



A Christmas Story WILL RALPHIE SHOOT HIS EYE OUT?



Randy Aronson as the adult Ralphie with Ross Mayer as his young self

Families around the country begin preparing for Christmas right after Halloween, and the Parker family in Ho-ho-ma-n, Indiana is no exception. Ralphie Parker wants only one thing under his tree: A genuine, authentic, Red Ryder Air Rifle, with a compass and this thing that tells time built right into the stock. But every time he tells someone about it, their response is, “You’ll shoot your eye out!”

Humorist Jean Shepherd’s memories of his boyhood, chronicled in his book *In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash* were the basis for the popular motion picture, *A Christmas Story*, which has become a holiday classic. Now, as a stage production, *A Christmas Story* is coming to the Canyon Theatre Guild’s Newhall Playhouse for the holiday season with a champagne opening night on Friday, November 23RD.

In his quest for a genuine Red Red Ryder BB gun, Ralphie (**Ross Mayer**) pleads his case before his mother (**Amy Prieto**), his teacher (**Leah Kari**) and even Santa Claus himself, at Goldblatt’s Department Store. Their response? “You’ll shoot your eye out!” As Ralphie fantasizes about the ways in which a BB gun could save his family’s life from a gang of desperados, or a rabid raccoon, or on a jungle safari, his “Old Man” (**Marc Deagon**) spends his spare time fantasizing about the Christmas turkey and about winning one of the numerous contests he enters. He eventually does win a “major award” – a lamp shaped like a woman’s leg in fishnet hose! You’ll meet Ralphie’s best friends, Flick (**Jacob Viramontes**) and Schwartz (**Jeffrey McKim**), the town bully, Scut Farkas (**Sean Kelly**), Ralphie’s little brother, Randy (**Tyler Allen**), and Esther Jane (**Ashley Pfenning**) who has a crush on young Ralphie. The story is told by Ralph as an adult (**Randy Aronson**) looking back on his childhood which

also includes memories of his other school chums played by **Kyra Weaver**, **Alexandra Aaron**, **Halle Kortlander**, **JT Friedman**, **Curtis Crawford**, and **Jack Gillespie**.

Under the direction of **Greg** and **Patti Finley**, *A Christmas Story* will be great fun for the whole family. **Jim Robinson** is Assistant Director and Set Designer, **Nanook** is designing the sound, **Tim Christianson** is lighting designer, and **Jill McGlynn** is designing the period costumes. **Carol Rock** will be the Stage Manager. The limited run begins on November 23RD through December 22ND, with performances every Friday and Saturday evening at 8PM, Saturday and Sunday matinees at 1PM, and week-night performances at 7PM on December 18, 19, and 20. For information and reservations, contact the box office at 661.799.2702



Leah Kari trying to teach the students



Greetings from the President

What a great 2007 Gala! **Beth Hyde**, **Dana Hill**, and **Leslie Berra** again showed the Santa Clarita Valley that the Canyon Theatre Guild throws one of the best parties around. A big round to applause to all involved!

And another big round of applause to the casts and crews of ***Dracula: The Case of the Silver Scream*** and ***Phantom of the Soap Opera!*** These were really fun shows in keeping with the CTG tradition of producing great live theatre.

At the risk of sounding redundant, I must repeat that the Canyon Theatre Guild cannot operate without volunteers. We need everyone to help. The more people helping, the easier is the task. It can be set building, working the snack bar, ushering, or organizing a fundraiser. There is truly something here for everyone.

One of our most valued human treasures approached me the oth-

er day and commented that they were trying to set up volunteers for a function. This person, bless their heart, worked the function themselves, the entire function. No complaint, it had to be done, so it was.

Several times in the past I have issued a challenge: "Ask not what your theatre can do for you, ask what you can do for your theatre." All it takes is you donating some time. If you have never volunteered before, please consider starting during the holiday show and at least once during every show thereafter. If you typically volunteer once during the run of a show, you need to do it twice for every show. Let's make 2008 "The Year of the CTG Volunteer."

And the holidays coming up also means we will have a great show opening soon: ***A Christmas Story*** directed by **Greg and Patti Finley**. I can't wait to see this one. They have directed this play before, so it is sure to benefit from a "second look." The cast and crew are some of the best CTG has to offer. Call and reserve your tickets to ***A Christmas Story*** right away, they're going fast.

*Ed Hill,
President*



Artistic Impressions

Tim Ben Boydston
Executive Director of the CTG,
Artistic Director

When the weather turns cool here in Old Town Newhall it means the holidays are just around the corner. It is a great time to remember to be thankful for all of the blessings that we have. I am grateful for all of you.

I am grateful for the 500 volunteers that work with us each season to make great live theatre possible. I am grateful for our hard working Board of Directors that sacrifices so much time and energy to make the dream a reality. I am grateful for a terrific staff that is always trying to find ways to make our organization better. I am also grateful for our donors and corporate supporters who give so that we may pay our bills and continue to build our Organization. I am grateful for our workshop instructors and helpers that are teaching the next generation our art and craft, while giving them skills which will help them the rest of their lives.

Of course no list of thankfulness would be complete without being grateful for our audience. The live theatre equation has two parts and the audience is the other half. Thanks for laughing, crying, soaring, and exploring with us. And in the big picture I am grateful to the **City of Santa Clarita**, and the **County of Los Angeles** for their support. Finally, I am grateful to be living in our great country that gives us the freedom to express ourselves artistically.

Speaking of thanks, my hat goes off to Chairpersons **Dana Hill**, **Beth Hyde**, and a cast and crew of thousands who put on the biggest fundraiser ever for the CTG. ***"Under the Tuscan Moon"*** was a night to remember where the outside of our theatre was transformed into an Italian courtyard filled with visual and performing arts. It was a terrific kick-off for the **Street Art Festival**. Thanks to all who helped out at our sidewalk Café that served over 1,200 meals to hungry guests.

Congrats to director **Michael Davies**,

(See *Artistic Impressions*, page 3)

Great Gift Idea!

SEASON TICKETS
ENTIRE YEAR OF THEATRE ~ 9 SHOWS

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\$49 Senior (over 62) and Junior (under 18)
\$69 for Adults.

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www.canyontheatre.org

Don't Be Late!

All matinees at the Newhall
Playhouse begin at 1PM
NOT 2PM - don't be late!



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY NEEDED

The CTG is looking for a volunteer to take over the position of Membership Secretary for the Guild. If you can maintain and update a data base, this might be the perfect way to get involved with the Canyon Theatre Guild without having to leave the comfort of your home (except to gather membership forms at the box office).

Our current Membership Secretary, **Sharon Cummings**, will provide you with the data base we now use and bring you up to speed on what needs to be done and when. If you are interested in more information on this important volunteer position, please call TimBen or Patti at 661.799.2702.

(...Artistic Impressions, from page 2)

his artistic team, and the cast and crew of the very fun *Dracula: the Case of the Silver Scream*. The show was imaginatively staged in all black and white (except the blood) and delivered lots of chills for Halloween. Congrats also to director **Barbara Huntington**, vocal director **Loretta Norton**, choreographer **Kamber Moen**, artistic team, cast and crew for their funny production of our Family show *Phantom of the Soap Opera*. This spoof of the classic properly skewered the genre with the result being much laughter.

I love the holiday season and there is no better way to get into the spirit than a visit to the CTG. From the decorations to the smell of hot apple cider to the warm glow of the twinkling lights, a few hours here and you will be feeling like Uncle Scrooge after the conversion. Don't miss the *Holipalooza* on December 5TH where the youth of the CTG celebrate the season. Each year the talent of our kids makes the holidays shine. A great way to celebrate with family and friends in town for Thanksgiving weekend is to skip the mall and come see *A Christmas Story*....I triple dog dare ya!

So from my family to my CTG family, may we say Thank You, and as Tiny Tim said "May God bless us, everyone!"



Patti Finley
Assistant Director of the CTG,
Artistic Director of the Family Season

Youth Workshop Updates

The Fall semester has ended and we are very proud of the 80+ children who participated in the four workshops. Special thanks to our terrific instructors for their hard work and their dedication to teaching the children the art of live theatre.

Adventures in Theatre, Act I presented a delightful production of an original adaptation of *Thumbelina* written by **Wade Bradford**. Congratulations to instructors **Laura Lanoil** and **Jean Paletz** for their wonderful work with this group of home-schooled children. Jean also designed the set and costumes, and **Neil Fleisher** wrote the original music.

Adventures in Theatre, Act II just completed two weeks of performances of a musical adaptation of *Stuart Little*. Nearly 2,000 local elementary school children enjoyed this production and we appreciate the support of their teachers and of all the parents who shared their home-schooled chil-

dren with us for 12 weeks! **Patti Finley** and **Laura Lanoil** were the directors, **Rebecca Coombs** did the choreography, and **Valerie Gould** was assistant instructor. **Jill McGlynn** designed the clever costumes, **Michael Davies** designed the set, **Kimberlee Lucas** was prop mistress, and **George Cummings** did the sound design.

ACT III After School Workshop under the direction of **Michael Davies** ("Sir Dude") presented the musical *Twinderella*, the Cinderella story with a "twist." This class was filled to overflowing and we thank Mike and his assistant **Jean Paletz** for sharing their love of musical theatre with these children. Jean also designed the costumes, and Mike designed the set.

ACT IV After School Workshop for children in 6TH through 11TH grade presented an original revue, *Once Upon A Musical*, written and directed by **Patti Finley** (with input from the students), which traced 100 years of musical theatre. **Michael Davies** was assistant director, **Laurie Morgan** directed the vocals, and **Musette Caing** created the choreography.

All of these children worked hard, learned a lot and had fun making new friends. We hope to see them back for another workshop very soon! Thanks again to our instructors, without whom we could not offer these programs.

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED

Those of us who knew **Tatiana Weiss** were saddened to learn of her sudden passing in October. Her family requested donations to the Canyon Theatre Guild in lieu of flowers, and we are proud to announce that the response from those who knew and loved Tatiana has been most generous. We are establishing a scholarship fund in Tatiana's name which will be used to help a high school student who is planning on a career in live theatre. We will have more details on this new scholarship in a future newsletter. The scholarship will be awarded in the spring.

Reservation Reminders

☎ Reservations need to be made at least **TWO WEEKS** in advance to ensure preferred seating. The more people in your party, the sooner you need to call us.

☎ The **box office** is open Tuesday through Thursday from 11AM to 6PM, and Friday through Sunday from noon to 7PM. You may either phone 661.799.2702 or come by in person.

REMEMBER TO RESERVE EARLY!

Demand for Seats is High

Due to the increased popularity of our shows, **PLEASE** call ☎ and cancel if you are unable to use your reservations so we can release your tickets to others who'd like to see the show!

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!

“Under the Tuscan Moon” Wrap Up

Our 10th Annual Gala fundraiser was a rousing success! The September 28TH event, held at our theatre for the first time, was Canyon Theatre Guild’s biggest fundraiser to date. In honor of the “*Under the Tuscan Moon*” theme, the CTG patio and parking lot were transformed into a beautiful Tuscan piazza, complete with Italian pottery, sunflowers, and lemons in colorful lapis and yellow hues.

Since the event was a kick-off to the Santa Clarita Street Art Festival, art was celebrated throughout the evening. Talented local artists displayed their works in the lobby and patio area, and many works of art were donated for the live and silent auctions. Laurie Morgan donated a beautiful painting for the grand prize in our “mystery wine bottle” drawing, while caricature artist **Marc Ratner** provided guests with complimentary portraits. Guests were also surrounded by striking Italian murals created by CTG artists **John Alexopolous, Hayley Aronson, Doreen Barsky, Billy Davis, Kathy Lively, and Frank Rock.**

And what would an evening in Tuscany be without music? The piazza was filled with music as **David Ewart** serenaded guests with his violin, both as a strolling musician and as part of a string quartet. Vocalists **Carla Bambo, George Chavez, Sean Goodman, Ed Hill, Sam Hyde, and Jenessa Willet** entertained with popular Italian songs. And **Carla Bambo** and family demonstrated the Tarantella, an authentic Italian folk dance.

Gala co-chairs **Dana Hill** and **Beth Hyde** would like to thank committee chairs **Leslie Berra, Lori Larson, Tara McMichael, and John Morris** as well as auctioneers **TimBen Boydston** and **Greg Finley**. We would like to thank **Nanook** and **Daniel Barsky** for running and setting up the sound. We would also like to thank the entire

Spotlight on Janet McAnany



Although from this past summer to the fall she faded from plaid to gray, the focus of this month’s spotlight is on a key player in the Guild who makes everyone on stage look good – costumer **Janet McAnany**. Since the fall of 2004, Janet has worked as a lead costumer or helped on several of CTG’s productions, and won a Goldie award for Costumes (with **Jill McGlynn**) for *Oklahoma!* in 2006.

CTG staff for their hard work in support of the event: **TimBen Boydston, Patti Finley, Marcos Ballesteros, Erik Klein, Kamber Moen, and Brian Watts**. And finally, this event could not have happened without the many wonderful Gala volunteers who donated their time and talents. Putting on an event of this size required countless volunteers to serve as waiters or bartenders, to solicit auction donations, and to help with set-up, check-in, checkout, and many other tasks. This event was a success because of you!

Janet was first introduced to CTG when her son played *Rumpelstiltskin* in a Children’s workshop “up the Canyon” at the old Sierra Highway theatre. In 2004, member **Susan Pearsall**, who Janet knew through work, introduced her to **Jill McGlynn**, and Janet sewed her first CTG costumes for *Pom Pom Zombies*. In addition to work on several shows, Janet has appeared on stage as a costumer in *Bye Bye Birdie*, and as a nurse in *Dracula: The Case of the Silver Scream*.

Costuming highlights for Janet have come in her most recent shows – this summer’s *Forever Plaid* and the just finished *Dracula*. “I particularly enjoyed the challenge of *Dracula* – making the costumes work with the makeup and lighting in the black and white setting. I think the moment I’ve enjoyed most at CTG, though, was the reaction of the audiences when the *Forever Plaid* characters appeared at the end of the show in their plaid jackets. The audience reaction, which I watched from the back of the theatre, really took my breath away.” The jackets, custom-tailored by Janet, are now a popular rental item for other theatre groups.



The “Plaids” Wearing Janet’s Jackets

A third generation Californian, Janet was born in Lynwood and grew up in the Walnut / Diamond Bar area, and lives in Valencia with her husband **Jeff**, and teenagers **Amanda** and **Zach**. She works as a librarian (with CTG regular **Kathi Lund**) at Santa Clarita Elementary. Janet teaches sewing in the after-school enrichment program there, so she’s also helping create costuming talent for the future.

Janet will be costuming this Spring’s home-schooled children’s workshops, and CTG patrons will also see her work in *My Fair Lady*. Many thanks to this talented and hard-working member of the Guild!

Gerda Maxey's Artwork on Display

Gerda was born in Paraguay, South America of German descent. She is fluent in three languages; English, German and Spanish. She came to the United States over fifty years ago where she settled in Southern California. After retiring from civil service work in 1988 she picked up her first paint brush, and has been painting with a passion ever since.



"Bouquet"

Gerda became fascinated by the classic painting methods of the past. She devoted herself to becoming an expert in Renaissance techniques and has challenged herself to recreate the most demanding of masterpieces. Some of her favorite artists are Bouguereau, Cassatt, Cot, and Ruben. She especially loves to paint portraits and still life, and is happy to take commissions upon request.

Gerda is an active member of the Santa Clarita Artists' Association. She received Best of Show at the Santa Clarita Artists' Association's annual Art Classic in 2002 and 2006, and the People's Choice Award at the San Fernando Valley VIVA show in 2002.

She studied at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena and West Lake Art Center. She also studied privately as an apprentice to master painters Violet Parkhurst, Lance Richlin, and Robert Tanenbaum.

The Arts in Santa Clarita

If you would like more information on what's going on in the world of the Arts in Santa Clarita, put your name on the City's eNotify list. Just go to

www.santa-clarita.com/enotify

and click on Arts & Events

Volunteer at the CTG

Want to become more involved in the CTG?

Want to make lots of new friends?

Training sessions, incentives and reward programs are planned. With new changes, this job should be exciting and fun.

Questions? Call Marla at 661.250.3664 or Claudia at 661.296.1774

Holipalooza! 2007

This year's *Holipalooza!* is turning out to be a very exciting evening of entertainment. For those of you who might not be familiar with this event, the *Holipalooza!* is a musical-variety show fundraiser celebrating our December holidays. It will feature the very talented youth of the Santa Clarita Valley, ages 1-½ to 16.

On December 5, 2007, at 6PM, come to the theatre for a petite buffet and to see our young people sing, dance, and act all for our holiday enjoyment. This year's performance will feature favorite holiday traditions and special memories. Large group production numbers will open and close the show! Tickets will be sold through the CTG box office, and will range in price from \$15 to \$25.

Fundraising is one of the key components at the CTG to providing educational programming for SCV's youth.

The proceeds from this year's event will go toward supporting these programs, and adding to our scholarship program. Opportunities for support will include a \$500 opportunity drawing, a silent auction for many wonderful items, mystery jingle bell boxes, and much, much more! So, be prepared to have fun at *Holipalooza 2007!*

Tamarah Ashton-Coombs,
Holipalooza! 2007 Chairperson

Rebecca Coombs,
Student Director



Santa (Michael Davies) with Zachary, Billy, and Barbi Davis at *Holipalooza! 2006*

WE PROUDLY FLY OUR FLAG

The flag currently being flown atop our White Building is flying in honor of **Wayne** and **Doris Boydston** who served our country courageously in World War II.

If you would like to have a flag flown over the CTG in honor of someone or some event, you may deliver the flag to the CTG or you may make a donation of \$50 and we will purchase a flag for you and fly it in the name or names you request.

The flag will be flown until it is worn out, at which time it will be taken to the VFW for retirement.

CTG Website

Stay in touch with the latest happenings and CTG news. Check our website regularly for audition and show notices.

Our site contains a current calendar which lists all performance times & dates, audition notices, and other special events. See photos of our latest shows. Sign up to receive CTG eMail grams.

www.canyontheatre.org

CTG Spotlight Online

Did you know that you can view all CTG newsletters and photographs appearing in them on our website in glorious color?

Go to www.canyontheatre.org. At the left side of the home page is a link to all the newsletters.

Save these Dates!

- Nov. 23 *A Christmas Story* Opens Friday at 8PM
- Nov. 26-27 Auditions for *Winnie-the-Pooh* at 6PM
- Dec. 3-4 Auditions for *Man of La Mancha* at 7PM
- Dec. 5 *Holipalooza!* at 6PM
- Dec. 22 *A Christmas Story* Closes Saturday at 8PM
- Jan. 6 Auditions for *Radio Show* at 7PM
- Jan. 14 CTG Board Meeting at 7PM

2007-2008 CTG Board of Directors

- President..... Ed Hill
- 1st Vice President..... Greg Finley
- 2nd Vice President..... Frank Rock
- Secretary..... Tamarah Ashton-Coombs
- Treasurer..... Randy Aronson
- Members-At-Large:.....Jeff Hyde
-Marla Khayat
-Billy Davis
-Flo Loring

Other People You Should Know

- Executive Director & Artistic Director of the Playhouse Season .TimBen Boydston
- Assistant Director & Artistic Director of the Family SeasonPatti Finley
- Membership Sharon Cummings
- Newsletter Editor.....David Barsky
- Web Mistress Cat Christine Ellen

Contact Us

- Box Office661.799.2702
- Internet www.canyontheatre.org



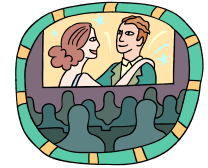
Children’s Art & Literacy Fair on November 3

Bradi Mowry as Cinderella, Michaela Johnson as Dorothy, Sylvester, Candice Wilkinson as Sleeping Beauty, Halle Kortlander as Alice in Wonderland, Serena Johnson as Rapunzel, and Emma Lucas as the poor Cinderella.





Canyon Theatre Guild



AFTER SCHOOL WORKSHOPS FOR KIDS

ACT III

A Musical Theatre Workshop for
Grades 2 - 6

Meets from 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Beginning January 15, 2008

for 10 weeks

Performance March 24

This Class Fills Quickly!

Reserve a spot today!

\$250

Call: 799-2702

ACT IV

A Theatre Workshop for
Grades 6 - 10

Meets from 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Mondays and Wednesdays

Beginning January 14

For 10 weeks

Performance March 25

A more advanced study of live theatre
performance skills

\$250

Call: 799-2702

WORKSHOPS FOR HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN

ADVENTURES IN THEATRE

ACT I (Ages 6–12)

A program tailored to the needs and schedule of younger home schooled children.

Meets Mon. & Fri. 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

for **ten weeks**, culminating in a performance

Students will receive training in acting, theatre games, improvisation, theatre terminology

ACT II

Advanced program for home schooled children & part-time students

Admission to this program is **by audition only**

Meets Tues. & Thurs. from 10 AM–2:00 PM

For **ten weeks**, followed by two weeks of daytime performances for local schools
and one evening performance

Spring Production: *Willy Wonka Junior* (A Musical)

Both Productions begin Mid- January

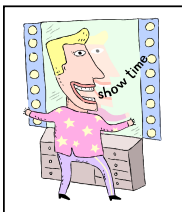
Students will receive training in Voice, Dance, and Acting

Including Theatre Games & Improvisation

TUITION FOR EITHER OF THESE WORKSHOPS IS \$250 per child

CONTACT PATTI FINLEY FOR AUDITION APPOINTMENT

OR CALL BOX OFFICE TO REGISTER (661) 799-2702





Canyon Theatre Guild
 24242 San Fernando Road
 Newhall, California 91321-2911
 Phone: 661.799.2702
 WWW.CANYONTHEATRE.ORG

A Christmas Story



A U D I T I O N S

Man Of La Mancha

Director TimBen Boydston will be holding auditions for this Broadway musical to be presented as the second production of the Santa Clarita Regional Theatre at the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center, at COC.

Needed are: 17 men & 6 Women (all must be able to play at least 21 and some roles are for 40+)

All roles require singing, so come prepared with at least 16 bars of a show tune that demonstrates your vocal range – bring your own accompaniment track (CD or tape).

Come dressed for a dance audition.

Possible Equity Guest Artist contract for the role of Don Quixote.

Auditions are Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 3 & 4 from 7PM–9:30PM in the white building adjacent to the theatre

Winnie-the-Pooh

Director Tamarah Ashton-Coombs will be holding auditions on Monday & Tuesday, Nov. 26 & 27 from 6PM–8PM

Needed are: 13 adults to play various roles (must be 16 years old or older)

Some roles will utilize puppeteers, so any experience in this area would be helpful but is not required.

Come prepared to read from the script.

Questions? Call 661.799.2702

Moulin Rouge Cabaret

Auditions for this Adult Cabaret will be held on

January 13, 2008 from 10AM–12NOON

By appointment only. Call Leslie Berra at 661.296.4530

RADIO SHOW ON STAGE!

Patti Finley will be directing a radio show to be performed on our stage on January 18 & 19. There will be 2 weeks of rehearsal beginning January 7. If you are interested in being part of this fun production, come to the audition at 7PM on Jan. 6. There are no roles for children; a sound effects person is needed as part of the on-stage production. For information call Patti at 661.799.2702