

That's The Holiday

SPIRIT!

The Real Meaning Of Christmas Comes To Life In Next Week's YCTC Production

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Looking for free food, the naughtiest children in school show up at a Sunday School event and promptly land the lead roles in the season's Christmas pageant. What happens from there is a moving Christmas story that the Yankton Children's Theatre Company (YCTC) is excited to offer to the community "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," Nov. 25-27, at the Summit Activities Center theatre.

"Everyone in this area knows the story of 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever,'" said director Allison Spak. "It is required reading in the schools. We decided we wanted to do the show, because it is something people are familiar with and love. We hope everyone takes some time out of their busy shopping days to sit down, relax and enjoy the show."

Unlike most productions at YCTC, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" stars both children and adults, a fact that Spak said has been a welcome change for her.

"It is just interesting to get children on stage with their parents and have a fun show that they can do together," she said. "Not to mention that it is a family show and it is nice to have the families work together."

Spak also said that the adults in the show were a real help when she was called out of town for a family emergency recently.

"I was gone for about a week and a half," she said. "The adults just stepped in and ran the practices for me. It was a relief to not have to worry about if we were going to be able to continue the show because I knew that they would step in and keep working."

While "Best Christmas" is not a long show — running only about an hour — Spak said the message it shares is one worth hearing.

"Just the whole idea of kids who had not heard about the real meaning of Christmas coming to find the message is one everyone can enjoy, from the youngest kids to adults," she said.

While the sets and costumes for the play are very simple, Spak said that Shelly Heinemeyer has been vital to getting the show done.

"She is just amazing," Spak said. "Without her, I don't think we could have been ready. She is so organized and good at what she is doing."

Cast for the show include: Randy Eichacker, Alyssa Binger, Kelsey Westerman, Jaron Kleinschmit, Logan Haak, Elizabeth Rembert, Jacob Smith, Sam Gusso, Sky Nockels, Rebekah Kleinschmit, Adele Benoit, Alyssa Ogstad, Jordan Kuipers, Lance Donner, Carson Heinemeyer, Anna Carda, Maggie Donner, Chloe Becker, Jessica Kleinschmit, Haylee Heinemeyer, Sami Kleinschmit, Gina Haak, Misty Nockels, Shellee Heinemeyer, Wendy Eichacker, Marnie Kleinschmit, Brad Kathol, Sean Westerman, Dave Carda, Greg Gusso, Mark Westerman, Jacob Smith, Kaycee Smith, Alexander Nockels, Alex Palecek, Tori Cass, Destiney Fejfar, Hannah Rembert, Amelia Morkve, Cate Perakslis, Samantha Kortan, Abby Kuipers, Katie Heinrich, Laura Hanson, Alana Heinrich, Mia Donner, Connor Perakslis, Chloe Perakslis, Noelle Nockels, Emma Eichacker, Makayla Palecek and Josie Morkve.

While the cast and crew of "Best Christmas" have been hard at work, it is far from the only project YCTC has going in the



The rather boisterous The Hermann family — Rebecca Kleinschmit, Sam Gusso, Jacob Smith, Elizabeth Rembert, Sky Nockels and Logan Haak — learn a thing or two about the holiday spirit in the Yankton Children's Theatre Company's upcoming production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever," set for Nov. 25-27 at the Yankton High School/Summit Activities Center main theatre. The production features both kids and adults, and is the first of two holiday-inspired performances the YCTC will present this season. The group will also perform "A Christmas To Remember" on Saturday, Dec. 17. (Kelly Hertz/P&D)

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