



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Harlequin's new *Christmas Carol* breathes unexpected magic into a timeless classic

Olympia, WA – November 11, 2021 – Harlequin Productions presents Producing Artistic Director Aaron Lamb's new adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, November 26 – December 31 at the State Theater in downtown Olympia, WA. Mr. Lamb will direct.

Hailed as the greatest ghost story ever told, we begin a new Holiday tradition at Harlequin with a fresh adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic story of transformation, absolution, and grace. Join us for a Holiday classic that's sure to please, with a healthy dose of cheer and the kind of ghostly special effects that only Harlequin can deliver.

Delayed by the COVID pandemic shutdown, this production marks the beginning of a new tradition of Holiday shows at Harlequin. Beginning in 1994, almost every Harlequin season began with a new addition to the *Stardust* canon, a series of original musicals featuring classic tunes from the 1940s - 1950s. They were a unique and beloved part of the South Sound Holiday season. In 2019, Harlequin began the transition to *A Christmas Carol* with *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol*, which was well received by the community. With the premier of Mr. Lamb's adaptation, the new tradition has finally begun!

What can audiences expect from this new adaptation? Says Lamb, "The great majority of the text is directly from the page. We're as close to the Dickens original as we can be...with a couple of major changes. My adaptation is a collage of all my favorite parts of other productions and versions of *A Christmas Carol* that I'm familiar with, with some of my own choices."

Why *A Christmas Carol*, a play done by so many theaters during the Holidays? To answer, Mr. Lamb speaks to his acting career:

"As a professional actor, I did a Holiday show every year for 12 years, and most of those (the best ones) were some version of *A Christmas Carol*. Some of my own best theater experiences are with this show. One year, I did a bus and truck tour of *A Christmas Carol* through the Midwest. It was a snowy, stormy year. We'd sleep on the bus, get off, do a show, get on the bus again...it was horrible. I should have been miserable. But I was having a great time, because I was playing Fred, the most positive character in *A Christmas Carol*, and every day the play ended at Fred's level of positivity and good cheer."

Mr. Lamb continues, "*A Christmas Carol* has all the best elements of live theatre. The different things we can do with the same story are limitless. The ghost story lets us as a theater company flex our technical muscles and pull out the stops where we excel. The redemption story gives

the actors the purest character arc in all of theater. So you may have seen it before, but I promise you've never seen this one. We *will* surprise you!"

Production Information

Aaron Lamb (*Adaptor/Director/Player 6*) is the Producing Artistic Director of Harlequin Productions. As Artistic Director, he has directed *The Highest Tide*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol*, *Man of La Mancha*, *A Doll's House*, *Love and Information*, and *The 1940s Radio Hour*. In eleven seasons as an actor and guest director with Harlequin he has also directed *I Am My Own Wife*, *Three Days of Rain*, *Ruthless!*, *August: Osage County*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Time Stands Still*, *Middletown*, and *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*. As an actor, he most recently appeared in the 2020 season, as Frederick Fellowes in *Noises Off*. Lamb has worked in Seattle for Village Theatre, Taproot Theatre, Book-It Repertory Theatre, and Seattle Shakespeare Company, and has worked regionally throughout the country. He holds an MFA in Acting from California State University, Fullerton, a BA from Washington State University, and is a member of the Actor's Equity Association.

Terry Edward Moore* (*Ebenezer Scrooge*) has played Sherlock in *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol*, and Scrooge in last year's audio production of *A Christmas Carol*. He has also played Scrooge three times (and Marley once) at ACT in Seattle. Terry has performed at most of the professional theaters in the Pacific Northwest, including Seattle Repertory Theater, Book-It, 5th Avenue, Intiman, the Village, Taproot, Seattle Children's, and Seattle Shakespeare. His performances as Billy in *Billy Bishop Goes to War* at the Bathhouse and in *Howards End* at Book-It were deemed "stellar performances" in their respective years by the *Seattle Times*. In his spare time, Terry is Producing Artistic Director of Thalia's Umbrella (thaliasumbrella.org) a small professional theater company in Seattle.

Also returning to Harlequin in the cast of eleven are **Russ Holm** (42 Harlequin credits: recently *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol*), **Jana Tyrrell** (20 credits: recently *The Women*), **Nathan Rice** (7 credits: recently *The 1940s Radio Hour*), and **Kate Anders** (*Sherlock Holmes*, *The Women*). Making their Harlequin debuts are **Andrew Yabroff** in the role of Christmas Present and four child actors: **Eleanor Rose Kinn**, **Twana Beedle**, **Teddy Clifthorne**, and **Wade Mutchler**.

WHAT: Harlequin Productions presents *A Christmas Carol*, a new adaptation of the Dickens classic, directed by Aaron Lamb.

WHEN: November 26 – December 31, 2021

WHERE: State Theater, 202 4th Ave East, Olympia, WA 98501

TICKETS: Tickets are available online at harlequinproductions.org, by phone at **360-786-0151**, or in person **12-5:30 pm, Tuesday-Saturday at the Washington Center**, and **beginning 2 hours before performances at the State Theater**.

General admission tickets are \$49
Senior 60+/Military \$45
Student/Youths Under 25 \$25

Rush Tickets (half-hour prior to showtime) General \$24.50; Senior/Military \$22.50, Student/Under 25 \$12.50; Teens/Under 20 \$5

SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE:

Preview: Wednesday, November 24 at 7:30 pm

Tickets to the Preview are \$20 General Admission

Opening Night: Friday, November 26 at 7:30 pm

Pay-What-You-Can: Three performances TBA prior to Opening

CATEGORY: Holiday

AGE RECOMMENDATION: All ages with guidance

CAST:

Terry Edward Moore*	<i>Ebenezer Scrooge</i>
Andrew Yabroff	<i>Player 1 (Christmas Present, Others)</i>
Jana Tyrrell	<i>Player 2 (Christmas Past, Others)</i>
Nathan Rice	<i>Player 3 (Bob Cratchit, Others)</i>
Russ Holm	<i>Player 4 (Jacob Marley, Others)</i>
Kate Anders	<i>Player 5 (Belle, Others)</i>
Aaron Lamb*	<i>Player 6 (Fred, Others)</i>
Eleanor Rose Kinn	<i>Girl (Little Fan, Others)</i>
Twana Beedle	<i>Girl (Little Fan, Others)</i>
Teddy Clifthorne	<i>Boy (Young Scrooge, Tiny Tim, Others)</i>
Wade Mutchler	<i>Boy (Young Scrooge, Tiny Tim, Others)</i>

* Indicates membership in the Actor's Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Harlequin Productions is a professional not-for-profit theater company in Olympia, WA. We seek to invigorate, educate, and empower our community and all people to feel more, think more, play more, and judge less through the mirror of real live theatre.

PR: Helen Harvester, Marketing and Communications Director
helen@harlequinproductions.org