The Averitt Center for the Arts is proud to present:

Christmas Belles

Author: Jones Hope Wooten

Directed By: Donna Hooley

December 8-10th
7:30pm

December 11th
3:00pm

Down in old Fayro

Happy Holidays from the Futrelles!

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Please do not Record during the play

The Averitt Center for the Arts is proud to present:

Christmas Belles

Author: Jones Hope Wooten

Directed By: Donna Hooley

Credits and Crew

Exclusive Authors:

Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten

Tony Phillips, Producer
Clint Tootle, Technical Director
Donna Hooley, Director
John Oglesby, assistant director
Robert Faller, set design & creation
Danny Hooley, line coach
Felicia Dunn, props mistress
Mary-Ella Walden, stage angel
Camille Saunders, stage angel
Tiffany Courdin, stage angel

Characters List

Miss Geneva Musgrave, Town Florist:
Pam Baggett

Honey Raye Futrelle, 2nd Oldest Futrelle Sister:
Julie Moody

Gina Jo (G.J.) Dubberly, Dub & Frankie's Daughter:
Tate Miller

John Curtis Buntner, Deputy Sheriff:
Jamey Saunders

Twink Futrelle, Middle Futrelle Sister:
Nichole Deal

Dub Dubberly, Frankie's Husband:
Lee Walker

Frankie Futrelle Dubberly, Youngest Futrelle Sister:
Rachel Elkins

Rhonda Lynn Lampley, Oldest Futrelle Sister:
Christie McLendon

Justin Waverly, Interim Pastor:
Robert Cottle

Raynerd Chisum, Dairy Dog employee:
Alan Tyson

Patsy Price, Local Society Matron:
Eileen Bayens

Setting

A church Christmas program spins hilariously out of control in this Southern farce about squabbling sisters, family secrets, a surly Santa, a vengeful sheep and a reluctant Elvis impersonator.

It's Christmas-time in the small town of Fayro, Texas, and the Futrelle Sisters—Frankie, Twink and Honey Raye—are not exactly in a festive mood. A cranky Frankie is weeks overdue with her second set of twins. Twink, recently jilted and bitter about it, is in jail for inadvertently burning down half the town. And hot-flash-suffering Honey Raye is desperately trying to keep the Tabernacle of the Lamb's Christmas Program from spiraling into chaos. But things are not looking too promising.

Miss Geneva, the ousted director of the previous twenty-seven productions, is ruthless in her attempts to take over the show. The celebrity guest Santa Claus—played by Frankie's long-suffering husband, Dub—is passing a kidney stone. One of the shepherds refuses to watch over his flock by night without pulling his little red wagon behind him. And the entire cast is dropping like flies due to food poisoning from the Band Boosters' Pancake Supper. And when Frankie lets slip a family secret that has been carefully guarded for decades, all hope for a successful Christmas program seems lost, even with an Elvis impersonator at the manger. But in true Futrelle fashion, the feuding sisters find a way to pull together in order to present a Christmas program the citizens of Fayro will never forget. Their hilarious holiday journey through a misadventure-filled Christmas Eve is guaranteed to bring joy to your world!

Words from the Director

Donna Ross Hooley has worked as an actor or assistant director in many shows at the Averitt Center, including Tom Sawyer and The Diary of Anne Frank. She played Mrs. Peterson in Bye Bye Birdie. For three years she assisted Portal High School in developing a drama program. Retired now, she was Georgia Southern University's 1999 Professor of the Year and the 2008 recipient of the Dorothy Golden Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Composition.

"Tonight's show is part of a trilogy about the Futrelle family of Fayro, Texas. While you need not have seen the other shows to enjoy this one, it is set six months after Dearly Beloved, which we staged May 2021, and six years before Southern Hospitality, which we staged May 2022. Christmas Belles is set in the present, a gift to you from our volunteer cast and crew. May it brighten your season and help make for a Merry Christmas."

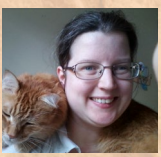
- Donna Hohohooley

Biographies

Christie McLendon is thankful to share the stage with this talented and hilarious cast! This is her 12th (or 13th?) show at the Averitt. Favorite roles are Louise in *Always Patsy Cline* and Miss Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls* and most recently as Cindy Lou in the *Marvelous Wonderettes*. She does background work in TV shows and movies including *Stranger Things, Halloween 3, Heels, Star Girl, Switched Before Birth* and more. Christie also portrays characters from *The Andy Griffith* show regionally in town festivals, annually on a 5-day carnival cruise and on the big screen in the recently released movie *Mayberry Man*. She also sings with a ladies trio One Voice in a comedy/gospel/oldies show. She has two children-ages 23 and 28 and resides in Metter with husband of 33 years, Mike.

Pam Baggett lives in the small town of Garfield, Ga in Emanuel County and has been there her whole life (60 years). She is married to Jason Baggett and mother of 3 adult children (two are teachers and one is a Georgia State trooper). Pam is Nanny to ten perfect grandchildren. She is currently in her 31st year of teaching public school at Emanuel County Institute and plans to retire at the end of this school year. Pam played the part of Clairee in *Steel Magnolias* with the Emanuel Arts Council in 2020. This is her third time bringing the bossy Miss Geneva Musgrave to life, with the first being last year in *Dearly Beloved* and the second in *Southern Hospitality* this past spring. Being a part of this group of such talented people for these productions is one of the most exciting and rewarding things she has done.

Eileen Bayens is a retired educator. Since retiring, she has worked for CASA, training Volunteer Advocates for abused and neglected children in the foster care system. Eileen has acted since her college days. Her last major role was Gloria in *Grace and Gloria* at the Averitt. Recently, she appeared as the Nurse in *The Sunshine Boys* and Patsy Price in *Dearly Beloved*. Eileen made her directing debut at the Averitt in 2013 with *Count Dracula*. She has been the recipient of 4 Emma's for her directing and supporting acting roles.

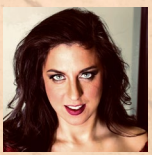


Felicia Dunn is a local girl, who is no stranger to the Averitt Center. She's worked on and off the stage on shows like *Into the Woods, Annie, Mary Poppins, Steel Magnolias, Dearly Beloved, and Southern Hospitality*. It's a pleasure to work with this amazing team of cast & crew members. Special thanks to my sister and uncles for all their love and support. And a Big thanks to Hobby Lobby for their support.

Biographies

Robert Cottle is a graduate of GSU, completing both a BM and MM in music education, as well as a MM in classical guitar performance. He is currently the executive Artistic Associate at the Averitt Center for the Arts. He has served as director and musical director for several Averitt STARS and Youth Theater productions. Some of his favorite productions at the Averitt Center include *The King and I, Little Shop of Horrors, Honk!, The Wizard of Oz, Velveteen Rabbit, Oliver the Musical, and You're A Good Man Charlie Brown.* He has also directed music for *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *9-5 the Musical* with the Collective Face Theater (Savannah, Ga.) as well as *The Rocky Horror Show* and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* at the Bay Street Theatre (Savannah, Ga.) He maintains a large studio by teaching piano, voice, and guitar at the Averitt Center.

Nichole Deal is no stranger to the stage here at the Emma Kelly theater. This has been one of her favorite roles in addition to the role of Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*. Nichole has also filmed as background talent for numerous shows including *The Act, Ozark, Council of Dads* and *Expedition Unknown*. She has appeared on Hulu, Netflix, NBC and the Discovery Channel. She would like to thank her friends and family for their love and support as well as Donna Hooley for giving her the opportunity to continue appearing in this role. Nichole encourages everyone to support their local arts community! Sit back, laugh and enjoy your time here in Fayro!



Rachel Elkins is so excited to be a part of this hilarious show. She is especially proud to share the stage with her daughter Tate (Gina Jo). She has been involved in several Averitt productions including *Annie, The Little Mermaid, Mary Poppins, The Rocky Horror Show, The Marvelous Wonderettes, The Marvelous Wonderettes: Caps and Gowns, Dearly Beloved, and The Lady Legends of Country Music*. Rachel would like to thank Donna Hooley for this fantastic opportunity.

Tate Miller is a high school senior attending classes at Georgia Southern. She has been involved in many shows at the Averitt, most recently as Miss Honey in *Matilda*. She would like to thank Donna and Danny Hooley as well as John Oglesby for the wonderful opportunity!

Biographies

Julie Moody is excited to be returning to Fayro, TX as Honey Raye Futrelle. It has been so much fun to work with such a talented group of people. She has previously worked with Tony Phillips in *Bye, Bye Birdie, Tom Sawyer, and White Christmas*. Thank you, Donna, for the opportunity to bring Honey Raye Futrelle to life a third time.

Jamey Saunders is happy to be returning to the Emma Kelly Theater stage with this wonderful cast. This will be his fifth roduction at the Averitt Center. He brings great dignity, seriousness, and gravitas to all his roles. Ah...who are we kidding - he's a total clown. When he isn't "actin' a-fool", he likes to spend time with his wife Leila and his three kids, subjecting them to endless Dad Jokes.

Alan Tyson is a Statesboro native who began acting on stage in the early '90's as Fezziwig in A Christmas Carol. Since that time, he has appeared in numerous productions at the Emma Kelly Theater. THANKS to Donna for casting me for a third time as Raynerd Chisum! This is gonna be fun folks!!

Lee Walker is proud to be a part of another wonderful production! No stranger to the Averitt, Lee has had the privilege to be a part of many shows including *Oklahoma!,* as Judd Fry, and one of his favorite roles as Harry McAfee in *Bye Bye Birdie*. It is always a joy to share the stage with many fine actors as it is in this hilarious production. Thank you to Donna and John for allowing me to be a part of this show. Thank you to the wonderful cast that has come back together to have fun doing it again. Thank you dear for letting me perform on stage.

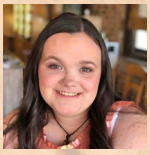
Clint Tootle is the assistant technical director at the Averitt Center for the Arts. He is a native of Bulloch County. He is thankful for the opportunity to work with Donna Hooley on *Christmas Belles*. Clint has almost seven years in recovery from substance use disorder and is a proud husband and daddy!

Biographies

Tiffany Courdin is new to the Averitt Center and is thrilled to be part of Christmas Belles' crew. Tiffany works at Georgia Southern. She is an amateur naturalist and enjoys hiking and exploring new trails, as well as photographing and identifying plants and wildlife. Two of her favorite things are coffee with a friend and a completely unexpected, well-timed pun.

Danny Hooley has appeared in nine stage shows at the Averitt Center. Among his notable roles were his performances in *Bye Bye Birdie* and a breakthrough role as Injun Joe in *Tom Sawyer*. He also appeared as Mr. Kraler in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. For three years he helped develop the drama program at Portal High School. He is a graduate of Statesboro High School, class of 2003, and completed his education at the Roosevelt Institute in Warm Springs, Georgia.

John Oglesby This will be John's first time working behind the scenes in a show. It is his second foray in comedy with the Futrelle sisters and Fayro, TX. This will be his fourth production *(Smoke on the Mountain, Newsies, and Southern Hospitality)* here at the Averitt Center. Originally from Savannah, John retired from the USAF and Georgia Air National Guard. John also retired from his second career at Georgia Southern University. I am very grateful to Donna for the opportunity to work with this very talented cast in a hilarious play. Be prepared for an enjoyable evening, Laughing Till Your Ribs Ache. "These folks are a Bit Different!!!"



Camille Saunders is a senior at Portal High School. She is the drum major for the Portal Pride Marching Band, and the daughter of Leila Saunders and Jamey Saunders. When she isn't being pelted with Dad Jokes, she enjoys making arts and crafts, playing with her dogs, and watching TV.

Mary-Ella Walden is 12-years old and from Twin City. She is the second oldest of five children. Mary-Ella is a star honor roll, seventh grade student at ECI where she participates in middle school cheerleading and track. She also enjoys dancing, spending time with family, and teaching herself different makeup and hair techniques from YouTube. She is excited about working on this show with her grandmother, Pam Baggett.

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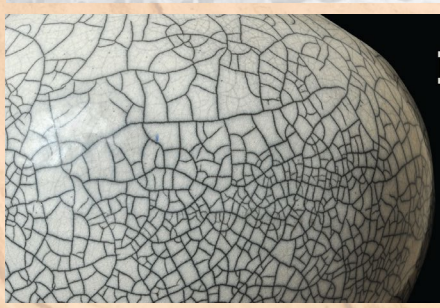

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The Averitt Center for the Arts will be closed
December 17th-January 2nd
to enjoy the holidays and ring in a new year!