



**Edith L. Frierson Elementary
School**

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Media Release

Frierson student stars as Tiny Tim

Wadmalaw, SC – Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce that several students will be performing in the Charleston Stage production of *A Christmas Carol*, a much anticipated annual performance in the tri-county area.

Brianna "Bri" McClure, an Edith L. Frierson Elementary School student will co-star as "Tiny Tim" during the run at Charleston's historic Dock Street Theatre.

McClure is a third grader and student council representative at Frierson. She is joined by the following cast mates from other CCSD schools.

- Harry Baxley - Charleston County School of the Arts - Peter Cratchit/Homeless/Townsperson
- Clayton Chewning - Charleston County School of the Arts - Peter Cratchit/Homeless/Townsperson
- Antonio Gerideau - Charleston County School of the Arts - Homeless/Boy Scrooge/Oliver Twist/Townsperson
- Eliza Sargent – Moultrie Middle School - Fan/Belinda Cratchit/Ghoul/Homeless, Townsperson
- Charlie Chewning – Murray-LaSaine Montessori School – Ignorance/Belle's daughter 2/Homeless/Townsperson
- Ada Pesavento – Orange Grove Charter School - Want/Belle's Daughter 1/Townsperson/homeless
- Caroline Fisher – St. Andrews Charter School of Math and Science - Want/Belle's Daughter 1/Townsperson/homeless

McClure and fellow actors are part of a Charleston Stage Performance Troupe. Placement in *A Christmas Carol* was audition-based and McClure was selected as one of two Tiny Tim performers.

According to Rylee Coppel, Charleston Stage's Director of Education and Engagement, McClure auditioned with 50 other children.

"We work really hard to build their skill level with the idea that they will one day be a part of a professional production," said Coppel. "Once selected, they rehearse with professionals, are responsible for keeping on schedule, and are treated the same way the adults are. We choose students that can handle the late hours, maintain their school work, and have a great attitude."

While McClure is a charismatic child with an interest in singing and dance, she has only been with Charleston Stage for one year. It began with an afterschool program with Charleston Stage and summer camp with Drama Kids Charleston. That led to a few minor performances and the co-starring role in *A Christmas Carol*.

Tracae Mack McClure said she knew her daughter wanted to act and she and her husband Brian were thrilled to enroll her in Charleston Stage for lessons in singing, dancing, acting, blocking, and everything in between.

"When we moved here from Washington D.C., I found this program online and it was feasible for us to get her there in the afternoons," said Tracae. "Bri just took off from there. We had no expectation she would be in a major production. We just signed her up to work on acting skills. We are very proud of her."

McClure is excited about this opportunity.

"I like acting because it is fun and I love the costumes," said McClure.

According to her father Brian, when McClure was in Pre-K, she came home from school and reenacted everything the teacher did in class that day.

"Since she was very young, Bri has had a vivid imagination," said Brian. "That first reenactment was word for word and expression for expression; she was great at it."

McClure has had to juggle more than most children to prepare to be in this show. Once home from school, she is able to watch one episode of her favorite show and eat a snack. She takes a quick nap and goes to troupe or rehearsal (sometimes more than one). McClure does this all while maintaining straight A's at school.

Remembering lines is not easy either. Fortunately, McClure is friends with her cast mates and her co-star and they run lines and practice together when not rehearsing.

"Even on weekends, Bri is practicing and studying," said Tracae. "We are of course here to help her if she needs us but she has accomplished this all on her own."

McClure loves the message Tiny Tim brings and she is excited for audiences to learn about the overall message of the play.

"I love playing Tiny Tim," added McClure. "It is so much fun, and I get to act in some really fun scenes."

McClure is also grateful to her friends and teachers at Frierson who are rooting her on and supporting this exciting opportunity.

"I think all my friends and teachers are proud of me," said McClure. "My fellow actors are doing great and I am proud of them. I have met a lot of new friends, one who is my best friend and we call each other acting sisters."

Coppel said the opportunities that Charleston Stage offers young performers are limitless. This one in particular is remarkable.

"It is a unique kind of opportunity because *A Christmas Carol* is not just a play with other children," said Coppel. "It is really our largest grossing show of the year, and it is a big deal to have children working alongside our adult professionals."

McClure's parents agree that the Charleston Stage experience has given their daughter many life skills that will prove beneficial to her in the coming years.

"The experience is teaching Bri responsibility and I think that is why she made the transition from acting lessons to being on stage so well," said Brian. "Our daughter has taken to heart the responsibility placed on the young actors and respects the expectations of standards. That discipline has translated to her schoolwork and all other areas of her life where she is excelling. It's been inspiring for us."

McClure has big plans for her future and she said she would lean heavily on the skills she is learning.

"I want to be an actress and move to California and then be the first female president," McClure added.

"Tiny Tina" is McClure's nickname at rehearsals, given to her by the new friends and cast mates at Charleston Stage. She may be a "tiny" figure in real life but she is larger than life on the stage.

Performance dates include:

- Friday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, December 3 at 2:00 p.m.
- Friday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, December 9 at 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, December 16 at 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 17 at 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 20 at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, December 22 at 2:00 p.m.

For more information and for tickets, click [here](#).

For more information, contact Principal Latrice Smalls at (843) 559-1182.

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(Photos by Reese Moore Photography)

About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 50,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse portfolio of educational options and specialized programs delivered to the students of CCSD through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools and programs. Rich educational opportunities for students include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; military; dual credit; and many more.