You'd have to have a Grinch-sized heart to not feel a smile spreading across your face when you see 11-year-old Ian Montez take the stage as Ralphie Parker in his quest for "an official Red Ryder carbine action 200 shot range model air rifle with a compass and this thing that tells time built right into the stock." That's right, little Ralphie can feel that blue steel and wooden stock resting in his hands as he defends his home from the likes of Black Bart. No one would dare come on his land and harm his family if he had "old blue." However the question still remains: will he have it, or not? If his mom won't get it for him, he'll enlist the aid of his teacher, Miss Shields. If she falls through, there is always the big man himself: Santa Claus. Will he get his wish? You will have to come to the historic Crighton Theatre to see!

We'd like to give you a glimpse at the folks that are going to bring this classic holiday favorite to life. Behind the scenes, our stage manager is the ever so lovely Amber Babcock, who has performed in more than 50 musicals domestically and internationally, and started directing shows in the early 80's in the San Francisco Bay Area. Amber found-
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Mama’s little piggie eating his oatmeal at last.

Mama's little piggie eating his oatmeal at last.

ed, wrote, directed & choreographed Austin's Murder Mystery Musicals (a dinner theatre entertainment company) and was a founding member of the NorthxNorthwest Theatre in Austin. Assistant director is STAGE RIGHT founder and board member Amy Sowers. Amy is an audience favorite especially in all of our Jones Hope Wooten comedies. In addition to being an accomplished actress, Amy is founder and director of Bravo Company, STAGE RIGHT’S performing arts school for youth 5-18 yrs.

On stage we have newcomer Steven Binnns as the narrator, Ralph all grown up, popping in and out of scenes as he guides you through the hilarity of a Christmas that seems to be going very wrong for one little boy. While Steven is new to the Crighton Theatre, he has been performing in one way or another since he can remember! STAGE RIGHT is very happy to welcome two more newcomers John Wallace Barton, who portrays Ralphie’s friend Schwartz, and Delaney Johnson who plays Esther Jane one of Ralphie’s classmates. You may recognize young Stephen Twinney from the Crighton’s summer production of The Wizard of Oz, as he will be playing another of Ralphie’s friends, Flick. Ashley Wienecke is one of our many talented youth who is joining us from Bravo Company, STAGE RIGHT’S performing arts school to play Helen. Ashley was in our production of Annie a few years ago.

The mother will be played by Patrice Kentimenos. You may remember her from our Jones, Hope, and Wooten shows Southern Hospitality and Dearly Beloved where she played Frankie Futrelle Dubberly. The ‘old man’ (Ralphie’s father) will be played by Todd Brady who’s first show was just recently as Cousin Purvis in The Red Velvet Cake War. Todd took flight across the stage of the Crighton this past summer as the head flying monkey in The Wizard of Oz. The no-nonsense Miss Shields will be played by Diana Egley who is new to the Crighton stage, but has acted in a few shows previously. It will be interesting to see Billy Cox try his hand at being a mean person as he portrays Ralphie’s arch nemesis Scut Farkas.

You can’t have a good show without a good leader, and that takes us to the director of our show, Melody Montez, who is no stranger to the stage. Melody has directed many shows and acted in many more, her favorite roles include Roz in Moon Over Buffalo, and Rhonda Lynn in Christmas Bells. She has been with STAGE RIGHT since its first production and also teaches the teenage class of Bravo Company. She last directed the STAGE RIGHT production of The Red Velvet Cake War and did a phenomenal job. Melody is excited to be directing her two sons.

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Ian, who plays Ralphie, and Ian’s younger brother Robben who ironically will play Randy, Ralphie’s younger brother in the show! Both boys have been a part of Bravo Company and are excited to be in a show together directed by their own mom.

For those of you who are familiar with STAGE RIGHT; you will know we like to throw a spotlight on different non-profit community assistance programs while telling you about the shows that we produce. In the past we have brought your attention to the Food Bank, Animal Shelter, Toys for Tots and local Heroes that have served this country with honor and pride. For this show we would like to shine the light on the Salvation Army. When you come to the show we encourage you to bring an unwrapped personal care item for seniors. Help the more “seasoned” citizens in our community have a nice holiday by providing basic care items such as soap, shampoo, bath and body items, deodorant, nice note paper, pens, cleaning items and laundry detergent. Let’s make it a happy Christmas for young and old this year!

We will also have volunteers from the Literacy Volunteers of America – Montgomery County in the lobby to distribute information about their organization. The mission of LVA is to reach adults whose literacy skills are very limited or non-existent and to provide volunteer tutors who can teach reading, writing, and English speaking skills. LVA provides the professional training, materials, and support that enables volunteers to be effective tutors. Tutors are volunteers and all materials are provided at no cost to the adult student. Looking for a way to volunteer your time to benefit your community? Give yourself the gift of giving to others this Christmas.

As an added treat we will be having the handbell choir from New Danville (lead by our own Miss Shields, Diana Egley) perform prior to the show on Sunday December 15. Come early and listen to the beautiful sounds of the talented men and women of the New Danville handbell choir. New Danville is “a self-sustaining, masterplanned integrated community where adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities can Live, Learn, Work and Grow emotionally, socially, and spiritually with their non-disabled peers.” Their performance will begin at 1:30 and A Christmas Story will start at 2 pm.

We hope you can come out and join us for some
great times and old family fun. As always, the shows we do are geared for the family and promise to keep you in stitches. Come in and check your troubles at the door, see the 'Crown Jewel of Montgomery County' dressed in all her Christmas finery and enjoy the show. It will run December 6th-22nd on Friday and Saturday nights at 8 pm and three Sunday matinees on December 8th, 15th, 22nd at 2 pm. Tickets can be obtained online at www.stage-right.org or by calling the Crighton box office at 936-441-SHOW (7469). Tickets are $20 for adults, $18 for seniors and groups of 15 persons, and $15 for youth and senior groups of 15 persons or more. Please call the box office to purchase group tickets. We ‘double-dog dare you’ to miss it! ♦

Stuck! Poor Flick.

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