

December 2011

The Polar Express

CAST

Lead: GARRETT OWEN (understudy: Landon Luttrell)

Billy: Caleb Rolison

Young girl: JULIA GORICKI (understudy: Kaytie Hanson)

Penelope/Oliver: GABBY MENDEZ (understudy: Patrick L.)

Sarah (sister): ERIN BELL (understudy: Kaytie Luttrell)

Santa Claus: SEAN TRAWICK (understudy: Perry Owen)

Elves (11): Kaylynne Reid, Olivia Raper, Brianna Smith, Amelia Werle, Hannah McGonagle, Bailey Ferensic, Elle Wolcott, Olivia Glass, Lily Hammell, Rose Blumenfeld, Berkeley Pillay

CONDUCTOR: Peter Goricki

Narrator 1: WILL EVANS

Narrator 2: MADELINE STOPHEL (understudy: Olivia Glass)

MOM: SAMANTHA LUTRELL (understudy: Emma Samuels)

DAD: GUNNAR HITZEMAN (understudy: Patrick L.)

Child1: ANOUSHKA PATEL

Child 2: ANNA WARREN SMITH

Child 3: JORDAN WOODS

SOLOS:

“SPIRIT OF THE SEASON” –

**GROUP: GARRETT OWEN, LANDON LUTTRELL, CALEB ROLISON,
JULIA GORICKI, KAYTIE HANSON, GABBY MENDEZ,
PATRICK L.**

“BELIEVE” –

V. #1: ALYSSA GOODYEAR

V. #2: KENNA GREEN

NOTE:

December 2011

SOUND: BAND PLAYS MEDLEY OF SONGS FROM “THE POLAR EXPRESS” OR Track ____ – Instrumental Suite from “The Polar Express” (curtains are closed)

Scene 1: Curtains open with bed at front of stage. LEAD/GARRETT OWEN is on his back on the bed at front of stage. He will act out what the narrator reads!

Follow Spotlight on Bed-LEAD/GARRET OWEN – It will follow him and CONDUCTOR – PETER GORICKI through this scene.

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: On Christmas Eve, many years ago, I lay quietly in my bed. I did not rustle the sheets. I breathed slowly and silently. I was listening for a sound - a sound a friend had told me I'd never hear - the ringing bells of Santa's sleigh.

“There is no Santa,” my friend had insisted, but I knew he was wrong.

Late that night I DID hear sounds, though not of ringing bells.

LEAD/GARRETT OWEN walks to front of stage pretending to look out the window as he hears train sounds/sees bright lights.

SOUND: Track ____ (TRAIN SOUNDS) - 26 seconds

NARRATOR 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: From outside came the sounds of hissing steam and squeaking metal.

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: I looked through my window and saw a train standing perfectly still in front of my house.

NARRATOR 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: It was wrapped in an apron of steam. Snowflakes fell lightly around it.

CONDUCTOR/PETER GORICKI walks to the floor in front of the stage and looks up at LEAD/GARRETT OWEN on the stage.

NARRATOR 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: A CONDUCTOR stood at the open door of one of the cars.

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: He took a large pocket watch from his vest, and then looked up at my window. I put on my slippers and robe. I tiptoed downstairs and out the door.

LEAD/GARRETT OWEN walks down the stairs of the stage to the floor and stands beside CONDUCTOR/PETER GORICKI.

December 2011

STAGE CREW: (CLOSE CURTAIN and MOVE BED OFF STAGE. Move the bench to the front of the stage right behind the curtains. YOUNG GIRL/JULIA GORICKI; BILLY/CALEB ROLISON; AND PENELOPE/GABBY MENDEZ, sit on the bench to be ready for the next scene. LEAD/GARRETT OWEN will join them as the next scene begins.)

CONDUCTOR/PETER GORICKI: All aboard!

(LEAD/GARRETT OWEN doesn't move.)

CONDUCTOR/PETER GORICKI: Well, are you coming?

LEAD/GARRETT OWEN: Where?

CONDUCTOR/PETER GORICKI: Why, to the North Pole, of course. This is the Polar Express.

LEAD/GARRETT OWEN and CONDUCTOR/PETER GORICKI walk away from the stage and down the hallway beside the stage as the music begins. LEAD/GARRETT OWEN goes on stage and sits on the bench with YOUNG GIRL/JULIA GORICKI; BILLY/CALEB ROLISON; AND PENELOPE/GABBY MENDEZ. CONDUCTOR/PETER GORICKI goes out the back door of the stage and around to the back of the auditorium to be ready for his next part.

SOUND: BAND PLAYS "THE POLAR EXPRESS" or Track ____ – Instrumental version of "The Polar Express"

December 2011

Scene 2: Curtain opens as the music begins.

Children come onto the stage from the back of the auditorium and the front as well as the sides – talking and having fun! They go to their assigned spots on the risers at the sides of the stage. Note: YOUNG GIRL/JULIA GORICKI AND PENELOPE/GABBY MENDEZ should be close to LEAD/GARRETT OWEN as Narrator talks.

NARRATOR 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: The train was filled with other children, all in their pajamas and nightgowns.

Follow Spot on bench/scene.

PENELOPE/GABBY MENDEZ: Hey, you! Do you know what kind of a train this is?

YOUNG GIRL/JULIA GORICKI: Of course! It's a magic train.

PENELOPE/GABBY MENDEZ: Actually, it's a Baldwin 284S3 Class Y2 type steam locomotive built in 1931 by Baldwin Locomotive Works. It weighs 456, 100 pounds and has a top speed of... (Gets interrupted by JAKE PETLICK).

LEAD/GARRETT OWEN: Are we REALLY going to the North Pole?

YOUNG GIRL/JULIA GORICKI: Yes, isn't it wonderful?

SOUND: TRACK 4 - The Polar Express

As song ends, students should settle into assigned places on stage and down front of stage. Girls Ensemble needs to be getting in place for "Hot Chocolate."

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: We sang Christmas carols and ate candies with nougat centers as white as snow.

SOUND: BAND – SING A LONG SONGS WITH AUDIENCE AND CHORUS

YOUNG GIRL/JULIA GORICKI; LEAD/GARRETT OWEN; BILLY/CALEB ROLISON; AND PENELOPE/GABBY MENDEZ move to the front steps of the stage as the curtain will be closing.

STAGE CREW: close curtain. Move bench off stage. Stage must be clear for girls to dance!

December 2011

(As the song ends, the CONDUCTOR/PETER GORICKI starts walking through the auditorium from the back with hole puncher taking adults' tickets and punching them. YOUNG GIRL/JULIA GORICKI; LEAD/GARRETT OWEN; BILLY/CALEB ROLISON; AND PENELOPE/GABBY MENDEZ are still on the steps of the stage.)

CONDUCTOR/PETER GORICKI: Tickets, please. *Repeat it several times.. He stops in front of LEAD/GARRETT OWEN and says:*

CONDUCTOR/PETER GORICKI: Young man, do you have a ticket?

LEAD/GARRETT OWEN: Uh, uh *He looks at CONDUCTOR/PETER GORICKI kind of blankly.*

CONDUCTOR/PETER GORICKI: Look in your pocket. *LEAD/GARRETT OWEN looks in one pocket.*

CONDUCTOR/PETER GORICKI: Look in your OTHER pocket. *LEAD/GARRETT OWEN looks in the other one and magically finds a ticket!*

CONDUCTOR/PETER GORICKI: Very good. *He winks at LEAD/GARRETT OWEN, punches his ticket and exits stage area.*

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: We drank hot cocoa as thick and rich as melted chocolate bars.

PENELOPE/GABBY MENDEZ: Did you know that Montezuma, the king of the Aztecs, would bring 50 quarts of hot chocolate every day! But he would put chili peppers in it instead of sugar! Get it??? *HOT CHOCOLATE!*

All Students laugh as curtains open for next song/dancers!

STAGE CREW: OPEN CURTAIN

During this song, BILLY/CALEB ROLISON hangs back, just watching the children. YOUNG GIRL/JULIA GORICKI and LEAD/GARRETT OWEN hand him a cup of hot chocolate and try to include him in the fun. He is obviously shy....

SOUND: Track ____ - Hot Chocolate

STAGE CREW: CLOSE CURTAIN

*After this song, BILLY/CALEB ROLISON and YOUNG GIRL/JULIA GORICKI need to go backstage to get ready for the duet on the back of the train. **STAGE CREW needs to move the “caboose” prop to the front of the stage while the FLUTES play.***

December 2011

NARRATOR 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: *Outside, the lights of towns and villages flickered in the distance as the Polar Express raced northward.*

FLUTES plays "Seeing is Believing" song on Metal instruments softly.

December 2011

Scene 3:

*The auditorium is dark except for soft lights reflecting from the disco ball and the **star lit at the front left side of stage**....*

NARRATOR 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: Soon there were no more lights to be seen.

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: We traveled through cold, dark forests, where lean wolves roamed and white-tailed rabbits hid from our train as it thundered through the quiet wilderness.

STAGE CREW: OPEN CURTAIN

FLUTES play Song #2

YOUNG GIRL/JULIA GORICKI sees BILLY/CALEB ROLISON standing at the back of the train, looking up at the star at the back of the auditorium.

SOUND: BAND PLAYS ALONG OR TRACK ____: When Christmas comes to town.
Duet! DUET – 2 HANDS HELD MICROPHONES

LIGHTS: Spotlight on them

STAGE CREW: CLOSE CURTAIN AS SONG ENDS. Plug in the tree and move the “town” and light it up. Elves move backstage **QUIETLY!**

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: We climbed mountains so high it seemed as if we would scrape the moon.

NARRATOR 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: But the Polar Express never slowed down. Faster and faster we ran along, rolling over peaks and through valleys like a car on a roller coaster.

FLUTES plays softly

NARRATOR 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: The Mountains turned into hills, the hills to snow-covered plains.

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: We crossed a barren desert of ice - the Great Polar Ice Cap.

Narrator 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: Lights appeared in the distance. They looked like the lights of a strange ocean liner sailing on a frozen sea.

*CONDUCTOR/PETER GORICKI walks to the front of the stage and – **as the curtain opens** – points towards the tree and the buildings and says:*

CONDUCTOR/PETER GORICKI: Boys and girls.....There is the North Pole.

December 2011

Child 1/ANOUSHKA PATEL; CHILD 2/ANNA WARREN SMITH and CHILD 3/JORDAN WOODS
move up the steps towards the tree along with YOUNG GIRL/JULIA GORICKI;
LEAD/GARRETT OWEN; BILLY/CALEB ROLISON; AND PENELOPE/GABBY MENDEZ
Elves are still out of sight!

December 2011

NARRATOR 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: The North Pole. It was a huge city standing alone at the top of the world, filled with factories where every Christmas toy was made.

CHILD #1/ANOUSHKA PATEL: But where are the elves?

CONDUCTOR/PETER GORICKI: They are gathering at the center of the city. That is where Santa will give the first gift of Christmas.

CHILD #2/ANNA WARREN SMITH: Who receives the first gift?

CONDUCTOR/PETER GORICKI: He will choose one of you.

CHILD #3/JORDAN WOODS: Look! The elves!

Elves skip down the hallway beside the stage and down in front of the stage, then down the aisle and hang around down front.

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: Outside, we saw hundreds of elves. As our train drew closer to the center of the North Pole, we slowed to a crawl, so crowded were the streets with Santa's helpers.

NARRATOR 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: When the Polar Express could go no farther, we stopped and the Conductor led us outside.

SOUND - BAND PLAYS - IT'S THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: We pressed through the crowd to the edge of a large, open circle. In front of us stood Santa's sleigh.

NARRATOR 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: The reindeer were excited. They pranced and paced, ringing the silver sleigh bells that hung from their harnesses. (BAND person shakes sleigh bells)

NARRATOR 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: one of the bells fell off of a harness.

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: I stooped and picked it up.

LEAD/GARRETT OWEN: reaches down to pick up a bell. He walks to the front of the stage, in front of the **closed curtain** as he shakes the bell. **Stage Crew - move "town" off of stage. Girls Ensemble should be getting in place for "Rockin on Top of the World." Santa should be ready to enter from the hallway by the Green House.**

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: As I shook it, it made no sound at all.

LEAD/GARRETT OWEN: **That's strange. This bell doesn't work.**

December 2011

LEAD/GARRETT OWEN continues to shake the bell. Then he closes his eyes and says:

LEAD/GARRETT OWEN: *Okay.....I believe.....I believe...*

Then as he shakes the bell, the sound of the bell can be heard. JAKE PETLICK opens eyes wide, in surprise!

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: It was a magical sound, like nothing I'd ever heard.

NARRATOR 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: Across the circle, the elves and children moved apart and Santa Claus appeared.

SANTA CLAUS/SEAN TRAWICK enters from the hallway by the Green House and walks up the steps to the front of the stage, waving and saying:

SANTA CLAUS/SEAN TRAWICK: *Ho, Ho, Ho! Merry Christmas!*

Narrator 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: Everyone cheered wildly.

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: He marched over to us and, pointing to me, said:

SANTA CLAUS/SEAN TRAWICK: *What did you just say?*

LEAD/GARRETT OWEN: *I said....I believe..... I believe..... I believe this is yours, sir.*

SANTA CLAUS/SEAN TRAWICK: *Thank you, young man. Now what would YOU like for Christmas?*

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: I knew that I could have any gift I could imagine. But the thing I wanted most for Christmas was not inside Santa's giant bag. What I wanted more than anything was that one silver, beautiful, magical bell!

(LEAD/GARRETT OWEN whispers into SANTA CLAUS/SEAN TRAWICK ear.)

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: When I asked, Santa Claus smiled.

NARRATOR 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: He stood, holding the bell high above him and called out:

SANTA CLAUS/SEAN TRAWICK: *The first gift of Christmas! This bell is a wonderful symbol of the spirit of Christmas, just as I am. Just remember: The true spirit of Christmas lies in your hearts.*

December 2011

NARRATOR 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: A clock struck midnight as the elves roared their approval.

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: Santa handed the bell to me, and I put it in my bathrobe pocket.

SANTA CLAUS/SEAN TRAWICK: *Oh, my. Look at the time. We must be going if we are going to get all of the toys delivered on time! Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas to all!*

SANTA CLAUS/SEAN TRAWICK exits.....

Everyone starts celebrating again!

STAGE CREW: Open Curtain

SOUND: Track ____ - Rockin on Top of the World

STAGE CREW: Close Curtain. Move bench back to the front of the stage in *front* of the curtain. Set up the “house scene” while the curtain is closed. Mom (KATIE KILPATRICK), Dad (GARRETT LEIRVIK), sister (ALYSSA GOODYEAR) waits for JAKE PETLICK to join them. Presents have been opened and toys are being played with behind the curtain as scene is finishing.

CONDUCTOR/PETER GORICKI: Where has the time gone? Okay, boys and girls! All aboard!

YOUNG GIRL/JULIA GORICKI, LEAD/GARRETT OWEN, BILLY/CALEB ROLINSON and PENELOPE/GABBY MENDEZ run up to the front of the stage and sit on the train bench.

NARRATOR 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: As soon as we were back inside the Polar Express, the other children asked to see the bell.

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: I reached into my pocket but the only thing I felt was a hole. I had lost the silver bell from Santa Claus' sleigh!

YOUNG GIRL/JULIA GORICKI: Oh, no! That's so sad! Let's hurry outside and look for it.

BILLY/CALEB ROLINSON: Yes, we'll help you look for it!

NARRATOR 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: But the train gave a sudden lurch and started moving.

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: We were on our way home. It broke my heart to lose the bell.

December 2011

Pause as the FLUTES plays Song #1.

December 2011

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: When the train reached my house, I sadly left the other children.

LEAD/GARRETT OWEN walks to the side of the stage and waves goodbye.

CONDUCTOR/PETER GORICKI is on the other side of the stage.

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: I stood at my doorway and waved good-bye. The CONDUCTOR said something from the moving train, but I couldn't hear him.

LEAD/GARRETT OWEN: (yells) What?

CONDUCTOR/PETER GORICKI: (cups his hands around his mouth and yells) Merry Christmas!

NARRATOR 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: The Polar Express let out a loud blast from its whistle and sped away.

BAND person blows the train whistle. BAND plays the song "It's the spirit of the Season."

December 2011

Scene 4:

LEAD/GARRETT OWEN and SISTER SARAH/ERIN BELL are sitting around the Christmas tree with MOM/SAMANTHA LUTRELL and DAD/GUNNAR HITZEMAN watching.

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: On Christmas morning my little sister Sarah and I opened our presents.

NARRATOR 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: When it looked as if everything had been unwrapped, Sarah found one last small box behind the tree.

SISTER SARAH/ERIN BELL: Hey! Look! There's one more present - and it has YOUR name on it! She hands the box to LEAD/GARRETT OWEN who then opens it up.

NARRATOR 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: Inside was the silver bell! There was a note:

LEAD/GARRETT OWEN: (reads aloud) Found this on the seat of my sleigh. Fix that hole in your pocket. Mr. C. (LEAD/GARRETT OWEN shakes the bell)

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: I shook the bell. It made the most beautiful sound my sister and I had ever heard. But my mother said:

MOM/SAMANTHA LUTRELL: Oh, dear. That's too bad.

DAD/GUNNAR HTIZEMAN: Yes, it's broken.

SISTER SARAH/ERIN BELL and LEAD/GARRETT OWEN look at each other and smile.

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: When I'd shaken the bell, my parents had not heard a sound.

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: At one time most of my friends could hear the bell, but as years passed, it fell silent for all of them.

NARRATOR 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: Even Sarah found one Christmas that she could no longer hear its sweet sound.

NARRATOR 1/WILL EVANS: Though I've grown old, the bell still rings for me as it does for all who truly believe.

SOUND - BAND PLAYS - BELIEVE - V.1/ALYSSA GOODYEAR & V.2/KENNA GREEN

Follow Spot on The singers!

December 2011

NARRATOR 2/MADELINE STOPHEL: Whether you celebrate Christmas or Hanukah, during this holiday season, may you once again believe in the miracles of the season.

Both narrators: Happy Holidays from all of us!