

THE WHOLE BACKSTAGE THEATRE

presents



★

TUNA CHRISTMAS

WRITTEN BY
ED HOWARD
JOE SEARS
JASTON WILLIAMS
ORIGINALLY PRODUCED BY
CHARLES H. DUGGAN

Featuring

John Everett Brewer

and

Will Vickers



2023

Synopsis of Scenes

For

A Tuna Christmas

A Tuna Christmas centers on the town's annual Christmas Yard Display Contest, won 14 times in a row by Vera Carp. A mysterious "Christmas Phantom," known for vandalizing the yard displays, threatens to throw the contest into turmoil. Among the subplots are Stanley Bumiller's attempts to end his probation and leave Tuna, Bertha Bumiller's trying to hold her family together at Christmas time, and Joe Bob Lipsey's struggle to successfully mount his production of *A Christmas Carol* despite numerous vexations and obstacles.

The action takes place on Christmas Eve in the third smallest town in Texas - Tuna.

ACT I

Scene 1: Radio Station OKKK

Scene 2: The Bumiller Home

Scene 3: Didi's Used Weapons

Scene 4: Aunt Pearl's Yard

ACT II

Scene 1: The Tuna High School Gymnasium

Scene 2: The Tastee-Kreme

Scene 3: Petey's Backyard

Scene 4: Didi's Backyard

Scene 5: Vera's Home

Scene 6: Aunt Pearl's Parlor

Scene 7: Radio Station OKKK

*There will be one 15 Minute Intermission
between Act I and Act II*

A Tuna Christmas

By Ed Howard, Joe Sears and Jaston Williams

Featuring

JOHN EVERETT BREWER and WILL VICKERS

CAST OF CHARACTERS

MR. BREWER PORTRAYS:

- Thurston Wheelis - A disc jockey at radio station OKKK
- Elmer Watkins - The victim of a tragic flame shooter incident
- Bertha Bumiller - Housewife and mother to Jody, Stanley & Charlene
- Leonard Childers - Entrepreneur and radio personality on OKKK
- R.R. Snively - UFOlogist and husband to Didi
- Pearl Burras - Aunt to Bertha, a riveter in Houston during World War II
- Sheriff Givens – Sheriff of Tuna, Texas
- Ike Thompson- A slow-witted highway worker
- Inita Goodwin - A waitress at the Tastee-Kreme
- Phoebe Burkhalter- Presumably Farley's significant other
- Joe Bob Lipsey - Director of Tuna Little Theater's *A Christmas Carol*

MR. VICKERS PORTRAYS:

- Arles Struvie - A disc jockey at radio station OKKK.
- Didi Snively - Owner of Didi's Used Weapons
- Petey Fisk - Employee of the Greater Tuna Humane Society
- Jody Bumiller - Youngest child of Bertha Bumiller
- Stanley Bumiller - Aspiring taxidermist, fresh from reform school; twin to Charlene
- Charlene Bumiller - Daughter of Bertha Bumiller and sister to Stanley and Jody
- Vera Carp - Town snob and acting leader of the Smut-Snatchers of the New Order
- Dixie Deberry - Controller of the Tuna Electric Company
- Helen Bedd - A waitress at the Tastee-Kreme
- Farley Burkhalter - A "little person" and a patron of the Tastee-Kreme
- Garland Poteet- A soda distributor and one of Inita's many boyfriends

The Whole Backstage is an Equal Opportunity Provider.

Production Staff

Directors..... John Everett Brewer and Will Vickers
Mr. Vickers' and Mr. Brewer's Dressers.....
.....Tawanna Vickers, Sydney Mae Walker
..... Leandra Walker and Hannah Yost
Wigs and Hair Mia Oldacre
Scenic Design... Will Casey, Will Vickers and John Everett Brewer
Scenic Artist..... Bethany Marie Kerr
Technical Director/Sound Design..... Johnny Brewer
Stage Managers..... Brandon Kelley and Scott Hawkins
Assistant Stage Manager..... Tawanna Vickers
Publicists..... Katherine Brewer and John Davis Rollings
Lighting Board Operator.....Rodger King
Lighting Crew Johnny Brewer, Rodger King, and Lew Williams
Costume Coordinators Jan Price and Tawanna Vickers
SeamstressesMary Ruth McCord, Susan Ruhlman
.....Jan Price, Rachel Bass and Amanda Lynch
The Build Team Wes Trammell, Brandon Kelley
..... Scott Hawkins, John Everett Brewer
..... Will Vickers and Charles Ayers
Set Decoration and Props.....Tawanna Vickers, Jan Price
..... Katherine Brewer, Leandra Walker
.....Maggie Goggins and Ali Bankson
Make-up Artist.....Hannah Yost
Cast Photographer.....Sydney Mae Walker
Box Office..... Sonya Batey
Tuba Bob Crook

Acknowledgements

Arab Musical Theatre, Connie Ables, WQSB
Wilks Tire and Battery – Shane Wilks
Kyle Steffen – Snead State Community College
The Advertiser-Gleam – Anthony Campbell
Laura Casey, Wes and Kim Ables, Kristy Kirby
The City of Guntersville

Greater Tuna is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French Inc.

Who are the Actors behind the Characters of *A Tuna Christmas*



WILL VICKERS - Will is thrilled to be on the WBS stage again with the person he first shared it with about 18 years ago in *The King and I*, the first production after the renovation of the Whole Backstage in 2005. From that year on, he's been doing theatre. He has been performing across the country in professional productions for a decade and is excited to be back in Alabama. After moving back from NYC, he's been enjoying the past three years in Birmingham where he has been in productions of *Kinky Boots*, *Bright Star*, *Shrek*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Newsies*,

Memphis and *The Roaring 20's* at Red Mountain Theatre in their professional summer series! He'd like to thank his mother, sister, and Lew for all of their support. He'd love to have you follow his journey on Instagram @will.bryant77!



JOHN EVERETT BREWER - John Everett is best known for his involvement in the performing arts with the theatre program at Snead State Community College and the Whole Backstage Theatre. Some notable roles were in the *Cowardly Lion* in the *Wizard of Oz*, *Snoopy* in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, and *Nathan Detroit* in *Guys and Dolls*. A graduate of Albertville High School, John Everett performed in the nationally award winning show choir, *CenterStage!*. He holds a bachelor's degree in Accountancy from Auburn University and an Associate's

Degree in Communication Studies from Snead State, where he was awarded the American College Theatre Festival's Irene Ryan Award. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Whole Backstage Theatre in Guntersville, Alabama.

Sharing their Talents

John Everett and Will have been lifelong friends and have worked together on multiple projects together including, *The King and I* at the WBS in 2005 and *A Christmas Carol* with Snead State Theatre in 2011. They performed the original *Greater Tuna* together on a multi-city tour in 2012 in a month long slate of performances at Snead State Community College's Bevill Center, Arab High School Auditorium, the Whole Backstage Theatre's Blackbox and by invitation to the Coffee and Playhouse in Decatur, Alabama.

A Tuna Christmas, the hilarious sequel to *Greater Tuna*, will prove itself as well, with their comedic timing, overstated dialogue and costuming, these seasoned actors will deliver lots of laughter and unforgettable entertainment for audiences.





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2023-2024
Season

presented by: *Sonny*
LEWIS



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(REGULAR SEASON)



DIRECTED BY DEBBIE MOSS
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(REGULAR SEASON)



DIRECTED BY DIANE DUBOISE
JUNE 14-16 & 20-23
(REGULAR SEASON)

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