

Ankeny Community Theatre Presents

Jean Sutherland's

# A Christmas Story

Adapted by  
Philip Grecian



November 30 - December 15, 2001

Ankeny Community Theatre    1032 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Street    Ankeny, Iowa 50021

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



Howdy, Parv!

At last YOU can enjoy an  
OFFICIAL ANKENY

COMMUNITY THEATRE,  
two-hour, fire-action family show  
just like the one Red Ryder matches  
when he's done chasing the bad guys.

There is even a ten-minute intermission  
built right in the middle, so you'll never miss out.

YOU TOO can become a MEMBER of this here FINE  
ORGANIZATION; that there house manager can tell you how.

So don't you worry none, whether you're looking to get INVOLVED  
IN THEATRE or just here to see the show,  
we's MIGHTY GLAD to see ya!

Remember, Parv! Alls ya HAVE TO DO is turn off your beepers and  
cell phones, keep yourself from taking flash photography and hush  
that candy wrapper rattle. These here patrons and actors will  
'preciate it. Why, RED RYDER himself will too!

Now SIT BACK, RELAX AND ENJOY the fun.  
You can't miss it.

It GREAT for the whole family, so tell all your friends. Seats are  
limited though, so they BEST BE HURRYIN' to reserve their tickets.

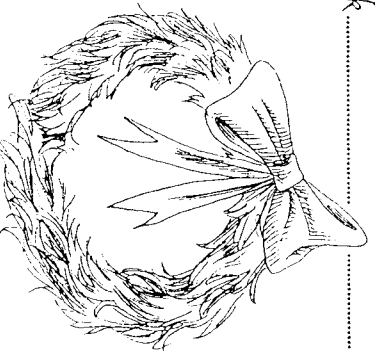
They DON'T want to be left out.  
We got a deal, Parv?

## Cast

Ralph..... Joe Van Haecke  
Ralphie..... Michael Stocks  
Mother..... Rebecca Hansen  
The Old Man..... Randy Dinwoody  
Randy..... Brett Deters  
Miss Shields..... Jan DeHoet  
Flick..... Alex Pottebaum  
Schwartz..... Robert Conway  
Esther Jane Alberry..... Paige Hansen  
Helen Weathers..... Jillian Dierenfeld  
Scout Farkas..... Andrew Ward  
Grover Dill..... A.J. Stocks  
Black Bart..... A.J. Stocks  
Tree Lot Owner..... Rory Hansen  
Delivery Man..... Ray Conway  
Voiceovers..... Ray Conway  
Bimpus Hounds..... Sarah Bechtel, Hannah Lytle, Brianna Vera  
Santa..... Rory Hansen  
Elves..... Sarah Bechtel, Hannah Lytle, Brianna Vera  
Turkey-Stealing Bimpus Hounds..... Alex Pottebaum  
..... A.J. Stocks  
Children..... Sarah Bechtel, Larae DiDonato, Erica Gudka,  
..... Brynn Hansen, Hannah Lytle, Travis Newman,  
..... Rachel Olson, Chyna Simms, Brianna Vera  
Adults..... Karen Deters, Ray Conway, Авонда Гудка

## Production Team

Director ..... Ким Поттебамин  
Producer ..... Лгги Артербирн  
Lights ..... Кевин Спрагве  
Sound ..... Лиза Вагнер  
Stage Managers ..... Лгги Артербирн  
..... Авонда Гудка  
..... Гвгггине Мисшлер  
..... Ким Стокс  
Backstage Help ..... КAREN DETERS, Lori Newman  
Costumes ..... Лгги Артербирн, Ким Стокс  
Makeup ..... КAREN DIERENFIELD, Гвгггине Мисшлер  
Props Assistant ..... Аманда Ниебанс  
Set Work ..... Дуг Артербирн, Лгги Артербирн,  
..... Кристи Болар, Тим Clark, Дерек Клауссен,  
..... Рай Конуэй, Бриан ДеРез, Ранду Динвудду,  
..... Ребекка Хансен, Роры Хансен, Стагу Хансен,  
..... Денн Инк, Ларри LaVelle, Аманда Ниебанс,  
..... Alex Pottebamin, Al Price, Кевин Спрагве, А. J. Stocks,  
..... Michael Stocks, Ким Стокс, Jessie Trousdale,  
..... Mara Trousdale, 'T' Valada, Joe Van Haeccke  
House Manager ..... Дуг Артербирн  
Program Artwork ..... Caroline Monaco



Lydia Arterburn (producer) loves working in theatre. It's a great experience to work with wonderful, talented people and form a "new family" for those short weeks. Lydia has done it all in the theatre. Her favorite thing is creating costumes used for performances. Lydia works at Terrace Elementary as a 1st thru 4th grade reading associate. A Christmas tradition at Lydia's house is watching "Home Alone" with the entire family on Christmas Eve after church service.

Sarah Bechtel is a fifth grader at Northwest Elementary. She likes softball, soccer, swimming, drama classes and Girl Scouts. She enjoys playing the trombone and piano, singing and reading. Her favorite Christmas tradition is going to her grandma and grandpa's to celebrate with her family there. After that she celebrates Christmas with her mom.

Ray Coniway (Delivery Man, voiceovers) is Project Manager at Proctor Mechanical Corporation. He likes watching high school and college athletics and fishing. His family's Christmas tradition is opening one gift on Christmas Eve and then going out to eat for Christmas.

Robert Coniway (Schwartz) is a sixth grader at North Polk Central Elementary. He enjoys AEM, drama camp, biking and building things. He looks forward to meeting everyone on his mom's side to eat a Christmas meal at his Grandma's.

Jan DeNoet (Miss Shields) has played everything from Dolls Letti to Mary Magdalene. Her all-time favorite role is Truicy in Steel Magnolias. Jan works at Menards in Ankeny and lives in Des Moines.

Brett Deters (Randy) is making his theatrical debut. He is a second grader at Westwood Elementary. He is involved in soccer, gymnastics, swim team, Cub Scouts and Avvias. His favorite Christmas tradition is meeting his grandma at his aunt's house, eating a feast and then opening presents.

Larae DiDonato is a third grader at Northwest Elementary. Dance is one of her hobbies. Every Christmas, she likes the hayrack ride at her papa's house.

Jillian Dierkenfeld (Helen Weather) debuted at ACT as Imogene in "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever. Last year she played the lamb in "Charlotter's Web." She has also performed with the Des Moines Metro Opera in "La Boheme" in Ankeny High School's production of "The King and I" and in church plays. Her talents include piano, violin, clarinet, band, chorus, and the church handbell choir. Jillian enjoys tennis, volleyball, softball and ice skating.

Hailey Dixon is a third grader at Westwood Elementary. She enjoys soccer and art. At Christmas she looks forward to seeing her aunts and uncles and eating a lot of food. Her Christmas wish is for world peace.

Ранду Динивуду (The Old Man) has been involved in theatre since high school. He has had many fun roles here at ACT as well as playing everything from a Jesus Double to Judas at First Federated in Des Moines. Ранду is a Project Manager for the Des Moines Public Schools. He enjoys reading, looking for "treasures" at flea markets and antique shops and doing crossword puzzles. His Christmas wish is that he remembers all his lines!

Erica Gudka is a fourth grader at Terrace Elementary. She likes sports, art and P.E. Like Ralphie, her family has a family tradition of opening a present or two on Christmas Eve.

Врѳин Хансен has performed at ACT in both "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" and "Charlottes Web." She is a third grader at Westwood Elementary. She likes plays, shopping and sports. A family tradition in her family is opening their gifts to each other on Christmas Eve.

Raige Hansen (Esther Jane) returns to the ACT stage, having played Fern in last year's "Charlottes Web" and in "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." As a sixth grader in Parkview Middle School, she enjoys sports. Her other hobbies include plays, rollerblading and outdoor activities. After Christmas Eve mass, her family opens the presents to each other. Then they light the fireplace, listen to Christmas music and watch the Christmas tree lights blink.

Rebecca Hansen (Mother) enjoys spending time with her family, doing crafts and walking. She is a school nurse for the Ankeny Schools. She has assisted with stage and costumes as well as acting since high school. During college, she worked with the Sioux Falls Community Playhouse. Last year she was seen on the ACT stage as a spectator in "Charlottes Web." Each Christmas, her family places the baby Jesus in the manger before celebrating Christmas.

Rory Hansen (Christmas Tree Salesman and Santa) is a Claim Team Manager for State Farm Insurance. He enjoys golfing, hunting, coaching and spending time with his family. This is the second year he has enjoyed sharing the stage with his family. Last year he was the fair announcer in "Charlottes Web." Eating oyster stew on Christmas Eve and lifting his daughters up to put the angel on top of the tree are among his favorite holiday traditions.

Hannah Lytle has been involved in drama classes and school plays. She is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Parkview Middle School. She enjoys drama, swimming, singing and playing with cats. On Christmas she goes to her grandparents to see her aunts, uncles and cousins.

Travis Newman enjoys soccer and basketball. He has been in school plays at Cornell Elementary. He is in third grade. His Christmas wish is for a new puppy.

Rachel Olson is a fourth grader at Northwest Elementary. She enjoys bike riding, watching TV, reading and playing with her sister's cats. She has been in plays at school and church. At Christmas time, her family travels to her family home in North Carolina.

Alex Pottebaum (flick) made his stage debut last year as baby Wilbur in "Charlotte's Web." He is a fourth grader at Karen Acres Elementary in Urbandale. Alex enjoys reading, Legos, dinosaurs, computer games and sports. Every year he likes to put up the Christmas village.

Kim Pottebaum (Director) is enjoying directing her third show for Ankeny. "A Christmas Story" is her father's favorite Christmas movie and she loves hearing his bursts of laughter every time he watches it! Kim teaches and directs students in the DMPS Home Instruction Program, as well as teaching classes at the DM Playhouse and co-directing HOPE Drama Troupe. Getting all the way home after Christmas Eve service with a lit candle and then lighting all the candles in the house is a risky but fun tradition in Kim's family.

Chyna Simms likes sports: soccer, basketball and softball. She is a third grader at Terrace Elementary. Every Christmas, she goes to her grandma's house.

A.J. Stocks (Grocer Dill, Black Bart) is a sixth grader at Parkview Middle School. His hobbies include football, swimming and Boy Scouts. He was a spectator last year in "Charlotte's Web." He has also been involved in church plays. After Christmas Eve service, his family takes a drive to look at Christmas lights.

Michael Stocks (Ralphie) has performed in church plays and in ACT's "Charlotte's Web" as a narrator and an Avery understudy. He is a fourth grader at East Elementary, who enjoys reading and piano. Ever since his family began hosting foreign exchange students, they have had French Crepes and fresh fruit for breakfast on Christmas, a favorite for the whole family.



Joe Van Haecke (Ralph) performed in Stage West Production's "Wit" at the Stoner Theater last year. He can be seen regularly as an improvisation actor with Batteries Optional, appearing semi-regularly at Stoner Theater and various venues around Des Moines. He is a multimedia producer at Applied Art and Technology. He enjoys reading, playing volleyball and softball and following Iowa State athletics. Sparks are a fascination of his! On Christmas Eve, he and his two younger brothers stay up as late as possible watching such holiday specials as "A Christmas Story," "Scrooged" and "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

Brianna Vera performed at the Des Moines Playhouse in "Legend of Sleepy Hollow" Ankenny Academy of Music's "The Inside of Pitch" and "The Adventures of Lewis and Clark." She is a seventh grader at Parkview Middle School. She is involved in drama club, soccer, volleyball, band, jazz band, singing, dancing and A.M.

Andrew Ward (Scot Farkez) is a home-schooled fourth grader. His hobbies include soccer, Scouts, piano, guitar and ice cream do.

#### Special Thanks to:

Ray Conway, Karen Deters, Ранду Динвуду, Larry and Ginny LaVelle  
The Marsells, The Nariminos, The Shavers, Торгу и Lillian Westenberg  
For laaining set pieces

Glen McClean and Mark Potebakin  
For editing and recording our soundtracks

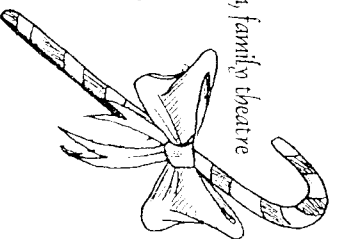
Glen McClean, Ted Nemmers, Kevin Sprague  
For opening large vehicles that can haul 'stuff'

Rанду Динвуду, Rebecca Hansen, Kim Stocks and Joe Van Haecke  
For pulling together our awesome cast parties

Santa  
For the use of his suit

Анкену Коминингу Theatre  
For giving us the opportunity, resources and space to create fun, family theatre

Our Family and Friends  
For supporting us through the rehearsal process



# ACT FACTS

Ankeny Community Theatre has been producing quality theatre since 1985. The theatre, started by a local Methodist minister and his congregation, has continued to grow. With each show, it welcomes more people into its family.

ACT is a non-profit organization created to promote the development of theatre and performing arts in Ankeny and surrounding communities. A board of directors meet monthly discuss important issues related to the theatre.

## 2002 Board of Directors

President.....	Луня Артевиря
President-elect.....	Кевин Спрагис
Treasurer.....	Жиле Оуасс
Secretary.....	Ланри Сакелл
Historian.....	Кайлен Рибз
Theresa Fleener, Wayne Pierson, Al Price, Roger Spahr	

ACT is a volunteer-run organization that depends on citizens from Ankeny and surrounding communities for its livelihood. Memberships, patronage and donations help ensure the future of ACT.

## COMING SOON!

### Лі! Абнер

Auditions December 16 and 17  
Show opens February 22nd

Angel (over \$500)

Al & Sue Hies

Orville Ballard

Benefactor (\$200 - \$499)

Glen & Vi Destigter

Deb Garner & John Richards

Dwayne & Jeanne Ginger

Fiserv Foundation

Pioneer Hi-Bred

Patron (\$100 - \$199)

Marjean Hunter

David Lytle

Woodward State Hospital

Sponsor (\$50 - \$99)

Wilma Axnear

Gerald & Marie Ballard

Bruce & Bonnie Ersek

Lory & Mary Johnson

Ordean & Elizabeth Johnson

Greg & Paula Lima

Gene & Gail Lucht

A.L. & Ruth Politsch

Bud & Hazel Pratt

LaVerne & Janice Quass

Sharon Hall & Kirk Reeder

Jerry & Jo Reid

Federal Home Loan Bank

Friend (\$25-\$49)

Doug & Lynn Arterburn

Randy Dunwoody

Ken & Donna Kelling

Greg & Brenda Krause

Earl & Janet Leonard

Jack & Grace Leverenz

Jay & Margaret Munson

Jim & Beverly Nelson

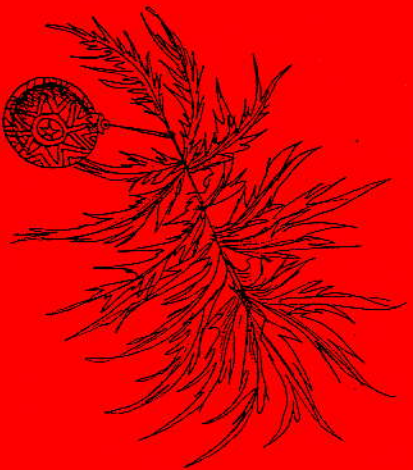
Steve & Georgene Raver

Bill & Mary Shay

Kevin Sprague

Daisy Sternole





*"It was a good Christmas,  
because we had love;  
we had each other."  
And in the final accounting,  
that's what it's all about after all."*

*-Ralph Parker*