

Monday, November 12, 2018

Citizen **TRIBUNE**

“A Christmas Carol” tradition returns to the Clarence Brown Theatre Mainstage

From Contributed Reports Nov 10, 2018

Stunning costumes, beautiful carols, \$10 tickets for children 5 to 12, and a new Scrooge, “A Christmas Carol,” returns to the Clarence Brown mainstage Nov. 28 through Dec. 22. At each performance, patrons can enhance the experience by enjoying holiday treats at the concession stand and taking pictures with “Scrooge and Tiny Tim” in a specially designed photo experience which will be stationed in the main lobby. The \$10 children’s tickets can only be purchased by calling or stopping by the box office at 865-974-5161. Groups of eight and more see the 7:30 p.m. show for \$15 on Dec. 2, 4, 9 and 11.

The Pay What You Wish Preview performance, where patrons can name their own price, will be held Wednesday, Nov. 28. Deaf Night @ the Theatre, where all patron interactions including the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language, will take place Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. A Talk Back with the actors will take place Sunday, December 9 following the matinee. The Open Captioned performance is Sunday, Dec. 16 at 2 pm.

The production is sponsored by Schaad Companies, Pilot Flying J, Aubrey’s, and UT Federal Credit Union. Media sponsors are WBIR, WUOT, WUTK, B97.5, the Daily Beacon, and the Knoxville News Sentinel. Free and convenient parking is available in the McClung Tower Garage on Volunteer Boulevard.

In “A Christmas Carol,” miserly boss, Ebenezer Scrooge is forced to face the true cost of his behavior in a series of supernatural visits from ghosts of Christmases Past, Present and Future.

“Remembrance and Forgiveness. Ignorance and Want. Those four concepts continually circled my thoughts as I prepared for this production of “A Christmas Carol” and reconsidered the impact of Charles Dickens’s classic novel. His Victorian world—so similar to our own—contained the hollows of despair for a remarkable number of his countrymen. Poverty, homelessness and hunger disenfranchised children and adults as they scrambled for a few crumbs of human warmth and decency. Not content to simply contrast this cultural underbelly to Victorian middle-class comfort, Dickens ingeniously chose to tell of the transformation of one man whose own heart mirrors that disenfranchisement from generosity and mercy,” said Director Kathleen F. Conlin.

Kathleen F. Conlin (Director) has enjoyed a multi-faceted career as professional stage director, casting director, associate artistic director, university administrator and award-winning professor. A native of Ohio, she also has served as Director of Theatre at Ohio University and Chair of Theatre at Ohio State University. She is currently the Frank B. Weeks Visiting Professor and Department Chair at Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

Terry Silver-Alford (Musical Director) is a member of the UT Theatre faculty and teaches Musical Theatre Performance, Introduction to the Theatre and Acting.

Terry Weber (Scrooge) is a Professor of Theatre at UT and he volunteers as Artistic Director of The WordPlayers. Terry’s acting career has taken him to theatres in New York, Seattle, Milwaukee, Louisville, Chicago, Kansas City, Montgomery, Knoxville, Toronto, Orlando, Charleston, Asheville, Cincinnati, and Avignon (France).