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This holiday season, join us as we celebrate a little more Christmas joy with Eubie, in Harry Connick Jr.’s The Happy Elf.

Proud sponsor of Missoula’s MCT Center for the Performing Arts
Directors: Joseph Martinez
Musical Directors: Draylen Askvig
Choreographers: Christine Kowalchik

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Costumes: Linda Muth
Lighting Design: Mary Goodwin
Properties Design: Lesley Washburn
Sound Design: Gregory Boris
Deck Manager: Alexis Elensky
Deck Crew: James Cox
Giff Kahler
Light Board Operators: Laura Bovard
Rebecca Jefferson
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Royce McIntosh
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Spot Light Operators: Chuck Bloom
Danny Syman
Natalie Hiller-Claridge
Scene Shop Volunteers: Patrick King
Cheryl Thompson
Steve Thompson
Light Shop Volunteers: Kelly Czarnik
Kinsey Sternad
CAST

Eubie .............................................. Kelson Bauman
Molly ........................................... Finley Hiller-Claridge*
Hamm ............................................ Elijah Miller
Gilda ............................................. Elaina Baldwin
Norbert ........................................... Stu Kaplan
Little Norbert ................................. Gabriel Fickinger
Santa ............................................ Dylan Wright
Mrs. Claus ................................. Jurate Varanavicius
Mayor ............................................ Simon Fickinger
Gurt ............................................. Chantelle Fickinger
Curtis .......................................... Seamus Cellan*

Adult Ensemble
Anthony Brenneman* • Casey Chaloupek
Ash Cox • Darian Downard*
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Evie Wright • Sage Wright

Teen Ensemble
Inara Bulmahn* • Meena Bulmahn*
Jalyn Sky Kelley* • Charlotte Newman*
Camryn Schafer* • Alyssa Stephens*
Liora Stewart* • Stella Truzzolino*
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*denotes Missoula Community Theatre debut!
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Conductor ............................................ Troy Bashor
Accompanist ................................. Denise Harmon
                                      Linda Stratton
Drums .................................................... Troy Bashor
Bass .......................................................... Owen Cleary
                                      Blake Mikkola
                                      Will Roesch
Trumpet .................................................... Nick Barr
                                      Andrew Kagerer
                                      Skyler Mendell
Reeds ..................................................... Jacob Logan
                                      Alexandra Vincent
Trombone ........................................... Josh Hungate
                                      Blake Mikkola
                                      Lexi Vine
MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE
The Happy Elf ...................... Eubie, Gilda, Hamm, Chorus
Pole Leaders .......................... Elves, Norbert, Chorus, Santa, Mrs. Claus
Santarrific .............................. Eubie, Santa, Elves
The Naughty Children of Bluesville .......... Eubie, Hamm, Gilda
Bluesville .................................. Mayor, Gurt, Chorus
The What Song ........................... Workers
The Poop Hole Song ........................ Gurt
Two Scoops of Christmas ................. Eubie, Molly, Curtis
That Magic Hat ............................ Norbert, Elfettes

ACT TWO
Three ....................................... Gilda, Hamm, Eubie
Operation Yule Tide Turning ............. Eubie, Curtis, Molly, Hamm, Gilda
Christmas Day ............................ Eubie
The Wow Song ............................ All Workers, Gurt
What a Night .............................. Molly, Curtis, Chorus, Gurt, Mayor
The Happy Elf Reprise .................... Full Ensemble
There is a lot to be said about traditions. Traditions are handed down from generation to generation in hopes of connecting to family members before us. Traditions give us a sense of belonging & identity. The winter holidays are full of family traditions. From food, to spending an evening in a theatre either enjoying a production of *The Nutcracker*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Messiah* or Harry Connick Jr’s *The Happy Elf*.

Traditions must begin somewhere. *The Happy Elf* began as a made for TV holiday cartoon in 2005. Hoping that like, Rudolph or Frosty, families sit around the television and share that moment year after year. Unfortunately, the cartoon only ran for a couple of seasons. But, knowing there was a place for Eubie, our main character, Mr. Connick Jr. added more original music, more characters and gave us a live stage version of the cartoon. Families have been spending their holidays sharing this story since 2012. Why? Because Eubie, like Santa, is the Christmas spirit. His love for the holiday and people makes him the perfect ambassador. Eubie, believes, that everyone has good inside. Sometimes you’ve got to look for it. And, that we don’t always need Santa to bring the spirit of Christmas. The tradition of giving is just that, giving without thought of thanks or acknowledgement.

So, here’s to your traditions, old & new. Thank you for spending time with us.

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LAUREN GUNDERSON – WRITER
Lauren Gunderson is one of the most produced playwrights in America, the winner of the Lanford Wilson Award and the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award, a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and John Gassner Award for Playwriting, and a recipient of the Mellon Foundation’s 3-Year Residency with Marin Theatre Co. She studied Southern Literature and Drama at Emory University, and Dramatic Writing at NYU’s Tisch School where she was a Reynolds Fellow in Social Entrepreneurship. Her work has been commissioned, produced and developed at companies across the US including South Coast Rep (Emilie, Silent Sky), The Kennedy Center (The Amazing Adventures of Dr. Wonderful And Her Dog!), The O’Neill, The Denver Center, Berkeley Rep, Shotgun Players, TheatreWorks, Crowded Fire, San Francisco Playhouse, Marin Theatre, Synchronicity, Olney Theatre, Geva and more. Her work is published at Playscripts (I and You, Exit, Pursued By A Bear, and Toil And Trouble), Dramatists (Silent Sky, Bauer) and Samuel French (Emilie). She is a Playwright in Residence at The Playwrights Foundation, and a proud Dramatists Guild member. She is from Atlanta, GA and lives in San Francisco.

ANDREW FISHMAN – WRITER
Andrew Fishman has a long career in multiple aspects of the live entertainment industry, strong commercial sensibility and history of creative programming. He has experienced leadership roles in administration, fundraising, advocacy, board governance, fiscal management, public relations, personnel management, and community collaboration.

DRAYLEN ASKVIG – MUSIC DIRECTOR
Draylen has been fortunate enough to teach & perform music in various venues across the PNW - but his favorite place to teach is MCT due to the passion the community here has for the arts. Draylen loves spending time with his wife, Marcy, and his young son, Ole, and he is very excited about his baby girl coming this March. Draylen enjoys singing, playing instruments, martial arts, biking, serving at his church, and much like Harry Connick, Jr. - he also enjoys a good pun.

CHRISTINE KOWALCHIK – CHOREOGRAPHER
Christine, founder/artistic director of Show Tyme Academy, holds a BA in both Acting & Dance Choreography from Muhlenberg College and has studied dance across three continents. Some favorite choreography credits at the Bigfork Summer Playhouse & MCT include Willy Wonka, Shrek! The Musical, A Christmas Story, Mamma Mia & Elf The Musical. Since 2013, she’s been the choreographer for MCT’s Performing Arts Camp (PAC) and in 2018 her choreography was recognized nationally in Tim Ryan Rouillier’s My Grandpa’s Fiddle, which earned a Telly Award. She’s loved choreographing for the MCT stage during this magical season!

JON BELL – STAGE MANAGER
While Jon is no stranger to the dark spaces backstage or in the booth, this is his first time Stage Managing a show. Jon is grateful for the opportunity, and for the dedication and cooperation of this wonderful cast. Jon was most recently seen on the MCT stage as; Uncle Fester in The Addams Family, Milky-White in Into the Woods and Cat in the Hat in Seussical. Jon is grateful for the support of his wife Breanna.
KELSON BAUMAN - EUBIE
Kelson is ecstatic to be performing on MCT’s stage this December as the happiest elf in the North Pole, Eubie. He has been performing at MCT since 2012 starring as Tommy Mara in Miracle on 34th St and has also been in Willy Wonka as Mike Teavee, Shrek, The Wizard of Oz, Newsies, as well as going to MCT’s Performing Arts Camp for many years. Kelson has also studied at Millikin University. He likes music, watching movies, Halloween, and most importantly, Christmas.

FINLEY HILLER-CLARIDGE - MOLLY
Finley Hiller-Claridge is an 11-year-old arts enthusiast in her debut for the Missoula Community Theater. She enjoys participating in MCTs children’s productions, most recently as Duchess in Aristocats. In 2019, Finley was cast as Young Cosette in Hellgate High School’s, Les Misérables. Finley enjoys drawing, reading, playing the guitar, dancing, lake and river time with her family, playing with her brother Crosby and Marvel movies. She is the proud daughter of Christine and Natalie Hiller-Claridge.

SEAMUS CELLAN – CURTIS
Seamus is a freshman at Hellgate High School. He was in last November’s MCT fundraiser and celebration of Broadway, All Together Now and has attended MCT’s Performing Arts Camp (PAC) for three years. He likes to sing and play basketball. Seamus has enjoyed his experience in this show and can’t wait to do more!

ELAINA BALDWIN - GILDA
Elaina, an Arlee native and a senior in high school, has been active in dance and theater in Missoula for over 12 years. She’s a founding member of Show Tyme Academy's student company, has appeared in MCT’s production of Elf, and has performed in several other local productions. Next fall, Elaina will be attending Dean College in Franklin, MA on scholarship, for dance. Elaina’s favorite parts of the holidays are family time and hot chocolate.

ELIJAH C MILLER - HAMM
Elijah is a native Missoulian and has been participating in MCT shows since 2017, the last show that they did was Disney’s Newsies in 2019. After being away from the stage for the past three years, they are excited to be back on stage bringing a new character to life.

STU KAPLAN - NORBERT
Norbert was most recently seen on this in his all-time favorite show, MCT’s Into the Woods. He made his MCT debut 25 years ago at the Wilma in The Unsinkable Molly Brown, and while moving in and out of Missoula three times in those years, has appeared in about a dozen shows. He is thrilled to share the stage with veterans from his early days as well as so many talented young and new faces! Let’s go Mets!
MCT, Inc. acknowledges that the MCT Center for the Performing Arts is located on indigenous territory. As we gather together and celebrate theatre, we also want to honor the original stewards of this land and their descendants; many of whom continue to live, work, teach, volunteer, and learn in this community. We are committed to showing gratitude for the land and its indigenous people by respecting and remembering this in our thoughts and actions.
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Laura Earhart ............................................ Patron Services Assistant
Lesley Washburn ....................................... Properties Master
Linda Muth ................................................... Costumer
Matt Crawford .......................................... Development Associate
Melanie A.B. Charlson ................................. Education Consultant
Naomi Lichtenberg ................................. Foundations/Corporations Director
Penny Miller .............................................. Costume Technician
Renee Crow ................................................ Costume Technician
R. Eric Prim ................................................ Local Youth Activities/
                                            Tour Associate - Tech & Transportation
Sarah Thornton .......................................... Patron Services Manager
Steven Thomas ......................................... Volunteer Coordinator/Tour Support
Susanne Davey .......................................... Costume Technician
Terri Elander ............................................ Patron Services/International Tour/
                                            Public Relations Director
Theresa K Jenson ........................................ Technical Director
Victoria Larson ........................................ Human Resources Director
Victoria McCarthy ...................................... Costume Technician

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