



FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

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A CHRISTMAS CAROL

A Christmas Carol, an intimate musical for young audiences based on the Charles Dickens holiday classic, will be performed at

_____ on _____ at _____
o'clock, under the auspices of _____.

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'Tis the season for merriment and fun! Catch the holiday spirit with this classic story of a man whose cold heart is warmed after a Christmas Eve encounter with the supernatural. Ebenezer Scrooge greets every Christmas with his usual attitude of “bah, humbug!” To him, the holiday is simply a waste of a work day, and he resents having to pay his loyal employee, Bob Cratchit, for having the day off. As for the poor in the streets, Scrooge feels they should all disappear, and “decrease the surplus population!”

Scrooge is then visited on Christmas Eve by his former business partner, the long-deceased Jacob Marley. The Specter is forever burdened with chains in the afterlife for having been so cruel while alive, and Marley warns Scrooge that he will suffer the same fate unless he changes his ways. He then explains that on this Christmas Eve, Scrooge will be visited by three spirits, representing Christmases past, present, and future, who will show him the error of his ways and, ultimately, the result of having such a cold heart.

A timeless classic the entire family will enjoy, *A Christmas Carol* uses song, humor and suspense to bring one of our most legendary holiday tales to life.

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A Christmas Carol was adapted from **Charles Dickens** and was originally directed by **David Armstrong** (artistic director of Seattle's 5th Avenue Theatre, the largest regional theatre in the northwest), the lyrics are by **Mark Waldrop** (Rodgers and Kleban Award-winning lyricist; director of *Bea Arthur: Just Between Friends* on Broadway (Tony nomination)), and the music is by **Dick Gallagher** (Rodgers Award-winning composer; music director for Patti Lupone,). Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Waldrop previously collaborated on *Whoop-Dee-Do!* and *When Pigs Fly*, and all three writers created Theatreworks USA's *Gold Rush!* The scenic design is by **Doug Huszti** and the costume design is by **Christianne Myers**. This 60-minute musical is recommended for audiences age 6 and up.

(MORE...)

Theatreworks USA's **A Christmas Carol** began its national tour in fall 1999. Since 2000, two companies of this production have criss-crossed the country every holiday season. **A Christmas Carol** is able, as are all Theatreworks USA productions, to play a wide range of venues, from large Broadway-sized performing arts centers in major metropolitan areas to elementary school cafeterias in small towns.

The six actors and stage manager in **A Christmas Carol** rehearsed for two weeks in New York City with the director. Once the tour begins, the actors and stage manager typically arrive at the performance venue early in the morning to set up the scenery and to prepare for the performance. Following the show, they pack the set, costumes, and sound equipment into two large vans, and drive to the next city, sleep in a hotel, and begin the whole ritual again the following day.

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Theatreworks USA has a distinguished history of not only providing young audiences with their first taste of the performing arts, but also giving young actors, writers, directors, and designers an early opportunity to work in this field. A list of Theatreworks USA alumni reads like a veritable "who's who" of theatre: four-time Tony-winning director Jerry Zaks, Robert Jess Roth (*Beauty and the Beast*), Michael Mayer (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*); writers Marta Kauffman and David Crane (TV's "Friends"), Lynn Ahrens and Steven Flaherty (*Ragtime, Once on This Island*), Jason Robert Brown (*Parade*), Larry O'Keefe (*Bat Boy*), Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx (*Avenue Q*); and Tony-winning actors John Lloyd Young, Roger Bart, Chuck Cooper, and John Glover. Esteemed performers F. Murray Abraham, Henry Winkler, and Judy Kuhn also got their start with Theatreworks, and other actors have gone on to originate lead roles in such Broadway shows as *Hairspray, Les Misérables, Rent, Jersey Boys, Young Frankenstein*, and many others. The actors, writers, director, and designers of **A Christmas Carol** may also go on to similar success in musical theatre.

Theatreworks USA is America's largest and most prolific professional not-for-profit theatre for young and family audiences. Since 1961, Theatreworks USA has enlightened, entertained, and instructed over 75 million people in 49 states and Canada, now performing for about four million people annually. Every year, the company tours approximately 16 shows from its ever-growing repertoire of 110 plays and musicals. In addition, Theatreworks USA also has an extensive multi-cultural guest artist roster, including storytellers, puppeteers, poets, and magicians. Under the direction of Barbara Pasternack (Artistic Director) and Ken Arthur (Managing Director), Theatreworks USA is also one of the most honored theatres of its kind. It is the only children's theatre to receive both a Drama Desk and a Lucille Lortel Award. In addition, Theatreworks USA was the recipient of a 2001 Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation Award, and in May 2000, The Actors Fund of America bestowed its Medal of Honor upon its founders, Jay Harnick and Charles Hull

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