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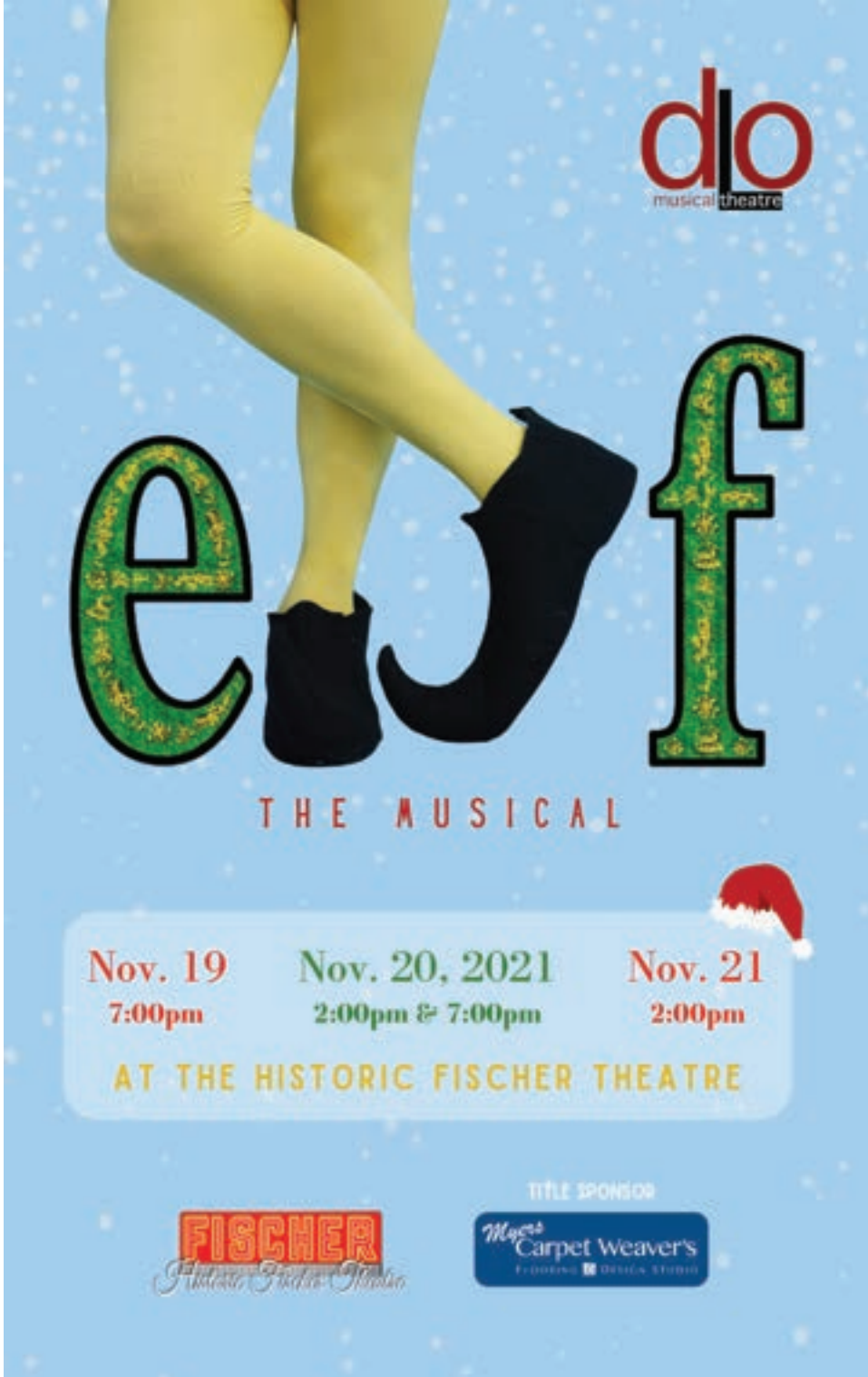
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musical theatre

elf

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director's note

Holidays in my family are filled with traditions, from decorating the Christmas tree and making cookies to watching holiday films together. *Elf* has become one of those beloved traditions. I've been wanting to direct *Elf* since I became aware of the musical, and finally decided to take on the challenge and propose the show to the DLO Musical Theatre board in September of this year. I say "challenge" because, as with any well-loved film, the audience's expectations are great. I feel a huge responsibility to not only deliver on what people expect, but try and find ways to surprise, delight and make the story fresh and new as if seeing it all for the first time. While creating my version of this story, I remembered my first viewing of the film and the pure joy and genuine laughter I shared with my family as we watched Buddy the Elf discover New York City for the first time. There is such a wonderful innocence and simple perspective that Buddy brings to a world of chaos and bitterness. He is such a great symbol and a reminder for all of us to enjoy the world around us with child-like wonderment, joy and hope. There is often so much going on in our lives that it seems impossible to live in the present without stressing about the future. It certainly feels like the world could use a bit more of Buddy's perspective to spread some good cheer all year round and believe the unbelievable. My hope, as you watch the show, is that you can share some laughs and live in the moment with your loved ones, creating some holiday memories as this incredible cast spreads some cheer by singing loud for all to hear.

"Christmas magic is silent. You don't hear it, you know it. You feel it. You believe it."

~Jerry Strain, Director

elf the musical

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

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is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
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the cast



Maddie Wakeland (Charlotte Dennen)
Maddie is so excited to be participating in the production of one of her favorite Christmas stories! She has done several productions with DLO: *Grease*, *Footloose*, and *High School Musical*. She's also done shows with Salt Fork Drama Club, DACC Players, and with Red Mask, including directing *The Savannah Sipping Society* at Red Mask in 2019. Maddie wants to thank her newlywed husband, Richie, for always supporting her and giving her a laugh when she is stressed out. She wants to thank her family, especially her mom for always being there for her. She also wants to thank the *Elf* production team, especially Jerry Strain for giving her this fun opportunity!

Barbara Whaling (Emily Hobbs) is thrilled to be performing Emily. She is a graduate from Columbia College in musical theatre. She would like to thank her family for the support and hopes you enjoy the show!



Laramie Zeigler (Chadwick/Charlie the Elf, Ensemble) Laramie Ziegler is 20 years old and is incredibly excited to be a part of this production. If you're paying attention to any of the scenes, chances are, you'll see him. His favorite roles include Ren McCormack in *Footloose*, Lefou in *Beauty and The Beast*, and Wilbur Turnblad in *Hairspray*. He also wants to thank Jerry Strain for the countless hours and his tremendous effort he's been putting into this show. He is so proud of him!

the cast

Buddy.....Bryan Goode/Thomas Strain
Jovie.....Kelli Carlton/Ashton Greer
Santa.....Himself
Mrs. Claus.....Herself
Walter Hobbs.....Craig Krukewitt
Emily Hobbs.....Barbara Whaling
Michael Hobbs.....Jackson Lewis
Deb.....Suzy Goben
Macy's Manager.....KyEisha Maze
Chadwick.....Laramie Zeigler
Matthews.....Zach Dittmar
Mr. Greenway.....Paul Strain
Charlotte Dennen.....Maddie Wakeland
Fake Santa.....Aaron Martin
Charlie.....Laramie Zeigler
Tiara.....Teri Sturdyvin
Boy.....Rowan Bailey

Ensemble: Zach Dittmar, Casey Marion, Aaron Martin, Isabella Norton, Nehemiah Ray, Teri Sturdyvin, Maddie Wakeland, Laramie Zeigler, Mallory Middendorf, Lee Bridgman, Merrit Spicer



Rodney Woodworth's expertise in being Santa for many years, had him mentoring a young Santa, Jerry Strain, then auditioning for and being cast in the role of Santa in this production of *Elf*. Rodney passed away very shortly after that perfect casting call.

Though Rodney had proven himself a professional actor/singer of very high demand in Chicago long ago, he truly enjoyed and appreciated being a part of community theatre. He found high value in both the camaraderie of good people and in the means to strengthen community in ways that

only community theatre offers: people of varied backgrounds come together with the purpose of bringing a good story to life and to the lives of the audience.

Rodney gently guided others toward betterment, be it of themselves, their lives, or their day, meeting people in the ways they needed. A friend to everyone, certainly to everyone who knew him, Rodney was no stranger to Danville audiences. He appeared at the Fischer in DLO Musical Theatre and with other local community theatre groups. His roles included gripping and stellar performances in the new musical *Bright Star* (Mayor) and in the classic play *Our Town* (Narrator, a well-known challenge in theatre literature). Some in the audience will recognize him, too, as the Archbishop of Canterbury for several years at the Illinois Renaissance Festival held in Danville. We miss him, miss his good humor, and miss his high character and deep faith carried out in so many generous ways, giving his time, expertise, and good nature to benefit others.

We dedicate this production to the memory of our dear friend.

— Friends of Rodney

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Marilyn Satterwhite

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musical numbers

act 1

Happy All The Time

World's Greatest Dad

In The Way

Sparklejollytwinklejingley

I'll Believe In You

In The Way (Reprise)

Just Like Him

A Christmas Song

act 2

Nobody Cares About Santa

Never Fall In Love (With An Elf)

There Is A Santa Claus

The Story of Buddy

Nobody Cares About Santa (Santa's Reprise)

A Christmas Song (Reprise)

Finale



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We apologize for any names omitted from this list.
Please see the Thank You list in the foyer.

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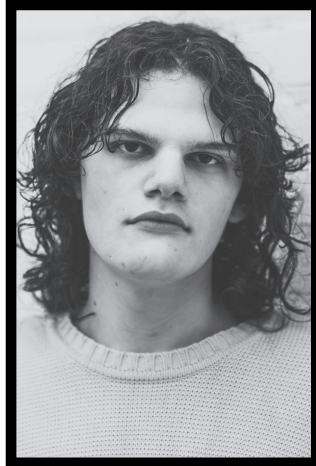
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

the cast



Paul Strain (Mr. Greenway) has been active in the performing arts for over 35 years as a performer, director, instructor, clinician, technical guy, occasional judge, and constant fan. He is thrilled to be back on the Fischer stage, doubly so with the kids and directed by one of them! As always, thanks to Lisa for her steadfast support and tolerance. And you, reading this: Thank you. Your support keeps local arts alive. Please consider your continued support of the Fischer Theater by attending additional events and becoming a "Friend of the Fischer".

Thomas Strain (Buddy) is thrilled to finish off the year with this spectacular production of *Elf!* You may remember him from this summer, when he played George Gibbs in *Our Town* and Link Larkin in *Hairspray*. Thomas would like to thank his directors and wonderful production team for such an incredible opportunity, and sends thanks to his family and friends for the support. He hopes you enjoy the show!



Teri Sturdyvin (Tiara the Elf) Teri is a big strong boi who just wants to dance. This is her third show with DLO following *Beauty and the Beast* and *Bright Star*. Also, she looks pretty different from her picture in the program so have fun figuring out who she is onstage!

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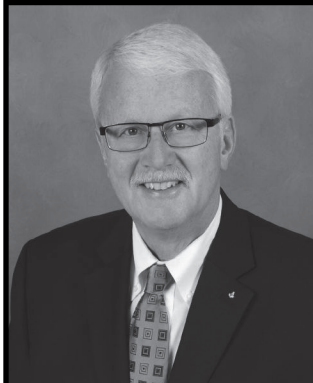
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the cast



Nehemiah Ray (Ensemble) aka Nemo - I am 15 years old and the 3rd child out of 4 children of Kisha Maze. I fell in love with musical theater when I was 14 years old when I got to play Seaweed in *Hairspray*. I love being able to put myself in my character whenever I get the chance and I feel like a different person as soon as I step on that stage. I'm glad I get the opportunity to be a part of this amazing show and cast!

Cameron Sheets (Musical Director) is very excited to be music directing for this production of *Elf*. It is his first time music directing and he couldn't have chosen a better show to start with. The cast has been a hard working, fun, and energetic ensemble to direct, and the production staff have been a joy to work with as well. This show has come with its fair share of challenges. The music is much more challenging than one may think at a glance, with key changes, meter changes, and difficult harmonies, but the ensemble and pit orchestra have helped Cameron tackle all of those challenges and present you with a great sounding show. The music in this show is fun, spirited, uplifting, and brings joy and Christmas spirit to the hearts of all of those involved with producing it, and Cameron is sure that it will bring the same to you!



Merrit Spicer (Choreographer) is honored to not only choreograph *Elf*, but also share to stage as an elf with so many talented people. Merrit owned Roselawn Dance, choreographs for theatres, showchoirs and pageants. Merrit has been married for 31 years, has two amazing children and her first granddaughter. In her free time she enjoys teaching yoga and being with her family.



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the cast



Rowan Bailey (Boy) is 8 years old and this is his first show ever! He wants to thank Jerry for thinking of him for this part. He always watches *Elf* at home with his family and he can't believe he gets to be in it!

Lee Bridgman (Ensemble) A local tradesman and contractor, Lee has been in several DLO shows and loves helping with their projects in any way he can. He's excited to use his broad and fantastically random skill set to help bring a touch of holiday spirit to the community. Thanks go out to those with the spirit to help others find theirs.



Kelli Carlton (Jovie) would like to wish everyone a safe, healthy holiday season. While no one is 'happy all the time,' this show has been a joy to be a part of. Speaking of part, Kelli is happy to share the part of Jovie with Ashton, is honored to work with her Buddy, and would like to give a huge shout out to the ensemble and crew members who truly make this story come alive. Cast's so nice, you should see us twice!



the cast



Santa Claus (himself) Santa Claus has been enriching the lives of many for as long as...well, a long LONG time. When not delivering toys on Christmas Eve he enjoys spending his time at the North Pole with the elves and bringing joy and magic to others. He would like to thank DLO for the opportunity to perform with all his friends and his wife! He hopes you have a very merry Christmas and will see you soon

special appearance by

Mrs. Claus (herself) Mrs C. is so happy to be a guest on the Fischer Theatre stage, along with her very famous husband, Santa. Buddy's story is an important one to share, and this jolly Mrs is so glad she could take time out of her busy cookie-baking schedule to come all the way down to Danville, Illinois and play a small part in bringing his story to life for all of you! She would also like to remind you, in the words from a wonderful song by one of her favorite 80's bands, "Don't stop believing!"



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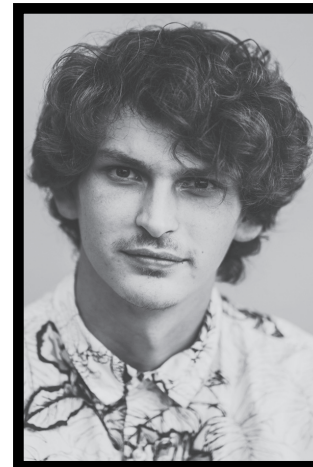
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the cast

Zach Dittmar (Matthews) Zach is an aspiring actor who works at Burger King. He plans to save to pay for a place in Chicago to tackle his acting career. He was born and raised here in Illinois like many. Going to school to get good grades and joining clubs to see where he fits in the most. That's where drama club came in and he was a fan from the start. He already had an interest for acting. Always watching film and tv. Watching and actually being on stage is both thrilling and amazing.



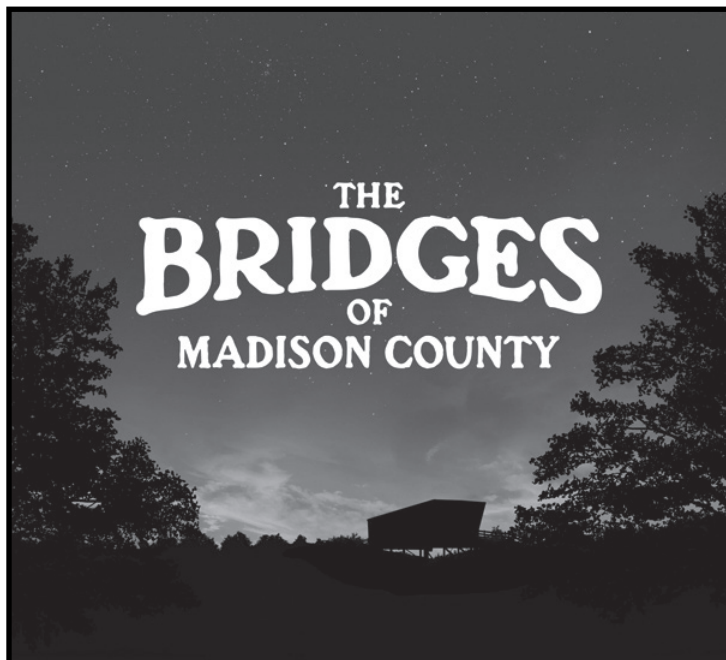
Suzy Goben (Deb) has been involved in local community theater for the last 18 years, and is thrilled to be on stage again! Some of her favorite shows she has performed in have been: *Mamma Mia*, *August Osage County*, *The 39 Steps*, *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, and *Nunsense*. Being on stage performing is her much loved hobby. Thanks to her husband Rich for always supporting her, and she means always! And to Jerry Strain for trusting her to do anything on stage!

Bryan Goode (Buddy) is an experienced performer who has been in multiple DLO shows including *Next To Normal*, *Curtains*, and *Bright Star*, as well as several productions in Champaign, IL and other local areas. In his most recent work, Bryan was part of the premiere of an original production, *The Kingdom of Dreams*, written by local author Kenny Chumbley. Bryan loves Christmas and thinks that we should be able to drink eggnog year-round.





2021-2022



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Stage Manager.....Heather Miyagi
Costumes.....Jodi Prosser-Muller
Props.....Aubrey Falconio
Set Painting.....Mike Harper
Set.....Paul Strain, Gary Lickfett
Teri Sturdyvin, Cameron Sheets, Heather Miyagi
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For the remainder of our orchestra members, please see our
"Thank You" display in the foyer.

the cast

KyEshia Maze (Macy's Manager) is 18 years old. KyEshia is the daughter of Nakyshia Maze and the second oldest of 4 siblings, and has been into theater since she was a little girl. KyEshia loves singing and dancing and the joy it brings people to do what she loves. KyEshia gets the chance to play the mean but kindhearted Macy's manager. She sees herself a little bit in this character, hard on the outside but soft on the inside. KyEshia is glad to get the chance to be a part of this show and to be a part of an amazing cast.

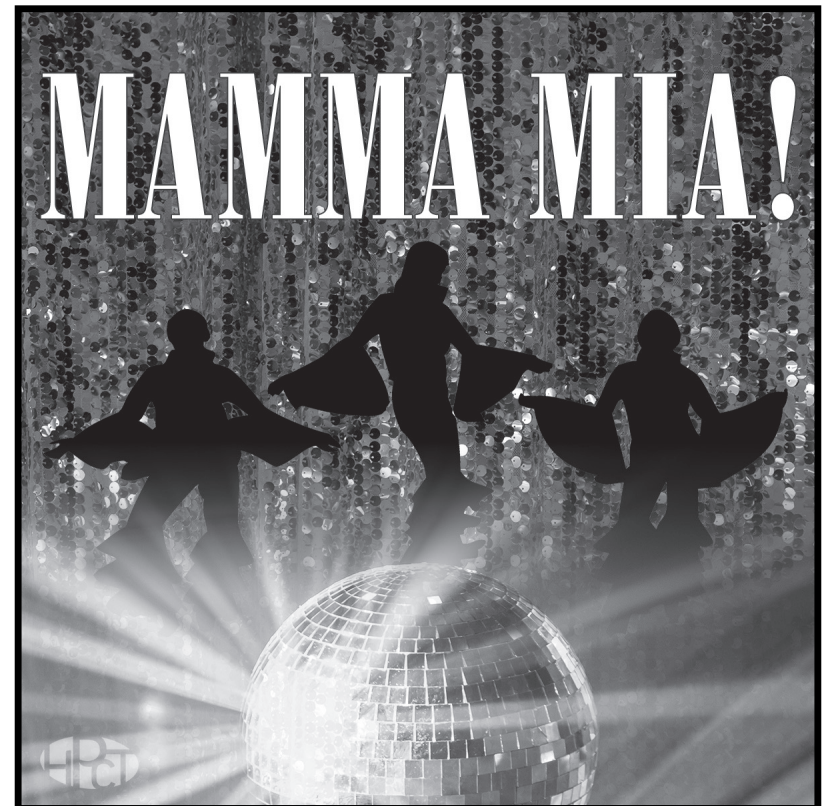


Mallory Middendorf (Ensemble) has been a part of the DLO family for 20 years now. Her latest role was Jen in *John & Jen*. This time, she is just happy to see her son, Rowan, on stage sharing her love of performing.

Isabella Norton (Ensemble) Isabella Norton, 13, is a 7th grader at Salt Fork Junior High. Isabella got her start with DLO in 2019 when she portrayed The Barrister Munchkin in *The Wizard of Oz*. This was followed up with a Zoom production of *True Colors* in the summer of 2020. Isabella was most recently cast as Princess Anna in *Frozen, Jr.* this past summer. Isabella looks forward to taking the stage again in the ensemble during this holiday production of *Elf*.



2021-2022



May 13-15, 2022 Fischer Theatre
Title Sponsor: Full-Fill Industries

ABBA's hits tell the hilarious story of a young woman's search for her birth father. This sunny and funny tale unfolds on a Greek island paradise. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago.

The story-telling magic of ABBA's timeless songs propels this enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship, creating an unforgettable show. A mother. A daughter. Three possible dads. And a trip down the aisle you'll never forget!

Visit www.dlomusicaltheatre.com for more information.

the cast



Ashton Greer (Jovie) was born and raised in Danville and loves the community and being involved in it. Married with three sons, she holds a bachelor's degree in Organizational and Professional Development and a master's degree in Organizational Leadership. She has been on the boards or in management positions for several nonprofits, including the Historic Fischer Theatre. She is currently Community Relations Administrator for the City of Danville. Ashton is excited to return to her first love—musical theatre. She wants to thank her husband, Jared, for supporting her in this frivolous and fun endeavor and for being steadfast and loyal always.

Craig Krukewitt (Walter Hobbs) Miraculously, *Elf* marks Craig's third appearance on stage in 2021. He loves the performing arts, his fur kids Paige and Ian, and seeing the world (he has even been to the lovely city of dELFT in the Netherlands!). He does try his best not to REALLY act like Walter Hobbs (so-so results here). Thank you for supporting live theater and have a very merry...whatever you celebrate!



Jennifer Lewis (Rehearsal Accompanist) is delighted to be the rehearsal accompanist and keyboardist for *Elf The Musical*! This is her 3rd show with DLO. She is the DHS choir accompanist and pianist at Fairview United Methodist Church. She has enjoyed working with such a fun-loving cast. This show was also special because she got to work with her son, Jackson, who is playing Michael.

the cast

Jackson Lewis (Michael Hobbs) is excited to be playing the role of Michael in his 2nd musical with DLO. He made his stage debut in 2019 as Francis Flute in DLO's *A Kidsummer Night's Dream*. He is in fifth grade and enjoys drawing, reading, and building in Minecraft in his spare time. He has enjoyed meeting so many new people and getting to know them while working on this show!



Aaron Martin (Fake Santa) hopes you enjoy the show. Embrace the actions and live these moments with us, laugh and be merry with us!

Casey Marion (Ensemble) is so excited to be a part of *Elf The Musical*. As an adult she has worked as a music teacher at Potomac Grade School in 2019-2020, performed in the choir during DSO's 2019 Christmas show, and performed at the civic center for AMBUCS in March 2020. This is her first musical performance in almost 15 years, and she is so excited to make her way back to the stage! She is a returning student to DACC, currently preparing to enter the nursing program in the fall of '22. Casey would like to thank her parents, siblings, nieces, and nephew for their constant support of her musical endeavors!

