

N E W S

PORTLAND CENTER STAGE UNVEILS ALL NEW ADAPTATION OF *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*

Mead Hunter Offers a Traditional version, true to Dickens' Language,
Set in Victorian London with 19th Century Carols/Original Music
Composed and Arranged by Rick Lewis

NOVEMBER 12, 2007 - PORTLAND For the first time since 2001, Portland Center Stage brings the western world's most beloved holiday story back to Portland's premiere dramatic stage with an all new adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. PCS' Director of Literary and Education Programs, **Mead Hunter**, penned the new script, but retained the richness of Dickens' original language for every line. Hunter brought **Rick Lewis** on board (music director for *West Side Story*, *Cabaret*) to create a musical score including authentic 19th century Christmas carols and original music inspired by the period. **Cliff Fannin Baker** returns to PCS to direct the production, having directed two heartwarming plays during PCS' 2006/2007 Season (*This Wonderful Life*, *Act a Lady*).

A Christmas Carol includes a cast of 20, some in multiple roles, **19 of whom are local actors!** Some of the artists that Portland theatergoers will remember most readily from previous PCS productions include **Tim True** (*The Pillowman*, *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow*) as Bob Cratchit, **Val Landrum** (*The Thugs*, JAW 2005-2007) as Belle and others, and **Ted Roisum** (*King Lear*, *Another Fine Mess*) as the Ghost of Jacob Marley. Filling the role of Ebenezer Scrooge is **Wesley Mann**, from the Los Angeles area. Audiences will recognize him from his appearances in the movies "Back to the Future II" and "L.A. Story," among others, as well as his work as The Caterpillar on television's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland." The cast also includes a host of local child actors including *The Pillowman* favorites **Tanner Ward** and **Hayley Rousselle**, plus **Justyce Chaney** who appeared as Raynell in last season's production of August Wilson's *Fences*.

A Christmas Carol previews at the Gerding Theater 128 NW 11th Avenue at **Davis, Tuesday, November 27 - Thursday, November 29; opens Friday, November 30 and closes with the 7:30 PM show on Sunday, December 23.** All evening performances take place at 7:30 PM while **Noon Thursday and 2 PM Saturday and Sunday matinee dates are also available.** Tickets On Sale Now: **\$16.50, 18 & under, \$21.50, Students, 28.00 - \$61.50, others; Box Office: 503-445-3700; information: www.pcs.org.** Special Ticket Prices apply to Family Days on December 2 - 6. The second production in PCS' 2007-2008 Key Private Bank Main Stage Series, *A Christmas Carol* is sponsored by **Lazy Boy**, the **Dream Envision Foundation** and **The Standard**, with additional support from the **Regional Arts and Culture Council** and **Work for Art**. Order tickets online at www.pcs.org, by phone at 503-445-3700 or in person at 128 NW 11th Ave in the Pearl District.

-more-

Although “traditional” rather than contemporized, this version of *A Christmas Carol* certainly holds some very interesting surprises. Hunter’s treatment of the ghosts that visit Mr. Scrooge is very unique, and based more closely on Dickens’ description of them and how they change throughout the story than most versions to date have presented them on stage or screen. Set Designer, **Dex Edwards** also has a variety of holiday “presents” in store to help fold the audience into the production and make it a memorable one. Costume Designer, **Jeff Cone** and the costume shop are busy building upwards of 80 intricate costumes for the show; most from the ground up. PCS is sure this version of *A Christmas Carol* will be treasured as a central gem in Portland’s crown of holiday performances.

The Author - Charles Dickens

Arguably one of history’s greatest novelists, Charles Dickens, was born February 7, 1812. As a youth of only twelve years, Charles worked in a boot factory for ten hours a day. This formative experience contributed significantly to the stories he wrote later in life. Dickens became well known for tales which, while comical and filled with remarkably imaginative characters, were also scathing commentaries on social imbalance. A literary style of realism coated in fantasy made his writing entertaining and poignant for all audiences. Dickens’ ability to both communicate and elicit profound compassion caused his impact to endure well beyond his demise in 1870. He is still one of the best known and most widely read of English authors. There have been hundreds of adaptations of his work done for film, television and stage and his novels continue to hold a nearly sacred place on high school reading lists in English speaking countries around the globe.

The Adaptor – Mead Hunter

Mead Hunter began his theater career as playwright-in-residence for the legendary Storefront Actors’ Theatre of Portland, Oregon. Since then he has written four original plays, translated four more, and served as production dramaturg on numerous productions. Mead earned an MFA in Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism from Yale University and a PhD in Critical Studies from UCLA. He has taught performance history and text analysis at UCLA, UC San Diego, and the California Institute of the Arts. He also guest lectures on contemporary theater at institutions around the United States, and frequently consults for various art service organizations. Currently he is Portland Center Stage’s Director of Literary & Education Programs, where he has served as production dramaturg on *Outrage*, *Celebrity Row*, *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Another Fine Mess* and *O Lovely Glowworm*, among other plays. At PCS he is also the Festival Literary Manager for JAW: A Playwrights Festival, PCS’s annual celebration of original playwriting. He also serves as on the Advisory Boards of Portland Theater Works and Imago Theatre.

The Composer/Arranger – Rick Lewis

Rick was music director for *Cabaret*, *West Side Story* (2006 Drammy Award for musical director), *The Fantasticks*, and *Bat Boy: The Musical* at PCS. He is the creator of the hit Off-Broadway musical *The Taffetas*, with productions currently around the world. Rick has written *Have a Nice Day! A 70’s Musical Flashback!* (premiered at NYC’s Theatre East), *G.I. Jukebox*, *A Taffeta Christmas* and *The Cardigans* (New York Backstage Bistro Award for Outstanding Musical Review). He was assistant conductor/vocal director for the pre-Broadway workshop of Stephen Sondheim’s *Sunday in the Park with George*. Rick has written musical productions for Disney Live Family Entertainment, American Hawaii Cruises, American West Steamboat Company, Great American River Journeys and American Classic Voyages. Rick is director of entertainment and marketing for Portland Spirit Cruises.

The Director - Cliff Fannin Baker

In January, Cliff will become the Artistic Director/CEO of Wildwood Park for the Arts in central Arkansas. He is Arkansas Repertory Theatre's founding producing artistic director. During his 23 years of leadership, The Rep produced hundreds of plays of every genre, including more than 30 world premieres such as *Evita*, *Waiting for Lefty*, *Good Woman of Setzuan*, *Private Eyes*, *Art and Gypsy*. As a freelance director, he has worked in theaters all over the world including such exotic locations as Beijing and New Zealand. PCS audiences may remember Cliff's work in *Act a Lady*, *This Wonderful Life*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *Tuna Christmas*, *Comfort & Joy* and *Another Fine Mess*. Mr. Baker has received the Governor's Award for Outstanding Individual Artist, the Golden Circle Award for Regional Achievement, the Award of Distinction and the 1999 Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Special Holiday Programs

FAMILY DAY PERFORMANCES = SERIOUS SAVINGS!

Specially discounted ticket prices apply to five "Family Day" performances at **7:30pm** on December 2nd, 4th, 5th, & 6th and at **2pm** on December 2nd. All adult tickets are just \$26.50; students with ID get in for \$21.50 and children 6-18 are admitted for just \$11.50 each. **Please note: Children Under 6 Years Old Are Not Admitted to Portland Center Stage Productions.**

LITTLE DICKENS PARTIES are Unforgettable!

Following two very special matinee performances on December 9th and 16th, the cast of *A Christmas Carol* will be throwing a very special onstage party for the young folks (min. age 6 years) in the audience as well as the Little Dickens in all of us. Tickets to the Little Dickens Parties requires an additional admission of \$25 per person and all party guests will enter the world of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, meet the cast, be photographed with one of their favorite characters from the play and get a special tour as well. Everybody leaves with a special treat to take home, making it a holiday celebration children will remember for a lifetime. **Please Note: Children Under 6 Years of Age Are Not Admitted to PCS Productions or Little Dickens Parties.**

GIVE THE GIFT OF THEATER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Theater tickets make wonderful gifts. Choose from these options to give your loved ones presents they can enjoy from now through June!

FLEXPASSES: For people with busy schedules or those who are undecided about which performances they want to attend, a PCS FLEXPASS may be just the ticket. FLEXPASSES can be purchased in groups of 8 or 6 admissions and can be redeemed for any regular Sunday – Thursday evening or Sunday matinee performance.

GIFT CERTIFICATES: Purchase a gift certificate in any amount toward a ticket purchase for any remaining play in our 2007-2008 Season.

The PCS Box Office also has performance posters and brand new Portland Center Stage "UNEXPECTED" T-shirts available for sale at the ticket counter. Both are modestly priced and a great way for the theater enthusiast on your shopping list to share the message of Portland Center Stage. For more information about all of these Holiday Shopping Ideas, contact the PCS Box Office at 503.445.3700 or boxoffice@pcs.org.

-more-

A Christmas Carol

Performance and Ticket Information

Portland Center Stage * Gerding Theater at the Armory * 128 NW Eleventh Ave.
Adult Tickets \$30.00 - \$61.50 * **Box Office 503-445-3700** * www.pcs.org

EVENINGS 7:30 PM

Tuesdays Nov. 27(P), Dec. 4(F), 11, 18
Wednesdays Nov. 28(P), Dec. 5(F), 12, 19
Thursdays Nov. 29(P), Dec. 6(F), 13, 20
Fridays Nov. 30(O), Dec. 7, 14, 21
Saturdays Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22
Sundays Dec. 2(F), 9, 16, 23

MATINEES

Noon with Q&A after show
Thursdays Dec. 6, 13, 20

2PM
Saturdays Dec. 8, 22
Sundays Dec. 2(F), 9, 16, 23(C)

(P) = Preview • (O) = Opening Night • (C) = Closing Matinee • (F) Family Day Performance

Student/Senior Matinees

Three Thursday Matinees at Noon are programmed especially for our student and senior audiences. Patrons enjoy discounted ticket prices and post-show Q&A sessions with the cast and crew of *A Christmas Carol*. These performances are on December 6th, 13th, and 20th.

NO Prologues are scheduled for *A Christmas Carol*.

Access Performances

Audio Described

Friday, December 7 7:30 PM

Sign Interpreted

Thursday, December 13 7:30 PM

The Gerding Theater Main Stage is fully accessible for patrons with disabilities. Assistive listening devices are available from the coatroom.

Ticket Prices

	Area 1	Area 2	All Areas on Family Days
Preview Evenings	\$31.50	\$29.50	N/A
Sunday – Thursday Evenings	\$46.50	\$41.50	\$26.50
Friday & Saturday Evenings	\$61.50	\$55.50	N/A
Sunday Matinees	\$59.50	\$53.50	\$26.50
Thursday & Saturday Matinees	\$30.00	\$28.00	N/A
Students (excluding Fri./Sat. Evenings)	\$21.50	\$21.50	\$21.50
18 & Under (all performances with I.D.)	\$16.50	\$16.50	\$11.50

A Christmas Carol

Adapted for the stage by Mead Hunter
From the Original Novel by Charles Dickens

Directed by Cliff Fannin Baker

Composer/Arranger - Rick Lewis

Choreographed by Amy Palomino*

Conductor – Reece Marshburn

Set Designer - Dex Edwards

Lighting Designer - Daniel Ordower

Dialect Coach - Stephanie Gaslin

Assistant Stage Manager - Mark Tynan*

Fight Choreographer/Fight Captain – Ted deChatelet*

Production Assistant – Kelly Cullom

Casting by Rose Riordan

Costume Designer - Jeff Cone

Sound Designer - Casi Pacilio

Stage Manager – Jamie Hill*

The Cast

Ebenezer Scrooge..... Wesley Mann*
Bob Cratchit / Suitor #1 / Mrs. Belle's Husband..... Tim True*
Jacob Marley..... Ted Roisum*
Fred / Ebenezer / Businessman #1..... Ted deChatelet*
Ghost of Christmas Past #1 / Want..... Justyce Chaney
Ghost of Christmas Past #2 / Ignorance Troy Van Barter
Ghost of Christmas Past #3 / Dora's Sister..... Ana Reisman
Ghost of Christmas Past #4 / Martha Cratchit..... Heather Nelson Robertson
Belle/Mrs. Belle's Daughter / Fred's Guest #1 / Fan..... Val Landrum*
Young Ebenezer / Street Urchin #1 / Mrs. Belle's Son / Fezziwig Guest/Boy..... Tanner Ward
Ghost of Christmas Present / Shopkeeper / Suitor #2..... Julianna Jaffe
Dora / Miss Fezziwig #1 / Laundress..... Debbie Hunter*
Laborer / Middle Jacob / Suitor #3 / Fred's Guest #2..... Josiah Bania
Tiny Tim / Mrs. Belle's Daughter / Fezziwig Guest / Young Jacob..... Madison Wray
Mrs. Cratchit / Mrs. Belle / Miss Fezziwig #2..... Mame Pelletier
Peter Cratchit / Middle Ebenezer / Businessman #2..... Brendan Robinson
Mary Cratchit / Girl / Mrs. Belle's Daughter / Fezziwig Guest / Young Belle..... Hayley Rousselle
Old Fezziwig / Old Joe / Gentleman #2..... Ron Daum*
Mrs. Fezziwig / Charwoman..... Valerie Charles*
Gentleman #1 / Topper / Miss Fezziwig #3 / Undertaker..... Todd Van Voris*

*The actors and stage managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Musicians

Synthesizer/Keyboards.....Reece Marshburn

ViolinAlessandra Dinu

Sponsored by **Lazy Boy**, the **Dream Envision Foundation** and **The Standard** with additional support from the **Regional Arts and Culture Council** and **Work for Art**.

- more -

PORTLAND CENTER STAGE inspires our community by bringing stories to life in unexpected ways. Established in 1988 as an off shoot of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, PCS has been under the leadership of Artistic Director, Chris Coleman since May 2000. The company creates a blend of classic, contemporary and original productions in a conspicuous effort to appeal to the eclectic palette of theatergoers in Portland. PCS also offers a variety of education and outreach programs for curious minds from 6 to 106, including the PCS GreenHouse, a school of theater.

THE GERDING THEATER AT THE ARMORY houses a 599-seat main stage and a 200-seat black box studio theater. It was the first building on the National Register of Historic Places, and the first performing arts venue, to achieve a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum certification. The Gerding Theater at the Armory opened to the public on Oct. 1, 2006. The capital campaign to fund the renovation of this hub of community artistic activity continues.

The Remaining Portland Center Stage 2007-2008 Season in the Gerding Theater at the Armory

- *The Underpants* by Carl Sternheim, Adapted by Steve Martin, Directed by Rose Riordan, October 16 - December 9, 2007, In the Studio
- *A Christmas Carol* by Mead Hunter, based on the novel by Charles Dickens, Directed by Cliff Fannin Baker, November 27 – December 23, 2007, On the Main Stage
- *The Beard of Avon* by Amy Freed, Directed by Chris Coleman, January 15 - March 9, 2008, On the Main Stage

In Repertory With...

- *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare, Directed by Jane Jones, January 22 – March 9, 2008, On the Main Stage
- *A Feminine Ending* by Sarah Treem, Directed by Timothy Douglas, Feb. 5 – March 23, 2008 In the Studio
- *Sometimes a Great Notion* by Aaron Posner, adapted from the novel by Ken Kesey, Directed by Aaron Posner, April 1 - 27, 2008, On the Main Stage
- *The Little Dog Laughed* by Douglas Carter Beane, Directed by Chris Coleman. April 29 – June 15, 2008, In the Studio
- *Doubt, A Parable* by John Patrick Shanley, Directed by Rose Riordan, May 20 – June 15, 2008, On the Main Stage

www.pcs.org