

PLAYBILL

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

20
SPOTLIGHT
YOUTH
THEATRE
— YEARS —
2005 - 2025



10620 N. 43rd Avenue • Glendale, AZ 85304 • (602) 843-8318 • sytaz.org

Spotlight Youth Theatre Proudly Presents



Elf the Musical, Jr.

Book by **Thomas Meehan** and **Bob Martin**

Music by **Matthew Sklar**

Lyrics by **Chad Beguelin**

Based upon the New Line Cinema film written by **David Berenbaum**

Originally produced by

Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures

In Association with Unique Features

Directors: **Christina Clodt & Joshua Hengst**

Choreographer: **Lizzie Baggleman**

Musical Director: **Eeshan Kumar**

Stage Manager / Production Manager: **María Cruz**

Lighting and Sound Designer: **Sarah Ray**

Set Designers: **Becky Funk & Brianna Funk**

Costume Designers: **Denise Holben & Jill Oliver**

Hair and Make-up Designer: **Vicki Jensen**

Properties Designers: **Becky Funk, Brianna Funk & Maria Cruz**

Microphone Operator: **Claire McComb**

Light Board Operator: **Sydney Adams**

Sound Board Operator & Spot Operator: **Hayden Lam**

Deck Hand: **Celeste Spencer**

Dance Captain: **Finley Wilbur**

Vocal Captain: **Jacquelyn "Jax" Fuchs**

Photography, video, or audio recording of this show is strictly prohibited by law.

Elf the Musical, Jr.

is presented by special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

The Cast of *Elf the Musical, Jr.*

Buddy	JR Riddle
Walter Hobbs.....	Hunter Schneider
Michael Hobbs	AJ Riddle
Emily	Sydney Stoneberg
Jovie.....	Kate Logan
Charlie / Mr. Greenway / Featured Ensemble.....	Jaxon Lage
Manager & Adult Ensemble	Elin Williams
Sam / Dance Captain / Featured Ensemble	Finley Wilbur
Charlotte Dennon / Vocal Captain / Featured Ensemble.....	Jacquelyn "Jax" Fuchs
Saleswoman / Adult Ensemble.....	Kalina Korito
Sarah / Featured Ensemble	Kinlee Adams
Deb.....	Kylie Hamilton
Santa / Flyer Guy / Featured Ensemble.....	Liam Davenport
Fake Santa / Matthews / Featured Ensemble	Theodore McComb
Darlene / Featured Ensemble.....	Abby Baumbach
Chadwick / Featured Ensemble	Griffin Wilbur
Emma Van Brocklin / Featured Ensemble	Va'nessa Madden
Shawanda / Featured Ensemble	Zara Segó
Santa's Helper / Elf & Ensemble.....	Marcus Lopez
Elf & Ensemble.....	Billie Murtagh, Charlotte Spencer, Cora Hancock, Emery Dunham, Grace Nyen, Grace Langford, Kacie Snyder, Sydney Underwood



OMG!

IT'S SANTA!



I KNOW HIM!

Take a Photo with Santa Claus!

At the conclusion of each performance of Spotlight Youth Theatre's production of *Elf the Musical, Jr.*, patrons can take photos (using their own cameras) of themselves, their friends, and their family members along with a Ho-Ho-Ho-larious cast of characters, all while sitting on Santa's breathtakingly beautiful throne!

All we ask is a donation of your choosing be made to the theater, either at the Box office or through our online donation portal. (Please make your donation prior to taking photos.)

Don't be a cotton-headed ninny muggin!
Please donate today!

Use #sytef when posting on social media.



Donate Here



SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE PROUDLY PRESENTS

PAY-WHAT-YOU-WISH
**HOLIDAY
CABARET**

Featuring the cast of
Elf the Musical, Jr.

Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024

Immediately following the 2 PM performance
of Elf the Musical, Jr. (Approximately 3:15 PM)

Spotlight Youth Theatre
10620 N 43rd Ave • Glendale • (602) 843-8318 • sytaz.org

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE AUDITIONS



PLAYFEST 2025

Featuring the scripts that won
Spotlight Youth Theatre's annual
Young Playwright's Contest

Production Dates:
February 7-16, 2025

Originate shows and characters and be a part of youth theater at its best. Performances include a professional reading at this year's Festival of New American Theatre at The Phoenix Theatre Company.

Ages: **12-19**

Audition dates:

- **Saturday, January 4, 2025, at 6:00 PM**
- **Sunday, January 5, 2025, at 6:00 PM**
- Callbacks: **Monday, January 6, 2025**

Requirements:

- Complete the **online audition form**
- Please come prepared with a comedic one minute monologue and a serious one minute monologue
- Mandatory parent meeting and first rehearsal on **Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 5:30 PM**
- Headshot and resume required.

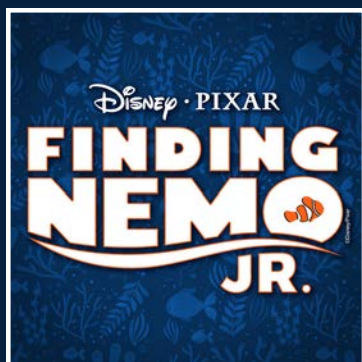
Video auditions:

- Complete the **online audition form**
- Email **kenny@sytaaz.org** by **9:00 PM on Saturday, January 4, 2025.**
- Include your name with the audition video linked or attached to the email.
- In-person callbacks are mandatory.

See complete requirements and access the online audition form at
sytaaz.org/playfest-2025

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SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE AUDITIONS



FINDING NEMO JR.

Explore the big blue world with this lively stage musical based on the beloved Pixar film!

Production Dates:
February 28 – March 16, 2025

Ages: 8–18

Audition dates:

- **Saturday, January 18, 2025, at 6:00 PM**
- **Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 6:00 PM**
- Callbacks: **Monday, January 20, 2025, at 5:30 PM**

Requirements:

- Complete the **online audition form**.
- Please come prepared to sing 30 bars (about 90 seconds) of an upbeat, appropriate style song (karaoke only, no sheet music and no a capella) and also a one minute character driven monologue.
- Mandatory parent meeting and first rehearsal on **Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 5:30 PM**.
- Headshot and resume required.

Video auditions:

- Complete the **online audition form**.
- Email **kenny@sytaaz.org** by **9:00 PM on Saturday, January 18, 2025**.
- Include your name with the audition video linked or attached to the email.
- In-person callbacks are mandatory.

See complete requirements and access the online audition form at
sytaaz.org/finding-nemo-jr

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Note From the Directors of *Elf the Musical, Jr.*

Our family cherishes our holiday traditions. One of our treasured traditions that evolved over the years has been our holiday family movie nights.

Before streaming or recording a show was possible, we gathered around the TV with our siblings to watch the Rankin and Bass classics *Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer* and *Frosty the Snowman* plus *A Charlie Brown Christmas* on the only night the shows were aired.

Fast-forward to when Christina's oldest son was little, and she would purchase VHS tapes (and later DVDs), adding *A Christmas Story*, *The Grinch*, and *A Nightmare Before Christmas* to our list. We watched them on repeat during his holiday break.

Then, in 2003, a new Christmas movie *Elf* was released when our two youngest girls were babies. This was quickly added to our Christmas rotation and continues to be one of our favorites. There is such a wonderful innocence and simplicity that Buddy brings to a world of chaos and bitterness. He is such a great reminder for all of us to continue to see the world with child-like wonderment, joy and hope.

The musical version of *Elf* took the stage in 2010. This show is full of peppy earworms and conveys pure holiday joy! We are so excited to share this show with our theater families. With any musical based on a popular movie, delivering something fresh and new for our audience while staying true to the story is always challenging. But our cast and production team rose to the challenge and exceeded our expectations.

It certainly feels like the world could use a bit more of Buddy's perspective to spread kindness and good cheer all year round. It doesn't matter if you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, or Festivus (for the rest of us); holiday spirit and joy are universal. Our hope, as you watch the show, is that you can share some laughs with your loved ones, creating some holiday memories as this incredible cast "spreads some cheer by singing loud for all to hear."

Happy Holidays,
Josh and Christina

Elf the Musical, Jr. Musical Numbers

TIME: Present Day • LOCATION: The North Pole & New York City

"Happy All the Time"	Santa, Elves, Buddy
"World's Greatest Dad"	Buddy, New Yorkers
"Sparklejollytwinklejingley"	Buddy, Macy's Employees, Manager, Jovie
"I'll Believe in You"	Michael, Emily
"A Christmas Song"	Buddy, Jovie, Crowd
"World's Greatest Dad" (Reprise)	Buddy, Carolers
"Never Fall in Love (with an Elf)"	Jovie
"There Is a Santa Claus"	Michael, Emily, New Yorkers
"The Story of Buddy"	Buddy, Michael, Emily, Mr. Greenway, Deb, Matthews, Chadwick, Sam, Sarah, Walter, Office Staff
"A Christmas Song" (Reprise)	Entire Cast
"Sparklejollytwinklejingley" (Reprise)	Entire Cast

This show runs approximately 80 minutes with no intermission.



A word from our Artistic Director:

There is no need for me to preach to you about the wonderful shows and programs we present on our stage all year long.

What you don't see (but might have been involved with in some way) is the incredible journey the actors and their families take while getting onto the stage. The wonderful experiences are too long to list and are always in progress.

That is what makes Spotlight unique: the sense of community and love off the stage. Everything we do is for the families and kids we serve.

We have no adult theatre to follow, and no city or big corporation to support us. The reality of the business of theatre is that the odds are against us to survive, and we are continually struggling with finances. We have volunteers and Board members working tirelessly to keep the theatre solvent and open. Sometimes we need a little bit more help.

We are asking for 100 people to donate \$100 (the price of one night out at Cheesecake Factory) or more to help us get through a rather challenging financial chapter in Spotlight's incredible history.

Whether your kids are grown up and moved on, or you have future thespians, we hope you can help.

Thank you,

Kenny Grossman, Artistic Director
Spotlight Youth Theatre • syta.org

**To participate in Spotlight Youth Theatre's
2024-2025 100-From-100 campaign, please
visit bit.ly/SYT-Donate or use your
smartphone to follow the QR code.**



Spotlight Youth Theatre Administrative Team

Artistic Director for Spotlight Youth Theatre	Kenny Grossman
Managing Director for Spotlight Youth Theatre	Deb Czajkowski
General Manager for Spotlight Youth Theatre	Jack Taylor
Graphic Designer, Headshot Photographer, & Webmaster	Robert Waller
Social Media Specialist	Jack Taylor
Promotional Photos	Audra Little
Break-a-Leg Table Coordinator.....	Tammy Waller
Fundraising Committee	Sara Bader, Shelly Boucher, Karen Dolyniuk, Julie Donnicks, Elisa Herndon, Audra Little, Amanda Newton, Jen Parker, Lisa Poormon, Kelly Swope, Tammy Waller, & Barbara Winch
Special thanks to Doug Novotny, Imagine Theater Company, Audra Little, the Spotlight Youth Theatre Board of Directors , and the friends & family members who volunteered to make this show so successful.	

How Are We Doing?

WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK

Please take a moment to
complete our online survey.
Your responses are greatly
appreciated.

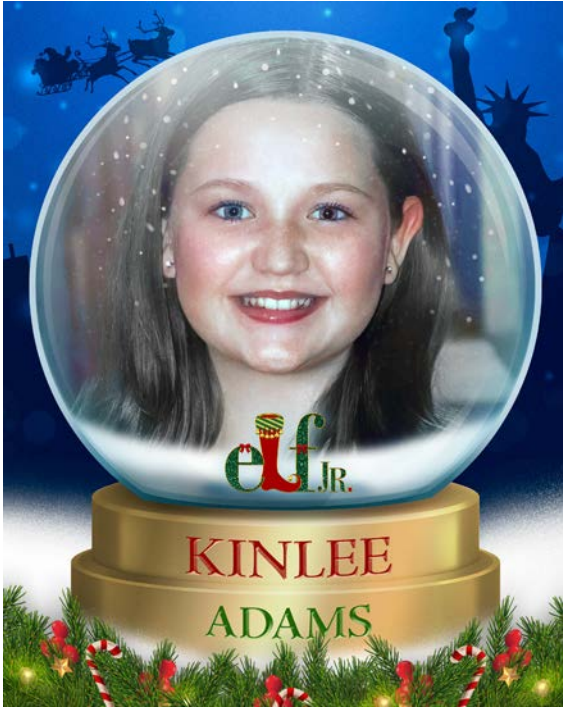
Please scan the code or
type the link into any internet
browser.

<https://bit.ly/SYTSurvey>



SCAN ME

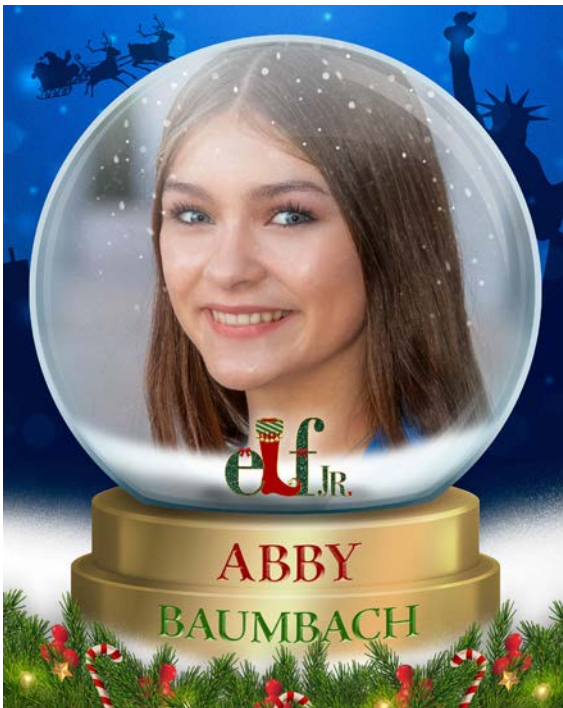
Who's Who in *Elf the Musical, Jr.*



Kinlee Adams

Sarah / Featured Ensemble

Kinlee is 12 years old and is a 7th grader at ACAA. When Kinlee is not on the stage, she also loves drawing and dancing! Previous performances include *How to Eat Like a Child*, *Letters to God*, and *Junie B Jones is Not A Crook* at Starlight Community Theater, *Winnie the Pooh* and *Finding Nemo Jr.* at Theater Works, and *A Midsummer's Night Dream* and *Charlotte's Web* at Spotlight! Thanks, Spotlight Crew, for another amazing opportunity!

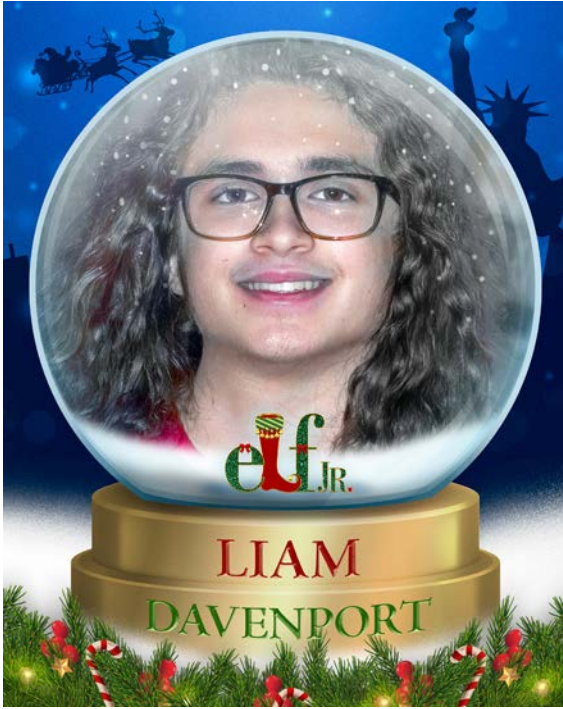


Abby Baumbach

Darlene / Featured Ensemble

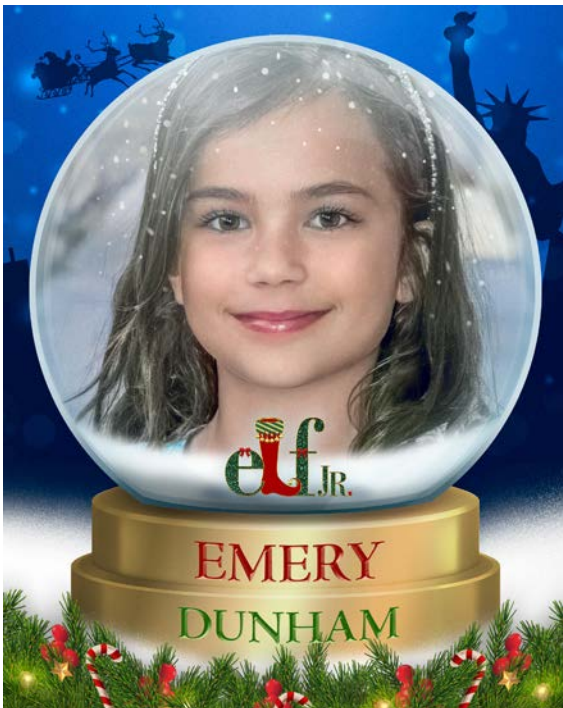
Abby is thrilled to be back on the Spotlight stage in the cast of *Elf the Musical, Jr.* She is an 8th Grader at Shea Middle School, where she participates in the North Valley Arts Academy Dance & Theater Programs. Most recently, she had the privilege of performing as Owl in *Charlotte's Web*, The Choir in *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Valley Youth Theatre), and Emily in *Freckleface Strawberry* (Spotlight). Abby thanks her castmates and directors for all their love and support!

Who's Who in *Elf the Musical, Jr.*



Liam Davenport
Santa / Featured Ensemble

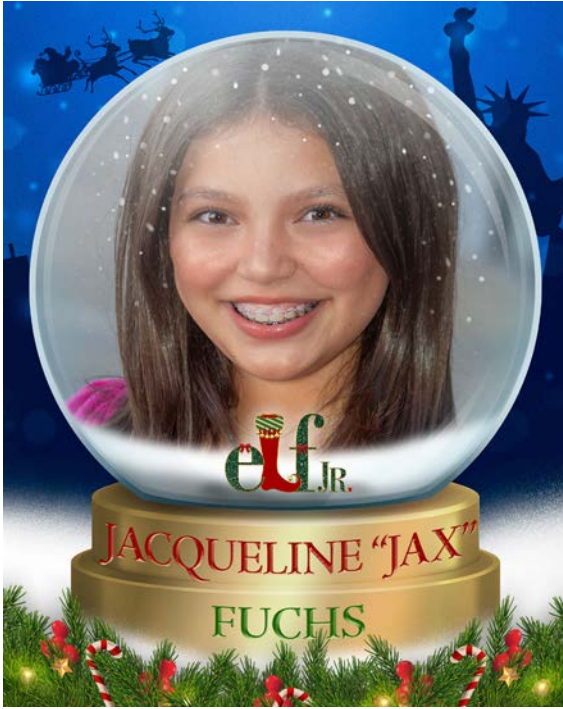
Liam is a 13-year-old who attends Western Sky Middle School and is thrilled to return to the Spotlight Youth Theatre stage for yet another incredible production! A few of Liam's favorite roles include Courfeyrac in *Les Misérables* (SYT), Oliver Rivers in *Puffs* (SCT), Robertson Ay in *Mary Poppins Jr* (SYT), and Scar in *The Lion King Kids* (SYT). When he's not immersed in the world of theater, Liam loves hanging out with friends and playing with his adorable French Bulldog, Cooper. He's immensely grateful for his family's unwavering support and love. They inspire him every day. Enjoy the show!



Emery Dunham
Elf / Ensemble

Emery is 9 years old and loving 4th grade. She has had the fortunate experience of working with Spotlight in some of their camps. She was in *Lion King Jr* where she was a critical part of the Ensemble and an elephant and other important characters. She also was a part of *Spotlight's Disney Review*. Most recently, you would have found her at Starlight Youth Theatre, dazzling the crowd in *Matilda the Musical Jr*, where she played Alice. She loves all the opportunities to stretch her dramatic wings by singing, dancing, and performing on stage!

Who's Who in *Elf the Musical, Jr.*



Jacquelyn "Jax" Fuchs Charlotte Dennon / Featured Ensemble / Vocal Captain

Jacquelyn "Jax" Fuchs is thrilled to be making her Spotlight Youth Theatre debut. No stranger to the stage, Jax has been in 20+ shows around the Valley. Some of her favorite roles include Little Jen/Kathy Cratchit in *Scrooge* (Arizona Theatre Company), LadyBug in *James & The Giant Peach Jr.* (Starlight Youth Theatre), Cruella DeVille in *101 Dalmatians Kids* (Desert Foothills Theater), Ursula in *The Little Mermaid Jr.* (Arizona Broadway Theater), and Young Kangaroo in *Seussical* (Valley Youth Theatre). She would like to thank Christina, Josh, and the entire *Elf the Musical, Jr.* creative team for this opportunity and her mom and dad for their endless love and support. Enjoy the show!



Kylie Hamilton Deb / Featured Ensemble

Kylie Hamilton is 14 and currently a 9th grader at ASU Prep Digital and is honored to be debuting at Spotlight Youth Theatre as Deb! You may have seen Kylie at Theater Works earlier this year as Parent #2 in *My Son Pinocchio Jr.* or Gabriella Montez in *High School Musical Jr.* over the summer! She thanks her parents for always driving her here to give her this chance and hopes everyone enjoys the show!

Who's Who in *Elf the Musical, Jr.*



Cora Hancock Elf / Ensemble

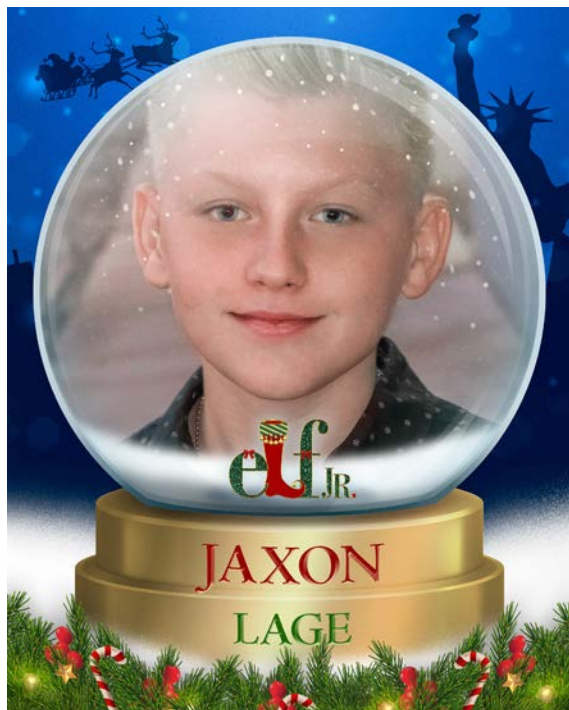
Cora is delighted to be back on the Spotlight stage, this time in *Elf the Musical, Jr.*, following her involvement with Spotlight's theater troupes and her role in *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Jr.* Her recent credits include playing Sue in *My Son Pinocchio Jr* at Theater Works and Lavender in *Matilda Jr* at Starlight. Cora's interests include drawing, painting, and Minecraft. She wishes to thank her music and acting coaches and the *Elf the Musical, Jr.* team for their outstanding efforts in this fabulous show.



Kalina Korito Adult Ensemble

Kalina is excited to begin her career as an actor at Spotlight Youth Theatre. Kalina is in the 7th grade and is 13 years old. This is her first time participating in a production at this theater, and she is very grateful to be a part of the Spotlight family. She has previously been in *Finding Nemo Junior* (ensemble) and in *Little Mermaid Junior* (Ariel) both at Arizona Broadway Theater. She has also been in the *Aristocats* with Stage Dreams Youth Theater (ensemble) and is a part of *Rev'D Up* at Arizona Broadway Theater. Kalina would like to thank Spotlight's talented cast and crew for making her experience so wonderful! Enjoy the show!

Who's Who in *Elf the Musical, Jr.*



Jaxon Lage

Charlie / Mr. Greenway /
Featured Ensemble

Jaxon Lage is excited to be back on the Spotlight Stage! Jaxon is currently a member of HyRev, a teen performance troupe at Arizona Broadway Theater. His recent credits include Young Prince / Youth Ensemble in *Beauty and the Beast* (Arizona Broadway Theater), Luigi/Roustabout in *My Son Pinocchio* (Theater Works), Edmund in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (Stage Left Productions), and Gill in *Finding Nemo* (Theater Works). Jaxon would like to thank his parents for all their support and everyone at Spotlight for this amazing opportunity.



Grace Langford

Elf / Ensemble

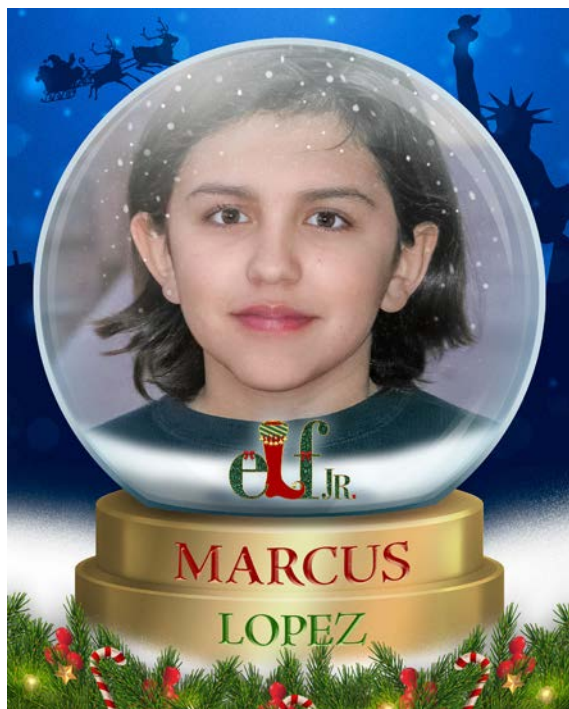
Grace started her acting career a few years ago when she found her passion in doing school plays. She's been in performances with Starlight Community Theater and now Spotlight Youth Theatre. She enjoys dancing and singing and making others laugh. She has a very silly personality and is always trying to make people smile. Grace lives at home with her parents, two older sisters, and a dog named Molly

Who's Who in *Elf the Musical, Jr.*



Kate Logan Jovie

Kate is beyond excited to be back on the SYT stage as Jovie in *Elf the Musical, Jr.* Some of her most recent roles include Fox Mother in *My Son Pinocchio, Jr* (Theater Works), Mrs. Brill in *Mary Poppins, Jr* (SYT), and Mrs. Claus in *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Jr* (SYT). In her free time, you can find Kate crocheting, decorating her room, or snuggling her dog! She has a heart filled with gratitude for her cast and crew for such an incredible experience and for her supportive family and friends for their love and encouragement. Most of all, Kate hopes you enjoy the show! (And remember... never fall in love with an elf!)



Marcus Lopez Santa's Helper / Elf / Ensemble

Marcus is thrilled to be making his theater debut at Spotlight Youth Theatre! Marcus is an 11-year-old in 6th grade at Highland Lakes Elementary School. Outside of theater, he is an accomplished violinist. He has been playing the violin since age six and is an active member of his school orchestra. He is also a performer with the mariachi band Los Niños del Desierto. Marcus would like to thank his dad, his mom, and his sister for their support.

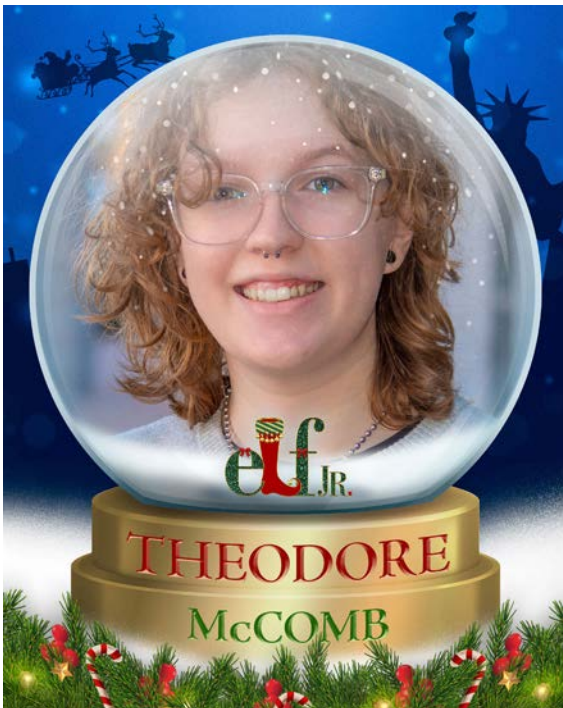
Who's Who in *Elf the Musical, Jr.*



Va'Nessa Madden

Emma Van Brocklin /
Featured Ensemble

Va'Nessa Madden is 10 years old and is a 5th Grader at ASA. She plays the drums and can juggle! She lives in East Phoenix with her mom, older sister, and her dog, Theo. Her aspirations are to become a model and actress. She spends her days ripping the runway at fashion shows, acting on stage, and creating clay bead jewelry. She's over the moon to make her debut in *Elf the Musical, Jr.* at Spotlight Youth Theatre. She's acted in *Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory*, July 2024 (VYT) and *Charlotte's Web*, October 2024 (VYT). She's attended fashion shows such as Kids & Teen Fashion Week, Charity Showcases, and local designers. She is represented by The Young Agency and is a delegate for Preteen USA 2024 Million Dollar Diamond. She would like to thank Spotlight for the opportunity to be a part of their family!



Theodore McComb

Matthews / Fake Santa /
Featured Ensemble

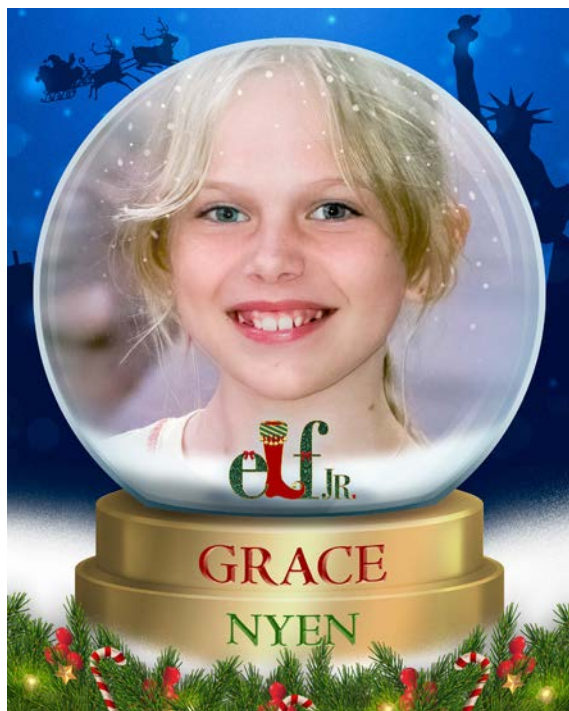
Theo is ecstatic to be in his first show at Spotlight! He has recently been seen as "Theseus / Oberon" in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Theater Works), "King Agnart" in *Frozen Jr.* (Theater Works), "Marlin" in *Finding Nemo Jr.* (Theater Works), and "Antelope / Wildebeest" in *Lion King Jr.* (Theater Works). He also serves as the president of the theater council and co-captain of the improv team at his school and has most recently performed in *Murder on the Orient Express* (Hector MacQueen) and *Mamma Mia* (Father Alexandrios). When he's not performing, he enjoys working behind the scenes as a teaching assistant, ASM, or tech crew. Enjoy the show!

Who's Who in *Elf the Musical, Jr.*



Billie Murtagh Elf / Ensemble

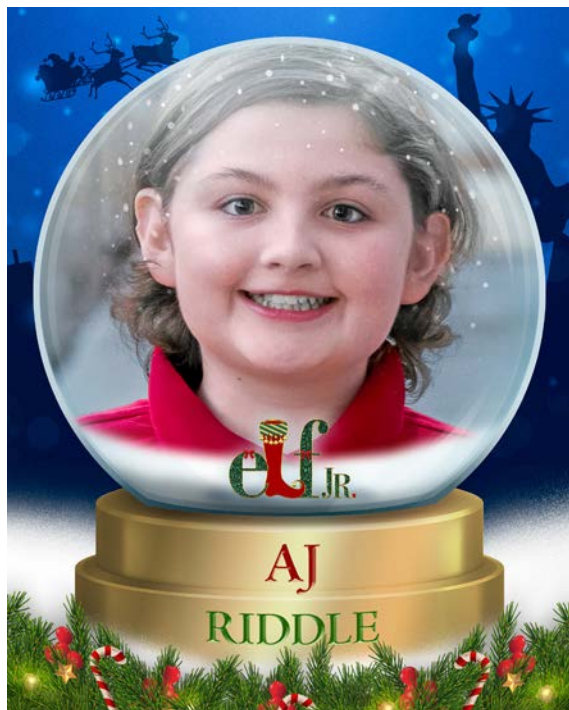
Billie is so excited to make her debut at Spotlight! She lives in Glendale, Arizona, and is in third grade. In her spare time, she loves performing in her local musical theater class and taking tap / ballet classes. She is so honored to be a part of this incredible cast! Break a leg, fellow cast mates, and don't be a cotton-headed ninny muggins this holiday season! Enjoy the show!



Grace Nyen Elf / Ensemble

Grace Nyen is in 6th grade at Quail Run Elementary School. She enjoys baking, family game nights, and traveling anywhere by airplane. This fall, she performed as Junie B in *Junie B. Jones is Not a Crook* (Starlight Community Theater). She takes musical theater classes at Bender Performing Arts and has been in their productions of *Matilda*, *Peter Pan*, and is currently rehearsing for *Seussical*. She has attended several theater camps and had a blast as one of Kaa's coils in *The Jungle Book* (Starlight Community Theater) and as a lost boy in *Peter Pan* (Starlight Community Theater). This is her first play at Spotlight Youth Theatre, but she can't wait to audition for more!

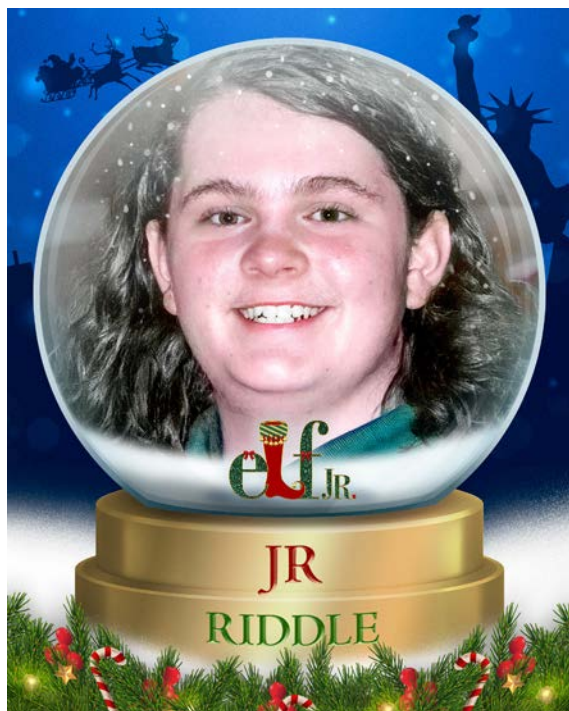
Who's Who in *Elf the Musical, Jr.*



AJ Riddle

Michael Hobbs

AJ is excited to be back on the Spotlight stage playing the little brother of his real-life big brother, who happens to be an Elf! He would like to give a huge Sparkle Jolly Thank You to Christina, Josh, Eeshan, Lizzie, Maria, Renee, and of course, Kenny! AJ's favorite previous Spotlight shows are *Rudolph, Jr.* (Hermey) & *Charlotte's Web* (ensemble). Other favorite credits include *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Charlie) and *Mame* (Young Patrick), both at Arizona Broadway Theatre, as well as *Matilda* (Nigel) and *Lion King, Jr.* (Timon), both at Theater Works. AJ wants to be an actor when he grows up. He would like to thank his family, friends, mentors, the cast, and the awesome theater community for their love and support! AJ wants his big bro JR to know that he thinks he is the best Buddy! And remember, in the spirit of Christmas..." There IS a Santa Claus!" Happy Holidays!

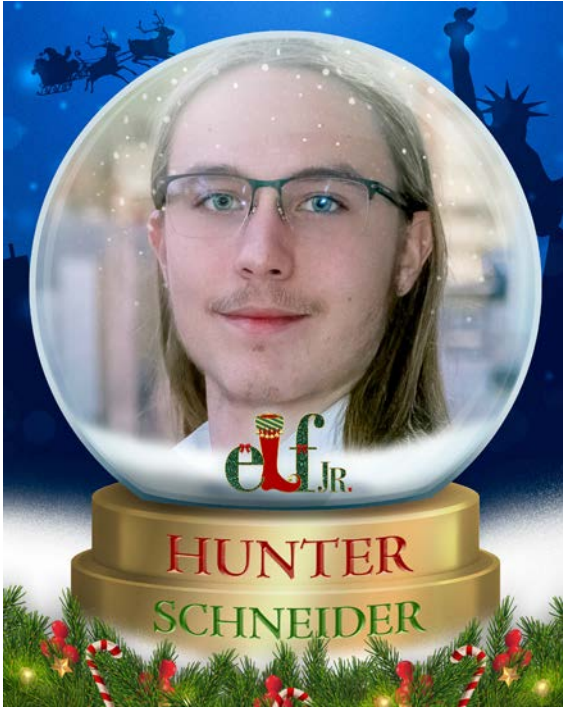


JR Riddle

Buddy

JR is humbled and thrilled to play Buddy in *Elf the Musical, Jr.* He'd like to send an extra sweet candy-cane-coated thank you to Christina, Josh, Eeshan, Lizzie, Maria, Kenny, and Renee! Spotlight and Kenny & Vicki hold a special place in JR's heart. JR's first show was at Spotlight - *Frozen, Jr.* (Weselton), followed by other faves, including *Moana, Jr.* (Maui, 'Zoni nom) and *Charlotte's Web* (Avery). He previously performed in *Elf* at Arizona Broadway Theatre (Michael) and *A Christmas Carol* (Young Scrooge). Other favorites include *Matilda* (Bruce) and *Lion King, Jr.* (Scar) at Theater Works and *Evita* (Magaldi, Jimmy award nom) and *Rock of Ages* (Stacey Jaxx) at Canyon View High School. JR says break legs to the awesome cast & to his stage (and real-life) brother AJ, whom he is very proud of! And remember, the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear!

Who's Who in *Elf the Musical, Jr.*



Hunter Schneider Walter Hobbs

Hunter is thrilled to be a part of *Elf the Musical, Jr* as Walter! He just finished his performance as Gabe in *Lightning Thief* at Starlight. He also became an Eagle Scout earlier this year. Hunter's favorite musical right now is *Beetlejuice*. Hunter would like to thank the directors, the cast and everyone else that is involved in this production. Eggnog is his favorite holiday drink. Merry Christmas!



Zara Sego Shawanda / Featured Ensemble

Zara is excited to return to Spotlight Youth Theatre and be part of this wonderful production! She recently appeared as a Townsperson / Snow Chorus Member in *Frozen Jr.* at Theater Works. Her favorite roles have included Chum (*Finding Nemo Jr.*), Marty (*Madagascar Jr.*), Young Nala in (*The Lion King Jr.*), and Junie B. Jones (*Junie B. Jones the Musical*). Zara is full of energy and joy, always cheering on her family and friends. She sends heartfelt thanks to Josh, Christina, Lizzie, Eshan, and María for all their hard work on this production and for making it such a memorable experience. Enjoy the show!

Who's Who in *Elf the Musical, Jr.*



Kacie Snyder
Elf / Ensemble

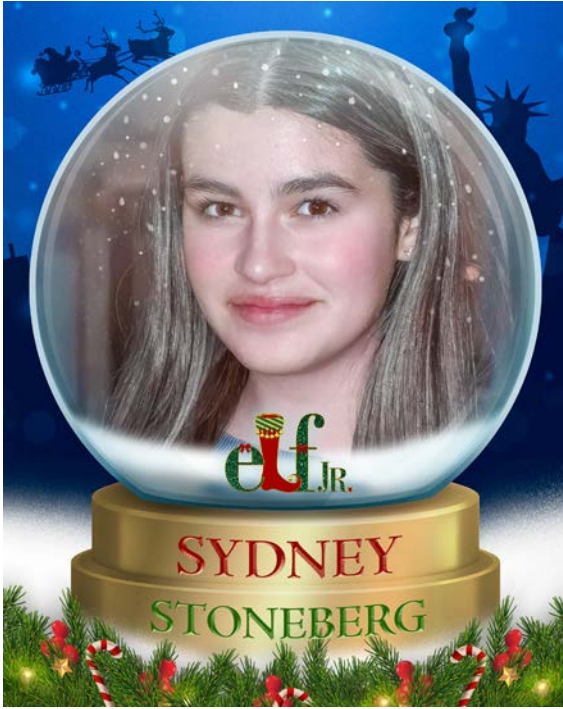
Kacie Snyder is thrilled to return to the stage at Spotlight Youth Theatre. Some of her recent roles include Young Anna / Oaken Family in *Frozen Jr.* (Theater Works), Patty Farrell in *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (Limelight), Ensemble in *James and the Giant Peach Jr.* (Starlight), Ivanka in *Once* (Spotlight), and Gladys Herdman in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (Stage Left). She is grateful to Christina, Josh, Eeshan, Lizzie, Maria, Jack, and the incredibly talented cast for this amazing opportunity. A special thanks to Renee and Stephen for their invaluable support throughout this journey. She would also like to express her deep gratitude to her family for their unwavering encouragement and commitment. Remember, the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear! Enjoy the show! @kaciesnyder_



Charlotte Spencer
Elf / Ensemble

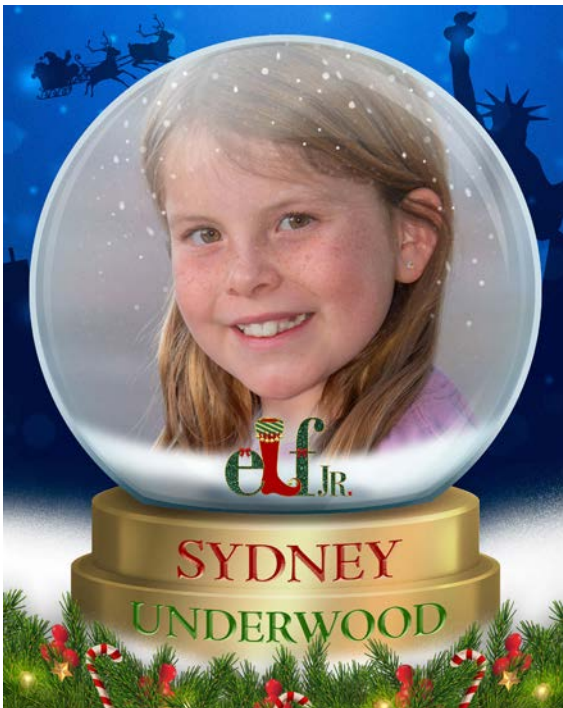
Lottie Spencer is new to Spotlight Youth Theatre and is thrilled to be a part of this fun cast! She loves theater both on and off the stage. Her previous shows include *Junie B. Jones*, *James and the Giant Peach, Jr.*, and *Camelot and Camelittle*, and this summer, she learned how to operate the soundboard at camp. Lottie is in the fifth grade and enjoys reading, video games, art, and learning new musical instruments. Ask her about the baritone that's as big as she is.

Who's Who in *Elf the Musical, Jr.*



Sydney Stoneberg Emily Hobbs

Sydney Stoneberg is excited to perform in her first Spotlight Youth Theatre show!! She is 13 years old in 7th grade at Explorer Middle School. Sydney's most recent roles have been Ursula (*The Little Mermaid*), Gabriella (*High School Musical*), and Madame de la Grande Bouche (*Beauty & the Beast*). She would like to thank Christina, Josh, Eeshan, Lizzie, María, and the rest of the production team who have worked to create an amazing show, and her family for being supportive along the way! Hope you have a sparklejollytwinkle-jingly time!!



Sydney Underwood Elf / Ensemble

Sydney is thrilled to perform in her first Spotlight Youth Theatre show. Sydney, a 9-year-old (who turns 10 during the performances), just moved to Arizona from Vermont, the place where she found her love of acting. Her passion for acting began when she landed the role of Matilda in *Matilda Jr. the Musical*. Sydney was most recently seen on stage as a Shark in *Finding Nemo Jr.* at Artistree Community Arts Center in Vermont. Sydney is honored to be involved with Spotlight Youth Theatre and has had a blast working with everyone on this show. Sydney wants to thank her parents, family, and friends for supporting her on her acting journey.

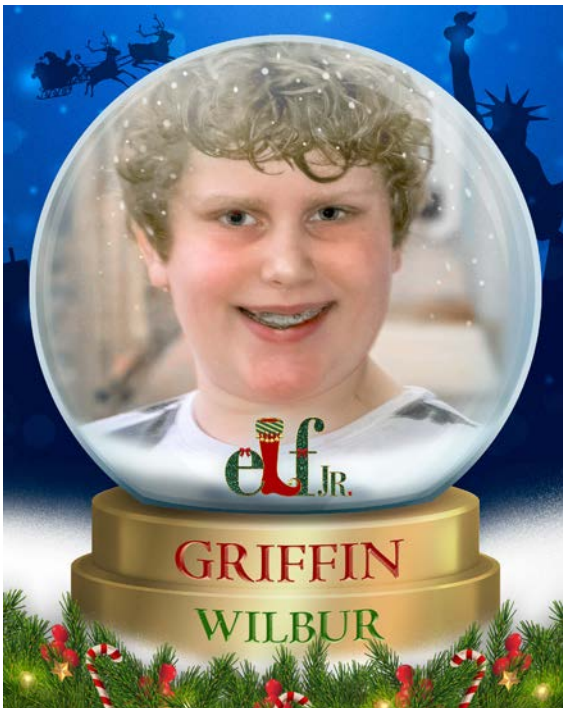
Who's Who in *Elf the Musical, Jr.*



Finley Wilbur

Sam / Featured Ensemble /
Dance Captain

Finley is excited to be in another production at Spotlight. She was previously in *Finding Nemo, Jr.* (Theater Works), *Rudolph Jr.* and *Mary Poppins* (Spotlight), and *The Little Mermaid* (ABT). She would like to thank the awesome production team and the amazing cast of *Elf the Musical, Jr.* for making this experience so memorable. She would also like to thank Mr. Shonn, Mr. Darren, Mr. Stephen, and her whole family for always supporting her.

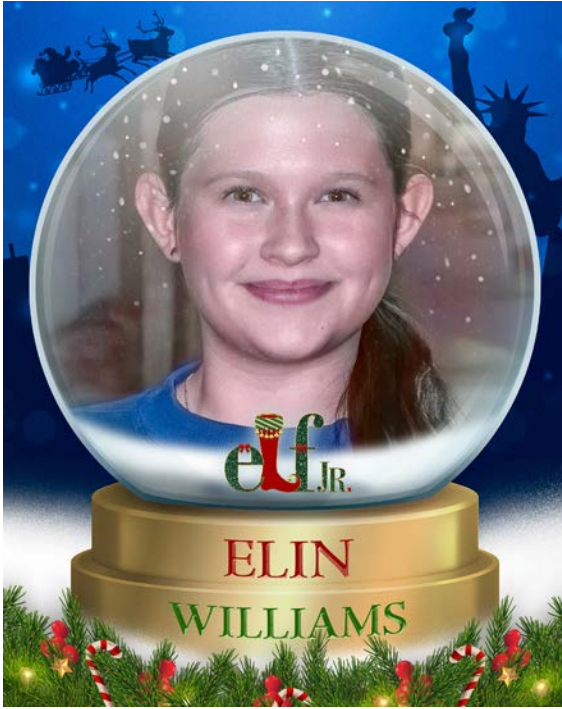


Griffin Wilbur

Chadwick / Featured Ensemble

Griffin is excited to be in the cast of *Elf the Musical, Jr.* Some of his previous roles include Santa in *Rudolph Jr.*, Baloo in *The Jungle Book Kids* (Spotlight), and Marlin in *Finding Nemo, Jr.* (Theater Works). Big hugs to the entire production team at Spotlight. Special thanks to Mr. Darren, Mr. Shonn, Mr. Stephen, and his parents and sister for always supporting him. Enjoy the show!

Who's Who in *Elf the Musical, Jr.*



Elin Williams

Manager / Adult Ensemble

Elin is 13 years old and is in 7th grade. She is excited to be back on the SYT stage for her second show, playing the Manager in *Elf the Musical, Jr.* She made her debut in *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Jr.*, where she played (Sam) the Snowman. Elin has enjoyed working with an amazing team, including directors Christina Clodt and Joshua Hengst, musical director Eeshan Kumar, choreographer Lizzie Baggleman, and stage manager María Cruz. She's grateful for the chance to collaborate with her talented castmates and looks forward to many more performances with SYT.

In a world full of theatrical performances, Elf the Musical Senior is, without a doubt, one of them!

Since the claim of "best musical ever performed" is subject to opinion, there is no way of saying for certain that this is not it. Some wonder if this show can truly live up to the hype – The only way to find out is to witness it first-hand on Dec. 14, 16, or 22.

Prepare to laugh till you tinkle... err, twinkle... as you see Spotlight's more... ummm... "seasoned" performers take to the stage in their own version of *Elf the Musical*.



NO ONE ASKED FOR IT
BUT WE ARE BRINGING IT TO YOU ANYWAY!



Elf Senior: **The Musical...Sorta!**

A fundraiser for Spotlight Youth Theatre

Corrupted and Directed by Luke Bader

SATURDAY, DEC 14, AT 10 PM
MONDAY, DEC 16, AT 7 PM
SUNDAY, DEC 22, AT 6 PM

Tickets are available at sytaaz.org

*(Get 'em fast - This raucous parody will sell out quickly
...or maybe that's just the cast!)*

Who's Who in *Elf the Musical, Jr.*

Lizzie Baggleman (Choreographer)

Lizzie Baggleman is thrilled to be back at SYT serving as the choreographer for *Elf the Musical, Jr.*! With nearly 20 years of experience in the Valley's theater community, she has dedicated her career to fostering creativity and confidence in young performers. She recently completed her 8th summer as a teaching artist at The Phoenix Theatre Company and continues to work as a freelance teaching artist, director, and choreographer across the region. A lifelong lover of theater, she began performing as a preschooler and has carried her passion for the arts into her work with students of all ages. She would like to thank her husband, Jeremy, her daughter, Jamie, and her mom for their unwavering love and support.

Christina Clodt (Co-Director)

Christina Clodt is so excited to share the holiday joy of *Elf the Musical, Jr.* with our audiences. Originally from California, she has performed in dozens of local productions, including *Once* (Baruska) on the SYT stage. Her recent directing credits include *Junie B Jones Is Not A Crook* and *James and the Giant Peach Jr.* at Starlight Community Theater. Offstage, Christina is a baseball fan (Go Dbacks), a mom to a menagerie of critters, three grown-up humans, and a Nina to two granddaughters. Christina would like to thank Kenny and the SYT team for trusting us with this production and the best production team ever: Eeshan, Lizzie, and María. She is also thankful for all our supportive families who were a huge part of making theater magic happen. Love to Avery, Ashley, Savannah, Lainey Kenzie, Noel, and, of course, her co-director, boy bestie, and partner, Joshua.

María Guadalupe Cruz (Stage Manager / Property Designer)

María (She/Her/Ella) is thrilled to be the Stage Manager and props designer for *Elf the Musical, Jr.*! María has several stage management credits at theaters across the Arizona valley for the past 6 years. She has her Master's in Legal Studies from ASU and a BA in Organizational Leadership - Project Management. She currently works at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts as their Programming Administrative Specialist and at Spotlight Youth Theatre as their Production Manager. María believes Spotlight is a truly special place that does important work that genuinely supports and expands the community. She wants to thank Kenny, Christina, Josh, Jack, Eeshan, Lizzie, Deb, the whole production team, cast, and crew for allowing her to work with them on this show. Por último, ella quiere agradecerle a su mamá, papá y hermanas por el apoyo que recibe. "Disfruten la obra!"

Brianna Funk (Co-Set Designer)

Brianna is excited to be working with Spotlight again on *Elf the Musical, Jr.* She previously was the set designer for *Anastasia* and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Jr.* A special thanks to Kenny and Spotlight Youth Theatre for always making theater accessible to all. Love to her family, especially her husband, Travis, who gets roped into her crazy theater hijinks!

Becky Funk (Co-Set Designer)

This is Becky's fifth set design project with Spotlight Youth Theatre. She previously designed sets for *Anastasia* and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Jr.* She is the assistant director for Imagine Theater Company and has been the scenic painter for many shows. She has loved working with Spotlight again on this production. She wants to thank her family for all their love and support.

Josh Hengst (Co-Director)

Josh Hengst has thoroughly enjoyed bringing this hilarious and heartwarming Christmas story to the stage. He sincerely thanks the wonderful Spotlight Youth Theatre staff and this amazing production team, including his lovely co-director Christina, for making this process a true joy. This cast is composed of a group of hardworking and talented kids; Josh is so proud of them. Everyone involved has given their all, and you are about to see the result of that work. Enjoy and Merry Christmas!

Who's Who in *Elf the Musical, Jr.*

Denise Holben (Co-Costume Designer)

Denise Holben is delighted to bring some holiday cheer to Spotlight Youth Theater as a costume designer for *Elf the Musical, Jr.* With years of experience designing for Imagine Theater Company, she loves helping stories come to life on stage. Denise thanks her family and friends for their festive support and encouragement.

Vicki Jensen (Hair & Makeup Designer)

I would like to thank Spotlight Youth Theatre for the opportunity to put my theater make-up schooling to work! I went back to college upon moving to Arizona seven short years ago and have worked on some of SYT's productions in the past, such as *Moana*, *Shrek*, and more. Thank you to Kenny, our directors, and our actors for the ability and freedom to help make *Elf the Musical, Jr.* come to life!

Eeshan Kumar (Music Director)

Eeshan Kumar is so excited to be making his Music Directing debut for *Elf the Musical, Jr.* at Spotlight! He has recently music-directed multiple camps at Spotlight, including *Taylor and the Swifties Attack*, *The Lion King Kids*, and *Trunchbull's Theater Bootcamp*. Ever since Eeshan was six, he has taken a liking to music and started to learn instruments such as Violin, Cello, Piano, Guitar, and Ukulele. When he isn't playing or teaching music, Eeshan likes to perform in productions around the valley. Some recent credits include Trent Oliver in *The Prom* (DST), Alfred/White Rabbit in *Alice by Heart* (SYT), Van in *Dog Sees God* (DST), and Dmitry in *Anastasia* (SYT). He hopes you enjoy the show and Happy Holidays!

Jill Oliver (Co-Costume Designer)

Jill Oliver is excited to be designing costumes for Spotlight Youth Theater for the first time. She has enjoyed working on costumes for Imagine Theater Company for many years and is having a great time with this project. Jill thanks her friends and family for their support and encouragement along the way. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Sarah Ray (Lighting & Sound Designer)

Sarah is the lighting and sound designer for *Elf, the Musical, Jr.* Sarah started to learn how to light and sound design a year ago while working on *Playfest*. He thinks this show was an absolute blast and hopes everyone has an amazing time watching it.



Promotional photos by Audra Little Photography

Give Your Favorite Actor, Crew Member, or Director a Break-a-Leg!

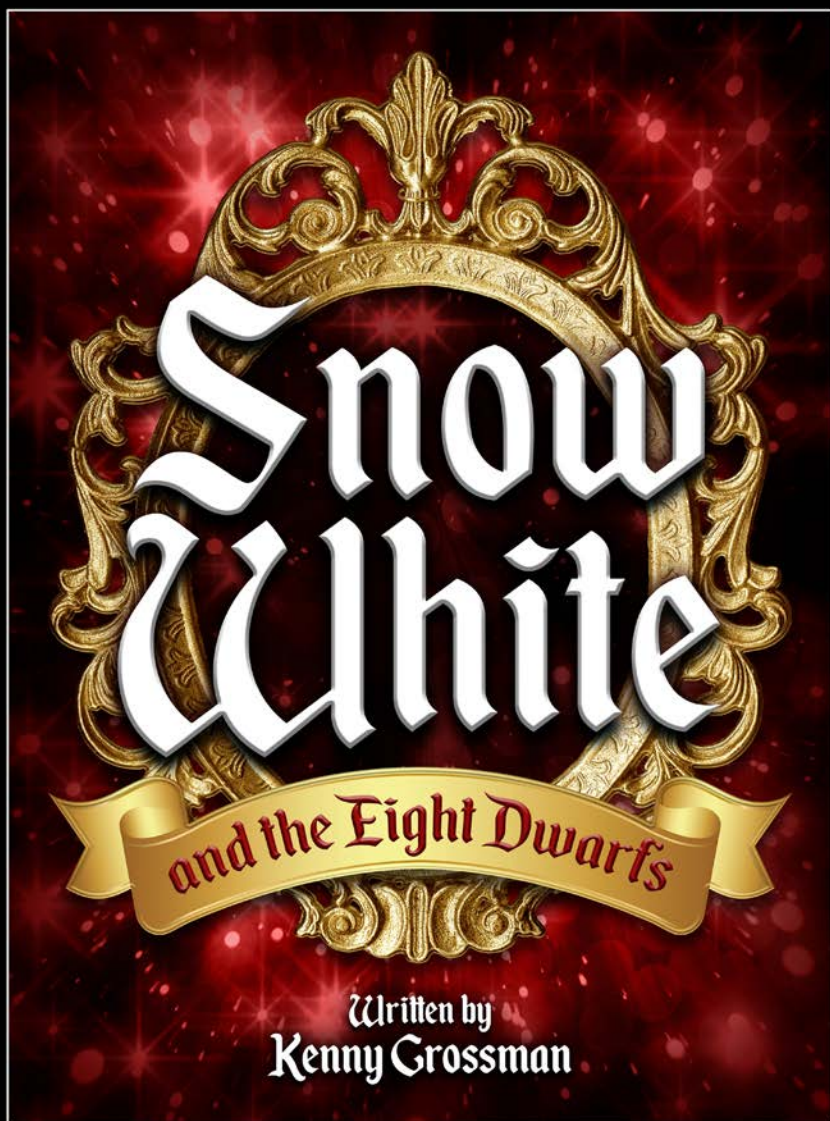


For only \$5.00 you can send a personalized Break-a-Leg to your favorite actor or crew member!



The actors, crew members, and directors love it, and all proceeds are channeled directly back into the theatre to support amazing programs such as this one. Stop by the "Break-a-Leg" table in the theatre lobby to brighten someone's day!

Coming Soon to
Spotlight Youth Theatre



SPOTLIGHT HOLIDAY CAMP

DECEMBER 23, 2024 – JANUARY 3, 2025

Performances: January 3 & 4, 2024

10620 N 43rd Ave • (602) 843-8318 • sytaaz.org



SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

LITTLE ACTORS ACADEMY

Winter Camp

December 23 – 28 • 9 AM – Noon

Off Christmas Day



Step into a world of laughter and adventure with SYT's next Little Actors Academy Winter Camp: ***Snow White and the 7 Chickens***.

This whimsical retelling of the classic fairytale brings a flock of funny new characters into the mix.

Your little ones will explore music, movement, and imagination, all while bringing this playful, chicken-filled story to life.

Watch them shine as they embark on a magical, theatrical journey full of fun and surprises!

Designed specifically for toddlers ages 3–7, SYT's Little Actors Academy combines the joy of music, movement, and imagination to create an unforgettable theatrical experience!

Tuition is \$175. Sibling discount available. For more information or to register, please call the SYT Box Office or visit sy taz.org.

Spotlight Youth Theatre

10620 N 43rd Ave • (602) 843-8318 • sy taz.org



spotlight youth theatre

YOUNG ACTORS THESPIAN COMPANY

a theatrical adventure for aspiring young performers



MAR 8 – MAY 10, 2025

Saturdays from 10AM–Noon

Ages 5 to 9

All kids and experience levels are welcome!

Tuition: \$250

It is never too early to start musical theatre!

This program will teach kids the core elements of Musical Theatre including singing, dancing and acting.

Spotlight Youth Theatre's YOUNG ACTORS THESPIAN COMPANY will encourage kids to explore their creativity and imagination in an ensemble-based setting, and will give them an appreciation and understanding of the theatre stage.



Two for the Show: The Little Red Hen & Three Billy Goats Gruff

Performers will shine as adorable farm animals, fluffy forest creatures, or the territorial "mean and nasty" troll as they present two classical tales: *The Little Red Hen* and *Three Billy Goats Gruff*.

Rehearsals will be held every Saturday in the Spotlight Studio from 10AM–Noon.
Performances on Saturday, May 10, at 1PM, and Sunday, May 11, at 1PM.

For more information or to register, please call the SYT Box Office or visit our website.
Spotlight Studio • 10820 N 43rd Ave • (602) 843-8318 • sy taz.org

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

LITTLE ACTORS ACADEMY

Spring Break Camp

Mar 10 – 14 or Mar 17 – 21 • 9 AM – Noon
Your choice!



Join us for this action-packed Super Mario themed SYT Little Actors Academy Spring Break Camp!

This fun and exciting camp invites young performers to jump into the vibrant world of the Mushroom Kingdom.

Whether dodging Koopa Troopas or racing to save the day, they'll have a blast bringing this iconic video game world to life on stage!

Designed specifically for toddlers ages 3–7, SYT's Little Actors Academy combines the joy of music, movement, and imagination to create an unforgettable theatrical experience!

Tuition is \$175. Sibling discount available. For more information or to register, please call the SYT Box Office or visit sytaaz.org.

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SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

SYT Company

MUSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE TROUPE

2024–2025 SEASON

Three exciting 10-week sessions • Sign up for 1, 2, or all 3 sessions!
Each session includes Troupe t-shirt and performance finale!

SYT COMPANY

Director: Heather Walker • Choreographer: Falin Taylor
Ages 9 to 19 • \$250 per session • \$600 for all three sessions

SPARKLES

Director: Haley Kennedy
Ages 5 to 8 • \$175 per session • \$420 for all three sessions

SESSION 1: “CONTEMPORARY BROADWAY A-to-Z”

August 12 to October 28, 2024

SYT Company: Mondays 5:30–8:30 p.m. (Off on 9/2 & 10/14)

Sparkles: Wednesdays 4:30–6:00 p.m. (Off on 9/4 & 10/16)

SESSION 2: “SPOTLIGHT ON DISNEY”

November 4, 2024 to February 10, 2025

SYT Company: Mondays 5:30–8:30 p.m. (Off on 11/11, 11/25, 12/23, 12/30, 1/20)

Sparkles: Wednesdays 4:30–6:00 p.m. (Off on 11/13, 11/27, 12/25, 1/1, 1/22)

SESSION 3: “JUKEBOX MUSICAL HITS”

February 24 to May 12, 2025

SYT Company: Mondays 5:30–8:30 p.m. (Off on 3/10, 3/17)

Sparkles: Wednesdays 4:30–6:00 p.m. (Off on 3/12, 3/19)

For more information or to register for SYT Company, please visit sy taz.org.

SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATRE

10620 N. 43rd Avenue • (602) 843-8318 • sy taz.org



Coming Soon to
Spotlight Youth Theatre

HADESTOWN

TEEN EDITION

Art © by SpotCo

JANUARY 17–FEBRUARY 2, 2025

Fridays & Saturdays at 7PM, Sundays at 2PM
additional 2PM matinees on Jan. 25 & Feb. 1

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Coming Soon to Spotlight Youth Theatre



FEBRUARY 7-16, 2025

Fridays & Saturdays at 7PM

Saturdays & Sundays at 2PM

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Bring your group or class on an educational and entertaining excursion to Spotlight Youth Theatre! This year we are offering a variety of delightful shows for audiences of all ages!



LES MISÉRABLES SCHOOL EDITION

OCTOBER 29, 2024 • 9:00 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.

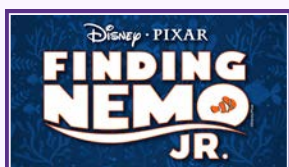
Winner of over 100 international awards and seen by over 70 million theatergoers, this musical phenomenon is an epic tale of passion and redemption in the throes of revolution.



ELF JR.

DECEMBER 10, 2024 • 9:00 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.

Based on the beloved holiday film, this hilarious fish-out-of-water musical comedy follows Buddy the Elf in his quest to find his true identity.



DISNEY • PIXAR'S FINDING NEMO JR.

MARCH 4, 2025 • 9:00 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.

Join Nemo, Dory, and a cast of colorful characters as they explore the big blue world in this lively stage musical based on the beloved Pixar film!



MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

APRIL 15, 2025 • 9:00 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.

William Shakespeare's timeless comedy weaves together sharp banter, mistaken identities, and the quest for true love in a delightful tale that will leave you laughing and cheering.



**Moon Valley
Women's Club**

Spotlight Youth Theatre thanks the **Moon Valley Women's Club** for sponsoring our 2024–2025 School Shows program!

**\$8 PER PERSON • Contact Deb Czajkowski
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to Spotlight's Generous and Dedicated Donors!

Ticket sales and production fees cover only a fraction of Spotlight Youth Theatre's overall operating costs. The Board of Directors of Spotlight Youth Theatre is grateful for the generosity of our dedicated donors, whose support ensures our ongoing ability to provide youth and their families a safe, welcoming environment where the individual is supported, teamwork is embraced, and creativity is encouraged through high quality performing arts and educational programs that enrich and strengthen our community.

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at deb@sytaz.org or (602) 843-8318



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Spotlight Youth Theatre's mission is to provide youth and their families a safe, welcoming environment where the individual is supported, teamwork is embraced, and creativity is encouraged through high quality performing arts and educational programs that enrich and strengthen our community.

Spotlight Youth Theatre's vision:

1. A program grounded in the belief that every child deserves a chance to shine, a place that is safe and free from negativity, and an environment where fun and hard work combine into amazing experiences, both on and off stage.
2. A theatre program that is as diverse as the community we serve and where all members of the family can join in the endeavor to produce high quality theater productions that amaze and entertain.
3. A place where a child can be their authentic self, exploring the creative arts without fear, and be embraced and encouraged to grow and flourish.

Spotlight Youth Theatre is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Community Youth Theatre

Spotlight Youth Theatre would very much like to thank our community partners and benefactors. Please support the kind and generous people who support SYT by patronizing our sponsors. To learn more about sponsoring or donating to Spotlight Youth Theatre and making a difference in the lives of today's youth, please call (602) 843-8318.

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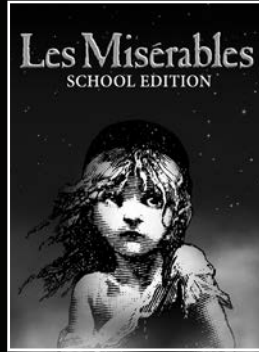
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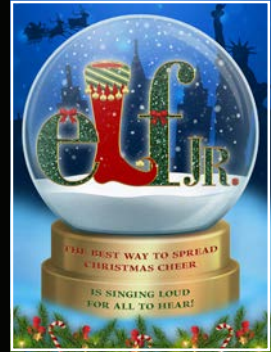
2024-2025 SEASON



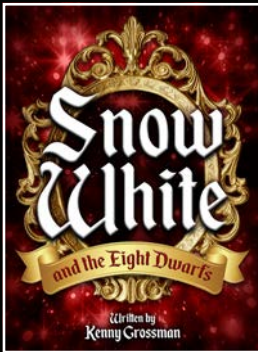
SIX THE MUSICAL
SEPTEMBER 6 – 15



LES MISÉRABLES SCHOOL EDITION
OCTOBER 25 – NOVEMBER 10



ELF JR.
DECEMBER 6 – 22



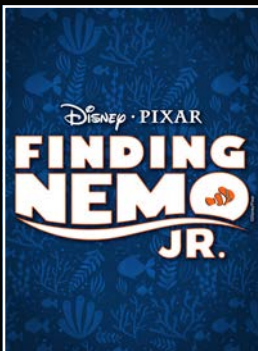
SNOW WHITE & THE EIGHT DWARFS
DECEMBER 23 – JANUARY 3



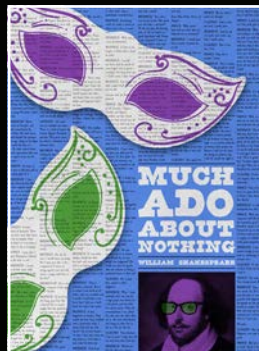
HADESTOWN TEEN EDITION
JANUARY 17 – FEBRUARY 2



SPOTLIGHT PLAYFEST 2025
FEBRUARY 7 – 16



FINDING NEMO JR
FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 16



MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING
APRIL 11 – 20



13 THE MUSICAL
MAY 16 – JUNE 1

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