

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.

December 5–28, 2014

SAN FRANCISCO (October 10, 2014) – 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 38th 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 5–28, 2014** at A.C.T.’s Geary Theater (415 Geary Street, San Francisco). **Press night is Thursday, 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–\$110)**, 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 415.439.2309.

Hailed as “the best *Christmas Carol* ever!” by *KRON4-TV/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. 38 years ago (and continuing in its second adaptation, which premiered in 2005), *A Christmas Carol* has been performed more than 1,150 times to date to a collective audience of more than 1,100,000 and has employed nearly 1,900 actors and 750 backstage staff members.

Says Perloff: “As we have become more and more aware of the dangers of income inequality to a just society, *A Christmas Carol* continues to seem startlingly relevant. Dickens so beautifully reveals what happens to a culture pulled apart by greed, but he also brilliantly imagines what could happen if we opened our hearts and minds to real social change. Perhaps that’s why I always look forward to our production of *A Christmas Carol* with such anticipation – it is both urgent and hopeful, and filled with youthful energy and passion. What a gift!”

A.C.T.'s *A Christmas Carol* features a multigenerational cast of performers led by **James Carpenter** as Ebenezer Scrooge, with Anthony Fusco as the Scrooge alternate. Joining Carpenter and Fusco legendary Bay Area actor **Ken Ruta** (who originated this role in the 2005 production) as the Ghost of Jacob, Scrooge's nightmarish late-night visitor; **Nicholas Pelczar** as Bob Cratchit; and **Delia Mac Dougall** as his wife, Anne Cratchit; **Jarion Monroe** and **Sharon Lockwood** as the ever-festive Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig; along with **BW Gonzalez** as the jovial Ghost of Christmas Present. The adult cast also includes **Cindy Goldfield** and **Howard Swain**.

Rounding out the cast are 29 talented 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: **Josie Alvarez, Joel Bernard, Kemiyondo Coutinho, Danielle Frimer, Rafael Jordan, Stefanée Martin, Ben Quinn, Dominique Salerno, Glenn Stott, and Ryan Williams-French**. The YC actors for the 2014 production hail from all around the Bay Area. They are: **Evan Aubry, Colin Bires, Madi Chicas, Quincy Corsello, Ian DeVaynes, Catie Dewar-Kudsi, Ella Dovey, Mattea Fountain, Charlotte Kearns, Rae Dox Kim, Zoe Larkin, Ellie Lauter, Gwyneth Lewis, Toby Lichtenwalter, William Lipton, Cecilia Mc Quaid, Anna Neumann-Loreck, Esme Kaplan O'Neill, Evelyn Onpin, Leila Ali O'Rourke, Leo Pierotti, Ryan Remak, Ashby Remak, Carmen Steele, Samuel Sutton, Nina Toracca, Athena von Bothmer, Seth Weinfield, and Campbell Ives Zeigler**.

Directed by **Domenique Lozano**, the creative team for *A Christmas Carol* includes Tony Award-winning scenic designer **John Arnone** and period costumes by **Beaver Bauer**. With original songs and score by composer **Karl Lundeberg** and choreography by **Val Caniparoli** of the San Francisco Ballet, *A Christmas Carol* also features lighting design by **Nancy Schertler**, sound design by **Jake Rodriguez**, and music direction by **Robert Rutt**.

A.C.T. would like to acknowledge its 2014–15 company sponsors **Frannie Fleishhacker; Priscilla and Keith Geeslin; Jeri Lynn and Jeffrey W. Johnson; Fred M. Levin and Nancy Livingston, The Shenson Foundation; Burt and Deedee McMurtry; Ms. Barbara Ravizza and Mr. John S. Osterweis; Arthur and Toni Rembe Rock; Doug Tilden and Teresa Keller**.

A.C.T.'s 2014- 2015 season continues with Tom Stoppard's great time-travel romance ***Indian Ink***; making its West coast debut, the outrageous and enthusiastically acclaimed new comedy, ***Mr. Burns, a post-electric play***; exploring the forces of memory and mystery immigrant experiences, ***Let There Be Love***; the West Coast debut as the inaugural production at A.C.T.'s new Strand Theater internationally acclaimed new work, ***Love and Information***; and to close out the season, Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheelers's most rapturous and seductive musical, ***A Little Night Music***.

**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**

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

Starring **James Carpenter** as Scrooge

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

WHEN: **December 5–28, 2014**
Wednesdays–Saturdays at 7 p.m. (5:30 p.m. performance on December 26 & 27; no evening performance on December 24)
Sundays at 5:30 p.m.
2 p.m. matinee on December 6, 10, 13, 20
1 p.m. matinee on December 7, 14, 21, 23, 26, 27, 28)

InterACT Events

Bike to the Theater night.....December 5
Playtime.....December 13 (prior to the matinee)

TICKETS: **Range in price from \$20–\$110**
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