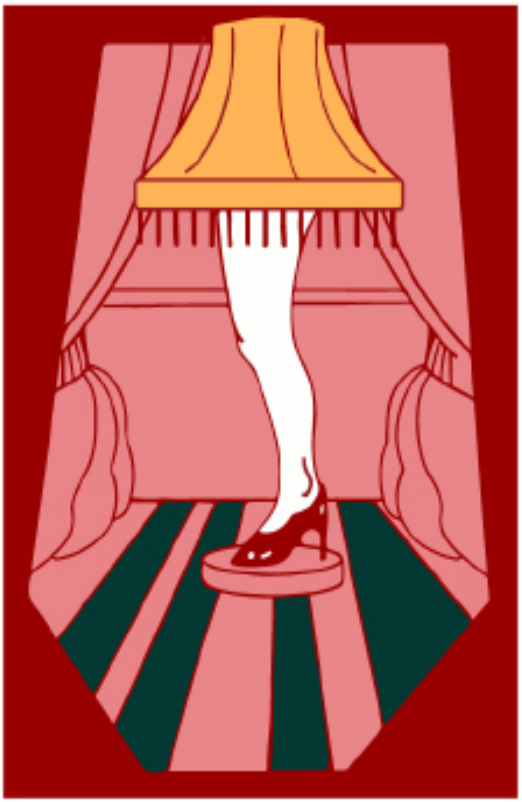
kanata theatre

Presents its 55th Season

A Christmas Story

Written by
Philip Grecian
based on the memoir
by Jean Shepherd

Directed by
Brett Kelly



kanata theatre

Presents its 55th Season

Mauritius

Written by
Theresa Rebeck

Directed by
Juli Heney



February 7 - 17, 2024

Ron Maslin Playhouse | Box office: 613-831-4435 | kanatatheatre.ca

CAST

In order of appearance

Ralph	PETER WHITTAKER
Mother	ELLE ATTSON
Randy	GRAYSON KELLY
Schwartz	MILO TIBBITS
Flick	CAMERON PEREIRA
Helen Weathers	EVELYN PARK
Esther Jane Alberry	MOLLY PENTON
Ralphie Parker	CHANCE KELLY
The Old Man	BERNIE HORTON
Black Bart, Elf	CAMERON WOOD
Desperado, Elf	MICHAELA AGNEW
Scut Farkas	CONNOR CORCORAN
Miss Shields	MICHELLE MAKITRA ROBB

SYNOPSIS

Humorist Jean Shepherd's memoir of growing up in the Midwest in the 1940's 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.

A Christmas Story is presented by special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing Company.

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the House Manager

Kanata Theatre acknowledges with special appreciation the following friends who have provided items or services to the production:

Photography by Alex Henkelman • Ron Evans

and all Kanata Theatre members who volunteered after the publication deadline.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager	Anne-Marie Kelly
Stage Manager	Heather Hogan
Assisted by	Rebecca Aiken, Jennifer Ljungstrom
	Susan Monaghan
Stage Crew	Alex Farnel, Ben Farnel
Set Designer	Romuald Frigon
Set Construction	Romuald Frigon
Assisted by	Paul Behncke, Jim Clarke, Morgan Farnel
	Dean Flockton, Elisa Frost, Xavier Gareau
	Mike Giovinazzo, Mark Guzewski, Gordon Harrison
	Clyde Le Guerrier, Damir Mestrovic, Heidi Roberts
	Arsenii Skvortsov, Pooneh Tehrani, Martin Weeden
	Dan Winters, Larry Witol, Sandy Wynne
Set Painting	Dale Winters
Assisted by	Donna Burlock, Elisa Frost, Karen Floyd
	Harper Grineau, Barbara Kobolak, Heather McKay
	Kiara McNulty, Pooneh Tehrani
Lighting Design	Anthony Rumsay
Assisted by	Joel Agnew, Mike Hogan
Sound Design	Bert Ljungstrom
Assisted by	Tina Mestrovic, Al Quirt
Costume Design	Kathryn Clarke
Assisted by	Heather Hogan, Anne-Marie Kelly
	Jennifer Pereira, Helen Weeden
Dressers	Tanya Baillargeon, Sonya Monaghan
Set Décor	Diana Lloyd
Assisted by	Heather McKay
Properties	Roxanne Wood
Assisted by	Kelly-Anne Griffin
Continuity	Nancy Cormier, Sonya Monaghan, Petra Watzlawik-li
Hair Design	Rachel Bruce, Sidney Bruce
Make Up	Carolyn Bruce
Assisted by	Sierra Clouthier, Sonya Monaghan
Green Room	Sally Jeong
Assisted by	Jennifer Ljungstrom
Publicity Liaison	Jane Pick, Stefania Wheelhouse
Servery Managers	Cameron Bishop, Jocelyn Bishop
Box Office	Jane Pick
Marquee Sign	Paul Behncke, Sean Behncke
House Manager	Tom Kobolak
Program Editors	Sara Munroe, Lucy Sheridan

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

A Christmas Story has been a tradition in my family for years. We have seen it on VHS, movie theatres, DVD, drive-in movie theatres and now we are lucky enough to mount it as a play and stage it for you and your family. I hope you enjoy our rendition of Ralphie and his family, and I wish you a Happy Holiday!

BIOGRAPHIES



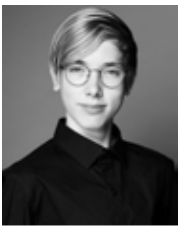
BRETT KELLY (Director) has been a member of Kanata Theatre since the early 1990s, where he acted in a number of shows, including *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *The Woman in Black*. He has directed several plays, including *Framed!*, *Ethan Claymore*, and *Friends with Benefits*. Brett has also directed theatre and films professionally, including the movie and stage adaptations of *My Fair Zombie*, *Scary Poppins* and *Phantom of the Opry*.



MICHAELA AGNEW (Desperado, Elf) is an aspiring 12 year old actress. This is her first official play and she's very excited to be a part of it! She has been in 2 school productions and will be in an upcoming KT Kids show. Michaela is a busy bee - a competitive swimmer, baker and lover of cats and the arts. In the future, she sees herself studying theatre in NYC. She is a proud member of Serpent River First Nation.



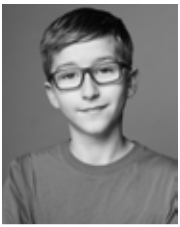
ELLE ATTSON (Mother) is thrilled to make her debut at Kanata Theatre. She also appeared as Christopher Wren in *The Mousetrap*, Estelle Rigault in Sartre's *No Exit,* and Young Woman in *Sabrina Fair*. Elle has varied acting training and experience and is pursuing TV/Film, voice acting, playwriting, and is co-directing for Fringe 2024. Thanks to her supportive family and friends and loving on-stage family.



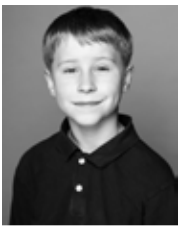
CONNOR CORCORAN (Scut Farkas) is thrilled to make their Kanata Theatre debut. They were cast as President Franklin D. Roosevelt in Sacred Heart Catholic High School's production of *Annie* (2023). Apart from acting, Connor enjoys chess, reading, and building computers. Connor would like to thank Director Brett, and Stage Manager Heather for their support and encouragement.



BERNIE HORTON (The Old Man) is happy to be back for his 12th Kanata Theatre production. His appearances include roles in *Almost Maine,* George in *It's a Wonderful Life - The Radio Play*, Oscar in *The Odd Couple*, Theo in *The Underpants* and Lt. Kendrick in *A Few Good Men*. Bernie thanks the cast and crew for making this a wonderful experience and his wife for her love and support.



CHANCE KELLY (Ralphie Parker) has been part of the KT Kids program for 4 years. He previously appeared in *The Dragonslayers*, KT Kids *Variety Show*, *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory,* and recently in *Screen Time,* a KT 10-minute play. He also appeared in the films *Konga TNT*, *Puppet Shark,* and *Galaxy Warriors*. He is looking forward to playing Ralphie, one of his favorite film characters.



GRAYSON KELLY (Randy) most recently played an Oompa Loompa in KT Kids' production of *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* and looks forward to being in this year's production in June. Grayson has appeared in the films *Konga TNT*, *Galaxy Warriors,* and more. He is a lot like Randy in many ways.



MICHELLE MAKITRA ROBB (Miss Shields) is thrilled to appear in a full-length production at Kanata Theatre. She previously appeared in 10-minute plays with roles in *Do Not Resuscitate* and *Downsizing*. She is a student of the Kanata Acting Studio and thanks John Muggleton for his guidance. Michelle also assists with makeup and is an avid sports fan. Outside of theatre, she devotes her time to her family.



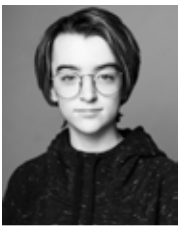
EVELYN PARK (Helen Weathers) was born in South Korea and came to Canada at 4-years old. She is super passionate about acting and very excited to be on stage. Just two years ago, she participated in a school play and discovered the joy of drama. Not long after, she took acting classes at the Kanata Acting Studio and joined Kanata Theatre. She feels so lucky and grateful to be a part of this community.



MOLLY PENTON (Esther Jane Alberry) is excited to be in her first show at Kanata Theatre. Molly attended summer camp programs at the Shenkman Centre, and for 2 years attended the Stagecraft Children's Theatre program and appeared in the *Little Mermaid*, *The Lion King,* and *Matilda*. Molly is thankful to her mom for supporting her and to her Great-Aunt Susan for connecting her with the KT community.



CAMERON PEREIRA (Flick) is excited to be in his first Kanata Theatre production. He recently performed as Augustus Gloop in the KT Kids' production of *Wonka Jr.*, and in the ensemble in the KT Kids *Variety Show*. Cameron is in 4th grade at Huntley Centennial PS. When not at the theatre, he enjoys Lego, Harry Potter, and playing bordenball with his friends. He thanks his family for all their support.



MILO TIBBITS (Schwartz) has been acting at Kanata Theatre for 4 years in the KYOS/KT Kids program. He has been in shows such as *Wonka Jr.*, and the KT Kids *Variety Show,* which were acts put on by the program. Milo is looking forward to acting in *A Christmas Story* and participating in other upcoming shows.



CAMERON WOOD (Black Bart, Elf) recently joined the family at Kanata Theatre. He enjoys learning new skills, and performing and singing. He has already performed in *Annie* at school and is looking forward to performing again. Cameron would like to thank everyone who has helped him, along with his parents, who have supported him throughout his journey and driven him to every rehearsal!



PETER WHITTAKER (Ralph) 16 years ago, when Peter's daughter auditioned, she asked if he would audition too. As he sat on his throne wearing tights, a faux ermine robe, and a crown, he realized he was hooked. Lifelong friendships began when Brett cast him in *Framed!*. He is thrilled to be appearing in his 3rd show at Kanata Theatre, his third Anne-Marie produced live show, and working with Brett again.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Season's Greetings from Kanata Theatre, and welcome to our production of *A Christmas Story*.

You're in for a wonderful experience as the talented cast, including some remarkable young performers, alongside a dedicated crew, bring humorist Jean Shepherd's nostalgic holiday tale to vivid life. Under the skillful direction of Brett Kelly, the classic story unfolds with authenticity and humour, showcasing the incredible talent that exists within our community. Sit back, relax and let the Parker family's timeless Christmas adventure fill your hearts with joy.

By the way, don't miss the chance to secure your seats for more captivating performances in 2024. Inquire about our 3-play subscription for just $63 by calling the box office at 613-831-4435 or online at KanataTheatre.ca.

Enjoy the show and, from all of us at Kanata Theatre, have a Happy New Year!

Cameron Bishop
President, Kanata Theatre

MEMBERSHIP

Kanata Theatre is a volunteer run organization. All the work on stage and off is done by dedicated volunteers. Much of our culture is project based and people signup for a show and work with friends on something interesting that culminates in 10 performances and a party!

Membership provides people of all ages a way to connect with others, learn, work with friends, and achieve value in the form of some good performances and a couple of thousand smiling patrons. For many it is a way to break out of daily routine, for others it's a passion that sustains them.

Cast and crew from box office to lighting and servery to makeup designer all take part in creating the magic you see because they love live theatre.

Consider joining us!

membership@kanatatheatre.ca

Please be considerate: ensure that mobile devices are turned off. The use of any media capture device during the performance is prohibited by copyright law.

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS...



MAURITIUS by Theresa Rebeck

When her mother dies after an expensive illness and a lifetime of bad choices, tentative but tenacious young Jackie is left with a mound of debt. One glimmer of hope: a stamp collection, potentially valuable, is among her assets. Philip, the brusque and arrogant stamp dealer to whom she takes the collection, won't even take a look without his $2000 fee. Charming Dennis, a former stamp collector and small-time grifter down on his luck, who just happens to be hanging out in Philip's shop, is only too willing to look at Jackie's collection.

Trouble brews and the game is on in this dark, edgy suspenseful tour de force. The plot twists will leave the audience gasping for breath.

FEBRUARY 7-17th 2024



BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS by Neil Simon

Set in the Brighton Beach section of Brooklyn, New York in September 1937 during "The Great Depression", this coming-of-age comedy focuses on Eugene Morris Jerome, a Polish-Jewish American teenager who experiences puberty, sexual awakening, and a search for identity as he tries to deal with his family.

MARCH 27th-APRIL 6th, 2024



BASKERVILLE: A SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY by Ken Ludwig

The male heirs of the Baskerville line are being dispatched one by one. To find their ingenious killer, Holmes and Watson must brave the desolate moors before a family curse dooms its newest heir. Watch as our intrepid investigators try to escape a dizzying web of clues, silly accents, disguises, and deceit as five actors deftly portray more than forty characters.

MAY 15-25, 2024

Subscribe to our 3-play package. Only $63!
Book your tickets here: https://kanatatheatre.ca/

KT KIDS PRESENTS...

DISNEY'S FROZEN JR.

The enchanting modern classic from Disney is ready for your Broadway Junior stars! *Frozen JR.* is based on the 2018 Broadway musical, and brings Elsa, Anna, and the magical land of Arendelle to life, onstage. The show features all of the memorable songs from the animated film, with music and lyrics by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez, plus five new songs written for the Broadway production.

A story of true love and acceptance between sisters, *Frozen JR.* expands upon the emotional relationship and journey between Princesses Anna and Elsa. When faced with danger, the two discover their hidden potential and the powerful bond of sisterhood. With a cast of beloved characters and loaded with magic, adventure, and plenty of humor, *Frozen JR.* is sure to thaw even the coldest heart!

JUNE 7 & 8, 2024

Need any gift ideas? Buy tickets - the perfect gift for all the young and young at heart on your shopping list!

Book your tickets here: https://kanatatheatre.ca/

BE PART OF THE PROGRAM!

See your company name here and support Kanata Theatre

kanata theatre

Interested in advertising with Kanata Theatre?
Email us at publicity@kanatatheatre.ca for more information!

kanata theatre

Presents its 55th Season

Brighton Beach Memoirs

Written by
Neil Simon

Directed by
Brian McManus



March 27- April 6, 2024

Ron Maslin Playhouse | Box office: 613-831-4435 | kanatatheatre.ca

TICKET POLICY

The box office will be open 1 hr 30 mins prior to show times.

Tickets can also be purchased online at www.kanatatheatre.ca.

Tickets are non refundable. Please contact the ticket office at 613-831-4435 to exchange your ticket 24-48 hours in advance for another performance within the current show.

Scan for more information about Kanata Theatre's upcoming show season!

Find us on Facebook at

Kanata Theatre

Follow us on Instagram

@KanataTheatre

The paintings in the foyer are by courtesy of the **Kanata Civic Art Gallery**

For information or to purchase the art, please contact Therese Boisclair:

613-218-0677

info@boisclair.com; tboisclair.com

Ron Maslin Playhouse is accessible by OC Transpo: Route 88/167 stops in front of the Playhouse.

The bus stop numbers for the Playhouse are 6381 and 6382.

Many of our volunteers and patrons have allergies. Please be courteous and refrain from wearing scented products.



PhonicEar On-Wave hearing assistance system is available during all Kanata Theatre productions. Small clip-on receivers permit control over listening volume levels. These units are available from the cloak room with regular headsets (or you may use your own headset with 3.5mm plug, if you prefer) or T- Switch hearing aid loops.

Kanata Theatre's telephone number for emergency calls is 613-831-4436.

The Ron Maslin Playhouse is built on and Kanata Theatre operates on the unceded territory of the Anishinabe Algonquin peoples, the stewards of this land for millennia.