



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 25, 2018
Press release #1749

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**THE GUTHRIE THEATER ANNOUNCES CASTING FOR 44th ANNUAL
PRODUCTION OF *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*,
PRESENTED BY BELL BANK**

**Nathaniel Fuller, a 30-year *A Christmas Carol* cast member,
returns to the iconic role of Ebenezer Scrooge for the sixth time**

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*) — The Guthrie Theater (Joseph Haj, artistic director) today announced casting for its 44th 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 13 – December 29 on the Wurtele Thrust Stage. Single tickets start at \$29 (\$14.50 for children) and regular ticket prices range from \$29 – \$134. Tickets are on sale now through the Box Office at 612.377.2224, 1.877.44.STAGE (toll-free) or online at guthrietheater.org.

"I love *A Christmas Carol* entirely," Artistic Director Joseph Haj shared recently. "I love everything about it. I love what it does. I love it as an example of how theater can join us as a community." Haj continued, "This play has one purpose, and that is to bring us joy by reminding us of our better selves. If even the misanthropic Ebenezer Scrooge can change so meaningfully and so completely for the better, perhaps there is hope for the rest of us. Even after more than four decades at the Guthrie, *A Christmas Carol's* message of hope still rings true."

Lauren Keating, associate producer, is at the show's helm for a second year. "The spirit in which one creates a production shows up onstage, and that's particularly true of this classic play. There's a sense of so much joy and hope for what the future can be," Keating said. "We want audiences to see our Guthrie values clearly demonstrated in this piece: generosity, diversity, inclusion, authenticity ... and kindness."

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 a grim future should he continue his cantankerous ways. Charles Dickens' timeless tale continues to be a perennial favorite and holiday tradition that invites audiences of all ages to celebrate the merriment of the season with their family and loved ones.

Longtime Guthrie veteran **Nathaniel Fuller** (Ebenezer Scrooge/Old Joe [select performances]), who has more than 90 Guthrie productions under his belt, has an impressive history with *A Christmas Carol*. This will be his 30th Guthrie Theater production of this holiday classic. In addition to portraying Ebenezer Scrooge numerous times, he has also played countless other roles including Jacob Marley, Ghost of Christmas Past, Ghost of Christmas Future, Bob Cratchit, Fred, Dick Wilkens, Old Joe and Topper, among others. **Charity Jones** (Old Joe/Ebenezer Scrooge [select performances]), a familiar face to Guthrie audiences, is the alternate Ebenezer Scrooge, playing the miser for 13 performances. Most recently, Jones performed in *Romeo and Juliet* on the Wurtele Thrust Stage.

This year's production also features **Ansa Akyea** (Ghost of Christmas Present/Bear), **Leah Anderson** (Belle/Mabel), **Katie Bradley** (Deirdre Fezziwig/Lead Caroler), **China Brickey** (Daisy Fezziwig/Kitty), **Aimee K. Bryant** (Mrs. Fezziwig/Bunty), **John Catron** (Jacob Marley/Bull/Poulterer), **Ryan Colbert** (Young Scrooge), **Michael Curran-Dorsano** (Bob Cratchit/Donald), **Emily Gunyou Halaas** (Mrs. Dilber/Mrs. Polkinghorne), **Jon Andrew Hegge** (Mr. Fezziwig/Bumble/Scrooge's Priest), **Lamar Jefferson** (Mr. Wimple/David/Belle's Husband/Ghost of Christmas Future), **Meghan Kreidler** (Mrs. Cratchit/Dora Fezziwig), **Elan Nelson** (Dick Wilkins), **Eric Sharp** (Fred/Daniel) and **Kendall Anne Thompson** (Ghost of Christmas Past/Jane).

The children's ensemble includes **Mollie Allen, Annie Birkholz, Erika Dierke, Sophie Jones, Soren Miller, Charlie Muellner, Jeanie Reed, Levi Reed, Lola Ronning, Carolina Sierra, Sylvia Thompson** and **Mark Turcotte**.

The creative team for *A Christmas Carol* includes **Lauren Keating** (director), **Regina Peluso** (choreographer), **Keith Thomas** (original music and orchestrations), **Deborah Wicks La Puma** (music director), **Walt Spangler** (scenic designer), **Mathew J. LeFebvre** (costume designer), **Christopher Akerlind** (lighting designer), **Ryan Connealy** (recreated lighting design), **Scott W. Edwards** (sound designer), **Reid Rejsa** (recreated sound design), **Foster Johns** (voice and dialect coach), **Jo Holcomb** (dramaturg), **Tree O'Halloran** (stage manager), **Katie Hawkinson** (assistant stage manager), **Justin Hossle** (assistant stage manager) and **H. Adam Harris** (assistant director).

The Guthrie Theater is proud to offer a relaxed performance of *A Christmas Carol* — the first-ever relaxed performance presented by the Guthrie. Although this performance is open to all, it is intentionally modified to accommodate patrons with sensory and vestibular sensitivities, anxiety, dementia, autism spectrum disorders, learning differences or challenges attending the theater. In addition to making adjustments onstage and in the theater, our lobbies and public spaces will include quiet areas, sensory-friendly activities and increased staff to create a safe, welcoming environment. The relaxed performance is

Sunday, November 18 at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$29 for adults and \$15 for children. Tickets are on sale now through the Box Office at 612.377.2224, 1.877.44.STAGE (toll-free) or online at guthrietheater.org.

Post-play discussions and access services (ASL, audio described and open captioned performances) are available on select dates. Visit guthrietheater.org or call the Box Office at 612.377.2224 for more information.

LAUREN KEATING (director) is a director of new and classic work, a Mellon Foundation/TCG Leadership U[niversity] 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 New York City and regionally, with institutions including The Public Theater, Ars Nova, 3LD, Woodshed Collective, New Georges, The Cooper Union, The Old Vic, Peculiar Works Project, Vampire Cowboy Battle Ranch, New Lions Productions and The Flea Theater.

Keating has taught at The New School, New York University, Brooklyn Academy of Music and The Public Theater, visiting prisons, schools and marginalized communities throughout the state of New York. 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 2009 Old Vic/New Voices Exchange American Director. 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 cultivating the next generation of theater artists. Under Haj's leadership, the Guthrie is guided by four core values: Artistic Excellence; Community; Equity, Diversity 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 (sponsor) Founded in Fargo, N.D., in 1966, Bell has grown to become one of the nation's largest privately independent banks. Bell's mortgage division is also one of the oldest and largest mortgage firms in Minnesota, with tens of thousands of family mortgages to its name. Its team members are dedicated to making the community a better place. Bell's unique Pay It Forward program has impacted thousands of lives. Each year, every full-time Bell employee receives \$1,000 to Pay It Forward as they choose to individuals, families and organizations in need. This year, we celebrate Pay It Forward's 10 years, 10,000 stories and \$12 million in giving.

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