

KANKAKEE VALLEY THEATRE ASSOCIATION YOUNG PEOPLES THEATRE

NOVEMBER  
**23-24**  
2024

LINCOLN CULTURAL CENTER  
240 WARREN AVE. KANKAKEE, IL 60901

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:  
[WWW.KVTA.ORG](http://WWW.KVTA.ORG)



DIRECTED BY:  
PAULA SUTTER



# ELF JR.

MUSIC BY: MATTHEW SKLAR  
BOOK BY: THOMAS MEEHAN AND BOB MARTIN  
LYRICS BY: CHAD BEGUELIN

BASED ON THE NEW LINE CINEMA FILM WRITTEN BY DAVID BERENBAUM

Illinois  
**ARTS**  
Council

**KVTA**

ELF: The Music of Jr. is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com Logo and Poster provided by Stephen Bernard Design (2024).

# A Note from the Director . . .

“Sparklejollytwinklejingley” is quite a word, but it certainly embodies Buddy’s Christmas spirit! We all know that the holidays can be very busy and sometimes stressful, but taking time to enjoy “The Story of Buddy the Elf” is the perfect way to help get you in the holiday spirit. This cast has worked diligently to bring the story to life on our stage. The talent of the young people in our area is truly amazing. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to direct them and see them shine! Thank you to the kids, their parents, my set crew, and my incredible staff for a job well done. Thank you also to the audience for coming to a performance and supporting KVTA and this superb cast.

If you feel a bit overwhelmed amid all the gift wrapping, list making, tree decorating, and cookie baking, just take moment to breathe and do what Buddy tells his friends to do: Just sing “A Christmas Song”, it’s like magic if things go wrong. Just spread some Christmas cheer by singing loud for all to hear!

Don’t be a cotton-headed-ninny-muggins! Keep Buddy’s spirit in your heart and make smiling your favorite thing! A smile costs you nothing but giving someone your smile might just make their day better. Here's hoping your holiday is filled with meaning, joy, special moments, and most of all love!

From our KVTA family to your family, we wish all of you a very happy holiday season.



*Paula Sutter*

# 2024-2025 KVTA Board of Directors

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President ..... Courtney Stephens

Vice President ..... Joel Knapper

Secretary ..... Amy Shinabarger

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Christine Case, Jordyn Clark, Kimberly Hall,  
Kayla James, Andy Purcell, Sharla Ronchetto,  
Beth Sutter, Nick Troendle, Katie Udstuen, Pat Ward

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## KVTA BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.kvta.org](http://www.kvta.org).

For information, please call 815-935-8510.

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Kankakee Valley Theatre Association is a not-for-profit organization. Ticket prices cover only a fraction of the cost of each performance. We welcome volunteers and appreciate donations of any size. We invite you to become a member of KVTA. Contact any Board Member for information or visit [www.kvta.org](http://www.kvta.org).

**KVTA is a Proud Member of:**

- Community Arts Council of Kankakee
- Illinois Arts Council Agency
- American Association of Community Theatre
- Illinois Theatre Association
- Kankakee Chamber of Commerce
- Manteno Chamber of Commerce

# Scenes and Musical Numbers

## Pre-Show Entertainment:

Theme From Elf - John Debney/arranged by Daniel Grassi

A Winter Wish - Dave and Jean Perry

If I Were a Reindeer - Teresa and Paul Jennings

Jingle Jive - Teresa and Paul Jennings

## Scene 1: North Pole

Happy All the Time .....Santa, Buddy and Elves

## Scene 2: Buddy Goes to New York City

World's Greatest Dad .....Buddy and Ensemble

## Scene 3: Greenway Press Office

## Scene 4: Macy's

Sparkejollytwinklejingley.....Buddy, Manager, Macy Employees/Elves

## Scene 5: Hobb's Apartment

I'll Believe in You.....Michael and Emily

## Scene 6: Greenway Press Office

## Scene 7: Rockefeller Center

A Christmas Song.....Buddy, Jovie, Ensemble

## Scene 8A: Greenway Press Office

## Scene 8B: The Park

World's Greatest Dad Reprise .....Buddy, Carolers

## Scene 9: Tavern on the Green

Never Fall in Love with an Elf.....Jovie

## Scene 10: Hobb's Apartment and Various NYC Families

There is a Santa Claus.....Michael, Emily, Ensemble

## Scene 11: Greenway Press Office

The Story of Buddy the Elf .....Buddy, Walter, Michael, Emily, Ensemble

## Scene 12: Central Park

## Scene 13: Central Park

A Christmas Song Reprise.....Buddy and Ensemble

## FINALE:

Sparklejollytwinklejingley.....Full Cast

\*\*Join us for the after-show sing-along\*\*

# Cast of *Elf JR*

(\*Denotes first appearance in a Kankakee Valley Theatre Association production)

Buddy.....	Brady Perzee*
Santa.....	Hunter Lockhart
Walter Hobbs.....	Paul Bishir
Emily Hobbs.....	Olivia Zwirkoski
Michael Hobbs.....	Cole Pilbeam
Jovie.....	Abby Purcell
Mr. Greenway.....	Austin Lyle
Macy's Manager.....	Aidan Troendle
Chadwick.....	Brooks Wonder*
Matthews.....	Harper Case
Charlie.....	Ashton Lamont
Shawanda/Caroler.....	Cheyenne Clausing*
Deb the Secretary.....	Kait Kenney
Sam.....	Garret Rejholec*
Charlotte Denton.....	Hannah Fish
Fake Santa/NYC Cowboy.....	Kane Rushing
Darlene Lambert/Office Staff.....	Sophie Powell
Emma Van Brocklin.....	Kylee Kothe
Policeman/Caroler.....	Nolan Janek
Policeman/Caroler.....	Jackson Day
Security Guard.....	Owen Stevenson
Security Guard.....	Keaton Denny
Sarah, Office Worker.....	Mary Alice Kunz

**NYC CROWD:** Lauryn Balk, Carter Budimir, Harper Case, Simone Copiskey, Jackson Day, Keaton Denny, Reagan Diaz\*, Olivia Douglas, Hannah Fish, Nolan Janek, Eden Johnson\*, Kylee Kothe, Austin Lyle, Daniel Marion, Emma Matys\*, Ella Nitschke, Anna Poole\*, Sophie Powell, Owen Stevenson, Kirby Veit, Jacob White\*, Savannah Whittington, Brooks Wonder\*

**SANTA'S ELVES:** Parker Birkey\*, Yazeni Calderon, Kinley Collins, Sophia Diaz, Emma Froeschle, Evasue Gregoire\*, Molly Indicavitch, Abigail James, Hadley Kirkland, Daniel Marion, Brooklyn McGill, Artie Meyer, Maddie Mulvenna\*, June Rader

**MACY'S EMPLOYEES/CUSTOMERS/ELVES:** Lauryn Balk, Parker Birkey\*, Yazeni Calderon, Harper Case, Kinley Collins, Simone Copiskey, Reagan Diaz\*, Olivia Douglas, Hannah Fish, Emma Froeschle, Evasue Gregoire\*, Molly Indicavitch, Abigail James, Hadley Kirkland, Odelia Kirkpatrick\*, Kylee Kothe, Mary Alice Kunz, Ashton Lamont, Emma Matys\*, Brooklyn McGill, Artie Meyer, Ella Nitschke, Anna Poole\*, June Rader, Kane Rushing, Sophia Sherrill\*, Kolbee Shoufler, Adelynn Udstuen, Adrianna Udstuen, Kirby Veit, Jacob White\*, Savannah Whittington

**PRE-SHOW CAROLERS:** Lauryn Balk, Jackson Day, Ella Nitschke, Cole Pilbeam, Anna Poole\*, Sophie Powell, Garret Rejholec\*, Kolbee Shoufler, Aidan Troendle, Brooks Wonder\*

# Production Staff



Director.....	Paula Sutter
Co-Assistant Directors.....	Tricia Kohan and Beth Sutter
Vocal Director.....	Carrie Chaparro
Choreographer.....	Jordyn Clark
Co-Production Coordinators.....	Kimberly Hall and Andy Purcell
Costumer.....	Kayla James Michelle Lockhart, Lisa Poole, Margaret Sherrill
Set Builder.....	Mark Sutter
Set Decorator.....	Erin Thomas
Stage Manager.....	Sandra Gray Zach Kirkland, Art Meyer, Jackie Pletsch, Michaela Richey, Sharla Ronchetto, Karen Shoufler, Ashley Stevenson, Mark Sutter, Katie Udstuen, April Whittington
Properties.....	Becky Powell Stacy Kothe
Makeup.....	Melaina Hall
Box Office .....	Tricia Kohan
Rehearsal Pianist.....	Gwen Fox
House.....	Christine Case and Kayla James
School Reservations.....	Kayla James Kimberly Hall
Split the Pot.....	Jim Kravat
Program.....	Kimberly Hall Paula Sutter , Courtney Stephens
Publicity.....	Sharla Ronchetto Stephen Menard, Courtney Stephens, Paula Sutter, Jordyn Clark, Pathfinder
Lights.....	BAM Lighting, Brad Mietzner Kaliph Whitlow
Sound.....	Main Street Music Production Jennifer Kravat

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JR.

# Meet the Cast

**Lauryn Balk (Macy's Employee/Pre-Show Caroler)** Lauryn is the daughter of Doug and Amanda Balk of Bourbonnais and is in the 6th grade at St. George Elementary School. Lauryn says, "Including *Elf JR*, I have been in 11 shows. Before *Elf*, I played the role of Tad in *Finding Nemo JR* with KVTA. I would like to thank my family and loved ones for always pushing me to be the best I can be on and off stage. Thanks to my friends who always perform with me."

**Parker Birkey (Santa Elf/Macy's Employee)** Parker is a 4th grader at Liberty Intermediate School and is the daughter of Nick and Ashley Birkey of Bourbonnais. She was previously a part of the KVTA Summer Camp in 2023 and 2024. Parker exclaims, "Thank you to Ms. Paula for working so hard for us!"

**Paul Bishir (Walter Hobbs/Narwhal)** A senior at Momence High School, Paul is the son of Robert and Kirsten Bishir of Momence. In 2024, he played the role of a Wickersham in *Seussical* with KVTA. Paul adds, "I'd like to thank my parents for supporting me through the junior shows. I'd like to thank all my directors, who somehow put up with my antics for so long."

**Carter Budimir (New Yorker/Office Staff)** Carter is the son of Bryce and Brittany Budimir of Manteno and is in the 7th grade. He has previously been in other KVTA productions. Carter says, "Thanks to my family for their support through things like being positive and taking me back and forth to practices. Thanks to my friends for encouraging me."

**Yazeni Calderon (Santa's Elf/Macy's Employee)** Yazeni is a 4th grader at LCC-Montessori Magnet and is the daughter of Maria and Antonio Calderon of Kankakee. Yazeni was a Seagull in KVTA's 2024 production of *Finding Nemo JR* and she states that encouraged her to do more plays because she wants to make more theater memories. Yazeni shares, "Special thanks to my family who always comes out and supports me."

# Meet the Cast

**Harper Case (Mathews)** Harper is the son of Stephen and Christine Case of Kankakee and is a 7th grader at Kankakee Junior High School. Harper has been in multiple productions, with his favorite show being KVTA's *Moana, JR*. Harper adds, "I wouldn't be in theatre if it weren't for my brother Matthew, so thanks, Matt! I love you!"

**Cheyenne Clausing (Shawanda/Caroler)** The daughter of Jennifer Clausing and Randy Clausing of Peotone, Cheyenne is in the 5th grade at Grace Christian Academy. Cheyenne has attended the KVTA Summer Theater Camps in 2023 and 2024 and was a part of *Hysterical History* for her school. Cheyenne states, "I want to thank Mrs. Paula for putting on these productions and helping us improve in our acting skills. I also want to thank everyone involved in *Elf JR*."

**Kinley Collins (Santa's Elf/Macy's Worker)** A resident of Bourbonnais, Kinley is the daughter of Jerod and Kristin Collins. She attends Liberty Intermediate School. In 2024, Kinley portrayed the role of Nemo in *Finding Nemo JR* with KVTA. Kinley exclaims, "I would like to thank my family for supporting me and the staff for making this production so great! I've loved this show, and I hope to do many more!"

**Simone Copiskey (Ensemble)** Simone is the daughter of Amber and Travis Copiskey of Kankakee and is in the 10th grade at Herscher High School. Most recently, Simone was a part of the cast of KVTA's 2024 production of *Finding Nemo JR*.

**Jackson Day (Policeman #2/Caroler)** The son of Robert and Heather Day of Bourbonnais, Jackson is a 7th grader at St. George School. His most recent show experience was *Finding Nemo JR* with KVTA in 2024. Jackson shares, "I would like to thank all of the directors and staff members. Thank you for being so fun, kind, and creative through this whole experience. I love KVTA!"



# Meet the Cast

**Keaton Denny (Security Guard #2/Flier Guy)** Keaton is the son of Denise Denny and Robert Denny of Peotone and is a 7th grader at Peotone Junior High School. In 2024, he was in *Annie JR* with Peotone Junior High School. Keaton adds, "I'd like to thank my family for always supporting me. I'd like to thank Mrs. Paula and my fellow cast mates for making the stage feel like home."

**Reagan Diaz (Macy's Perfume Sales Lady)** The daughter of Erin Moody and Jason Diaz of Bourbonnais, Reagan is a student at Liberty Intermediate School. Reagan states, "I'm beyond grateful to be part of my first musical, sharing the stage with my sister. Thank you cast, directors, and my family for their guidance and support."

**Sophia Diaz (Suzy Snowflake/Santa's Elf)** Sophia is in the 2nd grade at Shabbona Elementary School and is the daughter of Erin Moody and Jason Diaz of Bourbonnais. She was previously in KVTA's 2024 production of *Finding Nemo JR*. Sophia says, "I'm grateful for my second show, sharing the stage with my sister for the first time. Huge thanks to my family, castmates, and directors for their support."

**Olivia Douglas (Macy's Employee/NYC crowd)** Olivia is the daughter of Dan and Jennifer Douglas of Bourbonnais and is a Sophomore at BBCHS. She was most recently in *Finding Nemo JR* with KVTA in 2024. Olivia exclaims, "I love being part of KVTA! Thank you to the directors, costumers, and set builders for all the time and effort that is put into pulling off an incredible show."

**Hannah Fish (Charlotte Denton)** Hannah is a Homeschooled 5th grader and the daughter of Jordan and Rachel Fish of Bourbonnais. Most recently, she played the role of Roo in *Seussical* with KVTA in 2024. Hannah adds, "I have loved being in this show! A special thank you to the directors for casting me and my family and friends for supporting me."

# Meet the Cast

**Emma Froeschle (Santa's Elf/Macy's Employee/Caroler)** The daughter of Stacey and Paul Froeschle of Manteno, Emma is a 7th grader at Manteno Middle School. She played the role of Jojo in KVTA's 2024 *Seussical* production. Emma shares, "Thank you to my family for always supporting me and everyone in this production for being so kind!"

**Evasue Gregoire (Santa's Elf/Macy's Customer/NYC Child/Suzie Snowflake)** Evasue is in the 2nd grade at LCC-Montessori Magnet and is the daughter of Matthew and Gena Gregoire of Kankakee. She has previously performed in Paula Aubry dance performances. Evasue states, "Thank you to Ms. Paula for helping me learn the songs and dances. Special thanks to my family for taking me to practice and my sister for helping me practice."

**Molly Indicavitch (Santa's Elf/Suzy Snowflake)** Molly is the daughter of Sam and Rob Indicavitch of Bourbonnais and is a 5th grader at St. George School. She played the role of Squirt in KVTA's *Finding Nemo JR* in 2024. Molly says, "I want to thank my mom and dad for driving me to rehearsals and shows!"

**Abigail James (Ensemble)** The daughter of Dana and Kayla James of Kankakee, Abigail is a 2nd grader at LCC-Montessori Magnet. She recently played the role of a Who in KVTA's *Seussical* in 2024. Abigail adds, "Thank you to my family for coming to the show and Ms. Paula for directing."

**Nolan Janek (Policeman #1)** Nolan is the son of Mike and Kara Janek of Bourbonnais and is a 7th grader at Bradley Central. In 2022, he was in the cast of *The Little Mermaid* with BBCHS. Nolan exclaims, "Thanks to Ms. Paula and my family for supporting me and giving me the opportunity to be a part of this show!"

# Meet the Cast

**Eden Johnson (Taxi Lady)** Eden is in the 4th grade at Bishop McNamara and is the daughter of Heather and Luke Johnson of Saint Anne. She was previously a part of the Orphan Ensemble in the 2023 *Annie JR* production at Bishop McNamara. Eden adds, "Special thanks to my parents for rushing me from one activity to the next!"

**Kait Kenney (Deb)** Kait is the daughter of Rob and Lisa Kenney of Bourbonnais and is a Sophomore at BBCHS. Most recently, she was a part of the 2024 *Seussical* cast with KVTA. Kait states, "Thank you to Ms. Paula and team for making this show so special and memorable!"

**Hadley Kirkland (Santa's Elf/Macy's Employee/Ensemble)** The daughter of Zach and Sarah Kirkland of Kankakee, Hadley is a student at St. Anne Grade School. Most recently, she was a part of the cast in the 2024 KVTA production of *Finding Nemo JR*. Hadley says, "I want to thank Ms. Paula and the whole staff for working so hard on the show. This show has been such an amazing experience. I have had so much fun!"

**Odelia Kirkpatrick (Macy's Employee/NYC crowd)** Odelia is the daughter of Brian and Rebecca Kirkpatrick of Clifton and is a Homeschooled 7th grader. Odelia shares, "I'm grateful that I got cast in *Elf JR*. I had a fun experience! I hope to be in more plays with KVTA. Also, I want to thank my mom and dad for letting me try out!"

**Kylee Kothe (Emma VanBrocklin/Macy Elf)** A resident of Bourbonnais, Kylee is the daughter of Paul and Stacy Kothe and attends Liberty Intermediate School. Most recently, she had the roles of a Who, a fish, a Hunch, and a circus performer in KVTA's 2024 *Seussical* production. Kylee adds, "I would just like to thank Paula and the staff for giving me another opportunity to do what I love. Thanks to my family for always helping and supporting me."

# Meet the Cast

**Mary Alice Kunz (Sarah/Macy's Customer)** Mary Alice is a Sophomore at BBCHS and the daughter of Ben and Katie Kunz of Bourbonnais. In 2023, she played the role of Sina in *Moana JR* with KVTA. Mary Alice says, "Thank you to Ms. Paula for always providing us with a welcoming place to have fun, make new friendships, and get better at something we all love."

**Ashton Lamont (Charlie/Macy's Kid)** The son of Rob and Katie Lamont of Bourbonnais, Ashton is a 4th grader at St. George School. This is Ashton's 3rd KVTA show in addition to participating in several KVTA summer camps. Ashton exclaims, "Thank you to all involved in KVTA for providing these amazing opportunities to do what I love! Also a shout out to Mom and Dad for making it all possible!"

**Hunter Lockhart (Santa)** Hunter is in the 9th grade and the son of Michelle and Scott Lockhart of Braidwood. One of Hunter's favorite roles was that of the Cowardly Lion in *Wizard of Oz JR* with KVTA in 2023. Hunter adds, "Ho Ho Ho! What a wonderful gift it was to be a part! I'm ever so grateful to all who worked hard to make this show a shining success! Have a blessed Christmas!"

**Austin Lyle (Mr. Greenway)** The son of Jeremy and Tracy Lyle of Bourbonnais, Austin is a 7th grader at Bourbonnais Upper Grade Center. Most recently, he was a Villager and Gate Monster in KVTA's 2023 production of *Moana JR*. Austin shares, "I would like to thank everyone who drives me to rehearsals and the show staff. Thank you all for making this production great!"

**Daniel Marion (Santa's Elf/Spider-Man/Ice Skater)** Daniel is in the 6th grade and the son of Steve and Sara Marion of Bourbonnais. Daniel recently played the role of James in The Drama Group's production of *James and the Giant Peach* in 2024. Daniel states, "Thank you to all the directors for casting me in this play."

# Meet the Cast

**Emma Matys (NYC Bellringer/Macy's Customer/NYC Crowd)** A resident of Manteno, Emma is the daughter of Kevin and Jaime Matys and is a 5th grader at Manteno Middle School. Emma adds, "This is my first role with KVTA. I love Mrs. Paula and working on stage. I love it so much I want to keep doing more plays. I am so happy to be in the cast!"

**Brooklynn McGill (Ensemble)** Brooklynn is the daughter of Christina Jordan and Marcus McGill of Kankakee and is a student at LCC-Montessori Magnet. Most recently, she was a part of the 2024 KVTA *Seussical* cast.

**Artie Meyer (Santa's Elf/Macy's Kid)** The son of Art and Casey Meyer of Kankakee, Artie is in the 6th Grade. He portrayed the role of Chip in *Beauty and the Beast JR* with KVTA. Artie states, "Thank you to my family for supporting me and making sure I got to all the rehearsals."

**Madelyn Mulvenna (Santa Elf/NYC Crowd)** Madelyn is the daughter of Mike and Holly Mulvenna of Manteno and is a 4th grader at Manteno Elementary School. She was a part of the 2024 KVTA Summer Camp. Madelyn says, "Thank you to Miss Paula for directing plays that kids like me get to be a part of!"

**Ella Nitschke (Before Show Caroler/Ensemble)** Ella is a homeschooled Sophomore and the daughter of Rebecca Nitschke of Kankakee. Most recently, Ella was a member of the cast of *Finding Nemo Jr* with KVTA in 2024. Ella adds, "Thanks to my mom for her continual support."

# Meet the Cast

**Brady Perzee (Buddy the Elf)** The son of Shannon and Brad Perzee of Ashkum, Brady is a Junior at Clifton Central High School. In 2023, he played the role of Sam Carmichael in *Mamma Mia!* with Clifton Central High School. Brady shares, “Thank you to my family for all the support they gave me and all the directors that worked with my schedule so I could do two shows at once! I’m very grateful!”

**Cole Pilbeam (Michael)** Cole is the son of Megan and Mike Pilbeam of Manteno and is a 7th grader at Manteno Middle School. He most recently was in the 2024 KVTA production of *Seussical* as Jungle Ensemble, a Hunch, a Hunter, and the Butter Army. Cole states, “Thanks to all staff and actors at KVTA for all you do especially those who kept it going after COVID hit.”

**Anna Poole (Caroler/Ensemble)** A Freshman at Central High School, Anna is the daughter of Lisa and Todd Poole of Chebanse. Anna has been in a variety of school and community productions. Anna exclaims, “I’m so grateful to be a part of this show! It has been so much fun! Thank you for giving me a chance, even though I had a million conflicts! KVTA ROCKS!!”

**Sophie Powell (Ensemble)** A resident of Kankakee, Sophie is the daughter of Zach and Becky Powell and attends Bishop McNamara. Sophie has been a part of numerous community theatre productions with KVTA, AOTC, and school over the last several years. Sophie adds, “Thank you to my parents, family, friends, and theatre family for their continuous support and encouragement. Ms. Paula and Ms. Beth, you’re the BEST!”

**Abby Purcell (Jovie)** Abby is the daughter of Andy and Meredith Purcell of Manteno and is a Senior at Bishop McNamara. Most recently, Abby played the role of a Bird Girl in KVTA’s 2024 *Seussical* production. Abby says, “I would like to thank the production staff for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this amazing production and my family for always supporting me.”

# Meet the Cast

**June Rader (Santa's Elf/Macy's Employee/NYC Crowd)** The son of Trenton and Kristy Rader of Ashkum, June is in the 5th Grade. In 2023, June was a part of *Wizard of Oz JR* with KVTA. June states, "Thanks to Ms. Paula for casting me! Also, thanks to my mom and April for driving me to all the practices and shows."

**Garret Rejholec (Sam/Frosty)** Garret is the son of Joy and Wade Rejholec of Manteno and is in the 5th grade at Manteno Middle School. This is Garret's first show!

**Kane Rushing (Fake Santa/New York City Cowboy)** A resident of Kankakee, Kane is the son of Rebeccah Rushing, Jerome Warner, Emerson Rushing, and Andrea Rushing. Kane is in the 9th grade at Herscher High School. Most recently, Kane was in the 2024 KVTA production of *Seussical*. Kane shares, "Special thanks to Mrs. Paula for giving me a role in the first place and thanks to my mom for believing in me for this whole adventure of theater."

**Sophia Sherrill (Macy's employee/Ice Skater/NYC crowd)** The daughter of Brian and Margaret Sherrill of Chebanse, Sophia attends Nash Middle School. Sophia has performed in multiple musicals at Central High School with her favorite being *Mamma Mia!* in 2023. Sophia adds, "I would like to thank my family for supporting me in my love for theater. I would also like to thank the directors for all their time and effort in the show."

**Kolbee Shoufler (Macy's Elf/Pre-Show Caroler/NYC Crowd)** A 6th grader at Watseka Junior High, Kolbee is the daughter of Adam and Karen Shoufler of Watseka. Most recently, Kolbee was in the 2024 KVTA production of *Finding Nemo JR*. Kolbee says, "Thank you to my family and friends for supporting me, to Miss Paula and all of the staff at KVTA, and to my vocal coach Laura."

# Meet the Cast

**Owen Stevenson (Security Guard/Flier Guy)** Owen is the son of Brian and Ashley Stevenson of Kankakee and attends Limestone Middle School. Most recently, he was a part of Acting Out Theater Company's *Ghosts of Salem* in 2024. Owen states, "I would like to thank my family for their encouragement and support. I am so excited to be a part of *Elf JR* and so thankful to KVTA for this experience!!"

**Aidan Troendle (Macy's Manager/Pre-show Caroler)** A resident of Saint Anne, Aidan is the son of Nick and Stephanie Troendle and is in the 7th grade at Trinity Academy. Aidan was a part of the ensemble in the KVTA 2024 production of *Seussical*. Aidan exclaims, "Thank you for letting me have this fun experience, I have had so much fun!"

**Adelynn Udstuen (Ensemble)** Adelynn is the daughter of Katie and Mike Udstuen of Monee and is a 7th grader at Peotone Junior High School. Adelynn was a part of the KVTA *Jungle Book* cast. Adelynn says, "Thank you to my mom for driving me to rehearsals and thank you to my family for coming to see me. I am so excited to be in this production."

**Adrianna Udstuen (Ensemble)** A Freshman at Peotone High School, Adrianna is the daughter of Katie and Mike Udstuen of Monee. Most recently, Adrianna was a part of KVTA's *Finding Nemo JR* in 2024. Adrianna shares, "I would like to thank the staff for the amazing opportunity to perform in this show. Thank you, mom, for always driving me and thank you to my family."

**Kirby Veit (Souvlaki Cart Vendor/Macy's Customer/NYC Crowd)** Kirby is the daughter of Kristian and Beth Veit of Bourbonnais and is in the 4th grade at Liberty Intermediate School. She was a part of the cast in the KVTA 2022 production of *Jungle Book*. Kirby adds, "Thank you, Miss Paula, for having me in the show. I also want to thank my parents and neighborhood carpool for driving me to rehearsals!"



# Meet the Cast

**Jacob White (Santa Jogger)** A 6th grader at Bradley Central, Jacob is the son of Robert and Erin White of Bourbonnais. Jacob previously played the role of Flounder in the BBCHS production of *The Little Mermaid*. Jacob states, "I have had a lot of fun meeting new friends at KVTA. I can't wait for the next production. Thanks Mom, Dad, Ben, and everyone who came to watch me."

**Savannah Whittington (Mother in Macy's)** Savannah is the daughter of Rodney and April Whittington of Bradley and is a Freshman at BBCHS. She was seen as a Chief Ancestor in *Moana JR* with KVTA in 2023. Savannah shares, "Thanks to Paula Sutter for making theater so much fun and including all the cast members to make them feel important."

**Brooks Wonder (Chadwick)** Brooks is an 8th grader at St. Paul's Lutheran School and is the son of Dave and Lisa Wonder of Bourbonnais. Brooks has acted in a number of shows at St. Paul's Lutheran School with his favorite roles being Baloo (*Jungle Book*) and Willy Wonka (*Wonka*). Brooks adds, "First, I would like to give all my praise to Jesus my Lord and Savior. Secondly, I would like to thank my dad, mom, Gigi, Aunt Judy, and Mrs. Stirnaman."

**Olivia Zwirkoski (Emily Hobbs)** The daughter of Adam and Kristin Zwirkoski of Manteno, Olivia attends Manteno High School. She recently played the Understudy for Dorothy in *Wizard of Oz JR* with KVTA in 2023. Olivia states, "I'm so grateful to my family and friends for all their support. I couldn't have done this without God giving me this chance and my parents driving me everywhere!"



# Meet the Production Staff

**Paula Sutter (Director)** A resident of Bonfield, Paula is married to Mark and their children are Beth and Josh (daughter-in-law Amanda) and granddaughters Adelaide and Veda. Paula is a Retired Office Manager and Certification Officer from the I-KAN ROE. Paula shares, "This is my 31st time directing for KVTA. Thanks to my family, my staff, the parents, and the kids. I appreciated your support and loved working with all of you!"

**Beth Sutter (Co-Assistant Director)** Beth lives in Bonfield and is a Support Tech at Applied Systems. Beth says, "Thank you to my family and friends for all of your support through these years!"

**Tricia Kohan (Co-Assistant Director)** Tricia and her husband Cory live in Saint Anne and they have two children, Theodore and Sophie. Tricia is employed at Bishop McNamara as the Food Service Director. Tricia states, "Thank you Paula for giving me this great opportunity to work with such wonderful kids, and Beth for her amazing patience with my many questions. You're the best."

**Carrie Chaparro (Vocal Director)** Carrie and her husband Hector live in Bourbonnais with their children Micah and Mateo. She is employed by Bourbonnais School District as a General Music Teacher and Choir Director. Carrie adds, "This is my 18th show with KVTA since my debut in *Music Man* in 1995. Thanks to my family for always supporting me in all I do. Thanks to the cast and crew for spreading cheer in all you do. Love working with you Paula and Beth!"

**Jordyn Clark (Choreographer)** A resident of Ashkum, Jordyn is married to Sam and she is employed by the Regional Office of Education. Jordyn was last seen on the KVTA stage as the Sour Kangaroo in *Seussical* in 2024. Jordyn exclaims, "I'd like to thank Paula for asking me to do choreography. It has truly been a blast!!!"

# Meet the Production Staff

**Kimberly Hall (Co-Production Coordinator)** Kimberly and her husband Dan live in Kankakee with their children Holden and Melaina. Kimberly is a Physical Therapist and the Program Director for Rehabilitation Services at St. Mary's Hospital. Kimberly states, "Thank you to the audience for supporting KVTA and community theater!"

**Andy Purcell (Co-Production Coordinator)** Andy and his wife Meredith live in Manteno with their children Grace, Abby, and Jack. He is employed with the State of Illinois as a Judge for the 21st Circuit (Kankakee County). Andy has been a KVTA Board Member since 2022. Andy says, "It is an honor to serve KVTA as a board member and an honor to be a small part of this amazing cast and production staff!"

**Kayla James (Costumer)** Kayla is married to Dana and they live in Kankakee with their daughters. Kayla has been the costumer for multiple KVTA shows, with the most recent being *Hello Girls*. Kayla adds, "Thank you to the directing staff for another great production and my family for always being supportive."

**Mark Sutter (Set Builder)** Mark and his wife Paula live in Bonfield. He has been the set builder for numerous KVTA productions. Mark shares, "I would like to thank Erin and everyone who helped make the show possible."

**Erin Thomas (Set Decorator)** Erin and her husband Mike live in Bourbonnais with their children Vince and Ezra. Erin is employed as the Manager at Kankakee South KOA Holiday. She has designed and decorated several sets for KVTA over the past few years. Erin exclaims, "Thank you to all the parents that pitched in to make this set sparkle!"

# Meet the Production Staff

**Becky Powell (Props)** Becky lives in Kankakee with her husband Zach and daughter Sophie. She is employed by the Kankakee County Sheriff's Department. Becky has helped with the painting of sets and stage crew for many KVTA shows. Becky states, "Thank you, Sophie, for sharing your love of theatre and creating these special memories together. Thanks to Zach and KVTA for the support and encouragement."

**Sandy Gray (Stage Manager)** Sandy lives in Kankakee with her husband Chad and she is employed by Cigna Healthcare. She was a part of the Ensemble for the KVTA 2024 production of *Seussical*.

**Gwen Fox (Rehearsal Pianist)** Gwen is married to Michael J. Fox and they reside in Bonfield. She is a retired Kindergarten teacher. Gwen was the Rehearsal Pianist and keyboard player for KVTA's *Seussical* in 2024. Gwen shares, "Thank you for the opportunity to play for such talented cast members!"

River Valley  
**Wind Ensemble**  
River Valley Music Corporation  
webmaster@windensemble.org  
<http://www.facebook.com/windensemble>

## CONCERT DATES:

Sunday, Oct. 27 - Kankakee HS - 3:00 p.m.  
Friday, Dec. 15 - Holiday Concert - Larsen, ONU Campus - 3:00 p.m.  
Friday, April 25 - BBCHS Auditorium - 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, May 20 - BUGC - 7:00 p.m.

River Valley  
**String Ensemble**  
[facebook.com/RiverValleyStringEnsemble/](https://facebook.com/RiverValleyStringEnsemble/)

## CONCERT DATES:

Sunday, Oct. 27 - Kankakee HS - 3:00 p.m.  
Friday, Dec. 13 - Holiday Concert - Bradley Public Lib. - 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, May 18 - Asbury United Methodist - 3:00 p.m.

# Acknowledgements

I-KAN Regional Office of Education ~ Frank Petkunas, Superintendent ~  
Adrienne West, Principal LCC ~ Ruth Hatcher ~ Tara Kanoski ~ Bill Draper ~  
LCC Custodial Staff ~ Taylor Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM ~ Taylor Ford of Manteno ~  
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Star Radio WKAN, Josh Carman, X-Country ~ Superior Embroidery ~  
Karl's Kreative Fotos ~ Jake LaMore, Kankakee Podcast ~ Stephen Menard Design ~  
The Kenny Dato Family ~ Tim Gordon, Chicago Dough Pizza Company  
*Special thanks to those who made donations or volunteered after the program was completed.*

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Thank You to   
for your support this season!



**TICKETS:**

6 for \$5

Arm's Length for \$10

Buddy's Length for \$20

The winning split-the-pot  
ticket will be announced  
at the end of the show.



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NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
for the **ARTS**  


*This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency  
through federal funds provided by the National Endowment for the Arts.*

# Why Support KVTA?

The vitality of a community is determined by its cultural resources. KVTA strives for excellence. Like all other organizations, KVTA depends on support from the community to achieve this excellence. KVTA is a volunteer, community-driven organization. It takes many volunteers and many, many, man hours to produce one show. In our production season, we stage five regular season shows and more often than not, a summer production or a theatre camp for the local youth.

## How can YOU make a difference?

- **Cash gifts** - every dollar makes a difference, so please give what you can.
- **Matching gifts** - double or triple the value of your gift! Please contact your human resources or corporate giving department to learn about your employer's matching gift policy.
- **Stock gifts** - we gladly accept gifts of appreciated stock, an option that gives you a tax write-off while saving you capital gains tax.
- **Planned giving** - consider remembering KVTA in your will or leave a legacy for the future by including KVTA in an estate plan.



Kankakee Valley Theatre Association  
would like to thank our 2023-2024 Season  
**CORPORATE SPONSORS**  
for their support of our organization.



**Jim Rowe**  
Kankakee County  
State's Attorney





**MATILDA** ~ The story of an extraordinary girl who dares to take a stand and change her own destiny. Inspired by the twisted genius of Roald Dahl, the Tony Award-winning Roald Dahl's *Matilda The Musical* is the captivating masterpiece from the Royal Shakespeare Company that revels in the anarchy of childhood, the power of imagination and the inspiring story of a girl who dreams of a better life. With book by Dennis Kelly and original songs by Tim Minchin, *Matilda* has won 47 international awards and continues to thrill sold-out audiences of all ages around the world.

Matilda is a little girl with astonishing wit, intelligence and psychokinetic powers. She's unloved by her cruel parents but impresses her schoolteacher Miss Honey. During her first term at school, the two forge a bond as Miss Honey begins to recognize and appreciate Matilda's extraordinary personality. Matilda's school life isn't completely smooth sailing, however – the school's mean headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, hates children and just loves to punish those who don't abide by her rules. But Matilda has courage and cleverness in equal amounts, and could be the school pupils' saving grace!

Packed with high-energy dance numbers, catchy songs and an unforgettable star turn for a young actress, *Matilda* is a joyous, girl power romp. Children and adults alike will be thrilled and delighted by the story of the special little girl with an extraordinary imagination.

**AUDITION AND CALLBACK DATES / LOCATION:**

**AUDITIONS:** Saturday, December 7 starting at 9 am (time slots assigned based on age groups)

**CALLBACKS:** Sunday, December 8 starting at 12 pm

**LOCATION:** KVTA Studios 1 Stuart Dr Kankakee IL 60901

**PERFORMANCE DATES / LOCATION:**

April 11, 12 and 13, 2025

Lincoln Cultural Center 240 Warren Ave Kankakee, IL 60901

**LEARN MORE ON OUR WEBSITE:** <https://www.kvta.org/matilda>



••• A Staged Reading of •••

# A Christmas Carol

*KVTA invites you to join us for a special script-in-hand reading of A Christmas Carol! We will only have one performance of this classic Christmas tale featuring many veteran performers. Donations are appreciated at the door. All seats will be available on a first-come first-serve basis. Don't miss it!*

**Friday, December 6, 2024**

**7:00 PM**

**KVTA Studios Black Box Theatre**

**1 Stuart Dr**

**Kankakee IL 60901**

## CAST LIST

**Narrator: Bonnie Brewer**

**Ebenezer Scrooge: Malcom Jones**

**Bob Cratchit: Joel Knapper**

**Christmas Past: Emma Froeschle**

**Christmas Present: Tyler McMahan**

**Fred Hollowell/Thomas: Thomas McMahan**

**Ebenezer Age 21/Broker 1: Ryan Wyrobek**

**Young Marley/Broker 2: Jace Hunt**

**Mr. Hughes/Mr. Tackleton: Pete Bretzlaff**

**Mrs. Emily Cratchit: Robin Tober-Betourne**

**Martha Cratchit/Fan: Michaela Richey**

**Tiny Tim/Ebenezer Age 7: Daniel Marion**

**Belle/Beatrice: Elizabeth James**

**Lucy Hollowell/Caroline: Sara Marion**

**Mrs. Shaw/Clara Scrooge: Christine Case**

**Mrs. Ward/School Teacher: Vicky Jones**

**Jacob Marley/John Scrooge/Poulterer: Rob Bishir**

**Street Urchin/Ebenezer, age 12/Peter Cratchit: Harper Case**

**Mr. Fezziwig/Judge/Old Joe: Nick Troendle**

**Mrs. Fezziwig/Mrs. Oliver: Sharla Ronchetto**

**Mrs. Dilber/Tabitha: Pat Ward**

**Carolers: Thomas McMahan, Angel Mirkov, Kelsie Davis, Jason Hess**

K V T A 2 4 / 2 5 S E A S O N

SEPT. 20-22, 2024



# THE PRODUCERS

NOV. 23-24, 2024



# ELF JR.

JAN. 31-FEB. 2, 2025



# STEEL MAGNOLIAS

MAR. 15-16, 2025



# SHREK THE MUSICAL JR.

APR. 11-13, 2025



# MATILDA THE MUSICAL