

PLAYBILL



The Best Christmas Pageant Ever



DIRECTED BY **HOWARD** AND **KATHRYN** LITTLE

Keith Christeson Theater | Pleasant Grove Library



The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Author: Barbara Robinson

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever is presented through a special
arrangement with Samuel French.



Production Team

Executive Producer:	Pleasant Grove Arts Commission
Directors:	Howard and Kathryn Little
Production Stage Manager:	Kathi Elison
Assistant Stage Manager:	Lisa Gordon
Technical Director and Lighting Design:	Howard Little
Sound Design:	Kathryn Little
Set, Costume, & Properties Design:	Tina Fontana
Set Construction:	Brenna Brown, Howard Little, Madison Fontana, Megan Fontana, Tina Fontana, Wendy Rosenlof
Scenic Artist:	Brenna Brown
Set Painters:	Tina Fontana
Costume Construction:	Tina Fontana
Cast/Publicity Photos:	Howard Little
Graphic Design:	Chad Jardine
Ticket Office:	June Purdie, Madison Fontana
Usher:	Ann Cahoon

Special thanks to Wendy Rosenlof, Donna Thorne, the Conder Family, and the Pleasant Grove Librarians.



Directors' Note



What a sweet way to celebrate Christmas! Thank you so much for spending your evening with us as we share this fun and poignant story of discovery together.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, originally a book, has been adapted for film and twice for stage—once as a play and more recently as a musical. Folks just can't seem to get enough of it, and neither can we!

We, as the directors of the PG Players, want to wish you and yours joy in this season and all the year long!

Sincerely,

—Howard and Kathryn Little

Cast

Father (Bob Bradley)	Andrew Reid
Mother (Grace Bradley)	Brenna Brown
Beth Bradley	Cambell Gordon
Charlie Bradley	Grant A. Fugal
Ralph Herdman	Luke Elison
Imogene Herdman	Jenica Nicholes
Leroy Herdman	Maxwell Warren
Claudia Herdman	Megan Fontana
Ollie Herdman	Livvy Christensen
Gladys Herdman	Mei Tateishi
Alice Wendleken	Debany Gilson
Mrs. Armstrong	Tanika Larsen
Mrs. Slocum	Hadley Robertson
Mrs. Clark	Sarah Thornton
Mrs. Clausing	Kimberly Raine
Mrs. McCarthy	Ranae Kingsley
Maxine	Sydney Abshire
Elmer Hopkins	Simeon Gray

Cast

Hobie

David

Beverly

Shirley

Juanita

Doris

Janet

Reverend Hopkins

Mrs. Hopkins

Roberta

Sarah

Shepherds

Lewis Anderson

Jesse Poulsen

Emma Hacker

Norah Larsen

Kaiah Marden

Illiana Harlow

Indigo Gray

Joel Ellington

Laurie Ellington

Amy Laudie

Rebekah Harral

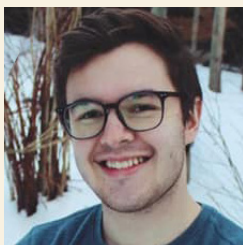
Liam Brown

Murphy Anderson



Who's Who in the Cast and Crew

In Alphabetical Order



ANDREW REID (Father/Bob Bradley) was born to a family involved in theater and has performed on stage since before he can remember. He started out in an annual, local production called *Christmas Memories*, which he performed in his hometown of Freeport, Illinois. Since then, he has performed all manner of different roles from Rooster Hannigan in *Annie* to John Merrick in *The Elephant Man* and even participated in a small series of short films at BYU-Idaho for the class *Math For The Real World*. Andrew studied theater and film at his local Community College in Illinois before studying at Brigham Young University - Idaho. Andrew loves all aspects of theater and film from writing to directing and, especially, acting. Although film is his career and passion, he knows that nothing can ever compare to the feeling of live theater.



BRENNA BROWN (Mother/Grace Bradley) has always felt at home with the PG Players. Her previous roles include Mrs. Rogers in *And Then There Were None*, Susan Hendricks in *Wait Until Dark*, Essie in *You Can't Take It With You*, and Myrtle May in *Harvey*. She has also filled the role of stage manager in the PG Players production of *She Loves Me*. She loves working with the unique talent that the PG Players draws in any capacity—none of which would be possible without her loving husband and supportive family.

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CAMPBELL GORDON (Beth Bradley) is so excited to be in her first show with PG Players and this production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!* Campbell is a senior at Provo High School and has loved performing ever since she was a little girl and played the Baby Elephant Bird in *Seussical*. She has also been featured as Cosette in *Les Misérables*, Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*, Jack in *Into the Woods*, and Bianca in *Taming of the Shrew*. Campbell wants to give a huge shout out to her amazing directors and stage managers for giving her this opportunity. She would also like to thank her family, friends, and Luke for their constant love and support. <3



DEBANY GILSON (Alice Wendleken) began performing on the SCERA stage 10 years ago, including 3 award winning years with SCERA's Acting Up! program, where she took first place with a duet at a national competition in February of 2021. She has been featured in SCERA's musical productions of *Just So* (the Rhino) and *Tarzan* (Young Terk). Debany is excited to be in her first PG Players production and is excited to play the prissy princess, Alice, in this super fun show. After BCPE, Debany will play the lead in the upcoming production of *The Alibis* at the Covey Center in Provo. When Debany isn't doing theater, she is either at home with her new puppy playing tug of war or jamming out to show tunes with friends. She is known as an excellent hugger (socially distant, of

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course) and a mediocre driver. She also enjoys spending time at the pool in her mermaid tail, dreaming of life under the sea.



GRANT A. FUGAL (Charlie Bradley) has been in two other plays, *Seussical* and *Singing in the Rain*, both at Lindon Elementary. He loves acting, singing, and dancing. Grant auditioned for the role of Charlie not knowing what he was getting himself into. He's had such a fun experience learning, acting, and being able to help put on this show for you.



HADLEY ROBERTSON (Mrs. Slocum) is a senior at Brigham Young University studying Experience Design & Management. She is thrilled to be directed by Kathryn and Howard for the first time and has learned so much from them throughout this show! Some of Hadley's favorite past roles include Florinda in *Into the Woods* and Jojo in *Seussical the Musical*. She feels she has come full-circle from when she was Imogene in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* when 11 years old!



HOWARD & KATHRYN LITTLE (Directors)
Howard and Kathryn (theater graduates of Utah State University and Brigham Young University

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respectively) started their co-directing career as newlyweds in New York City. During their 35 years of marital bliss, they have had the privilege of working with many talented and delightful actors and feel honored to be on the board as well as the resident directors for the Pleasant Grove Players. Their work has also been seen in New York City with the Manhattan Theater Ensemble, Hale Center Theater, Capitol Theater in Salt Lake City, Provo Theater Company, Zion's Theater Company, and SCERA Center for the Arts (where Kathryn is the director of the national award-winning, High School performance team "Acting Up!") They would like to thank their two incredible daughters, wonderful son-in-law, and absolutely adorable grandchildren for all of the inspiration and love!



JENICA NICHOLES (Imogene Herdman) is a Junior at Pleasant Grove High School. She enjoys performing in shows such as this one. Some of her favorite roles include Chip from *Beauty and the Beast*, Toodles from *Peter Pan*, and Florence from *The Old Folks Home*.

She enjoys spending time outside especially when it rains, and she enjoys taking drives up the mountain during the fall.



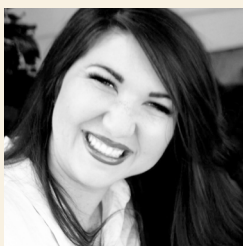
JOEL ELLINGTON (Reverend Hopkins) is doing his third play with the PG Players. This indeed will be *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* supervised by the reluctant Reverend Hopkins. The best part of the theater for Joel is the interaction with the cast and crew and,

Who's Who in the Cast and Crew

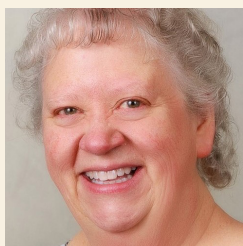
of course, the great audiences that come to support community theater.



KATHI ELISON (Production Stage Manager) did not grow up involved in theater but learned to love it by attending the productions directed by her father-in-law, Jerry Ellison. Her fate was solidified when her husband and four kids all decided that the stage was their favorite place. After perfecting her role as audience member, she decided to try performing but decided it wasn't the right fit. Kathi has found a way to contribute to the arts as a stage manager and has enjoyed working with PG Players. Special thanks to her husband, kids, and family who support her endlessly.

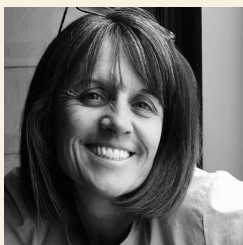


KIMBERLY RAINE (Mrs. Claus) is thrilled to return to the PG Players stage! Many thanks to Kathryn and Howard, this awesome cast and crew, and to her husband Devin who made this possible! Much love to Devin, Sammy, Jonny, and her cosmic fish! Enjoy the show!



LAURIE ELLINGTON (Mrs. Hopkins) is performing in her first play ever! She is a musical wizard and felt it was the best way into the theater scene. She loves the play and could not resist the temptation to join in on the fun.

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LISA GORDON (Asst. Production Stage Manager) has not been on stage since Jr. High but has supported the arts by instilling a love for theater in her five children and her grandchildren. She sends love to them all. Lisa is excited to be working with PG Players and learning the craft from the best (Howard, Kathryn, and Kathi). Shout out to her amazing husband, Darin, who always (eventually) gives his support to her crazy adventures.



LIVVY CHRISTENSEN (Ollie Herdman) is excited to participate in her first play with the PG Players. Livvy has a great love for musical theater --some of her favorite roles include Babkak in *Aladdin Jr*, Rico in *Madagascar Jr*, and Veruca Salt in *Willy Wonka Jr*. Livvy wants to thank her family for all their support and hopes you enjoy *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*!

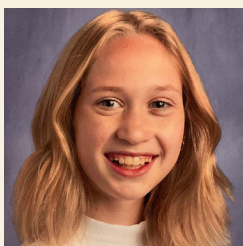


LUKE ELISON (Ralph Herdman) is performing in his third show with the PG Players. He was previously seen in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* and *On Golden Pond* with the Littles. He is excited to be back on this stage once again. He would like to give a shout out to his amazing family, the awesome stage managers, and his beautiful girlfriend, Campbell Gordon!

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MAXWELL WARREN (Leroy Herdman) is ecstatic to be performing for the first time with the Pleasant Grove Players! He is thrilled to be playing Leroy Herdman. Some of the favorite shows he's performed in have been *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Elf the Musical*, and *Big Fish*. When he's not acting, you can find him at home playing board games, baking, and reading. Maxwell hopes to continue performing in the future and would like to give a shout out to his biological family and theater family of ActingUP!. Enjoy the show!



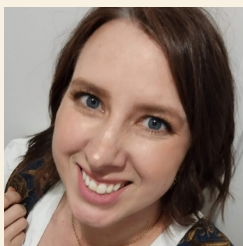
MEGAN FONTANA (Claudia Herdman) is happy to be back on the PG Players stage. For the past few years, she has been involved behind the scenes helping her mom with costumes, props, and sets. Her past acting credits include Gloria in *Wait Until Dark* (PG Players), Youth Ensemble in *The Music Man* (SCERA Shell), Mary Lennox in *The Secret Garden* (Missoula Children's Theater) and Ensemble in *Mary Poppins, Jr.* (Center Stage Youth Performers). When not participating in the theatre, Megan loves to play lacrosse and percussion.



MEI TATEISHI (Gladys Herdman) is positively thrilled to be playing Gladys! There is nothing better than being a good kid playing a "terrible Herdman". Everything about this experience with PG Players has

Who's Who in the Cast and Crew

been memorable! By day, Mei is the editor of her own kid newspaper for which she writes original articles, creates artwork, and conducts interviews—most recently with Rabbi Sam Spector about Hanukkah. In November, she was selected as a kid ambassador for PetSmart and spent a day filming in Salt Lake City. She is fluent in Japanese and English and started French school this year. Before BCPE, she played Jackie Scott in a kid camp/performance of *High School Musical* with the Hale Center Theater. She would like to wish everyone a very MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!
あけましておめでとう



RENAE KINGSLEY (Mrs. McCarthy) is a Jill-of-all-trades and is thrilled to be back onstage after a long absence. Her many roles in life have included being a board member of two non-profit groups, professional magician, international humanitarian, business owner, artist, homeschool mother of four, creativity coach, body artist, private school history teacher, character performer, art teacher, public speaker, and youth mentor. She's incredibly grateful to her husband and children for being so supportive of her passions.



SARAH THORNTON (Mrs. Clark) is thrilled to be making her debut on the PG Players stage! She has been acting in the Utah musical theatre community since the age of 12, took a brief intermission to have her baby boy, spent several years studying music and

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theatre at BYU Idaho, and now she is back! Some of her previous roles include; Lily (*Secret Garden*), Wendy (*Peter Pan*), and Featured Ensemble (*Joseph... Dreamcoat*). She has had so much fun putting this show together and working with Kathryn again. She would like to thank her friends and family for the support, her husband for encouraging her to return to the stage, and her little boy for being willing to give up bedtime with Mommy for a little while. Thank you all for coming!



TANIKA LARSEN (Mrs. Armstrong) is thrilled to once again be part of the PG Players and to join her daughter, Norah, in her first production ever! Tanika's most recent credit was a Shopper in *She Loves Me* this past spring. Other PG Players credits include Percy (*The Spitfire Grill*) and Ida (*See How They Run*). Many thanks to the cast and crew, especially Howard and Kathryn (Hi, Mom and Dad!). Love you, Gingersquatch, Baby Girl, and Tiny Thor!



TINA FONTANA (Set, Costume, & Properties Design) enjoys designing the visual elements of the PG Players shows. She's grateful for the talented people who have helped with this show. When not designing, Tina loves performing. Recently, she's been Emily Brent in *And Then There Were None* (PG Players), Mrs. Hollaum in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (SCERA), a Shopper in *She Loves Me* (PG Players), Mrs. Paroo in *The Music Man* (SCERA),

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and Venoma Sharp in *Unmasked* (Shadowlight Dinner Theater). When not performing in or designing for the theater, Tina is a mom, works full time, and serves as the head of the Pleasant Grove Arts Commission. She is thankful for her family and their encouragement, love, and support as she spends time being creative in the theater!



Pleasant Grove Players Board of Directors

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Jeff Thompson, Vice President

Vance Everett, Treasurer

Howard Little

Kathryn Little

Tina Fontana

Brenna Brown

Dennis Purdie

June Purdie

Thank you to everyone whose contributions have allowed the PG Players to bring you this production. Your contributions are very much noticed and appreciated by us and by our community.

Get involved! The PG Players are always looking for help! If you are interested in getting involved in any area—backstage, onstage, as a Board Member—contact us at pgplayersinfo@gmail.com or call 801-922-4524



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Audience Participation!

At the end of the show today, please join the cast in singing the first verse of *Joy to the World*.

Joy to the world! The Lord is come.

Let earth receive her King!

Let every heart prepare him room

And heaven and nature sing

And heaven and nature sing

And heave, and heaven and nature sing

2022 Season Tickets On Sale Now

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May 16



See How They Run

by Philip King

Sep 30–
Oct 17

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS



December
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Nun-crackers



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continued support.

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