

SHOWBILL

LYELL B. CLAY CONCERT THEATRE



A Christmas Carol

Charles Dickens,
adapted by Jerry Patch

presented by



THE NEW
West Virginia Public Theatre



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SCHOOL OF THEATRE & DANCE

A CHRISTMAS CAROL is produced by special
arrangement with Broadway Play Publishing Inc., NYC
broadwayplaypub.com

Welcome to the Lyell B. Clay's Concert Theatre's holiday production of Charles Dickens' classic story, **A Christmas Carol!**

We are pleased you have joined us and know you are in for a great show. Thousands of school children anticipate seeing a live performance of West Virginia Public Theatre's production in this magnificent venue over the next few days. Generations of children and their families have enjoyed this story since it was written in 1843, and we hope that it puts you in the Christmas spirit.

WVPT is appreciative of the support of its patrons who, with their tax-deductible gifts and ticket purchases, help sustain operations and productions. We are grateful to our donors and sponsors for their support over the years. Their investments have allowed us to remain West Virginia's premiere theatre company. Thank you to our Board of Trustees, staff and cast for your dedication to making this holiday season a success.

Our mission is to enhance the cultural environment of the state and region by providing quality professional programming and educational outreach experience for all citizens. Please help support our Core Values of:

- Entertain and Inspire Audiences with Quality Professional Theatre
- Employ Honorable and Responsible Business Practices with our Community Partners
- Educate the Youth of the State and Region to the Wonders of the Theatre
- Enhance the Economic and Cultural Environment of our Region.

Thank you again for your continued support. Enjoy the performance!

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West Virginia Public Theatre



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In the unlikely event of an emergency, you will be directed by the house management to the best method of exiting the theatre and building. Please notice the illuminated exit signs in the theatre. For your safety and the safety of others, please exit as calmly as possible.

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Please, no food or drink in the theatre.

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All performances begin promptly at the show time. House staff will seat latecomers at an appropriate interval during the show. Patrons who must leave during the performance are kindly asked to do so between scenes.

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No photography or video recording is permitted.

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Please be courteous to all cast, crew, musicians and fellow patrons by not utilizing electronic devices during the performances.

James DuBose

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SUPPORT WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC THEATRE

In 2016, West Virginia Public Theatre partnered with the West Virginia University College of Creative Arts to give students the opportunity to network and study with professional actors, gaining real-world experience.

The New West Virginia Public Theatre enhances the cultural environment of the state and region by providing quality professional programming and educational outreach experiences for all citizens. All productions are built locally from start to finish making WVPT an important asset to the region both artistically and economically. The annual holiday show alone reaches more than 3,000 children from throughout the region. For many of these children, WVPT provides their first, and in some cases, only, exposure to live professional theatre.

Giving to the WVU College of Creative Arts / New West Virginia Public Theatre partnership changes the lives of fellow Mountaineers, local schoolchildren and enriches the culture of the region. Help us continue to bring live, professional-quality theatre to Morgantown and give WVU students a local venue to put their dreams into practice. Now more than ever, we need your support.

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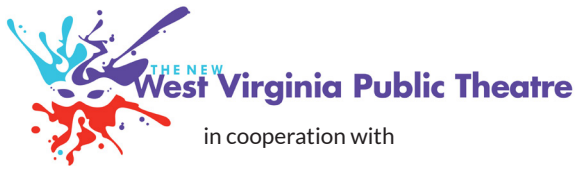


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presents



A CHRISTMAS CAROL
Charles Dickens, adapted by Jerry Patch

Ron Siebert* as Ebenezer Scrooge
Director - Irene Alby
Music Director / Arranger - James Mitchell
Scenic Design - Robert Klingelhoefner
Lighting Design - Joshua Williamson
Sound Design - Alan McEwen
Costume Design - Mary McClung

A *CHRISTMAS CAROL* is produced by special arrangement
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CAST

Scrooge.....	Ron Siebert*
Ghost of Marley/Ghost Future.....	Andrew Lyons
Bob Cratchit.....	Lonnie Simmons
Mrs. Cratchit/Mrs. Fezziwig.....	Jessica Bishop
Fred/Ensemble.....	Woody Pond
Joe/Young Marley.....	Dylan Lack
Lena/Ensemble.....	Kate Fauss
Mrs. Dilber/Ensemble.....	Lindsey Wayne
Belle/Ensemble.....	Emana Berry
Young Ebenezer/Ensemble.....	James Mitchell
Fezziwig/Ensemble.....	Troy Snyder
Solicitor/Musician.....	Taylor Heath
Ghost Past/Sally.....	Rachel Moore
Ghost Present.....	Andra Ward, Jr.
Boy Scrooge/Ensemble.....	Morgan Bishop
Ensemble.....	Angelica Gabara
Martha/Fan/Ensemble.....	Anna Leshko
Peter/Ensemble.....	Dominic Secreto
Belinda/Ensemble.....	Emmy Leshko
Tiny Tim/Ensemble.....	Alexandra Gabara

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OUR DIRECTOR



IRENE ALBY

A Director/Actor, Irene Alby was a company member of The Other Theatre from 1997 to 1999 and performed in *Kaspar, Year Zero* and *Human Collision/Atomic Reaction* which was presented at the 1999 Festival de Théâtre des Amériques and won the Montreal English Critics Circle Award (M.E.C.C.A.) for “Best Direction” and “Best Production”. Her New York credits include *Aase* in *Peer Gynt* directed by Andrei Serban, *The Dancing Fox* with the Mettawee River Theatre and Serban’s *Benvenuto Cellini* at the NY Metropolitan Opera as well as performances at the Ohio Theatre Ice Factory Theatre Festival, the Producer’s Club, St. Veronica’s

Church and the Theatre of the Riverside Church. She also interned as an Assistant to Legit Agent, Meg Pantera.

Currently, she is a Teaching Assistant Professor at WVU Department of Theatre and Dance. She formerly taught for twelve years at the University of Toledo Department of Theatre and Film, where she was a Senior Lecturer. Her production of *The Adding Machine* was invited to tour to the 2015 KCACTF REGION II Festival, and she recently co-directed *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* at Kookmin University in Seoul, Korea. She is a founding artist of the Glacity Theatre Collective (GTC), a professional theatre company in Toledo, Ohio, where she also served as the Managing Director throughout the company’s first three years. GTC credits include directing Jenny Schwartz’s *God’s Ear*, and performing in Albee’s *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Laura Wade’s *Breathing Corpses* and George F. Walker’s *Problem Child*. Most recently, she performed *Titania/Hyppolyta* in *A Midsummer Night’s Mysteries*, a collaboration with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra. This fall she directed *Exit, Pursued by a Bear* at WVU.

She received her MFA in Acting at Columbia University’s School of the Arts, studying under Andrei Serban, Kristin Linklater, Anne Bogart and Nikolaus Wolcz, and her BFA in Theatre at Concordia University in Montreal. During that time, she also studied three years at the Ecole de Mime Omnibus and participated in Pol Pelletier’s Dojo workshop.

FROM THE DIRECTOR...

It is with great excitement that we present to you *A Christmas Carol* 2.0! Every artist dreams of nothing more than a second opportunity to explore the depths of a great text, and collaborating with a team of highly talented artists, from cast and musicians, to crew and production team, has been an honor. I look forward to sharing our many discoveries with you and believe that we have some nice surprises in store for you this year!

All authors write for a contemporary audience, and Charles Dickens was no exception. *A Christmas Carol* first came out in 1843 as a social commentary against exploitation of children and the poor, as well as the importance of education. These themes remained central to Dickens' work throughout his life. As a 12-year-old child, he had been forced to work in a shoe polish factory for a year while his father was in prison for being unable to pay off debt. The experience marked him for life, and though he barely spoke about it, it is prevalent in all of his works. While there is debate as to how influential his work was on child labor laws, we do know for a fact that many new rules and regulations went into effect during those same years that he was writing. While setting the play in Victorian England, I have tried to maintain the contemporary spirit of the play to make it relevant to today's audiences.

The novel was an instant success and eight stage adaptations were already in production within only two months of publication. Throughout the remainder of his life, Dickens himself performed the story every Christmas to audiences across Europe and America. Like all great works, the message of the story rings out with as much relevance today as it did when it was written, and many of us (myself included) make the pilgrimage each year to hear those words performed in theatres across the country. We owe much of our own sense of nostalgia and tradition to Dickens' oeuvre. Christmas was waning in significance in the 1800s, but the publication revitalized the holiday and brought it back to its central place in Victorian England.

Lastly, we sometimes forget that *A Christmas Carol* is also great ghost story! Dickens introduced his book in this way:

"I have endeavored in this ghostly little book, to raise the ghost of an idea..."

As a director I have tried to be true to the spirit of Dickens' work and to maintain the three essential qualities that make it one of the great classics of the western canon. Thus, I hope what you will see tonight will be equal part ghost story, Christmas tradition, and social commentary.

Irene Alby
Director

CAST



Emana Berry (Mrs. Shelly/Belle) is excited to be a part of her second WVPT season. Select regional theatre credits include: *Romeo and Juliet* (Lady Montague), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Domina), *Ruined* (Sophie), *Clybourne Park* (Francine/Lena), and international tours in South Africa and Holland. Emana Rachelle holds film and television credits, she is a member of the professional actor's union, SAG-AFTRA. She is forever indebted to her tribe: Granny, Mama, De, and Brandon.



Jessica Bishop (Mrs. Cratchit/Mrs. Fezziwig) is an Associate Professor of Stage Movement in the School of Theatre and Dance at West Virginia University, teaching in the BFA and MFA Acting Studios. An Ohio native, she received her BA in Theatre from Kent State University and an MFA in Acting from The Ohio State University. She has trained with the Society of American Fight Directors, SITI Company / Anne Bogart, and Marcel Marceau. She serves as a Movement Coach and Fight Director for the WVU main stage. Recent work includes *The Trojan Women*, *The Beaux' Stratagem*, *Henry IV: Parts 1 & 2*, and *The Arabian Nights*. She is also the coordinator and faculty advisor for the WVU Community

Children's Theatre. Jessica has performed professionally in Pittsburgh, Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and with the ETA Hoffmann Theatre in Bamberg, Germany. At Greenbrier Valley Theatre in Lewisburg, WV she played Claire in *Proof*, Ariel in *The Tempest*, and Becky Lou in *Free Mel Greenburg*. She has been seen locally at Fairmont State's Town and Gown Players as Louise in *Always... Patsy Cline*, as Mrs. Mullin in West Virginia Public Theatre's *Carousel*, and as the Mom/Queen in *The Unlucky Princess Battles the Ghouls* and Amy in *Putting it Together* for WVU's Mountain State Repertory. Other favorite roles include Kent in *King Lear*, Roberta in *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*, Yitzhak in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, the Angel in *Angels in America, Part Two: Perestroika*, and Jess in *Complete Works of Wm Shkspre (abridged)*. Most recently, she was seen in the staged readings of *Not Someone Like Me*, directed by Chris Sarandon, and a one-woman version of *Miss Zelda: Reflections of a Southern Belle*.



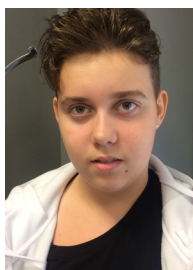
Morgan Bishop (Boy Scrooge/Ensemble) Morgan is very excited to be in her first production with WVPT. She has performed with the WVU Children's Community Theatre as Baby Sour Kangaroo in *Seussical the Musical* and Toto in *Dorothy in Wonderland*. Morgan is in the 4th grade and is a Girl Scout, plays the violin, and loves polar bears.



Kate Fauss (Lena/Ensemble) is a Junior BFA Acting Student at West Virginia University. She has previously performed in WVU's productions of *The Trojan Women*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*. Much love to Mom, Dad, Grandma and the Emilys.



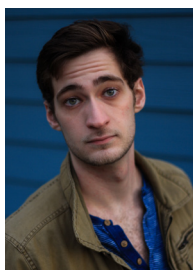
Alexandra Gabara (Tiny Tim/Ensemble) Alexandra Alby-Gabara is in grade two at North Elementary school. She is a student of WVU Community Children's Theatre where she performed as a Who in *Seussical* in 2016, and will perform this February, as a fairy in *Midsummer Night's Dream* and ensemble in *Annie Jr.*



Angelica Gabara (Ensemble) Angelica Alby-Gabara is in grade eight at Suncrest Middle School. She has been performing since age six. Past credits include the role of Lanie in *God's Ear* (Glaciy Theatre Collective), Antigone in *Oedipus Rex* (University of Toledo), an orphan in *Cabaret, The Musical* (University of Toledo), as well as performances in school productions of *As You Like It* and *The King and I*. She is a student of the WVU Community Children's Theatre for which she has performed the Sour Kangaroo in *Seussical*, and will play Puck, in their February production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



Taylor Heath (Solicitor/Ensemble) is a Senior in the BFA Musical Theatre program here at West Virginia University. She has recently been seen in *Assassins* (ensemble), *Pirates of Penzance* (ensemble), *Arabian Nights* (puppeteer), and *Kiss Me Kate* (ensemble). Taylor would like to thank her parents for their continuous support. She would also like to take the time to thank Irene Alby and James Mitchell for this amazing opportunity to be in such a beautiful production.



Dylan Lack (Joe/Young Marley) is a senior BFA Acting major at West Virginia University. He is ecstatic and grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this production and looks eagerly towards the future!



Anna Leshko (Martha/Fan/Ensemble) age 11, attends 6th grade at Suncrest Middle School. She plays the violin and saxophone and enjoys music, crafting and baking. She has taken part in WVU Children's Theater's productions of *Dorothy in Wonderland* (Cheshire Cat, Knave of Hearts) , and *Suessical, Jr.* (Vlad Vladikoff).



Emelia Leshko (Belinda), age 10, attends 4th grade at North Elementary School. She plays ice hockey for the Morgantown Blades and enjoys drawing, constructing and anything using her boundless creativity.



Andrew Lyons (Ghost of Marley/Ghost Future) is a Brooklyn, NY based actor, director, and handyman to the stars. In the 12 years since earning his M.F.A. right here at WVU, Andrew has been seen on stage in all sorts of roles all over the country. This production marks the 6th time in over 20 years that Andrew has had the great pleasure of playing Jacob Marley in *A Christmas Carol*. Many thanks go out to Jerry McGonigle, everyone at WVPT, and the tireless and talented actors and technicians of WVU! Thanks also to my biggest fans - April, Walter, and Omar!



James Mitchell (Young Ebenezer/Ensemble), born in Rochester, NY, is currently in his third year as Visiting Assistant Professor and Interim Head of Opera Theatre at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV. At WVU he has led performances of Porter's *Kiss Me Kate*, Weill's *The Seven Deadly Sins*, Hindemith's *Hinn und Zurück*, Menotti's *The Medium*, and Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*. He also served as music director for WVU Opera on Wheels' touring outreach productions of Edward Barnes' *Mystery on the Docks* and *Papagayo*. With West Virginia Public Theatre, Mr. Mitchell has been musical director for *A Christmas Carol*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Mr. Mitchell has

worked as a pianist for the Bayerische Theater Akademie August Everding and Tulsa Opera and as Assisant to the Music Staff at Sarasota Opera. Mr. Mitchell was an Adjunct Professor of Musical Theater at the University of West Florida in the 2010/11 academic year where he led performances of *Brigadoon* and *A Christmas Carol*. Mr. Mitchell holds a Bachelors Degree in Music Theory from the Eastman School of Music and a Master of Music in Collaborative Piano and Opera Coaching from Westminster Choir College.



Rachel Moore (Ghost of Christmas Past/Sally) has a BFA in Acting from West Virginia University. Last summer she performed in the ensemble of WVPT's production, *Young Frankenstein*. Other previous roles include Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Cassandra in *The Trojan Women*, and Little Red in *Into the Woods*.



Woody Pond (Fred/Ensemble) is a WVU alum from the School of Theatre and Dance, and is excited to join the cast of *A Christmas Carol* for the second year. His recent credits include Wes in *Golden Horseshoe: The Musical*, Jesus in *Godspell*, and originating the role of Chewy in the new musical *Ticket to Nashville*. He loves the theatre but has begun taking more of an interest in further work in film, both acting and screenwriting. Woody is also a multi-genre recording artist, and his music is available on all platforms. He would like to thank his family, friends and Charles Dickens for instilling in him endless Christmas spirit.



Dominic Secreto (Peter/Ensemble) is excited to be returning to his third production with WVPT. His previous credits include Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (Chip), *Winnie the Pooh Kids* (Owl), *Children of Eden*, and *The Music Man*. He studies vocal technique at Fairmont State Academy for the Arts, and is a 6th grader at Mountaineer Middle School. Dominic also enjoys Tae Kwon Do, and learning to play the trombone. Dominic gives thanks to his family for their love and support.



Ron Siebert (Scrooge) is a proud member in long standing of all three professional acting unions. He has worked in more than 60 theatres across America from Broadway to Boca Raton, from Sarasota to Sacramento. Among the many roles he has played are: King Lear, Macbeth, Cassius in *Julius Caesar*, Henry in *The Real Thing*, Hildy Johnson in *The Front Page*, Michael in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, Nunzio in *Over the River and Through the Woods*, Edward Chamberlayne in T.S. Eliot's *The Cocktail Party*, Marc in *Art*, Phil Hogan in *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, Howard in *Picnic*, C.K. Dexter Haven in *The Philadelphia Story*, and Morrie Schwartz in *Tuesdays with Morrie*. In addition to his theatre work he appeared on most of

the daytime dramas broadcast from New York City including *One Life To Live*, *All My Children*, *Guiding Light*, *Ryan's Hope*, *As The World Turns*, and *Another World*. He also was in many commercials and industrial films as well as appearing in dramas broadcast on P.B.S. Ron has had extensive teaching experience as well working as a coach, for the Pittsburgh Public Theatre's annual Shakespeare contest since its inception and has just completed his seventeenth year as an instructor in the prestigious Carnegie Mellon School of Drama pre-college program. Ron brings a long and successful career's worth of experience to his teaching and has a Bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin and a M.F.A. degree from Brandeis University.



Lonnie Simmons (Bob Cratchit) is proud to be making another appearance onstage with West Virginia Public Theatre. He is a graduate student in the MFA-Acting program at WVU. Originally from Maryland, he received his undergraduate degree at University of Maryland Baltimore-County. He has performed with many theatre companies in the Maryland/Washington DC/Virginia area. His prior performances at WVPT include Protean in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and Benvolio in *Romeo and Juliet*.



Troy Snyder (Undertaker/ Mr. Fezziwig) is a Professor of Theatre and the Technical Director in Fairmont State University's Department of Communication and Theatre Arts. He also taught at WVU in the Division of Theatre from 2001 to 2004. At FSU, Troy teaches courses in Theatrical Production and Stage Design, Props Making, Scene Painting and other courses related to technical theatre. Although his primary responsibility is supervising the technical aspects of the productions at FSU, he has directed several plays. For FSU's Town and Gown Theatre at Prickett's Fort he has directed *The Music Man*, *Always...Patsy Cline*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. He has also acted in several plays at

FSU: *1776* (John Adams), *Oklahoma* (Andres Carnes), *Annie Get Your Gun* (Charlie Davenport), *South Pacific* (Luther Billis) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Ageus/ Robin Starveling). On the stage at FSU's Wallman Hall he has directed *Cabaret*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Rocket Boys the Musical*, *Children of Eden*, and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. He has a BFA from WVU, and an MFA in Stage Scenography from UNC Greensboro. Troy has a long association with West Virginia Public Theatre as a designer, technical director, scenic artist and prop master.



Andra Ward, Jr. (Christmas Present) is thrilled to be a part of WVPT's production of *A Christmas Carol*. He is as a third year MFA Acting Student here at WVU, where you may have seen him in *Race*, *Arabian Nights*, *The Beaux' Stratagem*, and *Topdog/Underdog*. Some of his favorite roles include, Thomas Donahue (*These Shining Lives*), William King (*Brokology*) and Trekkie Monster (*Avenue Q*) as well as roles in *Traveling Thomas*, *Complete Female Stage Beauty*, and *Pericles*. He strives to continue to learn and grow with talented artists and is grateful for all things achieved thus far. He would like to thank Rae Charles and family for all of their continued support through the years.



Lindsey Wayne (Toy Lady/Mrs. Dilber) is a senior Musical Theatre major at West Virginia University. She has previously been seen in West Virginia Public Theatre's productions of *Young Frankenstein*, *Charlie Brown*, and last holiday season's *A Christmas Carol*. Lindsey has also recently been seen in West Virginia University's productions of *Assassins*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, and *Spelling Bee*. Lindsey is ecstatic to be returning to WVPT's *A Christmas Carol* and would like to thank the cast, crew, and designers for helping this holiday classic come to life. She would also like to thank her family and friends for their never-ending support. Enjoy the show!

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