

# Kudzu Family Playhouse

presents



Theatre tickets make GREAT gifts!!!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



From all of us at  
Kudzu Playhouse

Kudzu Playhouse, Inc.  
Kudzu Family Playhouse  
Kudzu Sprouts

10743 Alpharetta Highway, Brannon Square, Roswell, GA 30076  
770-594-1020 Tel 770-594-1318 Fax

Web site:  
[www.kudzuplayhouse.org](http://www.kudzuplayhouse.org)

Email :  
[kudzuplayhouse@aol.com](mailto:kudzuplayhouse@aol.com)

Directed by Ellen Keel

Written by Barbara Robinson

November 29-December 24, 2008

Saturday and Sunday at 2:00pm

Saturday evenings, December 6, 13, and 20 at 7:00pm

Monday, December 22 and Tuesday, December 23 at 7:00pm

Wednesday, December 24, (Christmas Eve) at 2:00pm

**770-594-1020**





# Dreamland

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*Ain't nothing like 'em nowhere!*

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A little about Moe

**About Moe:** It's pretty simple, really. A guy named Moe wanted to create a place where he could combine his favorite flavors from road trips through the southwest with his favorite music from days gone by.

Moe's knows burritos...and tacos, quesadillas, nachos, salads, fajitas & moe-ritas!

**Buy one Burrito, Get one FREE!!**

Bring your Kudzu Playhouse program to  
**Moe's Southwest Grill on Mansell Rd.**

( 3/4 mile west of GA 400 on Mansell Rd. In front of Wal-Mart)



2009 Kudzu "Sprouts" Shows 2009

All seats are \$6.00

2008 ~~~~~For children 3 to 9 years old~~~~~2008

*Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs*

*April 2-25, 2009*

*Thursday-Saturday at 11 am*

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs with only three characters? Impossible? Not with this enchanting play. The three characters in the play include Snow White, the wicked Queen and a "stage manager" who at various time becomes the huntsman, the handsome prince and the director for the creative dramatic which are so much a part of the production. The children in the audience take all the additional roles. They become a forest, the dwarfs, and even participate as part of the stage crew in putting together the sets. This is the ultimate in children's theatre because every youthful member of the audience actually becomes part of the play.

*A Chris "MESS" Carol*

*December 2-December 19, 2009*

*Wednesday-Saturday at 11 am*

Chris has the worst temper of any child you have ever seen. All Chris thinks about is "Chris." She is selfish and spoiled and thinks nothing of having temper tantrums. On Christmas Eve she meets four mysterious strangers who help to change her life.

**Shows are always around 1 hour with no intermission and no blackouts and always have audience participation.**

**Reservations strongly suggested for all "Sprouts" shows**

Kudzu Playhouse is looking for an ensemble of actors who can perform during the day for school shows and daytime matinees for the 2009 season.

Call 770-594-1020 or email us at

kudzuplayhouse@aol.com

Kudzu Playhouse needs people to work in the concession stand and take tickets at each show. If you would like to be a volunteer, please call the theatre at 770-594-1020 . We would love to have you be a part of the theatre.

Kudzu Playhouse, Inc. is a non-profit, tax exempt organization. Kudzu Playhouse is a member of the Atlanta Coalition of Performing Arts, Fulton Arts North, The Historic Roswell Convention and Visitors Bureau, Theatre Communication Group and the American Alliance for Theatre in Education.

**We wish to extend our most heartfelt thanks to the many parents, friends and supporters for their hard work and dedication. They have been there with us giving of their time, money and support. Without them, AND YOU, this theatre would not exist.**

**2009 SEASON OF PLAYS  
PLAYS**

**Kudzu Playhouse**

**2009 SEASON OF  
PLAYS**

10743 Alpharetta Highway, Brannon Square, Roswell, Georgia 30076

**Sabrina Fair**

By Bernard Slade

**February 13-March 15, 2009**

Friday and Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 3pm

A man and woman meet by chance at a romantic inn over dinner. Although both are married to others, they find themselves in the same bed the next morning questioning how this could have happened. They agree to meet on the same weekend each year. Each of them always appears on schedule, but as time goes on each has some personal crisis that the other helps them through, often without both of them understanding what is going on. Twenty five years of manners, morals and attitudes are mirrored during these encounters.

**Man of LaMancha**

Written by Dale Wasserman/Music by Mitch Leigh/Lyrics by Joe Darion

April 3-May 3, 2009

Friday and Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 3pm

The epic story of knight-errant Don Quixote, his servant Sancho, and the woman of his dreams, the lovely Aldonza/Dulcinea. The tale—set during the Spanish Inquisition—tells the romantic and noble journey of a knight who sets out to right all wrongs and win the heart of a good woman as he duels windmills along the way. Based on The Adventures of Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes', Man of La Mancha is the classic comic tragedy of man's struggle against all odds to dream impossible dreams.

**Caught on the Hop**

By Derek Benfield

May 22-June 21, 2009

Friday and Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 3pm

When impressionable Phil announces to his good friend George that he has fallen for a girl on the top of a 49 bus, George is not surprised, such affairs have happened and blown over many times before. But he is surprised when he learns that Phil intends to divorce his wife Maggie and go to live with his new girlfriend in the house next door! However, friends being friends, the obliging George is persuaded to lend a helping hand, thus setting in motion the most frenetic confusion of mistaken identities, plotting and counterplotting that ever erupted on a quiet summer's day in the suburbs.

**Mr. Hobbs Vacation**

By Wally and Jeannie Hinds

**July 10-August 9, 2009**

Friday and Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 3pm

Ellie Hobbs plans a summer vacation in Florida over the objections of her husband, Howard, who thinks it will cost too much money. She invites their married daughter to join them along with their 12 and 17 year old daughters. Things began to fall apart the minute they arrive. To complicate matters, they end up with some wacky next-door neighbors and a surprise visit from her sister and her family. Just when poor Howard thinks things couldn't get worse, chaos breaks loose from every direction.

**Don't Mention My Name**

By Fred Carmichael

**August 21-September 20, 2009**

Friday and Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 3pm

An award-winning playwright asks what you would do if you suffered temporary amnesia and stumbled into a bed and breakfast off season only to find you were expected for the week end. The plot becomes more and more hilarious until all questions are answered, including who the hero is and what the crime is with a surprising twist ending. This combination of intriguing laughter, romance and mystery provides a delightful evening.

**I'll Be Back Before Midnight**

By Peter Colley

**October 9-November 8, 2009**

Friday and Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 3pm

Jan, who's recovering from a nervous disorder, and her husband rent a remote cabin from an odd farmer who tells gruesome ghost tales. When the husband's sister arrives, frightening events transpire. What happens to the fragile wife as bodies appear and disappear gives this classic thriller its horrifying impact. A first rate thriller and a wonderfully spooky ghost story.

**A Christmas Carol**

By Wally Hinds

**November 27-December 24, 2009**

Thursday, December 4, 11 & 18 at 8pm  
Saturday, December 6, 13 & 20 at 2:30pm  
Sunday December 7, 14 & 21 at 2:30pm  
Tuesday, Dec 23 at 8pm & Wednesday, Dec 24 at 2:30pm

Charles Dickens shows us Ebenezer Scrooge as he falls asleep in his dingy, cold quarters on Christmas Eve. The old miser is visited by three ghosts, each revealing to Scrooge the wrong doings of his and what will happen if he continues in his evil ways. This traditional holiday classic for the whole family is filled with old English Christmas Carols guaranteed to fill you with the Christmas spirit and warm your heart.

~~~SEASON TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW~~~

**2009 Winter classes!!**

**Acting and Improv**

(ages: 6-9)

Instructor: J. J. Swann

Tuesday

Jan 13-Mar 17 (10 weeks)

5:00-6:00pm

\$170.00

**Acting&Improv Stage/Screen**

(ages: 10-14)

Instructor: J. J. Swann

Tuesday

Jan 13-Mar 31 (12 weeks)

6:00-7:00pm

\$200.00

**Playwriting**

(ages: 11-15)

Instructor: Cathy Ray

Wednesday

Jan 14-Mar 4 (8 weeks)

5:00-7:00pm

\$220.00

**Technical Theatre**

(ages: 13 thru adult)

Instructor: David Shelton

Thursday

Jan 15-Feb 19 (6 weeks)

5:00-7:00pm

\$185.00

**Speech For the Stage**

(ages: Intergenerational 6-99)

Instructor: Mary Sittler

Saturday

Jan 24 (2 hours)

3:00-5:00pm

\$45.00

**Speech For the Stage**

(ages: Intergenerational 6-99)

Instructor: Mary Sittler

Saturday

Jan 31 (2 hours)

3:00-5:00pm

\$45.00

\$85.00 for both Classes

**Home School Daytime Weekday Classes**

**Drama Classes**

(ages 6-10)

Instructor: Leslie Kelley

Tuesday

Jan 13-Mar 17 (10 weeks)

1:00-2:00pm

\$170.00

**Playwriting**

(ages: 11-15)

Instructor: Cathy Ray

Wednesday

Jan 14-Mar 4 (8 weeks)

2:00-4:00pm

\$220.00

See website for more details and bios on all Instructors

[www.kudzuplayhouse.org](http://www.kudzuplayhouse.org)

All of the Fall Classes will be at 10743 Alpharetta Highway in the Brannon Square Shopping Center

**Kudzu Wants YOU!!!**

COSTUMES.....PROPS.....STAGE MANAGING....TECNICAL.....SET BUILDING  
ANSWERING THE PHONES.....PUBLICITY.....MARKETING.....DIRECTING  
ACTING....FUNDRAISING....PAINTING....CONCESSIONS...TAKING TICKETS  
CLEANING OUT THE BACKSTAGE.....PACKING BOXES.....ETC.....ETC

If you can wield a hammer or a paintbrush, or climb a ladder to hang a light; or if you know which end of a drill holds the bit, or how to run lights or sound or be a stage manager; or if you can help with set dressing , or hunt for props, or hem a skirt, or be a crew member; or man the concession stand, or if you would like to learn to do any of these things.....

Call Jeannie Hinds or Suzanne Clark at **770-594-1020**, It's a great way to meet and have fun with new people, and you may find that the world of community theatre is right up your alley.

Volunteer forms are available in the lobby

**2009**

**Kudzu Kidz**

**2009**

**Summer Drama Camps**

For information or to register for these classes, call **770-594-1020**.

**Ages 6-10** June 1, June 15, July 6, and 20

**Ages 10-14** June 8, June 22, July 13 and July 27

Through creative dramatics, theatre games, character development, improvisational scenes and simple scripts written by the students or developed from popular tales, the students will learn about playing different characters and memorization. A final stage performance for family and friends concludes the creative drama class.

The cost is \$200.00 per camper for 1 week, Monday –Friday, 10 am-3 pm

The class will be limited to 20 students

To hold a space a \$50.00 non-refundable deposit (Toward camp fee) is required.

**770-594-1020**

**A LITTLE DRAMA NEVER HURT ANYONE!!!**

**OUR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE**

Children who participate in the arts learn skills they will value throughout their lives, in school, in work and in play. In addition to developing artistic skills, they learn creative thinking, communication, and they have a chance to practice cooperation, teamwork and self-motivation. This balanced approach encourages children to develop their unique talents and fosters self-confidence.

**Classes and Camps and Theatre Tickets,  
(from one to a whole season)  
make great gifts!**

It has gotten so expensive to mail information! We are developing an email list so that we can send announcements when shows are going to open and when we have information to pass along. We will never sell or share your email address. Please let us know if you want to be on our list.

**kudzuplayhouse@aol.com**



**2009**

**Kudzu Family Playhouse**

**2009**

10743 Alpharetta Highway, Brannon Square, Roswell, Ga. 30076

**The Adventures of Nate the Great**

Based on the book by Marjorie Weinman Sharnat and Adapted by Pamela Sterling

January 10-February 8, 2009 Saturday and Sunday at 2pm Saturday January 31 & February 7 at 7:00pm  
Nate the Great is the sharpest kid detective ever to solve his neighborhood's mysteries. With his faithful dog, Sludge, and his friends, he solves important cases, always remembering to leave a note for his mother and to wear his galoshes.

**The Secret Garden**

Based on the book by Frances Hodgson Burnett

February 28-March 29, 2009 Saturday and Sunday at 2pm Saturday, March 21 & 28 at 7:00pm  
This joyous story about the blossoming of the earth and the human spirit is a garden of delight for the imagination. An orphaned 11-year-old girl finds wonder, friendship and redemption in an abandoned secret garden on her reclusive uncle's Yorkshire estate.

**Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business**

Based on the book by Barbara Park/Adaptation, Music and Lyrics by Joan Cushing

April 18-May 17, 2009 Saturday and Sunday at 2pm Saturday, May 9 & 16 at 7:00pm  
*Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business* follows a strong-willed six-year-old girl through her feelings of frustration at having a baby brother on the way. When Junie B. hears her Grandma refer to her newly-arrived brother as the "cutest little monkey" ever, she can't wait to tell her friends that she will have the best show-and-tell in class - a real live monkey!

**The Princess and the Pea**

Based on the Hans Christian Andersen tale by Wally Hinds

June 4-27, 2009 Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 11am

A long time ago, there lived a prince who was looking for someone very special to marry. Although the handsome prince meets ladies blessed with beauty, wealth, and brains, he knows in his heart that none is the true princess he longs for. Then he meets a young woman he likes very much. Could she be his queen? One tiny pea buried underneath twenty soft mattresses might reveal the truth...

**Cinderella**

Based on the Screenplay by Ken Anderson and Homer Brightman, Music and Lyrics by Mack David, Al Hoffman and Jerry Livingston

July 9-August 1, 2009 Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 11am

When Cinderella's cruel stepmother prevents her from attending the Royal Ball, she gets some unexpected help from her Fairy Godmother.

**The Ransom of Red Chief**

Adapted from the book by O'Henry

August 22-September 20, 2009 Saturday and Sunday at 2pm Saturday, September 12 & 19 at 7:00pm  
This is a hilarious tale of the kidnapped boy, Red, know as Red Chief, who is known as such a holy terror that the question soon becomes: Will Red's uncle pay to get him back or will the kidnappers have to pay to get rid of him.

**A Year With Frog and Toad**

Based on the book by Arnold Lobel/Lyrics by Willie Reale/Music by Robert Reale

October 10-November 8, 2009 Saturday and Sunday at 2pm Saturday, October 31 and November 7 at 7:00pm  
*A Year With Frog And Toad* remains true to the spirit of the original stories as it follows two great friends, the cheerful and popular Frog and the rather grumpy Toad through four fun-filled seasons. Waking from hibernation in the spring, they proceed to plant gardens, swim, rake leaves and go sledding, learning life lessons along the way, including a most important one about friendship and rejoicing in the attributes that make each of us different and special.

**The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**

By Barbara Robinson

November 28-December 24, 2009 Saturday and Sunday at 2pm Saturday, December 5, 12 & 19 at 7:00pm  
Tuesday, December 22 and Wednesday, December 23 at 7:00pm  
Thursday, December 24, (Christmas Eve) at 2pm

In this hilarious Christmas tale, a couple struggling to put on a church pageant is faced with casting the Herdman kids, probably the most inventively awful kids in history. You won't believe the mayhem and the fun, when the Herdmans collide with the Christmas story head-on. An American Classic! One of the best Christmas stories ever and certainly one of the funniest! This delightful comedy is adapted from the best selling book.

**~~~SEASON TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW~~~**

# Kudzu Playhouse Contributors 2006-

## ANGELS

\$2500-5000+

Donald and Kathleen Boyce  
Kathy and Rial Ellsworth  
Wally and Jeannie Hinds  
Lisa and Mark Kopkin  
Dorothy Sykes  
Lane Teilhaber

## BENEFACTORS

\$1000-2499

Chris and Patti Arapoglou  
Greg Fitzgerald  
Jerry Harlow and family  
Martha Kennedy

## DONORS

\$500-999

Anonymous  
Turpin and Cindy Nolan Ballard  
Bronwyn Glantzberg  
Don and Ellen Keel  
Jan and Earl Kramer  
Chris and Barry Rooker

## PATRONS

\$100-499

Ron Barnett  
Hugh Chapman  
CSI  
Chip Decker  
Melissa Estess  
Deborah Fry  
Kenneth and Susan Goldman

Harold and Jeanne Henry

Todd and Denise Jones

Leslie Kelley

Mary Kingsley

Richard and Marlene Kraich

Mary and David Maxwell

Amy McCracken

Barbara McFann

Brink and Sandy Miller

Moms Club of Roswell

Pat Murphy

Paul and Vickie Olson

Michael and Linda Rush

Kathy Simmons

## FRIENDS

\$1-99

Kathleen Baker  
Liz Bigler  
William and Ursula Cook  
Creek View Elementary School  
Jay Croft  
Rosa De-Kelly  
Sally Henry  
Susan Higgins  
Patricia Minor  
Joseph and Sally Mrus  
Olin and Erica Piffer  
Daniel and Sylvia Rossman  
Bob Smith  
Kate Whitlock

If you have been left off this list  
please let us know

**KAITLIN MARTIN** (*Stage Manager*) Kaitlin Martin is a senior at Northview High School in Duluth. She has stage managed countless shows including most recently, *Patient A*, *Anything Goes*, and *Lend Me a Tenor*. She loved working with this cast and hopes that everyone will enjoy the show.

**MOLLY MITCHELL** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) Molly Mitchell is a senior at Northview High School and is thrilled to be apart of her very first Kudzu show. She has most recently worked tech for *The Man Who Came To Dinner*, *Patient A* and *Match Maker*. She hopes you enjoy the show. Die Sonne scheint noch!

**JOEY CRAFCHICK** (*Board Operator*)

**ALEX CANTY** (*Board Operator*)



## Kudzu Playhouse

Kudzu Playhouse is proud to be a member of the  
Atlanta Coalition for the Performing Arts



## Chick-fil-A at Roswell Town Center

is proud to support The Kudzu Playhouse.

**We congratulate you on your success in our Roswell Community!**

**Jim Waddle, Operator**

**Chick-fil-A at Roswell Town Center**

**(corner of Holcomb Bridge and Alpharetta Hwy)**

**604 Holcomb Bridge Road**

**770-641-8436**

order online [www.chick-fil-a.com/roswelltowncenter](http://www.chick-fil-a.com/roswelltowncenter)

**Thank you for your patronage at Kudzu Playhouse**

**TAYLOR MANIGOULT** (*Angel Choir*) Taylor Manigoult is an eighth-grader at River Trail Middle School and loves to act and sing. This is Taylor's first appearance in a Kudzu play and she is glad to be a part of this production.

**TARA ALEXANDER** (*Baby Angel Choir*) Four year old Tara Alexander has been singing ever since she could speak! She is so excited to share her singing with you today.

**EMILY LYNCH** (*U/S Beth and Maxine/Angel Choir*) This is Emily's first show at Kudzu Playhouse but she hopes to audition for many more once *Christmas Pageant* ends because she loves acting, and hanging out and working with the cast. She wants to thank everyone at Kudzu for giving her this opportunity, her best friends Lauren and Megan for encouraging her and telling her to get over her stage fright and be on stage where she belongs, and her parents for driving her to all of her rehearsals. She hopes you enjoy the show!

**SARAH HUNT** (*U/S Imogene/Angel Choir*) Sarah Hunt is very excited to be back at Kudzu again and to be playing the role as the U/S for Imogene Herdman. This is Sarah's third play at Kudzu and she loves every minute that she performs at this playhouse. Sarah's first role at Kudzu was in the *Ugly Duckling* and her second was in *Stuart Little*. Sarah is ten years old and she started singing and performing when she was four years old. It is Sarah's dream to continue to act and to someday perform and sing on Broadway. Sarah has really enjoyed spending time with all of the cast and Mrs. Keel.

#### PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

**ELLEN KEEL** (*Director*) Ellen is so excited to have the honor of directing one of Kudzu's Christmas traditions, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Having been involved in theater since she was a child, Ellen has worked as an actor, a dancer, a singer, a stage hand, a stage manager and even worked tech, but has never had the opportunity to direct something so BIG! She thanks Wally and Jeannie for the opportunity and sincerely hopes she and her cast will "do them proud." Ellen wishes to thank her wonderful husband, Don, for encouraging her to follow this dream; her fabulous older daughters, Morgan and Katie; for tending to the baby and helping with the countless other things which have kept the house running; Bryan, for stepping up when she was desperate for just "one more boy" (it's REALLY hard to work for your own mom!); David, for his patience and extraordinary technical and design skills (and the impromptu babysitting); Kaitlin, for stepping up to this job, even though she's a senior who NEVER sleeps; her parents, for putting up with the late meals and box meals and, well, they know; and her precious daughter, Fallon, for being such a sweet and adaptable baby. Thank you, also, to the truly fantastic cast and crew for all your hard work and sense of humor. Ellen so hopes you will all enjoy the show and carry its message with you in your hearts the whole year through. "Unto YOU a child is born!"

**DAVID SHELTON** (*Assistant Director/Set Design/Lighting Design/U/S Reverend Hopkins*) This is normally the spot where I'd go on and on about myself (as is normal for a bio), but instead, I'd just like to thank everyone in the cast and crew, parents who'd spent time (and gas money) to bring their kids to rehearsals, and you as an audience to watch this wonderful story. Happy holidays, whatever holidays you may celebrate.

# Kudzu Playhouse Staff

**Managing Director**

**Artistic Director**

**Artistic Director of Kudzu Sprouts**

**Assistant Technical Director**

**Box Office Manager**

**Web Host**

**Web Master**

**Volunteer Coordinator**

**Drama Teacher s**

**Outreach Drama Teacher**

**Adult Acting**

**Summer Camp Lead Counselors**

**Junior Camp Counselors**

**Friends of Kudzu Secretary**

**Marketing Committee Chairman**

**Donations**

**Costume Team Leaders**

**Kudzu Hostess Team Leaders**

**Jeannie Hinds**

**Wally Hinds**

**Leslie Kelley**

**David Shelton**

**Suzanne Clark**

**Snapper Morgan**

**Rial Ellsworth**

**David Shelton**

**J.J. Swann, David Shelton, Mary Sittler and Cathy Ray**

**Leslie Kelley**

**Adriana Warner**

**David Olson, Karen Rooker and Lindsay Olson**

**Mitchell Miller, Caleb**

**McCracken and**

**Kimberly Maxwell**

**Marlene Kraich**

**Robin Goodfellow**

**Chip Decker**

**Sheri McGuinness**

**Kathryn Fortson**

**Jan Kramer**

**Mary Ritenour**

**Geri Goodfellow**

**Mary Maxwell**

**Karen Rooker**

**Linda Niles**

**Margarita Moldovan**

## Other Holiday Performances at Kudzu Playhouse

### *A Christmas Carol*

#### Kudzu Playhouse-Stage 1

Adapted by Wally Hinds

**November 28-December 24, 2008**

Every Friday and Saturday at 8pm  
Thursday, December 4, 11, & 18 at 8pm  
Saturday, December 6, 13 & 20 at 3:00pm  
Sunday, December 7, 14 & 21 at 3:00pm  
Tuesday, December 21 at 8pm  
Wednesday, December 24 at 3:00pm



Charles Dickens shows us Ebenezer Scrooge as he falls asleep in his dingy, cold quarters on Christmas Eve. The old miser is visited by three ghosts, each revealing to Scrooge the wrong doings of his and what will happen if he continues in his evil ways. This traditional holiday classic for the whole family is filled with old English Christmas Carols guaranteed to fill you with the Christmas Spirit and warm your heart.

### *A Chris MESS Carol*

#### Kudzu Sprouts Playhouse-Stage 2

By Wally Hinds

**December 3-December 20, 2008**

Wednesday-Saturday at 11 am

Chris has the worst temper of any child you have ever seen. All Chris thinks about is "Chris." She is selfish and spoiled and thinks nothing of having temper tantrums. On Christmas Eve she meets four mysterious strangers who help to change her life.

## Kudzu Mission

Kudzu Playhouse is a metro-Atlanta community theatre located in Roswell, Georgia. Kudzu Playhouse is a community theatre in the truest sense and its mission is to provide cultural and educational enrichment for the whole family through entertaining and educational theatrical performances and through dramatic instruction. The theatre maintains its commitment to the community to provide excellent theatrical productions and to enrich and create community involvement by providing opportunities for theatrical participation (technically and artistically) for individuals at all levels of experience and ages.

nally, Mary Beth is grateful to be in this particular play because it reminds us of "the reason for the season!" Merry Christmas!

**KRISTEN RYALS** (*Mrs. Vera Slocum*) Kristen is originally from Hamden, Connecticut. After graduating from Hampton University and Howard University she lived in the Washington D.C. area for eight years. Kristen moved to Alpharetta in 1998. She and her husband have five children and they reside in Milton. This is Kristen's debut theater performance.

**MICHAEL BARNESLEY** (*Reverend Hopkins*) Michael is very excited to be in this production. Previously he was soldier #3 in *Cyrano de Bergerac* at the Oxford Playhouse (1965). He was also a character in an existentialist play, in which he turned into a hippopotamus, and a dishonest female in an Agatha Christie mystery.

**DAVID SHELTON** (*Reverend Hopkins*) See Production bios.

**CARSON MISTR** (*Elmer Hopkins*)

**JUSTIN RYALS** (*Hobie*) Justin is a third grader at Summit Hill Elementary School. After attending a week long summer theater camp and attending theater class with the Kudzu Playhouse he was bitten by the bug. This is Justin's debut theater performance.

**BRYAN KEEL** (*David*) Bryan is a seven year old second grader at Shakerag Elementary. This is Bryan's seventh production at Kudzu where he most recently had the honor of playing *Fudge* in *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*. Bryan isn't actually supposed to be in this show since he is also performing in the classic *A Christmas Carol*, but was kind enough to answer the call when his mom begged for "one more boy!" When Bryan isn't at Kudzu, he likes to swim, play basketball and the Wii, read, and is becoming a pretty fair writer. He wishes to thank his family for their love and support and God for his talents. He hopes you truly enjoy the show!

**KIMBERLY CALDWELL** (*Maxine*) Kimberly is a sophomore at Centennial High School where she has performed in Dinner Theatre 2008. She has also taken many acting classes and singing lessons with the Atlanta Workshop Players. This is her first show at Kudzu and she is happy that Kudzu has given her this opportunity, and hopes you enjoy it as much as she has. Kimberly would like to give a special thanks to Mrs. Keel, and David for being so amazing! And to her wonderful parents, Reagan, and everyone who helped to make this production possible! Enjoy the show!

**JENNELLE LAVOY** (*Beverly/Baby Angel Choir*) This is Jennelle's first performance on the Kudzu stage. She loves to sing and hopes one day to be a star. THANK YOU! to all the directors for their time and energy. ENJOY!!!

**NINA BLUM** (*Shirley/Baby Angel Choir*) Nina Blum is making her acting debut at Kudzu Playhouse as Shirley, one of the baby angels. She is having a great time with the other actors and is especially excited that her friend Jennelle is in the cast. Nina also wants to thank Mrs. Keel for being such a great director. Enjoy the show!

**TAI ALEXANDER** (*Baby Angel Choir*) Tai Alexander is new to the Kudzu family as this is her first appearance in a Kudzu play but she has always loved to act. Tai is a second grader at Shakerag Elementary and is looking forward to performing in more Kudzu plays!

loves every minute she spends here. This is India's third play at Kudzu – she was previously in *Charlotte's Web* and *Sarah, Plain and Tall*. India would like to thank her parents for supporting her, her sister for pushing her to start auditioning and her little brother for not coloring on her script this time. She hopes you enjoy the show!

**MIRANDA FLACK** (*Claude Herdman*) Miranda Flack is happy to be in another Kudzu play. This is only her third, but she already feels like a veteran. Miranda is in the eighth grade at Holcomb Bridge Middle School. She enjoys singing, horseback riding, dancing, reading, writing, and animals. This is not her first time acting as a boy, and she's pretty good at it. She'd like to thank her whole family for driving her and being in the play, Ellen and David for their hard work, and you, for coming to see the show.

**LYDA ADAMS** (*Ollie Herdman*) Lyda is a fifth grader at Alpharetta Elementary and also a Girl Scout. She loves acting and being part of the Kudzu family. This is her fourth Kudzu play – you may have seen her in *Ramona Quimby*, *Charlotte's Web* and *Sarah, Plain and Tall*. Lyda would like to thank her parents for supporting her, her sister for running lines with her, and her little brother for not complaining about the rides back and forth to rehearsals (thank goodness for Leapster). She hopes you enjoy the show!

**CLEE ALEXANDER** (*Gladys Herdman*) Clee is a nine year-old fourth grader who has been seen in over a dozen shows at Kudzu. She is excited to be performing in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* this year. While she misses her friends in the other two Kudzu Christmas shows, she has had a wonderful time with this fabulous cast and crew. She sends special thanks to Mrs. Keel and of course Wally and Jeannie, and to her family for all their support. Merry Christmas to all!

**ROSE BARNESLEY** (*Alice Wendleken*) Rose was very excited to be selected for the part of Alice in this Pageant. She has previously been featured in performances of *Alice Through the Looking Glass* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

**JENNA HUNT** (*Alice Wendleken*) Jenna is a sophomore at North Springs Charter School. This is her sixth play at Kudzu. She is very excited to be in this play mostly because she is Jewish and has always wanted to decorate a Christmas tree. She would like to thank her family for taking her to rehearsals and helping her memorize her lines and her wonderful director and cast for their hard work. She hopes you enjoy the show. Merry Christmas!

**NANCY BLUM** (*Mrs. Helen Armstrong*) Nancy was last seen at Kudzu as Edith Zuckerman in the May 2008 production of *Charlotte's Web* and is thrilled to be back playing the town busybody who doesn't think the Christmas pageant can go on if she is not up and around to "run things". She is especially excited to be in a play with her daughter, Nina, who is making her Kudzu debut in this show. Happy Holidays & enjoy the show!

**MARYBETH PETTIT** (*Mrs. Irma McCarthy*) Mary Beth is thrilled to be in her second Kudzu performance. She is very glad to be sharing this experience with her very talented daughter, Bridget. She would like to thank her daughter, Jamie, for sharing her enthusiasm about theater and her husband, Jim, for his inspiration regarding developing "the backstory"! She would like to extend a special thank you and kudos to the director, Ellen Keel, for the magnificent job she has done in her directing debut. Her clear vision, sense of humor and patience has made this a memorable experience. Fi-

## Director's Notes –

Christmas has always been a very big deal around my house. Growing up military, I watched my mother collect Christmas decorations from around the world. Each year, it took several days to put out all the decorations according to a carefully planned grid and my father and I spent many hours carefully securing each and every one of the 750 lights on the tree, then hanging hundreds of ornaments, before finally hanging each individual strand of tinsel. Visitors were always amazed at the richly beautiful effect, as was I. I'd love to say all of this kept me focused on the true meaning of Christmas, but of course, in spite of my parent's best efforts, it did not. It usually took the traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service, with it's pageant of children and all the carols, to bring my focus back to where it really belonged. With the current retail habit of marketing Christmas from September on, it is even easier to believe that Christmas is about decorations and acquiring "more stuff." This story is about what happens when we're forced to refocus. It's about what happens when we have to stop and examine the "why" we celebrate instead of focusing on the "how we've always done it" part. And it's certainly about taking a good, hard look at ourselves and being able to keep our sense of humor no matter what we see there. I do hope we will make you laugh, but it won't hurt my feelings at all if you shed a tear or two, too. Thank you so much for coming and Merry Christmas! Thank you's from the production team go out to all the parents and siblings, family and friends, who helped with transportation, running lines, cleaning the theater, decorating, picking up meals, repairing and making costumes, working concessions and ticket taking. These shows cannot succeed without you and you are appreciated! Special thanks to Catherine Caldwell and Bill and Fleata Little for the donation of lovely decorations and MaryBeth Pettit for arranging between show meals.

Ellen

## Wish list: Picnic Tables,

Paper (regular white and card stock for printing), **Volunteers**, vintage clothing, unique costume items, **volunteers**, small tables, chairs, wooden chairs, **volunteers**, stools, pictures, mirrors, children's dress up hat and Halloween costumes (especially fairy tale costumes for our classes and camps) table cloths, curtains, silk flowers & greenery (especially trees), odd or unusual furniture pieces, **Corporate Sponsors**, **Grant Writers** and oh yeah: **volunteers!**

# Kudzu Family Playhouse

Managing Director  
JEANNIE HINDS

Managing Artistic Director  
WALLY HINDS

Presents

## The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Directed by **Ellen Keel**

Written by **Barbara Robinson**

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR..... David Shelton  
STAGE MANAGER..... Kaitlin Martin  
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER..... Molly Mitchell  
BOARD OPERATOR .....Joey Crafchick, Alex Canty  
SET CONSTRUCTION .....David Shelton, Amie Kroessig, Ellen and Don Keel

No Flash Photography, Video, or Sound Recording devices are permitted in the theatre. For the convenience and comfort of all patrons, please turn off cell phones and pagers during the performance.

### Cast

Father, Bob Bradley ..... Wes Flack  
Father, Bob Bradley ..... Scott Kale  
Mother, Grace Bradley..... Carla Flack  
Beth Bradley..... Nicole Grecco  
Charley Bradley ..... Henry Flack  
Ralph Herdman ..... Colton Medlin  
Imogene Herdman .....Bridget Pettit  
Leroy Herdman.....India Adams  
Claude Herdman..... Miranda Flack  
Ollie Herdman ..... Lyda Adams  
Gladys Herdman .....Clee Alexander  
Alice Wendleken ..... Rose Barnsley  
Alice Wendleken ..... Jenna Hunt  
Mrs. Helen Armstrong .....Nancy Blum  
Mrs. Irma McCarthy ..... MaryBeth Pettit  
Mrs. Vera Slocum ..... Kristen Ryals  
Reverend Hopkins..... Michael Barnsley  
Reverend Hopkins .....David Shelton  
Elmer Hopkins ..... Carson Mistr  
Hobie..... Justin Ryals  
David..... Bryan Keel  
Maxine ..... Kimberly Caldwell  
Beverly ..... Jennelle Lavoy  
Baby Angel Shirley ..... Nina Blum  
Baby Angel Jasmine..... Tai Alexander  
U/S Beth and Maxine..... Emily Lynch  
U/S Imogene ..... Sarah Hunt

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, of New Orleans, Louisiana

Act 1 — Preparation for the Pageant

Act 2 — The Christmas Pageant

### WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST AND CREW IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER

**WES FLACK** (*Father, Bob Bradley*) Wes Flack's true calling was to be a race car driver, not an actor. Still, he is a man of many diversified talents. He humbly requests that you sit back, relax, and let the theatre experience flow through you.

**SCOTT KALE** (*Father, Bob Bradley*) This is Scott Kale's third performance at the Kudzu Playhouse. He recently had the privilege of performing as Jacob Whitting in *Sarah, Plain and Tall*. Scott wants to thank the wonderful patrons of Kudzu Playhouse for their continued support of this community theater. He also wants to thank his wife, Laury, for allowing him the time to fulfill his passion for acting. He hopes you enjoy the show!

**CARLA FLACK** (*Mother, Grace Bradley*) This is Carla's second play. She discovered acting late in life and is having a ball. She is very thankful for the supportive environment at the Kudzu Playhouse and she hopes that you enjoy the show.

**HENRY FLACK** (*Charley Bradley*) Henry Flack is very excited to be in his third show at the Kudzu Playhouse. He has recently been in *The Little Mermaid* and *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*. He would like to say thanks to his entire family for being in this play with him.

**NICOLE GRECCO** (*Beth Bradley*) Nicole Grecco is excited play the role of Beth and hopes you enjoy the play. She's previously had roles in *Bugsy Malone Jr.*, *Charlotte's Web* and *Willy Wonka* at River Trail Middle School. She takes voice lessons and attends acting camps. She's met many new friends at the Kudzu Playhouse and hopes to be in future productions. She thanks Ellen Keel, Kaitlin Martin, David Shelton and her family for all their encouragement and support.

**COLTON MEDLIN** (*Ralph Herdman*) Colton Medlin has been acting for a little over a year. He has enjoyed roles such as Avery Arable in *Charlotte's Web*, and Peter Hatcher in *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*. Colton is also a proud member of the Milton Improv Troupe. When not acting he enjoys playing tennis and the guitar. Colton would like to thank his mom, dad and brother for driving him to all the rehearsals. He would also like to thank his awesome directors (Mrs. Keel and David) and his cast for putting up with him and finally, he would like to thank you for coming to the show.

**BRIDGET PETTIT** (*Imogene Herdman*) Bridget is so thankful for this role and is grateful for the experiences it has brought her. She has been in many CYT Atlanta shows as well as performing at her school, Northview High. She would like to thank the cast for being the best theatre family she could think of. Bridget would also like to thank Mrs. Keel, David, and Kaitlin for making this show the best it could be. Hey! Unto you a child is born!

**INDIA ADAMS** (*Leroy Herdman*) India is in eighth grade at Northwestern Middle School, where she plays the trumpet. She thinks of Kudzu as her second home and