

## **Children's Theatre Auditions**

The Waupaca Community Children's Theatre will be holding auditions for its 2026 summer musical production of "Elf," Jr.

Based on the holiday movie favorite, "Elf," Jr. features songs by Tony Award-nominees, Matthew Sklar ("The Prom") and Chad Beguelin ("Aladdin"), with a book by Tony Award-winners, Thomas Meehan ("Annie") and Bob Martin ("The Drowsy Chaperone").

Buddy, a young orphan, mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. The would-be elf is raised, unaware that he is actually a human, until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father and discover his true identity. Faced with the harsh reality that his father is on the naughty list and that his half-brother doesn't even believe in Santa, Buddy is determined to win over his new family and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas.

The cast includes Santa Clause, Buddy, Jovie, Buddy's father Walter, stepmother Emily and half-brother Michael, Mr. Greenway, multiple Elves, office workers and many additional ensemble roles. Songs include "World's Greatest Dad," "Sparklejollytwinklejingley," "I'll Believe In You," "A Christmas Song," and "The Story of Buddy."

Auditions will be held Tuesday, April 14 from 3:15-6:00 p.m. at the Waupaca Learning Center's music room on Shoemaker Road. Auditions are open to all area youth ages 8 to 18 who will have completed 2nd grade. Participants can show up anytime between the start and finish times and may leave after completing their auditions.

Auditionees should come prepared with something short to sing and may be asked to read from a script. Any youth auditioning without a parent or guardian present must have a signed note from home stating that he or she has permission to audition. Parents are also responsible for picking up their child promptly at the end of his or her audition.

Rehearsals will be held Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Waupaca Middle School beginning June 8. Four performances will take place in the Waupaca Middle School's Knoepfel Auditorium on July 16, 17, and 18. Cast members will also be expected to participate in Waupaca's 4th of July Parade.

Emma Ives, music teacher at the Waupaca Learning Center and Chain Exploration Center will direct.

This production is a collaboration between the Waupaca Community Theatre and the Waupaca School District's summer school program. The Waupaca Community Children's Theatre is part of the Waupaca Community Theatre and a division of the Waupaca Fine Arts Festival.

For more information visit [www.fineartsfestival.org](http://www.fineartsfestival.org)