

The background of the poster is a photograph of a rustic log cabin in a snowy landscape at night. The cabin has a porch with a railing and a small window with warm light inside. Snow is falling all around, and a bright star is visible in the dark blue sky.

Main
Street
Theater
presents

a little house CHRISTMAS

Based on **LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE**
by **LAURA INGALLS WILDER**

Adapted for the stage by **JAMES DEVITA**

Nov 7 – Dec 18, 2021



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A LITTLE HOUSE CHRISTMAS

Based on LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE

by **Laura Ingalls Wilder**

Adapted for the stage by **James DeVita**

Director **Vivienne M. St. John**

with

Brian Chambers

Joshua Mendiola-Garcia

Kaitlyn Kennedy

Shane Manning

Kierra McKay

Sam Menke

Will Ritchie

Christian Simon

Krystal Uchem

Cindy Wang

Set Designer **Torsten Louis**

Costume Design **Donna Schmidt**

Lighting Design **Taylor Alfred**

Properties Design **Cortney Rogers**

Sound Design **Yezminne Zepeda**

Choreographer **Sarah Sneesby**

Performance Stage Manager **Curmira Bill**

Presented by arrangement with the copyright owner, Little House Heritage Trust
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empowering theatre for young audiences

Rebecca Greene Udden
Founding Artistic Director

Vivienne M. St. John
Theater for Youth Artistic Director

THE CAST

Laura Ingalls	Kierra McKay
Mary Ingalls	Christian Simon
Ma Ingalls	Kaitlyn Kennedy
Pa Ingalls	Shane Manning
Mrs. Olsen	Cindy Wang
Mr. Edwards	Will Ritchie
Nellie Olsen	Krystal Uchem
Nick	Sam Menke
Peter	Joshua Mendiola-Garcia
Uncle George	Brian Chambers

Setting: 1869 – 1870. The Ingalls home on the prairie of Kansas, near Independence, in Osage Territory.

Performed in two acts with one 20 minute intermission.

If you must exit the theater before intermission, please do so as quickly and quietly as possible. Re-admission to the theatre will occur at the sole discretion of the house manager, in the nearest available seats. Re-admittance during the act is not guaranteed.

The videotaping or audio recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited.

Special thanks to A.D. Players, University of Houston, Lauren Davis, Unity Theatre, The Cashiola Family

PRODUCTION STAFF

Harmonica	Terry “Sonny Boy” Jerome
Fiddle	Zachary Montasser
Banjo	Geoffrey Mueller
Theater for Youth Production Manager	Danielle Docwra
Assistant Stage Manager	Megan Jankovic
Projections	Brian Stinnet
Sound Engineer	Brock Hatton
Run Crew	Algy Alfred, Joshua Garcia, Tyler Rooney
Costume Assistants	Patty Bailey, Amber Stepanik
Wardrobe Assistant	Amanda Adwers

The costumes for this production are provided in part by the Costume Connection of Houston.

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Main Street Theater (MST) was founded in 1975 to provide stimulating opportunities for Houstonians of all ages to engage with the performing arts while providing meaningful and challenging professional work for Houston theater artists. MST is a fully professional theater with three programs: MainStage, Theater for Youth, and Education Department. Main Street Theater is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national service organization for not-for-profit theaters, of Theatre for Young Audiences/USA (formerly ASSITEJ), the world theatre network of theatre for children and young people, and a founding member of Houston Arts Partners. Our MainStage operates under Actors’ Equity Association Small Professional Theater contract. Main Street Theater is funded in part by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.

In Memoriam



Martha Oviedo

December 9, 1977 – December 17, 2020

The 2021/2022 Theater for Youth Season is dedicated to Martha. Martha was our Theater for Youth School Bookings Coordinator for 20 years. Many will remember her as the smiling, sweet voice on the other side of the phone line that helped teachers schedule their field trips. She became their friend, and they looked forward to speaking with her. Martha loved her job and was excited every year to announce a new season. Her favorite show was her first, *Amelia Bedelia*.

Martha is survived by her four children, her husband, her mother, her sister, a granddaughter and many friends!

Martha is greatly missed. We honor and remember her this season and always.

ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

Please turn off your cell phone, beeper, or any electronic device that might make noise during the performance. If you use your cell phone during an intermission, please be sure that your phone is turned off before you re-enter the theater. Any cell phone use during the performance is disruptive to the audience and the actors, including the reading and sending of text messages.

WHO'S WHO

Vivienne M. St. John (Director) Main Street Theater: (Director) *The Diary of Anne Frank* (2020), *Jackie & Me*, *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*, *Goodnight Moon*, (Costume Design) *Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business*, *Superfudge*, *Henry and Ramona*, *The Great Gilly Hopkins*, *If You Take a Mouse to School*, *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*; Berkshire Theatre Festival: Assistant Production Manager, *Visiting Mr.*

Green with Eli Wallach, *Hay Fever* with Joanne Woodward and Calista Flockhart, *Jitta's Atonement* with Dianne Wiest, *Free Fall* with Sandy Duncan, *Bill Graham Presents* with Ron Silver; Company Manager: *Four of a Kind*, *Good Company*, *Woman in Mind* with Marlo Thomas and Elizabeth Franz, *Over the River and Through the Woods*; Production Manager: *The Ray Davies Show*. MST Theater for Youth Artistic Director,

WHO'S WHO (continued)

2000-2022 seasons, including the World Premieres of *Zero Tolerance?*, *If You Take a Mouse to the Movies*, *If You Take a Mouse to School*, *Junie B. Jones*, *Miss Nelson Is Back!*, *The Wave* (with special presentation by Ron Jones), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (with special presentation by Jacqueline Van Maarsen).



Brian Chambers (Uncle George) Main Street Theater: *R. L. Stine's Goosebumps: Phantom of the Auditorium*, *Jackie & Me* (2019), *Holes*, *A Charlie Brown*

Christmas, *Bunnicula*; Alley Theatre: *The Christians*; Ensemble Theatre: *Freedom Is My Middle Name*; Unity Theatre: *Little Women*; Theater LaB Houston: *The Chosen*; Lone Star Lyric: *Adrift in Macao*; Queensbury Theatre: *Big River*, *Man of La Mancha*; Dirt Dogs Theatre Co.: *The Graduate*; Island ETC: *AR*, *Mamma Mia!*; Kirkwood Music Services: *Titanic The Musical*; Playhouse 1960: *Boeing Boeing*; Theatre New West: *The Laramie Project*; Stageworks Theatre: *Forever Plaid*; Lubbock Moonlight Musicals: *Beauty and the Beast*. Education: B.A., Texas Tech University.



Joshua Mendiola-Garcia (Peter) Main Street Theater: *Junie B.'s Essential Survival Guide to School*; San Jacinto College Central: *Shrek the Musical*; San Jacinto

College South: *The United States*; Curiosity Lab and Theatre: *Now That You've Seen Me Naked*. TV: commercial work. Education: Sam Houston State University.



Kaitlin Kennedy (Ma Ingalls) Main Street Theater: Debut; A.D. Players: *The Magician's Nephew*, *The Sound of Music* (later this season); Mercury

Chamber Orchestra: *Die Winterreise*; Old Creamery Theatre: *Madagascar*, *The Musical Adventure*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Camelot*, *Fancy Nancy*; Blue Gate Musicals: *The Confession*, *The Home Game*; Fort Bend Theatre: *Les Misérables*. Education: B.F.A., Musical Theatre.



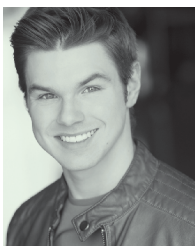
Shane Manning (Pa Ingalls) Main Street Theater: *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Jackie & Me*, *The Book of Will*, *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*, *Ramona Quimby*,

1946 (World Premiere), *Bridge to Terabithia*, *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* (2015), *James and the Giant Peach*, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* (2013), *Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat*; Texas Repertory Theatre: *Inspecting Carol*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Foreigner*, *Shadowlands*; Lone Star College – North Harris: *Avenue Q*, *Rent*, *Red*, *Doubt*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*; Obsidian Theater: *Lop Lop Presents Lop Lop*; College of the Mainland Community Theatre: *Lombardi*. Film/TV; STOPP Films; *Abilene* (2021). Education: Associate of Arts, Lone Star College, Theatre.



Kierra McKay (Laura Ingalls) Main Street Theater: *R. L. Stine's Goosebumps: Phantom of the Auditorium, Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook* (Tour); Queensbury

Theatre: *For Tonight*; Art Park Players: *Chicago*; Miller Outdoor Theater: *Swing, Baby, Swing!*, *East Meets West*; Wortham Theater Center: *14th Annual Celebration of Dance*; Lubbock Moonlight Musicals: *Beauty and the Beast*; Beaumont Community Players: *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*; Lamar University Theater: *Sweet Charity*. Film / TV: *The Nutcracker Party, Preschool Playhouse*. Education: Lamar University; Broadway Dance Center.



Sam Menke (Nick) Main Street Theater: Debut; Zilker Theatre Productions: *The Wizard of Oz, All Shook Up, The Little Mermaid*; SummerStock

Austin: *Footloose*; Sam Houston State University: *Da** Yankees, Oklahoma!, Assassins*. Film / TV: *The Drone*. Education: B.F.A., Sam Houston State University, Musical Theatre with an emphasis in Dance.



Will Ritchie (Mr. Edwards) Main Street Theater: *Bridge to Terabithia*; Stages Repertory Theatre: *Panto Sleeping Beauty*; Bayou City Concert

Musicals: *Bells Are Ringing*; Pasadena Little Theatre: *West Side Story*; Sam

Houston State University: *The Comedy of Errors*. Film / TV: *The Alibi Boys, The Pizza Joint, When Bobby Met Sally, Stowaway, Fields Afire*.



Christian Simon (Mary Ingalls) Main Street Theater: Debut; The Ensemble Theatre: *The Greenbook, P. Nokio*; Stagesworks Theatre: *Beehive*;

New Venture Theatre: *Black Nativity, Aida, Love, Whitney, Soul, Abstraction*; Books Alive: *Princess Penelope*; Playmakers of Baton Rouge: *Planet Earth Show*; LSU Mainstage Theatre: *Stickfly*. Film / TV: A&E Studios: *Roots*; Amblin Entertainment: *Jurassic World*. Education: B.A., Louisiana State University, Theatre Performance with a Minor in Dance.



Krystal Uchem (Nellie Olsen) Main Street Theater: Debut; The Ensemble Theatre: *School Girls, or the African Mean Girls Play, Pretty Fire*;

Houston Grand Opera: *Salome*; Dirt Dogs Theatre Co.: *Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*; Fade to Black Play Festival: *Escaping Inward*; Firecracker Productions: *Pipeline, Pedigree*; Express Children's Theatre: *Rhyme and Reason*; Montgomery County Shakespeare Festival: *Measure for Measure*; The Company Onstage: *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, Parallel Leighzaverses*. Film / TV: *An Education* (Dir. Kody N. Feliz), *All in the Family* (Dir. Holland Malone). Education: B.F.A., University of Houston, Theatre.



Cindy Wang (Mrs. Olsen) Main Street Theater: *Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat* (Tour); Express Children's Theatre: *A Lion's Tail, Christmas Tales and Tunes*,

Santa's Rockin' Reindeer (Tour); Pearl Theatre: *Failure: A Love Story*; Children's Museum of Houston: *Welcome to the League, Summer of Epic Adventure*; Washington, D.C. credits: U.S. Smithsonian/Discovery Theatre: *Tigers, Dragons, and Other Wise Tails* (Tour); Theatre Prometheus: *(Anon)ymous*; Lean and Hungry Theatre: *Richard III*; Studio 115: *Children's Hour, 4,000 Miles*; London/Ireland, U.K. credits: The Gaiety School of Acting: *Translations*; Diorama Art Studio: *London Road*; New Wimbledon Theatre: *Some Americans Abroad*. Film / TV/ Podcast: Idea Lab Kids (studio actor, scriptwriter) **Now With Milk* (scriptwriter). Education: B.A., University of Mary Washington, Acting (Theatre).

Taylor Alexandria Alfred (Lighting Design) Main Street Theater: Debut; Frenetic Theater: *Kill, Move, Paradise, The Mountain Top, Pecong*; Texas Tech University: *Hay Fever, Blown Youth, Black Girl, Interrupted, Dance Tech*; The Anne Campbell Black Box Theatre at PVAMU: *Antigone, Hoodoo Love, For Colored Girls, Sorry, Wrong Number, Jolly!!*, *Hansel and Gretel*; Hobart Taylor Music Recital Hall: *A Black Soundtrack*. Education: B.A., Prairie View A&M University, Music; M.F.A., Texas Tech University, Lighting Design.

Torsten Louis (Scenic Design) Main Street Theater: *Darwin in Malibu, The Diary of Anne Frank, Jackie & Me, The Book of Will, Pinkalicious the Musical*,

Sideways Stories from Wayside School, Grand Concourse, Ramona Quimby, How I Became a Pirate (Tour), *Shrek the Musical, Harriet the Spy, Junie B. Jones the Musical, Fancy Nancy, Busytown* (Tour), *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, James and the Giant Peach*. Over the past several years, Torsten has also designed sets for Unity Theatre, Baylor Opera Theater, Stages Repertory Theatre, Horse Head Theatre, Theatre Under the Stars Humphreys School, Houston Grand Opera To Go!, Opera in the Heights, and Mildred's Umbrella. Torsten is the design and technical coordinator at Wildfish Theatre in Houston, TX. Education: M.F.A. The University of Texas at Austin; B.A. St. Olaf College.

Cortney Rogers (Properties Design) Main Street Theater: Debut; Houston Shakespeare Festival: *As You Like It, Julius Caesar*; University of Houston: *The Oresteia, Haroun & The Sea of Stories, Romeo & Juliet, Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls*. Film / TV: Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Livestream: production crew; University of Houston Baseball: production crew. Education: candidate, University of Houston, Theatre Production & Design.

Donna Southern Schmidt (Costume Design) Main Street Theater: *The Diary of Anne Frank, The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, Goosebumps the Musical: Phantom of the Auditorium, Jackie & Me* (2019), *The Book of Will, Schoolhouse Rock, Live* (Tour), *Pinkalicious The Musical, Sideways Stories from Wayside School, Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook* (Tour), *A Charlie Brown Christmas, The Wizard of Oz*; A.D. Players, resident costume designer for 25 years; numerous productions

including *Charlotte's Web*, *The Lion*, *the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Shadowlands*, *Stuart Little*, *Thumbelina*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Anastasia*, *The Fantasticks*, *Angel Street*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Joyful Noise*, *The Odyssey*, *Charlie's Aunt*, *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Beams Are Creaking*, *Curious Savage*, *Winnie the Pooh*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *A Cardboard Christmas*, *The Jungle Book*, *Emma*, *The Hero Squad vs The World's Angriest Cow*, *Anne of Avonlea*, *Winslow Boy*, *Pride and Prejudice*; Express Children's Theatre: *The Yellow Boat*, *Arabian Nights*, *To Africa With Love*, *African Delight*, *Pablo's Wonderous Wishes*; InterActive Theater Company: *Around the World in 80 Days*; *The Days and Nights of King Arthur*; Actor's Workshop: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*; Louisiana Tech University: *The Music Man*. Education: Louisiana Tech University; Fashion Institute of Technology, New York. dlsoutherndesigns.com

Sarah Sneesby (Choreographer) Main Street Theater: Debut; HITS Theatre: (Director) *She Loves Me*; Obsidian Theatre: (Movement Director): *Antony and Cleopatra*; Morningstar Theatrical Productions: (Director/Choreographer) *Liberators*, *an American Musical* (World Premiere Workshop Production); Brighton Fringe: (Movement Director/Choreographer) *LEGS*; Theatre Southwest: (Movement Director) *Wisdom of Eve*, *The Little Hut*; Royal Centra School of Speech and Drama: (Movement Director/ Asst. Choreographer) *Plaza*; Cone Man Running: (Director) *Spontaneous Scattering*; LoneStar CyFair: (Choreographer) *The Fantasticks*, *Musical of Musicals*. Education: M.F.A, Royal Central School of Speech and Drama,

Movement: Directing & Teaching.

Yezminne Zepeda (Sound Design) Main Street Theater: *Elliot*, *A Soldier's Fugue*, *Private Lives*, *The Secretary*, *Daddy Long Legs*, *Curious George: The Golden Meatball*, *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*, *Hello, Mrs. Piggie-Wiggle*, *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type* (2017), *The Last Wife*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Grand Concourse*, *Mockingbird*, *Duck for President* (2016), *The Revolutionists*, *Bridge to Terabithia*; 4th Wall Theatre Company: *The Realistic Joneses*, *Rapture Blister Burn*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Reckless*, *True West*, *Ho Ho Humbug 1.0*, *The God Game*, *A Winter's Tale*, *All Girls*; Pulsate Productions: *Pulsate*, *A Vampire Musical*; Catastrophic Theatre: *Tragedy*, *A Tragedy*; A.D. Players: *The God Committee*, *Tuesdays with Morrie*; Stages: *Panto: Cinderella*, *Honky Tonk Angels: Holiday Spectacular*, *The Great American Trailer Park Christmas Musical*, *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, *Caps and Gowns*; The Winter Wonderettes, Patsy Cline; Rogue Productions: *Matt and Ben*. Education: Columbia College Chicago.

Curmira Bill (Stage Manager) Main Street Theater: (actor) *Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook* (Tour), run crew teaching artist; New Era Theatre: *The Sweet Sky*, *Small Kings*; Exalted Arts: *Mary's Song*, *The Great Exchange*; Houston Revels: *Christmas Revels* (2016, 2018, 2019); Express Children's Theater: *Santa's Little Helper*. Education: B.A., Oral Roberts University, Theatre Arts.

Rebecca Greene Udden (Director) Main Street Theater: (Director) *Darwin in Malibu*, *Elliot*, *A Soldier's Fugue*, *The Hard Problem*, *The Book of Will*, *Holes*, *Enemies*, *Wolf Hall* and *Bring Up the Bodies* (First American Productions), *Silent Sky*, *Peace in Our Time*, *Heartbreak House*, *The*

Real Thing (1986 & 2013), *The Coast of Utopia*, *The Year of Magical Thinking*, *The Heidi Chronicles* (2010 & 1992), *Arcadia* (2010 & 1996), *The House of the Spirits* (English-language premiere), *Caroline, or Change*, *An Empty Plate in the Café du Grand Boeuf*, *The Rice* (World Premiere), *Copenhagen*, *The Miser*, *Uncommon Women and Others*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (NEA Tour), *A Little House Christmas*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *The Merchant of Venice* (NEA Tour), *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Taming of the Shrew* (NEA Tour), *Bridge to Terabithia*, *The Great Gilly Hopkins*, and many more; (Actor) *Private Lives* (2019), *Memory House*, *Richard III* (with Prague

Shakespeare Company), *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, *Third*, *The Busy World Is Hushed*, *Somebody's Sons*, *The Sisters Rosensweig*, *Hapgood*, *Hamlet*, and more; (Costume Design) numerous productions; Main Street Theater/ Prague Shakespeare Company: (Director) *Hecuba and The Trojan Women*, *Troilus and Cressida*, *An Iliad*, *Twelfth Night*. Catastrophic Theatre: Advisory Board. Wordsmyth Theater Company: Advisory Board. Member of the American Leadership Forum Class XVI. 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award, Rice University. Founding Artistic Director, Main Street Theater.

CURTAINS UP FUND

Many Title I and other disadvantaged schools have had to eliminate fine and performing arts programming from their curricula altogether. Through our Curtains Up Fund, Main Street Theater provides all of our Title I and other underserved schools students with a substantial discount off the already modest ticket price to our school matinees. If a school needs a greater discount or even free tickets in order to attend, we make it possible. We are grateful to our community partners for their support of the Curtains Up Fund.

\$10,000-\$50,000

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ACCOMMODATIONS PERFORMANCES

These performances give children with learning differences the chance to experience theater in a way that accommodates their sensory needs. Specific technology and personnel are required to make these performances happen.

A Little House Christmas

Audio Described Performance	Dec. 4, 2021 at 10:30am
ASL Performance	Dec. 4, 2021 at 1:30pm
Sensory-Friendly / Relaxed Performance	Dec. 11, 2021 at 1:30pm

The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963

Sensory-Friendly / Relaxed Performance	Jan. 30, 2022 at 2:30pm
ASL & Audio Described Performance	Feb. 13, 2022 at 2:30pm

Pete the Cat

Sensory-Friendly/Relaxed Performance	Mar. 13, 2022 at 12:30pm
Audio Described Performance	Mar. 13, 2022 at 3:30pm
ASL Shadow-Interpreted Performance	April 2, 2022 at 1:30pm

Dragons Love Tacos

Sensory-Friendly/Relaxed Performance	Mar. 16, 2022 at 1:30pm
Audio Described Performance	Mar. 19, 2022 at 10:30am
ASL Performance	Mar. 19, 2022 at 1:30pm

Charlotte's Web

ASL Performance	April 30, 2022 at 1:30pm
Sensory-Friendly/Relaxed Performance	May 7, 2022 at 10:30am
Audio Described Performance	May 7, 2022 at 1:30pm

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

Sensory-Friendly/Relaxed Performance	July 10, 2022 at 10:30am
Audio Described Performance	July 25, 2022 at 10:30am
ASL Performance	July 25, 2022 at 1:30pm

American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting ASL Interpreting provided courtesy of SDGCR, Inc. in partnership with the University of Houston's ASL Interpreting Program.

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As always, Main Street Theater thanks you for your presence and support. Planned gifts are important, needed, and will allow Main Street Theater to accomplish great things. Please join our donors who have remembered us in their will and trusts.

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In the early days of Main Street Theater, the "Flying Man", taken from a poster design for T.S. Eliot's The Elder Statesman, served as an icon of our theater. The figure represents the company's desire to break "out of the ordinary," and embodies our gratitude for your generosity!

Current membership into the flying man society is based on an annual contribution of \$1,000 or more.

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