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

THE FAREWELL *TWIST*

After two hilarious seasons of holiday mayhem, Portland gets one more chance to catch *The Second City's A Christmas Carol: Twist Your Dickens*

Previews Begin December 9 | Opening Night is December 11 | Must Close December 31



November 5, 2015 – PORTLAND, OR. After two seasons of hilarious holiday skits, side-splitting improv, surprise celebrity guests and packed houses, *The Second City's A Christmas Carol: Twist Your Dickens* takes the stage for the farewell *Twist*. The production opens December 11 on Portland Center Stage's U.S. Bank Main Stage, with previews beginning December 9 and performances through December 31, 2015. Fans will enjoy a new scene in the 2015 production.

The cast and creative team from last year return: Second City alums Ron West (director), Craig Cackowski (Scrooge) and Jaime Moyer (The Ghost of Christmas Present and others), and the local comedic troupe that takes on the myriad roles in the production: Chantal DeGroat, Sam Dinkowitz, Nicholas Kessler, Lauren Modica and John San Nicolas.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at www.pcs.org, 503.445.3700, or in person at the Gerding Theater at the Armory box office (128 NW Eleventh Avenue, Portland, OR). Regular tickets

start at \$37. Preview tickets start at \$29. Rush tickets are \$20. Tickets for students and patrons who are 30 or younger are \$25. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays (excluding December 20, 24, 25 and 31); 2 p.m. matinees on Saturdays and Sundays; matinees at noon on Thursday, December 17 and 31; and a special 2 p.m. matinee on December 24. Recommended for ages 14+; contains mature content and strong language. Full schedule and more information at <http://www.pcs.org/dickens-2015/>. Photos are available for download on [Flickr](#).

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. It includes zany holiday sketches, an ever-changing list of drop-in local celebrities and uproarious improv based on audience participation — it's never the same show twice! Emmy Award-winning writers for



The Colbert Report, Peter Gwinn and Bobby Mort, wrote this sidesplitting take on Charles Dickens' Christmas novella. PCS was the first regional theater company to secure the rights to produce the show after its world premiere in 2012 at Center Theatre Group's Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City, Los Angeles County. *Twist Your Dickens* was a hit in Portland during the 2013 debut and 2014 remount.

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.

ABOUT THE CAST

Craig Cackowski (Scrooge) 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.



Fellow Second City alum, **Jaime Moyer**, 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 hit video series "Fancy Catz" which can be seen on YouTube at The Second City Network. TV appearances include *Parks and Recreation*, *2 Broke Girls*, *Jennifer Falls*, *Ken Jeong Made Me Do It* (pilot) and a recurring role on Disney's *KC Undercover*.



Local performers include **Chantal DeGroat** (recently *Belleville* at Third Rail Repertory Theatre) as Belle and others; **Sam Dinkowitz** (recently *Passion Play* with Profile Theatre/Shaking the Tree) 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** (last at PCS for *Our Town*) as Mrs. Cratchit and others; and **John San Nicolas** (recently *Disgraced* with Fusion Theatre Company) as The Ghost of Jacob Marley and others.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Director **Ron West** made his Portland Center Stage debut directing *Twist Your Dickens* in 2014. 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*.



Scenic Designer **Tom Buderwitz** designed the world premiere of *The Second City's A Christmas Carol: Twist Your Dickens* for Center Theatre Group and brings the twisted world to life in Portland once again. Tackling all 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 design for *The People's Republic of Portland*), and Sound Designer **Casi Pacilio** (most recently sound designer for *Ain't Misbehavin'*).

TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

When: December 9* – December 31, 2015

*Opening Night is Friday, December 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Preview Performances: December 9 and 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Showtimes: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays (excluding December 20, 24, 25 and 31); 2 p.m. matinees on Saturdays and Sundays; matinees at noon on Thursday December 17 and 31; and a special 2 p.m. matinee on December 24.

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

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

More Info: <http://www.pcs.org/dickens-2015/>

To Purchase: Regular tickets start at \$37. Preview tickets start at \$29. Rush tickets are \$20. Tickets for students and patrons who are 30 or younger are \$25. Discounts for groups of 10+. Prices subject to change.

Online: www.pcs.org

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+ by calling 503.445.3794.

Please Note: 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. 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 U.S. Bank 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 2015-2016 season](#) is funded in part by Season Superstars Tim and Mary Boyle and Lead Corporate Champion Umpqua Bank; Supporting Season Sponsors the Regional Arts and Culture Council, The Wallace Foundation, Work for Art and KINK FM. Support for *The Second City's A Christmas Carol: Twist Your Dickens* is provided by Show Sponsors Dr. Curtis Thompson MD and Associates, 105.1 The Buzz and 92.3 KGON. The official hotel partner for PCS is the Mark Spencer Hotel. PCS is a participant in the Wallace Foundation's [Building Audiences for Sustainability Initiative](#), a four-year effort with a nationwide cohort of 26 performing arts organizations. PCS also receives support from the Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the State of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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