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PRESENTS

Season
EIGHT
2023 - 2024

**THE BEST
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PAGEANT EVER**

BY BARBARA ROBINSON

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SPECIFIC DATES

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7:00 PM

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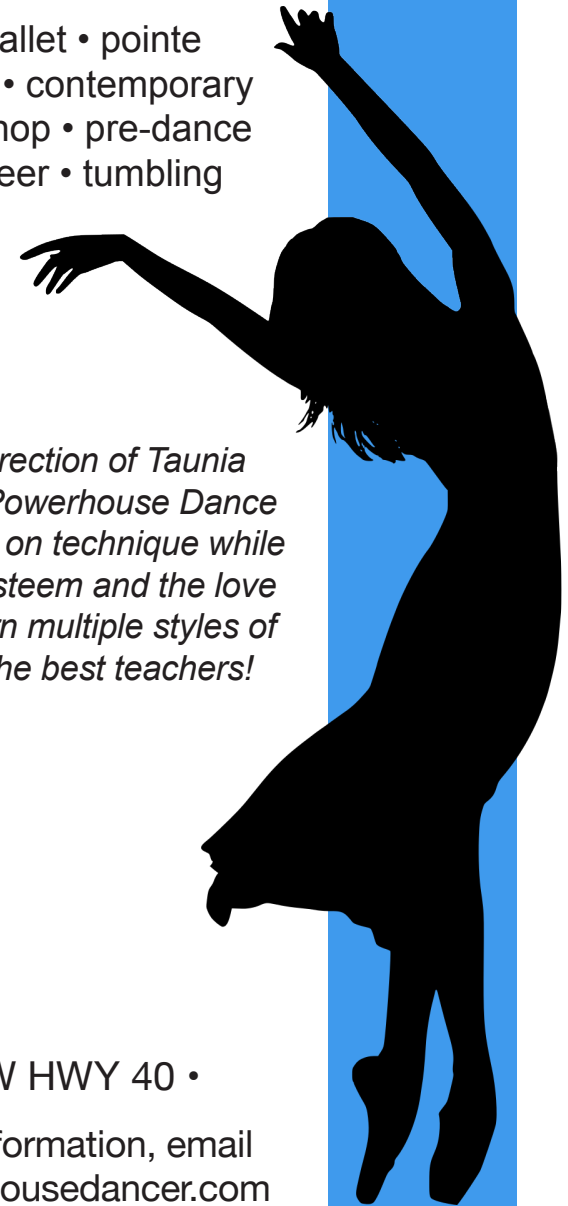
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VERNAL THEATRE: LIVE PROUDLY PRESENTS

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- Doors open 30 minutes prior to each performance.
- All seats are reserved – you must be seated prior to the performance.
- Late-comers will be seated at the house management's discretion.
- Vernal Theatre: LIVE! accepts no responsibility for inconvenience to late-comers.
- Vernal Theatre: LIVE! is not responsible for missed performances by Season ticket holders. Please reserve your tickets in a timely manner.
- No cell phones, pagers with alarms or any other electronic devices.
- No photography, video or audio recording.
- No outside food or drink.
- Restrooms are located at the front of the theatre in the lobby.

ADMISSION INFORMATION

- Purchase tickets online at vernaltheatre.com/tickets
- Ticket prices include a \$1 processing fee per ticket when purchased at the box office.
- The box office opens 30 minutes prior to show start time.
- Fire codes require that each patron, including children, have a ticket
- Lap-seating is prohibited.
- For sponsorship and advertising opportunities contact Nashelle Jackson at 435.219.2987 or vernaltheatre@gmail.com

HOUSE RULES/THEATRE ETIQUETTE

- NO CAMERAS OR RECORDING DEVICES OF ANY KIND ARE ALLOWED WHILE THE SHOW IS IN PROGRESS.
- It is against copyright laws to take photographs or video or audio recording of any kind during the performance.
- You are welcome to take photographs in the lobby and with the actors after the show.
- Turn off and put away all electronic devices prior to entering the theatre.
- Arrive at least ten minutes before curtain time.
- In consideration of patrons already seated in the theatre, reserved seating will be held until curtain, after which alternative seating will be used.
- When traveling to performances, please allow ample time for traffic delays, road construction and parking.
- In live theatre, the actors can SEE AND HEAR the audience. Please be respectful of the actors by not whispering or talking during the performance.
- As a courtesy to other audience members, please ensure that children at performances are not disruptive during the show.
- Please adhere to guidelines about age-appropriateness online.
- Concessions are available in the lobby during intermission.
- Do not place your feet on the chair in front of you or on the stage.
- Applause is appreciated.
- During curtain call do not rush to the exits. Remain in your seat until the performance has completely ended and the house lights have been turned on.
- Smoking – including vaping or the use of e-cigarettes – is prohibited in or within 100 feet of the Vernal Theatre.



THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER

by Barbara Robinson

“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” is presented
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CAST LIST

FATHER BOB BRADLEYTC George
MOTHER GRACE BRADLEY.....Claire Owens
BETH Ashlynn Nielson
CHARLIEBradley Stoddard
RALPH.....Deacon Richens
IMOGENEAudrey Young
LENORERozlynn Mitchell
CLAUDE Haiden Gaskill
OLLIE..... August Gaskill
GLADYSRuby Owens
ALICE WENDLEKEN Grace Gale
MRS. ARMSTRONG..... Heather Bascom
MRS. SLOCUM Kristin Stoddard
MRS. CLARK..... Kristin Meanea
MRS. CLAUSING Trisha Sorenson
MRS. MCCARTHY..... Megan Pearson
MAXINEKatelyn Sorenson
HOBIE..... Sean Allred
DAISY RyLeigh Slaugh
BEVERLY Zoey Brokaw
SHIRLEY..... Savannah Raymond
JUANITA Cora Stoddard
REVEREND HOPKINS..... Daniel Jackson
ELMER HOPKINS..... Bronson Merrill
FIREMAN/PARENT Derek Meanea
FIREMAN/PARENTCayden Bristol
CHOIR/PARENT Alicia Allred

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Snow flakes



What happens if you tell too many Santa jokes?
Yule laugh



What's an elf's favorite kind of music?
Wrap music

What do gingerbread men put on their beds?
A cookie sheet

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Kim Weitkamp

Kim Weitkamp grew up in Amish Country as the middle child of exhausted parents. Labeled by teachers as high-spirited, uncooperative and too talkative, Kim took those comments and channeled them into a lifetime of high-energy, heartfelt and hilarious artistry. We are better for it. "Story is at the foundation of all I do. Whether I am making an audience laugh, writing a new song or presenting a keynote, story is the springboard for each and every step I take.

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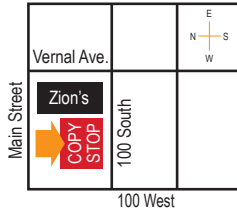
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CAST BIOS



TC GEORGE *Father Bob Bradley*

"Although most of my family will say I am a "humbug" I do love Christmas and I have loved working with this amazing cast! May you feel the love and warmth of the Christmas season as you watch our show tonight. Thank you to my family who loves and supports my crazy theater life!"



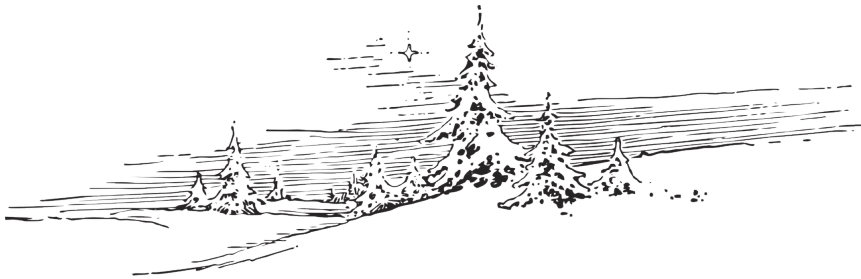
TRISHA SORENSON *Mrs. Clausing*

Trisha is happy to be on the stage with her daughter Katelyn. She hopes that you all laugh and maybe even shed a tear as you let the story touch your hearts.



ZOEY BROKAW *Beverly*

Zoey Brokaw is a middle school student who does choir, dance, and theater. She has been in four productions. She loves pink and all things colorful.



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Brenda Butler	Heather Hoyt	Leann George	Sylvia Jenkins
Cheryl Birchell	Jamie Hume	Leonardo Gallardo	Thomas Schlosser
Chip Goodrich	Janalee Collett	Liz Major	Vernie Heeny
Dan Hatch	Jessica Coen	Lyndsay Brown	Thank you!

CAST BIOS



MEGAN PEARSON *Mrs. McCarthy*

Last seen on the Vernal Theatre: LIVE stage as “Cinderella” in Rodgers and Hammerstein’s *Cinderella*, Megan is ecstatic to trade in her glass slippers for Christmas sweaters. Megan is excited to combine her love for theatre and for Christmas and be a part of this wonderful story. She hopes you enjoy the performance and have a wonderful holiday season!



ROZLYNN MITCHELL *Lenore*

“I will be 11 years old on Christmas Day. I have been a part of TaVac since I was four years old. This is my fourth play with Vernal Theatre: LIVE. I love performing and I love all the awesome people I get to work with. I have learned so much from everyone. I am also involved in tumbling gymnastics, jazz dance, voice lessons, and soccer. I hope you have fun at tonight’s performance.”



RUBY OWENS *Gladys*

Ruby is so excited to be making her theatre debut at Vernal Theatre: LIVE, especially with *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!* She has been waiting for years to be old enough to try out for a show and has been dying as older siblings have been able to be on stage. She is so excited to be able to play the very devious “Gladys Herdman” who does all of the naughty things that she does not do in real life.



RYLEIGH SLAUGH *Daisy*

“I am thrilled to be a part of this beautiful production. I love Christmas, the music and most importantly the meaning of the season. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a wonderful New Year.”



SAVANNAH RAYMOND *Shirley*

Savannah Story Raymond “Baby Angel Shirley” is the baby of her family and has always been as sweet and gentle as an angel. Savannah loves to play piano and read. She also sings in her school choir. Savannah is so excited to be in her first play and have her debut at Vernal Theatre: LIVE.



SEAN ALLRED *Hobie*

Meet Sean Allred, a 7-year-old dynamo making his debut on the stage! With a heart as big as his love for soccer, he’s swapping cleats for character shoes. This spirited young actor is ready to shine, bringing infectious joy to his first play. Watch as he scores not only goals but also applause in this exciting new chapter, proving that whether on the field or the stage, Sean is a true star!

CAST BIOS



GRACE GALE *Alice Wendleken*

After having performed in Junior shows for the past two summers, Grace is so excited to play “Alice” in her first “grown up” show. Grace is so grateful for the amazing friends and memories she has made. She loved doing this show and hopes to do many more productions at Vernal Theatre: LIVE.



HAIDEN GASKILL *Claude*

Haiden loves theatre! This is his third show with Vernal Theatre: LIVE, most recently playing “R.F. Simpson” in *Singing in the Rain Jr.* He does all the classes he can with Vernal Theatre: LIVE. He also participates in TaVac. When he isn’t doing shows, he loves riding his bike, going on hikes, learning the guitar and helping his grandpa work on his property driving the skid steer.



HEATHER BASCOM *Mrs. Armstrong*

Heather is absolutely thrilled to be part of Vernal Theatre: LIVE’s production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!* May we each endeavor to take the time during this holiday season to reflect on the true meaning of the season and allow ourselves to feel the Christmas Spirit! “Love and kindness truly does conquer all! Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas! Enjoy the show!”



KATELYN SORENSON *Maxine*

Kate loves to sing and dance. What she loves most is theatre and being in shows. This is her first play, and although she loves being in musicals, she is loving the opportunity to try something new. She hopes that the spirit of the season and the message that everyone is important comes across for those in the audience.



KRISTIN MEANEA *Mrs. Clark*

Kristin is so excited to be a part of this show. This book was one of her favorites when she was growing up and has read it many times. Christmas is a magical time and this play is a great way to bring that magic to life. She would like to thank her family for their love and support. “Merry Christmas!”



KRISTIN STODDARD *Mrs. Slocum*

Kristin is making her acting debut in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Having five kids herself makes life with the Herdmans seem a little relatable. She spends her time feeding many small mouths, taxiing kids to activities, coaching soccer, finding missing socks, and slipping on stray legos. When she finds a minute for herself her nose can usually be found between the pages of a book.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director..... Karen Laub
 Advising Director David Gale
 Stage Manager..... McKenzie Johnstun
 Assistant Stage Manager Riley Laub
 Costumes Myndee Hanberg, Tammy Spaulding
 Props McKenna Christiansen, Lacy Bartholomeusz
 Sound Technician Isaac Merrick
 Light Technician..... Myleia Averett
 Set Construction Daniel Jackson, Justin Allred,
 TC George, Brian Nielson, Ashlynn Nielson
 Set Painting Megan Pearson, Nashelle Jackson
 Headshots Joie Madison
 Poster Design Katie Flaniken
 Playbill Layout Andrea Wardle



Director's Note _____

I first heard *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* as a child when my mother read it to us. It has been a favorite I have shared with my own family. I read this story every year. When the chance came for me to direct this magical play, I was thrilled. This journey has been full of wonderful surprises; from my production team to the cast... I have reveled in the blessings that continually make me smile and fill me with joy. Our cast and crew have given their best! This experience has been pure joy and the best way to spend this Christmas season. My thanks to the theatre and our community for this opportunity.

Karen Laub

CAST BIOS



ALICIA ALLRED *Choir/Parent*

Meet Alicia Allred, a seasoned theater enthusiast with years of stage magic under her belt. In her latest adventure, she's thrilled to share the stage with her stepson Sean, creating memories beyond the script. Her passion for acting is only rivaled by her love for family. Enjoy as they blend their talents in this heartwarming play, proving that the best performances are not only on stage but also in the bonds of a blended theatrical family.



ASHLYNN NIELSON *Beth*

Ashlynn Nielson is a middle schooler who, whether on stage or in our home, loves to put on a show. She is always singing, playing her guitar, and making iMovies. Ashlynn loves participating with Vernal Theatre: LIVE! Her favorite part about these productions is the friends she makes along the way. Ash wants to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas, especially Jeff!



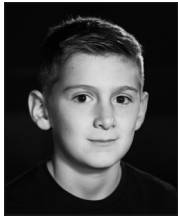
AUDREY YOUNG *Imogene*

Audrey is a 5th grader at Naples Elementary. This is her second play of the year at Vernal Theatre: LIVE and she has loved every minute of her time on stage and meeting new friends. Audrey loves to sing and serve others. Riding the unicycle and playing ukulele are a couple of her many talents. She is the daughter of John and Amber Young.



AUGUST GASKILL *Ollie*

August loves theatre! This is his second show with Vernal Theatre: LIVE. He most recently appeared in *Singing in the Rain Jr.* When he isn't doing shows, he loves taking classes at Vernal Theatre: LIVE, science, riding his bike, playing video games, going on hikes, learning the guitar and archery.



BRADLEY STODDARD *Charlie*

Bradley has been involved with two junior plays at Vernal Theatre: LIVE. and quickly discovered his love for acting. He is in fifth grade at Naples Elementary. He plays soccer and is learning taekwondo. His favorite pastime is seeing which of his sisters he can get to scream the loudest at his pestering and shenanigans.



BRONSON MERRILL *Elmer Hopkins*

Bronson is appearing in his sixth production at Vernal Theatre: LIVE. This will be his first that is not a junior show. This summer he played his biggest role as "Cosmo Brown" in *Singing in the Rain Jr.* He also played "Earthworm" in *James and the Giant Peach Jr.* These have been some of his favorite shows and characters. He will be in his first year of high school next year and is excited to start theater classes.

CAST BIOS



CAYDEN BRISTOL *Fireman/Parent*

Cayden is a 16 year old inexperienced actor. He is currently learning German. He enjoys studying a wide variety of subjects including linguistics, history, etymology, and theology. He also enjoys acting, reading, playing video games, and hanging out with friends. Next school year, he hopes to live in Germany on an exchange scholarship program. He loves doing shows with Vernal Theatre: LIVE, and hopes to do more in the future.



CLAIRE OWENS *Mother Grace Bradley*

Claire is so happy to be back on stage. She has loved the book *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* and remembers checking the VHS out from the library as a little girl. It has been an honor to be able to "mother" all of these kids, but it has been a treasure to be on stage with her daughter Ruby.



CORA STODDARD *Juanita*

Cora has watched her dad and siblings do plays and patiently waited to be of age and get her turn. Cora was born in Iowa but is happy to be in Utah now, close to grandparents and cousins. She attends Discovery elementary school where she is learning to speak Spanish. We all know that April showers bring May flowers, but have you ever wondered what May flowers bring? See her after the show for the answer!



DANIEL JACKSON *Reverend Hopkins*

"Merry Christmas to you and yours! This year I am grateful for freeze dance, red light-green light, and ring toss on folding chairs. I "serve for health" at the TriCounty Health Department most days, play pickleball early mornings and teach Sunday School on the weekends. 23, All my Love to N&H."



DEACON RICHENS *Ralph*

Deacon may look big and tough on the outside, but don't let his appearance fool you. On the inside he's a kind-hearted, fun-loving, eager-to-please young man. He loves to read! Especially *Percy Jackson* and *Harry Potter*. He loves them so much, his mother had to hide them all to get him to branch out and explore new fictional adventures. He's very excited to continue to grow in the theatre world.



DEREK MEANEA *Fireman/Parent*

Here we observe Derek in his natural habitat, making a fool of himself in front of hundreds of people. He hopes you enjoy the show! Oh and if it's your birthday today, Happy Birthday.