

Contact: Robin Conklin
974-2496
rconkli1@utk.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*
On Sale Now at the Clarence Brown Theatre
with \$10 Children's Prices!

KNOXVILLE –Join us as we celebrate the holiday and recapture the spirit of an old-fashioned Christmas with the 2nd annual staging of the timeless Dickens classic, *A Christmas Carol* November 26 through December 21 at the Clarence Brown Theatre. Featuring a cast of 30, beautiful music and a lavish set, this record-setting production will surely become a wonderful memory for you and your family. Tickets for children 12 and under are \$10! UT faculty and staff are eligible for buy one get one free tickets!

A Christmas Carol is the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, whose ghostly journeys and transformation through Christmas past, present and future is among the most beloved stories in western literature.

Described by Dickens as his “ little Christmas Book,” *A Christmas Carol* was first published in December, 1843. The story was instantly successful, selling over 6,000 copies in one week. It has since been republished countless times and adapted into scores of stage and screen adaptations. It remains one of literature's most enduring and often-quoted stories of hope, triumph, and communal spirit.

Visiting guest director, Ed Morgan is a freelance director and writer. He and Joseph Hanreddy adapted *A Christmas Carol* for Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. It has played there annually since 1997. Morgan is a former associate artistic director at Milwaukee Rep, a graduate of Trinity Rep Conservatory, a recipient of the Drama League of NY Director's Project fellowship, and his work has been honored in Washington D.C. with Helen Hayes nominations and awards. He also is a casting partner for *Cirque du Soleil*.

Musical director, Terry Silver-Alford , is a member of the UT Theatre faculty and teaches Musical Theatre Performance, Introduction to the Theatre and Acting. Prior to joining the UT faculty Mr. Silver-Alford served as the Director of Musical Theatre at The University of Tulsa, and Director of Musical Theatre at The University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point.

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Guest artist, Jim Kronzer, designed the set. The lavish design recreates 1840s London, as well as scenes from Scrooge's 18th century childhood and young adulthood. "Jim's multi-layered set conjures the dingy, crowded London streets and easily moves us from outside to inside locations while embracing the audience in a kind of storyteller's frame. It's an exciting set," Morgan said. Kronzer lives and works predominantly in Washington D.C., but he also has worked on Broadway, Off-Broadway and at various regional theatres. He has designed numerous national tours including *The Pajama Game*, *Backyardigans* and *Seussical the Musical*.

Visiting guest artist, Katherine Rohe, designed the costumes for the production. "Katherine's wonderful textured costumes take us from the London of 1842 to Scrooge's 18th century boyhood, and then all around the world. We meet poor Cockney folk, respectable Londoners and a trio of Christmas ghosts," Morgan said. Rohe lives in New York where she designs for the award-winning Off-Broadway company, Transport Group.

Beverly Emmons is the guest lighting designer. "Her lights for the production are magnificent, conjuring the dark streets of London, the glow of holiday hearths and a thrilling quartet of spectral visitors," Morgan said. Emmons has been nominated for numerous Tony Awards. She has designed on Broadway, Off-Broadway, internationally and in regional theatres across the country.

Mike Ponder is the production's sound designer. "Mike has created a layered, supernatural sound design," Morgan said. "The singing is live, of course, but we've also brought along a rich "soundtrack" of traditional music arranged and recorded specifically for this production. Ponder has been the resident sound designer for the theatre program and its Clarence Brown Theatre professional company for 10 years.

Also contributing to the production are UT faculty members Casey Sams on choreography and Terry Weber as dialect coach.

The cast is comprised of 30 actors. "The actors are the heart of the production," Morgan said. "Jed Diamond is a terrific actor and his Scrooge is truly memorable—cruel, crusty, comical and finally quite moving. Around Jed is a cast of talented professionals and locals, graduate and undergraduate students and a handful of charming kids.

Jed Diamond (Ebenezer Scrooge) is head of Acting at UT. He has appeared on the Clarence Brown stage in *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Born Yesterday*, *All the Way Home*, and as Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* in 2007. Neil Freidman (Fizziwig/Christmas Present) was last seen at the CBT as Harry Brock in *Born Yesterday*. He just returned from the fall season at the Utah Shakespearean Festival and has performed extensively in Chicago and in regional theatres

throughout the country. William “Phil” Childress (Tiny Tim) is 8 years old and a 3rd grader at Farragut Intermediate School. He performed the role in last year’s production. Also playing Tiny Tim is Matthew Michaud who also is 8 years old and has been acting since he was 6. David Brian Alley (Bob Cratchit/Miner) is happy to perform in *A Christmas Carol* for the third time (‘05, ’07). This production marks David’s 25th show in his 9th season as an Artist-in-Residence for The Clarence Brown Theatre. Jonathan Visser (Marley/Young Marley) hails from the Pacific Northwest and is pursuing a Masters degree at UT. Matthew Ventura (Fred) is in his second year of Graduate Acting training at UT. He has a BA from New York University. The remainder of the cast includes: Donald Thorne; Spencer Streno; Julie Stelter; Andy Rogers; Jessica Ripton; Mike Allen Moreno; Clay McCammon; Amy Elizabeth Mathews; Kristy Levine; Carin Lagerberg; Liel Kirk; Konrad Hughes; Karl Hughes; Natalie Hatfield; Lydia Harrison; Maggie Hargett; Zach England; Ash Law Edwards; Nancy Duckles; Joshua Cook; Quinn Q. Cason; Matthew Bassett; and, Cyrcerli Ash.

Preview for *A Christmas Carol* is Wednesday, November 26 followed by Opening Night Friday, November 28. The show runs through Saturday, December 21. 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 online at www.clarencebrowntheatre.com

Who: Clarence Brown Theatre
What: A Christmas Carol
Where: CBT Mainstage
When: Nov. 26-Dec 21, 7:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m.
Prices:

Preview:
UT Students with ID Free
Adult \$20, Seniors \$17
Buy One Get One UT Staff
Students \$12
12 and under \$10

Opening:
UT Students with ID \$10
Adults: \$33, Students \$20
12 and under \$10

Wed./Thurs.:
UT Students \$5 with ID
Buy One Get One UT Staff
Adults \$22, Seniors \$19
Students \$12
12 and under \$10

Weekend:
UT Students \$5 with ID
Buy One Get One UT Staff
Adults \$27, Seniors \$22
Students \$15

12 and under \$10