

Ten Years of A Christmas Story



It doesn't seem possible that it has been ten years since the Ti-Ahwaga Community Player's first produced and presented A Christmas Story. Always eager to give our membership a break at the holidays, the group forged ahead with a bit of trepidation but excited by the prospect of bringing to life on stage one of the most popular holiday films of our time. Little did we know that it would be so well received...and for so long! Through 9 seasons, the group has presented A Christmas Story 57 times to 8,077 patrons. At an average of 142 per show in a house that holds 150, we are very proud, and grateful, to have brought some Christmas magic to so many people.

In 2002 the Board of Director's searched for a new holiday show to produce annually, Brian Flynn took the helm to direct the first year, Gerry Arbes designed the set, and work began. Todd Smith has the record for appearing in the show the most times. He tried to "retire" as Ralph Parker (the Narrator) after five seasons but his retirement lasted only two years and this year marks his 8th season playing the narrator. His "closest" competitors with 5 appearances are Jamie Cornell (4 times as the Old Man, once as Ralph Parker) and Liam Cornell (twice as Randy, Twice as Ralphie and once as Scut).

Next in at four appearances are Kathy Harris as Mother, Kyle Shuey (twice as Randy and twice as Ralphie), Brendan Cornell (twice as Randy, once as Schwartz and this year as Ralphie) and Shawn Yetter (3 times as the Old Man and once as Ralph Parker). Linda Fenescey holds the Directorial record at three years and also played Miss Shields one season. There are numerous actors, especially children, with three appearances. There are also three actors who have played three different

roles (Liam Cornell, Brendan Cornell and Jonathan Langton). Check out our Lobby Poster for a walk down memory lane of who has performed in the production throughout the 10 years.

Finally, the casting each year of a group of children has greatly helped the group in its mission to keep Community Theater alive and vibrant among the young people of the communities we serve. Many of our "Christmas Story kids" have gone on to have significant roles in our main season productions. These include Ken Smith (Lost in Yonkers), Ike Smith (Into the Woods), Austin Brocious (Lost in Yonkers, Six Degrees of Separation, A Streetcar Named Desire, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest), Connor Kerr (Amadeus), Corrine Armstrong (Best Little Whorehouse in Texas), Kyle Shuey (A Midsummer Night's Dream, Oklahoma), Jessica Shuey (Oklahoma), Claire Valetta (Nunsense), Beckett Hafer (Oklahoma), Molly Benish (Oklahoma), Liam Cornell (Evita), Mikaela Strobe (Evita), Shanika Bridges (Little Shop of Horrors) and Mike Kane (Little Shop of Horrors). Many others have gone on to stage appearances and theatrical work throughout the region and in college. We hope you all look back on your Christmas Story experience with fond memories.

Thank you to our patrons for supporting A Christmas Story over the years. It's been a fun ride for us made possible only by your ongoing patronage and love of this classic. As Owego and surrounding communities recover from the challenges of the flood, we wish you all the spirit of this show during the holidays, whether that be through the love of family or finding that perfect gift under the tree. Merry Christmas!

<i>A Christmas Story Cast 2002-2011</i>	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Ralph	Todd Smith	Todd Smith	Todd Smith	Todd Smith	Todd Smith	Shawn Yetter	Jamie Cornell	Todd Smith	Todd Smith	Todd Smith
Old Man	Keith Nichols	Keith Nichols	Brian Flynn	Shawn Yetter	Jamie Cornell	Jamie Cornell	Shawn Yetter	Shawn Yetter	Jamie Cornell	Jamie Cornell
Mother	Kathy Harris	Kathy Harris	Alyce Marks	Natalie Thompson	Alicia Loso	Alicia Loso	Chris Knickerbocker	Kathy Harris	Kathy Harris	Laura Johnson
Ralphie	Ken Smith	John Nolis	John Nolis	Kyle Shuey	KYLE Shuey	Liam Cornell	Liam Cornell	Max Andersen	Jason Spear	Brendan Cornell
Randy	Tj Pecen	Kyle Shuey Brandon Baxter	Kyle Shuey Brandon Baxter	Liam Cornell	Liam Cornell	Brendan Cornell	Brendan Cornell	Jonathan Langton	Camden Dyer-Decator	Devon Cornell
Flick	Zak Watkins	Miles Mischke	Connor Kerr	Jordan Jardine	Jordan Jardine	Jordan Jardine	Collin Barney	Collin Barney	Jonathan Langton	Madalyn Dydynoki
Schwartz	Jon King	Ken Smith	Austin Brocious	Alexander Boyce	Alexander Boyce	Alexander Boyce	Henry Armstrong	Beckett Hafer	Brendan Cornell	Anne Marie Mantei
Esther Jane	Shanika Bridges	Lillien Tillapaugh	Claire Valletta	Mikaela Strope	Mikeala Strope	Jana Loso	Jessica Shuey	Jessica Shuey	Laura Jackson	Laura Jackson
Helen	Olivia Young	Corrinne Armstrong	Marisa George	Sarah Fitch	Sarah Fitch	Mikeala Strope	Molly Benish	Molly Benish	Ann Marie Mantei	Taylor Kalpokas
Scut	Ike Smith	Gene Nolis	Stephen Goodspeed	Tj Pecen	Tj Pecen	Mike Kane	Casey Ford	Trenton Perrotta	Liam Cornell	Jonathan Langton
Miss Shields	Christine Hafer	Diane Arbes	Meghan Sara Karre	Linda Fenescey	Cathy Yetter	Chris Knickerbocker	Bridget Kane	Nancy Brown	Nichole Langton	Nichole Langton
Director	Brian Flynn	Jane Nichols	Laura Johnson	Brian Flynn	Linda Fenescey	Bridget Kane	Alicia Loso	Linda Fenescey	Jane Nichols	Linda Fenescey