McCARTER PRESENTS A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Princeton’s annual holiday tradition returns December 4 – 29 with a much-loved mix of expert storytelling, community connections, and theatrical magic.

PRINCETON, NJ: McCarter Theatre Center is proud to announce the return of A Christmas Carol, directed by Adam Immerwahr. This family-friendly production runs December 4 - 29 in the Matthews Theatre. A popular annual event for families all across the region, McCarter Theatre Center’s production of Charles Dickens’ timeless story brings a tale of memory and redemption beyond the stage and out into the aisles and lobbies. Of special note this year is the addition of a sensory-sensitive relaxed performance on December 28 (details below).

About the Show
Ebenezer Scrooge (Greg Wood) is no fan of Christmas. He “bah humbugs” every glimmer of holiday happiness. Cheer is costly and good-will is bad for business. This Christmas, however, things are going to be a little different. This annual holiday tradition will usher you into the spirit of the season with all the joy, wonder, and generosity Scrooge discovers.
McCarter’s version of Ebenezer Scrooge’s magical journey through Christmas past, present, and future combines period-specific music with 21st century design and special effects. Featuring a cast of professional actors joined by more than three dozen ensemble members chosen from the greater Princeton community, audiences will experience an immersive Dickensian environment from the opening of the theater doors to the final bows. Adults and children will meet characters and discover new surprises in the lobbies during the pre-show and enjoy a myriad of special effects and dance numbers on stage.

Since its publication in 1843, Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol has come to embody everything that is good and right about the human spirit - not only during the holidays, but throughout the year. Originally written in rebuttal of the squalid working conditions of child laborers in Industrial Age England, A Christmas Carol remains a heartwarming tale of redemption, hope, and love. McCarter’s latest reimagining of this annual tradition has been honored with acclaim by audiences and critics alike, praising the Community Ensemble, in particular.

About the Creative Team
A Christmas Carol combines David Thompson’s (The Scottsboro Boys) adaptation with music by the late Michael Friedman, choreography by Lorin Latarro (Waitress on Broadway), scenic design by Daniel Ostling (many at McCarter including Ken Ludwig’s Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery), costumes by Linda Cho (The Age of Innocence at McCarter), lighting by Lap Chi Chu (McCarter’s A Delicate Balance and The Convert), sound design by Darron L West (Tony Award® – Peter and the Starcatcher, many McCarter productions including Murder on the Orient Express), wig design by Carissa Thorlakson, and special effects by Jeremy Chernick (Broadway’s Harry Potter and the Cursed Child). New to the production this year is Musical Director Cris Frisco, founder and Artistic Director of The New Voice Project and Musical Director at Opera Fayetteville. Also joining the creative team for this year’s production are Jessica Bedford as Associate Director, Greer Gisy as Choreography Supervisor, and Susan Finch as Dialect Coach.

About the Cast
With an impressive roster of Broadway and regional credits, the cast of A Christmas Carol features returning McCarter Carol veterans Zeke Edmonds, Anne L. Nathan, Jon Norman Schneider, Sue Jin Song, Greg Wood, and Frank X. Newcomers to the production include Paul Deo Jr., Billy Finn, Sharina Martin, Steven Rattazzi, and Kristin Villanueva.

About the Community and Young Ensembles
McCarter is proud to announce members of the 2018 Community and Young Ensembles:

Carolyn Anzuini of Bordentown, NJ; Rocco Barbera and Madison Russell of Morrisville, PA; Amy Blair, Maria Palombo, and Sapphire Srigley of Ewing, NJ; Sherice Brown of Fort Dix, NJ; Frank Caroselli of Spring Lake, NJ; Jane Erickson of Lawrence, NJ; Michael Karnaukh and Elias Malavet of Princeton, NJ; Peter Newes of Chatham, NJ; Rodney Genwright, Karen Jones, Juan Ortiz, Tara Parkman, Tristan Takacs, and Shan Williams II of Trenton, NJ; Andrew James Gordon of West Windsor, NJ; Domonique Jarrett of East Windsor, NJ; Andrea Kristensen of Hopewell, NJ; Leah Senseney of Philadelphia, PA; Adam Thomas Smith of New York, NY; and Ken Weingartner of Hightstown, NJ.
In addition, two Community Ensemble members are cast in major roles for this production: Adele Batchelder of Rocky Hill, NJ makes her McCarter debut as the Ghost of Christmas Present; and Tess Ammerman of Morrisville, PA returns to the roles of Fan and Miss Kate.

The Young Ensemble is comprised of twelve local children: Uriah Amacker and Brielle Rowell of Trenton, NJ; Ethan Chang of Princeton Junction, NJ; Camille Grove, Romy Johnson, Julianna Pallacan, Marin Pallacan, and Sam Roman of Princeton, NJ; Zahra Lohoue of Pennington, NJ; Alexander Perez of Ewing, NJ; Alicianna Rodriguez of Hamilton, NJ; and Vyshakh Thejaswi of West Windsor, NJ.

About the Director
Adam Immerwahr (Director) is the former Associate Artistic Director at McCarter (directing credits include The Understudy and The Mousetrap) and former Resident Director at Passage Theater. He is currently Artistic Director of Theater J in Washington, D.C., the nation's most prominent Jewish theater. NYC directing credits include work at The Public, Theater Row, Ensemble Studio Theatre, The Wild Project, and NYU's Studio Tisch. Internationally, he directed the African premiere of The Convert (nominated for Zimbabwe's National Arts Medal). Adam has directed and developed work for Walnut Street Theatre, Woolly Mammoth, Theater J, Passage, Luna Stage, Hangar Theatre, Bristol Riverside, Premiere Stages, PlayPenn, and others. Graduate of Brown University. Drama League Directing Fellow (2008). www.Adamimmerwahr.com.

About McCarter Theatre Center
McCarter Theatre Center’s mission is to create world-class theater and present the finest performing artists for the engagement, education, and entertainment to the community. Under the artistic leadership of award-winning playwright and director Emily Mann and Managing Director Michael S. Rosenberg, McCarter produces a vibrant six-play Theater Series each season. Winner of the 1994 Tony Award® for Outstanding Regional Theatre, world premieres include Christopher Durang’s Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike (2013 Tony® - Best Play); Tarell Alvin McCraney’s The Brother/Sister Plays; Emily Mann’s Having Our Say; and Danai Gurira’s The Convert. Other works which later moved to Broadway include Brian Friel’s Translations, Nilo Cruz’s Anna in the Tropics (Pulitzer Prize), and Frank McGuinness’ translation of Electra. Through the leadership of Special Programming Director William W. Lockwood, McCarter brings the best artists from around the world to Princeton, New Jersey, including upcoming visits from Dianne Reeves, Esperanza Spalding, Andy Borowitz, and many more. Education and outreach efforts serve tens of thousands through student matinees, in-school residencies, and adult education classes. McCarter is supported by contributions from Princeton University, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, corporations, foundations, and from over 2,000 individuals. More at mccarter.org.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL – PRODUCTION FACTS
CREATIVE, PRODUCTION, AND DESIGN TEAM
By Charles Dickens
Adaptation by David Thompson
Director: Adam Immerwahr
Composer: Michael Friedman
Musical Director: Cris Frisco
Choreographer: Lorin Latarro
Choreography Supervisor: Greer Gisy
Set Design: Daniel Ostling
Costume Design: Linda Cho
Lighting Design: Lap Chi Chu
Sound Design: Darron L West
Special Effects Design: Jeremy Chernick
Wig Design: Carissa Thorlakson
Dialect Coach: Susan Finch
Casting Director: Calleri Casting
Supervising Stage Manager: Cheryl Mintz*
Stage Manager: Alison Cote*
Director of Production: Dixie Uffelman
 Resident Producer: Debbie Bisno
Artistic Director/Resident Playwright: Emily Mann
Managing Director: Michael S. Rosenberg

THE CAST (in alphabetical order)
Fan/Miss Kate: Tess Ammerman
Ghost of Christmas Present: Adele Batchelder
Young Marley/Doorkeeper/Ghost of Christmas Future: Paul Deo Jr.*
Young Scrooge/Solicitor Matthew: Zeke Edmonds
Fred/Undertaker/Dance Captain: Billy Finn*
Mrs. Cratchit: Sharina Martin*
Mrs. Fezziwig/Lady Char/Laundress: Anne L. Nathan*
Mr. Fezziwig/Solicitor David: Steven Rattazzi*
Bob Cratchit: Jon Norman Schneider*
 Mrs. Dilber: Sue Jin Song*
Lily/Belle: Kristin Villanueva*
Scrooge: Greg Wood*
Old Marley/Old Joe: Frank X*

COMMUNITY ENSEMBLE
Carolyn Anzini, Rocco Barbera, Amy Blair, Sherice Brown, Frank Caroselli, Jane Ericksen,
Rodney Genwright, Andrew James Gordon, Domonique Jarrett, Karen Jones, Michael Karnaukh,
Andrea Kristensen, Elias Malavet, Peter Newes, Juan Ortiz, Maria Polombo, Tara Parkman,
Madison Russell, Lea Senseney, Adam Thomas Smith, Saphire Srigley, Tristan Takacs,
Ken Weingartner, Shan Williams II

YOUNG ENSEMBLE
Uriah Amacker, Ethan Chang, Camille Grove, Romy Johnson, Zahra Lohoue, Julianna Pallacan, Martin
Pallacan, Alexander Perez, Alichia Rodriguez, Sam Roman, Brielle Rowell, Vyshak Thejaswi

*Denotes membership in Actors Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage
managers in the United States.
A *Christmas Carol* is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

This production is sponsored by [Bank of America](https://www.bankofamerica.com) and McCarter & English, Attorneys at Law.

### Ticket Information and Performance Schedule

Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* runs December 4 – 29 in the Matthews Theatre. Tickets start at $25 and are on sale now online at mccarter.org, by phone at (609) 258-2787, or in person at the McCarter Ticket Office, located at 91 University Place in Princeton.

The production running time is two hours with one 15-minute intermission.

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>December 7</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Opening Night</td>
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<td>Fezziwig Party</td>
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<td>Nassau Inn Holiday Package</td>
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<td>Sensory-Friendly Relaxed Performance</td>
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SPECIAL EVENTS

A Christmas Carol Family "Filibuster" Read-Aloud: Saturday, December 1 from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m.
Usher in the spirit of the season at the Princeton Public Library by participating in the third annual public community reading of Dickens’ 1843 novella. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience the beloved Victorian masterpiece—the original “Ghost-Story”—in its literary form, which Dickens’ wrote to be read aloud. All are invited and encouraged to attend—individuals, families, book clubs, and groups—and to participate by reading a portion of the book for the delight of those assembled.

Please RSVP via this linked form to sign up for a time slot online, or call the library’s Welcome Desk at (609) 924-9529. Drop-ins are also welcome. This event is free and open to the public, and will take place in the Princeton Public Library Community Room.

Wreath Making Workshop: Saturday, December 1 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. (two sessions)
McCarter and Morven Museum and Garden will host a wreath-making workshop to help deck the halls of McCarter this December. Embrace your creative energy as you build a little magic for all to enjoy. Guests will receive instruction and inspiration by staff from Morven Museum and Garden. The event is free to attend, and is recommended for ages 12 years and up. Wreaths are available to decorate and donate to deck McCarter’s Halls at no charge or to purchase and decorate for yourself. All wreaths are 16” and available for purchase for $50 at time of reservation.

This special event will take place at McCarter’s Production Shops at 755 Alexander Road in Princeton. Limited space is available for both sessions, reservations may be made via phone at 609-258-2787.

The Fezziwig Parties: Tuesdays, December 4 and 18 at 6:00 p.m.
Enjoy hearty appetizers while sipping on holiday inspired cocktails in a family atmosphere fit for all Dickens enthusiasts prior to these performances! Please note: cash bar for alcohol.

Nassau Inn Holiday Package: Wednesday, December 19 at 5:00 p.m.
A Princeton holiday tradition! Enjoy a 3-course meal in the Yankee Doodle Tap Room of the historic Nassau Inn followed by a performance of A Christmas Carol.

Meet and Greet with Scrooge: Thursday, December 27 at 2:00 p.m.
Banish the bah-humbugs with Ebenezer Scrooge at a post-show reception with cookies and hot cocoa.

Sensory-Sensitive Relaxed Performance: Friday, December 28 at 2:00 p.m.
Relaxed Performances provide a welcoming and judgment-free environment for people on the autism spectrum, with cognitive and developmental differences, other sensory or communication needs, so that they and their families may enjoy live performance together—everyone is welcome!

At a Relaxed Performance, the play is performed at the same high quality as always, with the light and sound levels adjusted slightly to create a more sensory-sensitive environment. Professional staff are on hand to assist parents and caregivers, a family restroom is available, and there are designated activity and relaxation areas in the lobby. Audience members are free to leave and return to the auditorium as needed and are invited to bring their own snacks, fidgets, and communication devices with them to their seats.

Most of all, the general atmosphere of a relaxed performance is one where all are welcome to enjoy the performance in whatever way makes the experience work for them. Although relaxed
performances were specifically designed for individuals with autism and their families, we have found that parents of infants, older adults with dementia or Alzheimer’s and their caregivers, and anyone else who might benefit from a more relaxed theatrical atmosphere have had excellent experiences with these kinds of performances.

Relaxed Performances are open to all who are ready to embrace this fully-inclusive, judgement-free experience. Relaxed Performances are a “shush-free” zone where performers, audience members, and staff expect a certain level of noise and movement in the audience. If you are wondering whether a Relaxed Performance is the right fit for you and your family, please call the box office for more information at 609-258-2787.

For further inquiries and more information, contact:
Tom Miller, Director of Public Relations | tmiller@mccarter.org | 609.258.6524
91 University Place, Princeton, NJ 08540 | mccarter.org