



DALEKOARTS
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Holiday Show!

THE HOLIDAY SHOW

A DALEKOARTS ORIGINAL PLAY WITH MUSIC
DIRECTED BY BEN THIETJE





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CAST (in order of appearance)

- Holly Winterbottom
- Amanda Mai
- Marty Dietz
- Anthony Zadra
- Bowen Branaugh
- Amanda White
- Robert William Williams
- Michael Dulcet
- Ryan Lee
- Vivian DeGranch
- Lauren Anderson
- Synchronize
- Nora Sonneborn
- Eli the Butler
- Ben Thietje

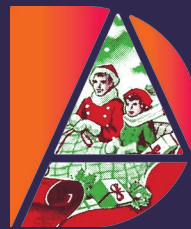
PRODUCTION STAFF

- Stage Manager
Bill Stevens
- Scenic Designer/
Carpenter/Painter
Robin McIntyre
- Lighting Designer
Phillip Uttech
- Costume Designer
Amanda White
- Sound/Props Designer
Ben Thietje
- Voice Over
Billie Jo Konze

Written by
Lauren Anderson
& Ben Thietje
story by
the Holiday Show!
the holiday show
ensemble

Special Thanks

Annie Cady and the Theatre Department
at Normandale Community College,
Taelyn Gore, Michael Chabot, Drew Ryan,
Nicole Thietje, Lori Deihl, Sarah Kallal,
Alecia Scharback, Rita Sapp



DALEKOARTS

OUR MISSION

DalekoArts (DELL-uh-koh) works with professional theatre artists to pursue impactful, live performance in our community of New Prague, Minnesota and the surrounding region.

OUR VISION

Our purpose is to decentralize professional theatre in Minnesota by increasing engagement and opportunity in New Prague and the surrounding area. It is our dream that New Prague will be a known destination for quality performing arts and arts education.

OUR STORY

DalekoArts was founded in 2012 by theatre artists Ben Thietje and Amanda White as a way to help decentralize professional theatre in Minnesota.

New Prague was chosen as the company's home due to the community's extraordinary interest in theatre, the regional growth and development it has experienced in the last decade, its relative proximity to the Twin Cities, and its close ties to the founders.

"Daleko" — a Czech word meaning "far away" — reflects New Prague's strong bohemian roots, its spatial relationship to the cultural hub that is the Twin Cities, and the ensemble's desire to step back and examine the world from a new point of view.



DalekoArts is a member of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.



DalekoArts is a proud member of the Minnesota Theater Alliance.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

DALEKOARTS DEDICATES
ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON
TO OUR BELOVED FRIEND

MICHAEL LEE.

1968 - 2021

You may have seen Michael on the DalekoArts stage several times over the past decade: he played "Nick" in our Season 2 production of *Rancho Mirage*, the glorious "Mrs Bumbrake/Teacher" roles in Season 7's *Peter & the Starcatcher*, and, most recently, "Charles Babbage" in Season 8's *Ada & the Engine*. He was among the actors who last stood on the Prague Theater stage in a live production before the world ground to a halt in March of 2020.

Michael was our dear friend. He also embodied everything our team would like a Daleko artist to be: he was loving, deeply kind, focused, wildly intelligent, funny, grounded, and he made everyone feel important. He loved talking with audience members after the show. He loved sharing his insights with our community in talk backs and First Looks. He believed utterly in the power of storytelling to unite and challenge human beings. And he truly loved the people he walked through the world with in every moment. Michael had an almost elfish mischief about him, and he made sure that jokes and pranks were abundant in every rehearsal process. (Honestly, in performances, too — you just had to know where to look.) He had a wicked sense of humor. He had music in his core. Sometimes, the legend goes, he just showed up as Santa Claus. He was a kid at heart, in the best way. In one rehearsal for *Peter & the Starcatcher*, he told the cast he was happy to be a source for research, as he was pretty certain he had a big case of "Peter Pan Syndrome". If he had it, we want it, too — he was so full of warmth, light, and energy that he turned all of us into kids in the face of what he knew was theatre magic.

We love you, Michael, forever and always. We dedicate every moment of DalekoArts' Season 10 to you. We will carry your fire and your spirit and your kindness with us forever, and as long as Daleko has a stage, you are there with us. Thank you for sharing your huge gifts and heart with us, and with our audiences.

And, hey: made ya look.

DalekoArts Family,

The staff, Board, and artists of DalekoArts thank you for coming to the Prague Theatre today. And this isn't just a normal thank you, friends. It's a thank you we've held close to our hearts for almost two years. It's a thank you that reverberates through months and months of uncertainty, isolation, a changing world, and a changing art form. Call us dramatic, but the truth is that we have



all cried many tears thinking of the moment when we could stand on this stage and welcome you back.

This production kicks off DalekoArts' tenth anniversary season. This season, we are carrying many things with us that don't feel festive — we know you're feeling them, too. We're all bringing heartbreak, grief, trauma, weariness, loss, maybe even anger into this space. Some of us have lost loved ones over the past two years. Some of us have lost time. In addition to that, though, we feel bigger things on the other end of the spectrum: gratitude, respite, grace, joy, and the warmth of time together this season, in whatever way we can safely make that happen.

This season (and this season) is about rebirth. It's about taking in even the littlest moments together as miracles. It's about celebrating a decade of time telling stories in a community that has warmly embraced us since we opened our doors. You might know that we've dedicated this season to our beloved friend Michael Lee, who many of you know and saw in DalekoArts productions over the years. We lost Michael suddenly this fall, but we know that he believed in all of these things, too. He embodied the spirit of Christmas, to us. He was a DA artist to his core. We think Michael shows up in spirit in our very first Christmas letter to you: a note in the Main Street Holiday playbill six years ago. Here's part of it, and we mean it more than we ever have before. Here's to all of us, beloved friends. And to Michael, who kept Christmas in his heart.

+++++

November 2015

Welcome to the Prague Theatre!

We've been amazed by the love, work and artistry offered by our friends and community in the past few seasons. We're lucky to have good pals who also happen to be some of the Twin Cities finest artists, and New Prague and its neighbors have looked out for us every step of the way. This season, we offer Main Street Holiday as DalekoArts' goofy, idiotic, fun and totally light-hearted love letter to our audiences, and to the good people of New Prague.

We're huge fans of the classic holiday film "It's A Wonderful Life", and it just isn't Christmas until we curl up with a bowl of popcorn and watch it until the weepy, beautiful end. Jimmy Stewart's character, George Bailey, has a guardian angel, the lovable and bumbling Clarence. In the last moments of the movie, George discovers that Clarence has left him a final thought in a copy of Tom Sawyer. We think Clarence's inscription in the book says everything we want to say about the last few seasons at DalekoArts, and about our future here at The Prague Theatre. He writes:

"Dear George: Remember no man is a failure who has friends.

P.S. Thanks for the wings! Love, Clarence."

Thanks for the wings, friends. Joyful, peaceful Holidays to you and yours.

Warmly,

Ben and Amanda

AMANDA MAI

Holly Winterbottom

Amanda is so excited to finally be making her DalekoArts debut! Since she was supposed to be in the production of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee that was sadly cancelled in 2020, it's only fitting that she is making her post-covid return to the stage right here in New Prague. She would like to thank her husband for all of his love and support. She would like to thank her dog for all the snuggles and entertainment she provided while theatres were dark. And she would like to thank all of you for coming out to see a show in person after all this time! Enjoy the show!

ANTHONY ZADRA

Marty Dietz

Anthony's career is both wild and wonderful. He has been a spokesmodel for 3M, a Radio DJ in Japan, a fugitive for Red Robin, a screenwriter on several projects, a featured player in a Swahili film, a high school teacher, and an acting instructor. He is waging a private war against circus peanuts and fluorescent light bulbs. Previous DA credits include The Philadelphia Story, Main Street Holiday, Another Main Street Holiday, A Chris Smith Carol, and Ghost Tour.

AMANDA WHITE

*Bowen Branaugh/
Costume Designer*

Amanda cannot fully believe we're all in this room together today, and counts it among the great gifts she's been given. In addition to being a founding Artistic Director of DalekoArts, Amanda has been lucky in DA's history to direct *Ada & the Engine*, *Peter & the Starcatcher*, *Godspell*, *Our Town*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Barefoot in the Park*, and *The Odd Couple*. She has also been privileged to join the companies of *Ghost Tour*, *Middletown*, *The Rink*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, *Adventures in Mating*, *Love Letters*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *Rancho Mirage*, and *Proof*. Amanda is in her sixth year as a member of the Theatre Department faculty at Normandale Community College. She is also proud to serve as the Managing Director for the William Inge Center for the Arts this season as the company honors two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage. Amanda has served on the Major Gifts and Strategy teams at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, as Associate Artistic Director for the William Inge Center for the Arts, and as Managing Director at Mixed Blood Theatre. Amanda is a graduate of Columbia University's MA Program in Arts Administration, MSU

Mankato's MFA in Theatre Performance, Truman State University's Theatre Arts program, and the School at Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago.

RYAN LEE

*Robert William
Williams Michael
Dulcet*

Ryan Lee is pleased as punch to be back for his fifth show with DalekoArts! Previous productions with DA include *Peter & the Starcatcher*, *Godspell*, *She Loves Me*, and *The Rink*. Alongside performing around the Twin Cities, Ryan works as a Realtor, teaming up with folks all over the Metro with their home buying and selling adventures. Enjoy this goofball of a show and Happy Holidays!

LAUREN ANDERSON

*Vivian DeGranch/
writer*

Lauren grew up in St. Louis Park and received her Bachelor's degree in Theatre from Minnesota State University, Mankato. She taught improv for The Brave New Workshop Comedy Theatre for several years, and became a full time actor/writer for the BNW in 2004. Since then, she has starred in over 50 shows with the company. She is a founder and co-producer of

the The Twin Cities Improv Festival, and Improv-A-Go-Go. Lauren was named Lavendar Magazine's Artist of the Year (2015), Growler Magazine's Best Local Comedian (2019), and she has directed multiple groups for HUGE, and Tiny Funny Fest. As well as acting, writing, improvising, and teaching, Lauren is the author/illustrator of the children's book "Spaghetti Head Ned" (available on Amazon.com), an Accountability Coach for Solcana Fitness, and the founder of her trampoline passion project on Instagram, Trampnation! You can currently find Lauren as the creator and star of Noodle Pie Island, an interactive children's show on YouTube, or performing with other improv groups around town: Five Man Job, FOTERSON, Mud Coven, and Show X — HUGE theater's lighthouse show, which currently runs every Monday night. She is excited to co-write and act in her first official play with DalekoArts! Instagram:

@laurenanderhands,
@noodle-pie-island,
@trampnation7;
Twitter:
@LaurenAnderHand.

NORA SONNEBORN

Synchronize

Nora is thrilled to be making her DA debut! Previous roles include Ula in Antlia Pneumatica, Susan in [title of show], and Martha in Spring Awakening, all at Normandale Community College. Soon, you'll be able to hear her as Jill on the upcoming musical album The Posthuman War by Paul Shapera! She'd like to thank all of you for coming back to support live theater. Happy Holidays!

BEN THIETJE

*Eli the Butler/ Sound/
Props Designer/
writer*

Ben has been working as a professional theatre artist and educator in the Twin Cities for the past fifteen years. He teaches and directs theatre at New Prague High School, and holds a degree in Theatre Arts from Minnesota State University, Mankato. In addition to being a Daleko founding Artistic Director, he's appeared in the company's productions of The Odd Couple, Forever Plaid, Almost, Maine, Rancho Mirage, Little Shop of Horrors, Love Letters, Urinetown, Stones in His Pockets, The Rink, Middletown, City Council Christmas, Peter and the Starcatcher, Ghost Tour, and Adventures in Mating: Holiday Edition. Happy holidays!

BILL STEVENS

Stage Manager

Bill is excited for his second show at DA. He's an actor and stage manager in the Twin Cities, who previously worked on DA's production of Ghost Tour. Recently, he has appeared in Little Shop of Horrors and Suessical at 4 Community Theater. Currently, he is finishing up his BFA in Theater Arts at Southwest Minnesota State University. He'd love to thank his family, friends, and everyone in this amazing show for being in his corner!

ROBIN MCINTYRE

*Scenic Designer/
Carpenter/Painter*

Robin graduated with a BFA and an MFA in Theatre Design and Stage Technology from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Since 1991 Robin has designed for a variety of local theatres including Lakeshore Players, Mounds View Community Theatre, Park Square Theatre, The History Theatre, Flying Foot Forum, Collide Dance Theatre, The Phipps Center for the Arts, and Cedar Summerstock in Osage, Iowa. For 10 seasons Robin created hundreds of sets for both main stage musicals and Black Box theatre productions at Bloomington Civic Theatre and Art Center. He is currently freelance designing in the Twin Cities and working with The

University of Northwestern in St. Paul, Benilde St. Margaret and Lakeville North High School theatres, and DalekoArts in New Prague.

PHILLIP UTTECH

Lighting Designer

Phillip is a freelance designer & technician with an MFA in Lighting Design from Western Illinois University. After having a blast helping raise money for a new roundabout in A Chris Smith Carol, Phillip is excited to be back for another holiday lighting design with DalekoArts! He also designed Daleko's past production of Middletown. Phillip has had lighting designs with Animal Engine, the Minnesota Vikings Halftime Show, and a Super Bowl event with Showcore.

BILLIE JO KONZE

Voice Over

A long-time participant in the Twin Cities theatre scene, Billie Jo Konze is a displaced Midwestern actor currently making her living from a tiny padded room in Atlanta where she moved to pursue film and TV work. Billie Jo can be heard as Rum Runner Sue on Icebox Radio's prohibition-era podcast, performing many characters in the upcoming Garfield's Crossing radio drama, and doing commercials and corporate

narration for companies such as Hershey, General Mills, Georgia Pacific, Sprite, and IBM. When not chained to the microphone, Billie Jo also writes about the business of acting on her blog at billiejokonze.com.

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Tony Laundrye
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