

# REVIEWS FROM STARRING IN THE NATIONAL TOUR OF **ELF THE MUSICAL**

\*credited originally as Daniel Patrick Smith

“**Smith** is excellent as Buddy, earnestly capturing the character's uber-optimistic exuberance and fish-out-of-water naivety. Mr. Smith sings wonderfully as well, and skillfully executes the physical comedy needed for the show.”

[Talkin' Broadway, Cincinnati](#)

“Buddy, played by [**Smith Daniels**] was both silly and enduring. His singing and dancing were spotless and he truly captured the innocence and loving nature of the man-turned-elf. While I could see the influences of Will Ferrell's original portrayal, Smith made Buddy his own and added his unique take to the character.”

[About Indianapolis](#)

“But it takes a multi-talented actor to pull off Buddy's purity of mission and tenacious belief in Santa. [**Smith Daniels**]... is in all but one scene and, even with a thin 6-foot-4 frame, dominates the stage every time he's on it. Seeking a comparison to Ferrell will disappear in the first few minutes. And he'll win over everyone by the time he picks up hand bells from a Salvation Army volunteer and rings them perfectly. It's hard to believe this is his first national tour.”

[Herald Bulletin: Indianapolis](#)

“**Smith** is terrific as Buddy. He is eager without being annoying, lovable without being cloying and energetic without being exhausting. You believe in the character and want the best for him. He is also a good singer, a fine dancer and has a delicious sense of comic timing. Smith's performance holds the show together and he does it without doing a Will Ferrell imitation. If you'd like a point of reference, (one best for grandparents) Smith, especially with his red wig, reminds you of a young Danny Kaye, especially in the “Carol of the Bells” number.”

[WAMC Northeast Public Radio](#)

“**Smith**, playing Buddy, is the linchpin of the show, and he manages to pull off the over-the-top mirth that makes his character so charming and loveable. His impressive vocal range and ability to make the most foolish statements seem utterly sincere won our audience over early, and their affection only grew.”

[Kids Out and About, Albany NY](#)

“What sets this Buddy apart is the versatile singing of [**Smith Daniels**]...”

[Kentucky.com](#)

“**Smith** is the right actor to make us believe in Buddy. He sings and dances with a Steve Martin kind of grin...”

[Herald Bulletin: Indianapolis](#)

“...**Smith** brings to mind the charismatic Danny Kaye. His Elf glides through serious business with a wink and a nod.”

[Nuvo](#)

“**Smith**... conveyed this spirit with the right stage presence for the role — wide-eyed innocence (even though Buddy is 30), elfish charm, clever gestures, a great singing voice, and considerable agility.”

[Worcester Telegram & Gazette](#)

“**Smith** is delightful. He doesn't overplay Buddy's naïveté. He's sweet. And funny. And – most important – sincere. It makes all the difference. The fact that he's a fabulous singer doesn't hurt, either.”

[Cincinnati Enquirer](#)

“Secondly, if you're going to play a character made famous by a star like Will Ferrell then you have to be brave, charismatic and uninhibited. [**Smith Daniels**] is all those things and more.

With a likable stage presence, a tremendous singing voice, and the ability to play “Buddy” without being annoying, this young man knocks it out of the park.”

[The Sappy Critic](#)