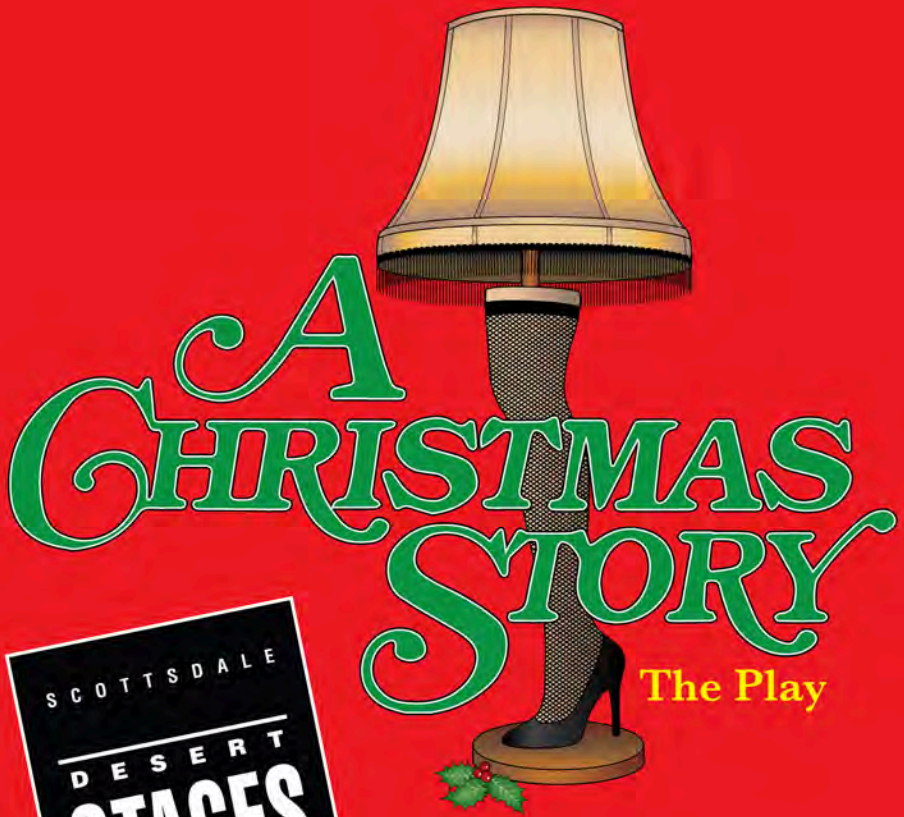


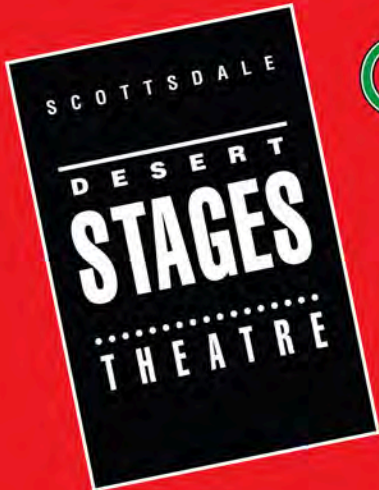
PLAYBILL®

DESERT STAGES THEATRE
SCOTTSDALE, AZ



A CHRISTMAS STORY

The Play



**DESERT STAGES THEATRE
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA**

PRESENTS



**A CHRISTMAS STORY
THE PLAY**

by

Phillip Grecian

Based on the motion picture A Christmas Story,
© 1983 Turner Entertainment Co.,

Distributed by
Warner Bros.

Written by
Jean Shepherd,
Leigh Brown
and Bob Clark

And on the book
In God We Trust,
All Others Pay Cash
by Jean Shepherd

Directed by
KatiBelle Collins

The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of
photographs, with or without a flash, is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**

WELCOME TO DST

Welcome to Desert Stages Theatre,

We are honored that you have chosen to celebrate the season with us at A CHRISTMAS STORY THE PLAY, especially at the end of this very long and challenging year. KatiBelle Collins, the cast, and crew have created a wonderful new version of this DST holiday tradition which is sure to make you laugh and bring you joy. This story might even bring back some fond holiday memories of your own to make you smile.

Normally presented in our Actor's Cafe, we have "retrofitted" this year's production of A CHRISTMAS STORY for our larger Cullity Hall theatre. The larger space allows for proper social distancing of our patrons and actors. We have also instituted enhanced cleaning measures in between performances to keep everyone safe. In return, we ask that you kindly wear your mask the entire time you are in the theatre and sit in your assigned seat. If you wish to meet with one of the cast members after the show, please arrange to do so in the food court area of the shopping mall. There will be no gathering in the DST lobby. Safety first!

Thank you for your support of live theatre and for your attendance at this performance of A CHRISTMAS STORY THE PLAY. Whether you are seeing your 100th show or your first at DST, you are a valued member of the Desert Stages Theatre community, and we appreciate you more than you could ever know!

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!

Ellen Versen
Executive Director

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

In *A Christmas Story* Ralph reminds us of how the holidays can trigger childhood memories, as seen through the eyes of young Ralphie. My hope is that this show will allow an escape from the stress and craziness of the holidays, giving us the opportunity to laugh, forgetting about the world outside. As you celebrate the holidays let your childhood memories fill your heart with joy, remember the love of family, and share the memories that allow us to laugh at ourselves. In the midst of these troubled times with the pandemic we struggle to find an attitude of gratitude. I am grateful to be directing this delightfully funny and touching show, and for you the audience. Enjoy this talented cast as they bring you joy, laughter, and an escape from the holiday madness.

Have a joyous holiday season, and happiness in the New Year.

Namaste

KatiBelle Collins

Director, *A Christmas Story The Play*



CAST, CREW AND SUPPORT

Cast Members

Adult Ralph	Bobby Havens
Ralphie Parker	Charlie Budd
Mother	Annemarie Mulligan
The Old Man	Roy Thielen
Randy	Grady Mulligan
Miss Shields	Lynn Golden
Flick	Jacob Toren
Schwartz	Kenny Kaczmarek
Esther Jane	Claire M. Theodore
Helen	Freya Mira Karve
Scut Farkas	Xander Zeeb

Production Staff

Director	KatieBelle Collins
Production Stage Manager	Skeet Schmella
Asst. Stage Manager	Dani Seep
Light Board Operator	Brady Fiscus
Sound Board Operator	Ally Baumlin
Deck Hand	Lisa Schaefer
Photographers	Renee Ashlock, Wade Moran
Costume Designer	Richard "Mickey" Courtney
Technical Direction, Set Design and Build, Lighting Design, Sound Design, and Prop Coordination	Tinkering Squid, LLC.

Theatre Staff

Executive Director	Ellen Versen
Artistic Director	Gary Jurkovich
Production Manager	Skeet Schmella
Box Office Manager	Linda Barton
Graphic Designer / Webmaster	Dina Osinski
Box Office Staff	Jeremy Figueroa, Michael Lev, Karen Rhoads

CAST, CREW AND SUPPORT

DST Board of Directors

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Board Member	Lynnae Clore
Board Member	Walter Hall
Board Member	Dawn Jurkovich
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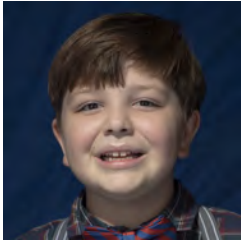
WHO'S WHO



Bobby Havens

as Adult Ralph

Bobby Havens is no stranger to the main stage having been a professional elocutionist, a motivational speaker, an ordained minister, a published writer and a sports announcer for over thirty-five years. When he retired in 2016, however, Bobby discovered he had a consuming passion for live theater. Since that time, he has appeared in many theatrical productions across the Valley. As always, Bobby would like to give YOU a standing ovation for supporting live theater.



Charlie Budd

as Ralphie Parker

Charlie is 10 years old and in 5th grade at Cherokee Elementary School in Paradise Valley. He began theater classes at the age of 4 with Valley Youth Theatre. His first supporting role was the Seahorse in *The Little Mermaid Jr.* at the age of 6, and his most recent lead role was Michael in *Mary Poppins Jr.* at Bender Performing Arts. He is excited to be making his debut performance with Desert Stages Theatre. When not performing, Charlie is the student government Vice President, a Boy Scout, enjoys video games, and can speed-solve Rubik's cubes.



Annemarie Mulligan

as Mother

Annemarie is THRILLED to be back on stage after a long hiatus. She is especially excited to be sharing this experience with her son, Grady. She studied theater at ASU and is now the Fine Arts teacher at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Tempe. She has had practice for the role as a wife and mom of three boys. They have always lovingly referred to their two rambunctious dogs as "the Bumpus hounds". She'd like to thank her family for their support and Desert Stages for the opportunity.

WHO'S WHO



Roy Thielen

as The Old Man

Ray has been performing in various theaters around the valley for several years now. He has performed in musicals and plays. He is happy to be back after a long break to perform again with Desert Stages. This is his 3rd production with Desert Stages. He is very proud of all of the shows he has been in. One of his favorite roles was playing the role of the dad in *Lost in Yonkers* alongside several great actors. He is excited to take on that kind of role again in *A Christmas Story*. Roy would like to thank his husband and partner of almost 22 years for supporting him in every project he has undertaken.



Grady Mulligan

as Randy

Grady is a super awesome 10 year-old in 5th grade at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School in Tempe. This is Grady's debut with Desert Stages. His first theater experiences were doing *Seussical Jr.* at Seton Catholic Prep's Summer Camp and as a Pirate in Baker Performing Arts' *Peter Pan*. Grady is the youngest of three boys and has two dogs. He loves baseball and playing Xbox with his friends.

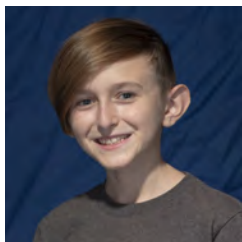


Lynn Golden

as Miss Shields

Lynn is back for her eighth DST show (previously seen in *Damn Yankees*, *Oliver!*, *A Murder is Announced*, *Spamalot*, *Nuncrackers*, *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs* and *Moon Over Buffalo*). Other Valley shows include *Dracula*, *Annie* and *The Pajama Game* (SCT). Lynn is a Grant Specialist at ASU. "Stage Kisses" to my personal squad - Bear, Abby, Brad, Momma, Roxie, the Ashlocks, Kristi, Ted, Amie and Eric. Thank you to KatiBelle for the chance to work together once again.

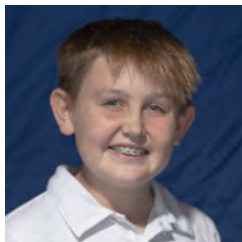
WHO'S WHO



Jacob Toren

as Flick

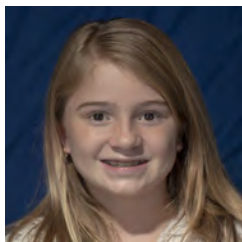
Jacob is a 6th grade Honor student. This is Jacob's 1st Production with Desert Stages Theatre. He's performed in theatre around the Valley for the past 3 years, some of his favorite shows were *Footloose*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *The BIG One-OH* and *Something Beautiful*, which he was nominated for an NYA Award! He loves karaoke, playing pickleball, going on outdoor adventures, and performing for his family and friends! He's very excited to be performing in *A Christmas Story* and he hopes you enjoy the show!



Kenny Kaczmarek

as Schwartz

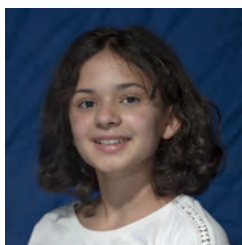
Kenny began his acting career in first grade as Papa Pig in the musical *The Three Little Pigs*. His most recent acting assignment in Fall 2019 was Roberto, a lead in the play *Around The World In Eight Plays*. When not acting, Kenny plays soccer, guitar, and drums. His goal is to act in Hollywood.



Claire M. Theodore

as Esther Jane

Claire is 10 years old and attends Horseshoe Trails Elementary in the Mandarin Immersion Program. This is Claire's second show, following her first show as *Fluff* in *Honk Jr!*. Claire loves to dance, perform and sing. In her spare time, she enjoys vocal lessons, gymnastics and dancing. Performing is Claire's biggest passion. Claire would like to thank her mom and dad, especially my mom for tirelessly looking for auditions across the valley for me.

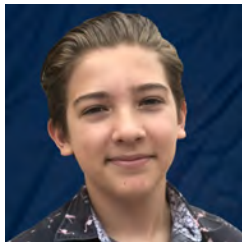


Freya Mira Karve

as Helen

Freya Karve started her acting career at the age of 6 as a baby spider in *Charlotte's Web* at Desert Stages and fell in love with theater immediately. After a few shows, she took some time off to pursue Competitive Gymnastics but is now back to pursue her love of theater. When she is not on stage, she is busy creating art through drawing, painting or writing or spending time with her friends.

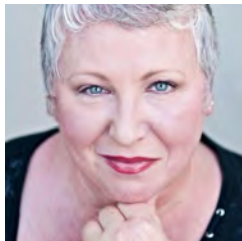
WHO'S WHO



Xander Zeeb

as Scut Farkas

Xander is excited to be back on the stage performing in everyone's favorite holiday play... again. This is his 20th production at DST. Xander has been the recipient of 1 NYA award and 4 NYA nominations. His biggest aspiration is to pet all the dogs. When he is not on stage you can find Xander watching YouTube, making TikToks or annoying his family. He wishes to thank KatiBelle Collins and Ellen Versen for the opportunity to finally be performing again. He also thanks his freakin' rad parents.



KatieBelle Collins

Director

KatiBelle is a familiar face in the valley theater scene, both on stage and in the director's chair. Collins has had the privilege of playing such roles as Mama Rose/*Gypsy*, Abby Brewster/*Arsenic and Old Lace*, Grandma Kurnitz/*Lost in Yonkers*, Hannah/*Angels in America*, and won a Zoni award as Aunt Eller in *Oklahoma*. She has enjoyed directing such shows as *Dixie Swim Club*, *Plaza Suite*, *Broadway Bound*, and *The Fantasticks*.



Ellen Versen

as Executive Director

Ellen is thrilled to be the new Executive Director at Desert Stages. She has worked many years in the nonprofit and arts sectors, bringing years of theater leadership, development, and business experience to her new position. Together with the DST team, she hopes to increase revenue by inviting new artists, participants, and patrons into the DST family. Efforts will also be made to develop meaningful relationships with corporations, foundations, and individuals to ensure the future of this performing arts organization. Ellen grew up in Pasadena, CA, and has lived in Scottsdale for 25 years. Her husband Walter has worked in the music industry with bands and artists like Queen, Genesis, Heart, REO Speedwagon, and Tower of Power. The couple have two grown children, Joe and Emily. The entire family is fond of travel, the arts, and Jeopardy!

Skeet Schmella

Production Stage Manager

Skeet Schmella holds a Ed.D in Educational Leadership, an MBA and a BA in Theater/Stage Management. He's a jack of all trades, master of none, and is blessed by the experiences as a director, technical director, production stage manager and long time audience member. His favorite moments in theater are watching his children and their friends perform in school and community productions. "To attend the theater is to take a stand against the status quo" - Mattfield.

Lisa Schaefer

Deck Hand

Dr. Lisa Schaefer is the Founder & CTO of ThinQ.tv, a web platform for women's video chat communities. She earned her Ph.D. in systems engineering at Arizona State University in 2000 and was a Future Vision innovator & award-winning project manager at a think tank in Washington, DC. She taught at several universities and held leadership positions in several meetups and nonprofit organizations. Dr. Schaefer is the writer/producer of *Budget Justified*, a true comedy about #metoo in engineering, and *Lisa's 80s Catholic High School Movie*, about math girl versus class clown twins. She has spoken at many universities, conferences, and cable television shows.

Richard "Mickey" Courtney

Costume Designer

Mickey has been costuming for the past 18 years all around the valley. Here in DST he feels at home. His most recent costume work is *Damn Yankees* in Cullity Hall and *Murder on the Nile* in The Actor's Café. He recently worked with Dragonfly Bay Films as wardrobe in *Planet George*. He is looking forward to continue to costume the rest of the season at the Actor's Café and Main Stage for the 2020/2021 Season at DST. Mickey wants to thank the Cast and Crew for trusting in his vision. He wants to thank his wife Rhea and his kids Becca and Matt for their support and patience.

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH FIRE REGULATIONS, SMOKING IS NOT
PERMITTED IN THE THEATRE. THANK YOU**

PHOTOS

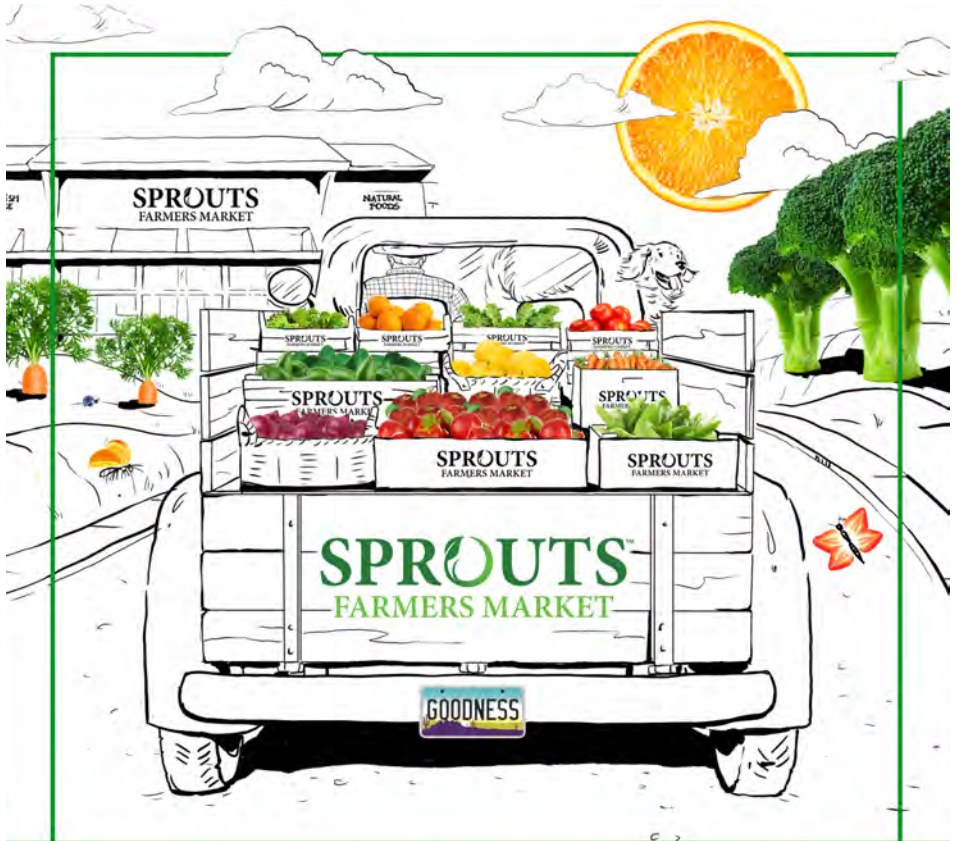


Support from the community has made it possible for Desert Stages to offer programming through the summer and fall. Resourceful students created the "Cabaret for Change" organization and raised money early during the pandemic to support their favorite youth theatres and other causes. cabaretforchange.com



Students in October's DST Academy "Incubator" program entertained family and friends during their self-produced "Quarter Life Crisis Cabaret" on Friday, October 30. It was wonderful to have these young people on stage performing again.

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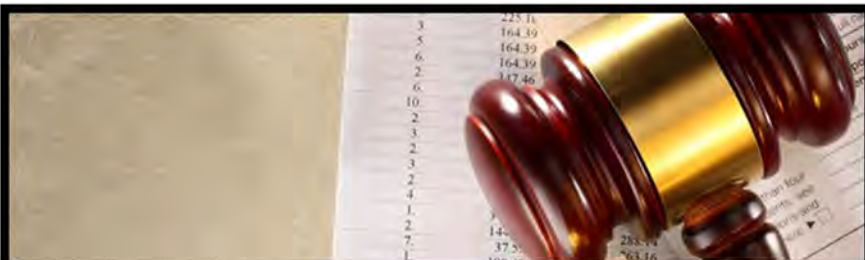
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Desert Stages relies on the tax-deductible contributions it receives from friends, family, and fans to continue offering high quality artistic and educational programs to residents of and visitors to the Valley of the Sun, especially in the communities of Scottsdale, Paradise Valley, and Phoenix. We are extremely grateful for the generous support that enables DST to educate, inspire, and entertain audiences of all ages. Thank you to the following individuals and organizations who support the mission of DST. We are proud and honored to call you our Star Donors!

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We are proud and honored to call you our Star Donors!

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The playbill for Desert Stages Theatre's 2021 production of THE ODD COUPLE will acknowledge donations made to DST from approximately January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020.

THANK YOU DONORS

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Desert Stages respects the wishes of donors who make gifts and prefer to remain anonymous. These quiet contributions ensure the continuation of the highest quality performing arts programs that serve our artists, audiences, and community.

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Every gift to Desert Stages Theatre is greatly appreciated, and every effort is made to list donor information accurately. If we have made an error in listing your name or donation amount, please accept our sincere apology. To request a correction, please do not hesitate to call (480)483-1664.

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THE **DIRECTOR'S** Circle

Our Director's Circle monthly recurring membership provides you the opportunity to choose the amount to be donated each month, enjoy perks, and help Desert Stages Theatre continue its quality programming year round!

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Actor \$10

Receive this years membership t-shirt!

LEVEL TWO

Stage Manager \$25

Receive this years membership t-shirt and one show ticket per month!

LEVEL THREE

Asst. Director \$50

Receive this years membership t-shirt and two show tickets per month!

LEVEL FOUR

Producer \$100

Receive four of this years membership t-shirt and four show tickets per month!

LEVEL FIVE

Executive Producer \$250

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*Show tickets must be used within 30 days of monthly donation date. Monthly tickets may not be accrued or combined. Director's Circle tickets may not be used towards actor ticket needs. Membership cancellations must be submitted 7 days prior to monthly withdrawal.

COMING SOON TO DST

Scottsdale Desert Stages Theatre
presents

Neil Simon's

THE ODD COUPLE

Directed by Virginia Olivieri

JAN. 22 – FEB. 14,
2021

Purchase tickets today at
[desertstages.org/buy-tickets](https://www.desertstages.org/buy-tickets)



[DesertStages.org](https://www.DesertStages.org)

CAMPS

WINTER CAMP

WEEK 1

December 21–24 • 9am–2pm

Theme: "Snowed In" with Ashley & Brady

WEEK 2

December 28–31 • 9am–2pm

Theme: "Winter Camping" with Sadie and Jamie

COST PER CAMP: \$200.00

Limited enrollment: 10 children

SATURDAY "DROP AND SHOP"

Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, and 19

Drop off the kids for some theatre fun while you holiday shop! Children will dance, sing, play games, and do crafts with their favorite DST counselors!

Sign up for a 3-hour block:

9 am – 12 pm

12 pm – 3 pm

\$40 for one child

Ages: 5 – 11 yrs.

Pre-registration is required.

Only 10 spots available.



COMING SOON TO DST

Miscast CABARET

Ages 8 and up
Maximum 12 performers

AUDITIONS:

Audition videos sent to
boxoffice@desertstsges.org by Dec. 14
Rehearsals Jan. 2 from 10-2 **
flexibility available for time.

SHOW DATE:

Saturday,
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Miscast AFTER DARK

Rated PG13

Saturday,
January 2 • 9:30 pm



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