



Production and Audition Information for

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever - The Musical

Auditions: Tuesday, September 1, 2026 & Wednesday, September 2, 2026, 5:30-7:30pm

Callbacks: Saturday, September 12, 2026, 10am-4pm

School Time Performances: December 3 & 4, 2026

Public Performances: December 4-6, 2026

Chapman Cultural Center Theater

Director & Choreographer: Mary Thalassinis • **Assistant Director:** Abigail Snow

Music Director: Paula Arnold

The Spartanburg Youth Theatre encourages boys and girls in the 3rd-12th grades of all ethnicities and backgrounds to audition.

Anticipated cast size = 19-24

ALL ROLES ARE AVAILABLE. NO ROLES HAVE BEEN PRECAST.

AVAILABLE ROLES:

Character	Gender	Age	Description
Ralph Herdman	Male	Looks 13	The oldest and coolest. He's the enforcer.
Imogene Herdman	Female	Looks 12	Leader of the Herdmans. She's loud, bossy and crafty.
Leroy Herdman	Male	Looks 11	Ralph's backup. Very confident in the muscle department.
Claude Herdman	Male	Looks 10	Scrappy and smart.
Ollie Herdman	Male	Looks 9	A bit of a naïve urchin who follows the older boys' leads.
Gladys Herdman	Female	Looks 8	Little but fierce. Nothing scares Gladys.
Grace Bradley	Female	Approx. 14-18	Sweet, good-humored, slightly frazzled mom.
Bob Bradley	Male	14-18	Easygoing dad, wry sense of humor.
Charlie Bradley	Male	Looks 10	Typical kid brother, says what he thinks.
Beth Bradley	Female	Looks 11	Charlie's older and wiser sister. She's honest and kind.
Helen Armstrong	Female	Approx. 14-18	Organizes the pageant every year until this year when she breaks her leg; organized steamroller; she's always in charge.
Reverend Hopkins	Male	Approx. 14-18	Occasionally befuddled, always well-meaning.
Luanne	Female	Approx. 14-18	One of the women who helps with the pageant; Sassy, tells it like it is.
Betty	Female	Approx. 14-18	One of the women who helps with the pageant; Sweet southerner, calls everyone "honey."
Connie	Female	Approx. 14-18	One of the women who helps with the pageant; Direct, no-nonsense type.
Alice Wendleken	Female	Looks 11	Know-it-all. She thinks she's perfect.

Elmer Hopkins	Female	Looks 10	Preacher's kid, which means he needs to behave and be nice.
Teddy Shoemaker	Male	Looks 9	Wimpy kid with glasses, asks too many questions.
Ivy Reed	Female	Looks 11	Beth's earnest friend who is sometimes a goody-goody.
Ensemble	Any	8-18	Ensemble will play angels and shepherds in the pageant and possibly other kids in lunchroom.

ENSEMBLE:

5-10 Actors • Any • Age: 8-18 • Will play angels and shepherds in the pageant, and possibly other kids in the lunchroom; Most ensemble members will not have lines but will have plenty of stage time.

UNDERSTUDIES:

Over the years, SYT has recognized the growing need for understudies to support our cast's well-being and vocal health, especially during performance schedules that can include up to four shows in a day. SYT may choose to cast understudies for some productions' more vocally demanding roles. Understudies are the backbone of theatre and will provide more opportunities for actors to learn and be a part of SYT!

Understudies aren't guaranteed a performance and will only go on if the actor in the role becomes unable to perform. Expectations for the actor during their time as an understudy will be clearly communicated at the start of the rehearsal process.

*Please note: The possibility of an understudy should not change an actor's availability for a production. Conflicts during tech and performances are not allowed and will affect casting.

If an actor does not want to be considered for an understudy, they can indicate so on their audition form under the relevant question.

SHOW INFO:

The Herdmans are the worst kids in the history of the world - so when they crash Sunday school and demand parts in the Christmas pageant, the whole town panics. It's up to the Bradleys to help their community see the Christmas story and the Herdman kids through new eyes in this buoyant musical adaptation of the funny and touching holiday classic.

AUDITION DATES & TIME:

Tuesday, September 1, 2026 or Wednesday, September 2, 2026, 5:30pm-7:30pm both nights. You should only audition one of the two nights offered. You may come any time between the 5:30-7:30pm range. Auditionees will be seen in the order their audition form is received. Once an actor has auditioned, they may leave. They do not need to stay for the entire 2-hour timeframe. If you cannot audition on the two offered dates, we *may* be able to accommodate a separate audition date, but we cannot guarantee it. Please [contact us](#) directly.

Save time and fill out your audition form ahead of time. An online audition form will be available on Friday, August 28, 2026 on the "Auditions" page of the website: www.spartanburgyouththeatre.com/auditions. If you fill out your form ahead of time, head straight to the check-in table when you arrive and tell them you filled out your form online. It is not mandatory to fill out your form in advance. You may still fill out the form when you arrive.

CALLBACKS:

A callback list will be posted **by 8:00pm** on *Monday, September 7, 2026* via the auditions page on the SYT website (www.spartanburgyouththeatre.com/auditions).

Callbacks will be ***Saturday, September 12, 2026 from 10am-4pm***. *The date of callbacks is subject to change pending creative team availability. If an actor is unable to attend callbacks, we may be able to accommodate a separate callback date, but we cannot guarantee it. If called back, [contact us](#) and we will see what we can do.*

If an actor must arrive late or leave early, please understand that SYT will do their best to accommodate the conflict but cannot guarantee that they will be able to make sure the actor is seen before they have to leave early or after they've arrived late.

At callbacks, actors will read scenes from the script, learn songs from the show, and learn a short dance combination.

LOCATION:

Chapman Cultural Center, 200 E St John St, Spartanburg, SC 29306

Look for signs directing you where to enter.

PREPARATION:

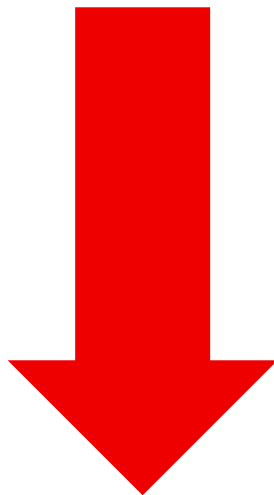
- All auditionees are required to prepare 16-32 bars of a musical theatre song. Actors should bring their own sheet music. An accompanist will be provided. Singing from a music track or singing acapella is *discouraged*.
- Auditionees should choose a song that shows off vocal range, strong acting choices and that is age-appropriate.
- Memorization of your song is *highly encouraged*.
- If you do not have a song, one will be provided for you at auditions. Songs are available ahead of time, one month before auditions, at the Spartanburg Youth Theatre offices in the kiosk at the end of the hallway when you walk down the stairs to our area. You may use one of these songs, or you may use one of your own choosing.
- There will not be a dance call at auditions. Actors will not dance until callbacks (if called back).
- **Bring your schedule to fill-in all of your potential rehearsal conflicts on the audition form—conflicts may NOT be added after casting!**

ANTICIPATED REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

- Rehearsals will occur September 28-December 2, 2026--mainly Monday- Friday (5:30-7:30pm).
- REQUIRED DATES ASIDE FROM REHEARSALS
 - Costume Fittings: **Saturday, November 14, 2026** (specific shift time will be assigned later)
 - Set Build: **Saturday, November 21, 2026 from 12-4pm**
 - If actors are unavailable for Set Build they must make up the hours missed from these days. Makeup hours will be coordinated on a case-by-case basis.
 - Load-in + Adjust to stage rehearsal: **Saturday, November 28, 2026-12:30-7:00pm**
 - If actors are not available for the adjust-to-stage rehearsal, this may significantly affect their likelihood of being cast

- **As of Monday, November 16, 2026, conflicts are highly discouraged. Conflicts during this time frame may prevent an actor from getting cast.**
- The weeks of Nov 9-24, 2026, rehearsals will last from 5:30pm-8:30pm.
- A *preliminary* schedule of planned rehearsal days is listed on the next page. However, *rehearsals are subject to change!*
- Actor conflicts will be allowed within reason but must be listed on the audition form. Conflicts **cannot** be added after casting. *Conflicts may be a deciding factor in casting.*

A preliminary schedule of planned rehearsal days is listed on the next page. Please note, rehearsals are subject to change!



Day	Date	Time	Notes	Conflict	Day	Date	Time	Notes	Conflict
Saturday	12-Sep	12-5pm	Callbacks		Sunday	1-Nov	N/A		
Wednesday	23-Sep	5:30-7:30pm	Cast & Parent Meeting		Monday	2-Nov	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal	
Sunday	27-Sep	N/A			Tuesday	3-Nov	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal	
Monday	28-Sep	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsals Begin		Wednesday	4-Nov	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal	
Tuesday	29-Sep	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Thursday	5-Nov	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal	
Wednesday	30-Sep	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Friday	6-Nov	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal	
Thursday	1-Oct	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Saturday	7-Nov	12-5pm	Rehearsal	
Friday	2-Oct	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Sunday	8-Nov	2-5pm	Only if needed	
Saturday	3-Oct	N/A			Monday	9-Nov	5:30-8:30pm	Rehearsal	
Sunday	4-Oct	N/A			Tuesday	10-Nov	5:30-8:30pm	Rehearsal	
Monday	5-Oct	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Wednesday	11-Nov	5:30-8:30pm	Rehearsal	
Tuesday	6-Oct	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Thursday	12-Nov	5:30-8:30pm	Rehearsal	
Wednesday	7-Oct	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Friday	13-Nov	5:30-8:30pm	Rehearsal	
Thursday	8-Oct	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Saturday	14-Nov	10am-4pm	Costume Fittings	
Friday	9-Oct	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Sunday	15-Nov	2-5pm	Only if needed	
Saturday	10-Oct	N/A			Monday	16-Nov	5:30-8:30pm	Conflicts Highly Discouraged	
Sunday	11-Oct	N/A			Tuesday	17-Nov	5:30-8:30pm	Conflicts Highly Discouraged	
Monday	12-Oct	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Wednesday	18-Nov	5:30-8:30pm	Conflicts Highly Discouraged	
Tuesday	13-Oct	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Thursday	19-Nov	5:30-8:30pm	Conflicts Highly Discouraged	
Wednesday	14-Oct	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Friday	20-Nov	5:30-8:30pm	Conflicts Highly Discouraged	
Thursday	15-Oct	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Saturday	21-Nov	12-5pm	Only if needed	
Friday	16-Oct	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Sunday	22-Nov	2-5pm	Only if needed	
Saturday	17-Oct	N/A			Monday	23-Nov	5:30-8:30pm	Conflicts Highly Discouraged	
Sunday	18-Oct	N/A			Tuesday	24-Nov	5:30-8:30pm	Conflicts Highly Discouraged	
Monday	19-Oct	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Wednesday	25-Nov	N/A	NO REHEARSAL - THANKSGIVING BREAK!	
Tuesday	20-Oct	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Thursday	26-Nov	N/A	NO REHEARSAL - THANKSGIVING BREAK!	
Wednesday	21-Oct	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Friday	27-Nov	N/A	NO REHEARSAL - THANKSGIVING BREAK!	
Thursday	22-Oct	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Saturday	28-Nov	12-7pm	LOAD-IN + ADJUST TO STAGE - NO CONFLICTS	
Friday	23-Oct	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Sunday	29-Nov	1-9pm	TECH - NO CONFLICTS	
Saturday	24-Oct	N/A			Monday	30-Nov	4:30-9:30pm	DRESS REHEARSAL - NO CONFLICTS	
Sunday	25-Oct	N/A			Tuesday	1-Dec	4:30-9:30pm	DRESS REHEARSAL - NO CONFLICTS	
Monday	26-Oct	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Wednesday	2-Dec	4:30-9:30pm	DRESS REHEARSAL - NO CONFLICTS	
Tuesday	27-Oct	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Thursday	3-Dec	8am-1:30pm	SCHOOL SHOWS - NO CONFLICTS	
Wednesday	28-Oct	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Friday	4-Dec	8am-6:30pm	SCHOOL SHOWS/PUBLIC SHOW (4:30PM) - NO CONFLICTS	
Thursday	29-Oct	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Saturday	5-Dec	9:00-4:00pm	PUBLIC SHOWS (11:00AM & 2PM) - NO CONFLICTS	
Friday	30-Oct	5:30-7:30pm	Rehearsal		Sunday	6-Dec	12:30pm-until	PUBLIC SHOW (2PM) + STRIKE - NO CONFLICTS	
Saturday	31-Oct	N/A							

Conflicts are highly discouraged during this date range; however we may be able to accommodate. If you have conflicts during these dates, please list them at auditions, but understand that conflicts during these dates may affect you being cast in the show.

Conflicts during tech/performance week cannot be accommodated under any circumstances. If you are unavailable during this week, you will not be cast in the show.

TECH WEEK:

*****All rehearsals during tech week are required. Auditionees unable to attend any tech week rehearsals will NOT be cast*****

- Saturday, November 28, 2026-12:30-7pm - Load-in + Adjust to stage rehearsal
- Sunday, November 29, 2026 from 1-9pm - Tech rehearsal
- Monday, November 30, 2026 from 4:30-9:30pm - Dress rehearsal
- Tuesday, December 1, 2026 from 4:30-9:30pm - Dress rehearsal
- Wednesday, December 2, 2026 from 4:30-9:30pm - Dress rehearsal

PERFORMANCE DATES:

School Time Performances:

- Thurs, Dec 3, 2026, 8am-2pm *(If cast, actors must miss school these days)*
- Fri, Dec 4, 2026, 8am-6pm *(If cast, actors must miss school these days)*

Public Performances:

- Fri, Dec 4, 2026 at 4:30pm
- Sat, Dec 5, 2026 at 2:00pm (& possible 11:00am)
- Sun, Dec 6, 2026 at 2:00pm

QUESTIONS?

Contact us at www.spartanburgyouththeatre.com/contactus.