

RESOURCE GUIDE

Spookley and the Christmas Kittens™

November 1 - November 30, 2025

Book and Lyrics by Joe Troiano

Music composed & arranged by Jeffrey Zahn

Based on the film Spookley and the Christmas Kittens by Joe Troiano and Jim Lewis and the book, Mistletoe and the Christmas Kittens by Joe Troiano

Directed by Cody R. Braudt



ABOUT STAGES THEATRE COMPANY



Since our founding in 1984 Stages Theatre Company has put the well-being and growth of youth in the center of everything we do—on stage, backstage, in the audience, and in the classroom. When a youth enters any of our spaces, they are the center of not only why we do what we do, but how we do it.

Through our Productions, our Education Programming, our Fundraising Initiatives, the Development of New Work for the TYA Stage, and our Mentorship Programs we strive to center youth in the stories we tell, the plays we create, the curriculum we develop, the activities we initiate, and the decisions we make. As a company and a community of artists and teachers, the youth and families we serve drive what we do first, last, and always.



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*Publicity Photos by
Amy Rondeau Photography*

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Synopsis

Spookley and the Christmas Kittens begins at the North Pole, where Santa discovers a curious green kitten lost in the snow. Naming him Mistletoe, Santa promises to find him a forever home where he will be loved and never alone . But on Christmas Eve, Mistletoe secretly stows away on Santa’s sleigh. A gust of wind knocks him off, and he tumbles down to Holiday Hill Farm.

There, Spookley the Square Pumpkin and his farmyard friends are preparing for a Christmas Extravaganza, a celebration of peace, love, kindness, and friendship . When Mistletoe arrives, confused and uncertain of his past, Spookley reaches out to him. Unlike the others, who are puzzled by a green cat, Spookley shows kindness, sensing Mistletoe’s loneliness. Mistletoe longs for a home, but what he truly seeks is belonging .

Guided by Leon the raccoon and a magical sack, Mistletoe encounters three stray kittens—Scat, Scram, and Shoo—who, like him, have no home. Though reluctant at first, Mistletoe begins to care for them, protecting them and even risking himself during a snowstorm. Their bond deepens, and when Shoo, the silent kitten, finally speaks to comfort him, Mistletoe realizes he is no longer alone.

Meanwhile, Spookley convinces his friends that helping Mistletoe is the right thing to do, and together they set out into the storm. With Santa’s gentle guidance, Leon’s help, and Spookley’s loyalty, the group finds their way back to the farmhouse. Mistletoe bravely sneaks the kittens inside, instructing them to hide under the Christmas tree so that Farmer Hill’s children might discover them on Christmas morning.

When Holly and Buddy awake, they are delighted to find not just three kittens, but also the shy green cat hiding nearby. Instead of being rejected as Mistletoe feared, the children are overjoyed. Buddy places a star-shaped collar around his neck, reading aloud the words: “My name is Mistletoe, and I live on Holiday Hill Farm.” With this, Mistletoe finally receives the home and family he longed for.

The story concludes in song and celebration, reminding everyone that the greatest gifts are love, friendship, and belonging—not presents under the tree. Spookley and his friends affirm that Christmas magic lives in kindness and in finding “a place called home” .



Meet the Creators



Joe Troiano Author, Book & Lyrics

Joe Troiano is the author, script writer, lyricist, and producer behind all of the Spookley the Square Pumpkin and Holiday Hill Farm books, movies, songs, and stage shows. Joe first conceived of Spookley one Halloween night when his young son asked for a non-scary bedtime story about pumpkins. Joe Troiano is the award-winning author of more than ten children's books including: The Legend of Spookley the Square Pumpkin; The Legend of Mistletoe and the Christmas Kittens; The Legend of Jellybean and the Unbreakable Egg; The Legend of Lyla the Lovesick Ladybug; The Legend of Beacon the Bright Little Firefly; It's Your Cloud; and TEAM Rudolph and the Reindeer Games. Joe is also an accomplished lyricist, having written songs for film, music recordings, television and stage. His credits include Spookley the Square Pumpkin, Caillou, Arthur, Disney's JoJo Circus and Monster Mash the Movie.



Jeffrey Zahn Composer

Jeff Zahn is an award-winning music supervisor/composer. In addition to his work on Spookley the Square Pumpkin, Jeff was the music director and composer for the stage productions of Arthur's Lucky Pencil, Cassandra's Angels, Caillou, and Wimzie's House. He has also produced projects for The Backstreet Boys, Wyclef Jean, Ziggy Marley, Art Garfunkel, Yo Yo Ma, The San Francisco Opera, Debra Harry and many others. As a musician, Jeff was an original member of the orchestra for Broadway production of Cats and he has performed with major headliners including Burt Bacharach, Frank Sinatra, Diana Ross, Gladys Knight, Tina Turner, Sammy Davis Jr, Earth, Wind and Fire, Dionne Warwick, and many other artists. Jeff has also supervised and composed the music for over 50 TV series including Arthur, Caillou: Are You Afraid of the Dark, Madeline, Paddington Bear, Richard Scarry, Wombles, Barney and Sesame Street. His film credits include Arthur, Twinkletoes, Frankenstein Sings; and Spookley the Square Pumpkin.



Jim Lewis Writer

Jim Lewis is a former Jim Henson Company staff writer with a wide variety of writing and production credits. Lewis first worked with the Muppets as the editor of Muppet Magazine, having previously worked as a staff writer for Children's Television Workshop's Enter magazine. His first actual production was the 1988 direct-to-video Hey, You're as Funny as Fozzie Bear. The Disney Channel program Studio DC: Almost Live was produced by him.

Listen to the soundtrack!



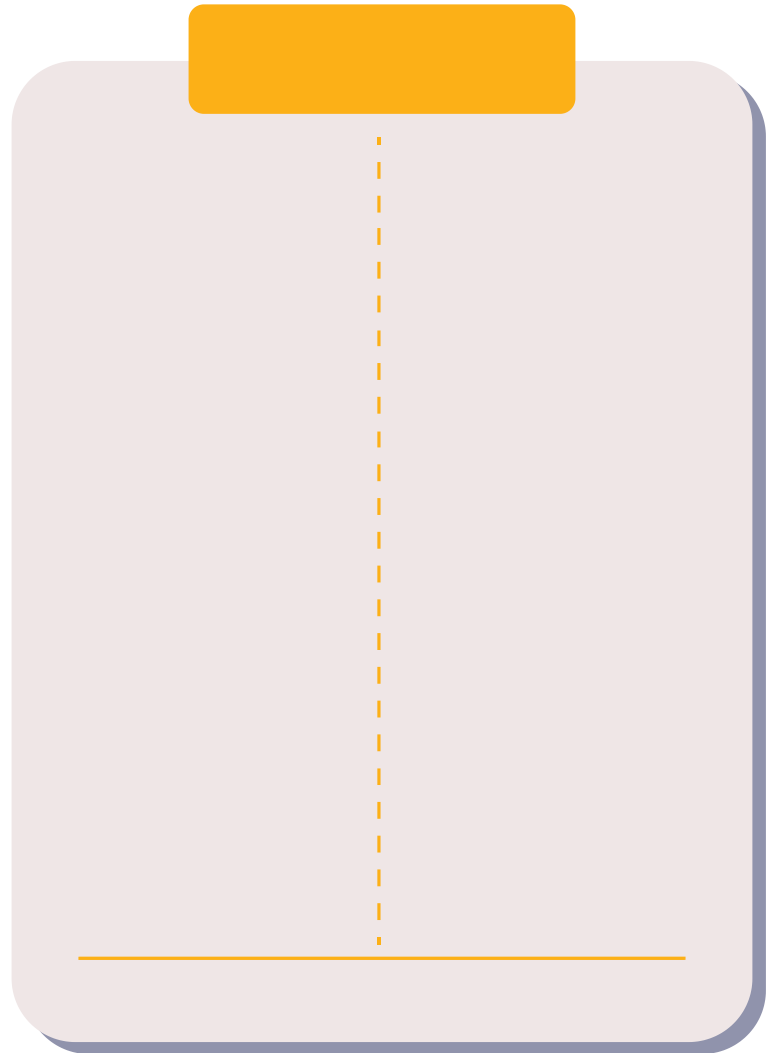
[CLICK TO VISIT](#)





Gift Giving

Gifts aren't always things we can see or touch. Mistletoe gives the kittens a home by marching through a snowstorm to bring them to safety. His hard work was a gift. Draw or write a list of other gifts that you can't buy at a store.





Storytelling

The note on Mistletoe's box says 'it is better to give than it is to receive'. Tell or write a story about a time you gave a gift. Your story should answer these questions:



Why were you giving a gift?



Who did you give a gift to?



What did they do when they received your gift?



How did you feel when you gave the gift?

Now fill in the blanks to create a funny story about a time you gave a gift!

Today was _____ Day!
noun

I gave a gift to my _____ .
noun

It was a _____ .
noun

I chose it because it was _____ .
adjective

When they opened it they _____ because they were
verb

so _____ . It made me feel _____ .
adjective adjective

Next year I will give them a _____ .
noun

Noun: person, place, thing or animal
eg: unicorn, pizza rock

Adjective: describes a noun
eg: funny, smelly, hot

Verb: an action
eg: run, cry, throw

SPOOKLEY THE SQUARE PUMPKIN™



Every Day is a Holiday™



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SCAT



SCRAM



SHOO



Every Day is a Holiday™



MISTLETOE



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Discussion Questions

Before the show

What is the most special gift someone has given to you? Why was it important to you?



What do you know about Spookley the Square Pumpkin? Can you name three adjectives to describe him?

Around the Holidays, what do you like to do that makes people feel happy and cared for?

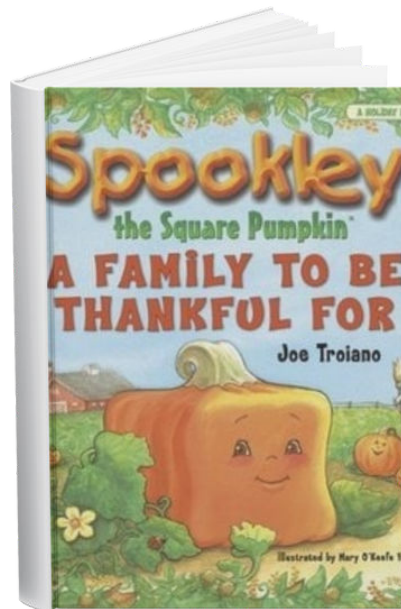
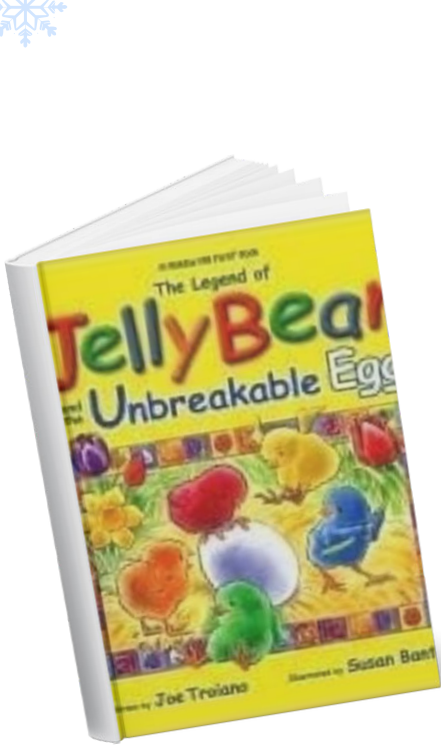
After the show

Why did Mistletoe care so much about the three kittens? Can you remember a time where you put another person before yourself?

Why did Spookley think it was important to go and look for Mistletoe?

Mistletoe was worried that people would be scared of him because he was green. If you have ever felt like someone might not like you, what have you done to show yourself that you are worth liking?

Recommended Reading



By Others:

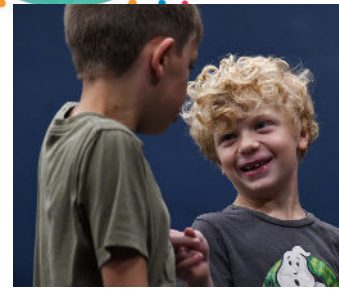
Snowmen At Night by Caralyn M. Buehner

Should I Share My Ice Cream? by Mo Willems

The Cat Who Ate Christmas by Lil Chase

Santa Mouse Finds a Furry Friend by Michael Brown





General Information

Ticket Policy: Ticket orders will not be processed without full payment. We do not issue refunds. Exchanges can be made up to 24 hours prior to a scheduled performance. Exchanges can only be made for another performance of the SAME TITLE. Subject to availability.

Box Office Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. and one hour prior to all performances.

Mainstage: Unless otherwise noted, performances take place in the mainstage theatre. Seating is reserved and begins 30 minutes prior to showtime.

Jaycees Studio: All performances of *Señorita Mariposa*, *When You Trap A Tiger*, and *Tell Me Your Dreams* will be in the Jaycees Studio, a versatile space located in the Hopkins Center for the Arts. Seating is general admission and begins 30 minutes prior to show time. Come early for the most seating options!

Land Acknowledgment

Stages Theatre Company acknowledges with respect and gratitude that the land on which we live and work is the unceded, traditional land of the Dakota Nation. We are committed to learning from the past and critically examining the implications of colonial histories in our day to day lives.

To honor the traditional custodians of this land, complimentary tickets to every performance are available specifically for our indigenous community. We hope these resources can move us in taking collective action towards land repatriation. Please call our box office at (952) 979-1111 to secure these complimentary tickets.



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Accessibility

At Stages Theatre Company we believe that theatre experiences are for everyone! We are working towards a fully inclusive environment where all programs and performances are accessible to all.

Sensory-Friendly Performances

Relaxed performances designed for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Sensory Processing Disorder, or others with sensory sensitivities.

American Sign Language (ASL)

Interpreted Performances

American Sign Language interpretation by certified interpreters for patrons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Audio Described (AD) Performances

Audio Description services are intended to enhance the understanding of and access to visual information primarily for but not limited to people who are blind or have low vision.

Pay What You Can Performances (PWYC)

These performances have no minimum price, and patrons are asked to “pay what you can” the day of the show to support the theatre’s programming.

Open Door Program

The Open Door Program provides free and reduced cost tickets, bus subsidies, and tuition assistance to families, schools, and social service agencies. An application and further information can be found on our website: stagestheatre.org/access

Additional Services Available

- Assisted Listening Devices are available for all Stages Theatre Company’s Mainstage productions.
- Wheelchair Accessible Seating is available at every Stages Theatre Company performance.
- Accessible Parking and Accessible Restrooms are available at the Hopkins Center of the Arts.

Accessibility Performances are available for all season subscription options.



A
SEASON
THAT BRINGS US
TOGETHER

JOIN US
THIS
SEASON!

2025-26 SEASON

