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THE TIMES

SOUTH VALLEY CIVIC THEATRE

# A CHRISTMAS STORY

Presents

Adapted By  
Philip Grecian



Nov 18 - Dec 10, 2022 | [SVCT.ORG](https://svct.org)

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. Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois.



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# A Christmas Story

A play in two acts by  
PHILIP GRECIAN

Based upon the motion picture  
*A Christmas Story*

1983 Turner Entertainment Co.,  
Distributed by Warner Bros.

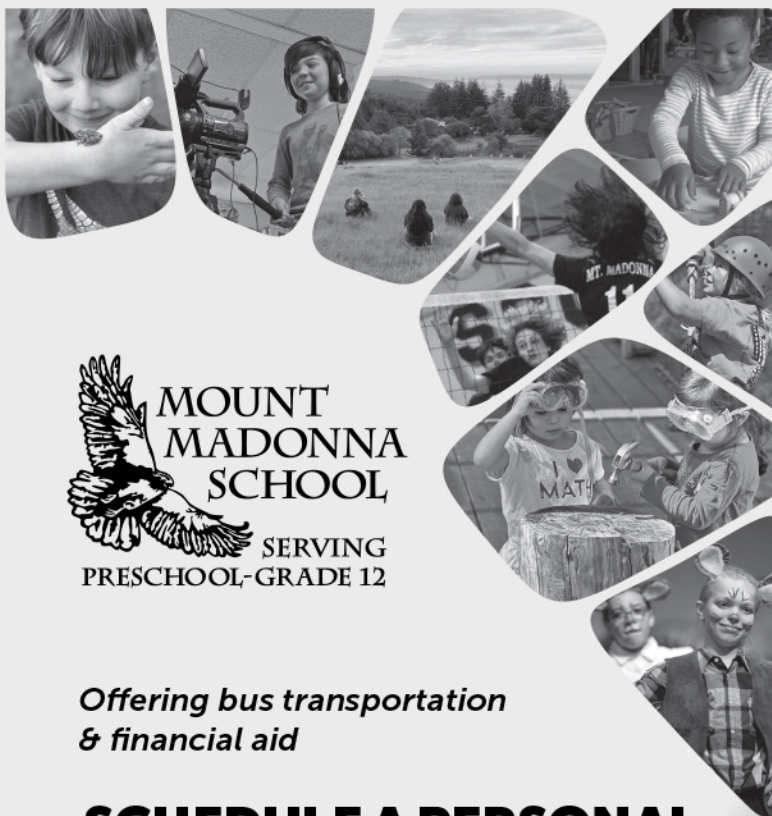
Written by  
JEAN SHEPHERD,  
LEIGH BROWN and  
BOB CLARK

and

*In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash*

by  
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## *A message from SVCT's President...*

On behalf of the South Valley Civic Theatre Board of Directors and the production staff, technical and artistic crew, and the cast, I welcome you to our production of *A Christmas Story*. Few stories have generated so much artistic interpretation and reinterpretation from a single short story. Author Jean Shepherd collected into his book, In God We Trust: All Others Pay Cash, short stories he had written for Playboy magazine during the 1960s. *A Christmas Story*, one of those stories, has been made into a feature film, a play, a stage musical, and now is being revisited in a sequel to the first movie. The movie became an instant holiday classic when it was sold to cable in 1986 and Turner Classic Movies ran it twelve consecutive times for 24 hours beginning Christmas Eve. The tradition endures to this day and has made *A Christmas Story* one of the most beloved Christmas movies (and play and musical) of all time.

Ralph Parker, the narrator, draws us into his imagination as he relives that very special Christmas when he was eight and wanted one and only one Christmas present: a Red Ryder BB gun. The halls of Ralph's memory are vivid with childhood friends, fantasies featuring a heroic Ralphie Parker, and the unforgettable hysterics generated by his "Old Man" balanced by his insightful mother. Overall, it never fails to entertain and pull the audience into the cheer of the season as only Ralphie Parker's scheming to get that special present can achieve.

We invite you to enter Ralphie's world of cold hands, warm hearts, and endless laughter. Ponder if you will just how it might feel to get one's tongue frozen to a lamppost or concoct a story in seconds about a falling icicle to avoid hearing "I told you that you would shoot your eye out." We wish you joy this holiday season and hope our production of *A Christmas Story* will light up the halls of our own memories where we will find like laughter, the warmth of family, and the joy of finding the one gift, that one special gift, longed for and dreamed about, nestled under the Christmas tree.

Kimberly Lynch  
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# The Cast

Matthew Horta

Jery Rosas

Shawna Gonzales

Keith Larson

Jase Puente

Miriam Shem-Tov

Tristan Duarte

Joey King

Kelly Kobata

Clara Shem-Tov

Marilyn Pifer

Xander Duarte

Michael Grimm

Brody Bourke &

Cate Pace

Ralphie Parker

Ralph Parker

Mother

The Old Man

Randy

Schwartz

Flick

Farkus

Esther Jane

Helen

Ms. Shields

Grover Dill

Santa Clause

Elves/Ensemble

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Lead Stage Deck Manager

Stage Hands

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Lighting Technician

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Projections

Lobby Design & House  
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Program Editor

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Kimberly Lynch

Lori Foster

Andrew Cummings

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Clara Shem-Tov

Joseph Ramirez

Dana Scribner

Mykal Philbin

Kris Snook

Gabriella Horta & Ben Snook

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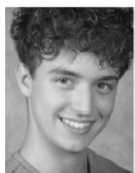
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***Best wishes for a fantastic season!***

# Cast biographies



## **Brody Bourke ~ *Elf & Ensemble***

Brody is thrilled to be a part of *A Christmas Story* because it is such a classic and iconic holiday movie. This is his third show with SVCT and his first play. Brody most recently played "Crutchie" in SVCT's Newsies. He is a sophomore at Gilroy High School and enjoys track and field, music and hanging out with his friends. Brody hopes that *A Christmas Story* will start your holiday season off right.



## **Tristan Duarte ~ *Flick***

This is Tristan's second show and he is very excited to be a part of *A Christmas Story*! He is eleven years old and attends Martin Murphy Middle School where he enjoys sports like wrestling and baseball. He hopes to be a winery owner when he grows up. He really likes to mountain bike and the furthest he has ever ridden was a six-mile loop. Tristan has a tortoise named Bobby and two kittens named Eva and Boots. The first play he was in was *It's A Wonderful Life* and his only line was "What are we going to do George?" Tristan would like to thank his mom, dad, brother, and grandparents.



## **Xander Duarte ~ *Grover Dill***

Xander loves sports and does jujitsu and runs cross country. He also loves going on vacation with his family and enjoying time with them. Xander knows how to cook and enjoys hanging out and having fun with his friends at school.



## **Shawna Gonzales ~ *Mother***

Shawna is thrilled to be making her SVCT debut in *A Christmas Story*. She is a Morgan Hill resident, wife and mother of two daughters, and works as an executive assistant. She enjoys camping, drawing and painting, and watching her girls play softball! Shawna completed the Musical Theater program at AMDA NYC. Favorite roles include "Ariel" in *Footloose*, "Cunegonde" in *Candide*, and "Louisa" in *The Fantasticks*. Recently, Shawna was featured in concerts with the Redwood Symphony and SBMT. Huge thanks to her family, particularly Craig, Debbie (Mom), and Sondra, without who's support she would not be able to pursue her passion.

## **Patty Filice**

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**Michael Grimm ~ *Santa Claus***

Michael is so happy to appear in another fun SVCT production! Since coming out of a decades long theatrical hibernation, he has had the great pleasure to appear recently in *Guys & Dolls* (Benny Southstreet), *1776* (John Hancock), *Cabaret* (Ernst Ludwig), and *Beauty And the Beast* (Maurice), all with SVCT! Michael is delighted to play “The Man. The Connection. The Godfather himself” in this wonderful production and he raises a grateful mug of hot cocoa to Allie, Ingrid and Michael for the opportunity. Ho Ho Ho!



**Matthew Horta ~ *Ralphie Parker***

Matthew is a ten-year-old fifth grader. He is excited to share the stage with this amazing, funny cast and to portray Ralphie in his first lead role. This is Matthew’s third show with SVCT and fifth production. Some of Matthew’s previous shows and roles: *HONK! Jr.* (Jay Bird & Turkey) and *Disney’s Beauty & the Beast* (Chip). Matthew loves being on stage and is thrilled to be in his first non-musical. He enjoys playing video games, singing, and watching the A’s. He wants to thank Allie for seeing Ralphie in him and giving him this opportunity. He has had the most fun and has learned so much from her. He also thanks the Puente family for all the carpool fun! Oh Fudge! And last but not least his old man (dad) for being one of his biggest fans and always encouraging him and volunteering to do the most in whatever production he’s involved in! He hopes you have a Merry Christmas!



**Joey King ~ *Farkus***

Joey is fourteen years old and a freshman at Christopher High School. This is his twelfth play and third with SVCT. You may recognize him from SVCT’s production of *Newsies Jr.* in which he played “Weasel” Other parts he has played are “Sonny LaTierri” in *Grease Jr.* with Little Theatre Productions, “Tiny Tim” in *Inspecting Carol* with Limelight Actors Theater and “Razoul” in *Aladdin Jr.* with SVCT. Joey would like to thank his mom, dad, brother John and family/friends for always supporting him. He hopes you enjoy the show! Fortnite!!



**Kelly Kobata ~ *Esther Jane***

This is Kelly’s first show at SVCT and she is excited to portray “Esther Jane”. She has never played a romantic character before, but is prepared and excited to have this new experience. Kelly is thirteen years old and has done nineteen performances throughout her life. She starred in *Moana Jr.* as “Young Moana”, “Miss Honey” in *Matilda Jr.* as, and the narrator in *Puffs Jr.* Kelly also enjoys doing other things such as crocheting and sticker making. She has her own business, known as Kelly Krafts, plays on a volleyball team, a favorite sport, and enjoys exercise.



**Keith Larson ~ *The Old Man***

This is Keith’s first show at SVCT and he couldn’t be more thrilled and honored to portray what he considers to be a bucket-list character. Keith has performed in the Bay Area for the last decade, most recently as “Ed Boone” in Los Altos Stage Company’s production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. He’s a father of two boys, Charlie and Henry, and is an insane fan of Batman and the San Francisco Giants. He dedicates his performance to his father, Bob Larson, and to all fans of this beloved story.



### **Cate Pace ~Elf & Ensemble**

Cate is a sophomore at Oakwood School and has been acting since second grade; her first production was *Seussical Jr.* Other productions include *Clue* (Yvette), *Singing in the Rain* (stage crew soloist), and *Mulan* (Lin the Ancestor). Additionally, she has participated in several choirs. Cate is very excited to be a part of this production of *A Christmas Story*. Outside of performing activities, Cate enjoys art, cheerleading, singing, and writing. She is very excited to be showing off the many funny ensemble roles in this show and hopes you enjoy!



### **Marilyn Pifer ~ Ms. Shields**

Marilyn is delighted to return to the Playhouse stage with this talented cast. Her previous SVCT appearances include "Reverend Witherspoon" in *1776* and "Grandma" in *A Nice Family Christmas*. Some other favorite roles are "Mrs. Harcourt" in *Anything Goes*, "Miss Minchin" in *A Little Princess*, and "Cassandra" in *Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike*. Marilyn thanks the production team for tireless behind-the-scenes work, and her husband Steve for his patient support. Miss Shields wishes you a wonderful holiday season and reminds you to watch your margins!



### **Jase Puente ~ Randy**

Most recently, Jase was in SVCT's *Honk Jr.* and he's excited to have *A Christmas Story* as his fourth SVCT show. He has looked forward to the return of live theater and thanks his family, SVCT, and the show's staff for making this experience possible. A special thanks goes to Miss Allie and Miss Ingrid for encouraging him to audition. Jase hopes you enjoy the show!



### **Jerry Rosas ~ Ralph Parker**

Jerry is absolutely delighted to be making his SVCT debut with this cast and this show! This movie is a true favorite and bringing it to life is an honor. Working with various companies throughout the Bay Area, Jerry has worked on productions from San Francisco to Hollister. Recent favorite roles: *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Judas) and *Pippin* (Leading Player) with SCP; *Catch Me If You Can* (Det. Hanratty), *A Chorus Line* (Paul San Marco), and *Sugar* (Jerry/Daphne) with WVLOMT; *Little Shop of Horrors* (Ronnette) and *Funny Thing Happened...Forum* (Hysterium) with Pintello Comedy Theatre and *Lend Me A Tenor* (Max) and *Boeing, Boeing* (Robert) with



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**Jery Rosas ~ Ralph Parker (cont.)**

Limelight Actors Theater. Jery extends a "massive" thank you to his friends and family for putting up with his schedule, the cast and staff for all the laughs and inspiration, and YOU for coming and supporting live local theatre! [www.theactorvist.com](http://www.theactorvist.com)



**Clara Shem-Tov ~ Helen**

Clara is fifteen years old and a ninth grader at Oakwood School. While one might often find her in the lighting booth at SVCT shows, both at the Playhouse and at Limelight, this is the first time she's joined the cast on stage in an SVCT show. She's no stranger to the stage however, having appeared in many shows at school and through other groups. When not indulging her love of theater, Clara can be found baking or creating props. She would like to thank Allie for putting on an amazing show and teaching her so much, and her cast mates for making the experience so much fun.



**Miriam Shem-Tov ~ Schwartz**

Miriam is twelve years old and in the sixth grade at Oakwood School. This is her fourth SVCT show, and she has been part of over thirty other productions. She recently appeared as "Ugly Duckling" in SVCT's *Honk Jr.*, and previously, in *Beauty and the Beast* as a villager/spoon and in *Gypsy* as the balloon girl/newsboy. Miriam would like to thank the cast and crew of this show for a great experience and her family, friends, and pets for supporting her theater adventures! She triple-dog dares you to enjoy this show!

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# Staff biographies



## **Michael Horta ~ Producer**

Michael has been on the SVCT Board for a little more than a year and this is his second time producing. He has really enjoyed working with his fellow producer, Ingrid. The entire production team has worked hard to bring the show to life, and Michael is confident you will all enjoy this Christmas classic. You may have seen him on stage recently as “LeFou” in SVCT’s *Disney Beauty and the Beast*. He especially loves helping with shows in which his three kids are involved. He wants to say a special thank you to his wife, Gloria, for all her hard work and support. He wishes you all a happy Holiday Season!



## **Ingrid Rottman ~ Producer**

The producing bug has bitten Ingrid hard! Before the costumes from the SVCT summer production of *Beauty and the Beast* were even put away, Ingrid jumped at the chance to also produce *A Christmas Story* for SVCT. It’s a LOT of work but oh-so fulfilling! It’s also a lot easier when she’s got her producing partner, Michael Horta and his wife, Gloria, on board. Prior to Ingrid wearing a producer’s hat, you may have seen her on the stage in past SVCT productions of *Oliver!* (Rose Seller) *Mary Poppins* (Miss Andrew) and most recently, *Gypsy* (Mama Rose). Now that Ingrid’s five children are all grown up and finished (or almost finished) with college, she plans to do a lot more volunteer work for her community, focusing mainly on theater and a few other local causes. Of course, this will all be while juggling a full time gig at Evergreen Valley College as the Outreach and Recruitment Specialist and singing in the band **A-List**. It’s a wild ride, but she’s not ready to get off yet! She hopes you will enjoy this classic holiday story.



## **Allie Bailey ~ Director**

Allie is delighted to be making her SVCT debut as the director of *A Christmas Story*. She is a local bay area theater director, actor, teaching artist, and production stage manager who specializes in classical and musical theater, opera, ballet, and modern dance. Favorite direction credits include *A Nice Family Christmas* (Limelight), *The Mercy Seat*, *Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play* and *Into the Woods* (Los Altos Stage Company), *Deathtrap* (Coastal Rep), *A Public Reading of An Unproduced Screenplay About the Death of Walt Disney* (Palo Alto Players), *Into the Woods* (Pacifica Spindrift Players), and *Pippin* (Sunnyvale Community Players). Additional favorite theater credits include *Into the Woods*, *Rent* (Cabrillo Stage), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Hillbarn Theatre), *The Nutcracker* (Bay Pointe Ballet), *Roots and Wings* (sjDANCEco), *Cabaret* (Sunnyvale Community Players), *Sir John in Love* (Bronx Opera), *La bohème*, *The Magic Flute*, *Idomeneo* (Opera San Jose), and *A Chorus Line*, *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, and *The Music Man* (Broadway by the Bay).



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**Kimberly Lynch ~ Costumer**

Kimberly has been an SVCT board member for five years and is delighted to be the costumer for *A Christmas Story*. This is her third time doing the costumes for SVCT. Her most recent involvement backstage for SVCT was as costumer for *Beauty and the Beast*. Kimberly majored in theater arts at Santa Clara University. She is most proud of the play she wrote while a student at SCU adapting Kate Chopin's novel *The Awakening* which was performed at the university, video recorded and aired on the local PBS channel. After college, she worked in Hollywood for five years primarily as a costumer. In her free time from theatre she works as an attorney.



**Mykal Philbin ~ Lighting Designer**

Mykal is excited to be making her SVCT debut with this hilarious and heart warming holiday classic. Mykal is a local Bay Area stage manager and lighting designer, who enjoys working at both the Mexican Heritage Plaza and Community Theatre in San Jose. Favorite theatre credits include *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, *The Secret Garden* (Los Altos Stage Company), *Into the Woods* and *Beehive* (Cabrillo Stage).



**Joseph Ramirez ~ Stage Manager**

Joseph is a relatively new addition to the world of backstage theater. He graduated from San Francisco State University with a B.A. in Technical Theater in 2019. Afterwards, he kicked off his career with three different shows before the COVID-19 pandemic and the shutdowns that soon followed. He kept things afloat with an experimental "zoom" theater where the audience would attend shows via zoom. He is very excited to be back at SVCT and to be working on his first Christmas show.



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Director	\$1,000 to \$2,499	\$ _____
Benefactor	\$500 to \$999	\$ _____
Sponsor	\$250 to \$499	\$ _____
Patron	\$150 to \$249	\$ _____
Artist	\$50 to \$149	\$ _____

Membership Purchaser: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) to appear in our program: \_\_\_\_\_

You may also join/renew your membership on-line at [www.SVCT.org](http://www.SVCT.org).

*Please make checks payable to:*

**South Valley Civic Theatre**

P.O. Box 1555

Gilroy, CA 95021

408.842.SHOW

# Special Thanks

South Valley Civic Theatre is a not-for-profit organization run by dedicated volunteers and is funded by ticket sales, memberships, and generous sponsors and advertisers. Their combined contributions of money, talent, and time bring great theater to the South Valley. We thank them all. But mostly, we thank you, our audience!

Michael Horta & Ingrid Rottman, *Producers*

## Thank You

**Morgan Hill Community Center and staff**  
for the use of the Community Playhouse and for their ongoing support.

Life Media Group (**Morgan Hill Life & Gilroy Life**) &  
Metro Newspapers (**Morgan Hill Times & Gilroy Dispatch**) for giving  
our shows special consideration in their publications.

Jason Leong for his graphic designs on posters, flyers, banners, t-shirts,  
projections and all kinds of other last-minute projects!

Palo Alto Players for the loan of the iconic leg lamp .

Gloria Horta for our Special Lobby Experience.

Scott Lynch & Christine McElroy for our show's program.

Peter Mandel, Shachar Shem-Tov, Kris Snook, Bruce Pember and  
Craig Gonzales for jumping in and making sure our set was completed.

Jenn Oliphant and Joyce Bedard for their scenic painting on the set.

Elizabeth Mandel for arranging publicity and great action photos.

Chris Foster for headshots and promo pictures.

Clara and Emily Shem-Tov for painting and set-piece collecting.

Backstage crew led by our Deck Team leader, Dana Scribner .

Ben Snook and Gabriella Horta for running the follow spots.

Kris Snook for operating the light board during shows.

Marianne Snook, our mentor, our friend, who ALWAYS jumps in to  
help with making sure every detail is completed .

Our amazing families, who helped wherever and whenever needed  
with set building and other important tasks.

And special thanks from Allie Bailey, Director

Christy Wright, Andrew Cummings, Chris Kuethe, Emi Komatsu, Phil  
Jacke, Matt Vandercook, Greet Jaspaert, Janice Nimer., Lauren Avjean,  
Gary Landis, Los Altos Stage Company, Coastal Rep, Sam Artho-Bentz,  
Karyn Morton, Emily York, and Lisa Claybaugh.



## *The Tradition of the Legacy Robe*

Each SVCT production awards the “Legacy Robe” to one or several cast members who have made special contributions of time and energy towards the good of the show. It is presented to recipients on opening night at which time they don the robe and bless the stage before the opening curtain. It is the recipient’s charge to affix to the robe a patch that signifies this show. The Legacy Robe is then returned closing night to await another show and to perpetuate its tradition.

The producers of



are pleased to present the Legacy Robe to:

Brody Bourke



Clara Shem-Tov



A photograph of a Pinnacle Bank branch building made of red brick with arched windows and doors. To the left of the building is a tall, ornate clock tower with two clock faces. The sky is blue with some clouds. The image is partially covered by a white diagonal overlay on the left and a blue diagonal overlay on the right.

## Pinnacle Bank proudly supports South Valley Civic Theatre

Pinnacle Bank proudly supports the arts and other non-profit organizations in our community—and we are dedicated to helping local businesses grow and thrive.

We are are pleased to partner with South Valley Civic Theatre and look forward to enjoying another wonderful season!

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