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IN

THE NOEL S. RUIZ THEATRE

Book by Music by Lyrics by
THOMAS MEEHAN MATTHEW SKLAR CHAD BEGUELIN
AND BOB MARTIN

Based upon the New Line Cinema film written by David Berenbaum

Originally produced by Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures in association with Unique Features

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Rehearsal Stage Manager PATRICK CAMPBELL Choreographer
DEANNA FELDMANN

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Co-Lighting Designers SOPHIA BIONDO KEVIN PURDY

Scenic Designer
JOHN MAZZARELLA

Costume Designer JOE KASSNER

Director ALYSE NICOLE ARPINO

December 2 - December 17, 2023

Elf The Musical Is presented through special arrangement with Music
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Mission Statement

"CM Performing Arts Center, a 501(c)(3) NonProfit Organization, is "home" to people from all walks of life who work collaboratively to produce quality theatrical productions. Guided by the values of excellence, diversity and community, we seek to make a positive contribution to arts-education, culture and the quality of life on Long Island."



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(In Order of Appearance)

Santa	Nick Zappetti
Mrs. Claus	Sarah Klaum
Buddy	Michael Krulder
Charlie	Patrick Campbell
Tiara	Savannah Shaw
Walter Hobbs	James O'Connor
Sam	Patrick Campbell
Deb	Rebecca Martowski
Emily Hobbs	Heather Van Velsor Thorgersen
Michael Hobbs	
Matthews	Brendan Noble
Chadwick	William Brennan
Sales Woman	Sarah Minto
Macy's Manager	
Jovie	
Fake Santa	
Little Boy	
Policewoman	
Mr. Greenway	
Charlotte Dennon	Sarah Minto
Ensemble Patrick Campbell, Is	•
	Mathers, Andrew Mercagliano,
	ssica Pecorella, Jackson Rodin,
Charlie Roma	an, Molly Sanges, Ethan Sepela,
	Savannah Shaw, Julia Villani

* = Dance Captain

UNDERSTUDIES/SWINGS

for Charlie/Sam, Keith Jones; for Sales Woman/Charlotte Dennon, Isabella Cannone; for Mr. Greenway, Andrew Mercogliano

Musical Numbers

ACT I

"Happy All the Time" Santa, Buddy, and Compa	
"World's Greatest Dad" Bud	ldy
"In The Way" Deb, Walter, Emily, Michael, and Compa	
"Sparklejollytwinklejingley" Buddy, Store Manager, and Compa	any
"I'll Believe in You" Michael and Er	nily
"In The Way" (Reprise) Emily and Mich	nae
"Just Like Him" Buddy, Deb, and Compa	any
"A Christmas Song" Buddy, Jovie, and Compa	any
"World's Greatest Dad" (Reprise)Buddy and Compa	any

THERE WILL BE A BRIEF 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION.

ACT II

"Nobody Cares About Santa" F	ake Santas, Store Manager, and Buddy
"Never Fall In Love"	Jovie
"There Is a Santa Claus"	Michael and Emily
"The Story of Buddy"	Buddy, Michael, Walter, Greenway,
	Deb, Chadwick, and Matthews
"Nobody Cares about Santa" (Reprise) .	Santa
"A Christmas Song" (Reprise)	Jovie,Buddy, Emily, Michael, Walter,
	and Company
"Finale"	



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About the Cast

Michael Krulder (Buddy) is extremely excited to be returning to the CM stage in Elf! Last seen as Cinderella's Prince and The Wolf in CM's Into The Woods. Michael is a graduate of SUNY Oneonta, graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, with a minor in Mathematics. At Oneonta, Michael appeared in such productions: as Evil Dead: The Musical (Ash), Noises Off (Garry), Love/Sick (Keith, Mark, Jake), and Sweat (Stan). Michael is also an alumnus of the North Fork Community Theatre in Mattituck, appearing in RENT (Roger), Pippin (King Charlemagne), and The Drowsy Chaperone (Robert). Michael would like to thank his family and friends for their undying support, the Elf production team for creating a wonderful show, and a special thanks to Jon Favreau and David Berenbaum, who created the best holiday story ever.

Emily Gates (Jovie) is ecstatic to be making her CM Main Stage debut! She was last seen this summer as the Third Witch in Macbeth with the Carriage House Players. Previous credits also include: a vocalist in Side by Side by Sondheim, Elizabeth (Young Frankenstein), and Jackie (Brutality of Fact). She'd like to thank her friends and family for their unconditional love and support, and for uplifting and inspiring her to do what she loves.

James O'Connor (Walter Hobbs) is excited to be returning to the CM Stage. Past credits include: A Bronx Tale (Rudy the Voice), Spring Awakening (Georg), Into the Woods (The Baker), The Foreigner (Ellard), The Three Musketeers (Aramis), Romeo and Juliet (Tybalt), and Henry IV: Part 1 (Poins). He would like to thank Alyse, Carl and DeAnna for giving him this opportunity. A special thanks to his friends and family for their support. Especially to his loving wife, Louisea. Without her support none of this is possible.

Heather Van Velsor Thorgersen (Emily Hobbs) is thrilled to be home at CMPAC for the holidays! Grateful for the range of characters she's played, some favorites 0 (Kate/Lucv). Ave (Fastrada), The Elephant Man (Mrs. Kendal). The Mousetrap (Mollie), Sweet Charity (Charity), 42nd Street (Anytime Annie), Drowsy Chaperone (Janet), DRS (Jolene) and Rabbit Hole (Becca). An accomplished teaching artist and puppeteer, Heather has studied with John Tartaglia (Broadway's Ave Q & Shrek) and she is a founder of ThinkBIG! Theater Arts and co-creator of The Travelin' Trunk Show - an episodic, interactive puppet musical for kids.

Quinn Lessing (Michael Hobbs) is thrilled to be taking the stage as Michael in his first show with **CM** in their production of *Elf The* Musical. He is fresh off his role as Friedrich in the John W. Engeman Theater's production of The Sound of Music. He also enjoyed playing Flick from A Christmas Story in his first equity contract with Engeman and was honored to return to their main stage. Quinn Oliver was a featured tap performer at the Staller Center for the Arts this past June as The Music Man. Quinn donned a British accent for his role as Maxwell Sheffield in the Cozi TV/NBC 10 year anniversary video series. We are fortunate to have an amazing theater program in our school district where Quinn has flourished under the familiar lights as Horton in Seussical Jr. and during his breakout role as Bruce in Matlida. Look for him this February to take the High School stage in Cinderella. One of his favorite characters was Archie in the CircleUp Theatre's Thirteen. This is where he found his comedic timing and acting style. He would like to thank his loving family and devoted managers, Teresa Lovito and Kathy Conklin for their support and encouragement. Quinn is looking forward to his musical theater adventures ahead along with dance, saxophone, tennis, soccer, sailing and snowboarding. Enjoy the show!

Rebecca Martowski (Deb) is excited to be returning to the CM stage. Originally from Connecticut and studying Performance in Florida, some of her favorite roles she's undertaken have been Alyssa in The Prom, Florinda in Into The Woods, Tricia in A Chorus Line, Mrs. Phelps in Matilda, Aretha Franklin in Beehive, Mrs. Potts in Beauty and the Beast, and Deloris Van Cartier in Sister Act. She's also had the joy to be a part of the ensemble of a number of shows including: Mamma Mia, The Bodyguard, Memphis, and The Wizard of Oz. She'd like to thank her family and friends as well as Alyse, Carl, DeAnna, and Patrick for their guidance and support.

Nick Zappetti (Santa) This is Nick's second show at **CM**. He is very excited to be part of this production, as this is one of his favorite films growing up! Nick is a veteran of the LI theater scene having performed all over the Island and receiving an Associates Degree in Theatre Arts from SCCC.

(Cont'd on Next Page)

About the Cast

(Cont'd) Nick has directed with his production company ONE19 and has several credits throughout theater and film. Nick would like to thank his family and friends for all of the love and support and dedicates this performance to his late mother Lela Zappetti, who is his inspiration everyday.

Sarah Klaum (Mrs. Claus) is thrilled to be back on the CM stage. Past credits include: Into the Woods (Cinderella's Stepmother, u/S The Witch), The Sound of Music (Baroness Elberfeld), They're Playing our Song (Sonia Walsk), Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (Featured Vocalist) and Almost Maine (Gayle). Sarah would like to thank Alyse, DeAnna, Patrick and Carl for this amazing opportunity and for all of their hard work and this unbelievably talented cast for this holiday season extra 'Sparklejollytwinklejingly!' Special thanks to Sarah's family and friends for their love and support.

Noble (Matthews/Macy's Brendan Manager) is excited to be back on stage doing what he does best: being a stage chameleon and portraying multiple roles in one show. He was last seen on the Main Stage this past summer in A Bronx Tale as Frankie Coffeecake. Past favorite credits include: Orin Scrivello (Little Shop), Gabe Rubenstone (First Date), Ezekiel Foster (White Christmas), Gordon Grant (Memphis), and Pat Denning (42nd Street), among many others. Brendan also had the honor of originating the following roles: Lucifer (The Living Dead Mafia), Dr. Churchland (Qualia: Origins of the Undead), and Gary/Billis/Jesse (IN PIECES). On the film end of things, Brendan has appeared as Detective Harvey Bullock in Batman The Fan Series and composed the music for Zombie High School, written by Marvel's The Eternals writer, Kaz Firpo. When not at the theatre, he can be found playing Dungeons and Dragons with friends or at a local craft brewery. He would like to thank Alyse, Carl, DeAnna and Patrick for this opportunity. @BNoble4Life

William Brennan (Chadwick) is incredibly excited to return to CM's Main Stage. Favorite credits include: The Prom (Kevin), The Wizard of Oz (Scarecrow/Tinman Swing), Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella (Prince Topher), Les Miserables (Enjolras), and Disney's Beauty and the Beast (The Beast). Will would like to thank Alyse, Carl, DeAnna, and Patrick for this incredible opportunity, as well as his family, friends and

cast for all the love and support!!!

Patrick Campbell (Charlie/Sam/Ensemble) is a Long Island based director, actor, and stage manager. He is currently serving as the Director of Educational Theater at CM Performing Arts Center where he teaches and directs the kids, juniors, and teen productions. Most recently, Patrick served as Director of CM's Into The Woods, and a Co-Director on CM's productions of The Prom and A Chorus Line. Past acting credits include: The Wizard of Oz (Tinman/ Hickory), Twelfth Night (Fabian/Captain), A Midsummer Night's Dream (Puck/ Philostrate), 9 to 5: The Musical (Dick/ Tinsworthy), Our Country's Good (Phillip/ Wisehammer). Honk! (Uglv). Romeo and Juliet (Friar Lawrence), Peter and the Starcatcher (Alf), and The Good Person of Szechwan (Wang).

Isabella Cannone (Ensemble/Dance Captain) is thrilled to be making her CM Main Stage debut in Elf! She was last seen on the CM's Family Theatre stage as Mal in Descendants and Katherine/Student Choreographer in Newsies at Longwood High School. She thanks her family and friends for their constant love and support!

Jake Cooney (Ensemble) is thrilled to be making his third appearance at **CM**. Theater is his first and foremost love. Jake hails from Bayport, Long Island and is thirteen years old. He is the youngest of three and is always keeping the family entertained. Since first performing in Matilda the Musical, in the spring of 2022, he has gone on to perform in A Christmas Story the Musical, as Flick and Scut, as Kurt VonTrapp in The Sound of Music, as JoJo in Seussical the Musical (two separate productions) and recently honed his on-film acting techniques in a small independent film. In his spare time, Jake is an avid snowboarder, plays tennis and is working on his piano and vocal skills. He is looking forward to a long career on both stage and in film.

Anabelle Koelmel (Ensemble) is thrilled to be back on the CM stage in her 3rd Main Stage show at the theater. Her favorite roles include: Molly (Annie), Amanda Thripp (Matilda) and Young Elsa (Frozen, Jr.). Anabelle is in 8th grade and in her spare time she loves to act, sing, see Broadway shows, bake and travel. She would like to thank everyone in her family, especially her Mom, dad and brother Henry for always supporting her dreams.

About the Cast

Paige Mathers (Ensemble) is so excited to be returning to the CM stage. She was last seen in Teens Addams Family playing the flapper ancestor and Family Theatre's Descendants playing Royal Page/ Snow White. Some of her favorite roles include: (Annie), Patrice (13), (Matilda), Baby June (Gypsy), Louisa (Sound of Music), Young Bonnie (Bonnie and Clyde) and Sally (You're a Good Man Charlie Brown). This past year Paige competed with her show choir team the "Accents". This year she has individually received the Shepherd Hill 2023 Best Overall Performer and Best soloist award, The Mechanicsville 2023 Showmanship award, and the 2023 Martinsburg American Classic Best Soloist and Best Overall Performer awards. She also received the Burnhart J. Rvdzeski SCMEA scholarship this past school year. Paige would like to thank Alyse, DeAnna, Carl and Patrick for this incredible opportunity.

Andrew Mercogliano (Ensemble) thrilled to be back performing on the CM stage alongside such an incredible cast. He would like to express his thanks to the wonderful production team. He would also like to thank his mom for taking him to see the original movie and sharing a love for all things Elf, and his stepdad for being the greatest Santa Claus around. Special thanks to Alyse for the opportunity, Patrick for dealing with my conflicts, DeAnna for taking me from uncoordinated mess to passable dancer, Brendan for forcing me to audition, and Juliana for being the Sparklejollytwinklejingliest person I know.

Sarah Minto (Ensemble) is super excited to be a part of this amazing cast! Previous CM credits include: Dorothy (The Wizard of Oz), Minnie Fay (Hello, Dolly), Louise (Holiday Inn), and Charlotte (Cinderella). Sarah also spends her time at the theater being the dance teacher for both CM Kids classes and CM Teens! Thank you tons to Alyse, DeAnna, Carl and Patrick for this opportunity and all their hard work!

Katie Oterson (Ensemble) is so excited to be on the CM stage once again!! She was just last seen in *Disney's Descendants* as Evie! Some favorite roles include: Cady Heron (Mean Girls), Sharpay (High School Musical), Specs (Newsies), Tommy (Matilda), and Ancestor (The Addams Family). Katie has done CM for many years now and even though this is only her second mainstage, she cannot wait to perform more! She is also a counselor in training for the CM Kids

and **CM Juniors!** She would like to thank her family and the production team for helping her theatre dreams come true.

Jessica Pecorella (Ensemble) is incredibly excited to be a part of Elf: The Musical at CM. Previous shows include: A Bronx Tale (Ensemble), Sound of Music (Ensemble), Seussical The Musical (Bird Girl/Dance Captain), and Beauty & The Beast (Ensemble/Dance Captain). Jessica would like to thank her family and friends for their endless support, and a special thanks to the production team for the opportunity!

Jackson Rodin (Ensemble) is thrilled to be making his CM debut in Elf. Jackson has previously performed as John in a Main Stage production of Fun Home. His youth theatre credits most recently include: Sebastian (The Little Mermaid Jr.), Willy Wonka (Willy Wonka Jr.), George Banks (Mary Poppins Jr.), and Captain Hook (Peter Pan Jr.). Jackson would like to thank his mom, dad, brothers, and their grandparents for love and support. He also thanks his directors for their guidance and this opportunity.

Charlie Roman (Ensemble) is SO ready deck the halls in CM's Production of Elf: Past CM credits include: Matilda (Michael Wormwood), All Shook Up (Warden/ Bus Driver), Mean Girls (Damian), The Wedding Singer (George) and The Addams Family (Mal Beineke) Other theatrical credits include: The Outsiders (Two-Bit) Elf Jr. (Walter Hobbs), and Shrek Jr. (Lord Farquaad). Thank you Alyse, DeAnna, Carl, and Patrick for this amazing opportunity! Special thanks go to all the family, friends, and directors who have believed in me throughout my entire journey! Enjoy the show!

Molly Sanges (Ensemble) is excited to be spending the holiday season on the CM stage in Elf. She was last seen on the Main Stage in Into the Woods. Before that Molly had not been on the Main Stage since A Christmas Story. She has been busy performing in many the Teen and Broadway Bound education programs since then. Including: Chicago, 13 the Musical, and All Shook Up. Molly has also been performing all over Long Island. Some of her favorite performances are Roxy Hart in Chicago, Nemo in Finding Nemo, and Flounder in The Little Mermaid. Molly would like to thank Alyse, Carl, DeAnna and Patrick for this amazing opportunity and her family for their love and support.

About the Cast and Crew

Ethan Sepela (Ensemble) is excited to be part of this Main Stage performance of Elf! His past Main Stage debut was as a Lollipop Kid Munchkin in The Wizard of Oz. He has also had parts in CM Kids performances such as Junie B. Jones, Honk Jr., and played Jojo in Seussical with the CM Juniors. He feels beyond lucky to be a part of the CM Family and is thankful for the encouragement and guidance he receives from all of his teachers!

Savannah Shaw (Ensemble) is thrilled to perform in the production of Elf. Savannah is 16 years old and has performed in numerous productions, including the role of Justice in CM Teens Rock of Ages and also has performed in the following: Little Shop of Horrors, SpongeBob, The Prom,The Wedding Singer, A Bronx Tale and a few more. She enjoys singing, dancing, and most important theater.

Julia Villani (Ensemble) is so excited to be making her Main Stage debut! Some of her past CM credits include CM Teens and Family Theatre productions of: Chicago (Kitty), Mean Girls (ensemble), Frozen Jr (Bulda), and Finding Nemo Jr (Bubbles). Julia would like to thank Alyse, DeAnna, Carl, and Patrick for giving her this amazing opportunity and for this wonderful experience. Julia is so happy to spend this holiday season at CM.

Alyse Nicole Arpino (Director) is the Execcutive Director of CM Performing Arts Center. She is also the foundress of the Performing Arts Program at St. Mary School in East Islip. She has had the unique opportunity of receiving a spot at the Broadway Teachers Workshop for numerous years. She has served as a freelance Director and Choreographer in Professional Theater, Community Theater and Educational Theater for over 30 years. She is a member of NYSTEA. Alyse has served as a Guest Teaching Arts for a number of student and professional theater conferences. Alyse graduated with honors from Wagner College and earned a Theatre/Speech Degree with a concentration in Musical Theatre and a minor in psychology. Some of her most exciting achievements include performing on tour and film, being a solo tap performer with Omar Edwards, and directing several productions that were performed in Walt Disney World. Alyse is proud to say she has worked in the theatre community for 30 years.

Sophia Biondo (Co-Lighting Designer) This is Sophia's second time designing the lights for a main stage show. She has previously worked spot-op for countless shows for 2 years now. She has also served as tech assistant since the end of Season 49, helping with shows like *The Wizard of Oz, 9 to 5, A Chorus Line, Sound of Music, The Prom,* and *A Bronx Tale*. It's been an amazing experience to bring life to the story of Buddy the *Elf.*

Feldmann (Choreographer) is thrilled to be back at CMPAC in her choreographer debut with Elf! Recently, DeAnna was last seen in The Prom as Angie Dickonson. DeAnna is a dance teacher and choreographer at Prestige Performing Arts and a full time dance teacher for NYC DOE. DeAnna also received a nomination for an Industry Dance Award for Best Character Jazz Dance You'll Be Back for TJE Dance Force (2017). Some favorite performance credits include regional theatre productions of A Chorus Line (Cassie), Cabaret (Helga), Months on End (Heidi). A big thank you to everyone at CM & to this amazing cast, crew, and creative team. For Josie, Logan & Chris. @miss dee5678

Carl Hottinger (Musical Director) is thrilled to be working as Musical Director for Elf The Musical here at CM! Favorite credits include: The Prom, Drowsy Chaperone, Ragtime, Hunchback of Notre Dame, Les Miserables, Rent, Godspell, Jekyll and Hyde, West Side Story, Little Mermaid, A Chorus Line, In The Heights, The Wizard of Oz, Into The Woods, City of Angels, Beauty and the Beast, and Children of Eden. Carl is currently the Resident Music Director for Productions Over The Rainbow (POTR) and works as organist/ pianist at The Church of the Good Shepherd in Holbrook. NY. He has also written and recorded a CD of original instrumental piano music called "The Joy You Bring Me". It has been an honor to work with Alyse, DeAnna, Patrick, and the entire production team as well as this incredibly talented cast! Carl also wants to thank his family for their constant love and support. Enjoy this very special holiday production!

Evan Lettieri (Sound Designer) has been either designing or operating the board here at **CM** over the past year. He's not really sure what to write here. If you're still reading this you're probably a family member or friend, in which case, thanks for supporting live theatre on Long Island here at **CM Performing Arts Center**.

About the Crew

Jagielo (Production Manager) is thrilled to be back behind the scenes of another CM Main Stage show. Shoutout to Patrick for putting up with all the silly shenanigans, delirious comments and scares. Dream team forever! Thank you to the incredible cast and crew for all of their hard work and dedication to this production. When not at CM. Juliana can be found living her best life as a tiny human wrangler aka a nanny. Favorite CM credits: A Chorus Line (Judy) Newsies (Newsie), Bullets Over Broadway (Atta Girl/Red Cap Girl), Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Apache Dancer), Nice Work If You Can Get It (Flo) and On The Town (Ensemble). All my love to Andrew always. For my bonus mama, Debbie,

Joe Kassner (Costume Designer) is thrilled to be designing his first show for CM. He was the recipient of the 2022 Broadway World Award for Best Costume Designer on Long Island for his work on Matilda at Merrick Theatre and in 2021 for his work on Elton John's Aida for Studio Theatre. For the last 9 years, he was the resident costume designer just up the road at the Bayway Arts Center where some of his favorite shows were Titanic and Singin' in the Rain. Joe also designs regularly for the Saint Bart's Players in Manhattan where he enjoyed working on And Then There Were None, A Little Night Music and Mystery of Edwin Drood. As always, much love to Marc and Emma!

Mazzarella (Scenic Designer) Recently John Ci-Directed and Designed CM's procduction of A Bronx Tale and also recently has worked on Dirty Rotten Scoundrels at The Engeman Theatre alongside Scenic Designer, Kyle Dixon. More recent Design Credits Include: The Wizard of Oz. Matilda. Cabaret. Bve Bve Birdie, Rock of Ages, Jesus Christ Superstar, The Drowsy Chaperone, Man of La Mancha, Beehive, Disney's Beauty and the Beast, and directed and designed the Long Island Premiere of Holiday Inn. Other CM design credits include Projections and Effects for GHOST the Musical, Frozen, American Idiot, and Newsies. John has a BFA in Design and Advertising from LIU Post and a Certificate in Interior Design and Portfolio Work from SVA.

Kevin Purdy (Co-Lighting Designer) is a lighting designer for theater, dance and live performances. He has been a lighting designer for 4 1/2 years and has worked on a dozen productions. His recent designs include: Into the Woods (CM), Elf (CM), Matilda (W.F. School). Last year he was the sound and light President at the William Floyd School District. As President he worked closely with the Superintendent and Coordinator of Music on the districts concerts, Board of Ed event and NYSMA. Now he is a district wide employee for the William Floyd school district as a production assistant. He is currently attending Farmingdale College for Aviation Administration.

Reminders

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FIRE EXITS are located on either side of the rear of the theatre, and on the right side at the front of the theatre. If you hear the alarm, please walk, DO NOT RUN, to the nearest exit.

Only bottled water and bottled soda is permitted in the theatre.

Enjoy the Show!



