

Portland Center Stage at

**THE ARMORY**  
PRESENTS

*The Second City's A Christmas  
Carol: Twist Your Dickens*

**By Peter Gwinn & Bobby Mort**

**Directed by Ron West**

December 5 - December 31, 2017

On the U.S. Bank Main Stage

Artistic Director | Chris Coleman

# *The Second City's A Christmas Carol: Twist Your Dickens*

**By Peter Gwinn & Bobby Mort  
Directed by Ron West**

Scenic Designer  
Tom Buderwitz

Costume Designer  
Jeff Cone

Lighting Designer  
Daniel Meeker

Sound Designer  
Casi Pacilio

Vocal Arranger &  
Music Consultant  
Rick Lewis

Stage Manager  
Kelsey Daye Lutz\*

Production Assistants  
Bailey Anne Maxwell &  
Katie Nguyen

The Second City  
Casting  
Beth Kligerman

Local Casting  
Rose Riordan &  
Brandon Woolley

*\*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.*

*A Christmas Carol: Twist Your Dickens* was originally produced by The Second City and Center Theatre Group and received its world premiere at Kirk Douglas Theatre in Los Angeles, November, 2012.

**Performed with one intermission.**

Videotaping or other photo or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

## A LETTER FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Whatever tradition(s) you celebrate, cherish, make fun of, ignore or rebel against, we all have memories of this time of year. What I love about what The Second City has done with *Twist Your Dickens* is that they've found a way to include so many holiday stories that might have made their way into our psyches, and no one and nothing gets out of jail free. Sometimes laughter offers the perfect light in this dark season.

At this time of year, I find myself giving thanks for the year in the rearview mirror. And one of the things I am most grateful for is that you continue to be willing to gather with us here in The Armory to share stories.

*-Chris Coleman*

## **THE SECOND CITY'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL: TWIST YOUR DICKENS BY THE NUMBERS**

- 35 – The number of costume changes that happen in the first 15 minutes alone. There are 80+ costumes in this show and 27 wigs.
- 1,000 – Roughly the number of hand-painted bricks featured in the set. Our local scenic artists painted eco-friendly sheets of molded Pulp Art to achieve the appearance of brick walls.
- \$100,000 – The amount of fake money we needed for Scrooge's bankroll. The fake bills were ordered from a company authorized to print near-perfect replicas. The only difference is that "Cinema

Use Only” is printed where “United States of America” is on real money.

- 1959 – The year The Second City first opened its doors in Chicago. This improv giant created *Twist Your Dickens* and also trained comedic greats such as Dan Aykroyd, Gilda Radner, Stephen Colbert, Tina Fey and many others.
- 1 – As in #1. *Twist Your Dickens* was the very first show created by The Second City that features full production values (most of their shows include only a few props and costumes). Portland Center Stage at The Armory was also the very first company in the country to secure the rights to the show after it premiered in Los Angeles in 2012.

## CAST BIOGRAPHIES

### **Craig Cackowski**

#### **Scrooge**

Craig Cackowski is excited to be returning to The Armory and reprising his role as Scrooge in *Twist Your Dickens* for the 4th time! He has performed with The Second City in various capacities since 1995. He has also been seen on TV as Officer Cackowski in *Community* and in every episode of Comedy Central’s *Drunk History*. Other film and TV appearances include *The Mayor*, *Shrink*, *Bajillion Dollar Properties*, *Girlboss*, *Veep*, *How I Met Your Mother*, *Comedy Bang Bang*, *The Kings of Summer* and *Year of the Dog*. Craig may often be seen touring the country with his improv duo, Orange Tuxedo (with his wife Carla), and heard on the podcast *Craig’s List* (where he makes Carla watch his 100 favorite movies).

## **Chantal DeGroat**

### **Belle and others**

Chantal is stoked to twist the heck out of 2017 with the hilarious *TYD* team for the fourth time! Chantal resides in Seattle and is a company member with Third Rail Repertory Theatre. Seattle productions and workshops: *Well* (Seattle Repertory Theatre), *Stick Fly* (Intiman Theatre), *Julius Caesar* (Seattle Shakespeare Company); *The Grove* (Seattle Repertory Theatre, The Hansberry Project), *Bright Half Life* (The Hansberry Project), *Richard III* (upstart crow collective, Seattle Shakespeare Company), *String* (Village Theatre). The Armory: JAW, Visions and Voices, *All's Fair in Love and Shakespeare*. Other Portland theaters: Artists Repertory Theatre, Profile Theatre, Portland Playhouse, Badass Theatre, Clackamas Repertory Theatre, Jewish Theatre Collaborative. She is an educator for the August Wilson Monologue Competition with two years on The Armory stage and at Seattle Repertory Theatre for the August Wilson Red Door Project. Chantal commits her artistic life to the social justice movement. Gratitude for the endless support from fam and friends!

## **Sam Dinkowitz**

### **Ghost of Christmas Past and others**

Sam is filled with Christmas joy to be back with the *Twist* cast and crew. When he's not working at JOANN Fabric, Sam is teaching high school students how to safely hit each other with swords. Recent local credits include *Year of the Rooster* with CoHo Productions and *Coyote on a Fence* with Post5 Theatre. Regional credits include seasons with Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Utah Shakespeare Festival and Idaho Repertory Theatre. TV credits: TNT's *Leverage* and *The Librarians*. Sam is also the founder of

Spectravagasm Sketch Comedy. He received his B.F.A. in Performance from Southern Oregon University.

## **Nicholas Kessler**

### **Ghost of Christmas Future, Bob Cratchit and others**

Nicholas is an actor, improviser and teacher here in Portland. He's thrilled to return to the *Twist* cast and company at The Armory.

Nicholas is the host of NPR/OPB's live storytelling show *The Moth*. Nicholas is an improviser and ensemble member at The Siren Theater, with Improv Giants, Leviathan and The Liberators.

Nicholas' television credits include roles on *Portlandia*, *Grimm* and *The Librarians*. Nicholas is an educator for Portland Center Stage at The Armory, and an executive communications coach throughout the region. He plays the role of husband/father in real life, and is proud to raise a family of Portlanders.

## **Lauren Modica**

### **Mrs. Cratchit and others**

Lauren is thrilled to return to The Armory for a fourth helping of Dickens, and sends all her love to those she loves, the audiences, Rose, Brandon, Ron and all her favorites at the company for making this tradition so wonderful. Regional: Glendower/Peto in *Henry IV: I and II* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival),

Cook/Nurse Spiller in *Fingersmith* (American Repertory Theatre), *Twist Your Dickens*, *Our Town* and *JAW* (The Armory), *The Skin of Our Teeth* (Artists Repertory Theater). Portland credits include: *Antigone Project* (Profile Theater), *In the Forest*, *She Grew Fangs* and *Undiscovered Country* (Defunkt Theatre), *King Lear* (Northwest Classical Theatre Company), *Cymbeline* (Portland Actors Ensemble), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Willamette Shakespeare), *No Man's Land* (Action/Adventure Theatre),

*Gretchen Icenogle's Trailing Colors*, DC Copeland's *Play*, and others. [lauren-modica.squarespace.com](http://lauren-modica.squarespace.com)

## **Jaime Moyer**

### **Ghost of Christmas Present and others**

Jaime recently appeared on *Modern Family*, and has had guest starring roles on *Parks and Recreation*, *2 Broke Girls*, *Jennifer Falls*, and has a recurring role as Mrs. Goldfeder on Disney's hit show *KC Undercover*. She is the creator of the viral hit "Fancy Catz" which can be seen on YouTube at The Second City Network, and has appeared in several short and feature length films. Jaime is delighted to return to The Armory with this production. She has also appeared in *Twist Your Dickens* at The Kennedy Center in D.C. and Kirk Douglas Theater in Los Angeles. She is a graduate of The University of Detroit Mercy, and an alum of The Second City in Detroit. Thanks always to her amazing parents and friends!

## **Darius Pierce**

### **Marley and others**

Darius is happy to be spending his tenth consecutive year celebrating the holidays at The Armory after five years of *The Santaland Diaries*, and two each of *A Christmas Story* and *A Christmas Carol*. Other productions at The Armory include *Stupid F\*\*king Bird*, *Cyrano*, *Beard of Avon* (Drammy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor), *Twelfth Night*, *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The 39 Steps*, *Frost/Nixon* and *JAW*. Elsewhere, favorite shows include *Stupid F\*\*king Bird* (world premiere, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company); *The Gaming Table* and *Comedy of Errors* (Folger Theatre); *Lungs* (Third Rail Repertory Theatre); *Les Misérables* (Broadway Rose Theatre Company) and *1776* (Lakewood Theatre Company). Darius is a

company member at Third Rail Repertory Theatre and a co-founder of Anonymous Theatre Company.

## CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

### **Peter Gwinn**

#### **Co-Writer**

Peter is one of the original writers for *The Colbert Report*, for which he won two Emmy Awards, and the Amazon series *Alpha House*. He has also written three musicals: *The Story of a Story (The Untold Story)* (Underscore Theater, Chicago); *Moulin Scrooge!* (The iO Theater, Chicago; WreckingBall Theater Lab, Denver) and *Listen, Kid!* (UCB Theatre, NYC; The iO Theater, Chicago). Peter is also an actor, improviser and stand-up comedian. He is a founding member of Baby Wants Candy, a comedy troupe that creates fully improvised hour-long musicals, which was a *New York Times* Critic's Pick and has sold out multiple runs at Edinburgh Fringe Festival. He can also be seen in the Netflix series *Easy* and in *Chicago Fire*.

### **Bobby Mort**

#### **Co-Writer**

Bobby wrote for *The Colbert Report* during the 2012-2013 season, where he received an Emmy Award for his work, and he's the co-creator (with Peter Farrelly) of the television series *Loudermilk*. He grew up in South Carolina before moving to Chicago, where he trained at The iO Theater and performed for a number of years with the improv group People of Earth and the sketch comedy trio Maximum Party Zone. Bobby is extremely excited to be working with Peter Gwinn, the fine folks of The Second City and Portland Center Stage at The Armory on *Twist Your Dickens*.



## **Ron West**

### **Director**

Ron is happy to return to Portland to helm *Twist Your Dickens* for the third time. He has directed “a jillion” shows for The Second City, including the award-winning *Curious George Goes to War* and the international tour of *Sex & The Second City*. He recently provided additional dialogue for *The Taming of the Shrew* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, a production devised by Barbara Gaines and performed by an all-female cast. His adaptation of *The Comedy of Errors*, also for Ms. Gaines and Chicago Shakespeare Theater, won him the 2008 Jeff Award for Best Production. With Phil Swann, West is the co-author of *The People Vs. Friar Laurence*, which premiered at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, and *Musical Fools*, based on the play by Neil Simon. Both titles are published by Samuel French. Also with Mr. Swann, Mr. West co-authored the musical *deLEARious*, recently restaged by Mr. West at Open Fist Theater in Los Angeles. Other recent directing credits include: *Twist Your Dickens* (Goodman Theatre, where he also appeared as Scrooge); *Life Expectancy* (Hollywood Fringe); and *The 39 Steps* (Malibu Playhouse). He bats right and throws right.

## **Tom Buderwitz**

### **Scenic Designer**

Tom previously designed *I Love To Eat* at The Armory. Tom designed the world premiere of *The Second City's A Christmas Carol: Twist Your Dickens* for Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles, as well as the Goodman Theatre and The Kennedy Center productions. Tom has also designed for South Coast Repertory, Geffen Playhouse, Pasadena Playhouse, Denver Center Theatre Company, Intiman Theatre, Laguna Playhouse, Chautauqua Theater Company, Arizona Theatre Company, San Diego Repertory, Artists

Repertory Theatre, The Antaeus Company, Reprise Theatre and The Theatre at Boston Court, among many others. Tom has been honored with six Los Angeles Stage Alliance Ovation Awards and three Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards. For television, Tom has designed specials and series for every major broadcast and cable network, and has three Emmy Award nominations and an Art Director's Guild Award nomination. [tombuderwitz.com](http://tombuderwitz.com)

## **Jeff Cone**

### **Costume Designer**

Jeff Cone is a freelance costume designer based in Atlanta, Georgia. Before moving to Atlanta, Jeff spent 16 seasons as Portland Center Stage at The Armory's resident costume designer and costume shop manager. In that time, he designed costumes for over 75 productions. Of those shows, over 50 were in the company's first eight seasons at The Armory. Favorite productions include *West Side Story*, *Cabaret*, *The 39 Steps*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Sometimes a Great Notion*, *Snow Falling on Cedars*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, *Black Pearl Sings!*, *Venus in Fur* and *Clybourne Park*. Jeff received Drammy Awards for his costume designs for *Dirty Blonde*, *Act A Lady* and *Shakespeare's Amazing Cymbeline*.

## **Daniel Meeker**

### **Lighting Designer**

Previously at The Armory: lighting for *Lauren Weedman Doesn't Live Here Anymore* and *Wild and Reckless*; scenery for *A Christmas Memory*, *Winter Song*, *The People's Republic of Portland* and *Red* (Drammy Award); and set and lighting for *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *The Typographer's Dream*, *LIZZIE* (Drammy Award for Best Lighting), *The Last Five Years* and *The Mountaintop*. Recent projects: *Big Night Out*, *Così fan tutte*, *The*

*Difficulty of Crossing a Field* and *The Little Match Girl Passion* (Portland Opera); *The Talented Ones* (Artists Repertory Theatre); *The Language Archive* (Portland Playhouse); *Judy Moody and Stink: The Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Treasure Hunt* (Oregon Children's Theatre); *26 Hours* (Profile Theatre); *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Pioneer Theatre Company); *How I Learned What I Learned* and *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Portland Playhouse); and lighting director for the Pickathon festival. Daniel is a graduate of Ithaca College and The Yale School of Drama, and a member of United Scenic Artists.

## **Casi Pacilio**

### **Sound Designer**

Casi's home base is The Armory, where recent credits include *A Christmas Memory*, *Winter Song*, *Lauren Weedman Doesn't Live Here Anymore*, *Wild and Reckless*, *His Eye is on the Sparrow*, *The Oregon Trail*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*; *A Small Fire*, *Constellations* and *Chinglish* with composer Jana Crenshaw; and 11 seasons of JAW. National shows: Holcombe Waller's *Surfacing* and *Wayfinders*; *Left Hand of Darkness*, *My Mind is Like an Open Meadow* (Drammy Award, 2011), *Something's Got Ahold Of My Heart* and *PEP TALK* for Hand2Mouth Theatre. Other credits include Squonk Opera's *Bigmorgasbord-WunderWerk* (Broadway, PS122, national and international tours); *I Am My Own Wife*, *I Think I Like Girls* (La Jolla Playhouse); *Playland*, *10 Fingers* and *Lips Together, Teeth Apart* (City Theatre, PA). Film credits include *Creation of Destiny*, *Out of Our Time* and *A Powerful Thang*. Imagineer/maker of the Eat Me Machine, a dessert vending machine.

## **Rick Lewis**

### **Vocal Arranger and Music Consultant**

Rick has music directed over 25 productions at Portland Center Stage at The Armory, most recently the acclaimed production of *Fun Home*. Creator of the hit Off-Broadway musicals *The Taffetas* and *The Cardigans* (NYC Bistro Award for Outstanding Musical Revue); music supervisor for the West Coast premiere of *Next to Normal* (Artists Repertory Theatre); assistant conductor/vocal director for the pre-Broadway workshop of Cy Coleman's *The Life*; music director/arranger for BelloVoci; writer/arranger for Disney Live Family Entertainment, American Hawaii Cruises and American Classic Voyages; developer of The Cinnamon Bear Cruise; and founder/artistic director of Bridgetown Conservatory of Musical Theatre. [rlewismusic.com](http://rlewismusic.com)

## **Kelsey Daye Lutz**

### **Stage Manager**

The Armory credits include: stage manager for *His Eye is on the Sparrow*, *Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin*, *Hold These Truths*, *The Pianist of Willesden Lane* (2016 and 2017), *Each and Every Thing*, *Forever*, *The Santaland Diaries*, *The Lion*, *The People's Republic of Portland* (second engagement), *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *The Typographer's Dream*, *The Last Five Years* and *A Small Fire*; and production assistant for *Clybourne Park*, *Venus in Fur*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The North Plan* and *Anna Karenina*. Kelsey Daye is a graduate of University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She would like to thank her pups for all their unconditional love, and Shamus for being wonderful.

## **Bailey Anne Maxwell**

### **Production Assistant**

Bailey is thrilled to be back for another production of *Twist Your Dickens*. In previous seasons at The Armory, Bailey has worked as the production assistant for *Mary's Wedding*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Stupid F\*cking Bird*, *Other Desert Cities*, *Twist Your Dickens* (2014 and 2015) and *Dreamgirls*. She also served as a crew member for *Great Expectations*. Bailey has worked as a production assistant with Artists Repertory Theatre on *The Motherf\*\*ker with the Hat*, *Foxfinder*, *Ten Chimneys*, *The Lost Boy* and *Seven Guitars*. Bailey has recently enjoyed being the stage manager for *Up the Fall* with PHAME and *The Wizard of Oz* with Broadway Rose. She has also worked with Profile Theatre as a stage management apprentice on *Buried Child*, *Eyes for Consuela* and *In the Next Room*. Bailey is a proud Linfield College graduate and a member of the EMC program.

## **Katie Nguyen**

### **Production Assistant**

Katie Nguyen is a stage manager from Fairfax, Virginia, and a recent graduate of Virginia Tech. While pursuing a degree in business management, she served as a stage manager, festival producer and production manager for Virginia Tech's School of Performing Arts. She is humbled to be at The Armory as one of two stage management apprentices for the 2017-2018 season. Prior to moving to Portland, she co-founded a non-profit theater collective in Washington, D.C. (Who What Where Theater) and worked as a summer camp teaching artist for Acting For Young People in Fairfax, Virginia.

## SPONSOR STATEMENTS

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## LEAD CORPORATE CHAMPION

### **Umpqua Bank**

Actors take chances. Sometimes they work. Sometimes they don't. But none of these actors would be on stage tonight without taking chances. It's part of growth, and we're all made to grow. That's why we're such a proud supporter of Portland Center Stage. Let this performance inspire you to take the chances that power your own growth.