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Lighthouse Christian students star in 'Christmas Story'

**Nate Hulings
of the Gateway**

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Two brothers who attend Lighthouse Christian School in Gig Harbor are sharing the stage this season for the Tacoma Little Theatre's production of "A Christmas Story."

Caleb Wilkerson, 12, will play the lead role of Ralphie, a young boy who is dead set on getting a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. Mason Wilkerson, 11, will play Ralphie's friend, Flick.

The Wilkersons have extensive theater backgrounds, but this is the first time they've shared a major production. The two admit they don't always get along, but they save the sibling rivalry for once they get off the stage.

"Sometimes I do get a little annoyed with him," Caleb said. "But I clear my mind, start fresh on stage and pretend he's my best friend."

Mason also admits he occasionally gets upset with his brother, but he's also quick to dish out compliments.



"It's really fun to be with him," Mason said. "He's a great actor."

Mason's character, Flick, has one of the production's most iconic scenes when he places his tongue on a cold pole during recess. He finds out the hard way that the two shouldn't mix.

"I really like this one (performance) because it's one of my favorite movies," Mason said.

The brothers said they've seen the movie "probably a million times," and they aren't afraid they will forget their lines.

Caleb's biggest concern is all of Ralphie's costume changes, including the rabbit pajamas, which also happens to be one of his favorite parts.

The hustle and bustle of being both backstage and onstage is exciting for the Wilkersons.

"I like the feeling of the adrenaline going through you right before, and the relief after the show is over," Caleb said.

Mason said it gets easier with time.

"When you're on the stage, you're kinda scared at first, but you get really excited," he said. "The more you do the show, the better you get. It's really exciting just to learn more about your character."

Julie Halpin directs the Tacoma Little Theatre's production of Jean Shepherd's "A Christmas Story" which began Nov. 27 and will run through Dec. 24.

'A Christmas Story'

Shows began Nov. 27 and will run through Dec. 24. Visit www.tacomalittletheatre.com or call 252-2727-2281 for ticket and schedule information.

The Tacoma Little Theatre is located at 210 N. I St. in Tacoma.

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Photo courtesy of Casi Wilkerson

From far left, brothers Mason and Caleb Wilkerson are on the stage with other actors during a dress rehearsal for Tacoma Little Theatre's production of "A Christmas Story." Mason Wilkerson plays Flick, the best friend of Ralphie who is played by Caleb Wilkerson. The brothers are from Lighthouse Christian School and previously have shared the main stage in a production.