

A Break From The Chaos

So glad that I got to take in 2 SUPER shows last weekend amid all the hectic goings on otherwise. As I pointed out in my last post, *Nuncrackers* was hilarious, kudos once again to Mare for going the extra mile by stepping out on stage to fill the role of Sister Amnesia as well as serving as director!

Yesterday, I was lucky enough to take in my other home away from home's production of one of MY favorite holiday gems LIVE ON STAGE! I know that I have mentioned my family's extreme love of *A Christmas Story*. Each year to get a viewing in, I have to stay up after mass and catch one of the showings during TBS' 24-hour marathon while everyone else is all settled in for a long winter's nap. This year, Christmas Eve mass is even earlier so I should be able to catch the midnight show!

Seeing the show on stage ALMOST made up for that one viewing!

Things have been crazy around the house the last few weeks so I was not able (or did not take the time) to make reservations before all 6 performances were sold out. This has not happened for a scheduled WCCT show since the 1978 production of *Fiddler on the Roof*! I know of at least one NON-scheduled show that was a sell out, but I won't go there (something about a karaoke). In any case, my vocal coach who played Ralphie's mother made arrangements for me to attend. They had to turn 20 people away who had called the reservation line.

Almost everything from the movie was brought to wonderful life in front of our eyes. The tire changing episode, the rattle trap furnace battles, Randy's mummification with the arms that would not stay down, the "Fra-JEE-lay" leg lamp, the Bumpuses' dogs (unseen but heard), the "triple dog dare," and of course the "official Red Ryder, carbine action, two-hundred shot range model air rifle! With a compass in the stock and a thing which tells time." My only qualm was the absence of the original soundtrack as Ralphie and friends are being chased by

the notorious Scut Farcas. Everyone on stage perfectly captured the essence of the characters being portrayed from the adult Ralphie down to little Drew. But I have to make note of the two brilliant actresses. Tiff was her typical showstopping brilliant as Ms. Shields with her margin marking quill. Seriously, anytime she is on stage the audience is in store for a treat!

I had never before seen Kathrine on stage; however, she was extraordinary! Her total presence on stage was wondrous! Her facial mannerisms, her voice, each little quirk and nuance MADE Mrs. Parker a delight to see. Her chemistry with The Old Man was one of many highlights of the show!

Now here is a bit of some of my favorite scenes in the movie or the complete theatrical trailer which I have never before seen: