

**South City
Theatre**
presents



ROBERT FULGHUM'S
**UH-OH,
HERE COMES
CHRISTMAS**



**Conceived and adapted by
Ernest Zulia and David Caldwell**
Directed by Rachael Pike Upton

First United Methodist Church of Alabaster (Restore Center)
10903 Highway 119, Alabaster

December 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 2021 at 7:30
December 11, 18, 2021 at 2:00

Tickets: \$16 adults
\$13 students (under 18) & seniors (over 60)

Purchase online at southcitytheatre.com
or reserve at 205.621.2128

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Presents
Robert Fulghum's
Uh-Oh Here Comes Christmas
Conceived and adapted by
Ernest Zulia and David Caldwell

Developed by Mill Mountain Theatre, Roanoke, Virginia,
Jere Hodgins, Producing Artistic Director, Phoenix Theatre,
Phoenix, Arizona, Michael Barnard, Producing Artistic
Director and Denise Ford, former Managing Director.

Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC
PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois

SCT Board of Directors

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Dianne Rowe, Michael Wilbanks, Thomas Robinson, Emily
Hoppe, David Strickland, Trey Woodrow, Steven Ross, Mike
Gerrells, and Sue Ellen Gerrells

CREW

Director/Music Director Rachael Pike Upton
Stage Manager Moe Revel
Set Design Rachael Pike Upton
Poster/Program Designer Delaine Derry Green

CAST

Sharon Beiswenger

James Billings

Mike DeLaura

Jana Huddleston

Beth Maisel

Josh Roberts

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I have always loved Christmas. Of course, as a kid, Christmas was great because of all of the awesome toys (and yes, the socks and underwear too) and excitement of the season. As I've gotten older, Christmas has become something I look forward to for other reasons--I enjoy spending extra time with friends and family, listening to Christmas albums on the record player, seeing all the lights and decorations--but I especially love GIVING gifts to others. I start Christmas shopping in July every year, and I have an ongoing curated Christmas list that I put a lot of thought into. Seeing others happy is truly what makes me happy, and it's why I also have a fondness for directing holiday shows. This particular script really does have something for everyone. It's not your annual Christmas Carol or It's A Wonderful Life--while these are Christmas staples (with good reason), and staples that I enjoy, I always love something different. The stories told in this script are funny, endearing, thought-provoking, and relatable. Through various tales, everyone in the audience is bound to find the spirit of the season in there somewhere--and may even be compelled to sing along with the carols that we have woven into the show! My greatest gift this year would be that you walk away with joy, and maybe even your own memories to share or your own story to tell. Happy Holidays!

BIOS

Sharon Beiswenger is excited to be a part of another production at South City Theatre! Sharon has appeared most recently in *Young Frankenstein the Musical* at Leeds Art Council and *Summer Shorts* at South City. Sharon feels that laughter will help us all survive these difficult times. Thank you for this opportunity, Rachael. Thank you for attending our show.

James Billings is returning for his fourth South City Theatre production. He previously appeared in *The Music Man* in 2017, *Bye Bye Birdie* in 2018, and *Smoke on the Mountain* in 2019. James retired in 2015 after more than 30 years of service in the U.S. Army. When not performing, James teaches public speaking at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of Montevallo. He is also a member of First United Methodist Church of Alabaster and sings in the Chancel Choir. He is grateful for the talented cast and Rachael's patient direction.

"Christmas is about a child, of long ago and far away, and it is about the child of now. In you and me." May your Christmas be blessed. Enjoy the show!

Mike DiLaura is excited to be in his first production at South City Theatre. Mike recently relocated to Chelsea from Montgomery. In Montgomery he was very active in the River Region theater community. He has been in productions that included; *Blythe Spirit*, *Bright Star*, *Oklahoma*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* to mention a few. Mike is thrilled to be part of this amazing cast, and hopes this is the first of many opportunities with the Birmingham theatre community.

Jana Huddleston is thrilled about the opportunity to appear in *Uh-Oh, Here Comes Christmas*, and to share this experience with so many new and old friends! Jana most recently appeared as Inga in ACTA's production of *Young Frankenstein*, and you may remember her as Sylvie in South City's *The Odd Couple (Female Version)* at the beginning of 2020. In addition to stage performing, Jana also works as a Character Performer with a local company, where she gets to attend birthday parties and events as some of her favorite princesses! Jana always loves the opportunity to work with Rachael, Moe, and South City Theatre, and would like to thank them for continually providing her with such wonderful opportunities to do what she loves most!

Beth Maisel (pronounced may-ZELL; the TV show butchered her last name) is elated to be working with South City Theatre again. This is her first time back in the theatre since 2018, when she played Sister James in South City Theatre's production of *Doubt*. Other recent productions include *Stop Kiss* and *Red Herring*, both with Birmingham Festival Theatre. Her love for community theatre started when she was six-years-old, and she has felt at home on the stage ever since. She would like to thank Rachael, Moe, Jana, Sharon, Josh, Jim, Mike, and the board of South City Theatre for their extraordinary kindness, hard work, and talent.

Josh Roberts is thrilled to be performing again at South City Theatre and working with the amazing Rachael Upton. Josh has worked with various theatre companies around town and been in such performances as *The Explorers Club*, *Alice in Slasherland*, *Clybourne Park*, *The*

Importance of Being Earnest, The Fantasticks, and various other shows. Josh would like to thank his friends and family for their constant support, and you for supporting the arts.

Moe Revel (Stage Manager) is a current Theatrical Production & Literacy major at Birmingham-Southern College. They have been part of the Birmingham theatre community for six years, and many more to come! Working with Rachael and South City Theatre on this show has been a wonderful opportunity!

Rachael Pike Upton is thrilled to be back in the director's chair at South City! She has previously directed *The Odd Couple (Female Version)* and *Radio TBS*. Recently, Rachael and a production of *The Gulf* were awarded at both ACT and SETC (state and regional level), winning Best in Show for South City, and Acting accolades. That same production also received the award for Best Ensemble of the Decade for the Birmingham Region from BroadwayWorld. You may have also seen her as Megan Jones in *Puffs* at Birmingham Festival Theatre. Rachael can often be found performing, directing, and teaching at theatres all around the Birmingham metro, and hopes you enjoy the show. She is forever grateful for South City, and is grateful to the cast and crew for their hard work.

Special Thanks

Alabaster FUMC and Jim Billings, Mike & Sue Ellen Gerrells, Purnima Janarthanan, Lisa Ponder, Josh Roberts, Birmingham Festival Theatre, Rhonda Erbrick, and Catherine Gail Upton.