



PRESS CONTACT: Trisha Pancio
503.445.3763
trishap@pcs.org

M E D I A R E L E A S E

THE ELECTION'S OVER! BUST OUT THE HOLIDAY CHEER!

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol was the ORIGINAL "spread the wealth" tale. Mead Hunter's adaptation of this redemptive classic brings Hope to Portland Center Stage, December 2nd through 28th, 2008.

NOVEMBER 10, 2008 – PORTLAND, OR. A call to civic service, a focus on improving the health and welfare of the poor, a predilection for spreading the wealth...clearly the President-elect has been reading his Dickens. Portland Center Stage proudly invites Portlanders to refresh their own relationship with Dickens (as well as the family values of warmth, generosity and the enduring entertainment value of scaring the pants of off stinging old people) at our remount of Mead Hunter's hugely popular adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*.



[A Christmas Carol](#) will preview December 2 through 4, with the **Gala Opening Night Performance on Friday December 5, 2008.** The production will run **Tuesday through Sunday through December 28th**, with 7:30 pm evening performances Tuesday through Saturday and matinee performances at 2 pm on Sundays. There are alternating Sunday evening and Saturday 2:00 pm matinee performances, plus weekday matinee performances at noon on Thursdays. Go to www.pcs.org/carol08 for a complete list of show times. Tickets range from **\$30.00 to \$66.50**, with Student and Rush tickets available. Tickets can be purchased through the box office by

calling 503.445.3700 or online at www.pcs.org.

This season, **new ghosts, new faces** and **new community engagement efforts** keep this holiday tradition fresh for audiences returning with their families to celebrate another turn around the sun. Here are the highlights:

NEW! The Ghosts. Adaptor Mead Hunter and Director Cliff Fannin Baker have some exciting changes in store for the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future. Will the scary black curtain return? Will the ghosts swoop? What will Marley look like this year? Only time will tell.

NEW! The Cast. Portland audience favorites **Sharonlee McLean** and **Darius Pierce** join the nearly all local cast, though Darius was disappointed, according to his bio, that Mead did not take him up on the suggestion of making him Ebenezer Scroogenberg.

NEW! To celebrate the return of this Christmas tradition, Portland Center Stage will invite school, church and community choirs to put the carol back in *A Christmas Carol* by performing in the Armory Lobby at 6:55 pm before each evening performance. Choirs can get in on the action by contacting Promotions Manager Natalie Gilmore at natalieg@pcs.org.



And last but not least, **Bring Out Your Christmas Ham.** Rewrite the lyrics to a classic holiday tune and videotape yourself and you could win tickets to the show. Get the details at www.pcs.org/carolcontest.

[A Christmas Carol](#) will be directed by **Cliff Fannin Baker**. Nearly all the cast from last year is returning, including local favorites **Tim True** as Bob Cratchit, **Tanner Ward** as Young Ebenezer, **Ted deChatelet** as Fred, **Ted Roisum** as Jacob Marley, **Heather Nelson Robertson** as Mrs. Fezziwig, **Juliana Jaffe** as The Ghost of Christmas Present, **Val Landrum** as Belle, **Debbie Hunter** as Dora, and **Ron Daum** as Old Fezziwig and Ensemble. Joining the cast this year are **Sharonlee McLean** as Mrs. Cratchit and **Darius Pierce** as a member of the ensemble. Our Tiny Tim, **Madison Wray**, has shot up a bit from last year (but we think Wesley can still hoist her). Other children in the ensemble include **Justyce Chaney**, **Evan Shely**, **Hayley Rousselle**, **James Drake**, and **Josiah Bania**.

Rick Lewis returns to PCS as Music Director. Choreography will be by **Tony Palomino**. Scenic Design is by **Dex Edwards**, Costume Design will be by **Jeff Cone**, Sound Design will be by **Casi Pacilio** and lighting will be designed by **Daniel Ordower**.

The Main Stage Series is sponsored by **Key Private Bank**. Support for this production was provided by **Key Bank**, **La-Z-Boy**, the **Regional Arts and Culture Council's Work for Art** program and **Helen and Jerry Stern**. Media support was provided by **Kink.fm**.

[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 became an independent theater in 1994 and has been under the leadership of Artistic Director Chris Coleman since May 2000. The company presents a blend of classic, contemporary and original productions in a conscious effort to appeal to the eclectic palate of theatergoers in Portland. PCS also offers a variety of education and outreach programs for curious minds from six 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. 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 for community artistic activity continues.

###