

CVFT Presents

“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever”

Production Information

Artistic/Music Staff: Randy Herget - Director (www.rherget@edwardssales.com)
Music Director/Accompanist: Charlie Title
Stage Manager(s): Karen Stauber & Amy Huang
Produced By: Stauber/Ross Productions

Location: Chaska High School Theater

Rehearsals: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and some Saturdays beginning September 27th. (Full schedule available at auditions).

Performances: November 26th & 27th at 7:30 PM and 28th at 3:00 PM.
December 3rd & 4th at 7:30 PM and 4th and 5th at 2:00 PM.
There will be two school performances on December 2nd at 9:30 AM and 1:30 PM. Youths will miss school that day and Adults will miss work.

Age Requirements: Ages 7 and up. (Siblings under 7 may be cast as extras).

Audition Dates/Times/Format: **September 20 – 21**. Call backs on September 22. **All speaking parts will audition Monday, September 20th from 6:30 – 9:00 PM. If you have a conflict with Monday, you need to e-mail or contact either Tom Stauber - Producer (tstauber@edwardssales.com) or Randy Ross - Producer (randy.ross@msn.com) to arrange a different audition time. We will do our best to accommodate but cannot guarantee an audition at a different time.**

Tuesday, September 21st we will audition all potential vignette performers from 7:00 – 9:00 PM. Please prepare a Christmas song as performed by the likes of Ray Conif Group, Perry Como, Bing Crosby, Andy Williams, Gene Autry or anybody of that genre/era. Bring sheet music for the accompanist* (see last statement).

Call-back September 22 – 6:30-8:30 pm

Auditioners who do not get speaking parts will still be eligible for chorus parts. People with speaking roles will not be eligible for vignette performances. Questions can be directed to either Tom Stauber or Randy Ross.

Cast Size: **45 to 55**

Participation Fee: \$40/participant - \$100max/family

“*The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.”

INTRODUCTION

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever was written in 1972 portraying life in the late 50's early 60's by Barbara Robinson. It has received several awards including the Georgia Children's Book Award in 1975-76 and the Young Hoosier Award in 1978.

SUMMARY OF THE STORY (Set in Late 50's Early 60's)

The Herdmans are the meanest kids in town. They lie, steal, smoke and cuss. Teachers pass the kids on to the next grade because inevitably another Herdman will be coming into their class. There were six Herdmans – Ralph, Imogene, Leroy, Claude, Ollie and Gladys. Their father had disappeared when Gladys was two and their mom worked double shifts at the shoe factory and was never home. The Herdmans were bullies and did whatever they wanted. So, it surprised the town when they showed up one day to Sunday school. Charlie told Leroy Herdman that they could get free food if they showed up at Sunday school – never thinking they would come. But they did, the Herdmans decided to come the day that the Christmas pageant parts were being assigned and they end up taking over the pageant. But in the end the whole Church learns the true meaning of Christmas – including the Herdmans!

THE CHARACTERS

Bob Bradley (Adult Male), the Father of Charlie and Beth. Beth is the narrator for the play. He is also married to Grace who ends up taking over the pageant. He doesn't like to go to the pageant every year and it is a struggle to make him.

Grace Bradley (Adult Female), the Mother of Charlie and Beth. She ends up taking over the Christmas pageant when Mrs. Armstrong breaks her leg.

Beth Bradley (12-14 YO Female), the narrator. Beth leads the audience through the play.

Charlie Bradley (10-13 male), Beth's little brother. Charlie is the person who told the Herdman's about the food at Sunday school. He's also the person that said that his favorite thing about Sunday school was "No Herdmans!"

Ralph Herdman (12-14 Male), the oldest of the Herdman children. He ended up playing the part of Joseph in the pageant.

Imogene Herdman (12-14 Female), the oldest Herdman daughter. She ends up playing Mary in the pageant. Imogene is in the same class as Beth. She picks on anyone who speaks up in class. She is the one who sneaked into the health room and copied down all of the weights of the children in her class. Then she would blackmail the students with the information. The first time she came to Sunday school she stole money out of the collection basket.

Leroy Herdman (10-13 Male), the next oldest Herdman. He ends up being one of the Wise Men in the pageant. He's the one that Charlie told about there being food at Sunday school. Charlie told him to get Leroy to leave him alone since he was always taking Charlie's food.

Claude Herdman (9-12 Male), another of the Herdman children. He is also one of the Wise Men in the pageant. He is the one that brought the wild cat to show-and-tell in 1st grade and scared the whole class.

Ollie Herdman (8-11 Teen Male), another of the Herdman children. He is the final one of the Wise Men in the pageant.

Gladys Herdman (7-10 Female), the youngest Herdman. She plays the Angel of the Lord in the Christmas pageant.

Alice Wendleken (12-14 Female), always used to be Mary in the Christmas pageant until Imogene bullied her into letting her do it. She's a friend of Beth's. She always played Mary because of how smart and neat she is.

Mrs. Armstrong (Adult Female), directed the Christmas pageant every year until she broke her leg and had to convince Grace Bradley to do it. She is very bossy, loves to give other people orders and is the head of every organization she belonged to.

Elmer Hopkins (12-14 Male), the Reverend's son. He always plays Joseph in the pageant because his father forces him to. This year the Herdman's bully him into letting them do it.

Youth Chorus (7 – 20 M/F), this is the Sunday School classes. Made up of 20 -25 kids who will be singing Christmas Carols during the Pageant.

Firefighters, there will be 3 or 4 firefighters who arrive at the church to fight a small fire. This will be adult males or adult females.

***Adult Singers portraying Iconic Artists from Classic Christmas Songs**, made up of adults. These people will not just be singing the songs but rather imitating the particular sound and dress.

