The Musical*

DR/

Presents

 202_{4}

29th-30th November and 6th - 7th December

Book by Thomas Meehan and Bob Martin Music by Matthew Sklar Lyrics by Chad Beguelin

Based upon the New Line Cinema Film written by David Berenbaum

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk All profits will be donated to the development fund of Patcham Methodist Church



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FROM THE DIRECTOR

In 2015, I first heard the cast recording of *Elf The Musical* and saw the West End production. I couldn't get the songs out of my head or wipe the big cheesy grin off my face. I knew then that one day I wanted to direct it with Barnstormers. The film *Elf* is a Christmas classic, and bringing this musical version to life has been both a challenge and a joy. For me, this show is



more than just a lighthearted holiday story—it's about the hope, joy, and magic the festive season can bring, and the way one person's infectious spirit and energy can inspire transformation in those around them.

This production has been an exciting journey, and I've had more conversations about baubles, tinsel, and Christmas cheer than I could have ever imagined! I'm so thankful to everyone who's contributed their time, energy, and creativity to make this show happen. Special thanks to Karen and her props team for sourcing more props than we've ever had before; to Christine, Angie, and Philip for the magical costumes; to Jen and Claire for bringing my wacky choreography ideas to life in amazing ways; to Russell, my husband, for being an incredibly patient sounding board; and to our Producer, Keith, for making it possible to fulfil my dream of bringing children into the cast. Every show is a huge team effort and each of you, whether mentioned here or elsewhere, has exceeded my expectations and made this possible. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

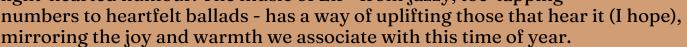
And to our cast - I want to thank you not just for your hard work, but for your support in trusting in my vision for this show. You've fully embraced the comedy, heart, and spirit of *Elf* and brought the show to life with incredible energy and warmth. From our first rehearsals in June to now, I've watched you create a world filled with laughter, sparkle, and festive fun. As Buddy says, "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is by singing loud for all to hear"—and I'm thrilled with what we've all accomplished together.

And to you, our wonderful audience - thank you for sharing in the magic of *Elf* with us. We hope you enjoy the show as much as we've enjoyed creating it. Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

Louisa Taylor

FROM THE MUSICAL DIRECTOR

It has been an absolute joy to bring *Elf The Musical* to life here with Barnstormers. This delightful show is full of catchy tunes, many of which have been stuck in my head since June, and high-energy numbers, which capture both the Christmas spirit and the story's light-hearted humour. The music of Elf - from jazzy, toe-tapping numbers to heartfelt ballads - has a way of uplifting those that hear



Our talented band has brought this score to life beautifully, adding sparkle and depth to every scene. I am incredibly grateful for their skill, dedication, and patience throughout this process. I would also like to say a huge thank you to Louisa, and to our choreography team, who have collectively been such a joy to collaborate with; their creativity and passion for this project have been inspiring and a constant source of motivation.

Finally, to the cast - thank you for your hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication. It's been incredible to see you grow as individuals and a group through the show's journey. Your energy and effort shine through every moment, and I couldn't be prouder of what we've created together.

Thank you to everyone involved for making this production of *Elf* truly special. So now it's over to our audience.... Enjoy the show! Russell Taylor

FROM THE CHOREOGRAPHERS

Barnstormers are a team of the most dedicated and welcoming group of people who truly adore everything about theatre. They embraced the challenges of the choreography for *Elf* with open arms and a smile every step of the way. This incredible cast have eagerly taken on everything each of us have thrown at them in terms of choreography, from tinsel to glitter, skipping



ropes to hula hoops, and other little surprises! They have enthusiastically said yes at every opportunity and then worked tirelessly to bring our sparkly ideas to life.

Musical theatre comprises three fundamental elements: acting, singing, and dancing. Not every actor needs to be a dancer, but every dancer must be able to act, and that requires a great deal of hard work and dedication. Combining this with the energetic and lively nature of this particular show is a monumental challenge. The story of *Elf* revolves heavily around the quest to revive the dwindling Christmas spirit, and it has been amazing to attempt to do justice to that theme with such incredible dance numbers to choreograph. Louisa, the show's director, gave us the freedom to capture every single bit of that sparkly spirit, and it is precisely the spirit of each and every person involved that has made this possible.

It has been an absolute pleasure to contribute to the Christmas mayhem, and we sincerely hope that you will sit back and enjoy as we embark on this joyous journey to spread that Christmas cheer - toe tapping heavily encouraged!

Claire Hewitt, Jennifer McLean and Louisa Taylor

SYNOPSIS

Elf The Musical is a heartwarming and comedic adaptation of the beloved holiday film. The story follows Buddy, a human raised by elves at the North Pole, who discovers he is not an elf after all. Determined to find his true identity, Buddy travels to New York City, where he navigates the bustling world of humans with childlike innocence and enthusiasm.

In the city, Buddy encounters various challenges, including a skeptical father, a love interest named Jovie, and the harsh realities of adult life. As he spreads Christmas cheer and attempts to reunite with his father, Buddy's unwavering spirit and belief in the magic of the season inspire those around him. Through catchy songs, dazzling choreography, and a message about the importance of family and kindness, Elf The Musical captures the joy of the holidays and the importance of believing in oneself.



BUCKET COLLECTION At the end of each performance, we hold a bucket collection in support of a nominated charity.

> For our recent production of *Legally Blonde*, we were proud to support Macmillan Cancer Support, raising an incredible £347. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

Next, following Elf The Musical, our collection will benefit The Salvation Army's Christmas Present Appeal. This wonderful initiative provides gifts and donations to bring the joy of Christmas to children whose families might otherwise struggle to provide presents.

We'll be supporting the Brighton Congress Hall Salvation Army, who will use the funds to help local families in the Brighton area.



We believe that every family deserves to feel the Sparklejollytwinklejingley magic of Christmasthat's why we've chosen this charity. Your generosity will help bring smiles and holiday cheer to those who need it most.

Thank you for your support!

Afternoon

family fun

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> LOUISA TAYLOR COACH & FACILITATOR

Crew

Director: Louisa Taylor Musical Director: Russell Taylor Choreographers: Clare Hewitt, Jennifer McLean and Louisa Taylor **Prompt: Karen Knight** Lighting: JJ Nolan, Marcus Card and Olga Vovk Lighting Construction: Alex Harrington, Russell Taylor, Sam Clarke and Seb Harrington Lighting Programming: Alex Harrington and Russell Taylor Sound Installation: Shaun Hann and Peter Webb Sound Operating: Craig Flint, Shaun Hann and Michael Gibbs Sound Programming: Craig Flint Wardrobe: Christine Ashby, Angie Webb and Philip Davis Backstage Manager: Karen Ashby **Backstage Crew: Nick Herriott** Props/Scenery: Karen Ashby, Tony Betts, Jenny Robinson, Laura Barrett, Lucy Cadman, Imogen Fox, Sandra Dry, Becky Friend, Stuart Friend and Andrea Tullett Make-up Team: Lucy Cadman and Imogen Fox Webmasters: Alex Harrington and Seb Harrington Chaperones: Roni Graham, Kate Ward, Jaime Bainbridge, Ann-Marie Barker-Davis, Becky Friend, Jennifer McLean and Courtney Nash Box Office: Sue Harrington and Seb Harrington **Programme: Natalie Harrington** Photography and Media: Paul Harrington, Natalie Harrington and Anna Kharchenko Front of House: Paula Bates, Jenny Robinson, Paul Harrington, Lesley Mitchell, Alan Imms, Sue Sawyer, David Sawyer, Tamzin Renno, Catherine Hann, Caroline Dewar and Rev Karen Bell

Special thanks to Derek McLean for his help with special effects for Elf and Seaford Musical Theatre for the loan of props

Band

Keyboard: Russell Taylor Drums: Alex Harrington Bass: Peter Webb Trumpet 1: Steve Morris Trumpet 2: Jenny Barwell, Andy Wooler Trombone: Pascale Calcutt Reed 1: Paul Williams Reed 2: Chris Cheetham

Production Team

Producer: Keith Fox Cast Representative: Becky Higgs Church Liaison Officer: Caroline Dewar Treasurer: Paula Bates Production Team Members: Christine Ashby, Imogen Fox and Natalie Harrington



Tonight's show is dedicated to the memory of two members of the Barnstormers family.

Yvonne Allen, was an active member of Barnstormers for several years both on and off stage, even writing her own pantos for us to perform.

And to **Deznie Imms**, a long-time supporter of Barnstormers, helping with front of house and an enthusiastic audience member

Though they are no longer with us, their memories live on in the work we do, and they will always be a part of our community.

This one's for you, Yvonne and Deznie. You will be missed.





SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act One

Prelude: Santa's Living Room

Scene 1: Santa's Workshop 'Happy All The Time' Santa, Mrs Claus, Elves and Buddy

Scene 2: Santa's Workshop

Scene 3: North Pole 'Not Happy All The Time'*Buddy*

Scene 4: Buddy's Journey to NYC 'World's Greatest Dad'*Buddy and Ensemble*

Scene 5: Greenway Press Office 'In The Way'*Debs, Walter, Emily, Michael and Employees*

Scene 6: Macy's Department Store "Sparklejollytwinklejingley'Buddy, Manager and Ensemble

Scene 7: The Hobbs Family's Living Room 'I Believe In You'*Emily and Michael*

Scene 8: The Hobbs Family's Living Room (Next Day) 'In The Way (Reprise)'Emily and Walter

Scene 9: Greenway Press Office 'Just Like Him'*Buddy, Walter, Deb and Employees*

Scene 10: 5th Avenue, Rockefeller Center Skating Rink 'A Christmas Song'Buddy, Jovie and Ensemble

Scene 11: Walter's Office

Scene 12: December 23rd, New York Street 'World's Greatest Dad (Reprise)'...... *Buddy* Act Two

Prologue: Santa's Living Room and New York City

Scene 1: Chung Fu Palace, Christmas Eve 'Nobody Cares About Santa'Fake Santas, Manager, Buddy and Waitresses

Scene 2: Outside Tavern on The Green 'Never Fall In Love With An Elf'*Jovie*

Scene 3: The Hobbs Family's Living Room 'There Is A Santa Claus'*Emily and Michael*

Scene 4: Walter's Office

'The Story Of Buddy'Buddy, Walter, Greenway, Deb, Matthews, Chadwick, Emily, Michael and Employees

Scene 5: The Woods in Central Park 'Nobody Cares (Santa's Reprise)'Santa and Larry Spinoli

Scene 6: Central Park West

'A Christmas Song (Reprise)'Jovie, Buddy, Emily, Michael, Walter and Ensemble

Epilogue: North Pole

'Finale'Buddy, Jovie, Walter, Emily, Michael, Santa, Mrs Claus and Ensemble



PREVIOUS SHOWS

2024 - Legally Blonde 2023 - A Night with Barnstormers 2022 - Anything Goes/ Cinderella 2021 - Best of Barnstormers 20th Anniversary Show 2020 - Kipps - The New Half A Sixpence Musical 2019 - Calamity Jane 2018 - Sister Act/Snow White 2017 - Barnstormers Big Night Out 2016 - Kiss Me Kate/ Aladdin and Four Weddings and a Lamp 2015 - The Pajama Game/ Sleeping Beauty - The Panto 2014 - Godspell/Barnstormers Does Broadway 2013 - Crazy for You/ A Christmas Carol 2012 - Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat/Titanic 2011 - Beauty and the Beast/ Snow White and the Seven Little Men 2010 - Thoroughly Modern Millie/ Dick Patchington 2009 - Just So/ A Night at the Movies 2008 - Fiddler on the Roof/ Cinderella and Friends 2007 - Anything Goes/ Barnstorming 2006 - Seussical/Aladdin 2005 - Honk/Sing-along Joseph & Godspell/Autumn Colours 2004 - The Wiz/ Winter Warmer 2003 – Godspell/ Harvest Concert 2002 - Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat - Sussex Tour 2001 - Robin Hood (as Panto Crew)/ Joseph and the Amazing **Technicolor** Dreamcoat 2000 - The Adventures of Alice (as Panto Crew) 1999 - Snoozy Floozy (Sleeping Beauty) (as Panto Crew) 1998 - Aladdin (as Panto Crew) 1997 - Jack and the Beanstalk (as Panto Crew) 1995 - Snow White and lots of Dwarfs (as Panto Crew) 1994 - Follow the Star (as Panto Crew) 1992 - Cinderella (as Panto Crew)

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Want your photo with Buddy, Santa and Mrs Claus? Stick around at the end of the show for a photo opportunity with our North Pole Crew on the stage

NORTH POLE



The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear

SANTA! I Know Him! I Know Hi<u>m!</u>

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North Pole Elves -Andrew Darlington, Anastasiia Bohdanova, Higgs, Billie Early, Chloe Collard, Ellen Herriott, Imogen Fox, Iryna Chorna, Isabella Shorten, James Smith, Kate Voyevoda, Keith Fox, Lucy Cadman, Matt Shooman, Milly Clarke, Natalie Harrington, Panos Christofi, Zoe Higgs

Greenway Press Office Employees -Andrew Darlington, Anastasiia Bohdanova, Collard, Claire Hewitt, Ellen Herriott, Emma Collard, Imogen Fox, Iryna Chorna, James Smith, Josie Puttock-West, Kate Voyevoda, Luca Memoli, Lucy Cadman, Mark Lambert, Milly Clarke, Natalie Harrington, Natasha Knight, Sheila Carey, Sally Griffiths, Sian Preece, Zoe Higgs

Macy's Elves -Andrew Darlington, Becky Higgs, Chloe Collard, Claire Hewitt, Ellen Herriott, Imogen Fox, Iryna Chorna, James Smith, Jean Porter, Josie Puttock-West, Kate Voyevoda, Lucy Cadman, Milly Clarke, Natalie Harrington, Natasha Knight, Sheila Carey, Sally Griffiths, Sian Preece, Panos Christofi, Zoe Higgs

Other Fake Santas -Chloe Collard, Imogen Fox,Iryna Chorna, James Smith, Josie Puttock-West, Kate Voyevoda, Luca Memoli, Natalie Harrington, Panos Christofi, Sian Preece, Zoe Higgs

TEAM CANDY CANE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: GEORGIA TAYLOR, AMÉLIE WARD (BEHIND), ESMA ALGUN AND FLETCHER NASH **TEAM TINSEL** FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: JESSICA LOWRIE, DAISY LOWRIE AND CARLA BUNTON











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All profits will be donated to the development fund of Patcham Methodist Church

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- Fizzy Drinks
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6 pm Family Friendly Carol service

22nd December

3 pm Activities for Children 4 pm Christingle service (Hot chocolate and mince pies to be served)

25th December

10.30 am Christmas Day service



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APRIL 2nd Quiz 12th Idle Supernova 18th-21st Easter fun for everyone	MAY 4th Karaoke 7th Quiz 18th Grace B 24th Joe & Becca 25th The Miles got Talent	JUNE 4th Quiz 14th Gemma from Empire
JULY 2nd Quiz 5th Family Funday Circus theme with BN1 & Sonny B 22nd Schools out party	AUGUST 6th Quiz 16th ELVIS 24th Bank Holiday Bonkers Bingo	SEPTEMBER 3rd Quiz 13th 80's Disco
OCTOBER 1st Quiz OKTOBERFEST 31st Halloween	NOVEMBER 5th Quiz 22nd Elton John	DECEMBER 1st Turkey Trot 3rd Quiz 5th Light Up The Mile 15th Community Christmas Meal 31st New Years Eve

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