



Photo: Carolyn Gartner
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"The music is a lot of fun, and it's catchy. I've been singing it every night since I starting doing this."

TERA GILL

Holiday Magic!

Bring Some Musical Cheer To Your Holidays With LCTC's 'White Christmas'

BY DEREK BARTOS
derek.bartos@yankton.net

Area residents hoping for a white Christmas this year will have to look no further than Yankton's Dakota Theatre during the holiday season. The Lewis and Clark Theatre Company will present Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" musical at its downtown location Dec. 6-10 and 14-17. The story follows veterans Bob Wallace (Michael Schumacher) and Phil Davis (Zack McComas) as they perform their successful song-and-dance act following World War II. After meeting beautiful sisters Betty (Cheyenne Schroeder) and Judy Haynes (Adayla Schroeder), the two men follow the women to Vermont for a Christmas show. When the group arrives, the veterans find their

former commanding officer, General Henry Waverly (Matt Trenhaile), is the lodge owner and in danger of losing his business because of lack of snow and patrons. Wallace and Davis decide to perform their show to help business and to save the lodge. The score includes hits such as "Sisters," "Counting My Blessings," "The Best Things Happen While You're Dancing," "Snow," "I Love a Piano," "Blue Skies," "How Deep is the Ocean" and, of course, "White Christmas." "It's a fun, decorative show and will get everyone in that holiday spirit," said director Tara Gill. While the show is based on the 1954 movie starring Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye, Gill said the musical focuses on the music and dancing portion of the film. "The music is a lot of fun, and it's catchy. I've been singing it every night



SHAUNA MARLETTE/P&D
Phil Davis (Zack McComas, front left) and Bob Wallace (Michael Schumacher, back right) come to the rescue of an old Army buddy by bringing a Broadway show to his Vermont resort in the Lewis and Clark Theatre Company's production of the musical "White Christmas," which will be presented starting next week at the Dakota Theatre in downtown Yankton. Along the way, Davis and Wallace fall in love with sisters Judy (Adayla Schroeder, front) and Betty (Cheyenne Schroeder) Haynes.

since I starting doing this," she said with a laugh. Gill said the variety of music also adds to the entertainment of the show. "It's a little bit of jazz and tap and a little swing. And then it ties in with the

classic 'White Christmas' song that everybody knows," she said. "Most of my cast are teenagers, and they're absolutely loving dancing to it." With the variety of music comes many types of dance, said choreogra-

pher Timera Cunningham. This is somewhat unusual, she said, as most musicals only feature one style.

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YCTC Brings True Tale To Stage For Holidays

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

Although more than 60 years have passed, one Yankton family has not forgotten a very special Christmas it shared so long ago. It was a newspaper recollection of that late 1940s Christmas season by a family member that led Yankton author Marilyn Kratz to adapt it into a play called "A Christmas To Remember." It will be performed for the first time this December by the Yankton Children's Theatre Company (YCTC). Betts Pulkrabek of Tabor wrote the tale from her childhood for *The Observer* more than a decade ago, Kratz said. "I couldn't let go of that story," she stated. "It just intrigued me."



A true local story of despair and holiday hope comes to life at Mount Marty College's Marian Auditorium when the Yankton Children's Theatre Co. presents "A Christmas To Remember," written by local author Marilyn Kratz. The play deals with a single mother of four daughters coping with hardship during the Christmas season. LEFT: The struggling mother, Helen

magazine *Highlights for Children*, which purchased the piece but has not yet published it. Kratz later decided to develop it into a play. Because *Highlights* now owns the rights to the story, Kratz wrote the publisher and told him about the idea. He gave her permission to adapt it as a play and encouraged the project. When taking Betts' tale and turning it into a piece of literature and theater, Kratz said she kept the main story intact and added dialogue and some drama. "I put in a conflict between the grandparents and the family," she stated. "The grandfather wants the children to live with him, because he misses (his son — the girls' father — who has been killed in World War II). But the mother wants to live independently and pursue her education so she can be a teacher." "There is also another addition, and that is one of the sisters is asked to be a soloist at the church Christmas concert and she needs an angel costume," Kratz added. "They have to figure out how to get the money for the angel costume." Several attempts to stage the play have been foiled since it was completed about five years ago, according to Kratz. But this year,



Becker (played by Kayla Guy) argues with her father-in-law (Rich Wright), who wants the family to move out to his farm; RIGHT: Helen (second from left) is show with her daughters, played by, clockwise from left: Haylee Heinemeyer, Aziah Clough, Jennie Uhing and Melecia Whisler.

Kratz has been very involved with the production and is excited to watch it come together. "The children are good little singers," she said. "That's the fun part." Pulkrabek, as well as her two surviving sisters, plan to attend

the play, Kratz stated. "I'm a little nervous about all of this because I've never experienced anything like it before," she admitted, adding that she also looks forward to the family attending and wants them to enjoy it.

Kratz hopes a lot of people from the Yankton area will also take the opportunity to see the play set in their own backyard. "It has historical significance

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Your photo could be featured in the Dec. 3rd print edition!

PHOTOS WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 1st
1:00-4:00pm · LilyCrest 211 W. 3rd

Have your picture taken by the Spotted Elves! First 50 kids will receive a goody bag from Santa! Photos will be available for purchase on spotted.yankton.net!