

ALLEY THEATRE

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Returns Under Direction of James Black

Resident Acting Company Member David Rainey steps into the role of Scrooge for this year's holiday classic production, joining the Alley Resident Acting Company and local young actors on stage

Playing in the Hubbard Theatre, November 15 – December 29, 2019

HOUSTON – The Alley Theatre and Rob Melrose, Artistic Director of the Tony Award®-winning Alley Theatre, announce the cast and creative team of Alley's holiday tradition, ***A Christmas Carol - A Ghost Story of Christmas***. Under the direction of **James Black**, Resident Acting Company Member **David Rainey** steps into the role of Ebenezer Scrooge. He joins the Resident Acting Company and more than 40 local cast members for an imaginative re-telling of Charles Dickens' classic story, which follows Ebenezer Scrooge's journey with the three ghostly apparitions who visit him on Christmas Eve. Performances of *A Christmas Carol* are scheduled to begin Friday, November 15 and will run through Sunday, December 29. Tickets are available now at the Alley Theatre Box Office at 713.220.5700 and online at www.alleytheatre.org.

This year marks the 15th production of Michael Wilson's adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*, now with new traditions under new Artistic Director Rob Melrose. Family audiences (children ages 6 and older) can enjoy this colorful, comical, and music-filled production. Magical and heartwarming, this unforgettable theatrical production of *A Christmas Carol* instills a powerful message about redemption and the true spirit of the holiday season.

Rainey is in his 19th season as a Resident Company Member. This will be his 20th production of *A Christmas Carol* at the Alley, having performed various roles of Bert and the Ghost of Christmas Past since 2000. Rainey serves as the Executive Artistic Director of The Landing Theatre Company and is currently in the Alley's production of *The Winter's Tale* as Shepherd.

The cast of *A Christmas Carol* includes Alley's Resident Acting Company members **Elizabeth Bunch** as Mrs. Cratchit/Mrs. Fezziwig, **Shawn Hamilton** as Mr. Marvel, **Chris Hutchison** as Bob Cratchit, **Melissa Pritchett** as Mary Pidgeon/Spirit of Christmas Past, **Jay Sullivan** as Fred/Scrooge At 21, and **Todd Waite** as First Solicitor/Fiddler. Additionally, Resident Acting Company Emeritus members **Paul Hope** and **Charles Krohn** return as Second Solicitor/ Mr. Fezziwig and Undertaker/Old Joe, respectively.

Rounding out the cast are **Gabby Greer** as Apparition/Martha Cratchit/Wendy, **Luke Hamilton** as Apparition/Lamplighter/Travis, **Mark Ivy** as Apparition/Dick Wilkins/Mr. Topper, **David Matranga** as Mrs. Dilber/Jacob Marley, **Chelsea Ryan McCurdy** as Apparition/Beggar Woman/Fred's Sister-In-Law, **Josh Morrison** as Bert/Spirit of Christmas Present, **Briana J. Resa** as Apparition/Rich Lady/Patricia, **Jarred Tettey** as Apparition/Party Guest, and **Teresa Zimmermann** as Belle/Fred's Wife. **Noah Alderfer**, **Adam Gibbs**, and **Emily Neves** serve as swing/understudies.

A Christmas Carol is adapted and originally directed by **Michael Wilson**. The production is directed by **James Black** and features scenic designs by Tony Award®-winner **Tony Straiges**, with costumes by **Alejo Vietti**. Lighting is designed by **Rui Rita** and original music and sound design is composed by **John Gromada**. Choreography is by **Hope Clarke**. The Assistant Director is **Emily Neves** and **Melissa Pritchett** serves as the Dance Captain. The Stage Manager is **Rebecca R.D. Hamlin**.

In addition to the adult cast, more than 20 children from the Greater Houston community will be participating in various roles in this production. The young cast includes Liam Alonzo, Shelby Brown, Sunny Jet Bryant, Molly Burrell, Lucas

Benitez, Carly Cooper, Andre Couturier, Hazel E. Egging, Robbie Gutierrez, Isaac Hochglaube, Mack Hutchison, Noble Hutchison, Michon Lott, Samuel Morales, Kate Isabel Sanchez, Domenica Sepe, Jamil Ibn Shaheed, Addison Smith, Lacey Spaulding, Ava Von Kanel, Bear Womack, and Emma Ruolin Yang.

SPONSORS: *A Christmas Carol* is generously sponsored by ConocoPhillips (Honorary Producers), Vinson & Elkin LLP (Associate Producers) and Scott and Rita Ballard (Associate Producers). The Alley Theatre is supported by the 2019-20 Season sponsor United Airlines, the official airline of the Alley Theatre.

TICKETS: Tickets to *A Christmas Carol* are now on sale and start at \$26. Discounted tickets are available for military and senior, and any student, regardless of age, with a valid student ID for \$16 for designated performances in designated sections. Tickets can be ordered online (alleytheatre.org) or by phone (713.220.5700).

VIP performances including pre-show and intermission reception with holiday treats and drinks and post-show cast meet and greet are available. Please visit <https://www.alleytheatre.org/plays/production-detail/a-christmas-carol> for more information.

Performances of *A Christmas Carol* are Tuesday - Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. *A Christmas Carol* is recommended for general audiences, ages 6 and up. Select weekday matinees available.

SPECIAL EVENT: DECK THE TREES November 15- December 29, 2019: This annual tradition brings new and longstanding supporters together to celebrate the myriad of gifts that the Theatre infuses into the lives of young people and those young at heart. The Deck the Trees Celebration will transform the Alley Theatre lobby into a winter wonderland of trees, festively decorated by Houston's leading designers and sponsored by generous businesses and individuals. For more information please visit <https://www.alleytheatre.org/support-us/special-events/deck-the-trees>. For Deck the Trees sponsorship opportunities please contact Kristine Rizzo at kristiner@alleytheatre.org

PRESS MATERIALS:

PHOTOS: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8tgr9ztyabxooab/AAAAXE9JE_ecViJLrf_WMAXSa?dl=0

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ABOUT THE ALLEY THEATRE

The Alley Theatre, one of America's leading nonprofit theatres, is a nationally recognized performing arts company led by Artistic Director Rob Melrose and Managing Director Dean R. Gladden. The Alley produces up to 16 plays each year in its newly renovated Theatre, ranging from the best current work, to re-invigorated classic plays, to new plays by contemporary writers. The Alley is home to a resident company of actors. In addition, the Alley engages theatre artists of every discipline – actors, designers, composers, playwrights – who work on individual productions throughout each season as visiting artists.

The renovation of the Alley's Hubbard Theatre created a new 774-seat state-of-the-art performance venue. Matched with the newly rebuilt 296-seat Neuhaus Theatre, the Alley offers nearly 500 performances each season. The Company reaches over 200,000 people each year through its performance and education programs. Its audience enrichment programs include pre-show and post-performance talks, events, and workshops for audience members of all ages.

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