queens Theatre). Some favorites: *A Wonderful Life* (Goodspeed); *Ace* (Old Globe, Signature); *Doubt* (Virginia Rep); *Sideman, Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Company of Fools). TV credits include *Hostages, Forever*, the CBS

miniseries *Sally Hemings*, and the upcoming David Fincher series *Mindhunter* on Netflix. Visit dukelafoon.com



Andrea Rivette (Mother) Broadway and National Tour: Emma Carew in *Jekyll and Hyde*, Ellen in *Miss Saigon*. Recipient of 2013 RTCC Award for Best Actress in a Musical for Diana Goodman in *Next to Normal* (Cadence Theater Company in partnership with Virginia Rep). Regional credits include: Betty Haynes in *White Christmas* (Virginia Rep), Fantine in *Les Misérables* (Houston Theater Under the Stars and Sacramento Music Circus), Christine in *Yeston/Kopit Phantom*, Magnolia in

Showboat, Rita LaPorta in *Lucky Stiff*, Narrator in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. All my love to my love, Anthony. For Danny McNie.



Susan Sanford (Miss Shields) is excited to be back on the November Stage during the holiday season, having been with Virginia Rep the past two years in *Mame* as Mrs. Upson/Mame Understudy, and last year as Electra in *Gypsy*. Other Virginia Rep credits include Masha in *Vanya, Sonya, Masha and Spike*; and her RTCC-winning performance as The Baroness in *The Sound of Music*. Susan is also an accomplished director/choreographer - audiences may remember her productions

of You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown at Virginia Rep's Hanover Tavern, and Goodnight

COMPANY BIOS

Moon at Virginia Rep's Children's Theatre. Playing a teacher comes easily for Susan, as she is the Middle School Theatre and Upper School Public Speaking teacher at The Steward School. Susan lives in Richmond with her husband, actor/director Foster Solomon, and their two sons, Trey and Jordan.



Ford Flannagan (Santa, Ensemble) Ford most recently appeared as Charles Thomson in 1776 here in the November Theatre. Other Virginia Rep credits over the years include: *Circle Mirror Transformation; The* 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee; The Full Monty; Scapino; The 1940's Radio Hour; To Kill a Mockingbird; Of Mice and Men; Crimes of the Heart; Da; Seussical, The Musical; Cotton Patch Gospel; Four Part Harmony; Into the Woods; Sing Down The Moon; and Peter Pan.



Cole Johnson (Randy) is enjoying his first season as "Randy" in Virginia Rep's production of *A Christmas Story*. Cole is also known for his roles as a Who in Virginia Rep's summer camp production of *Seussical*, *Jr*; a 2 of Clubs Card and Rock Lobster in Pemberton Elementary's production of *Alice in Wonderland*, *Jr*; a New Yorker in Pemberton's *Annie*, *Jr*. Cole loves to draw figures and is a huge fan of Tim Burton. He would like to thank his family for all of their support and

love (especially his grandmother for taking him to see Broadway shows) and Mrs. Hutton, Mrs. Wagner and Mrs. Brittingham.



Killian Winn (Schwartz) is very excited to be spending the Christmas season onstage at the November Theatre! Last spring he played the role of Fool #2 in Quill Theatre's *King Lear* (RTCC award nominee, Most Promising Newcomer). Killian and his brother Raif alternated the part of Christopher Robin in Virginia Rep's *The House At Pooh Corner* last season. For SPARC he played Winthrop in *The Music Man*, and he and Raif together played the Tall Brothers in *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Killian

wants to thank everyone who has helped him get this far in his theater career!



Raif Winn (Grover Dill) Last Season Raif played the Artful Dodger in *Oliver!* with Broken Leg Theater, and he alternated the part of Christopher Robin with his brother Killian in Virginia Rep's *The House At Pooh Corner.* He and Killian also played the Tall Brothers in SPARC's production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Raif can currently be seen in a local television commercial for the Richmond Association of Realtors. He loves the fact that he will be getting paid to beat up his older

brother in this production of A Christmas Story.



Cohen Steele (Flick) is thrilled to be performing in his first production with Virginia Rep. His previous credits include Adult Simba in his middle school's production of *The Lion King, Jr.* and Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* (SPARC). A 7th grader in the Center Based Gifted program at Midlothian Middle, Cohen plays football and baseball. He's also a fairly decent dog walker. Cohen wants to thank his parents and the teachers at Midlothian for their encouragement. He's hoping there will

be no coal in his stocking this Christmas as, broadly, he feels he has been a pretty good boy.



Bridget Sindelar (Esther Jane) is thrilled to perform at the November Theater again this holiday season. She made her Virginia Rep debut last year as Baby June in *Gypsy* and has also played Young Cosette in *Les Misérables* (Jewish Family Theater), a Lost Boy in *Peter Pan* (CharacterWorks), and a Silly Girl in *Beauty and the Beast, Jr.* (Virginia Rep Summer Showtime). Bridget is a 6th grader at Moody Middle School who loves to dance, sing, and play violin. She would like to

thank her family and everyone at Virginia Rep for their support. Enjoy the show!



Portia Murphy (Mary Beth) is from Pennsylvania and thrilled to be playing Mary Beth at Virginia Repertory Theatre. Last year, Portia performed as Mary Beth in *A Christmas Story* at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia. She recently played Debbie in *Billy Elliot* with the Fulton Theatre in Lancaster, PA, and was Baby June in *Gypsy* for two Pennsylvania theatres in 2015. When she's not on stage, Portia is homeschooled and studies voice, tap, and acting in New York City.

She studies ballet at Princeton Ballet. Portia loves to tap dance, and has her mom and dad to thank for all of their support.



Scott Neely (Scutt Farkus/Ensemble) is a Seventh Grader at St. Christopher's School. He most recently shared the role of Gavroche with his pal Brandon McKinney in the JCC's summer production of *Les Misérables*. Other productions include *Gypsy*, '*Twas the Night Before Christmas* (Virginia Rep); *Tarzan, The Music Man Jr., Once Upon Mattress* (SPARC); *Bye Bye Birdie, Peter Pan* (STC). Scott is thrilled to be part of the amazing cast of *A Christmas Story* and loves sharing

the stage with great friends each night. Many thanks to Stephen, Mom, Dad, Bryce, K and all of the other friends and family who teach, love, support and/or drive him around.



Lauren Conley Bolding (Ensemble) proud mother of Fox Elementary first-grader Sage Lee Rademaker, was born and bred in the Blue Ridge. Studied dance with gifted Virginia Anne Fulton in Farmville. Credits: Mary Magdalene in Jesus Christ Superstar, April in Company, 42nd Street, Funny Thing Happened...Forum, Sweeney Todd, The King and I, Gypsy, Oedipus Rex. By day, Lauren is a boutique fashion and gift consultant with Harper Group, New York. Lauren's performance is

dedicated to her mother, Andrea Bolding, of Farmville, for seeing that dance lessons and stageplay were always in order. Special thanks to Dhyani Simonini for a lifetime of mentoring in the performing arts, and for the gifts of Rob, Zara and Townes.



Casi Briggs (Ensemble) is thrilled to be working with Virginia Repertory Theatre for the first time! Regional credits: *Gypsy*/Dance Captain in the Virginia premiere of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Ensemble in *Spamalot*, Silly Girl in *Beauty and the Beast*, Ensemble in *A Christmas Carol*, Consuela/Dance Captain in *West Side Story*, Sally Cato/Ensemble in *Mame*, and Delta Nu/Ensemble in *Legally Blonde*. All my love to my family, for their endless support. And to my Savior,

for His endless grace. Casibriggs.com

COMPANY BIOS



Zoe Brown (Children's Ensemble) is excited about her first show with Virginia Rep. Previously, she was part of the ensembles in CharacterWorks productions *Mary Poppins* and *Peter Pan* during the 2015-2016 season. Zoe enjoys singing, playing piano, volunteering for the Richmond Folk Festival and spending time with her friends.



Isabella Cipollina (Children's Ensemble) was most recently seen in *Les Misérables* at the JFT/Firehouse Theatre. Some of her favorite shows include: *The Miracle Worker* as Helen Keller at Swift Creek Mill Theatre (2014 RTCC Nomination for Most Promising Newcomer), *Charlotte's Web*, *Madeline's Christmas, Honk!* (Virginia Rep), 13 the Musical, and Parade (JFT). Other shows include: *Alice in Wonderland Jr., The Big Talent, The Wiz, A Christmas Carol, Joseph... Technicolor Dream Coat, Winnie the*

Pooh and the Honey Tree, and Annie Jr. Isabella has also appeared in the TV show A Haunting and several commercials. She also enjoys playing her violin.



Denver Crawford (Ensemble) By the time this show is over, I will have graduated from VCU with a BFA in performance! Next stop, New York! This show is my farewell to Richmond, but it's not goodbye forever. I will miss all the wonderful friends and experiences I've had over the past three years. Thank you for sharing these shows with me: *American Idiot*, *The Boy in the Bathroom, The Aliens* (Firehouse Theatre), *Uncle Tom: Deconstructed* (TCP), *In the Next Room* (or the Vibrator play), *Man of*

La Mancha, Hairspray (VCUarts).



Tess Delice (Children's Ensemble) is an 11-year-old, seventh grader at St. Catherine's school. This is her first production with Virginia Rep. She loves theater and being on stage. She keeps busy with school and church. In her free time she enjoys reading, writing her own plays and stories, and listening to her *Hamilton* CD. She hopes you enjoy the show and have a very Merry Christmas!



Anna Jackson (Children's Ensemble) is excited to be performing in her first production. She is a native Richmonder attending Midlothian Middle School and has been dancing since she was 3. In her spare time she enjoys making musical videos and playing with her little brother.



Derrick Jaques (Ensemble) is making his Virginia Repertory Theatre debut. He spent the last year at The Welk Resort Theatre in San Diego in the ensemble of *Fiddler on the Roof*, as well as the Dance Captain of *Hello Dolly!*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Favorite credits: Mary Sunshine in *Chicago*, Al in *A Chorus Line*, Chantal in *La Cage aux Folles*, and Kyle in *Legally Blonde*. Derrick teaches hot yoga at Bikram Yoga Richmond and is also an avid Disney enthusiast. Love

to Kikau. Follow @DerrickJaques on instagram.



Mallory Keene (Ensemble) is thrilled to be spending the "Most Wonderful Time of the Year" with Virginia Rep! Mallory is a proud graduate of Shenandoah Conservatory with a BFA in Musical Theatre, and has been very blessed to perform at Regional Theatres all over the East Coast. Favorite Regional credits include: Serena in *Legally Blonde* (Fulton Theatre), Jeannie in *Nice Work If You Can Get It* (Virginia Musical Theatre). Agnes in Gypsy (Virginia Rep), and Frenchy in *Grease*

(Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre). Mallory would like to thank her family and friends for their constant love, support, and a reminder that, "the dreams that you wish will come true!" www.mallorykeene.com



Geoffery Morgan (Ensemble) is thrilled to be making his debut on the November stage with the company of *A Christmas Story*. His most recent acting credits include: Padre Salvi in *Noli Me Tangere* (COR) and the Royal Page in *Croaker* (Virginia Rep; RTCC nomination for Best Musical). When not on stage, Geoff works behind the scenes as a dresser (*Gypsy, Summer and Smoke*, and *Dreamgirls*) and is an avid supporter of Richmond's local theaters. Many thanks to my family,

friends and Sarah who pushes me to greater limits vocally. All glory to God.



Nicole Morris (Ensemble) is beyond thrilled to be in her first performance at Virginia Rep! She was most recently seen as Laura Sanderson in CAT Theatre's thriller, *I'll Be Back Before Midnight*, and before that as Patsy in this past summer's production of *Spamalot* at Dogwood Dell. Other favorite Richmond roles include Connie Dayton in *Come Blow Your Horn*, Soloist/Dancer/Choreographer in *Fright Night*, and Anytime Annie in *42nd Street*. Sincere thanks to Chase, Nicole,

Ben, Stephen, the cast, Cathy Motley-Fitch, her supportive family and friends (F.B.), and most of all to the best husband a girl could ask for, Phil.



Ray Sheen (Ensemble) Off-Off-Broadway: *And Give Us the Shadows, Rent A White Guy.* Regional: *Mame* (Virginia Rep), *Oklahoma, Into the Woods, Mack and Mabel, Broadway Bares* (2011-2016). Film/Webseries: *Sweet Sixteen* (2014), *CaucAsian* (2013), *Chinese Food* (2013). Voiceover: *Disney Shanghai, How to Train Your Dragon Spectacular Beijing.* Ray is from Taipei, Taiwan and holds degrees in finance and engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. Having first moved

to NYC to work on Wall Street, Ray now finds a higher calling in theatre. Ray is humbled by and grateful for the opportunity to work with this amazing cast, crew, and staff.



Megan Tatum (Ensemble, Dance Captain) most recently performed in Virginia Rep's *Mame* and *Junie B. Jones* where she was also the associate choreographer. Other favorite credits: Other regional credits: *Little Mermaid*, *Legally Blonde* (Virginia Musical Theatre), *Mary Poppins* (Midtown Arts Center), *Beauty and the Beast* (Alluvion Stage Company), *Brigadoon* (Compass Rose Theatre), *West Side Story* (Riverside Dinner Theatre), *ChristmasTown* (Busch Gardens).

Megan holds a B.S. in Kinesiology Pre-Physical Therapy and a B.A. in Integration of Dance, Music, and Theatre Performance from William and Mary. She also assists physical therapists with Broadway and ballet companies as well as kids with diverse abilities. Jeremiah 29:11 www.megantatum.com

COMPANY BIOS



Audrey Kate Taylor (Children's Ensemble) is thrilled to have made it to the November stage for the first time! Four years ago she performed in her first Virginia Rep musical, *Madeline's Christmas*, at Willow Lawn. This is her sixth Virginia Rep show, having just finished playing Junie B. Jones in *Junie B. Jones, the Musical*. Other Virginia Rep shows include *Goodnight Moon* (Mouse), *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* (Charity) and *Santa's Christmas Miracle* (Amy Rose). Other credits include

appearing in the SPARC production, *Freckleface Strawberry*, as Strawberry and playing Young Cosette and Young Eponine at the Jewish Family Theatre's Second Stage production of *Les Misérables*. She would like to thank Chase for casting her in this show! Audrey Kate hopes this show brings you some Christmas joy!



Alana Thomas (Ensemble) This new New Yorker is happy to celebrate the holidays back home in Richmond! Alana has been in the performing arts since childhood and then began performing professionally with regional theaters in numerous shows in Fredericksburg (Riverside Dinner Theatre) and Richmond (Virginia Repertory Theatre, Firehouse Theatre). Since moving to New York City she has had the opportunity to perform various shows with R.Evolucion Latina, Electric Eye Ensemble,

and Rock and Roll Playhouse. She is also the Marketing Director of the nonprofit House of Duende Dance and Creative Studio and a pastry chef at Peacefood Cafe. She'd like to thank Virginia Rep, God, and her supportive family and friends.



Austin Taylor Smith (Ensemble) is thrilled to be a part of another Virginia Rep production. Recent credits include: *Junie B. Jones, The Golden Goose*, and *Croaker* (RTCC Nomination), all within Virginia Rep's Children's Season. Austin would like to thank his family and friends for their love and support, Justin for his patience and love, and Virginia Rep for giving him this amazing opportunity. Merry Christmas and enjoy the show!



Caleb Wade (Swing) holds a Bachelor of Music from VCU. Recent theatre credits include *Junie B. Jones, The Musical, 1776, Croaker: The Frog Prince Musical* (RTCC Nomination) and *The House at Pooh Corner* (Virginia Rep); *Green Day's American Idiot* (Firehouse Theatre, RTCC Nomination), *Our American Cousin* (Quill), *The Little Lion* (Swift Creek Mill), *Carrie The Musical* (5th Wall, RTCC Nomination), *We Three Lizas* (Richmond Triangle Players), *Time Tells* (TheatreLAB), *Soldier Come*

Home (Beacon Theatre), West Side Story, South Pacific, The Sound of Music, Life, Below Zero (Troubadours, VTA Award Winner - Best Actor).



Trent Williams (Ensemble) is thrilled to be a part of another production here at Virginia Rep. Trent was last seen in *Dreamgirls* at Virginia Rep. He has also been seen in Virginia Rep's productions of *Gypsy, The Color Purple* and *Goodnight Moon* at Virginia Rep's Children's Theatre. Trent works as an instructor and choreographer at SPARC. With his BFA from Longwood University, some of his favorite credits include: Judge Turpin in *Sweeney Todd*, Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Charles

in *Blithe Spirit*. Trent would like to thank his family, friends, God, and Virginia Rep for this wonderful experience.



Katherine Wright (Swing) feels like she won a Major Award getting to be a part of *A Christmas Story*! Recent credits include *I'll Be Back Before Midnight* (CAT Theatre), *The Boy From Oz* (Richmond Triangle Players), *Extremities* (Safe Harbor at JTCC), *The Little Lion* (Swift Creek Mill Theatre), *Come Blow Your Horn* (HTC), *West Side Story* and *Laundry & Bourbon* (Troubadours), *42nd Street* (Dogwood Dell). Thank you Dad, Mom, Swan, all of my dear friends, and the phenomenal team

at Virginia Rep for giving me this opportunity. I'd like to dedicate my time onstage to my Pop, who loved *A Christmas Story*.



Keane Younger (Children's Ensemble) "The King" is delighted to be performing in his first production. He is a 7th grade Honor Student at Wilder Middle School. Keane enjoys playing video games, singing, playing sports, and hanging with his brother. He has always been inspired by Michael Jackson and loves to dance and sing like him. Keane dreams of being a singer and a Computer Scientist when he is older.



Moose and Reba (The Bumpus Hounds) Moose and Reba were adopted from Bandit's Place Rescue in Connecticut by guardians Bill and Dorothy Berloni in 2015 to play the Bumpus Hounds. Moose is 1 year old and Reba is 4 years old. They are making their theatrical debut with this production. Moose and Reba dedicated their performance to the original Bumpus Hounds, Pete and Lilly, who are now retired.

Chase Kniffen (Director) is currently the Associate Artistic Director of Virginia Repertory Theatre. He has been awarded the 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, and 2016 Richmond Theatre Critics Circle Award for Best Direction of a Musical for his work on Virginia Rep's productions of *The Sound of Music, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Spring Awakening, The Color Purple*, and *Dreamgirls*. Each of those productions also won the RTCC Award for Best Musical. He has also directed critically-acclaimed and award-winning productions of *Gypsy, South Pacific, Next to Normal, Caroline or Change*, and *Other Desert Cities*. Prior to his work with Virginia Rep, Chase was the Founding Artistic Director of Richmond's Stage 1 Theatre Company. As the Artistic Director, he directed and choreographed productions of *tick, tick...BOOM!, Children's Letters to God, Normal,* and *Summer of '42.* Each of these productions was nominated for multiple Richmond Theatre Critics Circle Awards, including Best Direction of a Musical and Best Musical. He attended Circle in the Square Theatre School in New York City. In 2009, he was honored as one of *StyleWeekly*'s Top 40 Under 40 for his work in the Richmond arts community. www.chasekniffen.com

Nicole Oberleitner (Choreographer) Originally from New Orleans, Nicole is the founder of The Bellini Sisters. Broadway: *Urban Cowboy the Musical* (Ensemble/Sissy US). Tours: *West Side Story*, the USO World Tour. Regional: *Fosse* (Gateway Playhouse), *The Hot Mikado* (Ford's Theatre), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Sweet Charity, Mame*, *Dreamgirls, South Pacific*, and RTCC nominations for Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*, Chaperone in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Jolene in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, and Jacqueline in *La Cage aux Folles*. Choreography: *La Cage aux Folles* (Richmond Triangle Players, RTCC - Nomination), *42nd Street* (Dogwood Dell), USO World Tour, The Rainbow Room, The Supper Club, Radisson Cruise Lines, Regent Cruises, Seabourn Cruises, Silversea Cruises and Kings Dominion.

Ben Miller (Music Director/Conductor) was, most recently, the musical director/conductor for Monty Python's *Spamalot* at Dogwood Dell. Other credits include: *Urinetown: The Musical* (VCU), *The Rocky Horror Show* (VCU); *Man of La Mancha* (Dogwood Dell); *Man of*

COMPANY BIOS

La Mancha (VCU); The Color Purple (Virginia Rep); The Producers (Virginia Rep); Joseph... Dreamcoat (Dogwood Dell). He teaches voice for TheatreVCU, and is the Director of Music and Worship Arts at St. Giles Presbyterian Church. For my Old Man.

William Berloni (Animal Trainer) 2011 Tony® Honoree for Excellence in Theatre. Recipient of 2014 Outer Critics Circle Special Achievement Award. Broadway: *Annie* (original Sandy, 20th, 30th and 35th Anniversary revivals), *The Crucible, Living on Love, The Audience, Bullets Over Broadway, Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill, A Christmas Story, Joe Turner's Come and Gone, Legally Blonde, Camelot, Frankenstein, The First, Alice in Wonderland, Oliver!, Anything Goes, Nick and Nora, La Bete, The Wiz, The Wizard of Oz, Dinner at Eight, Double Feature (NYCB), Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, The Woman in White, Awake and Sing, and <i>The Lieutenant of Inishmore*. Animal Director for *Because of Winn Dixie the Musical* at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in January 2017. Current National tours include *Annie* and *Finding Neverland*. Hundreds of Off-Broadway, regional productions, tours, movies and television shows. He premiered his new reality series "From Wags to Riches with Bill Berloni" on Discovery Family Channel and trained Nana in "Peter Pan Live" (2014) and Toto in "The Wiz Live" (2015) on NBC. Author of "Broadway Tails." Mr. Berloni is the Director of Animal Training and Behavior for the Humane Society of New York. Please follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and at www.theatricalanimals.com.

Brian C. Barker (Set Designer) is the Principal Production Designer of Barker Designs. He has designed productions for NBA Half-time shows, Network Television, National Marketing Events, and Trade-shows as well as Regional Theatre. Notable projects include NickSports "90's Throwback Tour" & Double Dare Halftime Show, Nick Jr's Play Date Tour, Nickelodeon's Worldwide Day of Play 2011 - 2015; and "Verizon Studios" in the Mets' CitiField. He holds an MFA from the University of Tennessee. His theatre work was exhibited at the 2007 Prague Quadrennial. Favorite theatre designs include *The Full Monty* (Riverside Dinner Theatre); *The Pillowman* (Cadence Theatre Company/Virginia Rep); *The Velveteen Rabbit, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (2011 RTCC award winner), *Spring Awakening* (Virginia Rep); *Born Yesterday* and *Big River* (The Clarence Brown Theatre); Rocky Horror (TheatreVCU).

Jeanne Nugent (Costume Designer) hails from Chicago and is a graduate of Northern Illinois University. For the past ten years she has designed over 20 major musical productions. Some of her favorite credits include: *Croaker: The Frog Prince Musical, Peter and the Starcatcher, Beauty and the Beast,* and *Les Misérables.* Jeanne is very excited for the opportunity to be working on *A Christmas Story* with such a talented Artistic Team.

Joe Doran (Lighting Designer) Virginia Rep: Dreamgirls, South Pacific, The Color Purple, A Year With Frog and Toad. Broadway (Asst. LD): Doctor Zhivago, Magic/Bird; National Tours: Joseph... Dreamcoat, Anything Goes, West Side Story, Flashdance the Musical, In the Heights; Off Broadway: H4 and Shakespeare's Slave. NYC Dance: Sean Curran Company, Armitage Gone! Dance, Stephen Petronio Company, Shen Wei Dance Arts, and Martha Graham Dance Company, among others. He recently designed an adaptation of The Tempest directed by and starring Olympia Dukakis. Regional Credits: Bristol Riverside Theatre, Alpine Theatre Project, The Atlanta Ballet, and Swift Creek Mill Theatre. 2008, 2009, 2012, and 2016 recipient of Richmond's "Artsies" Award. Graduate of NC School of the Arts and member of USA Local 829. www.joedorandesign.com

Christi B. Spann (Production Stage Manager) returns to Virginia Rep after serving as the PSM for *Mame*. D.C. credits with Arena Stage include *The Little Foxes; Love in Afghanistan; Smokey Joe's Cafe; Good People; My Fair Lady; You, Nero;* and *Ah, Wilderness!* Christi spent 12 seasons on the stage management staff at the Denver Center Theatre Company, and 4 seasons with The Great River Shakespeare Festival. She has also stage managed locally with The University of Richmond, her alma mater.



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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Benj Pasek and Justin Paul (known as

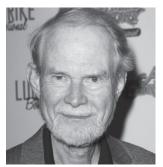
Pasek & Paul) are an award-winning musical theatre composing team. They began working together as undergraduates studying musical theatre at at the University of Michigan. Pasek & Paul co-wrote their first work, *Edges: A Song Cycle*, as part of a school assignment in 2005. A recording of *Edges* went viral online, and it is now licensed by Music Theatre International and has been performed across the world.



In 2007, they were the youngest-ever winners of the Jonathan Larson Award from the

American Theatre wing, and the recipients of the 2007-2008 Dramatists Guild Fellowship. In 2010, they joined the creative team of *A Christmas Story, The Musical*. The show debuted on Broadway in 2012.

Pasek & Paul are also known for their musicals *James and the Giant Peach* (2010), *Dogfight* (2012), and *Dear Evan Hansen*, which is scheduled to open on Broadway in December 2016. Additionally, their songs can be heard on television in *Smash* and *Sesame Street*.



Joseph Robinette is the author or co-author of over 55 published plays and musicals. Robinette has worked on the dramatizations of classic children's stories such as *Anne of Green Gables* and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, and collaborated with author E.B. White on the stage version of *Charlotte's Web*. Robinette received his first Tony nomination for the book of *A Christmas Story, The Musical*.

Robinette is now a retired theatre professor living in New Jersey with his family.

Jean Shepherd was an American storyteller, radio and TV personality, actor and writer. Shepherd began his career in broadcast radio in the 1940's. Over the next several years, he also wrote a series of humorous, semi-autobiographical stories about growing up in Indiana. Many were published in *Playboy* magazine.

In 1966, a collection of Shepherd's stories were published as a novel called *In God We Trust: All Others Pay Cash*. Four of the stories from this novel served as the inspiration for the 1983 movie, *A Christmas Story*. Shepherd narrated the film as the adult Ralphie Parker.

Shepherd went on to have a prolific acting, writing and broadcast radio career until his death in 1999 at the age of 78. He is remembered for his influential style of oral narrative, and he was posthumously inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame in 2005.

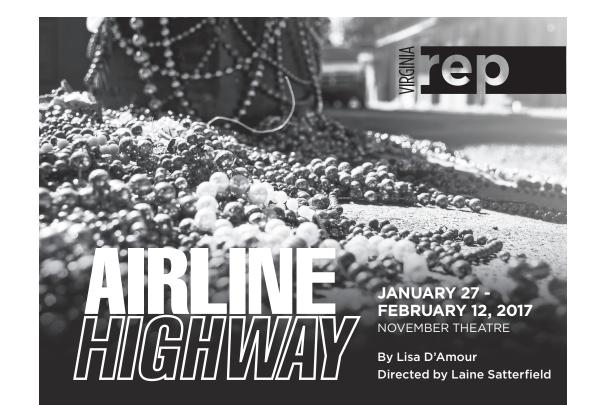




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virginia Rep's Anglang Goes Gala

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Enjoy an evening in support of Virginia Repertory Theatre.

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Virginia Rep is grateful for the generous challenge grants of \$260,000 each from **The Cabell Foundation** and **Mary Morton Parsons Foundation** to support the continuing restoration of our historic facilities on Broad Street. We are currently raising funds to meet the matching requirement from individuals. Gifts noted with the symbol ^ include contributions to this effort.

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