

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

October 31, 2017

## **For Immediate Release**

Contact: Robert Herman  
Public Information Officer  
(559) 733-6606 – office  
(559) 303-8568 – cell

**Tulare County Office of Education Announces:**

## **Tickets now available for Theatre Company production of *Elf The Musical JR*, November 16-18**

**Four shows to be performed at L.J. Williams Theater, 1001 W. Main St., Visalia**

The Theatre Company's upcoming production of *Elf The Musical JR* is a fitting way for families to welcome the holiday season. Based on the beloved holiday film starring Will Ferrell, *Elf JR* is a heartwarming, fish-out-of-water musical that chronicles Buddy the Elf's quest to find his true identity.

The story of *Elf* begins with Buddy, an orphan toddler, mistakenly crawling into Santa's bag of gifts. Transported to the North Pole, Buddy is raised as an elf, unaware that he is actually a human until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father and discover his true identity. Faced with the harsh reality that his father is on the naughty list and that his half-brother doesn't even believe in Santa, Buddy is determined to win over his new family and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas.

"A role as well-known as Buddy is as much a challenge as it is a reward," said Logan Lancaster, who plays the title character. "People already know and love him, which makes my job easy. While on the surface he seems easy to play, my challenge is to add to it and make it unique."

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While in New York, Buddy meets and falls in love with Jovie, a skeptical young woman who works with him in Macy's Christmas department. "Compared to Buddy, Jovie comes across as mean and cynical, when she's actually just guarded and a bit quirky," said Mattie Cole, who plays the character. "Buddy's honesty gets to her in the end. That's all Jovie wants – someone she could trust with her heart. My challenge is trying to keep a straight face at some of the things that Logan does onstage."

Tickets to the November performances of *Elf JR* are now on sale at the Mooney Boulevard and Doe Avenue offices of the Tulare County Office of Education. Tickets are \$12 for general admission and \$20 for reserved seating. Evening performances will be held at 7:00 p.m. on November 16, 17 and 18. A 2:00 p.m. matinee is scheduled for November 18. The production also features a backstage character experience entitled "Buddy's North Pole Adventure." For an additional \$10 ticket, children are invited backstage before each show for a tour of Santa's workshop with Buddy the Elf. Only 50 backstage tickets are available per show. For more information about the production and tickets, call the Theatre Company at (559) 651-1482.

"Following the very dramatic productions we featured in 2016, including *The Secret Garden* and *Les Misérables*, I knew that I wanted to direct a feel-good, funny and exciting musical for our fall 2017 show," said the show's director and Theatre Company vocal coach Charlotte Garcia Da Rosa. After reading the script and listening to the music for *Elf*, I knew I had found the show! With a cast of 107 Tulare County students, this show offers many kids the chance to be featured in a truly joy-filled, family show!"

## **SCHEDULE OF PERFORMANCES**

L.J. Williams Theater, 1001 West Main Street, Visalia

### **Show Times**

Evening Shows (7:00 p.m.): November 16, 17 and 18

Matinee Show (2:00 p.m.): November 18

### **Show Ticket Information**

\$10 preshow "Buddy's North Pole Adventure" passes / \$12 general admission / \$20 reserved seating tickets

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available at Visalia TCOE locations:  
6200 S. Mooney Blvd. and 7000 Doe Ave.  
Monday through Friday during normal business hours.  
Cash or check only.  
Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

## **Principal Characters**

Buddy played by **Logan Lancaster**  
Jovie played by **Mattie Cole**  
Santa played by **Eli Adams**  
Charlie the Elf played by **Mason Lalanne**  
Shawanda the Elf played by **Mia Larsen**  
Walter Hobbs played by **Zach Glasgow**  
Emily Hobbs played by **Kaitlyn West**  
Michael Hobbs played by **Luciano Noguera**  
Deb played by **Allison Martin**  
Chadwick played by **Emilie Walker**  
Matthews played by **Paige Ragan**  
Mr. Greenway played by **Parker Chalabian**

For information on the upcoming production of *Elf The Musical JR*, call the Theatre Company at (559) 651-1482.

# TCOE #