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*Swamp Meadow Community Theatre
proudly presents*



Directed by Artie Robillard and Sandy Arnold



A Note from Swamp Meadow's Executive Director

Our current season, for the most part, represents a return to "tradition."

We opened our season with our Summer Children's Theatre presentation of *Annie, Jr* (in August). We followed this traditional show with traditional Americana, as we presented Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* (in October).

Now, for the holidays, we recreate a traditional show that showcases one family's slightly offbeat traditions in *A Christmas Story*.

We planned to round out our our season with *La Cage aux Folles*, which, we acknowledge, probably did not represent "tradition" for most of us, but we were informed, not too long ago, that we would not be granted the rights to perform the show this spring. As a result, we are in the process of selecting a replacement show: one that should fit with "tradition."

In addition to these shows, we will continue our tradition of hosting a dinner theater: *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, to be held at the Coventry Senior Center, in March, (though in keeping with the concept of "Abridged," this will be a dessert theater, instead of a full dinner theater.) In addition, we begin a new tradition as our newly-formed Teen Troupe works on a special show for which they are in the process of writing the stage adaptation.

We hope that you will join us for all of these shows and events this year, and make us a part of your own tradition.

Dennis Chretien, Executive Director

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A Christmas Story

A Play in Two Acts by
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Based upon the motion picture
A Christmas Story
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Written by
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by Jean Shepard

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CAST



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Shannon
aka
Esther Jane



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**Love always, Dad, Mom,
David III, Devon and
Grammie,
and let's not forget
Kemba, Pumpkin &
Peanut**

From the Director's Chair

Welcome to SMCT'S Holiday Comedy Classic, *A Christmas Story!*

Sandy and I want to thank our cast for their talent, our tech and stage crews for using their magic wizardry to make 1940's Holman, Indiana come alive here in Foster, our countless volunteers, and, god bless them, the parents. As always, you are faithful patrons who continue return even after 11 years sitting on those harder-than-nails benches, we hope our new comfy chairs are putting some ease on the old saddle sores :-)

A Christmas Story is set in an indeterminate year of the 1940s. Ralphie Parker is a nine year-old boy living in the small town of Holman, Indiana. His older self narrates his experiences and thoughts through the short weeks before Christmas. As he, a few friends, and his younger brother Randy look into the display window of Goldblath's department store, Ralphie has his eyes set on the only item he wants for Christmas: an Official Red Ryder Carbine-Action Two-Hundred-Shot Range Model Air Rifle, with a compass in the stock and "this thing which tells time." He sets out to convince the world this would be the perfect gift. But along the way, he runs into opposition from his parents, his teacher, and even good Ol' Santa Claus himself, all telling him "No, you'll shoot your eye out."

So join us as we all cheer on Ralphie and hope that good Ol' Santa Claus has a change of heart granting his Christmas wish, his Official Red Ryder Carbine-Action Two-Hundred-Shot Range Model Air Rifle, with a compass in the stock and "this thing which tells time"!

Artie Robillard

The directing team, cast & crew would like to wish all
A MERRY CHRISTMAS & SAFE NEW YEAR

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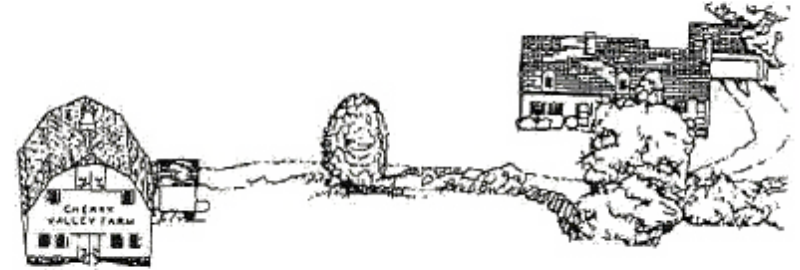
Swamp Meadow Community Theatre Presents

A Christmas Story

Cast of Characters

Ralphie Parker	Anthony Piccolo
Ralph (adult)	Kyle Martin
Mother	Martha Thoman
Old Man	Michael Paolucci
Randy	Alice Lear
Flick	Michael Resnick
Schwartz	Molly Rush
Esther Jane Alberry	Shannon Simoneau
Helen Weathers	Millie Dubois
Miss Shields	Alicia Mancini LeBeau
Scut Farkas	Josh Fidler
Grover Dill	Christopher Gamage
Santa Claus	Jonathon Safford
Black Bart	Steven Resnick
Desperados and Elves	Sue Rush
.....	Katerina Jutras
.....	Rachel Arruda
.....	Ruth Lear
Bumpus Hounds	Michael Resnick
.....	Shannon Simoneau
.....	Millie Dubois
.....	Christopher Gamage
Cab Driver	Sue Rush
Tree Lot Owner	Rob LeBeau
Delivery Man	Steven Resnick
Fireman	Bob Amaraul
Policeman	Doug Gamage
Carolers	Debbie Betchy
.....	Carol Goulet
.....	Rob Fontenault
.....	Melodie Fontenault
.....	Stacy Swift
.....	Lona Robillard
.....	Sharon Safford

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Crew

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 Sandy Arnold
 Assistant Director Carol Goulet
 Tech Director Dennis Chretien
 Stage Manager Rob LeBeau
 Producer Artie Robillard
 Lighting Bob Hollis
 Kaila Rubin
 Sound Jacob Eldred
 Mike Grandy
 Maia Grandy
 Stage Crew Rob Fontenault
 Julia Arnold
 Alicia Mancini LeBeau
 Evelyn Dubois
 Ruth Lear
 Jayne Lear
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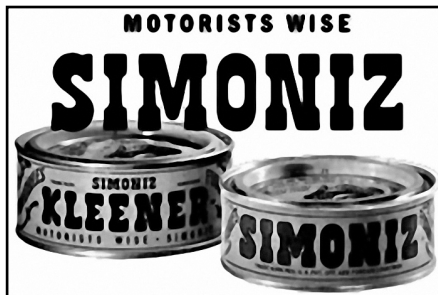
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Congratulations Anthony!

We are so proud of you!

Love, Mimi & Grandpa

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Anthony

Reach for the stars!

We are so proud of you!

Love,

Mom, Dad, and Mia

Break A Leg



Only I didn't say fudge. I said THE word. The big one.
The queen mother of dirty words. The F - - - word.

The Cast



Anthony Piccolo, Ralphie Parker.

Previous SMCT Experience: *The Jungle Book* (Grey Brother), *Willy Wonka* (Charlie's Friend). **Other Experience:** North Scituate Elementary School production of *Suessical Musical* (2009) and *Mary Poppins* (2008), Trinity Rep acting classes and Encore Kids production of *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* (2012), *Alice In Wonderland* and *Glee* production (2012). **Hobbies:** Playing sports, karate, riding bikes,

reading, swimming, playing video games, watching movies, TV and theater. **Personal Statement:** "The only thing we have to fear... is fear itself... and clowns"



Kyle Martin, Ralph (adult).

Previous SMCT Experience: *Footloose* (Ren McCormick); *Get Merry — The Royal Wedding* (Prince Melvin); *The Three Musketeers* (King Louis XIII).



Martha Thoman, Mother.

Previous SMCT Experience: *A Christmas Carol* (Mrs. Cratchit), *It's a Wonderful Life* (Mother Bailey). **Other Experience:** Foster Follies. **Interests:** Mother, biodynamic farmer, homeschool teacher, hiking, house-painting, orchard work.



Michael Paolucci, Old Man.

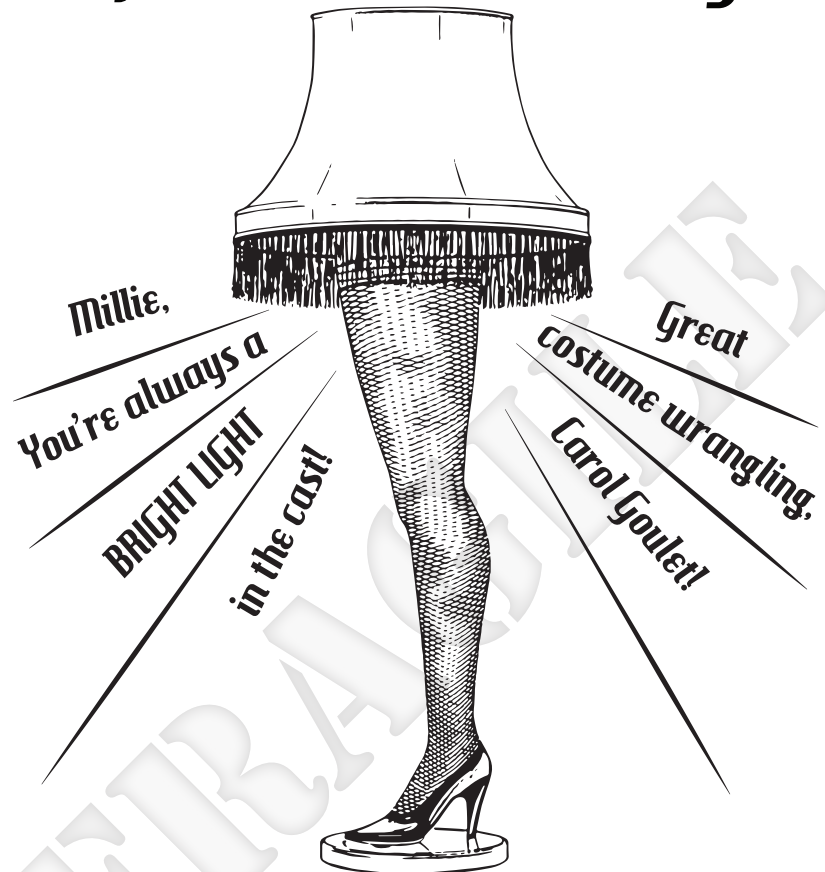
Previous SMCT Experience: *The Wizard of Oz* (Apple Tree), *The Fantasticks* (Bellomy), *Footloose* (Wes Warnicker), *The Canterbury Tales* (Theseus/Tax Man). **Other Experience:** Playing the piano for church, Foster Idol, Foster Follies **Interests:** Soccer, martial arts, watching football **Personal Statement:** Benvenuti al mio tavolo e un bicchiere di vino



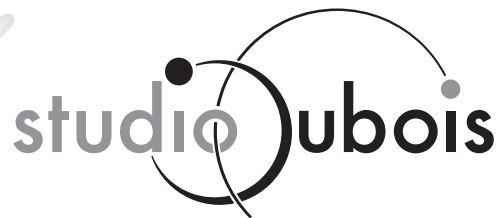
Alice Lear, Randy.

Previous SMCT Experience: Alice has been involved in 7 other Swamp Meadow productions. **Hobbies:** Reading, sewing, bike riding. **Personal Statement:** The wand chooses the wizard.

Congratulations to the cast 'n' crew of *A Christmas Story*



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Christmas*



*Daphne
Steel*

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MOLLY

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Best wishes to the cast!
Merry Christmas and
God bless America!



Michael Resnick, Flick.

Previous SMCT Experience: Michael has been involved in 6 other Swamp Meadow productions, including *Macbeth* (Young Siward); *The Canterbury Tales* (Anger, Farm Animal, Kazoo Player).

Hobbies: Boy Scouts, soccer, baseball, basketball, bowling, swimming, ice skating, and video games.



Molly Rush, Schwartz.

Previous SMCT Experience: Molly has been involved in 5 other Swamp Meadow productions. **Other**

Experience: Wicked Witch in *The Wizard of Oz* with Western Coventry School Drama Club in 2010 and Louis Howe in *Annie Jr.* at Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School in 2014

Hobbies: photography, music, food, and internet. oh yeah, and acting. **Personal Statement:** Would you like to have an adventure now, or would you like to have tea first?



Shannon Simoneau, Esther Jane Alberry.

Previous SMCT Experience: Shannon has been involved in 5 other Swamp Meadow productions, including *It's a Wonderful Life* (Zuzu Bailey). **Other**

Experience: SMCT Youth Group **Hobbies:** Reading, cooking, swimming, acting with SMCT basketball and drawing.



Millie Dubois, Helen Weathers.

Previous SMCT Experience: Millie has been involved in 14 other Swamp Meadow productions.



Alicia Mancini LeBeau, Miss Shields.

Previous SMCT Experience: *The Three Musketeers* (Innkeeper/English Guard/Dragon).



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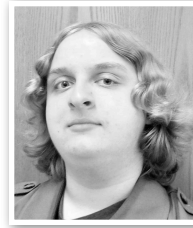
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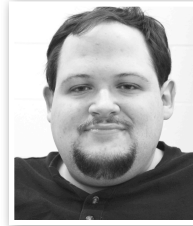
Josh Fidler, Scut Farkas.

Previous SMCT Experience: *The Jungle Book* (Shere Kahn); *Mr. Toad's Mad Adventures* (Chief Weasel); *Willy Wonka* (Augustus Gloop); *The Canterbury Tales* (The Naughty Knight). **Personal Statement:** "If a lot of people love each other, the world would be a better place." ~ Tommy Wiseau, *The Room*



Chris Gamage, Grover Dill.

Previous SMCT Experience: *The Jungle Book* (Wolf Pup, Little Monkey); *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Roman Guard). **Hobbies:** I love Video games, Yu Gi Oh, Pokemon and riding on dad's motorcycle. **Personal Statement:** I like the friends I've made working with Swamp Meadow. Its fun to go to rehearsal. I hope to be able to continue working with them and to learn as I go and eventually move into more complex roles.



Jonathan Safford, Santa Claus.

Previous SMCT Experience: *Dracula* (Abraham Van Helsing); *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Martini); *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Caiaphas). **Other Experience:** Jonathan also performs with Kaleidoscope Theater and the Young Actor's Ensemble. Previous experience includes various roles with CCRI Players and Opera Workshop, RISE on Broadway and Fantasy Works Youth Theater.

Hobbies: He is interested in voice over and character animation work and is a volunteer reader at InSight Radio. He loves singing, listening to music (especially classical and opera) and watching and listening to comedy in any form. He he currently learning to play the ukulele. **Personal Statement:** It was such a joy to be a part of this production. Thanks to my fellow cast, crew and directors for a this wonderful experience.



Steven Resnick, Black Bart/Delivery Man.

Previous SMCT Experience: *The Three Musketeers* (Monsieur Bonacieux, Musketeer); *The Crucible* (Thomas Putnam); *The Canterbury Tales* (Arcite); *Jesus Christ Superstar* (). **Other Experience:** I captured the essence of Lucas de Beaumanoir in *Ivanhoe* and also of Kinesias in a college production of *Lysistrata*. **Hobbies:** Yelling at the television during various sporting events, often in the company

of other like-minded individuals. **Personal Statement:** "...Well, you can do whatever you want to us, but we're not going to sit here and listen to you badmouth the United States of America. Gentlemen!"
-Eric Stratton

Happy Holidays

From Zink Alloy
Steve, Chris, Kevin, & Bob

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The Crew



Artie Robillard, Director.

Previous SMCT Experience: Artie has been involved in 11 other Swamp Meadow productions. **Other Experience:** Artie began acting with SMCT in *Folk Town*. He has gone on to be an assistant director and has directed four plays with Sandy Arnold. He also works with publicity and takes care of set transportation. He is a member at large on the SMCT board and is the building facilitator. **Hobbies:**

Spending time with my family and friends is the most important thing. I enjoy going out to eat and seeing a movie or play with my gang. I'm loving that live music at Chan's! **Personal Statement:** Who knows what evil lies in the hearts of men, the "Shadow" knows!



Sandy Arnold, Director.

Previous SMCT Experience: Sandy has been involved in 29 other Swamp Meadow productions. **Hobbies:** Singing in the church choir, victorian carolers, playing with the grandchildren, going out to lunch with friends and just having fun. **Personal Statement:** If your knees are knocking, kneel on them."



Carol Goulet, Assistant Director.

Previous SMCT Experience: *Get Merry Part II* (Producer), *The Canterbury Tales* (Old Widow). **Other Experience:** *Get Merry Part II* (Costumes), *Alice in Wonderland* (Assistant Producer/Costume Coordinator & Designer), *A Christmas Carol* (Set-building/Victorian Caroler), *Macbeth* (Sets), *Monty Python's Quest for the Holy Grail* (Costume Coordinator), *Dracula* (Costumes), SMCT sign

boards. **Interests:** Rhode Island history, interior design, ephemera, old books, arts & crafts, travel, photography.



Rob LeBeau, Stage Manager/Tree Lot Owner.

Previous SMCT Experience: *The Three Musketeers* (Duke of Buckingham/Charles).

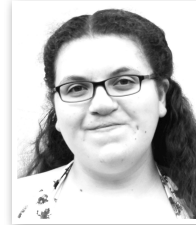


So Artie, it's been a long time coming for you and Sandy to put on this play. It's been how many hours tossing and turning instead of sleeping? How many conversations have we had that turned from something totally unrelated to A Christmas Story? How many hours have you spent on the web looking for yet one more prop? It's been how many hours reading and rereading the script, planning and revising plans? You have been consumed and now it is time for you to sit back and be a very proud PAPA! The play is born, ENJOY EVERY MOMENT! Love, Lona



Sue Rush, Desperado/Elf.

Previous SMCT Experience: *It's a Wonderful Life* (Mr. Gower). **Personal Statement:** Whatever you want to do, do it now. There are only so many tomorrows.



Katerina Jutras, Desperado/Elf.

Previous SMCT Experience: *Annie Jr* (Mrs. Greer/Chorus).



Ruth Lear, Desperado/Elf.

Previous SMCT Experience: Ruth has been involved in 16 other Swamp Meadow productions.

Other Experience: Swamp Meadow Youth Group, script writing, you tube videos. **Hobbies:** Drawing, painting, cooking, reading, breathing, being a geek, acting, acting, and - one more thing - acting.

Personal Statement: "...because nerds like us are allowed to be unironically enthusiastic about stuff...

Nerds are allowed to love stuff, like jump-up-and-down-in-the-chair-can't-control-yourself love it. Hank, when people call people nerds, mostly what they're saying is 'you like stuff.' Which is just not a good insult at all. Like, 'you are too enthusiastic about the miracle of human consciousness'."— John Green



Doug Gamage, Policeman.

Previous SMCT Experience: *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Roman Guard). **Other Experience:** Set work for Coventry Drama productions: *HAIR*, *Dracula*, and *RENT*. **Hobbies:** Hanging out with my lovely daughter and son, listening to music, watching movies, building things.

Bob Amaraul, Fireman.

This is Bob's first time with SMCT.



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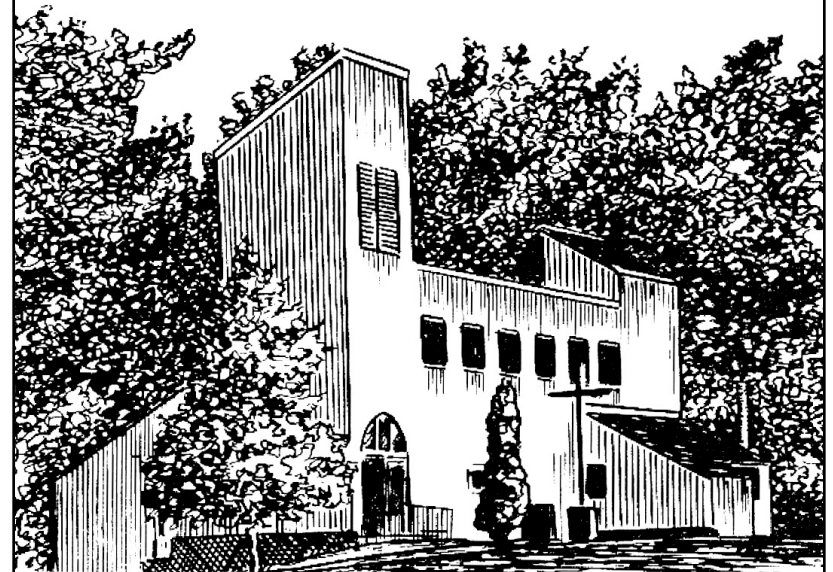
Rob Fontenault

Debbie Betchy

Stacey Swift

Sharon Safford

*Congratulations to the cast and crew,
especially granddaughter Millie!*



From Carol & Steve Goulet