

ALLEY THEATRE

Alley Resident Acting Company Members Integral to New Season, New Vision

Artistic Director Rob Melrose announces the 2019-20 season casting for the Alley Resident Acting Company

"...Alley's productions often rival Broadway in quality, thanks to its... resident acting company (one of the few left in the country) and top-to-bottom production staff." – Texas Monthly

HOUSTON –The Alley Theatre and Rob Melrose, Artistic Director of the Tony Award®-winning Alley Theatre, announce the 2019-20 season casting for the Alley Resident Acting Company members. The Acting Company, who collectively have appeared in hundreds of Alley productions, embody the new vision set by new Artistic Director Rob Melrose.

The Alley Theatre is home to one of the few remaining Resident Acting Companies in the U.S. That commitment to maintaining a company has made the Alley unique among American theatre companies. The Alley's dedication to supporting the Resident Acting Company enables artists to deepen their work through long-term collaboration while strengthening their ties to the Houston community. The nine-member Acting Company is based in Houston.

The current Alley Resident Acting Company includes James Black (32nd season), Elizabeth Bunch (13th season), Dylan Godwin (2nd season), Shawn Hamilton (2nd season), Chris Hutchison (13th season), Melissa Pritchett (14th season), David Rainey (19th season), Jay Sullivan (8th season), and Todd Waite (19th season). Additionally, Paul Hope (29th season) and Charles Krohn (36th season) are Resident Acting Company Emeritus members, currently appearing in *A Christmas Carol* this season.

"The Resident Acting Company is such an important part of what makes this Theatre great. I'm very committed not only to the Acting Company here, that audiences have come to know and love throughout the years," said Melrose, "but also committed to expanding the Acting Company and bringing greater diversity."

The Alley's 2019-20 season, the first under new Artistic Director Rob Melrose features members of the Resident Acting Company in eight productions. The Acting Company actors will join visiting artists on the stage throughout the season.

"At times, we will have the Resident Acting Company upstairs and an all-Asian American company (for *Vietgone*) downstairs or the entire acting company in our Holiday shows followed by an all Latinx play in the second subscription show upstairs (for *Quixote Nuevo*) so there will be an exciting combination of artists in the building," said Melrose.

The upcoming Summer Chills production *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express* adapted by Ken Ludwig will feature the entire Resident Acting Company. The Acting Company can be seen throughout the 2019-20 season including James Black back in the role of Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, Dylan Godwin taking on a one-man show *Fully Committed*, Shawn Hamilton continuing his role in the *Amerikin* Alley All New Festival reading to the world premiere, and married couple Elizabeth Bunch and Chris Hutchison in *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, their 58th Alley production together.

The Alley is one of the oldest resident theatres in the country. In 1960 the Theatre was one of the first recipients of a Ford Foundation grant to support a resident acting company. Former members of the Alley Company include Bettye Fitzpatrick, founder of A.D. Players Jeannette Clift (George), Annalee Jefferies,

who recently returned to the Alley stage in *The Humans*, Elizabeth Heflin, and Ty Mayberry to name a few.

2019-20 Alley Resident Company Casting

Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express (July 19 – August 25, 2019)

Adapted by Ken Ludwig

James Black (Hercule Poirot)

Elizabeth Bunch (Helen Hubbard)

Dylan Godwin (Hector MacQueen)

Shawn Hamilton (Monsieur Bouc)

Chris Hutchison (Samuel Ratchett)

Melissa Pritchett (Greta Ohlsson)

David Rainey (Marcel)

Jay Sullivan (Colonel Arbuthnot)

Todd Waite (Michel)

The Winter's Tale (September 13 – October 13, 2019)

James Black (Polixenes)

Elizabeth Bunch (Paulina)

Dylan Godwin (Clown)

Shawn Hamilton (Camillo)

Chris Hutchison (Antigonus)

Melissa Pritchett (Mopsa/Emilia)

David Rainey (Shepherd)

Jay Sullivan (Florizel)

Todd Waite (Dion)

A Christmas Carol – A Ghost Story of Christmas (November 16 – December 30, 2019)

James Black (Ebenezer Scrooge)

Elizabeth Bunch (Mrs. Cratchit)

Shawn Hamilton (Mr. Marvel)

Paul Hope* (Mr. Fezziwig)

Chris Hutchison (Bob Cratchit)

Charles Krohn* (Old Joe)

Melissa Pritchett (Mary Pidgeon/Christmas Past)

David Rainey (Bert/Christmas Present)

Jay Sullivan (Fred)

Todd Waite (First Solicitor)

Fully Committed (November 26 – December 29, 2019)

Dylan Godwin (Sam)

1984 (March 6- 29, 2020)

Elizabeth Bunch (2nd Party Member)

Shawn Hamilton (Winston)

Chris Hutchison (O'Brian)

David Rainey (4th Party Member)

Jay Sullivan (1st Party Member)

Todd Waite (3rd Party Member)

Dead Man's Cell Phone (April 17- May 10, 2020)

Elizabeth Bunch (Jean)

Chris Hutchison (Gordon)

Melissa Pritchett (The Other Woman)

Jay Sullivan (Dwight)

Todd Waite (Mrs. Gottlieb)

Amerikin (May 8- June 7, 2020)

World Premiere

Shawn Hamilton (Gerald Lamott)

Sense and Sensibility (June 5- July 5, 2020)

James Black (John Dashwood)

Elizabeth Bunch (Elinor Dashwood)

Dylan Godwin (John Willoughby)

Chris Hutchison (Colonel Brandon)

Melissa Pritchett (Marianne Dashwood)

David Rainey (Sir John Middleton)

Jay Sullivan (Edward Ferrars)

TICKETS: Subscriptions for the 2019-20 Alley Season will be on sale May 15; single tickets for *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express* are on sale now, holiday productions go on sale July 1, and the remaining productions for the season will go on sale on July 22. Tickets can be purchased at alleytheatre.org or by calling the Box Office at 713.220.5700. Discounted tickets are available for military, seniors, and any student, regardless of age, with a valid student ID for designated performances. Tickets can be ordered online (alleytheatre.org) or by phone (713.220.5700).

FLEX PASS: Only interested in attending shows with favorite Alley Resident Acting Company member on stage? A flex pass is the best option to for select performances. The Flex Subscription is 6 or 10 vouchers to use for any Alley subscription show (excludes holiday add-ons and Summer Chills) in the 2019–20 Season and includes all subscriber benefits. Passes are valid September 2019 – July 2020 and good for any seat in the house. Prices range from \$420-\$600. For more information visit

<https://www.alleytheatre.org/season>

SPONSORS: The Alley Theatre is supported by the 2019-20 Season sponsor United Airlines, the official airline of the. Alley Theatre; The Four Seasons Hotel Houston, the official hotel of the Alley Theatre; and Lynn Wyatt.

PHOTOS:

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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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