

Pittsburgh Public Theater Announces Regional Search for Ralphie for *A CHRISTMAS STORY: THE PLAY*

September 19, 2022—Pittsburgh Public Theater is conducting a regional search to cast the role of Ralphie in their upcoming production of *A CHRISTMAS STORY: THE PLAY* by Philp Grecian, directed by Michael Berresse. The production runs November 30 through December 18, 2022, at The O'Reilly Theater. In this timeless holiday comedy, nine-year-old Ralphie Parker takes the audience on a hysterical, hijinks-filled avalanche of adventure with all the trappings of a perfect family holiday – an exploding furnace, a Little Orphan Annie decoder pin, an innocent experiment with a wet tongue on a cold lamppost, and a wild rash of theatrical fantasies not for the “fra-gee-lay” of heart. After more than 40 holiday seasons of delighting audiences, Jean Shepherd’s account of his 1940s upbringing in the Midwest is not just a Christmas story, it’s the Christmas story.

“Few things in life are as nostalgic and evocative as the memory of childhood holidays. The sights and smells of home and family and that one special gift we hoped for. In bringing the much-loved classic *A CHRISTMAS STORY: THE PLAY* to Pittsburgh Public Theater this holiday season, it’s an opportunity to revisit a bygone era of radio shows, classic Chevy’s, and low-tech wonder,” Berresse explains.

Pittsburgh Public Theater Artistic Director Marya Sea Kaminski states, “This show is going to be spectacular in so many ways, but at the heart of the production will be an ensemble of young performers led by Ralphie, whose bright imagination and sweet sense of humor guides us through the story. We know our Ralphie is out there, and we are delighted to open the audition process to kids from across the whole region.”

About Ralphie:

Ralphie is bright, energetic, and clever. The Public is seeking a performer of any ethnicity who can play 9-13 years old. Ralphie is an all-around good kid with an exceptionally vivid imagination.

Interested performers should prepare:

- SIDES: BOTH of the selected sides from *A CHRISTMAS STORY: THE PLAY*. Sides can be found [here](#).
- SONG: 16 BARS of a song in any genre, acapella.
- JOKE: Tell a joke of your choice.

All material should not exceed seven (7) minutes total.

Videos are due **September 30, 2022** by 5:00 pm and can be submitted online at: <https://pct.formstack.com/forms/pptchristmasstoryaudition>

Performers must be available to be in Pittsburgh for the entire rehearsal and performance

process, November 1 – December 18, 2022 (possible extension TBD).

Michael Berresse is a **Tony®** and **Olivier Award-nominated** actor and **OBIE Award®** winning director, choreographer, writer and teacher based in New York City. As an actor, he has appeared in nearly 7,000 performances on Broadway, most recently in 2019 as Bob Mackie/Robert Altman in *THE CHER SHOW*. In 2008, Michael made his Broadway directorial debut with the critically-acclaimed, Tony-nominated original musical *[title of show]*.

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Pittsburgh Public Theater is dedicated to serving as a true public theater to the Pittsburgh region, producing more than 120 performances each season and welcoming more than 70,000 guests through the O'Reilly Theater's doors every year. The theater is renowned for its exceptional mix of programming, featuring international classics, fresh new works, and favorite musicals. Its commitment to education and engagement initiatives is a hallmark, and includes the signature Shakespeare Monologue & Scene Contest and innovative community partnerships. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Marya Sea Kaminski and Managing Director Lou Castelli, the organization celebrates its 48th season in 2022.

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