

STARLIGHT

COMMUNITY THEATER



The Musical

DEC 2ND - 18TH

Directed by Megan Gardner
Music Directed by Elise Kurbat

Book by Thomas Meehan and Bob Martin

Music by Matthew Sklar

Lyrics by Chad Beguelin

Based on the New Line Cinema film by David Berenbaum

Produced by special arrangement with Music Theater International (MTI)

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ELF THE MUSICAL

Directed by Megan Gardner

Act 1: The North Pole and New York City

Happy All the TimeSanta, Mrs. Claus, Buddy, Elves
World's Greatest DadBuddy, New Yorkers
In the WayWalter, Emily, Michael, Deb, Office Workers
Sparklejollytwinklejingly.....Buddy, Jovie, Manager, Macy's Employees
I'll Believe in You.....Emily, Michael
Just Like HimBuddy, Deb, Office Workers
A Christmas Song.....Buddy, Jovie, New Yorkers
World's Greatest Dad RepriseBuddy

Act 2: New York City and The North Pole

Nobody Cares About Santa.....Buddy, Manager, Retired Santa's
Never Fall in Love with an Elf.....Jovie, Rockettes
There is a Santa ClausEmily, Michael
The Story of Buddy the ElfBuddy, Walter, Greenway, Michael
.....Emily, Deb, Matthews, Chadwick
A Christmas Song RepriseAll
Finale.....All

Starlight Community Theater Presents

**January
13-22, 2023**

**THE CURIOUS INCIDENT
OF THE DOG IN THE
NIGHT-TIME**

Based on the novel by
Mark Haddon
Adapted by Simon Stephens

**Directed by
George Canady**

Produced by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Services, Inc.

Starlight Community Theater Presents
a special, limited-run event

**January
27-29, 2023**

The Complete
Works of *William Shakespeare*
ABRIDGED



**Directed by
Abeth Spencer**

By Adam Long,
Daniel Singer,
and Jess Winfield

Originally produced by
Reduced Shakespeare
Company

Produced by special arrangement with
Broadway Play Publishing Inc.,
New York, NY

ELF THE MUSICAL

Directed by Megan Gardner

CAST

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Buddy | Declan Massey |
| Jovie | Amaris Williams |
| Walter Hobbs | Josh Hengst |
| Michael Hobbs | Ghost Bravo |
| Emily Hobbs..... | EJ Freed |
| Deb | Liz King |
| Santa/Mr. Greenway | Alec Merrill |
| Manager..... | Colleen Rose Thompson |
| Fake Santa/Ensemble..... | Josh Merrill |
| Matthews/Ensemble | Sam Schaefer |
| Charlotte Dennon/Ensemble..... | Rhiannon Cummings |
| Mrs. Clause/Ensemble..... | Jessica Wells |
| Ensemble | Ashley Smith, Bella Conroy |
| | Ciara Jess, Jonas Cox, Kamden Hooper |
| | Kelsey Kerber, Kiki Hooper, Olivia Vanderham |

PRODUCTION TEAM

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Director | Megan Gardner |
| Music Director..... | Elise Kurbat |
| Choreographer..... | Lindsay Tejera |
| Props Designer..... | Susan Tejera |
| Costume Designer | Allison Rondone |
| Lighting Designer | Renee Ashlock |
| Sound Designer & Tech | Autumn Kuhn |
| Lighting Tech..... | Jake Pascarella |
| Stage Managers..... | Sam Schaefer, Mackenzie Schmid |
| Producer | Justin Cain |
| Program Design..... | Raquel L Jarvill |
| Cover Design..... | Sam Hartwell |

Full bios of the cast can be found at
<https://www.starlightcommunitytheater.com/elf>



BOARD MEMBERS

President.....Cathy Merrill
Vice PresidentAbeth Spencer
SecretarySamantha Hartwell
Members At Large..... Justin Cain, JC Kovac, Elise Kurbat, Marisa Tualla
Member Emeritus/Co-FounderPatricia Bennett
Members Emeritus.....Raquel L Jarvill, Barbara Surloff

OPERATIONAL DIRECTORS

Artistic Director.....Dan Ashlock
Managing Director..... (Open)

MISSION STATEMENT

Starlight Community Theatre is a 501c3 non-profit community theatre corporation dedicated to providing live theatre to entertain and enrich our community and to encourage youth and adult participation by providing growth and educational opportunities through a variety of theatrical experiences, both on and off stage.

A Special Thank You to all who helped with this production.



HELP US UPGRADE OUR SOUND SYSTEM!

STARLIGHT CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Starlight's current sound system is desperately outdated and in need of an upgrade to continue to put on great productions! Every dollar raised goes into making community theater affordable, accessible and enjoyable for all!

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info@StarlightCommunityTheater.com

CAST

Declan Massey (*Buddy*) is excited to be a part of the cast of *Elf the Musical*. He is a senior at Arizona School for the Arts (ASA), and this is his second show at Starlight, returning from the cast of *Heathers* where he played Ram Sweeney. You may also know him from *Addams Family* at ASA (Gomez), *Freaky Friday* at Limelight (Adam), and *Newsies* at Limelight (Albert/Roosevelt (u/s Race)). He would like to thank everyone who was involved in the creative process of *Elf the Musical* for making this show amazing.

Amaris Williams (*Jovie*) "Theatre has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember! Talent shows, one acts, musicals, I've loved it all. I was very fortunate to have taken my passion for arts to NYC where I graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in 2018! Some of my favorite works include: Brutus (*Julius Caesar*), Sebastian (*The Little Mermaid*), Gary Coleman (*Avenue Q*), and now Jovie!! This is my first show at Starlight and I couldn't be more excited to be a part of such an amazing cast!"

Joshua Hengst (*Walter Hobbs*) Creating this show has been heartwarming and a lot of fun for Josh. He is thrilled to bring the character of Walter Hobbs to the Starlight stage. You may have seen Josh recently as King Triton in *The Little Mermaid* (Starlight) or as Lurch in *The Addams Family* (Greasepaint). Josh credits the production staff, cast, and crew for putting together a terrific (and jolly) show. "Thank you for making this both a creative and joyful experience." Josh thanks his family and friends for their continued support of his theater passion, especially his partner, Christina, and his daughters Noel and Kenzie.

Ghost Bravo (*Michael Hobbs*) is very excited to be participating in *Elf The Musical* at Starlight Community Theater! His previous shows have been *Charlotte's Web* (Avery Arable), *Seussical* (Baby Kangaroo), and *Little Women* (Laurie) all at North Pointe Prep. He has also been in Starlight's *Heathers: High School Edition* as Coach Ripper! Ghost would like to thank Megan Gardner, Lindsey Tejera, and Elise Kurbat for all the work they do for this show! Ghost would also like to thank his choir teacher (and mother in *Elf*) EJ Freed for being amazing!

EJ Freed (*Emily Hobbs*) is delighted to make their Starlight acting debut in *Elf*! Their only other Starlight credit has been music directing *Heathers High School Edition* this summer. EJ's most notable roles include the Baker's Wife US (*Into the Woods*, Inspire Theatre), Miss Andrew (*Mary Poppins*, Patriot Productions) and Marian Paroo (*The Music Man*, Moezart). During the day, EJ can be found teaching Choir, Piano, and Band at North Pointe Prep, where they also serve as music director for the Falcon Players Productions. "A special thanks goes out to Megan, Lindsay, Elise and the entire cast and crew for making this show so magical! Huzzah and break legs, everyone!"

Liz King (*Deb*) is very excited to be returning to the stage after a 13 year hiatus. She was last seen as an ensemble member in the UCLA HOOLIGAN production of *Into the Woods*. Her past notable roles include Myra in *Deathtrap* and the Goose in *Charlotte's Web*. A Southern California native, Liz is looking forward to enjoying more theatre opportunities in the valley. She would like to thank her husband for his support, and her family for making the trip to Arizona to attend this production.

Alec Merrill (*Santa/Mr. Greenway*) is very excited to perform in this wonderful show. His previous works include *Hello Dolly* at Zao Theater, *The Little Mermaid*, and *Spongebob The Musical* at Starlight Community Theater. He would like to thank Megan Gardner and everyone in the cast and crew of this amazing show! "Break legs, everyone!"

Colleen Rose Thompson (*Manager*) feels sparklejollytwinklejingly at the thought of sharing the Starlight stage with all her fellow *Elf* cast/crew! Most recently, she appeared as the Saloon Girl Ancestor in SCP/Greasepaint's production of *Addams Family*. Two favorite recent roles: Candy Starr (*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Starlight) and Clarissa Hailsham-Brown (*Agatha Christie's Spider's Web*, Desert Stages). ig: @colleen.rose.art

Joshua Merrill (*Fake Santa/Ensemble*) is thrilled to be in this production! Recent show credits include Jetsam in *The Little Mermaid* and “All Good Gifts” solo in *Godspell*. He would like to thank Megan, Lindsay and Elise for this elf-tastic opportunity and thanks to his parents and Alec for their constant support!

Sam Schaefer (*Matthews/Ensemble*) is incredibly thrilled to make her Starlight debut in the musical *Elf*! Previously, she stage-managed *The Little Mermaid* with Ashley Smith. Sam has been involved in theater since her 7th-grade year. She was definitely inspired to become a theater nerd by her brother! And if it wasn't for Megan Gardner, the director, Sam wouldn't have ever gotten on stage during her Freshman year of High school. She played Alice in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, which was her first-ever performance. Sam expresses her gratitude to the entire cast and crew. She is grateful for the years of support she has received from her friends and family.

Rhiannon Cummings (*Charlotte Dennon/Ensemble*) is so excited to be part of *Elf The Musical* this holiday season. She was most recently seen at Starlight as “Disciple (Day By Day)” in *Godspell* and “Electric Skate” in *SpongeBob The Musical*. When she's not on stage, she is a secretary for DVUSD, a mom of two littles. A huge thank you to her friends and family for supporting her through this hobby, but most of her husband for giving her the confidence to perform again!

Jessica Wells (*Mrs. Clause/Ensemble*) is an elementary music teacher by day and a theater nerd by night. *Elf* holds a special place in her heart and she is so thankful to be spreading Christmas cheer with Starlight Community Theater and this fun and talented cast. She would like to give a special shout out to her grandparents for always making the holidays sparklejollytwinklejingley! “Merry Christmas everyone!”

Ashley Smith (*Ensemble*) This is Ashley's 3rd show at Starlight Community Theater! She is very excited to share this wonderful experience with all of you. Outside of theater, Ashley is a full time student at Glendale Community College and is studying to get her Associates in Law and Policy. She also works full time as a stagehand/event supporter and has helped set up a wide variety of performances. Ashley wants to thank her family, friends, and coworkers for their support in her adventures. And a special thanks to the cast and crew of *Elf*, you guys help keep this busy girl in check.

Bella Conroy (*Ensemble*) is very excited to be returning to Starlight in the production of *Elf The Musical*! She is a 14 year old freshman at North Pointe Prep. She has previously been in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Charlotte's Web*, *Elf The Musical*, and *Little Women* at North Pointe Prep, *Godspell* at Starlight Community Theater, *Broadway Beat* and *Pirates! The Musical* at St. Jerome School. Bella would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her. She would also like to thank Megan, Lindsay, and Elise.

Ciara Jess (*Ensemble*) is in the third grade and loves theater, choir and drawing. This will be her third show at Starlight Theater. Most recently, Ciara was the “Curses And Foul Language” Sherrif in *The Island of Dr. Libris*. *Elf* is her favorite because she loves Christmas so much.

Jonas Cox (*Ensemble*) is a 14 year old ninth grader who loves to act. Previously, he has been on the Starlight stage in *My Son Pinocchio Jr* and *The Island of Dr. Libris*. Jonas likes to read, swim, watching movies and playing board games with his friends.

Kamden “Kamie” Hooper (*Ensemble*) age 9, is thrilled to join her older sister in the cast of *Elf*. She has been featured in Phoenix Theatre's *Cinderella* as the Fairy Godmother, Anastasia and Narrator. Kamden has modeled, appearing in such books as “Play Like a Girl” and “Roar” and was invited to walk at New York Fashion Week for Nike and Converse. While attending Lookout Mountain Elementary School, Kamden is an honors student and

plays competitive soccer player, is a cross country runner, basketball player, and student council representative. Kamden is an avid *Hamilton* fan and loves to spend time with her family and play with her friends and cousins.

Kelsey Kerber (*Ensemble*) is super excited to be a part of another show with Starlight! She is 23 years old and a new resident of Arizona, having grown up in Pittsburgh, PA. Having taken a hiatus from being in theater during college, Kelsey is so happy to have found a home at Starlight over the past year and to have made so many new friends. She wants to extend a huge thank you to Megan, Lindsay, and Elise for their amazing work put into *Elf*! She also wants to thank everyone in the crew who works super hard to bring the show together! "Happy Holidays!"

Kendal "KiKi" Hooper (*Ensemble*) is still on cloud 9 following her role as a cheerleader in Starlight's *Heathers* show this summer. Kendal has starred as Gretchen in *Mean Girls*, the Enchantress and Ensemble in *Beauty and the Beast*, and the Ensemble in *In the Heights*. She loves the camaraderie of musical theatre and is excited for her younger sister to be part of the *Elf* cast too! As a 14 year old freshman at Thunderbird High School, Kendal is a varsity cheerleader and a straight A's honors student. Growing up, she played competitive soccer and school basketball, earning many championships, plus Kendal is a self-taught dancer. Kendal's long term goal is to own a dance and choreography studio.

Olivia Vanderham (*Ensemble*) is happy to be in her fourth Starlight production (plus summer camps)! She loves the whole theater experience and was most recently seen in *The Island of Dr. Libris*. Olivia is in the 4th grade at Great Hearts Academy. When not studying lines and music or doing homework, Olivia enjoys playing with her dog, Bella, and having sleepovers with friends.

PRODUCTION

Megan Gardner (*Director*) is honored to be returning to Starlight as a director of this magical project! As an avid Christmas fan, *Elf* is always in constant rotation at her house from November 1st- January 1st! This is Megan's 4th show here at Starlight this year, including *Heathers*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *My Son Pinocchio JR*. Megan is grateful for the friends and family that have been made here at Starlight! It will always be a home away from home!

Elisa Kurbat (*Music Director*) is thrilled to be back at Starlight Community Theater! Elisa grew up in Cleveland, Ohio where she went to Kent State University for Criminology and then Baldwin Wallace Conservatory for piano and voice. While in Ohio, Elisa played piano professionally for Mansfield Orchestra, while maintaining a full piano and vocal studio. Elisa currently works full time at Arizona School for the Arts in the Theatre Arts Department where she teaches voice, and continues to maintain her private vocal studio. Elisa's love for musical theater was realized when she first music directed *Cinderella*. Since then, her favorites include *Oklahoma*, *Lizzie*, *Into the Woods*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Cabaret*, *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Footloose*, *Spring Awakening*, *Addams Family*, and *The Lightning Thief*. "Many thanks to Megan and Lindsay for all you do. And a heartfelt thank you to the superb *Elf* cast who willingly give their time and talent. Finally, a huge 'thank you' to my amazing family who tolerate my crazy schedule. Your support is a gift. Much love to all."

Lindsay Tejera (*Choreographer*) has grown up dancing starting her dance career at the age of 3. She has studied in all styles of dance including ballet, pointe, azz, contemporary, tap, and musical theater. Lindsay is the dance teacher at North Pointe Prep where she also is involved with the after school theater program. Lindsay would like to thank her mom and dad for all their love and support.

MacKenzie Schmid (*Stage Manager*) is super excited to be stage managing once again for

Starlight Community Theater! MacKenzie would like to thank Megan and Dan for giving her this opportunity to stage manage. MacKenzie is currently attending Paradise Valley Community College and is studying to get her associate's degree in theater. MacKenzie has previous experience stage managing shows, some of which include *A Gentleman's Guide To Love And Murder* (PVCC), *Be More Chill* (DST), and *Godspell* (Starlight Community Theater). MacKenzie has had a lot of fun getting to stage manage for such a fun and talented cast and she hopes you enjoy the show! "Ho, ho, ho and a Merry Christmas to all!!"

Alison Rondone (*Costume Designer*) has been involved in dance and musical theater for the past 40+ years. A dancer, teacher and choreographer for many years, she has designed costumes for multiple musical theater productions such as *Oliver* and *South Pacific*, and full-length ballet productions *Sleeping Beauty* and *The Nutcracker*, among others. Recently, she has been the head costumer for *The Spongebob Musical* in December 2021, *Godspell!* (teen and adult casts) in Spring 2022, *Blithe Spirit* Fall 2022, and is currently costuming *Elf the Musical* for the Starlight winter 2022 season.

Susan Tejera (*Props Designer*) is so happy be designing props for *Elf the Musical*. Working on shows since 2014, Susan has found a true passion for props. She has gained recognition for her works on properties design by receiving an AriZoni nomination for *Curtains the Musical* as well as an AriZoni Award for her work on *Miracle on 34th Street*. Susan would like to thank the cast and crew of this production especially her very talented daughter, Lindsay, for helping me so much on this show.

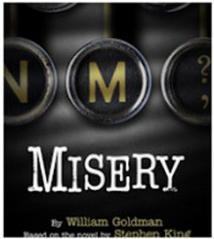
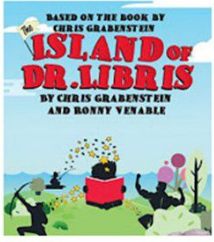
Mike Rippenkroger (*Set Construction*) is an award-winning member of our production team. He builds the sets for nearly all Starlight productions. Mike is family-oriented – married to Nena and father to Will.

Michelle Johnston (*Set Decoration/Painting*) has been a part of Starlight for over 7 years now when she painted her first set for *Beauty and the Beast*. When not designing enchanted woods or stately living rooms or sneaking in the occasional role on stage, she's an investigator at MUFG Union Bank. She's been in the field of financial crimes for over 20 years and retired from the US Army reserves in 2016 after 26 years of service.

Renee Ashlock (*Lighting Design*) has served as the Lighting Designer for *Spongebob The Musical*, *Avenue Q School Edition*, *Holy Matrimony*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Mamma Mia* (Starlight) and *Oliver*, *Damn Yankees*, *Little Women*, and *A Christmas Story the Musical* (DST). She has also been a stage manager and technical director for numerous DST, ASA and BCHS productions. Her favorite theater jobs are set construction, lighting and photography. Renee teaches middle school science for the Loyola Academy at Brophy College Prep. She appreciates and loves her supportive family: Dan, Nathan & Alaine, and Quinlyn.

Autumn Kuhn (*Sound Designer*) returned to the technical side of theatre after a brief hiatus. She returned doing sound for Starlight Theater's production of *Spongebob The Musical* and continued her passion with *Godspell*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *Heathers*. She would like to thank Paul and Samantha Hartwell for bringing her back into theatre and is thankful for all the great folks she has met at Starlight!

Jake Pascarella (*Tech*) is originally from Pittsburgh PA, he saw his first Broadway show (*Jersey Boys*) as a kid and loved it. He was involved in lighting/sound/production crew during his time in high school and college. Jake is excited to be a part of *Elf the Musical!* In his free time, he enjoys playing video games and ultimate frisbee.



STARLIGHT COMMUNITY THEATER

Heathers: Teen Edition (Jul. 29-Aug. 14)

a teen musical directed by Megan Gardner

The Island of Dr. Libris (Sep. 9-18)

a youth play directed by Kelly Swope & Dan Ashlock

Blithe Spirit (Oct. 14-23)

an adult play directed by Eric Schoen

Elf the Musical (Dec. 2-18)

an all-ages musical directed by Susan Oberg

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time (Jan. 13-22)

an adult play directed by George Canady

Alice in Wonderland (Feb. 17-26)

a youth musical directed by Christina Clodt & Josh Hengst

Xanadu (March 31-April 8)

an adult musical directed by Dan Ashlock

Loving Lives (May 5-13)

a teen/adult play directed by Nicole Thompson & Barbara Dalmazzo

School of Rock (Jun. 2-18)

an all-ages musical directed by Bertha A. Cortez

Misery (Nov. 4-6)

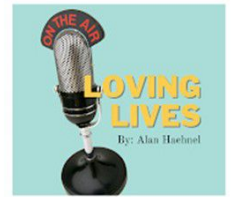
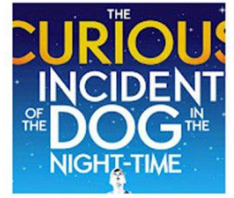
a special event adult play directed by Bob Taylor

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) (Jan. 27-29)

a special event adult play directed by Abeth Spencer

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2022-2023 Season



XANADU

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Saturday, January 20 9 am -12pm