

# LIGHTWIRE THEATER: A VERY ELECTRIC CHRISTMAS



**Saturday, December 10th | 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.**

**Escher Auditorium  
College of Saint Benedict**

Make the season bright with a charming new tale told in vibrant lights, artistic dance and a score filled with holiday-favorite songs. Since you first saw them on America's Got Talent or TRU TV'S Fake Off, Lightwire Theater has been mesmerizing audiences worldwide with skill, grace and eye-catching light shows. By combining the arts of puppetry, theater and dance, this magical tale of a misguided bird named Max who ends up at the North Pole for Christmas will warm hearts and have the spirit of the season shining through.

## CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS PERFORMANCE ENGAGES WITH:

- Light and Color
- Coordination and Teamwork
- Communication
- Think Deeply
- Construction
- Contemporary Christmas
- Storytelling

## ONLINE RESOURCES

<https://www.csbsju.edu/fine-arts/performances/lightwire-theater>

<https://www.lightwiretheater.com/>

## ENGAGE

Lightwire Theater tells stories visually. Using music, light and movement the performers are able to convey their message.

- How do you tell a story with no words?
- What is nonverbal language? What are different kinds of nonverbals?
- How are emotions portrayed in this performance?
- How are gender roles portrayed in this performance?

In this style of performance, the theater is completely dark. There are no spotlights as the actors draw you into a magical world. The only lights used are the ones found on costumes and props. These lights are called "electroluminescent wires" or "el wires." They glow an aqua blue as bright as an LED, but the color can be changed by covering the wire with a tinted plastic shell.

- What is it like to be in an environment so deeply black? What did you feel throughout the performance?
- Why do you think light catches people's attention?
- How did dark and light interact throughout the show and create illusion? What was seen and unseen to create these illusions?
- How has technology influenced this event opposed to a more traditional performance?

Lightwire Theater builds its costumes and props from the ground up, utilizing recycled materials such as aluminum rods, PVC pipes, skateboard wheels, fishing poles, duct tape, and backpacks. Each character takes around 200 hours to make and can use up to 16 AA batteries per performance.

- What are other ways objects can be repurposed and used a second or third time?
- A lot of time, energy, and behind-the-scenes work goes into a single performance. What are some examples in your life that only show "the tip of the iceberg?"