

A.C.T. AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER

CAREY PERLOFF, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR | ELLEN RICHARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER USHERS IN THE HOLIDAYS WITH *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*

Bay Area veteran actor James Carpenter returns as Ebenezer Scrooge;
legendary Bay Area actor Ken Ruta reprises his role as the Ghost of Jacob Marley.

A record number of A.C.T. Master of Fine Arts Program and Young Conservatory students
round out the cast!

December 6–28, 2013

SAN FRANCISCO (October 15, 2013)— Featuring a lively cast of dozens, delightful music, gorgeous costumes, and those deliciously spooky ghosts, the Bay Area's favorite holiday tradition returns with **American Conservatory Theater** (A.C.T.)'s celebrated production of the **Charles Dickens** classic *A Christmas Carol*. Now in its 37th year, this version of *A Christmas Carol*, adapted by **Paul Walsh** and **Carey Perloff**, stays true to the heart of Dickens's timeless story of redemption and brings a playful sensibility to his rich language. *A Christmas Carol* runs **December 6–28, 2013**, at A.C.T.'s Geary Theater (415 Geary Street, San Francisco). **Press night is Wednesday, December 11 at 7 p.m.** VIP seating is available for all performances. VIP ticket holders enjoy the best seats in the house and complimentary drinks during intermission. **Tickets (ranging in price from \$20–\$95)**, are available by calling the A.C.T. Box Office at **415.749.2228** or online at www.act-sf.org. **Groups of 15 or more save up to 50%** and enjoy free tickets for group leaders. For group sales, call 415.439.2373.

Hailed as "the best *Christmas Carol* ever!" by KCBS Radio's Jan Wahl, *A Christmas Carol* is a cornerstone of the A.C.T. repertory and has become a holiday tradition for families all around the San Francisco Bay Area. Since it began performances at A.C.T. 37 years ago (and continuing in its second adaptation, which premiered in 2005), *A Christmas Carol* has been performed more than 1,000 times to date to a collective audience of more than 800,000 and has employed nearly 1,000 actors and 600 backstage staff members.

Says Perloff: "We always await this time of year, and this beautiful story, with great anticipation, as it gives us the opportunity to put multiple generations of the A.C.T. family onstage together to celebrate the transformative power of empathy; something we desperately need to foster and celebrate right now! We look

forward to welcoming back the thousands of people who have made A.C.T.'s *A Christmas Carol* their holiday tradition, and to inviting new audiences and their children into the fold."

A.C.T.'s *A Christmas Carol* features a multigenerational cast of performers led by **James Carpenter** as Ebenezer Scrooge. Joining Carpenter are legendary Bay Area actor **Ken Ruta** (who originated this role in the 2005 production) as the Ghost of Jacob Marley, Scrooge's nightmarish late-night visitor; **Liam Vincent** as Bob Cratchit; and **Delia MacDougall** as his wife, Anne Cratchit; **Jarion Monroe** and **Sharon Lockwood** as the ever-festive Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig, along with A.C.T. core acting company member **Omozé Idehenre**, who reprises her role as the jovial Ghost of Christmas Present. The adult cast also includes **Cindy Goldfield**, **Sharon Lockwood**, **Delia MacDougall**, and **Howard Swain**.

Rounding out the cast are a record 29 young actors from the **A.C.T. Young Conservatory (YC)** as well as ten students from the **A.C.T. Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) Program**. The M.F.A. Program performers—many of whom traditionally receive their Actors' Equity cards as a result of their participation in *A Christmas Carol*—are: **Blair Busbee**, **Nemuna Cessay**, **Philip Estrera**, **Asher Grodman**, **Dillon Heape**, **Lateefah Holder**, **Lisa Kitchens**, **Aaron Moreland**, **Elyse Price**, and **York Walker**. The YC actors for the 2013 production hail from all around the Bay Area. They are: **Summer Alinaeem**, **Alex Bires**, **Colin Bires**, **Julia Caldwell**, **Calista Cesewski**, **Ian DeVayne**, **Ella Dovey**, **Chloe Durham**, **Dashiell Ferrero**, **Maria Gross**, **Tommy Huebner**, **Rafael Karpa-Wilson**, **Elke Janssen**, **Isabella LaFarre**, **Roxanne LaFarre**, **Blake Levinson**, **Timothy Marston**, **Saoirse McMahon**, **Anna Neuman-Loreck**, **Evelyn Ongpin**, **Carmen Steele**, **Sasha Steiner**, **Samuel Sutton**, **Ariel Tenenbaum**, **Carmel Tenenbaum**, **Nina Teracca**, **Seth Weinfield**, **Clara Wolff**, and **Campbell Zeigler**.

Directed by **Dominique Lozano**, the creative team for *A Christmas Carol* includes Tony Award-winning scenic designer **John Arnone** (*The Who's Tommy* and *The Full Monty* on Broadway) and period costumes by **Beaver Bauer**. With original songs and score by composer **Karl Lundeberg** and choreography by **Val Caniparoli** of San Francisco Ballet, *A Christmas Carol* also features lighting design by **Nancy Schertler**, sound design by **Jake Rodriguez**, and musical direction by **Robert Rutt**.

A.C.T. would like to acknowledge its 2013–14 company sponsors **Frannie Fleishhacker**; **Priscilla and Keith Geeslin**; **Mr. and Mrs. Gordon P. Getty**; **Mr. and Mrs. John Goldman**; **Ambassador James C. Hormel** and **Michael P. Nguyen**; **Fred M. Levin** and **Nancy Livingston**, **The Shenson Foundation**; **Burt and Deedee McMurtry**; **Toni Rembe** and **Arthur Rock**; **Patti and Rusty Rueff**; **Ms. Kathleen Scutchfield**; **Mary and Steven Swig**; **Jeff and Laurie Ubben**.

A.C.T.'s 2013–14 season continues with a sumptuous production of George Bernard Shaw's political comedy **Major Barbara**; a hilarious new translation of Eduardo De Filippo's hilarious and poignant Italian comedy **Napoli!**; the Northern California premiere of David Ives's captivating cat-and-mouse drama, **Venus in Fur**; the

West Coast premiere of Peter Brook's internationally acclaimed music-infused ***The Suit***; and James Fenton's beautiful reinvention of ***The Orphan of Zhao***, starring the inimitable stage and film star BD Wong.

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A CHRISTMAS CAROL
FACT SHEET

WHAT: The Bay Area’s favorite holiday tradition returns with a sparkling, music-infused production of *A Christmas Carol*, featuring a lively cast of dozens, gorgeous costumes, and those deliciously spooky ghosts. Bring your family, bring your friends, and check your “humbugs” at the door!

WHO: by **Charles Dickens**
Adapted by **Carey Perloff** and **Paul Walsh**
Music by **Karl Lundeberg**
Choreography by **Val Caniparoli**
Directed by **Domenique Lozano**
Based on the original direction by **Carey Perloff**

Designed by **John Arnone** (scenic designer), **Beaver Bauer** (costume designer), **Nancy Schertler** (lighting designer), **Jake Rodriguez** (sound designer), **Robert Rutt** (musical director)

Starring **James Carpenter** as Scrooge

WHERE: A.C.T.’s Geary Theater
415 Geary Street, San Francisco, CA 94108

WHEN: **December 6–28, 2013**
Wednesdays–Saturdays at 7 p.m. (no evening performance on December 24, 26, or 28)
Sundays at 5:30 p.m.
2 p.m. matinees on December 7, 11, 14, 21, 23
1 p.m. matinees on December 8, 15, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28)
5:30 p.m. performance time on Friday, December 27

InterACT Events

Bike to the Theater night.....December 6
Playtime.....December 14 (prior to the matinee)

TICKETS: **Range in price from \$20–\$95**
VIP tickets for *A Christmas Carol* are available for all performances and include Premiere seating and complimentary drinks during intermission.

Groups of 15 or more are eligible for discounts of up to 50%; please call 415.439.2373 to purchase or for more information.

PHOTOS: www.act-sf.org/press

TICKETS & INFO: 415.749.2228 | www.act-sf.org