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“A CHRISTMAS STORY, THE MUSICAL”

**BOOK BY JOSEPH ROBINETTE
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY BENJ PASEK AND JUSTIN PAUL
DIRECTED BY MATT LENZ
ORIGINAL DIRECTION ON BROADWAY BY JOHN RANDO
CHOREOGRAPHY BY WARREN CARLYLE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER DAN SHER**

DECEMBER 5 – 31, OPENS DECEMBER 8

**ON SALE NOW
TICKETS AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE
AT CENTERTHEATREGROUP.ORG**

LOS ANGELES, CA (October 6, 2023) — From the acclaimed songwriting team of Benj Pasek and Justin Paul — Tony Award for “Dear Evan Hansen,” Academy Award for “La La Land,” Golden Globe for “The Greatest Showman” — comes **“A Christmas Story, The Musical,”** a new holiday tradition featuring a festive and nostalgic holiday-themed score that brings the classic 1983 movie to hilarious life on stage, in a special Ahmanson production mounted just for Los Angeles December 5 to 31 (opening December 8). Tickets and information are available at CenterTheatreGroup.org.

Set in 1940s Indiana, “A Christmas Story, The Musical” chronicles the young and bespectacled Ralphie Parker as he schemes his way toward the holiday gift of his dreams, an official Red Ryder Carbine-Action 200-Shot Range Model Air Rifle (“You’ll shoot your eye out, kid!”). An infamous leg lamp, outrageous pink bunny pajamas, a maniacal department store Santa, and a triple-dog-dare to lick a freezing flagpole are just a few of the distractions that stand between Ralphie and his Christmas wish. Chock-full of delightful songs and splashy production numbers, “A Christmas Story, The Musical” has proudly taken its place as a perennial holiday classic for the whole family.

The cast includes Chris Carsten as Jean Shepherd, Eric Petersen as Old Man, Sabrina Sloan as Mother, Shelley Regner as Miss Shields, Kai Edgar as Ralphie, Henry Witcher as Randy, Kayden Alexander Koshelev as Schwartz, Jack Casey as Flick, Jordan Coates as Farkus, Zeke Bernier as Dill, Izzy Pike as Mary Beth, Addalie Burns as Esther Jane, and Greta Rebecca Kleinman as Nancy.

The ensemble includes Gabbie Fried, Julia Harnett, Juliane Godfrey, Jane Papageorge, Kyle Montgomery, Michael James, Andrew Ge, Gabriel Navarro, Trent Mills and Steven-Adam Agdeppa. The children’s ensemble includes Charlie Stover, Jacob Pham, and Emilie Ong.

Hailed by the Associated Press as “a joyous Christmas miracle ... a musical that dares to mess with one of the most popular Christmas-time movies of all time and yet manages to not only do the film justice, but top it ... a charming triumph of imagination.”

The New York Times writes, “I was dazzled. It glows with sepia-toned nostalgia for a Simpler Time. It’s a collage of childhood snapshots taken from the tingly, exciting month before Christmas, when dreams of a big haul from Santa Claus form in little minds. Mr. Pasek and Mr. Paul have provided a likable, perky score that duly translates all of the major episodes in the story into appropriate musical numbers. You’d have to have a Grinch-sized heart not to feel a smile spreading across your face.”

And David Rooney of *The Hollywood Reporter* said, “It packs ample heart into its wistful glance back to a time when rewards were simpler, communities were closer-knit, and both parental and filial roles were less polluted by the infinite distractions and anxieties of contemporary life. In short, a time when happiness was just a Christmas gift away.”

“A Christmas Story, The Musical” premiered on Broadway in 2012 and was a critical and commercial success. The musical was nominated for three Tony Awards including Best New Musical, Best Original Score, and Best Book of a Musical. The show features a score by composer/lyricist team Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, with a book by Joseph Robinette, based on the writings of radio humorist Jean Shepherd and the 1983 holiday film favorite.

At the Ahmanson Theatre, “A Christmas Story, The Musical” is directed by Matt Lenz. It was originally directed on Broadway by John Rando and choreographed by Warren Carlyle. The associate choreographer is Brooke Martino. Musical supervision and direction by Andrew Smithson. Casting by Alison Franck. The Executive Producer is Daniel Sher.

Tickets for “A Christmas Story, The Musical” are available through CenterTheatreGroup.org, Audience Services at (213) 972-4400 or in person at the Center Theatre Group Box Offices (at the Ahmanson Theatre) at The Music Center, 135 N. Grand Avenue in Downtown L.A. 90012. Performances run Tuesday through Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

“A Christmas Story, The Musical” is produced by **Big League Productions, Inc.** Led by President and Executive Producer Daniel Sher, Big League is celebrating its 32nd season of producing and general managing Broadway shows and attractions throughout the world. Highlights were collaborations with Disney on Elton John and Tim Rice’s “Aida” (North America, Taiwan, and China) and with Cameron Mackintosh on a new production of “Miss Saigon”. Also, U.S. tours of the Tony®-Award winning Broadway revival of “42nd Street” and Susan Stroman’s Broadway production of Meredith Willson’s “The Music Man.” Others: “Footloose” (Las Vegas, USA), “Titanic,” “1776,” “Peter Pan,” “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum” starring Rip Taylor, “Blast!,” “The Who’s Tommy” (North America, South America, Europe, and Japan), “Ain’t Misbehavin’” with Ruben Studdard, and the First National Tour of “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang” — flying car and all. More recent: “*The Producers*” (Susan Stroman’s original work); “*Hello, Dolly!*” with Sally Struthers; “*Guys and Dolls*,” “*My Fair Lady*” (U.S. Tour and China premiere); original hip-hop dance show “*Groovaloo*” (Off-Broadway); “*Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical*” (10 USA tours, Grand Ole Opry, and Madison Square Garden); “*Dreamgirls*” (U.S., China premiere, Japan); “*Hair*” (S and Japan); “*Bring it On*” (U.S. and Japan); and “*Legally Blonde*” (U.S., China premiere, Singapore). In 2018-19, “*A Chorus Line*” toured the USA and Japan before performing for the first time ever in China in 2019. Since 2021, Big League remounted its acclaimed tour of “*An American in Paris*,” premiered its new production of “*South Pacific*” and toured its flagship production of “*A Christmas Story, The Musical*” for a seventh

holiday season, as well as “Legally Blonde,” “Little Women,” and “The Cher Show.” For more information, visit BigLeague.org

Center Theatre Group, one of the nation’s preeminent arts and cultural organizations, is Los Angeles’ leading not-for-profit theatre company, which, under the leadership of Artistic Director Snehal Desai, Managing Director / CEO Meghan Pressman, and Producing Director Douglas C. Baker, programs seasons at the 736-seat Mark Taper Forum and 1,600 to 2,100-seat Ahmanson Theatre at The Music Center in Downtown Los Angeles, and the 317-seat Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City. In addition to presenting and producing the broadest range of theatrical entertainment in the country, Center Theatre Group is one of the country’s leading producers of ambitious new works through commissions and world premiere productions and a leader in interactive community engagement and education programs that reach across generations, demographics, and circumstances to serve Los Angeles. Founded in 1967, Center Theatre Group was led by Founding Artistic Director Gordon Davidson until 2005 when Michael Ritchie was the artistic director until his retirement in 2021; Snehal Desai was appointed the organization’s next artistic director in 2023. Center Theatre Group has produced more than 700 productions across its three stages, including such iconic shows as “Zoot Suit;” “Angels in America;” “The Kentucky Cycle;” “Biloxi Blues;” “Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992;” “Children of a Lesser God;” “Curtains;” “The Drowsy Chaperone;” “9 to 5: The Musical;” and “Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo.” CenterTheatreGroup.org

Bank of America is Center Theatre Group’s 2023 – 2024 Season Sponsor. Bank of America believes in the power of the arts to help economies thrive, to educate and enrich societies, and to create greater cultural understanding. For more than 20 years, the company has supported Center Theatre Group’s innovative Education and Community Partnerships programs as well as world-class productions. Bank of America is also an instrumental supporter in accelerating Center Theatre Group’s commitment to becoming an anti-racist, equitable, diverse, and inclusive organization.

American Express is the official credit card for Center Theatre Group and the presenting sponsor of the Digital Stage.

Calendar Listing For “The Christmas Story, The Musical”

Venue: Ahmanson Theatre, 135 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90012

Dates: December 5 – 31, Opens December 8

Schedule: Tuesday through Friday evenings at 8:00PM; Saturdays at 2:00PM and 8:00PM
Sundays at 1:00PM and 6:30PM

Tickets: **Prices** — begin at \$40
Website — CenterTheatreGroup.org
Phone — Audience Services at (213) 628-2772
In person — Center Theatre Group Box Office (at the Ahmanson Theatre) at The Music Center, 135 N. Grand Avenue in Downtown L.A. 90012
Groups — centertheatregroup.org/tickets/groups-and-corporate-offers
Access — Center Theatre Group offers a number of services to accommodate persons requiring mobility, vision, and hearing access.
For more information, please visit CenterTheatreGroup.org/Access.

October 4, 2023

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