



DEBBIE MACOMBER'S

a Gift to
remember

ADAPTED BY JOSEPH ROBINETTE

Based on the book *Can This Be Christmas?* by Debbie Macomber

PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY OF WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS

MASKS ARE REQUIRED FOR ENTRY REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS.

All masks must completely cover the nose and mouth and comply with the CDC guidelines for acceptable face coverings.





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Based on the book *Can This Be Christmas?* by Debbie Macomber

DIRECTOR	<i>Lois Heagy</i>
STAGE MANAGER	<i>Pat Roth</i>
PRODUCER	<i>Lauren Schuman</i>
CREW CHIEF	<i>Becky Jenkins</i>
SET DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION	<i>Carlton Hoke</i> <i>Jeff Miller</i>
LIGHTING DESIGN	<i>Jim Bluto Fisher</i>
LIGHTING TECH	<i>Mike Toth</i>
SOUND DESIGN	<i>Lindy Mack</i>

SPECIAL THANKS

Deb Stegall for the Navy Uniform; Fr. William Alford for the Boston Red Sox Uniform; Rachel Koppenhaver and David Maletz for the GREAT wall phones (Yes both of the phones do work!), Eddie Costik

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PRODUCTION NOTES

I am addicted to Hallmark movies.

Oh yes, I am very much aware of the stereotypes and the plot formulas of a hard working girl from the big city who finds love in an unexpected place. But isn't that part of the obsession? The knowledge that all will be well at the end of the 90 minutes. There is comfort in that. And hallmark doesn't have the copyright on predictability. Pick any rom com. Or a Christmas movie. Someone has forgotten the true meaning of the holiday season. And they must remember it- either by finding themselves home alone without their family, being visited by a wingless angel while hanging out on a bridge, or being visited in the night by three ghosts.

I would dare to compare the last couple of holiday seasons to the plot of any of these movies: 2019 was status quo, business as usual, 2020 is the unwelcome twist, the part where we see what an alternate life would be like. Now we are moving toward the next act-- a hybrid of the familiar and new, based on the lessons and experiences we have had.

Our Playhouse has reopened, but we've learned some lessons and are eager to try some new things. We are excited to have some of you returning and some of you meeting for the first time.

While I hope you enjoy a Gift to Remember, I also hope that the best things you do remember aren't gifts.

**JENNIFER FELDSER,
BOARD CHAIR**

Across the range of diverse experiences and traditions that have been written into our Nation's story, family and friends have remained a steadfast and common foundation. Every day, each offers comfort and support to one another with enduring and unconditional love and they contribute to their communities and our country. This is something you will come to see during the play.

Len Dawber, a navy man stationed in Maine, is desperate to get home to Texas, where he intends to propose to his sweetheart Amy. Cathy Norris, devastated by her husband's recent death, doesn't expect to enjoy the holiday with her daughter's family in Boston. Burned-out computer salesman Matt McHugh, emotionally estranged from his wife and two kids, nurses his resentment and contemplates divorce. Kelly and Nick Berry fear they're losing the closeness they once shared as they struggle to adjust to their new roles as adoptive parents. When a blizzard forces these characters, and several others, to spend the night before Christmas together, they find that a little kindness and the courage to open their hearts go a long way toward making it a Christmas Gift to remember.

I believe this cast, with all its challenges, has grown together as a family of friends to bring this story to you today. Blessings of the season on all of you and enjoy the show.

**LOIS HEAGY,
DIRECTOR**

CAST

MADELINE	<i>Teresa Heagy</i>
LOUISE LARSEN	<i>Liz Alger</i>
KATE JONES	<i>Daisy Musser</i>
DEANNA OWEN	<i>Rachel Koppenhaver</i>
MATT MCHUGH	<i>Jonathan Morgan</i>
NICK BERRY	<i>Devin Varner</i>
CHOIR MEMBER	<i>Sybil Stambaugh</i>
AMY	<i>Hailey Lockner</i>
PAM MCHUGH/CHOIR MEMBER	<i>Deb Stegall</i>
KEMPER	<i>Colleen Mullikin</i>
CATHY NORRIS	<i>Sunshine Rishel</i>
KELLY BERRY	<i>Maria Albani-Cook</i>
CHOIR MEMBER	<i>Deborah Santiago</i>
ELISE JONES	<i>Charlotte Staver</i>
SAM LARSEN	<i>John Switaj</i>
LEN DAWBER	<i>Nolen Petrosky</i>

SETTING

All action takes place inside the 100-year-old train station in Abbott, New Hampshire.

It is Christmas Eve in the early 1990s.

ACT I: Around 5 pm

ACT II: 9:30 pm

CAST



Teresa
Heagy



Liz
Alger



Daisy
Musser



Rachel
Koppenhaver



Jonathan
Morgan



Devin
Varner



Sybil
Stambaugh



Hailey
Lockner



Deb
Stegall



Colleen
Mullikin



Sunshine
Rishel



Maria
Albani-Cook



Deborah
Santiago



Charlotte
Staver



John
Switaj



Nolen
Petrosky

ABOUT THE CAST

MARIA ALBANI-COOK (KELLY BERRY) is so thrilled to be performing at Hershey Area Playhouse during this Christmas season. She has recently performed at Allenberry Playhouse as the Apache dancer/Brother in *Joseph, Jerry's Girls*, and as Doris Walker in *Miracle on 34th Street*. Maria has worked professionally for 20 years along the East coast in a handful of Regional productions. A few favorite credits: Mrs. Baskin in *Big: The Musical*, Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*, Irene Molloy in *Hello Dolly!*, Kim MacAfee in *Bye Bye Birdie* and Taddy Jo in *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. Maria spent 4 years performing at Sight and Sound Theatres where she played the piano and flute in the show *Psalms of David* and the beautiful role of Sarah in the show *Abraham and Sarah*. When she's not on stage you can find her dabbling in commercial work and modeling; landing a Billboard Ad for the 2016 Nascar Food City 500. Maria has also performed the National Anthem for numerous professional sporting events. A huge thank you to her family and kiddos! She couldn't do this without you. Jeremiah 29:11

LIZ ALGER (LOUISE LARSEN) is very pleased to be returning to the stage at Hershey Area Playhouse with such a talented team. Her last role at the Playhouse was Polly Wyeth in the 2017 production of *Other Desert Cities*. Liz's lifelong love of theater began in high school and continued in college with a minor in theater at Bowling Green State University. She appeared in numerous productions at The Harlequins, Ohio's oldest community theater in her hometown of Sandusky. Since retirement in 2017 as an Administrator with WellSpan, she has pursued her passion for travel and hopes to volunteer next year in the Highlands' nature preserves with the Scottish Wildlife Trust

TERESA HEAGY (MADELINE, CHOIR MEMBER) caught the acting bug in grade school, performing for school assemblies and church holidays. She has gone on to perform in shows at LTM, OMP and JCC. Her favorite roles include Nancy (*Oliver*), Nadine (*Dearly Departed*), Fox in Sox and Mayor's Wife (*Seussical*); Children's Chorus and Aristocrat (*Evita*), Jewish Mama (*Fiddler on the Roof*) and Herself (*An Evening with Richard Rodgers*). She has also worked backstage for too many shows to count. She hopes everyone enjoys the show!

RACHEL KOPPENHAVER (DEANNA OWEN) is pleased to be acting again in this heartwarming ensemble production after taking a break from "treading the boards" to stage manage HAP's production of *Dearly Departed*. Merry Christmas to everyone! And the next time you're in town...come and join us at the church!

HAILEY LOCKNER (AMY SUE, CHOIR MEMBER) is thrilled to be back at Hershey Area Playhouse. Hailey lives in Hershey with her boyfriend Rob, and is thankful for the support of her family and friends. Previous credits include: *Matilda the Musical* at Salt Performing Arts (Ensemble) and *The Wolves* at Open Stage of Harrisburg (#8).

JONATHAN MORGAN (MATTHEW MCHUGH) resides in Camp Hill with his wife Dana and their four-legged children. Previous shows at Oyster Mill Playhouse that Jon has been a part of include: - *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Mousetrap*, *Almost Maine*, *An Inspector Calls*, and *Superior Donuts*. Jon also performed at Little Theater Mechanicsburg productions of *Dashing Through the Snow* and *Three Viewings*. Jon would like to thank Lois Heagy for giving him the opportunity to perform at the beautiful Hershey Area Playhouse with such a great cast. Jon would like to thank his wife for her patience and understanding over the past few months leading up to tonight's performance.

COLLEEN MULLIKIN (KEMPER) is excited to be back at the Hershey Playhouse and appreciates the opportunity to perform again after a literal “break.” Having retired in June after 40 years of teaching, 37 of those in Derry Township, she is ready to return to the stage. Some of her favorite roles at the Playhouse include the Reverend Mother in *Nuncrackers*, Widow Paroo in *The Music Man*, Widow Corney in *Oliver*, Aggie in *The Other Woman*, and Mamie in *The Homecoming*. She would like to thank Lois and the cast and crew for their support and patience. Just please avoid telling her to “Break a leg!”

DAISY MUSSER (KATE JONES) is an energetic and gregarious young lady currently in 2nd grade. She enjoys playing with her two dogs (Dude and Lady), playing Barbies, crafting, gymnastics, and playing her guitar. A born performer, Daisy is excited to bring her talents to the stage for the first time in this production.

NOLEN PETROSKY (LEN DAWBER) is psyched to be performing in his first show with the Hershey Area Playhouse. He’s appeared in many productions over the years with many different companies including Piercing Word, The Belmont Theatre, Red Accordion Theatre, Cavod Theatre, Servant Stage and Gretna Theatre. He’s had the opportunity to tackle many different roles, some favorites are Buddy in *The Buddy Holly Story*, a member of the company in *All is Calm*, Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance*, and Crutchie in *Newsies*, for which he was awarded the Hershey Theatre Apollo Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Musical. Nolen can also be seen performing this season in Servant Stage’s holiday revue, *Joy to the World*. A sincere thank you to his family, to the cast and crew, and Julius Pepperwood for all that they do for him. Happy Holidays to all and remember Ace’s rules.

SUNSHINE RISHEL (CATHY NORRIS) was last seen as the matriarch Raynelle Turpin in 2019’s *Dearly Departed* at Hershey Area Playhouse, and also performed in the Agatha Christie classic *And Then There Was None* as the ill-fated Doctor Armstrong. She says, “Enjoying working with this fantastic Director again. Cast and crew are great to work with, and I am looking forward to the start of this great show.”

DEBORAH SANTIAGO (CHOIR MEMBER) is happy to return once again to the Playhouse stage. She has been involved in local community theaters as both actor and director for over 20 years. Some of her favorites include *The Sound of Music*, *Annie*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, and *Once Upon A Mattress*. Deb lives in Elizabethtown with her husband, her two daughters, and her cockapoo. Deb would like to thank the director, Lois Heagy, for allowing her to lend her voice to this production. It’s been good working with cast mates old and new!

SYBIL STAMBAUGH (CHOIR MEMBER) is thrilled to bring Christmas cheer to the stranded passengers of the New Hampshire depot. Sybil has enjoyed performing in California with the Shakespeare Revels and Firelite Dinner Theatre. She holds a Masters in Expressive Arts from Lesley University in Boston. In Pennsylvania, she is a storyteller, clog dancer, and folk musician. Daily she enjoys leading drum circles, yoga and producing art with Veterans. Thanks for supporting live theatre.

CHARLOTTE STAVER (ELISE JONES) is delighted to be performing in her first production at the Hershey Area Playhouse with this talented cast. Charlotte's love of theater began in her hometown of Centreville, Maryland, where her first role was as Lady Macbeth in her school's production of *Macbeth*. Her most treasured theater memories also come from her role as Annie in her school's production of *Annie Jr.* Between her career as a Statistician and her roles at home as a mother and wife, this is Charlotte's return to the stage after many years and she is so grateful for the opportunity to perform again. Many thanks to her husband for covering at home and her two sons, Bowen and Shepherd, for their enthusiasm and support so she could take part in evening rehearsals and this wonderful holiday show.

DEB STEGALL (PAM, CHOIR MEMBER) previously appeared in *The Homecoming* in 2019. Previous experience with Harrisburg Christian Performing Arts Center includes *The Addams Family*, *Murder Can Be Deadly*, and *A Christmas Story*. Deb found her way to the theater stage just recently in life and looks forward to pursuing future production opportunities at the Playhouse. When not on stage, she enjoys dancing at Hershey School of Dance and Arts and working at Hershey's Ronald McDonald House®. She would like to thank Director, Lois Heagy for the opportunity to be part of this production and her faithful friends and family for their continuous support to her and the local theater community. Happy Holidays to all!

JOHN S. SWITAJ (SAM LARSON) is performing for the third time with the Hershey Area Playhouse. He had previously appeared as Mr. Gower in *It's A Wonderful Life*, and as Ike Godsey in *The Homecoming*. Needless to say the Christmas shows are one of John's most favorite things. A Christmas shout out to family and friends who have supported him along the way. Merry Christmas. Oh, right. That's his line.

DEVIN VARNER (NICK BERRY) is excited to be making his return to the Hershey Area Playhouse. He was last seen live at the playhouse in the production of *The Homecoming* where he played Clay-Boy Spencer, and on camera for last year's Digital Short Plays (*Wedding Bash*). Devin has also performed with The Stone Arch Players and at the Playhouse at McConnellstown. Devin works as the School Age Teacher at the Learning Mill. When Devin is not on stage he is either reading or spending time with his family. Devin would like to give a special shout out to his two favorite people. "Thank you David and Corey for all of your love and support. You two mean the world to me."

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

2021

December Songs (*digital*)
Some Enchanted Evening
(*digital*)
Rock of Ages
The Lion King Jr.

2020

Love, Lost And What I Wore
Digital Short Plays (*digital*)
A Holiday Card from the
Hershey Area Playhouse (*digital*)

2019

Dearly Departed
The Glass Menagerie
The Little Mermaid
The Mystery Of Edwin Drood
The Homecoming

2018

The Secret Garden
Boeing Boeing
Once Upon A Mattress
Inherit The Wind
A Christmas Carol

2017

Company
Rabbit Hole
Children Of Eden
The Curious Savage
A Christmas Carol
A Charlie Brown Christmas

2016

Godspell
Charley's Aunt
My Name Is Asher Lev
South Pacific
A Weekend Of One Acts
Frankenstein
Miracle On 34th Street

2015

The Fantastics
Lend Me A Tenor
Oliver!
The 39 Steps
It's A Wonderful Life
A Charlie Brown Christmas

2014

25th Annual Putnum County
Spelling Bee
Leading Ladies
Gypsy
And Then There Were None
A Christmas Carol

2013

A Flea In Her Ear
Proof
The Music Man
The Ghost Train
A Christmas Carol

2012

Romeo & Juliet
The Championship Season
Fiddler On The Roof
Greater Tuna
The Littlest Angel

2011

The Importance Of
Being Earnest
The Dining Room
Seussical: The Musical
Anna In The Tropics
The Best Christmas
Pageant Ever

2010

I Love You, You're Perfect,
Now Change
Wit
Hello, Dolly!
Harvey
The Best Christmas
Pageant Ever

2009

Love Letters
The Boys Next Door
The King And I
Wait Until Dark
The Best Christmas
Pageant Ever

2008

The Other Woman
You're A Good Man, Charlie
Brown
Little Shop Of Horrors
The Other Woman
The Mousetrap
The Best Christmas
Pageant Ever

2006-2007

A Christmas Story
The Outlets At Hershey
Our Town
Into The Woods Jr.
The Star-Spangled Girl
The Homecoming

2003-2004

The Fantasticks
Little Women
The Wizard Of Oz

2002-2003

The Crucible
The Guys
The Odd Couple,
Female Version
Annie

2000-2001

Forty Carats
Arsenic And Old Lace
Bye, Bye Birdie

2005-2006

Nuncrackers
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Cinderella

2001-2002

The Man Who Came
To Dinner
On Golden Pond
The Sound Of Music

1999-2000

Barefoot In The Park
Steel Magnolias
A Funny Thing Happened On
The Way To The Forum



THEATRE ACADEMY

WINTER SESSIONS

GRADES 1-3 – BRINGING CHARACTERS TO LIFE!

January 15 to March 5

Saturdays, 9 to 10:30 am

Cost: \$140.00

In this fast-paced and encouraging atmosphere, students will learn how to become characters like—and unlike—themselves. They will work on understanding the physical, vocal and emotional components of a character and how best to express them. These students, whether they have had experience or have never been on a stage before, will have fun with various games and exercises geared for their young ages.

GRADES 4-6 – SAY YES AND...!

January 15 to March 5

Saturdays, 10:30 am to noon

Cost: \$140.00

The focus for this 8-week session is improvisation. The middle grade students will learn the rules of improv and apply them in exercises for individuals, pairs and groups. Actors with little or no experience in theater will learn what Improv is all about. Those with some knowledge of the art of improv will jump right in and explore the possibilities. Teachers will lead the class from simple games and exercises to more detailed and challenging ones, encouraging all students to create different characters along the way—and have fun while doing it.

GRADES 7-12 – SAY YES AND...!

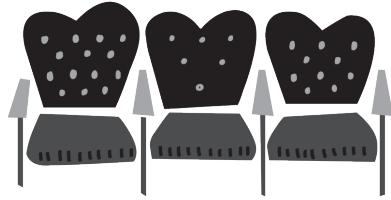
January 15 to March 5

Saturdays, 1 to 3 pm

Cost: \$180.00

The older group of students will also focus on the rules and creativity of improvisation. They will work on games and exercises involving individual work, partners and teams. The basics will be taught and then challenges will be added each Saturday. In addition to the familiar improv exercises, the teachers will introduce theater sports and long form improv scenes.

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PRODUCTION SPONSORSHIPS

Production Sponsors at The Hershey Playhouse are secured for each of the shows held during our season. Production Sponsors have four levels starting at \$1,000 up to \$10,000 and receive a variety of incentives including but not limited to:

- *Recognition in the theatre lobby throughout the season*
- *Yearlong recognition on our website, in playbills, electronic newsletters, promotional materials, press releases, and announcements*
- *Program acknowledgment and advertisement*

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS:

GOLD: \$10,000 and up

SILVER: \$5000-\$9999

BRONZE: \$2500-\$4999

KEYSTONE: \$1000-\$2499



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*For more information about the Hershey Area Playhouse
and a list of former board members, please visit*

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- Welcome gift, tote bag
- Invitation to opening night celebration (one show of your choice)
- Early access to season tickets
- Early access to our Theater Academy camp registration
- 10 raffle tickets to use for the season