



Northeast State Theatre presents “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” Dec. 10-13

A family of delinquent children bringing the Christmas Story to life? You will believe it when you see it this season at Northeast State Community College!

Enjoy a sweet and satirical holiday favorite as the Northeast State Theatre Department presents Barbara Robinson’s modern classic, “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” on Dec. 10-12 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 13 at 2:30 p.m.

Grace Bradley is excited about the first day of tryouts for her church’s Christmas Pageant. Excited, that is, until the Herdman kids show up demanding to audition. There’s nothing wrong with the Herdmans other than being lying, thieving, cigar-smoking arsonists with horrible dispositions and known to all as the worst kids in town.

Grace faces her worst fear when all six Herdman children start coming to Sunday school and are the only volunteers for the main roles in the play – Mary, Joseph the three wise men and the Angel of God. None of them have ever been to church and know nothing about the Christmas Story. How can the Christmas pageant possibly work with the Herdmans starring in the story of Christ’s birth?

In a hilarious and thought-provoking way the Herdman family acts out the pageant in their own way – the “Herdman” way, with some thoughtful direction from Grace. When Gladys Herdman, the angel of God appears to proclaim, “Hey, unto you a child is born,” the shepherds *really* tremble in fear. The three wise men appear bearing the Herdman’s ham from their yearly charity basket – they want to bring something useful, not frankincense or gold or myrrh. By the end of the pageant, the Herdmans and the whole church congregation learn about the true meaning of Christmas through “the best Christmas pageant ever.”

All performances are being held at the Wellmont Regional Center for the Performing Arts on the main campus at Blountville, 2425 Highway 75, adjacent to Tri-Cities Regional Airport. Northeast State graduates and former students can enjoy one free ticket to the Dec. 10 performance designated as Alumni Night at the Theatre.

Advance tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at the Northeast State Business Office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.. Tickets at the door are \$8 general admission, \$7 seniors (55+), \$6 for groups of 10 or more.

Admission is free to Northeast State students with a valid student ID.

The play is being directed by Elizabeth McKnight Sloan. For more information, contact 423.323.0258 or e-mail emsloan@NortheastState.edu.
