

Your Family Arts Center

# DALLAS CHILDREN'S THEATER

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## Harry Connick, Jr.'s THE HAPPY ELF SYNOPSIS

### Two Acts (approximately 90 minutes total)

#### Act One (55 Minutes)

Join us at Dallas Children's Theater for a holiday story about the happiest elf at the North Pole, Eubie, as he tries to get all the kids in Bluesville off of the naughty list...can he do it or will their Christmas be coal-filled yet again?

At Santa's workshop, Eubie is so excited for Christmas (it's just a few days away)! But, merriment is not allowed at the workshop, and Norbert, the workshop's foreman, quickly shuts down Eubie's joyous music. Another elf, Gilda, runs into the workshop and announces Santa will be picking three elves to fly with him on Christmas Eve. Gilda, Eubie, and their friend, Hamm, dream that they might be those three lucky elves. Norbert scoffs at their idea and tells them to get back to work. But, Eubie is just too excited, singing and dancing and causing a bit of a ruckus. Norbert fires Eubie from the workshop and threatens to take away his elf hat, which is the key to elf magic, if he ever does anything like this again.

Undeterred by Norbert, Eubie decides to crash Santa's board meeting. At the board meeting, Santa and his top elves, including Norbert, are discussing all the final details for Christmas. Eubie interrupts and tries to convince Santa that he's the right pick for riding with Santa on Christmas Eve. When Norbert realizes that Eubie might get picked, he tells everyone that Eubie actually has another important job to get back to in The Naughty and Nice Department.

As Eubie sorts through the lists in The Naughty and Nice Department, he realizes that almost all the naughty kids are from one town: Bluesville. Gilda and Hamm find him working, and Eubie tells them if they turn all the kids in Bluesville nice then Santa will have to select them to ride with him on Christmas Eve. The other elves don't want to risk it, so Eubie heads off to Bluesville on his own (with help from his magic hat).

Bluesville is just as it sounds...filled with miserable people who are mad because they have to work all the time, there is only a few seconds of sunlight every day, and the only natural resource in town is coal. Eubie meets the townspeople, like the Mayor, his wife, and their daughter, Molly,

and he realizes that he's got a lot of work ahead of him to convince them that they should want to be on the Nice List.

Molly takes Eubie on a tour of Bluesville, including the What Factory which only makes unanswered questions. Even though Molly tries to convince Eubie there's nothing worth saving in Bluesville, Eubie can sense there's goodness there deep down. At the music shop, filled with broken instruments, Eubie learns more about the bad parts of living in Bluesville. Pulling aside Molly's friend, Curtis, he wants to know if there's anything that would make her happy. Curtis finally admits that Molly likes candy - a lot. Eubie sees that he might have made a breakthrough with Molly and tries to seal the deal by giving Molly his elf hat. But, just as he hands it to her, he's whooshed back to the North Pole where he's locked up by Norbert and the Gnomeland security because of all the rules he's broken.

Intermission (10 Minutes)

Act Two (25 Minutes)

Eubie is surprised when Gilda and Hamm show up to break him out of elf prison. They've even stolen Norbert's hat to give to Eubie so they can all get back to Bluesville and finish the job. When they arrive in Bluesville, Molly is surprised to see them; she didn't think Eubie would ever come back. Eubie, with the elves and Molly and Curtis, works on a plan to spread Christmas cheer in Bluesville. Unfortunately, Norbert and Gnomeland security show up to shut down the fun; but, luckily, the group loses them and keeps working on Operation Yule Tide Turning.

It looks like Santa might not be coming, even after all their hard work. Molly thinks Eubie tricked her so that he and his friends could ride on Santa's sleigh on Christmas Eve. Eubie realizes that he might not have had the best intentions in mind when he decided to help Bluesville. Unbelievably, as Molly throws a lump of coal in frustration, she sees that inside the coal is a diamond. Just like the lump of coal, Molly now sees that there is goodness inside everyone (even in the town of Bluesville).

Filled with hope, the town begins to change. From the factory now producing exclamations, to the citizens finding the good inside everyone and everything, the spirit of Christmas comes to town! Even Santa arrives. He declares that Norbert is on the Naughty list, and Bluesville is finally on the Nice list. Santa invites Eubie, Gilda and Hamm to join him on the sleigh for Christmas Eve. As he departs, Eubie tells Molly he'll see her next year. The town chants "Merry Christmas" as the sun rises on Christmas Day.

Notes:

- This show is two acts, and there will be an intermission.
- This is a fun, fast-paced musical filled with jazzy tunes.
- There is one song during the show where the actors will come out into the audience. For a less-interactive experience, consider sitting at the back of section B.