

THE 24 DAYS BEFORE Christmas

Adapted For The Stage By Jason Pizzarello
From The Story By Madeleine L'engle



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THE 24 DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY
Jason Pizzarello

FROM THE STORY BY
Madeleine L'Engle

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OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.*

**Please silence cell phones
and digital watches
during the performances.**

****Check and turn off any alarms you may have set.****

*This is a two-act show with one 15-minute
intermission between acts.*

*The 24 Days Before Christmas is produced by special arrangement with
Crosswicks Ltd. and Stage Partners. | www.yourstagepartners.com*

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

'Tis the season for family and reflection. What really matters?

It's easy during the holidays to lose perspective. We might worry about presents. Lose sleep over planning the family meal. Get frustrated by end-of-year work. We may need a reminder that all those holiday stresses aren't nearly as important as some of the things we take for granted.

The 24 Days Before Christmas is a story about a holiday that turns out nothing like the Austin Family planned on. It's an experience that will change their lives forever.

We wish you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday. Thank you for making this year at Ennis Public Theatre one of the best. We look forward to seeing you for our 20th season in 2024!

Best,
All of us here at Ennis Public Theatre

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EPT was established in 2004 as a not-for-profit cultural institution. Ennis Public Theatre is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt corporation.

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SPECIAL THANKS

A special thank you to Glenda Quinn for the props and all the parents and grandparents for their help.

As the year ends, we especially thank the person who keeps EPT running, our Business Manager, Karen Blewitt. Also big gratitude and thanks to our staff: John, Dakota, and Nikki. And to our graphic designer, Brittany. Much appreciation to our board of directors and to all our volunteers for their dedication to the artistic community we are building at Ennis Public Theatre.



CAST



BENNETT BALDWIN, OLDER ROB

Bennett is a 4th grader who enjoys video games and animals. He's been in several productions at EPT, most recently he played Gary (the snail) in *The Spongebob Musical: Youth Edition*. He always enjoys doing shows with his sister, Mae.



MAE BALDWIN, ELF

Mae is in the 6th grade and likes playing volleyball and drawing. Her most recent performances at EPT include *The Spongebob Musical: Youth Edition* and *Santa Claus is Comin' to Town*. She's very proud of her brother, Bennett.



MARKUS BALDWIN, MR. AUSTIN

Markus is one of the artistic directors at Ennis Public Theatre. He is so excited to be playing on stage with his children Mae and Bennett and being directed by his wonderful wife Julie Mitchell. Thank you for supporting live theatre and happy holidays to you all. Enjoy the show.



KATHERINE CLARK, OLDER VICKY

Katherine is a 8th grader who loves theater and wants to continue it as a career. Also, cooking is another thing she is interested in and a natural at. She hopes to continue theater and to improve every time she auditions for more shows.



MOLLY CLARK, BETH

Molly is a 6th grader at Palmer Middle School and loves doing theater! She also loves to draw and enjoys listening to music. She has done previous shows including *Madagascar* and *The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition*.

CAST



TOMMY CLARK, PAGEANT ASST. DIRECTOR

Tommy is a retired schoolteacher that taught for 33 years in Ennis ISD. This play is his second performance at EPT, last year playing Santa in *Santa Claus is Comin' to Town*. He enjoys working with young people during the Christmas season and hopes everyone will be touched by the Christmas spirit of this play.



ASHTYN CONSTANTINO, PAGEANT WISEMAN

Ashtyn is a fun-loving second-grader who loves to sing, dance, act, and create, a true Renaissance kid. She's a natural performer, whether it's on the school stage, in her YouTube videos, or just belting out tunes in the car. We are so excited to see her shine on the stage in her first performance with EPT!



LAURYL FREEZE, ELF

Lauryl is a 6th grader at James L Collins Catholic School in Corsicana. Lauryl's recent credits include Benjamin in *The Yellow Boat*, Sandy Cheeks in *The Spongebob Musical: Youth Edition*, Mrs Beaver in *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, and Beatrix Potter in *Peter Rabbit*. Lauryl is extremely excited to be back at EPT!



KLARA HARRIS, PAGEANT PROPMASTER

Klara is a sophomore in high school and this will be her first play. She loves to sing, is creative and a joy to be around. She looks forward to being in many more plays in the future.



JUNE HOWARD, PAGEANT WISEMAN

June is a 4th grader who loves her puppies, laughing, art and bossing her siblings around. This is her first performance in a play.

CAST



BRIAR KELLER, ELF

Briar is a 6th grader who enjoys playing baseball, competitive jiu-jitsu and playing video games with his friends. This is his first performance, but he has been entertaining his whole life!



LONDON KEY, ELF

London is a 7th grader who enjoys playing basketball, volleyball and baking. She has been involved in theatre for several years and mostly recently in *The Miracle Worker* and has also been in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. She loves entertaining others.



COLETTE MARLAR, PAGEANT SHEEP

Colette is a 2nd grader who loves to draw and play soccer. This is her first experience in performing in front of an audience but she has enjoyed her time tremendously. She hopes to continue growing as an actor and entertainer.



FELICITY MARLAR, PAGEANT SHEPARD

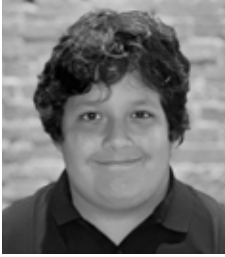
Felicity is a 3rd grader who plays basketball and loves to read. EPT has given her her first opportunity to entertain others and she has loved it! She hopes to audition for more shows and to continue to grow!



ZACHARY MARTINEZ, JOHN

Zachary is an 8th grader who really enjoys performing and is active in taekwondo at Ennis Black Belt Academy. The most recent performances at EPT are *Santa Claus is Comin' to Town* and *The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition*.

CAST



BILLY MASON, PAGEANT DONKEY

Billy is a 4th grader at Cedar Hill Collegiate Prep. This is his first performance with EPT, but he has been part of several other stage productions, as well as a featured role in a series of election campaign ads! In his downtime, he enjoys playing video games and watching TV (preferably anything Dragon Ball).



LINDA MASON, PAGEANT DIRECTOR

This is Linda's first performance with EPT, and actually her first performance in quite a few years! She has a background in music and live entertainment. Linda is having a great time with the entire cast and crew, especially her son, Billy.



AVERY NICHOLS, SUZY

Avery is returning to EPT for her third show, her favorite role being a Townfish in *The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition*. She absolutely loves being on stage, singing in her school's choir, and spending all her free time with her family. She would like to dedicate her performances to her intermediate and extended families for always cheering her on.



JOEY NICHOLS, MRS. AUSTIN

Joey is excited to be back on stage for the first time in years. She genuinely enjoyed her time guest directing *An Evening of Culture: Faith County II* in August & loves the chance to share the stage with her youngest daughter, Avery. She would like to thank her husband Alex & her oldest daughter, Aley, for supporting them through all the rehearsals and shows.



CALLEN SPENCER, ELF

Callen is a 5th grader at Lummus Intermediate. He loves acting, singing, dancing, and gaming! Callen played the role of Old Man Jenkins at Ennis Public Theatre last summer in *The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition*! He is looking forward to many more performances in the future!

CAST



LILLIAN SLOVAK, PAGEANT WISEMAN

Lillie is a 5th grader who enjoys softball and all things skincare/cosmetics. She loves the Lord and has a passion for music. This is her first performance of hopefully many more.



EMILY VALDEZ, PAGEANT CUSTOMER

Emily has been a part of 5 EPT plays since 2019. She has played many roles but her favorite was the role she played in *Young Frankenstein*. Emily loves music, and her favorite musician is Paul McCartney.



ABBY WELCH, YOUNG VICKY

Abby is a 5th grader who loves acting, skincare, Jesus, volleyball, and hanging out with her friends. This is Abby's fifth play with EPT; her favorite role so far was Jasmine in last year's production of *Santa is Comin' to Town*.



CHARLIE WHITE, PAGEANT DONNA

Charlie is a 5th grader who loves playing volleyball and softball and hanging out with her friends. This is Charlie's third play with EPT and she is so excited to be on stage with her friends again.



AUTHOR BIOS

JASON PIZZARELLO is a playwright and Co-founder of Stage Partners with director/writer Morgan Gould. His plays have produced/developed with Veterans Repertory Theater, Everyday Inferno Theatre Company, Blue Rider/Classic Stage Company, 3-Legged Dog, Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab, Irondale Ensemble, HERE Arts Center, Clubbed Thumb, and Source Festival (DC), and many others. Over forty of his plays for young actors are published and have been produced in all 50 states and over 20 countries. When he's not writing, he proudly serves as a logistics officer with the New York Army National Guard but reports directly to his two young daughters in Connecticut. For more info visit www.jasonpizzarello.com.

MADELEINE L'ENGLE was born on November 29th, 1918, and spent her formative years in New York City. Instead of her school work, she found that she would much rather be writing stories, poems and journals for herself, which was reflected in her grades (not the best). However, she was not discouraged.

At age 12, she moved to the French Alps with her parents and went to an English boarding school where, thankfully, her passion for writing continued to grow. She flourished during her high school years back in the United States at Ashley Hall in Charleston, South Carolina, vacationing with her mother in a rambling old beach cottage on a beautiful stretch of Florida Beach.

She went to Smith College and studied English with some wonderful teachers as she read the classics and continued her own creative writing. She graduated with honors and moved into a Greenwich Village apartment in New York. She worked in the theater, where Equity union pay and a flexible schedule afforded her the time to write! She published her first two novels during these years—*A Small Rain* and *Ilsa*—before meeting Hugh Franklin, her future husband, when she was an understudy in Anton Chekov's *The Cherry Orchard*. They married during *The Joyous Season*.

She had a baby girl and kept on writing, eventually moving to Connecticut to raise the family away from the city in a small dairy farm village with more cows than people. They bought a dead general store, and brought it to life for 9 years. They moved back to the city with three children, and Hugh revitalized his professional acting career.

As the years passed and the children grew, Madeleine continued to write and Hugh to act, and they to enjoy each other and life. Madeleine began her association with the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, where she was the librarian and maintained an office for more than thirty years. After Hugh's death in 1986, it was her writing and lecturing that kept her going. She lived through the 20th century and into the 21st and wrote over 60 books. She enjoyed being with her friends, her children, her grandchildren, and her great grandchildren.



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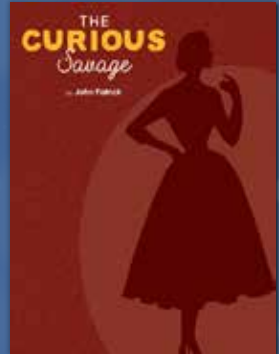
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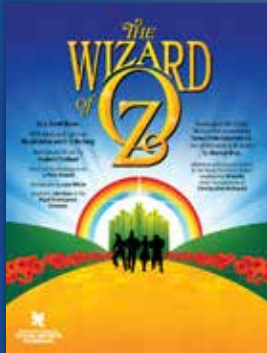
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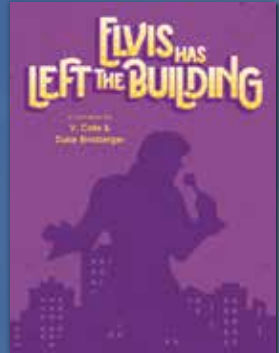
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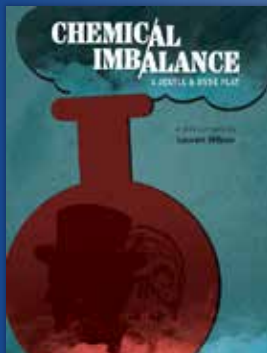
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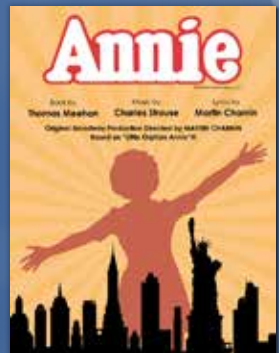
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