

Portland Center Stage at

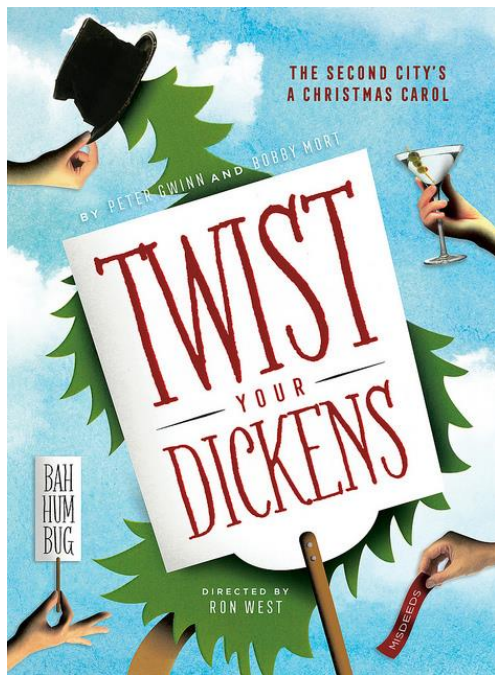
THE **ARMORY**

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

The hilarious holiday hit *Twist Your Dickens* is back with  
Darius Pierce joining the cast for the 2017 run

Previews Begin Dec. 5 | Opening Night is Dec. 8 | Closes Dec. 31



**November 1, 2017 – PORTLAND, OR.** The hilarious hit from comedy giant The Second City returns to The Armory for another year of holiday jeer. *The Second City's A Christmas Carol: Twist Your Dickens*, written by Emmy Award-winners Peter Gwinn and Bobby Mort, begins preview performances on the U.S. Bank Main Stage on December 5; opens on December 8; and runs through December 31. Ron West returns to direct this sidesplitting take on Charles Dickens' Christmas novella, featuring new scenes for the 2017 run.

**Darius Pierce joins the cast.** Pierce has had audiences in stitches as Crumpet in *The Santaland Diaries* at The Armory for the past five seasons. He's retiring his elfin tights to take on the role of Marley and others. The rest of the *Twist* cast returns: The Second City alums Craig Cackowski (Scrooge) and Jaime Moyer (The Ghost of Christmas Present and others) are joined by local favorites Chantal DeGroat, Sam Dinkowitz, Nicholas Kessler and Lauren Modica.

**Regular tickets start at \$25.** Tickets may be purchased at [www.pcs.org](http://www.pcs.org), 503.445.3700, or in-person from the box office (128 NW Eleventh Avenue, Portland, OR). Rush tickets are \$20. Students and patrons who are 30 or younger can purchase \$30 premium tickets. \$5 tickets are

available for Oregon Trail Card holders through the Arts for All program. Discounts for groups of 10+. Active duty or veteran military personnel and their immediate families get 50% off the price of regular tickets. General performance times are Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.; a Thursday matinee on December 14 at noon; and a Thursday matinee on December 28 at 2 p.m. (special exclusions apply, see below for more information). Recommended for ages 14+; contains mature content, explicit language, theatrical haze and strobe lighting.

### **ABOUT THE SHOW**

A complete send-up of the holiday classic, this adult comedy is adorned with the improvisational genius of the legendary comedy troupe The Second City. *Twist Your Dickens* includes zany holiday sketches and uproarious improv — it's never the same show twice! It has become a Portland holiday favorite after hit runs in 2013, 2014 and 2015. Portland Center Stage at The



Armory was the first regional theater company in the country to secure the rights to produce the show after its world premiere in Los Angeles in 2012. *Twist Your Dickens* returns in 2017, with new scenes, after successful runs at The Kennedy Center and Goodman Theatre.

**Photos are available for download on [Flickr](#).**

### **THE SECOND CITY**

The Second City is known world-wide for its unique brand of humor and satire, as well as for being the launching pad for generations of comedy superstars, including Mike Myers, Bill Murray, Gilda Radner, John Candy, John Belushi, Catherine O'Hara, Tina Fey, Steve Carell, Stephen Colbert and many more. Recent Second City productions include the Jeff Award-winning *Second City Guide to the Opera* with Lyric Opera Chicago and the Helen Hayes Award-nominated production of *America All Better!!* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre in Washington, DC. *Twist Your Dickens* was The Second City's first stage show to include full sets and costumes.



## ABOUT THE CAST

**Craig Cackowski** (Scrooge) has been performing with The Second City since 1995, and has been seen in *Community* (Officer Cackowski), *Drunk History*, *The Mayor*, *Veep* and others. Fellow Second City alum **Jaime Moyer** (Ghost of Christmas Present and others) has been seen on *Modern Family*, *Parks and Recreation*, *2*

*Broke Girls*, *Jennifer Falls* and has a recurring role on *KC Undercover*. Local performers include **Chantal DeGroat** (*Well* at Seattle Repertory Theatre, *Stick Fly* at Intiman Theatre) as Belle and others; **Sam Dinkowitz** (founder of Spectravagasm Sketch Comedy; *Year of the Rooster* with Coho Productions) as Ghost of Christmas Past and others; **Nicholas Kessler** (*The Liberators*, *Improv Giants*, *Leviathan*) as Ghost of Christmas Future, Bob Cratchit and others; and **Lauren Modica** (*Henry IV, Parts 1* and *Henry IV, Part 2* at Oregon Shakespeare Festival) as Mrs. Cratchit and others.

## THE CREATIVE TEAM

Director **Ron West** (*The Second City's Curious George Goes to War* and *Sex & The Second City*) returns to The Armory, joined by Scenic Designer **Tom Buderwitz** (the world premiere of *Twist Your Dickens*, as well as the Goodman Theatre and Kennedy Center productions); Costume Designer **Jeff Cone** (16 seasons as Portland Center Stage at The Armory's resident designer); Lighting Designer **Daniel Meeker** (most recently lighting designs for *Lauren Weedman Doesn't Live Here Anymore* at The Armory); and Sound Designer **Casi Pacilio** (most recently *A Christmas Memory/Winter Song* at The Armory).

## TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

**When:** December 5\* – December 31, 2017

\*Opening Night/Press Night: Friday, December 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: December 5, 6 and 7 at 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** On the U.S. Bank Main Stage at [The Armory](#)

128 NW Eleventh Ave., Portland, Ore., 97209

**To Purchase:** Regular tickets range from \$25 to \$82. Rush tickets are \$20. Students and patrons who are 30 or younger may purchase premium tickets for \$30. \$5 tickets are available for Oregon Trail Card holders through the Arts for All program. Discounts for groups of 10+. Active duty or veteran military personnel and their immediate families get 50% off the price of regular tickets. *Prices vary by date and time, and are subject to change.*

**Online:** [www.pcs.org](http://www.pcs.org)

**By Phone:** 503.445.3700, 12–6 p.m.

**In Person:** The box office is at 128 NW Eleventh Avenue  
12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on performance days  
12 p.m. to 6 p.m. on non-performance days

**Groups:** Discounts available for groups of 10+ by calling 503.445.3794.

**More Info:** [www.pcs.org/dickens-2017](http://www.pcs.org/dickens-2017)

**Showtimes:** Tuesday through Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (excluding December 17, 26 and 31); Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (excluding December 9); and a Thursday matinee on December 14 at noon and December 28 at 2 p.m.

**Please Note:** Recommended for ages 14+; contains mature content, explicit language, theatrical haze and strobe lighting.

**Accessibility:** Learn about our accessibility options at [www.pcs.org/access](http://www.pcs.org/access).

#### **PORTLAND CENTER STAGE AT THE ARMORY**

[Portland Center Stage at The Armory](http://www.pcs.org) is the largest theater company in Portland and among the top 20 regional theaters in the country. Established in 1988 as a branch of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, the company became independent in 1994 and has been under the leadership of Artistic Director Chris Coleman since 2000. Around 150,000 visitors attend The Armory annually to enjoy a mix of classical, contemporary and world premiere productions, along with a variety of high quality

education and community programs. Eleven productions are offered each season, in addition to roughly 400 community events created — in partnership with 170+ local organizations and individuals — to serve the diverse populations in the city. As part of its dedication to new play development, the company has produced 23 world premieres and presents an annual new works festival, JAW: A Playwrights Festival. Home to two theaters, The Armory was the first building on the National Register of Historic Places, and the first performing arts venue, to achieve a LEED Platinum rating.

### **THE 2017-2018 SEASON**

The [2017-2018 season](#) is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim and Mary Boyle and Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank. Further support comes from Season Sponsors the Regional Arts and Culture Council, The Wallace Foundation and Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the state of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts. Support for *Twist Your Dickens* comes from Gerding Edlen and Willamette Week. Mark Spencer Hotel is the official hotel partner for the company. Portland Center Stage at The Armory was selected as a participant of the Wallace Foundation's [Building Audiences for Sustainability Initiative](#), a four-year effort with a nationwide cohort of 26 performing arts organizations.

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