



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.

Actor Audition Form # _____

Name _____

Male [] Female [] Age _____

Parent/Guardian Names (if under 18) _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Can you receive texts at the above cell number? We use the Remind app for communicating. ___ Yes ___ No

What roles are you interested in? (Check ALL that apply)

- Ralph Ralphie Mother The Old Man Randy Miss Shields
 Flick Schwartz Esther Jane Helen Weathers Scut Farkas Santa
 Youth Ensemble Adult Ensemble Other _____

Please list up to three (3) examples of previous production experience.

Role/Show	Company	Year

If the auditioner is 18 and under, please fill out this section.

I, (print parent's name) _____, parent or guardian of (print child's name) _____, grant them permission to participate in performances of *A Christmas Story* at Clearfield Arts Studio Theatre, Inc. I understand that if my child has decided to audition for the show that he/she will be cast according to the best judgment of the directors/audition panel, and will support this decision, understanding that it is the best fit for my child and the overall cast. I understand that my child's name will be printed in the program for distribution to attendees.

I also grant permission to The Clearfield Arts Studio Theatre, Inc. representatives, to take and use: photographs and/or digital images of my child(ren) for use in news releases and/or promotional materials. These materials might include printed or electronic publications, websites, social media, or other electronic communications. I further agree that my child's name and identity may be revealed in descriptive text or commentary in connection with the image(s). I authorize the use of these images without compensation to me. All negatives, prints, digital reproductions shall be the property of The Clearfield Arts Studio Theatre, Inc.

 (Date)

 (Signature of Parent/Guardian)

******* Please complete both sides of the audition form *******

If you are not selected for one of the above, will you accept another role?

Yes No

Are you currently rehearsing any other shows, or will you be?

Yes No

Will you commit to studying your lines outside of rehearsal?

Yes No

If the run is extended, please check ALL dates you'd be available for added shows.

Dec 9 at 3pm Dec 10 at 3pm

Dec 13 at 7:30pm Dec 16 at 3pm

Will you attend the mandatory Double Run rehearsal on the afternoon of Sat, Dec 2?

Yes No

Will you attend the mandatory rehearsals in the evenings of Dec 4-6?

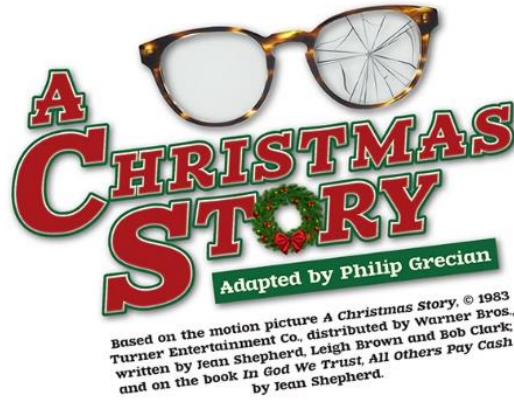
Yes No

Will you attend all performances Dec 7-9, 14-16 at 7:30

Yes No

List conflicts between October 15 and December 16, 2023. Please be completely honest. Conflicts won't necessarily prevent you from being cast in this show.

Tell us if you have any special talents that may be used in this production.



Hello Auditionee!

I am so excited that you are interested in being part of *A Christmas Story* at The Clearfield Arts Studio Theatre, Inc. (CAST)! Live theatre, both onstage and off, is a rich and rewarding experience.

Auditions will be held Sunday, October 8 and Monday, October 9 from 6pm to 8pm at CAST. Upon arrival, please follow signage to the appropriate audition location.

CAST seeks 12-20 talented actors to fill the various roles. Student actors between the ages of 8-18 to fill seven lead roles and a few other supporting roles. Adult actors age 18+ to fill five lead roles and a few other supporting roles. It should be noted that although this is not specifically a children's production, it will be family friendly.

CAST also seeks volunteers to help with other aspects of the show including set construction, sound and lighting design, stage management, costuming, and more. Anyone interested in these aspects of the show can discuss this with the director during audition times or contact CAST. To sign up for an audition time, and review audition materials, visit www.ClearfieldArts.org/audition.

Anyone involved with this production age 18+ will be required to provide PA child abuse clearances and a criminal background check.

Below are a few items I want to make sure you all are aware of. Please read over the information carefully, and if you have any questions, please reach out!

1. Rehearsals and Attendance

- In general, rehearsals will be Mondays through Thursdays, between the hours of 6:00-8:30.
- I will do my best to see that rehearsals start and end promptly.
- I will provide a detailed schedule once we get started. Changes will be announced as needed.
- We will create a schedule so that you will more than likely not be expected to be at CAST every night of the week. Expect to be at CAST 2-3 times a week for the first 3-4 weeks of rehearsal. As we get closer to the show, it will increase.

- You are expected to be at your scheduled rehearsals. If you have a legitimate reason for missing rehearsals, please let me know ahead of time. I understand you have busy lives plus school, work, and family obligations. Please talk with me about missing rehearsals for important events. While I want you to attend all rehearsals, I understand that you have other events in your lives that you need to attend to.
- If you miss a scheduled rehearsal, you are expected to catch up on whatever you missed.
- When you come to rehearsal, please always bring your script, comfortable clothing, shoes that you can move in, and a water bottle if you want. CAST has fountains to refill water bottles. We will not provide water for you.

2. Weekends

- I will more than likely avoid rehearsals on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. However, if needed, I can schedule rehearsals on these days. We can be flexible with this.

3. Materials

- CAST will provide copies of the script to you. Please keep track of it. Do not lose it. It will be yours to keep at the conclusion of the production.
- As far as costuming and props, CAST will provide almost everything you need. We ask you to take very good care of everything. We may ask cast and crew to provide certain costume pieces or props. This will not be a major obligation.

4. Show Dates are Mandatory

- There is zero negotiation on this. Those dates are December 7-9 and 14-16 at 7:30pm. Report time is no later than 30 minutes before each show.

4. Double Run Rehearsal is Mandatory

- I am HOPING to have a Double Run Rehearsal on Saturday, December 2. We will run the show once, take a break to feed the cast and crew, then run the show again. It is an exciting [and stressful!] day.
- If all is going well, and we don't need to have a Double Run, we won't.

5. Tech Week is Mandatory

- Tech Week is the days leading up to opening night. Tech Week is December 4-6. We will treat these nights the same as show nights and run through the whole production. We will report at 6pm these nights, start promptly at 6:30pm, and hopefully be done by 9pm.

6. Communication

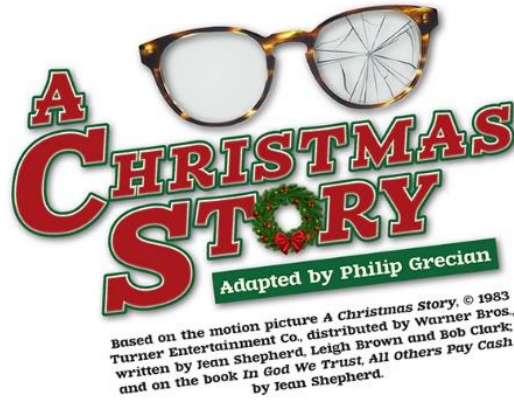
- I will use the Remind app to send out mass text messages to everyone pertaining to schedule changes, important announcements, etc.
- I will create a closed Facebook group where we will share the same information, as well as fun pictures, stories, etc.
- If you will not be at a rehearsal for whatever reason, please let me know. You will be able to message me through the Remind app or speak to me in person. When responding through the Remind app, the only person who can see the responses is me.

7. Cancellations

- If we must cancel rehearsal for any reason, I will make that decision at least one hour prior to the rehearsal time. If rehearsal is cancelled, I will notify everyone through Remind and the Facebook group.

I am really looking forward to this production, and I hope you are as excited as I am!
See you soon!

Mason Strouse, Director



A Christmas Story Synopsis

By Philip Grecian. 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.

Humorist Jean Shepherd's memoir of growing up in the midwest in the 1940s follows 9-year-old Ralphie Parker in his quest to get a genuine Red Ryder BB gun under the tree for Christmas. Ralphie pleads his case before his mother, his teacher, and even Santa Claus himself at Higbee's Department Store. The consistent response: "You'll shoot your eye out!" All the elements from the beloved motion picture are here, including the family's temperamental exploding furnace; Scut Farkas, the school bully; the boys' experiment with a wet tongue on a cold lamppost; the Little Orphan Annie decoder pin; Ralphie's father winning a lamp shaped like a woman's leg in a net stocking; Ralphie's fantasy scenarios and more.

The movie was release in 1983, the same year CAST opened. The play and our organization are celebrating 40 years in 2023.

A Christmas Story Character Descriptions

Ralph (an adult male) is the narrator of our story. Jean Shepherd is the actual author of the books that the story is based on, as well as the actual narrator voice we hear in the 1983 movie. On stage, he is a warm, charismatic and engaging storyteller; omniscient but not overpowering. A good-natured curmudgeon with a deadpan sense of humor. Ralph focuses the action, keeps the story moving, and holds the audience's attention with his presence and spark. This actor must be very comfortable with audiences and must be able to "read the crowd" and tell the story at the same time.

Ralphie (appears or can act 9-12) is a boy who wants an Air Rifle for Christmas: specifically, the Red Ryder Carbine Action BB Gun. He is a bright, winsome, mischievous, cute kid – someone you wouldn't mind having as a next-door neighbor. Not a smart-aleck or overly precocious, Ralphie's imagination drives several scenes. The actor playing this role must be a fluent reader with a lot of stage presence.

Mother (appears or can act 35-50) is the secret engine that runs the family, keeping the household together with a smile – despite bickering children, limited funds, an x-rated lamp in the living room window, a cranky furnace, and a crankier husband. She would never let The Old Man know that she is more in charge than he is – as is appropriate for a housewife of this era. Vibrant, warm, affable – but not a pushover – she is always busy, especially anytime she is in the kitchen, and even more so at Christmas-time.

The Old Man (appears or can act 35-50) is Ralphie's Dad. He is gruff and grumbling on the exterior but has a good heart. He doesn't overtly show it, but he does love his family. A blue-collar guy, he usually expects the worst out of most situations. The actor playing this character shouldn't be afraid to go "over the top" for comedic purposes.

Randy (appears or can act 6-10, younger than Ralphie) is Ralphie's younger brother. He is cute, cuddly, lovable, and whiny – like most baby brothers! He looks up to his big brother, tries to keep up with him, and is young enough that he can be convinced to eat his dinner like a baby piggy. The actor playing this role must have strong stage presence.

Miss Shields (appears or can act 25+) is Ralphie's 5th grade teacher, a seemingly stereotypical 1940s educator. She is prim and proper, stern when necessary, but warm and even humorous when the situation merits it.

Flick (appears or can act 9-12) is a classmate and best buddy of Ralphie. He is the guinea pig in the flagpole licking experiment. The actor playing this role should be able to sustain and communicate with a serious lisp.

Schwartz (appears or can act 9-12) is a classmate and best buddy of Ralphie. He becomes the scapegoat when Ralphie utters an unmentionable word.

Ester Jane Alberry (appears or can act 9-12) is a classmate of Ralphie.

Helen Weathers (appears or can act 9-12) is a classmate of Ralphie.

Scut Farkus (appears or can act 10-16, older than Ralphie) is a textbook example of a schoolyard bully. Scut is loud, obnoxious, and intimidating. He is a year or two older than Ralphie and his friends, and wears a perpetual scowl under his coonskin cap. He

always appears at the most inopportune time to harass his victims. In the end, he ends up being the biggest coward of all.

Santa (a male adult) at Higbee's Department Store is ill-tempered, slightly inebriated, and very unhappy with his job--nothing like the "Jolly Old Elf" of the Christmas stories! He gets rid of each kid as fast as he can--probably to shorten his day so he can head for the nearest "watering hole"! The actor playing this role must be a strong comedic actor and comfortable with children.

Youth Ensemble (appears or can act 9-12) are boys in girls in the classroom, school, and shopping scenes.

Adult Ensemble (appears or can act 25+) are men in women in tree lot, shopping, and "dream" scenes.

RALPH. With as much dignity as he could muster, The Old Man gathered up the shattered remains of his major award and retreated to his workshop in the garage. There he found an ancient can of iron glue – the kind garage mechanics use for gaskets and repairing exploded locomotives. He spent the next several hours painfully, hopefully trying to rebuild the net stokinged, life-size symbol of his greatest victory.

RALPH. Safe and snug in my warm bed, I could hear the falling snow brushing softly against the window. Next to me lay my oiled blue-steel beauty, me legendary official Red Ryder carbine action 200-shot Range Model air rifle with a compass and this thing which tells time built right into the stock, the greatest Christmas gift I had ever received ... (a moment of quiet discovery) ... or ever *would* receive. Gradually I drifted off and slept the sleep of the just and fulfilled, dreaming of pranging ducks on the wing and getting off spectacular hipshots. (A pause.) I wonder whether Red Ryder is still dispensing retribution and frontier justice as of old. You know, considering the number of kids I see with broken glasses, I suspect he is. Merry Christmas.

MISS SHIELDS. Let's see, who's next? *(She looks down at her grade book, runs down the list with her pencil. Looks up.)* Ralph. Ralph, please read your ... *(She scans the classroom.)* Where's Flick? *(Everyone freezes.)* Has anyone seen Flick? He was here before recess. Ralph? Ralph, do you know where Flick is? *(Ralphie shakes his head.)* For the last time now, I'm asking, has anyone seen Flick? *(Kids see him outside. Esther Jane whispers in her ear. Miss Shield's eyes widen. She straightens up and starts to exit.)* You stay right there. *(From offstage...)* Oh my God!

MISS SHIELDS. It's nearly time to go home, so let me give you next week's homework assignment. There will be no book report on Friday. Instead, I want you to turn in a written theme on the following Monday, applying what we've learned on this unit: Margins, spelling, paragraphing, everything. It will count heavily toward your final semester grade. Choose an appropriate subject and limit it properly. For this assignment, write a theme to inform or persuade. Your choice. Single page. Watch your margins. Since it's the holiday season, this will be your only homework assignment for all of next week. But with two weekends and five school days, I expected excellent work. Questions? Dismissed.

HELEN. Know what Roxane said?

ESTHER JANE. What?

HELEN. Roxane said Ralph Parker likes you.

ESTHER JANE. Really? Roxane said that? (*HELEN nods. After a pause.*) I think he's cute. Don't you think he's cute?

HELEN. I like older men.

ESTHER JANE. Older?

HELEN. Sixth-graders.

ESTHER JANE (*clearly impressed*). Oh! (*Pause.*) Have you picked a subject for your theme?

HELEN. No. Something about politics, maybe.

ESTHER JANE. Maybe I will, too.

HELEN. Are you a democrat or republican?

ESTHER JANE (*uncertain, then, with conviction*). Presbyterian.

SCHWARTZ. All right then, if you don't believe me, I double dare ya!

FLICK. So you're sayin' if I put my tongue on this post it'll stick.

SCHWARTZ. Yeah!

FLICK. That's dumb! It wouldn't happen!

SCHWARTZ. Then go ahead! Prove I'm wrong!

RALPHIE. Go ahead, Flick.

FLICK. Heck no!

SCHWARTZ. That's 'cause you know it'd stick!

FLICK. Would not!

SCHWARTZ. Would too!

FLICK. Would not!

SCHWARTZ. All right then, I double dog dare ya!

RALPH. This was getting serious. A double dog dare. There was nothing left but a "triple dare you" and, finally, the coup de grace of all dares, the sinister "triple dog dare."

SCHWARTZ. I triple dog dare ya!

FLICK (nervous). All right, all right.

RALPHIE. Do it, Flick.

SCHWARTZ. Go on, smarty pants, do it. (He gives FLICK a poke in the arm.)

FLICK (wincing). Hey! That's my sore arm, OK?

RALPHIE. Do it.

FLICK. Don't rush me.

(He cracks his knuckles, shakes out his hands, steps up to the lamppost and sticks out his tongue as RALPH speaks.)

FLICK (*leans into the lamppost and his tongue makes contact*). Thith ith noth ... (*And then he realizes.*) Thtuck! I'm thtuck! (*He begins to wail.*)

SCHWARTZ. Jeepers! It really works!

(*The bell rings to end recess.*)

RALPHIE. Wait! Whadda we gonna do?

SCHWARTZ. I dunno.

FLICK. Auth! Oaaait! Cuh back! Doe lee nee! Cuh back!

RALPHIE. The bell rang.

RANDY. Santa! Santa!

SANTA. HO! HO! HO! WHO'S NEXT?

RANDY. I gotta go wee-wee!

RALPHIE (*hissing*). Be quiet! We're gonna see Santa.

RANDY. Santa! Santa!

ESTHER JANE (*shyly*). Hello, Ralph.

RALPHIE. Oh ... um ... hello, Esther Jane.

ESTHER JANE. What are you here for?

RALPHIE (*nervous*). To ... to see Santa.

ESTHER JANE (*a gasp of feigned surprise*). I'm here to see Santa, too!

RANDY. Santa! Santa!

ESTHER JANE. We're both here for the same reason. Isn't that funny?

RALPHIE. Yeah. Funny. Yeah. Guess I'm the last one.

ESTHER JANE. It's almost closing time. I'm asking Santa for a doll.

What are you asking for?

RALPHIE (*self-conscious*). Um ... a legendary official Red Ryder carbine action 200-shot Range Model air rifle with a compass and this thing which tells time built right into the stock.

ESTHER JANE (*impressed*). Oooo.

RALPHIE. Yeah ...

ESTHER JANE. Aren't you afraid you'll shoot your eye out?

RALPHIE. Guess so.

ESTHER JANE. It was nice talking with you, Ralph.

RALPHIE. Uh huh.

ESTHER JANE. 'Bye.

RALPHIE. 'Bye.

RANDY. I gotta go wee-wee!

RALPHIE. Sh!

RANDY (*turns back to look up the steps*). Santa! Santa!

RALPHIE. Will you be quiet?

RANDY (*whispering*). Santa! Santa!

RALPHIE. What's the matter with you, anyway?

RANDY. I gotta go wee-wee!

RALPHIE. You'll just have to wait.

THE OLD MAN. How 'bout this one?

MOTHER. No, see, there's a bare spot there.

THE OLD MAN. Yeah, but maybe we can . . . Sh, sh, sh, let me handle this.

LOT OWNER. Find what you're lookin' for, folks?

THE OLD MAN. Well, we thought maybe ... *(He picks up the tree, holds it at arms length and points.)*

LOT OWNER *(takes it, spins it)*. Yeah, that there's a good 'un.

MOTHER *(pointing)*. There's a bare spot ...

LOT OWNER. *(pounds it once or twice against the ground)*. Oh no, that there's just where it was layin' when they shipped it.

THE OLD MAN *(an expert)*. Yeah. Sure.

MOTHER. But it's been standing up since ...

LOT OWNER. Yeah, but it's cold, y'see.

THE OLD MAN. Cold.

LOT OWNER *(tamping it against the ground again)*. Froze that way.

THE OLD MAN. Froze.

LOT OWNER. You get it inside where it's warm, it'll thaw out, them branches'll spread, it'll fluff up real good.

THE OLD MAN *(sucking his teeth)*. Oh yeah. Real good.

MOTHER. I guess. It's not the kind where the needles fall out, is it?

LOT OWNER. Nah!

THE OLD MAN. Nah!

LOT OWNER. That's them balsams.

THE OLD MAN *(nods wisely)*. Them balsams

MOTHER. Oh. Well, all right then.

THE OLD MAN. Whaddo I owe ya?

LOT OWNER. Well ...

THE OLD MAN *(dickering)*. Don't forget now, it's got a bare spot there.

LOT OWNER. I toldja, it ...

THE OLD MAN. Yeah, yeah, sure, sure. I know. But still ...oughta knock a buck or two off the price.