



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 22, 2017

Press release #1721

For more information contact:

Marita Meinerts Albinson, 612.225.6142

maritaa@guthrietheater.org

Elizabeth Deacon, 612.225.6193

elizabethd@guthrietheater.org

**THE GUTHRIE THEATER ANNOUNCES CASTING FOR 43RD ANNUAL
PRODUCTION OF *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*,
DIRECTED BY LAUREN KEATING
PRESENTED BY BELL BANK**

NATHANIEL FULLER RETURNS TO THE ICONIC ROLE OF SCROOGE

**Previews begin Tuesday, November 14; Opening on Saturday, November 18;
Playing through Saturday, December 30, 2017
on the Wurtele Thrust Stage**

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*)—The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director) today announced casting for its 43rd annual production of *A Christmas Carol*, presented by Bell Bank. Adapted by British playwright **Crispin Whittell** and directed by Guthrie Associate Producer **Lauren Keating**, this perennial holiday favorite plays November 14 – December 30 on the Wurtele Thrust Stage. Single tickets start at \$29 (\$14.50 for children, and \$15 for previews), and are on sale now through the Box Office at 612.377.2224, toll-free 877.44.STAGE, 612.225.6244 (Group Sales) and online at guthrietheater.org.

Artistic Director Joseph Haj said, “*A Christmas Carol* marks a special time of year for our staff, for families throughout the region and for first-time theatergoers experiencing Dickens’ classic on our stage. It warms our hearts to see the impact this tradition has had on our community for more than four decades and we look forward to rediscovering this familiar story for another season.”

He added, “As associate producer at the Guthrie – not to mention an artist whose work as a director I’ve admired for several years now – Lauren is someone who understands deeply the significance of *A Christmas Carol* in the Guthrie’s body of work. In her capable hands, I know we are in for a treat.”

Keating, who makes her Guthrie directorial debut with this production said, “Now more than ever, we need to believe in the good in people, in the power of community and in the possibility of transformation. *A Christmas Carol* was part of my gateway into theater, and it is an important classic that I’ve always wanted to direct. I am thrilled and honored to make my Guthrie debut with this beloved tradition.”

A miserly and miserable man, Ebenezer Scrooge greets each Christmas with a “bah humbug,” until he is visited one Christmas Eve by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas Future.

Through a restless night, the spirits show him happy memories from his past, cruel realities from the present and the grim future should he continue his cantankerous ways.

Longtime Guthrie veteran **Nathaniel Fuller**, who has more than 80 Guthrie productions under his belt, has an impressive history with *A Christmas Carol* having first played Jacob Marley and understudied Young Scrooge in the theater's 1988-1989 Season. In subsequent seasons, Fuller has played Ebenezer Scrooge (1992-1995), Ghost of Christmas Past, Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, Bob Cratchit, Fred, Dick Wilkins, Old Joe and Topper, among others. He was most recently seen on the Guthrie's signature thrust alternating in title role of Shakespeare's epic *King Lear*. Guthrie veteran Charity Jones will perform the role of Ebenezer Scrooge for four of the 56 performances in the run (Nov. 26 at 7 p.m., Nov. 30 at 10:30 a.m., Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 13 at 10:30 a.m.)

This year's production also features **Ansa Akyea** (Ghost of Christmas Present/Bear), **Jay Albright** (Mr. Fezziwig/Bumble/Scrooge's Priest), **Leah Anderson** (Belle/Kitty/Mrs. Wimple), **Summer Hagen** (Daisy Fezziwig/Mabel), **Katie Bradley** (Deidre Fezziwig/Sally), **Aimee K. Bryant** (Bunty/Mrs. Fezziwig), **John Catron** (Jacob Marley/Bull/Poulterer), **Ryan Colbert** (Fred/Daniel), **Michael Curran-Dorsano** (Young Scrooge), **Emily Gunyou Halaas** (Mrs. Dilber/Mrs. Polkinghorne), **Charity Jones** (Old Joe; Ebenezer Scrooge for select performances), **Meghan Kreidler** (Mrs. Cratchit/Dora Fezziwig), **Benjamin Lohrberg** (Dick Wilkins/Topper), **Kris L. Nelson** (Bob Cratchit/Donald), **Eric Sharp** (Mr. Wimple/David/Belle's Husband/Ghost of Christmas Future) and **Kendall Anne Thompson** (Ghost of Christmas Past/Jane).

A 12-member children's ensemble rounds out the cast, including **Louisa Darr** (Fanny/Street Kid/Fezziwig Guest), **Ella Freeburg** (Belinda/Performer/Street Kid/Fezziwig Guest), **Sander Huynh-Weiss** (Beggar Boy/Street Kid/Fezziwig Guest/School Kid), **Sophie Jones** (Tiny Tim), **Bella Lockhart** (Martha/Street Kid/Fezziwig Guest), **John Lutterman** (Street Kid/Fezziwig Guest/School Kid/Ignorance), **Brooke Menne** (Street Kid/Fezziwig Guest/Want), **Levi Reed** (Wimple Kid 2/Fezziwig Guest/Belle's Kid 2), **Ben Ross** (Peter/Street Kid/Fezziwig Guest/School Boy), **Elena Ruch** (Street Kid/Fezziwig Guest), **Carolina Sierra** (Wimple Kid 1/Fezziwig Guest/Belle's Kid 1) and **Daniel Untiedt** (Youngest Scrooge/Fezziwig Guest/Street Kid).

The creative team for *A Christmas Carol* includes **Lauren Keating** (Director), **Matthew Steffens** (Choreographer), **Walt Spangler** (Set Designer), **Mathew J. LeFebvre** (Costume Designer), **Christopher Akerlind** (Lighting Design), **Ryan Connealy** (Recreated Lighting Design), **Keith Thomas** (Composer), **Raymond Berg** (Music Director), **Scott W. Edwards** (Sound Designer), **Reid Rejsa** (Recreated Sound Design), **Lucinda Holshue** (Vocal Coach), **Jo Holcomb** (Dramaturg), **Lauren Ignaut** (Line Producer), **Michele Hossle** (Stage Manager), **Jason Clusman** (Assistant Stage Manager) and **Tyler Michaels** (Assistant Director).

LAUREN KEATING (Director) is a director of new and classic work, a Mellon Foundation/TCG Leadership University Fellow and the associate producer at the Guthrie Theater. Keating's directing/adapting work with classics includes Wedekind's *LULU*, Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors*, *Hamlet*, and *Measure for Measure*, and Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*. Development of new plays includes work with playwrights such as Sarah Burgess, Josh Koenigsberg, Dipika Guha, Michael Mitnick, Lauren Yee and Lauren Feldman. She has directed Off-Broadway, throughout downtown NYC and regionally, with institutions including The Public Theater, Ars Nova, 3LD, Woodshed Collective, New Georges, Cooper Union, The Old Vic, Peculiar Works Project, Vampire Cowboy Battle Ranch, New Lions Productions and The Flea Theater.

Off-Broadway credits include *The Art of Gaman* (City Center) and *Al's Business Cards* (Theater Row). Regional credits include *The Antony and Cleopatra Project* (McCarter Theatre, with Tarell Alvin McCraney), *Translations* (Yale University), *The Big Come* (The University of New Mexico), *The House of Bernarda Alba* (Atlantic/New York University), *Lulu*, *Learning Russian* and *Charlotte's Web* (The Hangar Theatre) and *Pugilist Specialist* and *Seagulls* (Williamstown Theatre Festival). Keating has guest directed and mentored for Fordham University, been adjunct BFA faculty at The New School, mentored BFA directing candidates at NYU, and taught with Brooklyn Academy of Music and The Public Theater, visiting prisons, schools and marginalized communities throughout the five boroughs. Her web series, "The Feminist Cooking Show," has been featured on Stareable, selected for screening at the Downtown Los Angeles Film Festival and awarded professional development with ITV.

Keating is a Time Warner Foundation Fellow, Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab member, a founding member of The Internationalists, a New Georges Affiliated Artist and the Old Vic/New Voices Exchange American Director, 2009. She is an NYU/Tisch alum, the former Artistic Associate at The Shakespeare Society and a four-time Drama League Directors Project Fellow.

THE GUTHRIE THEATER (Joseph Haj, Artistic Director) was founded by Sir Tyrone Guthrie in 1963 and is an American center for theater performance, production, education and professional training, dedicated to producing the great works of dramatic literature and to cultivating the next generation of theater artists. Under Haj's leadership, the Guthrie is guided by four core values: Artistic Excellence; Community; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; and Fiscal Responsibility. The Guthrie produces a mix of classic and contemporary plays on three stages and continues to set a national standard for excellence in theatrical production and performance, serving nearly 400,000 patrons annually. In 2006, the Guthrie opened a new home, designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Jean Nouvel, located on the banks of the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Open to the public year-round, it houses three state-of-the-art stages, production facilities, classrooms, full-service restaurants and dramatic public lobbies. guthrietheater.org

BELL BANK Founded in 1966 in Fargo, N.D., Bell Bank is the largest independently owned bank in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, with 21 banking locations, more than 1,000 employees and more than \$4 billion in assets. The company also has been entrusted with more than \$5 billion in assets under management through its wealth management division. The bank continues its growth in the Twin Cities, opening banks west of downtown Minneapolis and in Woodbury, and subsequently adding deposit production/loan production offices in Bloomington, Maple Grove and White Bear Lake. Bell's capital finance division, launched in 2014, offers senior cash flow loans to lower middle-market businesses. Bell's mortgage division has dozens of locations throughout the Twin Cities and in Phoenix.

FACT SHEET

Bell Bank presents
A Christmas Carol
by Charles Dickens
adapted by Crispin Whittell
directed by Lauren Keating

A miserly and miserable man, Ebenezer Scrooge greets each Christmas with a “bah humbug,” until he is visited one Christmas Eve by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas Future. Through a restless night, the spirits show him happy memories from his past, cruel realities from the present and the grim future should he continue his cantankerous ways. This perennial favorite continues our holiday tradition for the 43rd year.

Cast: **Ansa Akyea** (Ghost of Christmas Present/Bear), **Jay Albright** (Mr. Fezziwig/Bumble/Scrooge’s Priest), **Leah Anderson** (Belle/Kitty/Mrs. Wimple), **Summer Hagen** (Daisy Fezziwig/Mabel), **Katie Bradley** (Deidre Fezziwig/Sally), **Aimee K. Bryant** (Bunty/Mrs. Fezziwig), **John Catron** (Jacob Marley/Bull/Poulterer), **Ryan Colbert** (Fred/Daniel), **Michael Curran-Dorsano** (Young Scrooge), **Emily Gunyou Halaas** (Mrs. Dilber/Mrs. Polkinghorne), **Charity Jones** (Old Joe/Ebenezer Scrooge for select performances), **Meghan Kreidler** (Mrs. Cratchit/Dora Fezziwig), **Benjamin Lohrberg** (Dick Wilkens/Topper), **Kris L. Nelson** (Bob Cratchit/Donald), **Eric Sharp** (Mr. Wimple/David/Belle’s Husband/Ghost of Christmas Future) and **Kendall Anne Thompson** (Ghost of Christmas Past/Jane).

Children’s Ensemble: **Louisa Darr** (Fanny/Street Kid/Fezziwig Guest), **Ella Freeburg** (Belinda/Performer/Street Kid/Fezziwig Guest), **Sander Huynh-Weiss** (Beggar Boy/Street Kid/Fezziwig Guest/School Kid), **Sophie Jones** (Tiny Tim), **Bella Lockhart** (Martha/Street Kid/Fezziwig Guest), **John Lutterman** (Street Kid/Fezziwig Guest/School Kid/Ignorance), **Brooke Menne** (Street Kid/Fezziwig Guest/Want), **Levi Reed** (Wimple Kid 2/Fezziwig Guest/Belle’s Kid 2), **Ben Ross** (Peter/Street Kid/Fezziwig Guest/School Boy), **Elena Ruch** (Street Kid/Fezziwig Guest), **Carolina Sierra** (Wimple Kid 1/Fezziwig Guest/Belle’s Kid 1) and **Daniel Untiedt** (Youngest Scrooge/Fezziwig Guest/Street Kid).

Creative Team: **Lauren Keating** (Director), **Matthew Steffens** (Choreographer), **Walt Spangler** (Set Designer), **Mathew J. LeFebvre** (Costume Designer), **Christopher Akerlind** (Lighting Design), **Ryan Connealy** (Recreated Lighting Design), **Keith Thomas** (Composer), **Raymond Berg** (Music Director), **Scott W. Edwards** (Sound Designer), **Reid Rejsa** (Recreated Sound Design), **Lucinda Holshue** (Vocal Coach), **Jo Holcomb** (Dramaturg), **Lauren Ignaut** (Line Producer), **Michele Hossle** (Stage Manager), **Jason Clusman** (Assistant Stage Manager) and **Tyler Michaels** (Assistant Director).

Performance Dates: November 14 – December 30, 2017

Opening Night: Saturday, November 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Performance Times: Tuesdays – Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.
Sundays at 7 p.m.
Matinees on select weekdays at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.; and select Saturdays and Sundays at 1 p.m.
Visit guthrietheater.org for the complete performance schedule.

Location: Guthrie Theater – Wurtele Thrust Stage
818 South 2nd Street, Minneapolis, MN 55415

Pricing: Single tickets start at \$29 for adults; \$14.50 for children. Preview performances start at \$15. (Discounts for students and seniors available)

Tickets: Tickets may be purchased online at guthrietheater.org
Guthrie Box Office: 612.377.2224 or 877.44.STAGE
Box Office hours: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. (11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on non-performance days)
Group Sales: 612.225.6244 or 877.225.6211

ACCESS DATES

ASL Performances

Sun., Nov. 26 at 1 p.m.
Thu., Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m.

Audio Described Performances

Sun., Nov. 26 at 1 p.m.
Thurs., Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m.

Open Captioned Performances

Sun., Nov. 26 at 7 p.m.

If you have specific program questions or need an accommodation, please contact the Accessibility Office by phone at 612.225.6390 (voice) or 612.225.6391 (TTY) or email at accessibility@guthrietheater.org.

###