

A YEAR WITH
FROG & TOAD
A TONY AWARD NOMINATED MUSICAL

Book and Lyrics by Willie Reale • Music by Robert Reale
Based on the books by Arnold Lobel



APRIL 30 - MAY 28



A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD

Music by
ROBERT REALE

Book and Lyrics by
WILLIE REALE

Based on the books by
ARNOLD LOBEL

Originally presented on Broadway by
Bob Boyett, Adrienne Lobel, Michael Gardner,
Lawrence Horowitz and Roy Furman

World Premiere at The Children's Theatre Company
Minneapolis, Minnesota

A Year with Frog and Toad
Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
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Tony® Award

2003 - Best Musical, Nominee (A Year With Frog and Toad)

2003 - Best Book Of A Musical, Nominee (Willie Reale)

2003 - Best Original Score, Nominee (Music by Robert Reale; Lyrics by Willie Reale)

Full Synopsis

Act One

The Birds have come back at the end of winter and are anxiously ready for spring. They look in on Frog and Toad, still in hibernation in their respective beds in their cozy home. In sleep, Frog and Toad dream about their friendship and all that they will do in the brand new year ("A Year with Frog and Toad").

Frog finally wakes to realize that it is spring and, therefore, time to wake up his friend, Toad. Toad is hesitant and, after breaking his alarm clock in anger, tells Frog to wake him up in another month. Frog rips the month off of his calendar and tells Toad that the time has passed ("It's Spring"). Toad finally gets out of bed and decides that, this year, he wants to plant a garden; Frog gives him seeds and some advice to help them grow. Toad finishes his planting but quickly becomes impatient when they don't immediately grow. Toad tries yelling at the seeds, but Frog tells him that they will now be afraid to grow. Toad feels bad, so he stays up all night, trying other methods to convince the seeds to grow ("Seeds").

Toad falls asleep in front of the garden and, when Frog comes to wake him up in the morning, they see that the seeds have grown a little. Toad is happy for a moment, but instantly becomes sad when he realizes that it is ten o'clock. He explains to Frog that ten o'clock is when the mail comes but he never gets any mail! Hearing this, Frog excuses himself and goes to write a letter for Toad. He gives it to Snail to mail it for him, and Snail sets off on his mission ("The Letter #1").

Eventually, Frog and Toad go to the pond for a swim, but, when it comes time to swim, Toad asks Frog to turn away while he gets into the water. Frog inquires, and Toad explains that he looks funny in a bathing suit. Frog promises not to look until Toad is in the water. When it's time to get out, Turtle comes by and Toad tells Frog to ask her to go away. Frog asks her, but she finds this amusing instead and calls over Lizard and Mouse to see Toad in his bathing suit. After getting cold, Toad decides to get out of the water as the onlookers laugh about him and his suit ("Getta Loada Toad").

The next day, Toad goes to Frog's house to surprise him with lunch but finds that Frog isn't home. There is a note on the door that says he went to the island and wishes to be left alone. Toad worries and goes to the island in search of Frog. On the trek, Toad falls in the water and ruins lunch, but Frog doesn't mind. Frog explains that he isn't sad; he's happy. He just wanted alone time to reflect on how happy it makes him to be a frog on such a beautiful day ("Alone"). Meanwhile, Snail is still on his way to deliver Frog's letter to Toad and is very happy to be doing the job ("The Letter #2").

Frog and Toad are now at Toad's house, preparing dinner. They make cookies for dessert. When they go to try them, however, they can't stop eating them because they are so good! In hopes of stopping, the two tie up the cookies in a box... but to no avail. They end up giving the rest of the cookies to the birds so that they won't eat all of them by themselves ("Cookies").

Act Two

Frog and Toad are trying to fly a kite, but they can't get it to stay in the air. The birds watch from nearby and laugh at their attempts. Toad wants to give up, but Frog continues to encourage him, and they finally get the kite to fly ("The Kite").

It's now the end of the summer and, as autumn comes, leaves begin to cover the ground ("Leaves: A Year with Frog and Toad"). Frog and Toad decide secretly to rake each other's yard as a favor. They find that it's hard work ("He'll Never Know"). When they are going back home after finishing, squirrels come and mess up the piles of leaves, ruining all of the work that they've done. They both get home and decide to rake their own yard later, never knowing the good deed that each has done for the other ("He'll Never Know — Reprise").

Later, on a dark and stormy night, Toad heads over to Frog's house; Frog thinks that it's a good night to tell a scary story. Toad is already nervous from the weather, but Frog proceeds to tell him the story of a young frog who gets separated from his parents and then escapes the clutches of the Large Terrible Frog before it eats him ("Shivers"). Meanwhile, Snail is still making his way to Toad's to deliver Frog's letter ("The Letter #3").

It is now winter, and Frog and Toad are getting ready to sled down a hill, even though Toad is scared; Frog continues to assure him that it will be okay. Partway down the hill, Frog is thrown from the sled, leaving Toad all alone. Toad doesn't know what to do and accidentally takes the dangerous and bumpy path ("Down the Hill"). Toad eventually makes it to the bottom but is angry at Frog for making him go sledding. He swears that he will never talk to Frog again. Just as Toad is about to leave, Snail appears with his letter from Frog. Toad reads the letter, wherein Frog talks about their good friendship and that he cannot be happy unless Toad is happy. Toad decides to talk to Frog again and invites him home for soup.

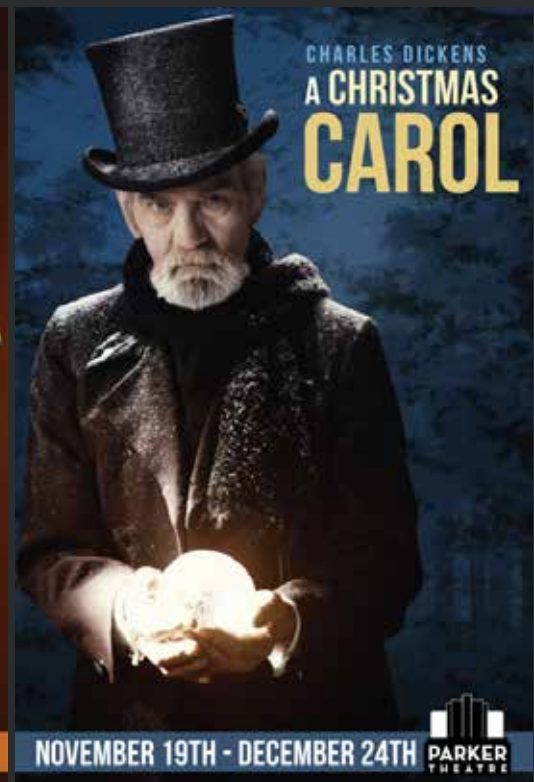
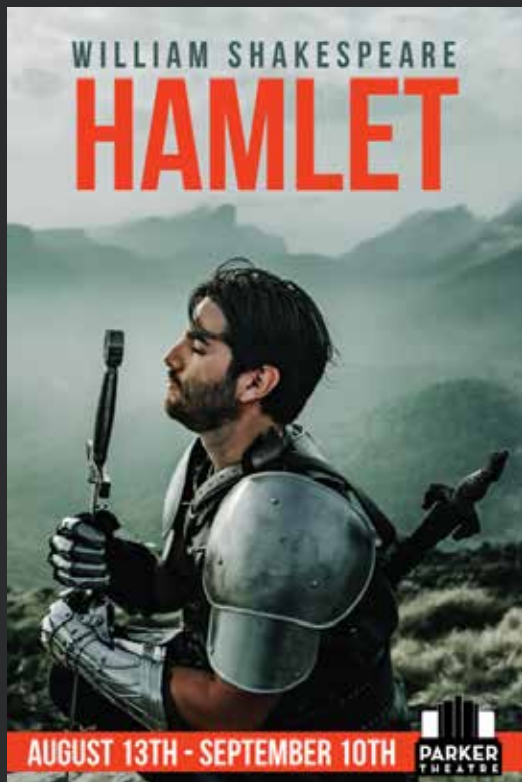
Snail, having delivered his first letter, feels as though he has finally done something of which to be proud ("I'm Coming out of My Shell").

It's now Christmas Eve, and Toad is in his kitchen, waiting for Frog. He begins to get worried because Frog is late and starts to think that something terrible has happened to him. He goes out in search of Frog ("Toad to the Rescue"). Frog arrives just as Toad is leaving and apologizes for being late, explaining that he was wrapping Toad's present. Toad opens the gift, which seems to be a new clock. Toad tells Frog that Snail is delivering his present and that it should be there soon; the two reflect on what a lovely Christmas Eve it is and how glad they are to be together ("Merry Almost Christmas").

It is now almost spring again. Frog and Toad are in hibernation. The birds return and look in on Frog and Toad dreaming. In their dreams, the two talk about what lovely things they have been thinking about and how excited they are for another new year together ("Finale: A Year with Frog and Toad").

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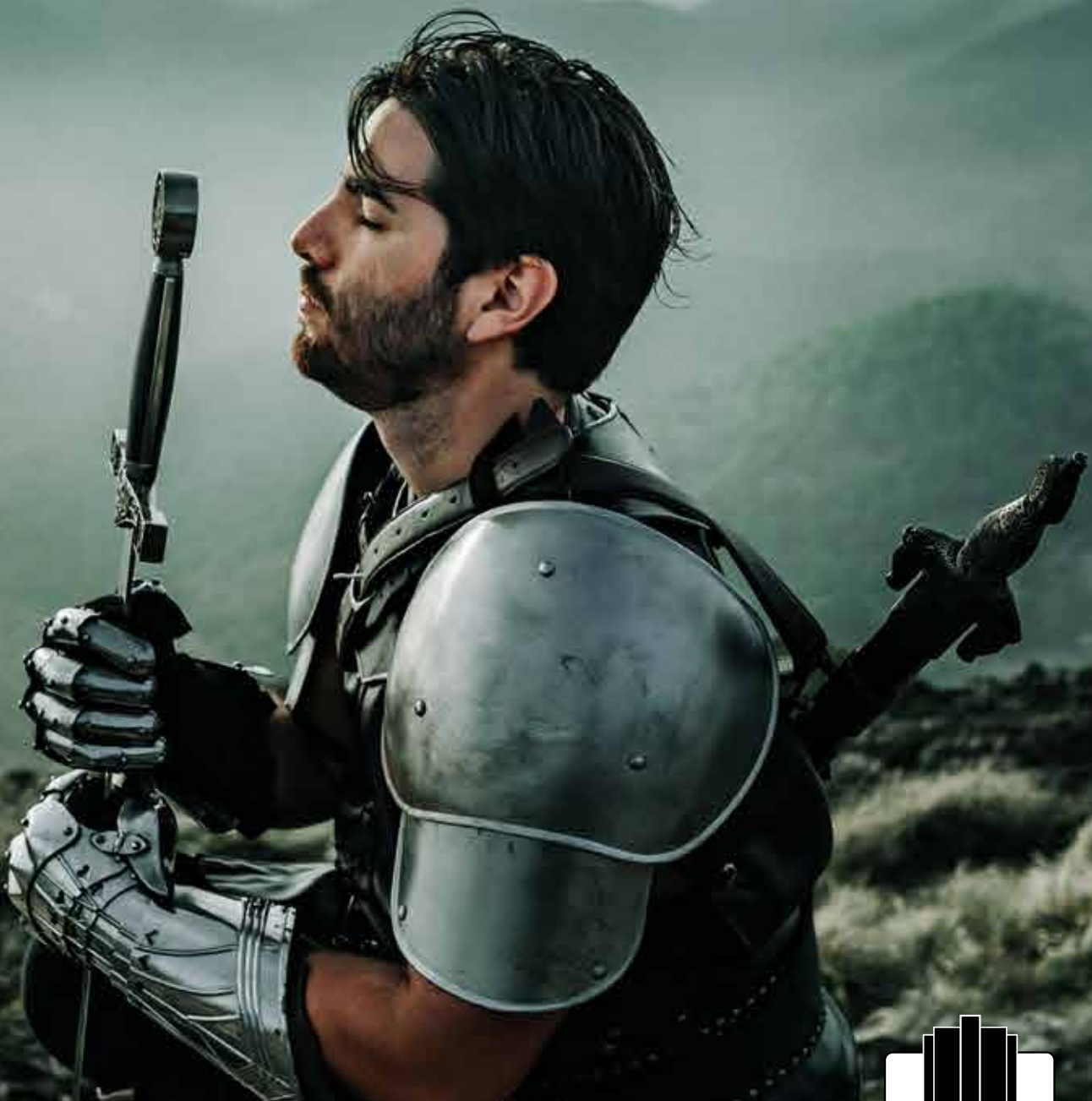


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FROG & TOAD CAST



TAYLOR SETH HALL - FROG

"Taylor grew up in Cedar City, and was trained in acting at Southern Utah University. He recently played Blind Pew in 'Treasure Island' at Hale Centre Theater. Taylor's other recent credits include 'The 39 Steps' at St George Musical Theatre; 'Deathtrap,' and 'Baskerville,' with SimonFest Theatre Co.; and 'Much Ado About Nothing' at SUU. He also directed 'Annie, Jr' in Cedar City, and is currently in production of several audiobooks. Taylor lives happily with his wife, Eliza, and five animals."



CLARK BULLEN - TOAD

Clark is excited for his first show at Parker Theatre! Some of his favorite roles have been Charlie Brown - You're a Good Man...; Seymour - Little Shop of Horrors; Chip - 25th... Spelling Bee; Chef Louis - Little Mermaid; Richard Henry Lee - 1776; Coupeau - Scarlet Pimpernel; and the Grinch in Seussical where he met his beautiful wife who is wonderfully supportive! This one is for my four awesome boys!



IAN JOHN WELLISCH - SNAIL & ENSEMBLE

Ian is a upbeat, obnoxious, scholar... OK maybe not. Chris, that's for you. Truly, Ian is a fun loving, goofy actor who loves to be on the stage. Whether it is a comically animated pirate, a King of England, or even a "speedy" delivery snail, he loves to jump into someone else's shoes. Ian has performed for theaters like Centerpoint, the Ogden Egyptian, and now the Parker Theatre. He just can't wait to be in more productions!



CHELSEA MARSDEN - TURTLE & ENSEMBLE

Chelsea is a Theatre Arts Education major at Utah Valley University. She loves working with youth, helping to nurture their talents and love for theatre. She was most recently seen in CenterPoint Legacy Theatre's production of Sister Act. She is thrilled to be in her first Parker Theatre production!



JANA LYNNE COX - MOTHER FROG & ENSEMBLE

Jana has appeared many times on the Parker Theatre stage. Favorites include Leenda the Fisherman's Wife in The Magic Fish, Mrs. Umney in The Canterville Ghost, Marilla in Anne of Green Gables, and Marietta McDougall in The Haunted Theatre Spooktacular. She has also performed at Hale Centre Theatre in Phantom, Into the Woods, and A Christmas Carol, and in Nunsense at The Grand. She won the VSA Arts National Young Playwright's Competition for writing the musical Dream Child, which was performed at the Kennedy Center. Thanks to Brett, Anne and Sarah for letting me have so much fun on stage.

DIRECTING TEAM



BRETT MEYERS - DIRECTOR

Brett Myers is excited to return to the Parker Theatre after directing *The Canterville Ghost* last fall. Other directing credits include: *John and Jen, Tick, tick... boom!* (Street Theatre Company); *The 25th Annual... Spelling Bee* (Pull-Tight Players); *The Addams Family* (Circle Players); *Beauty and the Beast, Annie, Church Basement Ladies, A Tuna Christmas* (Renaissance Players); *Legally Blonde* (City Circle Acting Company). He is also a speech-language pathologist and director of the University of Utah Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic. He received his MA from the University of Iowa and PhD from Vanderbilt University.

"Thanks to Spencer, James, Joanne, Alanna, Anne, Sarah, and the amazing cast and crew for their dedication to this show! A special thanks to my wonderful, supportive family."



ANNE PUZEY - MUSIC DIRECTOR

Anne is a well-known music director, having directed for Hale Centre Theatre, The Grand Theatre, Westminster College, UVU Noorda Theatre, The Parker Theatre, West Valley Arts and Good Company Theatre, among others. She has worked with Merrill Osmond, Alex Brightman, Jessica Vosk, Lauren Molina, Rob McClure, Jeff McCarthy, Jill Santoriello, Will Swenson, Jason Robert Brown, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Maren Mazzei, Kate Baldwin, Ciera Renee, Seth Rudetsky, Betsy Wolfe and Pacek & Paul. She graduated from BYU. She received a Lifetime Service Award from The Utah Theatre Association. She has been an audition accompanist for Big League Productions, Tuacahn Theatre, the National Touring Company of *Cats* and *Mamma Mia*, pianist at *Broadway Evolved* in NYC and was a vocal coach for Utah Opera and Symphony. She is part-owner of Audition Advantage.



SARAH MARTIN - CHOREOGRAPHER

Sarah is delighted to be back at the Parker Theatre after ten years. She has a degree from Southern Utah University in Dance and tries to use those skills whenever she can. Some of her favorite recent-ish projects are choreographing Shakespeare competition pieces, Working with Lemons YouTube videos, and assisting with choreography at Centerpoint Theatre. Many, many thanks and all the love to David and the kiddos for their unwavering support!



DANNA BARNEY- LIGHTING DESIGN

Danna has been involved since the 1st grade. She has performed, teched, designed and installed in over 210 shows over her career and is currently running the lighting department for Hale Centre Theatre. Her favorite lighting designs include Aida, Freaky Friday, Steel Magnolias, Wait Until Dark and the past Parker Theatre production of Sword and the Stone. "Thank you Parker Theatre for giving me the opportunity to stretch my design muscles again."



JAMES B. PARKER - SET DESIGN

James is one of the founding members of Parker Theatre and current Executive Director. James has performed and designed set, lighting and costumes in the theatre since childhood. As an adult, he studied industrial design and graphic design in Seattle, WA. One of his greatest challenges and labor of love was designing and converting this old movie theatre into a live theatre venue. James is married to the love of his life, Emily. together they have three children.

PRODUCTION

Rebecca Blaisdell

Alanna Cottam

Larrisa Anderson

Julie Anderson, Cathy Maurer

Mandy Talkington

Julie Blaisdell

Alice Ethington

Liv Austin and Robert Bennion

Paul Petersen, James Parker, Helene Parker

Production Manager

Stage Manager

Property Manager

Costume Designer

Shop Manager

Lighting Tech

Stage Hand

Spotlights

Set Construction & Painting

SPECIAL THANKS

Dan Morgan, Tattered Butterfly Photography, Zip Graphic, Bevgas and Hale Centre Theatre.



JOANNE M. PARKER - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Joanne M. Parker is the founding Artistic Director of Parker Theatre. She has written over 100 plays and directed hundreds more. Her boundless energy has been the directing force behind Parker Theatre. Joanne is an original member of Children's Dance Theatre under the direction of Virginia Tanner and she received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Utah in 1970. She is a talented performer, composer and author of lyrics for several children's award-winning songs and plays. She has also been the recipient of two Best of State Awards for play writing and is well known throughout the state for training hundreds of performers. She is the mother of five, grandmother of eighteen and great grandmother of three.



SPENCER HOHL - ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Spencer Hohl is a talented musician and a certified member of the Society of American Fight Directors. Spencer has acted on stage in dozens of productions in the valley. Some favorites include The Canterville Ghost, Treasure Island, Robin Hood, Hamlet, Taming of the Shrew, Zorro and The Three Musketeers. He is also a veteran actor on the Parker Theatre stage and is delighted to be back home, now in his new capacity as Associate Artistic Director. "Perfect! Do it again."

ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: JAMES B. PARKER

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER: PAUL PETERSEN

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: JOANNE M. PARKER

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: SPENCER J. HOHL

PRODUCTION MANAGER: REBECCA BLAISDELL

COSTUME SHOP MANAGER: MANDY TALKINGTON

HOUSE MANAGER: AXEL SANCHEZ

HOUSE STAFF: ROBERT BENNION, ALEXIS O'NEAL, LIVIA AUSTIN SAILOR TALKINGTON



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