



“A Christmas Story” Stage Right Productions

Page 2

ticket



'A Christmas Story' a nostalgic holiday treat from Stage Right

By BRAD MEYER
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For baby boomers and anyone who reflects fondly on the post-World War II era in American culture, "A Christmas Story" is a postcard from the past that will evoke memories, chuckles and knee-slapping guffaws.

The Stage Right production of "A Christmas Story" debuts Dec. 2 and runs weekends through Dec. 18 at the Crighton Theatre, located at 234 N. Main St. in Conroe.

"Before the digital age of immediate gratification, Christmas was a time of wishes and anticipation," said Jim Bingham, manager of the Crighton Theatre who is taking on the task of directing the Stage Right production. "I've always liked this show - it's very nostalgic and reminds me of what it was like growing up in the Midwest in the 50s."

The play, based on the 1983 movie written by Jean Shepherd, is a grown man's reflection on his youth and his Christmas wish for an Official Red Ryder Carbine-Action Two-Hundred-Shot Range Model Air Rifle - and his parent's cautionary concern that he will "put his eye out" with it.

"Imagination was a bigger part of being a child back then," said Bingham. "One of the big toys kids wanted back in the early 50s was 'The Big Stick' - it was all of \$1.75 and it was literally nothing but a big stick, but kids wanted it because you could pretend it was so many different things."

The play presents a series of humorous reflections of growing up. Bingham said he identifies with the char-



Peter McPoland plays "Ralphie" in Stage Right's "A Christmas Story" which opens Dec. 2.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Stage Right production of "A Christmas Story" debuts Dec. 2 and runs weekends through Dec. 18 at the Crighton Theatre, located at 234 N. Main St. in Conroe. For tickets and information, visit www.crightontheatre.org or call 936-441-SHOW.

acter Flick - a kid constantly being picked on and the one who accepts a dare to stick his tongue on a frozen

flagpole.

With a cast that includes a significant number of children, Bingham acknowl-

edges there are special challenges.

"Kids can be easily distracted when they aren't actively involved in their scenes," he said. "The real key is to flex their imagination and keep the sense of

STAGE RIGHT

Continued from Page 2

wonder alive.”

But Bingham was quick to praise the cast, crew and assistant director Amy Sowers for their hard work and dedication. He offered special appreciation to the sound technicians who have to keep up with so many actors in the fast-paced comedy.

“It’s a great show for the whole family,” he said. “Christmas is a time for telling family stories from the ‘old’ days – this play is a good starting point for fam-

ilies to share their own stories and keep traditions alive.”

One of the most popular props associated with “A Christmas Story” is a table lamp in the form of a statuesque leg with fishnet stockings. Stage Right will conduct a silent auction throughout the run of the play offering the lamp to the highest bidder at the end of the play’s run.

“It’s a pretty popular item,” said Bingham. “Everybody asks about it; everybody wants it – so we’re going to make that possible.”

The Stage Right production of “A Christmas Story” runs Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. from Dec. 2-18, with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. on Dec. 11 and 18, at the Crighton Theatre. Tickets are available online at www.stage-right.org or by calling the Crighton Theatre box office at 936-441-SHOW (7469). Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors and groups of 10-20 persons, and \$12 for youth and groups over 20 persons.

Visit www.stage-right.org for more about Stage Right Productions.