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A Christmas Story
The Musical

The image features a green background with a repeating floral pattern. In the center, a lamp with a yellow shade and a black lace trim sits on a small round table. A man with glasses and a blue plaid jacket is peeking from the right side. A wooden crate is visible in the bottom left corner.

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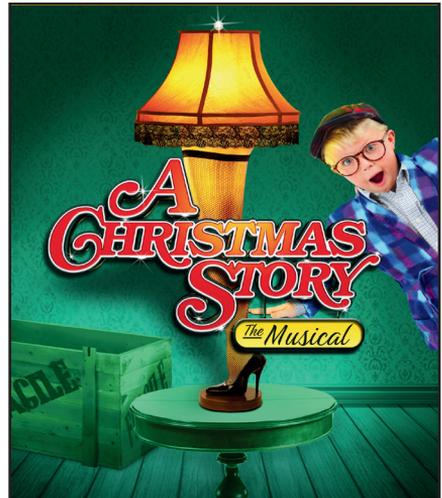
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FOUNDED 1808

AMERICA'S OLDEST THEATRE – PHILADELPHIA'S MOST POPULAR THEATRE COMPANY

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Dear Walnut Theatregoer,

Welcome back to the Walnut for **A CHRISTMAS STORY The Musical**. Our talented artists have poured endless energy and care into bringing this story to our stage.

As the holiday season approaches, the stage is coming alive with the warmth and charm of a nostalgic journey the entire family is sure to enjoy. Follow young Ralphie Parker in his quest for the perfect Christmas gift as he navigates obstacles like a cranky department store Santa and mischievous dogs stealing turkey. Based on the classic movie, this musical captures the timeless magic of the holidays.

Winter turns to mystery and adventure with the world premiere of **SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE GREAT DETECTIVE**. Filled with suspense, intrigue, and the legendary brilliance of Holmes and Watson, this new theatrical journey awaits fans of classic storytelling and clever crime-solving.

This spring, I'm excited to bring you **Edward Albee's A DELICATE BALANCE**. This masterwork of American drama explores the boundaries of comfort, trust, and the unspoken tensions that reside within us all.

Closing our season with spirit and song is the bold and stirring **1776 The Musical**. This gripping retelling of America's fight for independence through powerful music and riveting history is our gift to you and to Philadelphia.

In addition to our unforgettable Mainstage Season, we are delighted to open our doors for the Theatre School at Walnut Street Theatre, welcoming students of all ages to explore their passion for performance in our spring semester classes.

We are also thrilled to continue our Walnut Street Theatre for Kids series, bringing back a cherished holiday tradition with **Charles Dickens' A CHRISTMAS CAROL**, and soaring into spring with the rousing, high-energy musical **Disney's NEWSIES JR.**

We're so glad you are here to celebrate the holiday season with us, and we look forward to welcoming you back again soon!

Sincerely,

Bernard Havard,
President and Producing Artistic Director



Photo: Mark Garvin

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WALNUT STREET THEATRE

825 WALNUT STREET • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107

BERNARD HAVARD

President and Producing Artistic Director

November 18, 2025 — January 4, 2026

A CHRISTMAS STORY The Musical

Book by
JOSEPH ROBINETTE

Music and Lyrics by
BENJ PASEK and JUSTIN PAUL

Based on 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.

Set Design
JOHN FARRELL

Costume Design
MARY FOLINO

Lighting Design
MATT DEMASCOLO

Sound Design
ED CHAPMAN

Animals by
WILLIAM BERLONI

Wig and Makeup Design
DESTINEE STEELE

Director of
Production
SIOBHÁN RUANE

Stage Managers
MICHELE BEGLEY
SOPHIA DEVEREUX
JENNIFER GALLO

Associate
Artistic Director
BRIAN KURTAS

Music and Vocal Direction by
CHRIS BURCHERI

Directed and Choreographed by
RICHARD STAFFORD

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CAST

(in order of appearance)

Jean Shepherd	BILL VAN HORN* (through 12/21), SCOTT LANGDON* (from 12/22)
Ralphie Parker	TYLER JAI KNOWLES†, RAPHAEL SOMMER‡
Mother	ELYSE LANGLEY*
Randy Parker	KIERAN GALLAGHER†, OLIVER WONG‡
The Old Man	FRAN PRISCO*
The Bumpus Hounds	GUS, JETHRO
Schwartz	OWEN AHLMER†, ALEX LIAS‡
Flick	ELLIS TARGOFF†, TRISTAN MONAGHAN‡
Esther Jane	LYDIA JONES†, OONA COOPER-THIEMANN‡
Mary Beth	EMMA CAROTO†, LILA MALEY‡
Scout Farkus	MJ WERMUTH†, BRIAN MANNING‡
Grover Dill	TREY JOHNSON†, BEN HOSBACH‡
Nancy	JULIA-MERCEDES HEUMAN†, SCARLET PRESLEY‡
Mrs. Schwartz	LAURA KATE MARSHALL*
Miss Shields	ELLIE MOONEY*
Fantasy Villain	WILL STEPHAN CONNELL*
Bank Robbers	RYAN KLEINMAN*, SCOTT LANGDON*
Santa Claus	SCOTT LANGDON*
Chief Elves	WILL STEPHAN CONNELL*, TIARA J. GREENE*
Waiter	KEVIN KULP*

ENSEMBLE

SARA BROPHY*, WILL STEPHAN CONNELL*, JOSEPH CULLINANE*,
MARK DONALDSON*, TIARA J. GREENE*, BONNIE KELLY*, RYAN KLEINMAN*,
KEVIN KULP*, SCOTT LANGDON*, LAURA KATE MARSHALL*, KIMBERLY MAXSON*,
EDDIE OLMO II*, REBECCA ROBBINS*, KERRI ROSE*, DOMINICK SANNELLI*,
ROCHELLE SCUDDER*, AUDREY BIEHL SIMMONS*, DEVON SINCLAIR*

CHILDREN'S ENSEMBLE

† Weekday Team

(Performs all shows Tues. – Fri., except Fri. performances 12/5, 12/12, 12/19 and 1/2)

OWEN AHLMER, EMMA CAROTO, JULIA-MERCEDES HEUMAN,
TREY JOHNSON, LYDIA JONES, ELLIS TARGOFF, MJ WERMUTH

‡ Weekend Team

(Performs all shows Saturday and Sunday, plus Fri. performances 12/5, 12/12, 12/19 and 1/2)

OONA COOPER-THIEMANN, BEN HOSBACH, ALEX LIAS, LILA MALEY,
BRIAN MANNING, TRISTAN MONAGHAN, SCARLET PRESLEY

UNDERSTUDIES

OWEN AHLMER (2nd Cover Ralphie Parker), JAMES ALOYSIUS (Ensemble),
MORGAN BAILEY (Ensemble), MELANIE BECKER (Ensemble), ANDY BOETTCHER
(Ensemble), RAVEN BURCKHALTER (Ensemble), MEGAN COLOMBO (Mother),
SHAUN GRACE (Ensemble), RAYMOND INGRAM (Ensemble), ANEESH KANTHAN
(Ensemble), SCOTT LANGDON* (Jean Shepherd), CODY LEWANDOWSKI (Ensemble),
GRACE MCKENNA (Ensemble), TRISTAN MONAGHAN (2nd Cover Randy Parker),
WILLIAM PEARCE (The Old Man), TAYLOR RESSLER (Ensemble),
SCOUT SANTORO (Ensemble), SAMANTHA LEAH SMITH (Ensemble),
KRISTINA VESTA (Ensemble), MARISSA WOLNER (Miss Shields)

ASSOCIATE CHOREOGRAPHER/DANCE CAPTAIN: JOSEPH CULLINANE

*The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the theatre union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. Sophia Devereux and Dominick Sannelli appearing as Equity Professional Theatre Interns.

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

A CHRISTMAS STORY The Musical

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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

“It All Comes Down to Christmas (Part 1)”	Ralphie, The Parkers
“It All Comes Down to Christmas (Part 2)”	The Parkers, Kids, Ensemble, Townspeople
“Higbee’s Window”	Ralphie, Kids, Ensemble
“Red Ryder Carbine-Action BB Gun”	Ralphie, Jean
“It All Comes Down to Christmas (Reprise)”	Ralphie, Ensemble, Townspeople, Kids, Mother
“The Genius on Cleveland Street”	The Old Man, Mother
“An Opening!”	Ensemble, Ralphie
“When You’re a Wimp”	Ralphie, Randy, Schwartz, Flick, Esther Jane, Mary Beth, Farkus, Dill, Nancy, Kids
“Ralphie to the Rescue!”	Ralphie, Miss Shields, The Old Man, Mother, Randy, Ensemble
“After Ralphie to the Rescue!”	Ralphie
“What a Mother Does”	Mother
“A Major Award”	The Old Man, Mother, Townspeople, Kids
“Parker Family Sing-along”	The Parkers
“Act One Finale”	Ralphie, Townspeople, The Old Man, Mother, Randy

THERE WILL BE ONE 20-MINUTE INTERMISSION.

ACT II

“Sticky Situation”	Ralphie, Kids (Girls), Schwartz, Flick, Policeman, Doctor, Fireman, Flick’s Mom, Nurse
“To the Nightclub”	Farkus, Dill, Kids
“You’ll Shoot Your Eye Out!”	Farkus, Dill, Schwartz, Flick, Kids, Miss Shields
“The Fight”	Kids
“Just Like That”	Mother
“Red Ryder (Reprise) & At Higbee’s”	Ralphie, Elves
“Up on Santa’s Lap”	Santa, Elves, Ralphie, Randy, Kids
“Before The Old Man Comes Home”	The Parkers
“Somewhere Hovering Over Indiana”	Ralphie, Randy, Kids
“Christmas Morning”	Ralphie
“Ralphie to the Rescue! (Reprise)”	Ralphie, Ensemble
“A Christmas Story”	The Parkers, Full Company

ORCHESTRA

Keyboard 2/Conductor: CHRIS BURCHERI
Keyboard 1/Rehearsal Pianist/Associate Conductor: DANIEL ESPIE
Reed 1: FRANK MAZZEO
Reed 2: BOB QUAILE
Reed 3: JOHN WELTE
Trumpet 1: JIM WARD
Trumpet 2: JOE SCANNELLA
Trombone 1: BOB GALE
Trombone 2: MATTHEW GOULD
Bass: DAVID WEISS
Drums/Percussion: KEVIN BLANKE

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CAST



Owen
Ahlmer



Sara
Brophy



Emma
Caroto



Will Stephan
Connell



Oona Cooper-
Thiemann



Joseph
Cullinan



Mark
Donaldson



Kieran
Gallagher



Tiara J.
Greene



Julia-Mercedes
Heuman



Ben
Hosbach



Trey
Johnson



Lydia
Jones



Bonnie
Kelly



Ryan
Kleinman



Tyler Jai
Knowles



Kevin
Kulp



Scott
Langdon



Elyse
Langley



Alex
Lias



Lila
Maley



Brian
Manning



Laura Kate
Marshall



Kimberly
Maxson



Tristan
Monaghan



Ellie
Mooney



Eddie
Olmo II



Scarlet
Presley



Fran
Prisco



Rebecca
Robbins



Kerri
Rose



Dominick
Sannelli



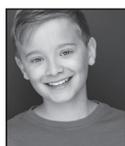
Rochelle
Scudder



Audrey Biehl
Simmons



Devon
Sinclair



Raphael
Sommer



Ellis
Targoff



Bill
Van Horn



MJ
Wermuth



Oliver
Wong



Gus



Jethro

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

OWEN AHLMER (*Schwartz*) WST debut! PALCS/CPFA/USP. Credits: *Tiny Tim in A Christmas Carol* (People's Light); *Little Boy in Ragtime* (Candlelight). Thanks: Madelyn, Avery, Mom, Dad, Lisa Willson, TTL!

SARA BROPHY (*Ensemble*) hails from upstate NY and came to Philly by way of UArts. A veteran of theater, commercials, television, and film, she's always most thrilled to be at the Walnut, where she was last seen in *Elf The Broadway Musical* (Matthews). Find her on IG @SaraBeesKnees. Most importantly, enjoy the show!

EMMA CAROTO (*Ensemble*) WST debut! Favorite credits: *Grease Jr.*; *The Little Mermaid Jr.*; Emma loves baking, drawing and watching the Phillies. Thanks to Miss Monica, Miss Cindy, her family, especially big brother Joey and everyone at WST! @emmacarototheater

WILL STEPHAN CONNELL (*Ensemble*) is so happy to return to the Walnut after appearing as Frankie Valli in *Jersey Boys*! WST: *Jersey Boys*; *Saturday Night Fever*; *High Society*. Regional: *Whizzer, Falsettos* (Arden Theatre Company); *Jinx*, *Forever Plaid* (Fulton Theatre); *Nachum, Fiddler on the Roof* (Paper Mill Playhouse). Thank you to the team for a wonderful time! @awillandaway

OONA COOPER-THIEMANN (*Ensemble*) makes her WST debut but started her theater journey here at age five. Credits: *Finding Nemo Jr.* (NCT) and countless performances with WolfPAC and PPAC.

JOSEPH CULLINANE (*Ensemble/Associate Choreographer/Dance Captain*) happily returns to Walnut Street Theatre. Off-Broadway: York Theatre, New World Stages, Theatre Row, New York City Opera. Tours: *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*; *Hello Dolly!* (with Sally Struthers). Regional: Paper Mill Playhouse, North Carolina Theatre, TUTS, Riverside Theatre. Faculty: Joffrey Ballet. Namaste to Richard, everyone at WST and Corey. For Trixie.

MARK DONALDSON (*Ensemble*) WST credits: *Shrek The Musical*; *Rocky, the Musical*; Disney's *The Little Mermaid*; Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical*. National Tours: *Fiddler on the Roof* starring Harvey Fierstein and *Cats* as Mungojerrie. Regional: Broadway at Music Circus, Tuacahn, Maltz-Jupiter, Riverside, Fulton, Maine State, Flat Rock, North Shore, TUTS, and Arvada. Thank you to Richard and the whole Walnut team. Love to Mom and Dad! IG: @markyd1982

KIERAN GALLAGHER (*Randy Parker*) WST debut! Boy Scooge in *A Christmas Carol*; Cat in the Hat in *Seussical Jr.* (Music Theater Philly).

Thank You Mom, Dad, Rory, Conor, and Grandparents!

TIARA J. GREENE (*Ensemble*) Regional: *Elf The Broadway Musical*; *Elvis: A Musical Revolution* (Walnut Street Theatre); *Once on this Island*; *Into the Woods* (Arden Theatre Company); *Stompin' at the Savoy* (Delaware Theatre Company); *Bandstand* (Playhouse on Park); *The Wild Party* (Eagle Theatre); *Bonnie and Clyde* (11th Hour Theatre Company). Thanks to God! Thanks to family and friends for their continued support! @tiara.j.greene

JULIA-MERCEDES HEUMAN (*Ensemble*) is thrilled to return to WST after performing in *Elf The Broadway Musical*. She thanks her parents and WST for their support and amazing opportunity.

BEN HOSBACH (*Grover Dill*) is excited to be back at WST! Love to his family for supporting his passion. He triple dog dares you to enjoy this amazing show!

TREY JOHNSON (*Grover Dill*) thrilled to make his WST debut! Favorite roles: Beetlejuice, Chip, and Willy Wonka. Love and thanks to my family and friends for supporting my dreams!

LYDIA JONES (*Ensemble*) just wrapped *Gypsy*; *Elf The Musical Jr.*; *Annie*; *Sound of Music*. She brings big energy and nonstop sparkles to *A Christmas Story The Musical*!

BONNIE KELLY (*Ensemble*) *A Christmas Story* (2015) was her first WST credit and she's honored to be here 10 years and 13 shows later! Love to the Walnut Team and friends who've become family. For the old man, my sweet mom and sister—Christmas, just us four. @bondooz @thegrievinggirlpodcast

RYAN KLEINMAN (*Ensemble*) Dear Santa, thanks for last year's presents: my wigs in *Beautiful – The Carole King Musical* and *Jersey Boys* (both WST). This year I would like new knees, an effortless B-flat, and truly leakproof diapers. P.S. Please don't wake up my four-month-old when you come in. @showtunesleepies

TYLER JAI KNOWLES (*Ralphie Parker*) was last seen in WST's *Elf The Broadway Musical*, and is elated to be back! Grateful to Walnut for believing in me. Love to Mom, Dad, Patrick, Oliver.

KEVIN KULP (*Ensemble*) is back for his seventh WST production. National Tours: *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Flounder); *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*; *A Christmas Story*. Regional: Signature, Marriott, Drury Lane, Fulton, Olney, La Mirada. As Head of Social Media for Table 7, he's worked on Broadway with *Boop!* and is co-producer on *Rob Lake Magic with The Muppets*.

SCOTT LANGDON (*Ensemble*); *Jean Shepherd* from 12/22) Grateful to return! WST favorites:

WHO'S WHO

Rocky, The Musical (Eye of the Tiger); *The Music Man* (Charlie Cowell); *Love Story, The Musical* (Ackerman). Regional favorites: *Man of La Mancha* (Quixote - Barrymore nom.); *The Crucible* (John Proctor); *Grand Hotel* (Otto Kringlein). Love to his wife Sarah, Mikaela, Connor, and Dylan.

ELYSE LANGLEY (*Mother*) Walnut Debut! Walnut Street Theatre School Alum, Rider University (BM Musical Theatre), and The William Esper Acting School NYC. Regional: Irene Malloy (*Hello, Dolly!*), Abigail Adams (*1776*), Kate (*Kiss Me, Kate*), Cindy Lou (*Marvelous Wonderettes*). Big thanks to Brian Kurtas! All my love always to James and Lydia! www.elyselangley.com @elysejoanna

ALEX LIAS (*Schwartz*) is thrilled to make his WST debut! Favorite roles include Disney's *Finding Nemo Jr.* (Tiller) and Disney's *Frozen Jr.* (Pabbie) with WolfPAC. Love to my family!

LILA MALEY (*Ensemble*) is thrilled to make her Walnut Street Theatre debut! Credits include: TV: *Etoile* (Amazon Prime), Film: *Strawberry Week* (Ella); Theatre: *Annie* (Annie). Love to family.

BRIAN MANNING (*Scut Farkus*) is honored to be in WST's *A Christmas Story The Musical!* Credits: *Les/Newsies* (PCS), *LeFou/Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (CCC). Love & Thanks: Mom, Dad, Rosie, Family, Friends.

LAURA KATE MARSHALL (*Ensemble/Mrs. Schwartz*) is over the moon to make her Walnut Street Theatre debut! She has been privileged to play Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*; Queen Alonsa in *The Tempest*; and Mrs. Nolan in Menotti's *The Medium* and recently created and performed the acclaimed music program *Echoes of Elegance*. Thanks for coming and sharing in the joy of live theatre!

KIMBERLY MAXSON (*Ensemble*) Incredibly thankful to be back for her 10th WST Production! Favorite credits: *Jersey Boys*; *Jimmy Buffett's Escape to Margaritaville*; *Holiday Inn*; *Mamma Mia!*; 9 to 5 (WST); *Gypsy*; *Billy Elliot*; *Beehive*; *Hello, Dolly!* (Media Theatre); *Disney's Mary Poppins* (OCTC); *Chicago* (Maples Repertory Theatre) Love to my husband Ronnie and my family! @kimberly_maxson

TRISTAN MONAGHAN (*Flick*) is beyond excited to make his WST debut! Favorite roles: Nigel, Randy, Michael Banks and Zazu. He would like to thank his family, friends, and school for supporting his dreams and wishes the cast and crew an amazing run. Extra love and thanks to Miss Sally!

ELLIE MOONEY (*Miss Shields*) WST highlights include: Noël Coward's *Hay Fever*; *The Wizard of Oz*; *Harvey*; *The Importance of Being Earnest*; *Sister Act*; Disney's *The Little Mermaid*. Regional Favorites: *Something Rotten!* (Florida Studio Theatre); *My Fair Lady* (Trinity Repertory

Company); *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Portland Center Stage). Thanks to WST, DBO, and Basile Family.

EDDIE OLMO II (*Ensemble*) Home for the holidays at WST! Eddie was recently seen in *Beautiful – The Carole King Musical*; *Jersey Boys*; and *Elf The Broadway Musical* here at the Walnut. Broadway and Touring: *The Book of Mormon*; *Elf The Broadway Musical*. Regional: Goodspeed, North Carolina Theatre, STAGES St. Louis, Fulton Theatre, and others. Love to Mom, Dad, Cierra, and Brittany. Happy Holidays!

SCARLET PRESLEY (*Ensemble*) WST debut! Credits: *Baby June* (*Gypsy*); *Little Girl* (*Ragtime*); *Molly* (*Annie*) and *Marta* (*The Sound of Music*). Thanks: Mom, Dad and Spencer. @scarletpresleyofficial

FRAN PRISCO (*The Old Man*) #44! Happy Holidays!! Most recent WST roles: Director/Sam Phillips in *Million Dollar Quartet*; *Elf The Broadway Musical* (Walter Hobbs); *Jersey Boys* (Gyp DeCarlo); *Beautiful – The Carole King Musical* (Donny Kirshner); Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (Cogsworth). Upcoming: *Livingston in 1776 The Musical*. Many thanks to the entire Walnut Street Theatre Family. Love to Siobhán.

REBECCA ROBBINS (*Ensemble*) is fully decked out for the holidays—eggnog in the fridge, lights on the tree, and festive cheer all around. More than anything though, she will miss her dad's "drunken fruitcake" this year. Heartfelt gratitude to Bernard, Brian, Mark, Richard. Love to MFK. For credits and more, visit rebeccarobbins.com or follow @rebrobbins.

KERRI ROSE (*Ensemble*) is thrilled to be back to the Walnut after playing Mary Delgado in last year's production of *Jersey Boys*. Other theatre credits: Rhoda in *White Christmas* (WST), Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls* (Fireside), and Peggy Sawyer in *42nd Street* (NBFT). Film/TV: *Vinyl* (Dir: Martin Scorsese); *Utopia*; *AGT*; *SNL* and more! BFA: UArts. Reps: DDO Artists Agency. Endless love to my husband, Josh, and son, Leo.

DOMINICK SANNELLI (*Ensemble/Equity Professional Theatre Intern*) is thrilled to return to the Walnut after his debut last year in *Elf The Broadway Musical!* Tours: ALW's *The Wizard of Oz* (Coroner u/s Uncle Henry). Regional: *Hello, Dolly!* (Rudolph); *The Prom* (Sheldon u/s Barry); *Crazy for You* (Mingo). Film: *Silver Linings Playbook*. Grateful to Brian @HKA, and his incredible family and friends. @djs19

ROCHELLE SCUDDER (*Ensemble/Dog Handler*) Performance credits include: Glinda in *The Wizard of Oz*; Grace Farrell in *Annie*; and Brooke

WHO'S WHO

Wyndham in *Legally Blonde* while simultaneously handling the show's canine stars. Animal Trainer: TV/film credits include *And Just Like That*; *Life & Beth*; *Sesame Street*; *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*. Broadway: *The Ferryman*. @rochellescudder

AUDREY BIEHL SIMMONS (*Ensemble*) is grateful you're here! Select WST credits: *Jersey Boys* (Lorraine); Rodgers + Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (Ella us); *Young Frankenstein* (Inga us); *Legally Blonde: The Musical* (Kate/Chutney). Others: *A Chorus Line* (Judy); *Cats* (Jellylorum); *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Janet); *42nd Street* (Phyllis). Immense gratitude to Richard and Joey for leading with skill and heart. @audreysimmons

DEVON SINCLAIR (*Ensemble*) Thankful for another WST holiday season. Devon works as an Actor, Director/Choreographer, and Professor at Temple University. Recent projects include *Franklin's Key* (Pig Iron Theatre Company); *Stompin' at the Savoy* (Delaware Theatre Company) and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Fulton Theatre). Vibrant thanks to his community of loved ones! @CHOREATOR

RAPHAEL SOMMER (*Ralphie Parker*) is thrilled to be back for his fourth show at Walnut! WST credits include *Elf The Broadway Musical*; *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Chip); and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Other credits include film and television appearances (*The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*). Endless thanks to Bernard, Brian, Mark, and Richard. Much love to Mom, Dad, my five siblings, and teachers at THS. Follow along: IG @raphaelsommeractor

ELLIS TARGOFF (*Flick*) Absolutely thrilled to make his WST debut and grateful for this amazing opportunity! Love and thanks to family and friends who traveled near and far.

BILL VAN HORN (*Jean Shepherd* through 12/21) will next appear as Dr. Watson in *Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective*, followed by *1776 The Musical*, both at the Walnut. Bill is a permanent member of the acting company at Theatre at Monmouth in Maine. Proud member of Actors' Equity.

MJ WERMUTH (*Scut Farkus*), 12 years old, makes his debut at Walnut Street Theatre after previous lead roles at Cherry Hill Performing Arts Center. Grateful to family, Artistic Director Sarah Duvall Pearson, and friends for their endless support.

OLIVER WONG (*Randy Parker*) A 10-year-old performer who studies ballet, voice, and musical theatre; past shows include Disney's *Mary Poppins* (Michael Banks); Roald Dahl's *Willy Wonka Jr.* (Charlie Bucket); and *Seussical* (JoJo).

JOSEPH ROBINETTE (*Book*) is a Tony Award nominee and Drama Desk Award nominee for

the libretto of the acclaimed *A Christmas Story, The Musical*. He is the author or co-author of 55 published plays and musicals. His works have been produced at many iconic American theatres including the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre, The Theater at Madison Square Garden, and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City; the 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle; and the Goodman Theatre in Chicago. In total, his works have reached all 50 states in the U.S. and 21 foreign countries. Twelve of his works have been translated into foreign languages, and another five have been anthologized. Robinette collaborated with E.B. White on the authorized stage version of *Charlotte's Web*, and he wrote the musical version with Charles Strouse (composer of *Annie* and *Bye Bye Birdie*). Other dramatizations include *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*; *Anne of Green Gables*; and Debbie Macomber's *A Gift to Remember* and *The Inn at Rose Harbor*. He is the recipient of the AATE Distinguished Play Award for *Sarah, Plain and Tall* and the Children's Theatre Foundation of America Medallion for his body of dramatic works for family audiences in the United States and beyond.

BENJ PASEK (*Music & Lyrics*) is an Oscar, Grammy, Tony, Emmy, and Olivier Award-winning songwriter and producer, best known for his work on *La La Land*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, and *The Greatest Showman*. The accompanying albums for each project landed in the top 10 of the Billboard 200, the latter of which became the world's best-selling album in 2018, achieving multiple Platinum certifications worldwide. Alongside his writing partner Justin Paul, Benj recently achieved EGOT status, securing an Emmy Award for their work on Hulu's *Only Murders in the Building*. Other film and television credits include Apple TV+'s *Spirited*; Sony's *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile*; Disney's live-action *Aladdin*; DreamWorks Animation's *Trolls*; Amazon's *Harlem*; Apple TV+'s *Dear Edward*; NBC's *Smash*; The CW's *The Flash*; Amazon's *Pink All I Know So Far*; and FX's *Welcome to Wrexham*. Among their varied stage credits, Justin and Benj made their Broadway debut with the musical *A Christmas Story* (further adapted into a live telecast for Fox) and won their second Tony for co-producing Best Musical winner *A Strange Loop*. Off-Broadway and regional theatre credits include *Dogfight*, *James and the Giant Peach*, and *Edges*. Benj's book credits include *You Will Be Found* and the *New York Times* bestseller *Dear Evan Hansen: The Novel*. A graduate of the University of Michigan, Benj serves on the board of the Dramatists Guild Foundation as well as the American LGBTQ+ Museum.

JUSTIN PAUL (*Music & Lyrics*) is an Oscar, Grammy, Tony, Emmy, and Olivier Award-winning songwriter best known for his contributions to *La*

WHO'S WHO

La Land, The Greatest Showman, and Dear Evan Hansen. Each project's soundtrack charted in the top 10 of the Billboard 200, with *The Greatest Showman* becoming the world's best-selling album in 2018 and achieving multiple Platinum certifications worldwide. Justin, alongside his writing partner Benj Pasek, recently joined the elite group of EGOT winners, securing an Emmy Award for their work on Hulu's *Only Murders in the Building*. Other film and television credits include Apple TV+'s *Spirited*; Sony's *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile*; Disney's live-action *Aladdin*; DreamWorks Animation's *Trolls*; Amazon's *Harlem*; Apple TV+'s *Dear Edward*; NBC's *Smash*; The CW's *The Flash*; Amazon's *Pink All I Know So Far*; and FX's *Welcome to Wrexham*. Among their varied stage credits, Justin and Benj made their Broadway debut with the musical *A Christmas Story* (further adapted into a live telecast for Fox) and won their second Tony for co-producing Best Musical winner *A Strange Loop*. Off-Broadway and regional theatre credits include *Dogfight, James and the Giant Peach, and Edges*. Justin's book credits include *You Will Be Found* and *Dear Evan Hansen: The Novel*. With the release of the latter, he became a *New York Times* bestselling author. Justin is a proud graduate of the University of Michigan Musical Theatre Program.

RICHARD STAFFORD (*Director/Choreographer*) returns to the Walnut where he directed/choreographed *Jersey Boys*; *Beehive - The '60s Musical*; *Legally Blonde: The Musical*; *Mamma Mia!*; *Sister Act*; *Memphis*; *Curtains*; *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*; Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* and *Cats* and choreographed *La Vie En Blue*; *Evita*; *Camilla*; *La Cage Aux Folles*; *Grand Hotel* and *The Goodbye Girl*. On Broadway, Mr. Stafford was the choreographer for *In My Life* (Music Box Theatre). New York City Opera: director/choreographer for *Los Elementos* (2017); *Pygmalion* (2018); Off-Broadway: choreographer for *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* and director/choreographer for *Castle Walk*. richardstafford.net

CHRIS BURCHER (*Music and Vocal Director*) Previous Walnut credits include *Dreamgirls*; *Elf The Broadway Musical*; *Jersey Boys*; and *Beautiful - The Carole King Musical*. Also, recently at Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival (Mel Brooks' *The Producers*), Broadway at Music Circus (Rodgers + Hammerstein's *Cinderella*) and Bucks County Playhouse (*Kinky Boots*). University of Pennsylvania graduate. Love to Maura, Mom, and Dad.

JOHN FARRELL (*Set Design*) has collaborated with Mr. Stafford as a Scenic Designer since 1994, including many of the 19 productions designed at the Walnut. Currently he is freelancing as a set

designer globally and working as an Art Director for television in New York.

MARY FOLINO (*Costume Design*) is celebrating her 51st costume design for WST with this production of *A Christmas Story The Musical*. Mary is currently Arcadia University's Costume Shop Manager and Resident Costume Designer, having previously worked as WST's Costume Shop Manager, and as the Costume Director of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater. Many thanks to Bernard and the WST family, all of my collaborators, and the amazing costume and wardrobe team!

MATT DEMASCOLO (*Lighting Design*) is pleased to return for *A Christmas Story The Musical*! WST: *Beehive - The '60s Musical*; *Always, Patsy Cline*; Rodgers + Hammerstein's *Cinderella*; *Jimmy Buffett's Escape to Margaritaville*; Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*; *Groucho: A Life in Revue*; *Jersey Boys*; *Elf The Broadway Musical*. Fulton Theatre and Maine State Music Theatre: *Elf The Broadway Musical*; *Always, Patsy Cline*; *Million Dollar Quartet*; *Little Shop of Horrors*; *Grease*.

ED CHAPMAN (*Sound Design*) Happy to return for the 12th year at Walnut Street Theatre. Broadway: *Leopoldstadt* (Associate Designer); *Ink* (2019 Tony-nomination Best Sound Design, Associate Designer) and *Travesties* (2018 Tony-nomination Best Sound Design, Associate Designer). Touring productions: Disney's *The Little Mermaid*; *A Christmas Story The Musical*; *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*; *Guys and Dolls*; Mel Brooks' *The Producers*. Other award-nominated work: *Holiday Inn* (2018 SALT Award nomination), *Mamma Mia!* (2016 Berkshire Theatre Award nomination).

WILLIAM BERLONI (*Animal Director and Trainer*) 2011 Tony® Honoree for Excellence in Theatre; 1977 and 2013 Outer Critics' Awards and 2017 Drama League Award for Unique Contribution to the Theater. Broadway: *Annie* (1977) to *Gypsy* (2025) and 31 shows in between. Animal Director for the new musical *Because of Winn Dixie*. Credits include hundreds of off-Broadway, regional, national tours, films and television. Recent film: Head trainer of the acclaimed film *The Friend*. Television highlights: *From Wags to Riches with Bill Berloni*; *And Just Like That* and *Only Murders in the Building*. Author of *Broadway Tails 3rd Edition*. Follow him on Facebook, Twitter and www.theatricalanimals.com.

DESTINEE STEELE (*Wig and Makeup Design*) You may have seen Destinee's work in *Dreamgirls* last season. Various design credits for 2025 productions include *Cabaret* at Orlando Shakes; *Joseph... Dreamcoat* and *West Side Story* at Broadway at Music Circus. Additionally, she has designed *Marriage of Figaro* at Stetson University;

WHO'S WHO

Cendrillon and *Werthers* at Opera Orlando. Selected associate design credits include *Death of a Salesman* and Bob Fosse's *Dancin'* (Broadway). Destinee holds an MFA in Wig and Makeup design from UNCSA. She is the founder and CEO of a wig company (The Beauty Menagerie LLC) and a 2024 recipient of the 1/52 Grant.

MICHELE BEGLEY (*Stage Manager*) is so excited to be returning to WST for her third professional season! She started out here as a Stage Management Apprentice for the Mainstage under Lori Aghazarian and Angela Cucco Jenkins in the 2017-18 season. Some favorite WST productions are: Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, *Beautiful – The Carole King Musical*, *Jersey Boys*, *Elf The Broadway Musical*, and *Dreamgirls*. Other regional credits include: Bristol Riverside Theatre; Theater at Monmouth; Penobscot Theatre Company; First Stage and The Barnstormers Theatre. Special thanks to the cast, crew, apprentices, production, creative staff, Jenn, Sophia, and Annalee who make this show possible. Proud member of AEA. Enjoy the show!

SOPHIA DEVEREUX (*Assistant Stage Manager/ Equity Professional Theatre Intern*) Grateful to be a part of this team! Select credits include: *A Christmas Carol*; Disney's *Aladdin JR.* (Walnut Street Theatre); *Anastasia*; *Tootsie*; *Footloose*; *West Side Story* (Maine State Music Theatre); *The Barber of Seville*; *Pelleas et Melisande* (Des Moines Metro Opera). Former WST production management apprentice. Love to mamá and papá!

JENNIFER GALLO (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is glad to return for another holiday season at the Walnut! Recent credits include *Metamorphoses* and *Once* (Berkshire Theatre Group); *Jagged Little Pill* (Broadway National Tour) and *Islander* (Playhouse 46). Proud to support @trevorproject, @hrc, and @aclu — check them out!

SIOBHÁN RUANE (*Director of Production*) This is Siobhán's 13th season at WST. With over 25 years in the business, Siobhán has worked internationally as a Production Manager and Stage Manager. Previously, Siobhán held the faculty position of Stage Management Advisor at Florida State University's School of Theatre. Additional credits include *Cirque du Soleil*, Norwegian Cruise Line, Cirque Productions, and various regional theatres. Siobhán holds an undergraduate degree from Rutgers University, an MFA from the University of Delaware, and is (proudly!) originally from the Jersey Shore.

BRIAN KURTAS, CSA (*Associate Artistic Director*) has been associated with WST since 2007. He began his career here as a performer and in the apprenticeship program and has since dedicated himself to bringing artists together. He now serves

our audiences in the various capacities of casting, directing, programming, and literary management, as his function is to bring the finest artists to our historic stage. His vision behind unforgettable live experiences and storytelling has become a creative solution from the stage to the screen - he spent 4 seasons as the Executive Producer of Gretna Theatre, cast for commercials and films, and helped create events for brands such as T-Mobile and Walmart while at Live Nation. Originally from Lancaster, Brian is a proud Temple alum, a published playwright, and a member of the Casting Society of America.

MARK D. SYLVESTER (*Managing Director*) Mark is proud to be celebrating over three decades at America's Oldest Theatre. His extensive career has spanned Summer Stock to Broadway as an actor, stage manager, box office treasurer, theatre manager, marketing and public relations director and general manager. After several years working with commercial theatre, he has devoted his career to non-profit theatre companies since 1987. To date, Mark has been associated with more than 500 stage productions. An avid collector of musical theatre recordings, his collection contains over 3,500 cast albums from around the world. He has served on several boards including the National Alliance for Musical Theatre where he now holds the honorary position of Board Emeritus and the Advisory Committee of Samuel French, the international play publisher and licensing company. With Bernard Havard he co-authored the book *Walnut Street Theatre*.

BERNARD HAVARD (*President and Executive Producing/Artistic Director*) Vox Populi (The Voice of the People) was written on WST Playbills in the 1800s. Whenever WST has strayed from a populist program, the theatre has gone bankrupt. When I came here 43 years ago, we had no programs and no audience. Today we enjoy one of the largest subscription bases of any theatre in the world. So, my thanks to our loyal audience and a warm welcome to newcomers who enjoy and believe in what we do. I admire the artists who dedicated their lives to the theatre and WST, particularly. Our theatre is a non-profit 501-C3 institution, and we rely on contributed income to extend our reach into the community. Last season we reached more than 62,743 students in our city schools. We have 19 esteemed trustees who give their time, wisdom, and contributions to help guide this historical treasure. I came to WST in 1982, and I am as excited now about our future as I was in the beginning. My heartfelt thanks to all who enter this theatre. For my biography, go to About Us on our website at WalnutStreetTheatre.org

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Actors' Equity Association ("Equity"), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks



The Director-Choreographer is a member of the **STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY**, a national theatrical labor union.



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The mission of the Walnut Street Theatre Company is to sustain the tradition of professional theatre and contribute to its future viability and vitality. It does so through the production and presentation of professional theatre; the encouragement, training, and development of artists; the development of diverse audiences; and the preservation and chronicling of its theatre building, a National Historic Landmark..



Independence STARTS HERE!

Walnut Street Theatre is a member of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania, and the league of Historic American Theatres. Walnut Street Theatre receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



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