



For Immediate Release

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The Best Christmas Pageant Ever **Quotes from the Student Cast**

Q: WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS THE BIGGEST THING YOU HAVE LEARNED THROUGH THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER?

“This show really teaches you not to misjudge people before you know more about them. And being in the show, you learn to have fun.”

- Josiah Hydeen (*Character: Claude Herdman*), 5th grader at Thomas Elementary School

“This play teaches you to never judge a book by its cover.”

- Hayden Blaney (*Character: Macy Armstrong*), 4th grader at St. James/Seton Elementary School

“I’ve learned to be confident and to be organized. Anthony (Clark-Kaczmarek) has really been helping all of us student actors to have good habits, and he is teaching us to be professionals.”

- Chase Robinson (*Character: Gladys Herdman*), 5th grader at Alice Buffett Middle School

“I feel that I have been strengthening my character voice and singing ability.”

- Annabella Mosher (*Character: Alice*), 9th grader at Concordia High School

“The biggest thing I’ve learned from my experience in the show is what it takes to work in a professional theater setting. For example, how to act, what expectations are, and how much fun you can have.”

- Lilly Weak (*Character: Beth Bradley*), 11th grader at Central High School

“Anthony (Clark-Kaczmarek) and Ashley (Laverty) are helping me understand how things happen on stage. They are also teaching me how to be successful and how to improve my acting skills.”

- Hayden Blaney (*Character: Macy Armstrong*), 4th grader at St. James/Seton Elementary School

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**Quotes from the Student Cast of
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical
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Contact: Kori Radloff, 402-502-4641**

Q: WHAT IS IT LIKE WORKING WITH THE ADULTS IN THE CAST AND CREW?

“It is really great working with Ashley (Lavery) and Anthony (Clark-Kaczmarek) because they help us with knowing our character really well. And if we make a mistake, they help us learn that mistakes are part of the process.”

- Josiah Hydeen (*Character: Claude Herdman*), 5th grader at Thomas Elementary School

“Sometimes working with adults is a little nerve-wracking, but overall, it’s a very supportive space. Ashley (Lavery) definitely knows how to teach us what we need to know and to help us discover ourselves.”

- Kaeli Vondra (*Character: Imogene Herdman*), 7th grader at Bennington Middle School

“Anthony (Clark-Kaczmarek) and Ashley (Lavery) have helped majorly in making me better as an actor. They have been helpful with understanding my character.”

- Mason Lindsey (*Character: Elmer Hopkins*), 6th grader at Alice Buffett Middle School

“Miss Ashley is so kind and it helps give me ideas on how to portray my character. Ashley is an amazing teacher and is so compassionate and so wise in the comments that she gives to us. Mr. Anthony helps expand how I see my character.”

- Annabella Mosher (*Character: Alice*), 9th grader at Concordia High School

“It is absolutely fantastic to work with the adult cast, Ashley (Lavery) especially. She really helps us commit to our character and helps us run scenes on the side.”

- Phoenix Nehls (*Character: Tracy Armstrong*), 7th grader at Andersen Middle School

“It’s weird for me to actually work with the actors on stage that play my parents because they are actually old enough to be my parents because I’ve only done shows through OPS. Ashley (Lavery) is really helpful, especially when we have free time because she helps coach us and runs lines with us.”

- Lilly Weak (*Character: Beth Bradley*), 11th grader at Central High School

“I’ve been in a ton of other shows, but they were all youth shows. It is really fun to work with more experienced actors and adults.”

- Bri Nash (*Character: Shelly/Ensemble*), 8th grader at Lefler Middle School (Lincoln)

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Cast & Credits of

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical

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Q: WHAT IS A TYPICAL REHEARSAL LIKE?

“In a typical rehearsal, we start by singing with Jerry. This is a lot of fun because we can use a lot of expressions. Then we either do choreography or staging. My favorite is choreography because I love learning dances.”

- Annabella Mosher (*Character: Alice*), 9th grader at Concordia High School

“When we are with Ashley (Lavery), she takes us to a classroom and we rehearse the scene we learned that week. Ashley gives us comments and suggestions, and she gave us a character development worksheet that helps us find our character’s objectives. I think Ashley is a great teacher and she plays a big part in helping me become a professional actor.”

- Chase Robinson (*Character: Gladys Herdman*), 5th grader at Alice Buffett Middle School

Q: WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST CHALLENGING THING YOU’VE HAD TO DO IN THIS SHOW?

“For me, it’s the choreography. It can be really hard.”

- Hayden Blaney (*Character: Macy Armstrong*), 4th grader at St. James/Seton Elementary School

“Trying to be more mean. I consider myself a very nice person. Ashley (Lavery) has helped me by giving me worksheets to fill out to help me find my character and games to help me learn.”

- Kaeli Vondra (*Character: Imogene Herdman*), 7th grader at Bennington Middle School

Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT YOU LEARN FROM BEING IN A SHOW?

“Theater has taught me so much about life. It has taught me how to be prepared, how to work in a group, compassion, and how to be independent. Overall, theater has taught me how to be a better person.”

- Phoenix Nehls (*Character: Tracy Armstrong*), 7th grader at Andersen Middle School

“I think I learn something new from each play I am in. Maybe it is certain ways to portray characters or maybe how to do a certain dance move. It is always a new experience, but my favorite, I think, would be the awesome friends I make in each play. They all teach me new things and give me close relationships.”

- Annabella Mosher (*Character: Alice*), 9th grader at Concordia High School

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“From all the shows that I’ve been in, I’ve learned how to work with large groups of very different people. Theater has taught me how to take constructive criticism and how to grow in something that I love to do.”

- Lilly Weak (*Character: Beth Bradley*), 11th grader at Central High School

“Being in plays, you learn to pay attention and to follow directions, and how to get along with others.”

- Josiah Hydeen (*Character: Claude Herdman*), 5th grader at Thomas Elementary School

“I have learned organization and how to focus. I also learned that you might think this way or that you have suggestions about the characters, but that is the actor’s choice. Everything goes so fast, and you have to memorize your lines -- there’s not time for funny business. You have to be serious about the job you are doing.”

- Chase Robinson (*Character: Gladys Herdman*), 5th grader at Alice Buffett Middle School

“Being at The Rose has really helped me learn how to be a professional and how to make bold choices with a character.”

- Bri Nash (*Character: Shelly/Ensemble*), 8th grader at Lefler Middle School (Lincoln)

“I have learned new life lessons and how to ‘find your people.’ Theater people can be weird sometimes, so it’s cool to find people you can bond with.”

- Chloe Irwin (*Character: Ivy*), 8th grader at Gretna Middle School

Q: WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT BEING IN A SHOW AT THE ROSE THEATER?

“The Rose differs because of the environment and the fact that its people want to be there and really know what they are doing. The Rose definitely teaches you what rehearsing for a Broadway show feels like. Everyone is enjoying what they are doing and it sounds beautiful!”

- Kaeli Vondra (*Character: Imogene Herdman*), 7th grader at Bennington Middle School

“At The Rose, it is way different than the other shows I have done. The Rose teaches me in a different way. They expect each kid to help the others so that we are all in the same place in the music or dance. These kinds of experiences allow for us kids to grow close and all become friends. They ask us questions and make us think about our characters.”

- Lilly Weak (*Character: Beth Bradley*), 11th grader at Central High School

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“Being in a show at The Rose is different from others because it is a smaller cast so I can get to know everyone. In other plays I have been in, there has been a cast of around 100, but here, there are only about 30 people. With Ashley here to help, I can get more attention than I would in a larger cast. What really helped me improve was trying to go deeper into what and how my character would think.”

- Annabella Mosher (*Character: Alice*), 9th grader at Concordia High School

“You learn a lot about juggling your time, managing school work and long term projects.”

- Carson Bishop (*Character: Charlie Bradley*), 7th grader at Kiewit Middle School

“The Rose just seems easier to understand. They teach you to incorporate yourself into your character, but also keep your character’s characteristics. We do classes during rehearsals and the adults help us with lines, music, etc.”

- Hayden Blaney (*Character: Macy Armstrong*), 4th grader at St. James/Seton Elementary School

“I have done shows at other theaters, including the Playhouse and Nebraska Shakespeare. It is different here. It feels more like home to me. I think The Rose is great at teaching kids. Every time I do a show at The Rose, I feel it helps me improve a lot.”

- Chloe Irwin (*Character: Ivy*), 8th grader at Gretna Middle School

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