



PRESS RELEASE

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Northglenn Players present *A Tuna Christmas* Dec. 13-22

This down-home holiday humor makes a great date night!

December 11, 2019, Northglenn, CO – “Sit back, kick up yer boots and have a holly, jolly time!” invites Director Warren Sherrill. Ben Hilzer and Michael O’Shea star in this production with humorous fast-changes. All three are theater veterans in our region – from Shakespeare to Dickens to musicals, they have a broad base of experience and are sure to bring flavor to *A Tuna Christmas*. They’ll need to draw on all that experience and a fair amount of stamina, since the trio are putting on seven shows and the two actors play eleven characters each.

The DL Parsons theatre provides an intimate venue that offers audiences a close-up local theater experience. At \$12-14 per ticket, this is an opportunity for a fun holiday date night or group outing that will not reduce your budget to “lumps of coal” levels. Join us to see Ben Hilzer transition from Charlene Bumiller to Stanley Bumiller, and Michael O’Shea from R.R. Snavely to Aunt Pearl Burras...because a few laughs are good for the holiday spirit!

About the Show:

December 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m.

December 15, 20 and 22 at 2 p.m.

Celebrate the holidays with a Texas-sized Christmas comedy! Two comedic actors, with deft timing and split-second costume changes, portray 22 citizens of Tuna, the third smallest town in Texas, where the Lion’s Club is too liberal and Patsy Cline never dies. It is 24 hours before Christmas and the eccentric residents of Tuna are attempting to cope with Joe Bob Lipsey’s disastrous Christmas Carol pageant, a sabotaged yard-decorating contest, and a mysterious phantom that’s on the loose!

Tickets and information: <http://northglennarts.org/production/a-tuna-christmas/>

Media may contact Michael Stricker, 303.450.8727, to make arrangements to interview cast and/or crew or for tickets.

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Northglenn Players are a City of Northglenn cultural services program sponsored by the Northglenn Arts & Humanities Foundation (NAHF), SCFD, Colorado Creative Industries, and private donors. NAHF, founded in 1990, is a 501(c)3 organization that provides funding for quality youth theatre, public art, and other cultural endeavors in our community. The DL Parsons Theatre is a 302-seat venue owned and operated by the City of Northglenn located ½ mile south of 120th Ave. and Grant St. in Northglenn, Colorado.

Northglenn, CO, is a city of 38,905 residents located 13 miles north of downtown Denver. In the heart of the metro area, Northglenn is a place to call home and a forward-thinking community where families and businesses can thrive. Learn more by visiting www.northglenn.org. Like us on Facebook, @cityofnorthglenn, and follow us on Twitter, @northglennco.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES & BIO



Warren Sherrill

I had the pleasure of performing in *A Tuna Christmas* many years ago and I have to say it was undoubtedly one of the best times I had on stage. I also have to say, it was undoubtedly one of the most challenging. Usually an actor in any given play has to give life and dimension to one character and most likely will have two or three costume changes at most. With *A Tuna Christmas*, we are talking at least 11 characters (played against my partner's 11 or so characters) with countless, very fast costume changes. I have to admit that there was a time during the rehearsal period that I didn't think it could be done. But it could and it was, and I thoroughly enjoyed it as did our audiences.

Fast forward to now and the opportunity I have been given to direct *A Tuna Christmas* here for Northglenn Players. Obviously, I graciously accepted and now I have even more appreciation for this little show. This play is timeless, hilarious funny, touching and yes, deceiving. There is no way that it could possibly be done without two very talented and dedicated actors, but also without an amazing costume and scenic designer and the brilliant "behind the scenes" crew. Just know, while you are watching these two actors do their thing on stage, there is a whole other show going on backstage with a lot more people doing a heck of a lot of work back there. Much thanks goes out to the amazing team at Northglenn Players and to my two incredibly talented actors.

Now sit back, kick up yer boots and have a holly, jolly time!

WARREN SHERRILL DIRECTOR

Warren Sherrill has directed, produced and acted in numerous productions in Denver and along The Front Range. In 2000, he co-founded Denver's critically acclaimed Paragon Theatre and served as its Artistic Director until the company closed its doors in 2012. Here at Northglenn Players, Mr. Sherrill has directed *Godspell*, *Grease* and *The Addams Family Musical*. At The Edge Theatre, he directed such shows as *Jerusalem*, *Medea*, *Burn This*, *A Delicate Balance* and *Death of a Salesman*. He most recently directed *A Kid Like Jake*, *What You Will* and *The Quality of Life* for Benchmark Theatre and *Lend Me a Tenor* and *Lost in Yonkers* for Miners Alley Playhouse in Golden. Mr. Sherrill is proud to be a recently inducted company member of Denver's Benchmark Theatre.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



BEN HILZER

Ben Hilzer (Arles) is thrilled to make his Northglenn debut in this brilliantly funny show surrounded by such talented artists. Regional credits include:

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged (THEATREWORKS, Spotlight Theatre), *The Big Bang* (Spotlight Theatre, Vintage Theatre), *Caroline, or Change* (Aurora Fox), *Shakespeare in Love* (CO Springs Fine Arts Center), *A Christmas Carol*, *Shakespeare in Love* (Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park), *Pride and Prejudice* (THEATREWORKS), *Sister Act* (Littleton Town Hall), *Jerusalem* (Edge Theatre – also directed by Warren Sherrill), and *Beowulf: A Thousand Years of Baggage* (The Catamounts–Henry Award Nomination); Ben would like to thank Caitlin, Mom, Dad, AJ, and Molly.



MICHAEL O'SHEA

Michael O'Shea (Thurston) is thrilled to be making his debut with Northglenn Players in *A Tuna Christmas* and to revisit the denizens of Tuna, TX. His NY credits include *Henry IV, Part I* and *Richard II* at the New York Shakespeare Festival. Regional credits include *Pendragon* (George St. Playhouse) and *Greater Tuna* (Walnut Street Theatre). Michael has been seen locally in *Driving Miss Daisy* at LTC (Henry Nominee); *Hello, Dolly!* and *Annie* at Performance Now Theater Company; *Lucky Guy* at The Edge; *Jekyll & Hyde* and The Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* at Aurora Fox; *Heathers* at Equinox; and *Honeymoon In Vegas*, *Bullets Over Broadway* and *Mary Poppins* at Vintage Theatre, where he is currently represented as director of the regional premiere of *Tuck Everlasting* playing through January 5th. Thanks to Ben, Warren, Jeremy and the entire production team and staff. All my love to Sarah, Devon and Riley for their patience, love and support.