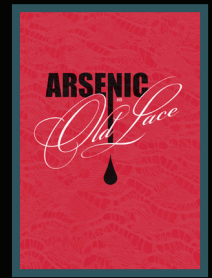




**DECEMBER 6 - 15, 2024**  
The Oldschoolhouse Players Present

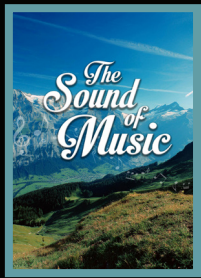
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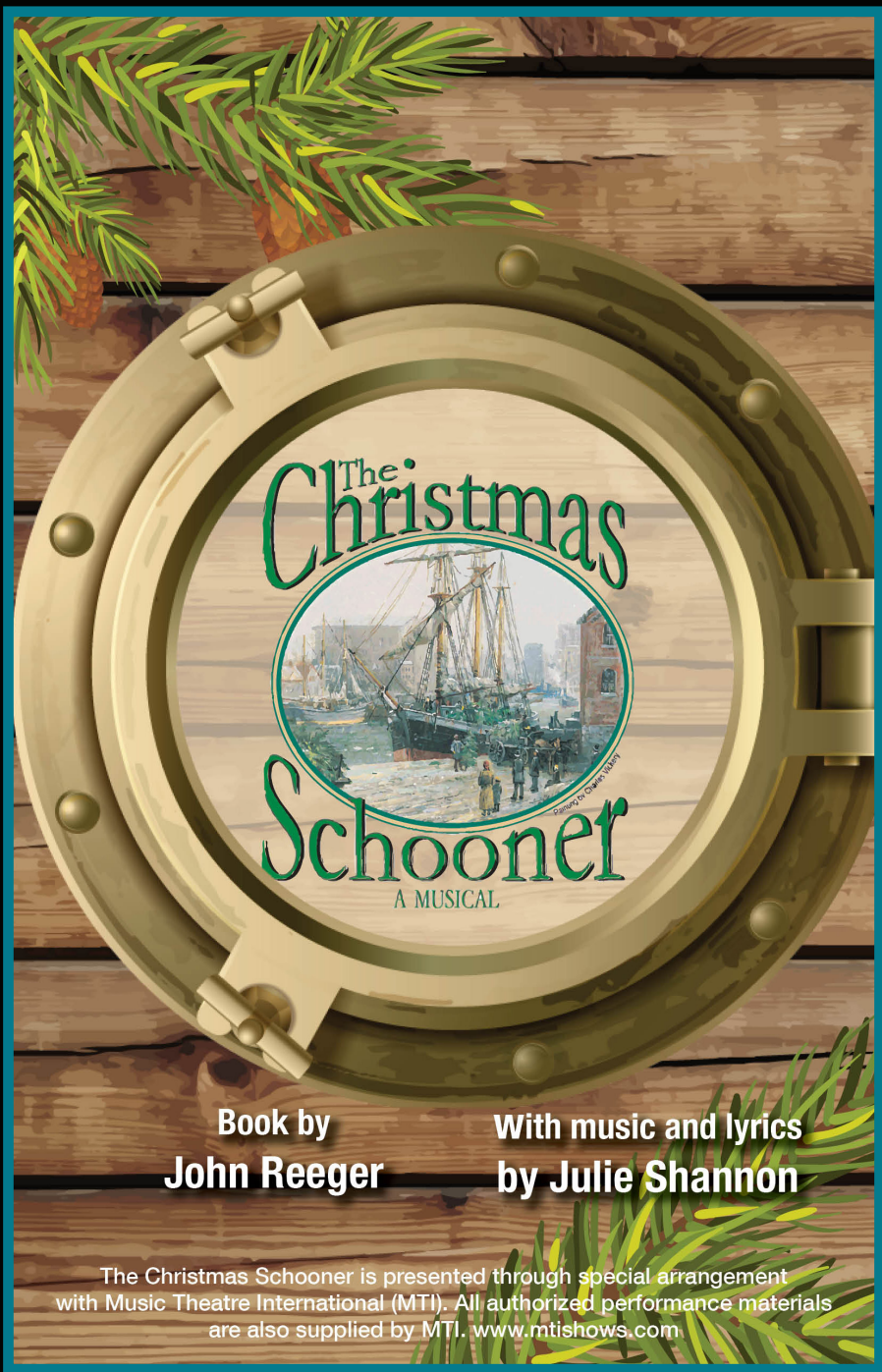


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**Book by**  
**John Reeger**

**With music and lyrics**  
**by Julie Shannon**

The Christmas Schooner is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE PLAYERS PRESENT

# The Christmas Schooner

**Book By John Reeger**  
**Music & Lyrics By Julie Shannon**

## CREATIVE

### Directed By

Ponny Conomos Jahn

### Producer

Cindy Berg

### Stage Manager

Brian Nath

### Crew/Mast Mechanic

Jade Chrome

### Choreographer

Emily Janocha

### Set Design

Cindy Berg

### Costumes

Cindy Berg

### Sound Technician

John Flanigan

### Props

Brian Nath

### Lighting Design

Wayne Berg

### Set Construction

Cindy Berg, Wayne Berg  
Joe Wagner & Janet O’Karma

## PLOT

Based on the historic Great Lakes voyages of Christmas tree ships during the late 1800s and early 1900s, The Christmas Schooner tells the true story of a Michigan shipping captain who braves the deadly winter weather to bring Christmas trees to homesick German-American families in turn-of-the-century Chicago. His voyages become a yearly tradition, despite his wife’s misgivings – until a fateful voyage makes her realize the true importance of his mission. A timely and stirring tale of love and loss, The Christmas Schooner reminds us of tradition, family and responsibility. This delightful holiday musical requires strong male talent and a sensibility for classically inspired material.

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

We All Have Songs  
That’s America  
The Mummers are Here  
Blessings of the Branch  
Martha’s Letter  
The Letter  
The Letter (Reprise)  
Another Season on the Water  
When I Look at You  
What Is It About the Water?  
The Christmas Schooner

## 15 minute intermission

Song of the Hungry Peasants  
Winterfest Polka  
Loving Sons  
The Strudel Waltz  
Another Season on the Water (Reprise)  
Hardwater Sailors  
The Storm  
Questions  
When I Look at You (reprise)  
What Is It About the Water (reprise)  
Blessings of the Branch (reprise)  
Finale

## ORCHESTRA

### Music Director/Piano

Ruth Ann Fox

### Assistant MD/Conductor

Janet Call

### Keyboard

Mike Henry

### Flute

Evonne Henry (alto) & Susanne Levinson

### Bassoon

Kimberly Lewis

### Drums

Scot Harvey

**COOPER BRUCE (Teenage Karl/Young Man)** - Cooper Bruce is a 2024 graduate of South Fayette and has been doing shows since the 5th grade. He has previously been in *Mary Poppins* and Directed *The Little Town of Christmas* at OSP. At South Fayette, Cord Elam in *Oklahoma!*, Chef Louis in *The Little Mermaid*, Everett Baker in *Crazy For You* and his favorite, Beast in *Beauty and the Beast*. Cooper has been involved with theatre since 2016 and this will be his 27th production. He is studying management at Robert Morris University where he claims his college theatre debut as Sammy in *The Wedding Singer*. Cooper is so excited to return to this show after playing young Karl in 2018. Bitte, enjoy the show and Danke for coming!

**ANDY CORNELIUS (Gustav)**-Andy is excited to return to The Old Schoolhouse Players stage, having most recently performed there in 2022 as Clifton Feddington in OSP's production of *A 1940's Radio Christmas Carol*, one of his favorite roles. Andy has performed over the last 20+ years on a number of other stages throughout the area. Andy's other favorite roles include Atticus Finch in *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Jerry in *Show People* and J.D. in Jimmy Buffett's *Escape to Margaritaville* at Little Lake Theatre, Jake in *Jake's Women* at McKeesport Little Theater, Dad (Jack) in *Mom's Gift* and Yvan in *Art* at South Park Theatre, and George in *Same Time, Next Year* at Apple Hill Playhouse. Andy is a retired intellectual property lawyer, having practiced for more than 40 years before finally taking down his shingle. He wishes to thank his family and friends for their ongoing support over the years, especially his wife Carolyn.

**KATIE FLANIGAN (Enid/Rose/Woman 3)**-Katie is thrilled to be back on the OSP stage for the third time. She was previously in *Seussical* (Bird Girl, u/s Mayzie/Mrs. Mayor) and *The Addams Family* (Hippie Ancestor) at OSP. When not on stage, Katie is a stage manager throughout Pittsburgh, most recently working on *Cinderella* at Stage 62, *Matilda* at Little Lake Theatre, and the Marianne Cornetti & Friends Benefit Concert for behavioral health. Lastly, Katie would like to dedicate this show to her cousin-in-law, Maggie. ~Love Never Dies~.

**JIM FOX (Hans/Storyteller)**-It's always fun to be on the OSP stage. Jim will be playing Hans in *The Christmas Schooner*. Prior notable credits include the Grinch in *Seussical the Musical*, the King in *Cinderella*, Ernie in *It's a Wonderful Life*, Steve in *The Christmas Schooner*, Grandpa Joe in *Willy Wonka*, Tigger in *Winnie The Pooh Christmas*, The Coach in *Footloose*, Rubin and the Butler in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*, James Wilson in *1776*, and the Bishop in *Jekyll and Hyde*. He would like to thank his family and friends for their support.

**VIOLET GEORGE (Olive/Woman 1)**-Violet is thrilled to be performing in *The Christmas Schooner*, a show she's been hearing great things about for over a year! Recent roles include: George in *Schoolhouse Rock Jr. Live* at Little Lake Theatre, Sardine Devotee in *The SpongeBob Musical – Youth Edition* at South Fayette Middle School, and Chorus/Kid 1 in *O Little Town of Christmas* "Window Shopping" at OSP. Highlights from Little Lake include Mrs. Teavee in *Willy Wonka Jr.*, Mal in *Descendants Jr.* and Jojo/Bowery Beauty in *Newsies* and Wednesday in *Addams Family Young @ Part* at SFMS. Violet wishes everyone a very merry Christmas!

**JOHN HERRMANN (Peter Stossel)**-Hello there, we've met someplace before haven't we? Yes, I'm sure of it. I never forget a face. I know, it was right here at the theater. I'm very excited to be a part of this amazingly talented cast. This is my seventeenth show with OSP. This my second time on board the schooner here at OSP. My most recent appearances on the OSP stage was as Mr. Boddy in *Clue the Musical* and Burt in *Mary Poppins*. Thank you for coming out and supporting community theater. Enjoy the show and please tell your friends and family!

**THOMAS INGRAM (Oskar/Man 2)**-Thomas is excited to return to the OSP stage perform in *The Christmas Schooner* once again! You may have seen him on stage at OSP portraying Mike Teavee in *Willy Wonka*, Little Jackie Sparks in *A 1940s Radio Christmas Carol*, as well as roles in the ensembles of *Shrek: the Musical*, *It's A Wonderful Life*. Thomas is currently enjoying his senior year at Wash High and is looking forward to continuing in music education. He is super thankful to everyone involved in this production for giving him another wonderful opportunity to perform on his favorite stage!

**SOFIA JAHN (Mary Claire)**-Sofia is thrilled to be a part of *The Christmas Schooner* this December! She has participated in many shows at her high school, such as Finch in *Newsies* and Selma in *For Better or Worst*. She would like to thank her family for their ongoing support and she hopes the audience enjoys the show!

**JENNIFER KOPACH (Alma Stossel)**-Jen has performed at many local theatre companies, most recently at Old Schoolhouse Players in *Mary Poppins* as Mrs. Corry (the Supercalifragilistic lady!). Favorite roles are getting too hard to list - it's always the current role that's the favorite! However, some that would make the list include Drowsy in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Rosie in *Mamma Mia*, Frankie Futrelle in *Christmas Belles*, Lottie Wilton in *Enchanted April*, and Curious George in *Curious George & the Golden Meatball*. When not on stage, Jen is a sports nut, golfer, traveler, wine lover, and teacher of the gifted. May the magic of Christmas bring you warmth, peace, and happiness. Much love to her family, friends, and pooch Romeo.



**JOYCE MILLER (Martha/Kate/Woman 2)** - Joyce is happy to return for her 35th show at OSP and second time in *The Christmas Schooner*. Some of her favorite OSP roles include Sister Robert Anne in *Nunsense I and II*, Sister Amnesia in *Nuncrackers*, Amanda Wingfield in *Glass Menagerie*, Daria Chase in *The Game's Afoot*, Veta Louise Simmons in *Harvey*, and the Ghost of Christmas Past in *A Christmas Carol*. Joyce enjoys working with many local theater companies including Prime Stage, Little Lake, South Park, and Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center. She would like to thank Ponny for this opportunity to spend the holidays with this cast of talented friends and to bring this beautiful story to the stage. Wishing all of our audiences a very Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a healthy and Happy New Year!

**BEN TRESS (Steve/Man 3)**- Ben is excited to be back on stage after a brief hiatus to greet his new son, Grayson, and is thrilled to be doing this show for a second time. Past OSP roles include Horton the Elephant in *Seussical*, Cholly in *1940's Radio Christmas Show*, and Peter in *Christmas Schooner*. As always, he wants to thank his wife (Gianna) for writing this bio for him, and for holding down the fort at home so he could participate in this fantastic show. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**JOHNNY URSO (Rudy/Man 2)** - Johnny is making his Old Schoolhouse Players debut as Rudy in *The Christmas Schooner*. Johnny has been performing on stage since the age of 5. Favorite roles include "Gaston" in *Beauty in the Beast*, Grimsby in *The Little Mermaid*, Pumba in the *Lion King Jr.*, Lonnie in *Rock of Ages, Jr.*, Schwartz in *A Christmas Story the Musical*, and Dickon in *The Secret Garden*. Johnny is a senior at South Fayette High School and is a member of "The Little Green Machine" Marching Band, and Concert and Wind Ensembles there. He is also a member of South Fayette's Vocal Point Select Choir. Johnny is thrilled to be sharing the stage with his younger brother, Vincent in his first musical. He would like to thank his family for their continued support of his artistic endeavors.

**VINCENT "VINNY" URSO (Young Karl)** - Vincent "Vinny" Urso is thrilled to make his musical debut as Karl in *The Christmas Schooner*. Vinny is a 6th grader at South Fayette Middle School. His love for music is evident in the numerous clubs and extracurriculars he has participated in at South Fayette including the Performing Arts Club, Choir and Orff Ensemble, and Singing Saturdays. He is a member of the middle school Chamber Choir. Vinny is also a member of the band and has been playing the alto saxophone since the 4th grade. He is grateful for the opportunity to perform on stage with his big brother and would like to thank God, his family, and all the people who encouraged him to audition for this show.

**Thank you to our sponsors.**

