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

BAH \$#!*@ HUMBUG!

The Comic Genius of The Second City Returns to PCS for the Holidays

The Second City's *A Christmas Carol: Twist Your Dickens* Opens November 28

Previews Begin November 22 on the U.S. Bank Main Stage



October 30, 2014 – PORTLAND, OR., The Second City's *A Christmas Carol: Twist Your Dickens* takes the stage at PCS for another year of holiday mayhem. This season brings two new Second City veterans to Portland: Director Ron West and actress Jaime Moyer. Returning to star as Scrooge is The Second City alumnus Craig Cackowski, a regular on the hit TV show *Drunk History*. The troupe of local comedic talent that delighted audiences last year will also return; Chantal DeGroat, Sam Dinkowitz, Nicholas Kessler, Lauren Modica and John San Nicolas.

The Second City's *A Christmas Carol: Twist Your Dickens* opens on November 28, with previews beginning November 22 and performances running through December 24, 2014. Regular tickets start at \$36, preview tickets start at \$29, and rush tickets are \$20. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday (excluding November 27, December 7, 14 and 24); 2 p.m. matinees on select Saturdays and Sundays; and matinees at noon on select Thursdays. Tickets can be purchased at [pcs.org](http://www.pcs.org) or 503-445-3700. A complete schedule can be found online: <http://www.pcs.org/dickens-2014/>. Recommended for ages 16+; contains mature content and strong language.





ABOUT THE SHOW

A complete send-up of the holiday classic, this adult comedy is adorned with the improvisational genius of the legendary company The Second City, and includes zany holiday sketches, uproarious improv based on audience participation, and an ever-changing list of drop-in local celebrities. Emmy Award-winning writers for *The Colbert Report*, Peter Gwinn and Bobby Mort, wrote this sidesplitting take on Charles Dickens' Christmas novella. *Twist Your Dickens* debuted at PCS last season, after its world premiere in 2012 at Center Theatre Group's Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City, Los Angeles County.

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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

productions include the Jeff Award Winning *Second City Guide to the Opera* with Lyric Opera Chicago; and The Helen Hayes Award nominated production *America All Better!!* at Woolly Mammoth Theatre in Washington, DC.



THE CAST

Second City veteran **Craig Cackowski** returns as Scrooge. Cackowski has been connected with Second City since 1995, as a performer, teacher and director. Portland audiences may recognize him from roles on TV, including "Officer Cackowski" on *Community*, Comedy Central's *Drunk History*, *Veep*, *Welcome to the Family*, *How I Met Your Mother*, *Arrested Development* and *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, among others. Cackowski has toured the country with his improv group *Dasariski* and was in the cast of the popular podcast *The Thrilling Adventure Hour*.

New to the cast is Jaime Moyer, alum of The Second City Detroit, who will play the Ghost of Christmas Present and others. Moyer teaches at The Second City Hollywood where she also performs regularly. She is the creator of the viral hit "Fancy Catz" which can be seen on YouTube at The Second City Network. TV appearances include *Parks and Recreation* as mail lady Roz Degrantis, and a recurring role as Doreen on TV Land's *Jennifer Falls*.

All the local artists who delighted audiences last year return: **Chantal DeGroat** (most recently Bernice in *The Piano Lesson* at Portland Playhouse) as Belle and others; **Sam Dinkowitz** (recently *Wait Until Dark* with Northwest Classical Theatre) as the Ghost of Christmas Past and others; local improv and sketch comedy star **Nicholas Kessler** (The Liberators, Stumptown Improv Fest, Bad Reputation, Lone Wolves and The Moth StorySLAM) as the Ghost of Christmas Future, Bob Cratchit and others; **Lauren Modica** (most recently Ruth in Defunkt's *In The Forest She Grew Fangs*) as Mrs. Cratchit and others; and **John San Nicolas** (most recently Jackie in *Motherfucker with the Hat* at Artists Repertory Theatre) as The Ghost of Jacob Marley and others.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Director Ron West makes his Portland Center Stage debut. West has directed numerous shows for The Second City, including the award-winning *Curious George Goes to War* and the international tour of *Sex & The Second City*. He collaborated with Phil Swann to write the Shakespeare-based musicals *The People vs. Friar Laurence* and *deLEARious*. West recently directed *The 39 Steps* at the Malibu Playhouse, along with *Quick and Dirty* (which he wrote) and *Fun & Other Traumatic Events* (which he wrote with playwright Catherine Butterfield) at The Second City Hollywood.

Scenic Designer Tom Buderwitz designed the world premiere of The Second City's *A Christmas Carol: Twist Your Dickens* for Center Theatre Group and will bring the twisted world to life once again for this production. Tackling all of the zany characters appearing in the past, present and future is PCS's former resident **Costume Designer Jeff Cone**, joined by PCS regulars: **Lighting Designer Daniel Meeker** (most recently set and lighting design for *The Typographer's Dream*), and **Sound Designer Casi Pacilio** (most recently sound designer for *Dreamgirls*).

➤ **Next Page: Ticket and Performance Information**

***Twist Your Dickens* | Ticket and Performance Information**

When: November 22* – December 24, 2014

*Opening Night is Friday, November 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: November 22, 23, 25 and 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday (excluding November 27, December 7, 14 and 24); 2 p.m. matinees on select Saturdays and Sundays; and matinees at noon on select Thursdays.

Where: On the U.S. Bank Main Stage at the [Gerding Theater at the Armory](#),
128 NW Eleventh Avenue, Portland, OR., 97209.

More Info: <http://www.pcs.org/dickens-2014/>

To Purchase: Regular tickets range from \$36-69. Preview tickets start at \$29. Rush tickets are \$20. Tickets for students and those under 25 are \$25. Discounts for military and groups of 10+. *Prices subject to change.*

Online: <http://www.pcs.org/dickens-2014/>

By Phone: 503-445-3700, 12–6 p.m.

In Person: PCS's box office is at 128 NW Eleventh Avenue
12 p.m.–curtain on performance days
12–6 p.m. on non-performance days

Groups: Discounts available for groups of 10 or more.
Group tickets can purchased at 503-445-3794.

Please Note: *Twist Your Dickens* is recommended for ages 14+; contains mature content and strong language. Strobe lighting and theatrical haze is used in this production.

Accessibility: PCS is committed to making our performances and facilities accessible to all of our patrons. We are happy to accommodate wheelchairs and walkers, as well as provide

large print programs, audio description, sign interpretation and open captioning for select performances. Learn more at <http://www.pcs.org/access/>.

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[Portland Center Stage](#) inspires our community by bringing stories to life in unexpected ways. Founded in 1988, PCS is the city's leading professional theater and one of the top 20 largest regional theater companies in the U.S. PCS attracts more than 150,000 theatergoers annually with its blend of classical, contemporary and premiere works, along with its summer playwrights festival, JAW. PCS also offers a variety of education and community programs tailored for patrons of all ages.

[The Gerding Theater at the Armory](#) houses the 590-seat Main Stage and the 190-seat black box Ellyn Bye 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.

[Portland Center Stage's 2014-2015 season](#) is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim and Mary Boyle and Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank; Season Sponsors the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Regional Arts and Culture Council, Work for Art, and Season Supporting Sponsor KINK FM. The Mark Spencer Hotel is the official hotel partner for Portland Center Stage. Portland Center Stage is a participant in the Audience (R)Evolution Program, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and administered by Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for the professional not-for-profit American theater.

Photos of the 2013 production of *Twist Your Dickens* at Portland Center Stage: Page one: (L-R) Craig Cackowski and Nicholas Kessler. Page two top: (L-R) Lauren Modica, Chantal DeGroat, Sam Dinkowitz and Craig Cackowski. Page two bottom: (L-R) Craig Cackowski and Nicholas Kessler. Additional photos available on [Flickr](#). Please credit Patrick Weishampel.

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