McCARTER PRESENTS A CHRISTMAS CAROL

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 10 - 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.

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. A cast of professional actors are joined by “The Community Ensemble” – an ensemble of ranging from age 5 to 74, comprised of more than thirty people chosen (through auditions) from the greater Princeton community.

Audiences will experience an immersive Dickensian environment when they step inside the theater lobbies. This “pre-show” takes place an hour before each performance, where adults and children have the opportunity to meet characters from the play, sing along to holiday carols, and discover sweets and treats before taking their seats to enjoy a myriad of special effects, dance numbers and the story of Scrooge 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.

- Click through to download production photos from 2018
- Click through for a short interview video with Greg Wood (55 seconds)
- Click through for a pull quote trailer for the production (30 seconds)

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 Lookingglass Theatre Company’s recent McCarter production of Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein), 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). The production’s musical director is Cris Frisco, founder and artistic director of The New Voice Project and musical director at Opera Fayetteville. Also returning are Jessica Bedford as associate director and Greer Gisy as choreography supervisor.

About the Cast
With an impressive roster of Broadway and regional credits, the cast of A Christmas Carol features returning McCarter Carol veterans Paul Deo Jr., Billy Finn, Andrea Goss, Sharina Martin, Steven Rattazzi, Jon Norman Schneider, A. J. Shively, Greg Wood, and Frank X. Newcomers to the production include Twinkle Burke and Jo Twiss.

About the Community and Young Ensembles
The Community Ensemble includes Amy Blair of Ewing, NJ; Jamai Brown, Mitzi Hightower-Teel, Tristan Takacs, and Paul Zych of Trenton, NJ; Andrew James Gordon of West Windsor, NJ; Deonté
Griffin-Quick of Linden, NJ; Preksha Kavalar and John Owen of Skillman, NJ; Liz Kent of Hackettstown, NJ; Andrea Kristensen of Hopewell, NJ; Al LaGratta and Jessica Stanzek of Kendall Park, NJ; Lillian A. McEwen and Jack Sabatino of Princeton, NJ; Kate Jones of Lambertville, NJ; Daniel McGinley of East Windsor, NJ; Sarah Middough of Oceanport, NJ; Finn Murray-Campbell and Benjamin Piccarillo of Pennington, NJ; Gloria Schnure of Somerset, NJ; Tara Parkman and Shan Williams II of Hamilton, NJ; Anoushka Sharma of Princeton Junction, NJ; and Lauryn Morgan Thomas of Landsdowne, PA.

The Young Ensemble is comprised of thirteen local children: Uriah Amacker, Chandler Miller, and Myla Delvalle of Trenton, NJ; Sanya Bhatt, Syra Bhatt, and Emre Celik of Cranbury, NJ; Camille Grove, Sam Roman, and Aria Song of Princeton, NJ; Alexander Perez of Ewing, NJ; Alcianna Rodriguez and Isabella Rodriguez of Hamilton, NJ; and Troy Vallery of Yardville, NJ.

**About the Director**

Adam Immerwahr (Director) is the former Associate Artistic Director at McCarter (credits include *The Understudy, The Mousetrap* and the upcoming *Sleuth*) and the former Resident Director at Passage Theater. He is currently Artistic Director of Theater J, the nation’s largest and most prominent Jewish theater (located in Washington, D.C.). Adam’s NYC directing credits: The Public, Theater Row (both for Summer Play Festival), 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). Regionally, Adam has directed for Walnut Street Theatre, Woolly Mammoth, Cleveland Play House, Theater J, Passage, Adventure Theater, Luna Stage, Hangar Theatre, Bristol Riverside, Premiere Stages, PlayPenn, and many others. Graduate of Brown University. Drama League Directing Fellow (2008). [www.AdamImmerwahr.com](http://www.AdamImmerwahr.com)

**About McCarter Theatre Center**

Under the leadership of award-winning playwright and Artistic Director Emily Mann, Managing Director Michael S. Rosenberg, and Special Programming Director William W. Lockwood, McCarter’s mission is to create world-class theater and present the finest artists for the engagement, education, and entertainment of the community. 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.* McCarter brings artists from around the world to Princeton, New Jersey including Zakir Hussain, Yamato Drummers, Andy Borowitz, and more. Education and outreach efforts serve tens of thousands through student matinees, in-school residencies, and adult classes. 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: Liz Hayes
Casting Director: Calleri Casting
Supervising Stage Manager: Cheryl Mintz*
Stage Manager: Alison Hassman*
Director of Production: Dixie Uffelman
Resident Producer: Debbie Bisno
Artistic Director/Resident Playwright: Emily Mann
Managing Director: Michael S. Rosenberg

THE CAST (in order of appearance)
Scrooge: Greg Wood*
Bob Cratchit: Jon Norman Schneider*
Fred/Undertaker/Dance Captain: Billy Finn*
Lily/Belle: Andrea Goss*
Tiny Tim: Aria Song
Peter Cratchit: Emre Celik
Mr. Fezziwig/Solicitor David: Steven Rattazzi*
Young Scrooge/Solicitor Matthew: A. J. Shively*
Mrs. Dilber: Jo Twiss*
Old Marley/Old Joe: Frank X*
Ghost of Christmas Past: Alicianna Rodriguez
Fan/Miss Kate: Lauryn Morgan Thomas
Scrooge as a Boy: Sam Roman
Young Marley/Doorknocker/Ghost of Christmas Future: Paul Deo Jr.*
Mrs. Fezziwig/Lady Char/Laundress: Twinkle Burke*
Ghost of Christmas Present: Chandler Miller
Mrs. Cratchit: Sharina Martin*
Belinda Cratchit: Isabella Rodriguez
Martha Cratchit: Syra Bhatt
Margaret: Myla Delvalle
Emilia: Camille Grove
Archie: Alexander Perez
Ignorance: Uriah Amacker
Want: Sanya Bhatt
Delivery Boy: Troy Vallery
COMMUNITY ENSEMBLE
Amy Blair, Jamai Brown, Andrew James Gordon, Deonté Griffin-Quick, Mitzi Hightower-Teel, Kate Jones, Preksha Kavalar, Liz Kent, Andrea Kristensen, Al LaGratta, Lillian A. McEwen, Daniel McGinley, Sarah Middough, Finn Murray-Campbell, John Owen, Tara Parkman, Benjamin Piccarillo, Jack Sabatino, Gloria Schnure, Anoushka Sharma, Jessica Stanzek, Tristan Takacs, Shan Williams II, Paul Zych

YOUNG ENSEMBLE
Uriah Amacker, Sanya Bhatt, Syra Bhatt, Emre Celik, Myla Delvalle, Camille Grove, Alexander Perez, Alicianna Rodriguez, Isabella Rodriguez, Sam Roman, Aria Song, Troy Vallery

*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; McCarter & English, Attorneys at Law; and Saul Ewing, Arnstein, and Lehr LLP.

Ticket Information and Performance Schedule
Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol runs December 10–29 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 20-minute intermission.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

**A Christmas Carol Family "Filibuster" Read-Aloud: Saturday, December 7 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.

To sign up for a time slot, call the library’s Welcome Desk at (609) 924-9529, or [online here](#). 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.

**Sing-Along Tuesdays: December 10, 17, and 24, preshow**
Arrive early with your choir, karaoke friends, and family to carol along with members of our community ensemble.

**Meet and Greet with Scrooge: Saturday, December 28 at 2 p.m.**
Banish the bah-humbugs with Ebenezer Scrooge at a post-show reception with cookies and hot cocoa.

**Sensory-Friendly Performance: Friday, December 27 at 2:00 p.m.**
Sensory-friendly performances provide a performing arts experience that is welcoming to all families with individuals who are diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder or other sensitivity issues.

At a sensory-friendly 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. Volunteers are on hand to assist parents and caregivers, a family restroom is available, and there are designated activity and quiet areas in the lobby. Sensory-friendly performances are a “shush-free” zone where patrons are free to talk and leave their seats throughout the performance, as well as bring their own snacks, fidgets, and communications devices with them to their seats.
Most of all, a sensory-friendly performance is a judgement-free environment, where all are welcome to enjoy the performance in whatever way makes the experience work for them.

If you are wondering whether a sensory-friendly performance is the right fit for you and your family, please call our Ticket Office at 609.258.2787 for more information.

Sponsored by The Karma Foundation, The Wawa Foundation, and JaZams.

*For further inquiries and more information, contact:*
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91 University Place, Princeton, NJ 08540 | mccarter.org