Discover your inner elf.



The Musical

Book by Thomas Meehan & Bob Martin Matthew Sklar Chad Beguelin

Music by

Lyrics by

Based on the New Line Cinema film written by David Berenbaum Directed by Joan Baird

COTUIT CENTER FOR THE ARTS

OPENS TUES, NOV 23 AT 7:30 **NOVEMBER 26-DECEMBER 19** THU, FRI, SAT AT 7:30PM, SUN 2:00PM

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ELF: The Musical

Book by Thomas Meehan & Bob Martin Music by Matthew Sklar Lyrics by Chad Beguelin

Based on the New Line Cinema film by David Berenbaum Originally produced by Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures in association with Unique Features

CAST

Santa Claus - Michael Ernst
Mrs. Claus - Bridget Williams
Buddy the Elf - Ari Lew
Jovie - Emma Fitzpatrick
Deb - Holly Hansen
Walter Hobbs - Randy Doyle
Emily Hobbs - Jennifer Almeida
Michael Hobbs - Lucas Almeida
Store Manager - Kevin Kenneally
Mr. Greenway - Nick Romano *
Chadwick - Peter Steedman *
Matthews - Doug Sivco

ENSEMBLE

Sean Beal *
Raye Doyle
Eric Johnson
Rachael Kenneally *
Jane Loutzenhiser *
Nicole Norris *
Virginia Ohlson *
Aquinnah Steedman *
Frank Scanzillo
Larry Zalis

*Dancers

PRODUCTION STAFF:

Director: Joan McKenzie-Baird Music Director: Pamela Wannie Choreographer: Danielle LaTulippe Stage Manager: Tara Galvin Set Design: Brett Baird and Cris Reverdy Lighting Design: Greg Hamm Costume Design: Amy Canaday Sound Design: Jay Sheehan and Brett Baird Scenic Artist: Cris Reverdy Set Construction Foreman: Richard Neal Props Master: Bonnie Corliss Hair/Makeup: TC Crutchfield Lighting Console Operator: Tara Galvin Sound Mixing Board Operator: Brett Baird Follow Spot Operator: Patrick McPherson Narwhal Puppet Creation: Mary Rice Projection Slide Design: David Kuehn

SET CONSTRUCTION CREW:

Photography: Jayna Simpson

Bruce Allen, Andy Arnault, Brett Baird, Randy Doyle, Michael Ernst, Matthew Gould, Caitlyn Greer, Rich Marciante, Sean McCahill Liz Moakley, Richard Neal, Pete Pileeki, Cris Reverdy, Mary Rice

SET PAINTING:

Liz Moakley, Jackie Reeves, Cris Reverdy, Mary Rice, Rich Marciante, Pete Pileeki

COSTUME CREW:

Donna Fitzmaurice, Michelle Gain, Kathleen Kohut, Mae Newton, Ellen O'Connell, Marcia Randall, Tami Trask Good, Phyllis Welby, Libby White

RUNNING CREW:

Peter Pileeki, Rin Hempel, Zac Iven, Jess Keene, Hope O'Conor, Samuel Rice, Patrick McPherson

VIDEO CREW:

Jim Gilbert, Jonah Erdman, Jason Mellin

SPECIAL THANKS:

Mark Pearson of CLOC, Falmouth Theatre Guild, Dan McSweeny, Bruce Allen, Bill Farrell, Barry Lew, Rich Marciante, Sean McCahill, Richard Neal, Pete Pileeki, Annellen Zalis, Paula Johnson, Sarah Briand, Rebecca Corliss

NOTES:

There will be one 15-minute intermission

Please make sure that you have silenced all electronic devices

Please, no flash photography or recording devices

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome!

Two years ago we entertained audiences with a wonderful production of *Dr. Doolittle*. That was the last time we produced a musical theater production...until now. Two years later and a lot of troubling water under the bridge. I've been thinking a lot about the importance of theater in our lives and how excited I am to present a magical experience for children and adults alike. There is a line I keep coming back to from *Elf:* "Remember who you were back then. Let those moments live again."

We've been living those moments behind the scenes for the past month. The Center has literally been Santa's workshop. Our volunteers and staff have been working tirelessly building sets, costumes, props. All day, every day there have been dozens of elves working together with a sense of joy and pride that results in what you are about to see. There are no words to describe how proud I feel regarding this very special show during this very special time. It means the world that you are here. We've missed you and welcome you back with open arms.

On behalf of our amazing staff, devoted volunteers and dedicated board of directors, I wish you a Sparklejollytwinklejingly experience today, and the very best wishes for a happy holiday season and much better year ahead.

- David Kuehn

ABOUT THE CAST:

Jennifer Almeida (Emily) is incredibly excited to be returning to the CCftA mainstage. This beautiful production is one she will hold close to her heart since she is cast alongside her son, Lucas who is playing the role of Michael. Jennifer was recently seen as Sister Amnesia in *Nunsense* with The Academy of Performing Arts. She is a member of the Cape Cod Carolers and the Wydah Washashores. Jennifer completed her undergraduate degree at the Hartt School and her graduate degree at the New England Conservatory where she was a member of the opera theater program. Highlighted roles that she has performed are Lily in *The Secret Garden*, Rapunzel in *Into the Woods*, Anne Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and Papagena in *The Magic Flute*. Jennifer has sung as a soloist with the Kansas City Symphony Orchestra and was a regional finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. She was a young artist with PORT and has performed in several seasons with them as well as with Connecticut Opera. Jennifer would like to thank her family for their unending love and support.

Lucas Almeida (Michael) is elated to be making his debut as Michael with CCftA. *Elf* is his favorite Christmas movie and it is his family's tradition to watch it every Christmas Eve. He is excited to be performing with his real mother, Jennifer who is playing the role of Emily. Lucas has appeared with The New Classics Company in *The Bureau* as Brian and *On the Other Side* as Michael at the Guyer Art Barn. He has been active in community theater and has performed the roles of The Dwarf in *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*, Peter and Mr. Fezziwig in *A Christmas Carol*, Templeton in *Charlotte's Web* and an Emerald City Guard in *The Wizard of Oz.* He has always loved music and was singing before he even started talking. Lucas has a passion for all things science. He is an eighth grader and is earning straight A's in school. He loves *Star Wars*, baseball, reading, his two goofy dogs, and hanging out with his friends. Lucas would like to thank his family and everyone at the CCftA for supporting him through this amazing journey.

Sean Beal (Ensemble) is 15 years old, a freshman at Cape Cod Tech in Harwich. He lives in Barnstable Village where he spends his time biking and visiting local establishments. Sean is an apprentice at Barnstable Pottery and Barnstable Blacksmithing. He works at Nirvana Coffee and Scorton Creek Oysters. This is his second performance in community theatre; the first being *Miracle on 34th Street* with the Barnstable Comedy Club.

Randy Doyle (Walter Hobbs) hopes we can all take a page from Buddy the Elf and all spread some joy this year, sing a song, dance a dance, perform a random act of kindness and make it not so random. Randy most recently appeared as Professor Buddy G in

Muskrat Love on the Cotuit Stage. He feels blessed to have appeared in a number of other recent productions at Cotuit Center for the Arts, including Doctor Doolittle, Mary Poppins, Sweet Charity and Man of LaMancha. A theatre graduate of Bridgewater State College, Randy has appeared in numerous community and professional productions over the years. Randy would like to thank his amazing wife for her unselfish support in his theatrical endeavors.

Raye Doyle (Ensemble) previously appeared on the Cotuit Center for the Arts stage in *Doctor Doolittle*. She previously has sung with the Cape Cod Conservatory Children's Chorus. Raye is thrilled to be once again sharing the stage with her dad. Raye is grateful for the love and support of the theatre community for those with special needs, especially the CCftA family.

Michael Ernst (Santa Claus, Ensemble) lives in Forestdale and works as Building & Grounds Manager at CCftA. He has worked on 25 shows at the Center since 2007, including (since 2016), *Dr. Dolittle* (Dr. John Dolittle, Set Foreman), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Leonato), *Mary Poppins* (Queen Victoria, Chairman of the board, ensemble), *Annie* (Bert Healy, FDR), *One Man Two Guvnors* (Harry Dangle), *Sunday in the Park with George* (Jules), *Scrooge* (Ebenezer Scrooge), *Frost/Nixon* (Jack Brennan), *Oklahoma* (Cord Elam, Set Designer), and *Sordid Lives* (G.W. Nethercott).

Emma Fitzpatrick (Jovie) is thrilled to be back on stage performing alongside such an incredible cast and crew. She was most recently seen at CCftA in *Muskrat Love*, and her one-woman show *The Humours of Bandon*. Previously she appeared in *Constellations*, and *Dark Night Cabaret*, both in the the Vivian and Morton Sigel Black Box Theater. Other favorite performances include *Urinetown* (Tilden Arts Center) *Pippin*, and *Sister Act* (CCTCHJT) *Merrily We Roll Along* (Cape Rep), *Sweeney Todd*, and *One Man 2 Guvnors* (CCftA.) She would like to thank her family, friends, and Jason, for their never ending love and support.

Holly Hansen (Deb) Holly was recently seen onstage at Cotuit in her one woman show *Charolais* and at Cape Rep in *Noises Off.* Favorite Cape performance credits include: *Much Ado* (CCftA), *Urinetown* (Tilden Arts), *The Odd Couple* (CCftA). She is so excited to spend the holiday season performing alongside her wonderful husband Ari, whom she met while working at Santaland at Macy's in Herald Square. It's no wonder this is her favorite time of year!

Eric Johnson (Ensemble) is excited to be back at CCftA, after appearing in Jesus Christ Superstar, and Sweet Charity. He was also seen in To Kill A Mockingbird at Eventide Arts, and in Young Frankenstein, Sweeney Todd, Pippin, Oliver and The Sound of Music at Falmouth Theatre Guild. Getting back on stage with all these other jolly elves makes him happy all the time! Wishing everyone a happy holiday, devoid of any syrup in your DVD player!

Kevin Kenneally (Store Manager, Ensemble) Kev is thrilled to be back on stage in this magical journey and cannot imagine being with another fantastic group of people performing in front of you here at the Cotuit Center For The Arts. He last appeared in Sondheim's Assassins at Eventide Theatre Company and then Covid-19 put a halt to just about everything which is why being back has been so incredible. Recent credits also include Miracle on 34th Street (Barnstable Comedy Club), Much Ado About Nothing (CCftA), 1940's Radio Hour (BCC), Mary Poppins (CCftA), Man of La Mancha (CCftA), and The Producers (Falmouth Theatre Guild) to name a few. Many thanks and hugs to Joan, Pam, and Danielle for this opportunity and for making it Christmas everyday, to David Kuehn for all of his love and support, and of course to the cast and crew for being so SparkleJollyTwinkleJingleicious! As always, love and thanks to his wife Rachael for taking this journey with him, I could not have done it without her. And, thank you to the audience and volunteers for keeping the arts alive, especially during some very difficult and uncertain times. This show is dedicated to you!

Rachael Kenneally (Ensemble) Rachael is thankful and blessed to return to the community theatre stage in this enchanting production. In fact, her last on stage appearance was in another yuletide themed show, *Miracle on 34th Street* at The Barnstable Comedy Club in November 2019. Other recent performances include *The 1940's Radio Hour,* also at The BCC, and *Sweet Charity* here at CCftA. Rachael would like to send sincere thanks to Joan, Brett, Pam, Danielle, and the entire cast and crew. As

always, much love to her co-cast mate for life Kevin and their beloved fur son Yaz who keeps them on their toes.

Ari Lew (Buddy) is thrilled to be back! This time last year he was (virtually) performing in the one man show *Fully Committed* for its 3rd run here at CCftA. Most recently he appeared this summer in *Noises Off, Much Ado about Nothing*, and *Fantastical House of Maya Mouse* at Cape Rep. He has performed in many other local theaters such as WHAT, Harbor Stage Company, CCTC-HJT, Eventide, Tilden Arts Center, and Priscilla Beach Theatre. Ari performed in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade as the Fischer Price Toy Soldier and was the Big Man himself at Macy's Santaland on 34th Street! It was there he met an elf named Holly Hansen (aka Deb). Together they enjoy video games, movie marathons, and Disney. They are now married and reside in West Yarmouth with their 3 children (2 arcade machines and a hot tub). Welcome back everyone!

Jane Loutzenhiser (Ensemble) is excited to be elfing it up with all these spectacular elves! Other CCFTA productions include *Jesus Christ Superstar, Sweet Charity, We Are the Champions* and *Hope For the Holidays*. She has also been seen at Falmouth Theatre Guild, the Martha's Vineyard Playhouse, Island Theatre Workshop, as well as some Kansas City venues, and heard on weekends on mvyradio.org. Wishing you all a sparklejollytwinklejingly holiday season!

Nicole Norris (Ensemble) is a junior at Falmouth High School. This is her third Christmas show at Cotuit, but she has done theater all over the Cape. She is so excited to be back in the theater and is super happy to be a part of this show!

Virginia Ohlson (Ensemble) is thrilled to be making her CCftA debut with such an incredible cast! Prior to the pandemic, you may have seen her in ETC's *Assassins* as an ensemble member, and CDG's *Addams Family* Musical Comedy as Wednesday Addams. She would like to thank this amazing cast and crew for such a wonderful experience, as well as her family, roommate, and friends for their endless support of her theatrical endeavors. Enjoy the show!

Frank Scanzillo (Ensemble, he/him) was last seen on stage in *Miracle on 34th Street* (Barnstable Comedy Club, 2019). Since then, he was a virtual stage manager for a number of Eventide Tales and Eventide Virtual Playhouse productions. His other CCFtA performances include *Much Ado About Nothing* (2019), *The Wizard of Oz* (2019) and *Man of La Mancha* (2018). Frank is very happy to be back on stage again in Cotuit.

Doug Sivco (Matthews, Ensemble) is excited to be working on the Cotuit Center stage for the first time. The former sportscaster for CBS, NBC and FOX affiliates has been seen in various roles over the years at Cape Rep, Eventide Arts and Cape Cod Theater (HJT). Enjoy the show and the holiday season!

Aquinnah Steedman (Ensemble) is a junior at Falmouth High School. It's been many years since she's been on stage and even more since she's performed at CCftA. She was in *Willy Wonka* at the age of seven and *Christmas at Cotuit* when she was eight. She is thrilled to be part of this amazing cast (including her dad), with an equally amazing crew and director. Feeling so lucky to be able to work with Joan after being cast in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and having it canceled due to the pandemic. She hopes this show will spread some Christmas cheer!

Pete Steedman (Chadwick, Ensemble) is the Director of the Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School and also currently serves as an adjunct professor in the Lynch School of Education at Boston College. He is thrilled to be back at Cotuit after an eight-year absence. Previous shows at Cotuit include *Bleacher Bums* (2010), *Anything Goes* (2011), and *Willy Wonka* (2012). Pete is delighted to be working with Joan and that he gets to share the stage with his daughter and this amazing cast.

Bridget Williams (Mrs. Claus, Ensemble) has been active in community theatre on the Cape for 30 years, both on stage and behind the scenes. Bridget is very excited to be in her first show at Cotuit Center for the Arts. Some of Bridget's favorite roles include Mother Abbess in Sound of Music, Sr. Amnesia in *Nunsense* and Miss Clavel in *Madeline's Christmas*. Bridget lives in Hyannis with her husband, Wayne, and their five cats. When not on stage, Bridget can be found cantoring at Our Lady of Victory in Centerville or Our Lady of the Assumption in Osterville.

Larry Zalis (Fake Santa, Ensemble) Better known for his work as a criminal defense lawyer on Cape Cod, Larry has appeared in *Annie, Dr. Doolittle, Scrooge*, and *Glengarry Glen Ross* here at Cotuit Center for the Arts. Larry resides in Mashpee with his wife Annellen.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION STAFF:

Brett Baird (Set and Sound Design) Brett is delighted to be working on another CCftA production, with a tremendously talented cast, staff, and crew! He has designed sets, lighting, or sound for many Falmouth Theater Guild productions, including *The Sound of Music, The Fantasticks, The Music Man, Sweeney Todd, The Wizard of Oz, Shrek the Musical, White Christmas, The Producers, Fun Home, The Story of My Life, and She Loves Me.* Brett currently serves as the President of Falmouth Theatre Guild. He would like to thank his incredible wife (and Director), Joan, for all the love, support, and collaboration we have shared over the last 25 years. Here's to 25 more!!

Joan McKenzie-Baird (Director) Joan is honored and thrilled to be back directing at CCftA. Joan is a classically trained soprano who found that her place in music was not standing next to a grand piano to sing, but instead on the theatrical stage. As an actress, Joan has played an array of characters, from Nellie in *South Pacific* to Abigail in *The Crucible* - and everything in between! Joan has performed in community theater, summer stock and professional theater in Chicago, Newport, RI and Rochester, NY. Joan was recognized by *Cape Cod Times* - Best Cape Cod Theater for the productions of *Fun Home* (FTG), *Man of LaMancha* (CCftA) and *White Christmas* (FTG) which she directed. The last show, before the "longest intermission" that Joan directed was Stephen Sondheim's *Assassins* at Eventide Theatre in Dennis that played to sold out performances. Joan's next directorial endeavor is Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* at FTG - Spring, 2022.

By day, Joan is a Realtor with Engel & Voelkers - Falmouth and also loves working at Port Cargo in Falmouth and Mashpee. She is mom to 5 glorious children and Mimi to her two grandsons. Joan would like to thank her husband, Brett for all the support throughout the years. We make a great team! Kudos to our hardworking and very talented cast, production staff and David Kuehn. Special thanks to all those that helped with this production - backstage, sets, props, costumes, sound and lights. And, a final thank you to our audiences - You're the Best!

Amy Canaday (Costume Designer) As a freelance costume designer, Amy has spent the last 9 years working on theatrical productions around Cape Cod. Some of her favorite past shows include: *Gypsy, Sunday in the Park with George,* and *Man of La Mancha* at Cotuit Center for the Arts; *Rock of Ages* and *Urinetown* at the Tilden Arts Center; and *She Loves Me, To Kill A Mockingbird,* and *Assassins* at Eventide Theater Company.

Bonnie Corliss (Props Master) has been working on shows at Cotuit Center for the Arts for many years. Some of the shows that she has worked on include *Sweet Charity, Sweeney Todd, Mary Poppins, Sunday in the Park with George,* and *Man of La Mancha.* She loves working with the many talented people that make up the cast and crew of each show and is always thankful for the opportunity. She hopes you enjoy the show.

TC Crutchfield (Hair/Makeup) is a graduate of the Troutman School of Cosmetology in North Carolina. Since arriving on the Cape almost 9 years ago, past roles include the preacher in Tom Sawyer, the CAT in HONK!, Cletus James Stump in Radio Ridiculous at ETC, Jacob Jerome in Brighton Beach Memoirs at the Academy, Drake in Annie, Captain Gardner in Moby Dick the Musical. Brother Boy in Sordid Lives. The preacher in the Best Christmas Pageant Ever, Fezzywig in Scrooge, Mr. Mockwell in Hope for the Holidays, Conrad in Much Ado About Nothing, Albert Blossom in Dr. Doolittle, a gnome in How to Talk to Fairies. and over 10 parts in the Grimm Brothers Spectaculathon with Watermelon Alligator. Hair and makeup credits include The Secret Garden and Boxcar Children at Harwich Theater, 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche, Souvenir, The Pirates of Penzance, Gypsy, Unsafe, Steel Magnolias, Oklahoma, Sordid Lives, Scrooge, Sunday in the park with George, One Man 2 Guvnors, Man of La Mancha, Dixie Swim Club, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, Of Mice and Men, How to Talk to Fairies, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, Frost/Nixon, and Sweeney Todd. He recently did hair for a film entitled Twain by the Tale for Eventide Theater Company this past spring. He is currently the regular host for the Cape Cod Can productions and is looking forward to this season's talent show.

Tara Galvin (Stage Manager) Tara has been working with CCfTA over the past 13+ years. She was an actor in It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play with her daughter, KatieBeth. Directing Credits include: Santaland Diaries, Love, Loss and What I Wore, The Vagina Monologues and a staged reading of Greater Tuna. And most recently, 2 solo shows: Charolais, with Holly Hansen and Humours of Bandon, with Emma Fitzpatrick. At CCfTA, she has stage managed numerous productions. Some of her many favorites: Sweeney Todd, Charolais, Humours of Bandon, 33 Variations, Spamalot, Red, Muskrat Love, Piano Men, Sordid Lives, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever and Playpen- an event of creating, rehearsing and performing original short works, all in 24 hours! Some of the theatres where Tara has worked include The Kennedy Center, A.R.T., Seattle Rep, and Yale Rep. Locally- The Cape Playhouse, Provincetown Theatre, and Cape Rep. She spent three years as the Stage Manager for the Cape Cod Symphony, including the collaborations between CCFTA and the CSO: The Wizard of Oz and Every Good Boy Deserves Favor. Special thanks to David and all at CCfTA who make this more than an amazing Arts Campus. For me, it is truly my other home. Gratitude to my family, John and KatieBeth, (and my hiking partner Sheba), for their love, support, and understanding. And big hugs to Sue - who gets it...

Greg Hamm (Lighting Designer) started his lighting career at age 14, apprenticing at the Cape Playhouse across the street. For six seasons, he was master electrician, then house manager his last year. He graduated from Ithaca College with a degree in technical theater. From there, he worked off Broadway at the Manhattan Theater Club in NYC, then moving forward, worked for Tom Field Associates in Boston and Los Angeles in the arena of rock and roll lighting design, production and movie work. Returning to the East in 1984, he continued designing concert tours, corporate shows, theatrical, dance, residential commercial lighting. Concert tours include Donna Summer, Dolly Parton, The Beach Boys, Chicago, Madonna, Wham, Lionel Ritchie, Huey Lewis and the News, Pattie LaBelle, Harry Connick Jr, Aretha Franklin to name a few. Greg lights 2-6 local productions and music events a month on Cape Cod.

Richard Neal (Set Foreman) is an artist working at Chalkboard Studio in Barnstable Village. His work has been exhibited widely and is represented in numerous private and public collections. In 2019, his art toured Cuba in a show titled, "Imagine" and he will be having a one-person exhibit at the Provincetown Art Association and Museum in 2023. At Cotuit, Richard has designed and built sets for productions of *Darwin in Malibu, Black Comedy, Steel Magnolias*, and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

Cris Reverdy (Scenic Painter) has been a professional muralist/artist for 30+ years and a regular contributor to CCftA theatrical sets for the past 4 years. Her set designs include Mary Poppins, Of Mice and Men, Arsenic and Old Lace, co-designer for Sweet Charity and Much Ado About Nothing. Scenic painting: Sweeney Todd, Man of La Mancha. Cris is grateful to return to her position as Scenic Charge for CCftA's in-house design team. Welcome aboard Richard Neal! Miss you Bruce!

Mary Rice (Puppet Creation) has appeared as Mrs. Brill in the production of *Mary Poppins*, Mrs. Shears and Mrs. Gascoyne in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night* at The Tilden Art Center, Prop Master for *Dr. Doolittle* and recently created and directed the premier of *The Happy Cabbage Puppet Theater* in The Black Box. She is currently a part of the design team at Cotuit Center for the Arts.

Pamela Wannie (Music Director) is a professional music educator, pianist and vocal conductor, and she is thrilled to be a part of a production at Cotuit Center for the Arts. Locally Pam has been the music director for Next To Normal at Woods Hole Theater Company and Story of My Life at Falmouth Theater Guild, as well as countless shows at Cape Cod Academy. She has played in the orchestra for Barnstable Comedy Club (Guys and Dolls, My Fair Lady) and Barnstable High School (Into the Woods, She Loves Me). Off Cape Pam has been the music director for Wachusett Regional Theater Company, Southboro Players, Cornelly Productions and Natick Drama Workshop. During the day you can find Rev. Pam at Duffy Health Care Center where she works as a Spiritual Care Provider, and every fourth Sunday Pam offers outdoor ministry and fellowship for people experiencing homelessness.