



2015-2016  
*Season*



## Press Release

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For immediate release:

### ***Knoxville's Holiday Tradition Returns with "A Christmas Carol"***

#### ***On the Clarence Brown Theatre Mainstage***

#### ***Kids Ages 5-12 for just \$10***

Ebenezer Scrooge and the memorable ghosts return in the Clarence Brown Theatre's long-running and most popular production. A magical tradition for the whole family, "A Christmas Carol," runs November 25 through December 20 on the mainstage with 7:30 pm and 2:00 pm performances. A Pay What You Wish Preview performance will be held Wednesday, November 25, a talk back with the designers will take place Sunday, Dec. 6 following the matinee, Deaf Night @ the Theatre will take place December 8 and the Open Captioned performance is Sunday, December 13 at 2:00 pm. The production is sponsored by Schaad Companies, Pilot Travel Centers, and UT Medical Center. Media sponsors are WBIR, Comcast, WUOT, WUTK, B97.5 the Knoxville News Sentinel and the Knoxville Mercury. Free and convenient parking is available in the McClung Tower Garage on Volunteer Boulevard.

At each performance, patrons can enhance their experience by enjoying the special holiday treats at the concession stand and taking pictures with the "Christmas Carol Ghosts" in a specially designed cutout which will be stationed in the main lobby.

"A Christmas Carol" is primarily a ghost story set in a cold dark world filled with despair, misery, and death. In Dickens' time, it's estimated that nearly half of all funerals in London were for children under the age of ten and the average mortality age was 25. "A Christmas Carol" was first published in 1843, Dickens culled the story from personal childhood experiences along with various Christmas stories. The book is generally considered one of the greatest influences for the restoration of the Christmas holiday and it has never been out of print.

The story's numerous adaptations include opera, ballet, radio plays, audio recordings, films and stage. In less than a year after the book was published as many as 12 theatrical productions were playing in London. Wikipedia lists 30 theatrical productions between 1974 and 2010, 22 films since 1901 and just as many TV adaptations, not counting the numerous pastiches performed.

Famous Scrooges over the years have included Lionel Barrymore, Orson Welles, Basil Rathbone, Alec Guinness, Jonathan Winters, Charles Laughton, Tony Randall, Hal Linden, Roddy McDowell, and of course Patrick Stewart's one-man show of "A Christmas Carol" which first opened in London in 1988.

**Micah-Shane Brewer** (Director) is the Artistic Director of Encore Theatrical Company. He also serves as an adjunct instructor, coach's private students and has written for The Sondheim Review. He received his MFA in Acting from the University of Tennessee, and bachelor degrees in both Drama and Music at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro. Some of his CBT stage credits include: "Monty Python's Spamalot," "A Christmas Carol," "Sweeney Todd," "Our Country's Good," "On The Razzle," and "Kiss Me, Kate." He also has produced concerts with artists like Sutton Foster, Donna McKechnie, Stephanie J. Block, Liz Callaway, Marin Mazzie and Jason Danieley and has written for "The Sondheim Review."

**Rachel Schlafer-Parton** (Musical Director) from Luttrell, TN is best known for her performance on the syringe on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion." She also performed at the National Gallery of Art, Strathmore Music Center, Bonnaroo, and the Bluebird Café. Locally she has performed with Farr Horizons, Knoxville Early Music Project, InterAct Children's Theatre for the Deaf, Hudson K, and The Band of Humans. Her CBT credits include: "A Christmas Carol" and "The Story of Opal."

The production features visiting professional guest actors, UT graduate and undergraduate student actors, and actors from the community.

Performing the role of **Scrooge** is visiting guest actor **David Kortemeier**. Some CBT credits include: "The 39 Steps," "Sweeney Todd," "Moonlight & Magnolias," "The Music Man," "Man of La Mancha," "Amadeus," "Oedipus the King," "Little Shop of Horrors," and "Love's Labour's Lost." His work also has been seen at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, the Great Lakes Theatre Festival in Cleveland, Drury Lane Theatre and Noble Fool Theatricals in Chicago and 13 seasons with the Illinois Shakespeare Festival in Bloomington. He holds an MFA in Acting from the University of Louisville.

UT Theatre graduate actors include: **Melissa David** (U/S Alice, Fred's wife/Ensemble); **Jeff Dickamore** (Bob Cratchit/Ensemble); **Brian Gligor** (Nephew Fred/Ensemble); **Emily Kicklighter** (Elizabeth Cratchit/Ensemble); **Kyle Maxwell** (Carlisle the Merchant/Ol' Joe/Ensemble); **Charlotte Munson** (Alice, Fred's wife/Ensemble); **Lindsay Nance** (Christmas Past/Ensemble); **Lauren Pennline** (Belle/Ensemble); **Carlene Pochette** (Jenny/Mrs. Dilber/Ensemble); **Steve Sherman** (Jacob Marley/Ensemble); and **Jude Carl Vincent** (Christmas Future/Dick Wilkins/Ensemble).

Community and visiting actors include: **Joshua Cross** (Tiny Tim/Ensemble); **Ryan Cross** (Boy Ebenezer/Turkey Boy/Ensemble); **Livi Fenech** (Polly Cratchit/Want/Ensemble); **Aurora Florence** (Musician/Ensemble); **Peter Kevoian** (Christmas Present/Mr. Fezziwig/Ensemble); **Jayne Morgan** (Mrs. Fezziwig/Mrs. Kendal/Ensemble); **Ethan Reed** (Beggar Boy/Charlie Cratchit/Ignorance/Ensemble); and **Tori Beth Sullivan** (Young Fan/Ensemble).

Undergraduate students include: **Gracie Belt** (Martha Cratchit/Ensemble); **Emily Cullum** (Belinda Cratchit/Ensemble); **Andrew Henry** (Hobbs the Merchant/Ensemble); **Connor Hess** (Young Ebenezer/Ensemble); and **Evan Price** (Peter Cratchit/Ensemble).

The creative team for this production includes: **Bill Black** (Costume Designer); **John Horner** (Lighting Designer); **Joe Payne** (Sound Designer); **Tannis Kappel** (Projection/Media Designer), and **Christopher Pickart** (Scenic Designer). Also contributing to the production are **Casey Sams** (Choreographer), **Carol Mayo Jenkins** (Voice Coach), and **Alex Dearmin** (Stage Manager).

Preview for "A Christmas Carol" is Wednesday, November 25 followed by Opening Night Friday, November 27. The show runs through December 20. UT faculty/staff, senior citizens, children and students receive discounts. For tickets, call the Clarence Brown Theatre box office at 865-974-5161, Tickets Unlimited at 865-656-4444 or order online 24/7 at [www.clarencebrowntheatre.com](http://www.clarencebrowntheatre.com)

With a dual mission to train the next generation of theatre artists and to provide top quality professional theatre, the Clarence Brown Theatre at the University of Tennessee Knoxville is one of only 13 academic LORT (League of Resident Theatre) institutions in the nation. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Calvin MacLean and Managing Director David B. Byrd, the CBT season runs from August through May and features eight productions ranging from musicals to drama.

The CBT provides a cultural resource for both the university and the larger East Tennessee community and affirms diversity and inclusivity in all their forms.

The 2015/2016 remaining season productions include: “The Santaland Diaries,” “Titus Andronicus,” “A Lesson Before Dying,” “The Open Hand,” and “South Pacific”. For more information or tickets, call the CBT Box Office at 865-974-5161 or visit us online at <http://clarencbrowntheatre.com/>. Stay connected to the Clarence Brown Theatre on Facebook (Clarence Brown Theatre), follow us on Twitter (@ClarenceBrown) and view Clarence Brown videos on YouTube (Clarence Bro).

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