

At Their ‘Best’

The Yankton Children’s Theatre Co. And The Lewis And Clark Theatre Co. Unite To Present ‘The Best Christmas Pageant Ever’



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
The unruly Herdman brood — clockwise from top: Ralph (Quinn Fargo), Claude (Nicholas Nayokpuk), Imogene (Zoie Lee Marcotte), Gladys (Addison Boese), Leroy (Seth Fargo) and Ollie (Carson Heinemeyer) — loom as a disruptive influence in the local Christmas pageant, as presented in “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever,” starting at Yankton’s Dakota Theatre next week.

BY REILLY BIEL
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Yankton Children’s Theatre Company and Lewis & Clark Theatre Company are joining forces for Dakota Theatre’s final production of the year.

“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” tells the story of a yearly Christmas pageant that portrays the story of Christmas. When a family of misfit, troublesome kids is cast in the pageant, mayhem ensues.

“It’s a good family show,” said play director Sandy Vavra. “With intermission, it will be an hour and 15 minutes. Younger kids will be able to sit through it.”

The play is a collaboration between the two theatre groups and is hopefully the beginning of a partnership.

“We had mutual conversations about if we could do something together,” said Children’s Theatre board president Shelly Heinemeyer. “Lewis & Clark offered to us to do a play together and we’re extremely happy to be working with them.”

Vavra, a third-grade teacher at Sacred Heart School, feels the same way.

“It’s been great working with the Children’s Theatre,” she said. “One of their board members is in the show and another is doing the costumes. It’s a good beginning relationship for the two theatres.”

Vavra, a first-time director, believes her experience with kids has prepared her for the directing experience.

“I work with kids every day. This is just a different setting,” she said.

Assistant director Kathy Volk is also on hand to help.

“A lot of the kids don’t have lines and just have to sit, which is difficult for some of them,” she said. “It can be kind of iffy to see what you’re going to get when you have to cast a kids show, but we have a good group of kids.”

Performing in the Dakota Theatre is a good learning experience for the children, said Heinemeyer.

“They enjoy being able to practice in the theatre versus above the Czeckers Bar and Grill,” she said. “The kids are getting the atmosphere of working in the theatre, and Sandy and Kathy have been good at leading the kids to new places.”

“Being in theatre is a great benefit for kids,” Vavra added. “It helps them overcome their fears and anxieties of being in front of people. They also make friendships with other kids they’ve done multiple plays with.”

“The adult actors get a new experience working with kids and vice versa,” said Volk.

The play has an uplifting message that is fitting to end the year on.

“The main message is to embrace the real reason behind Christmas and the innocence of children at that time,” Vavra said.

The play runs from Dec. 3-6 and 10-13. For tickets, go to the Lewis & Clark Theatre Company Facebook page, visit www.lewisandclarktheatre.org, the box office located at 328 Walnut Street, Yankton or call 605665-4711. Box office hours are Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Mom (Katie Fargo) and dad (Jarrod Anderson) discuss an unforeseen turn of events in the annual Christmas pageant while their children, Charlie (Jaden Pearson) and Beth (Rachel Wood), listen during a scene from “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever,” being presented at the Dakota Theatre starting next week.

Leola Felton, Anna Carda, Leila Schumacher, Kaycee Smith, Natalie Nayokpuk, Jasmine Gill, Lily Lawrence, Hope Leshner, Korbin Yaggie, Ashli Aguirre, Isabella Simonsen, Cadynce Bonzer, Julia Reyes, Stori Westphal, Brooklyn Vogt, Ginger Leshner, Ellison Williams, Jenna Lammers

CREW

Director — Sandy Vavra
Assistant Director — Kathy Volk
Accompanist — Mary Lee Villanueva
Costumer — Shelly Heinemeyer
Sound Design — Hayat Dominguez
Light Design & Set Design — Tara Gill
Spotlights — Elijah Wood & Sam Slowey
Set Construction — Russ Leonard & Crew

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CAST LIST

Father — Jarrod Anderson
Mother — Katie Fargo
Beth — Rachel Wood
Charlie — Jaden Pearson
Ralph Herdman — Quinn Fargo
Imogene Herdman — Zoie Lee Marcotte
Leroy Herdman — Seth Fargo
Claude Herdman — Nicholas Nayokpuk
Ollie Herdman — Carson Heinemeyer
Gladys Herdman — Addison Boese
Alice — Sara Carr
Maxine — Kaitlin Paulson
Elmer — Gage Becker
Hobie — Blaine Lammers
David — Macklin McNatt
Shirley — Joselyn Pearson
Juanita — Iyana Becker
Doris — Isabell Knapp
Mrs. Armstrong — April Knapp
Mrs. Slocum — Shana Marcotte
Mrs. Clausing — Mary Lee Villanueva
Mrs. McCarthy — Dee Dee Wood
Pastor — Chrissy Leshner
Shepherds — Liam Villanueva, Ryan Lammers, Jackson Lawrence, Teddy Fargo
Angel Choir — Eva Reyes,

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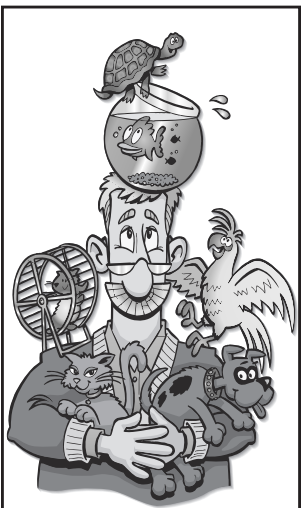
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Fill the puzzle so that every row, every column, and every section contain the numbers 1-9 without repeating a number.

				2	1		8	4
	6							
			3				6	
7		1				4		
6			5		9			8
		3				9		1
	1			2				
							7	
9	5		4	6				

CHALLENGING

CH BOOK 60 #4

Last Tuesday's Solution

6	2	5	7	4	8	1	3	9
8	1	4	9	2	3	7	6	5
9	7	3	6	1	5	4	8	2
1	3	2	8	7	4	5	9	6
7	8	9	5	6	2	3	1	4
4	5	6	1	3	9	8	2	7
2	9	1	4	8	7	6	5	3
3	4	8	2	5	6	9	7	1
5	6	7	3	9	1	2	4	8

su|do|ku

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Check next Tuesday's paper for the solution to today's puzzle.

INT BOOK 60 #4