## Performance Schedule November 13 – December 16, 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
NOV 4	5	6	7	8	9	10 11 am B4Play
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 4pm
		8pm Preview	8pm Preview	8pm Opening	8pm	8pm
18 2 pm	19	20	21 1pm	22	23	24 4pm
		8pm Afterplay	8pm Afterplay	8pm TalkBack	8pm Afterplay	8pm Afterplay
25 2 pm	26	27	28 1pm	29	30	DEC 1 4pm
	7 pm Booksmack	8pm	8pm	8 pm Belfry 101	8pm	8pm
2 2 pm	3	4	5	6	7	8 4pm
		8pm	8pm	8 pm	8 pm	8pm
9 2 pm	10	11	12	13	14	15 4pm
		8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm	8pm

16 2 pm 7 pm/Benefit Performance

**B4PLAY** 

Free Event.

Saturday, November 10 at 11 am

Join CBC radio's morning host Gregor Craigie

for a live talk-show featuring artists from

and a host of experts from Victoria talking

our production of A Christmas Carol

about all things Victorian.

Previews/Tuesdays at 8pm \$25 Wednesday Matinees at 1pm \$30 Wednesday/Thursday at 8pm \$35 Friday/Saturday at 8pm \$40 Saturday Matinees at 4pm \$35 Sunday Matinees at 2pm \$30

# **Tickets**

250-385-6815 or belfry.bc.ca/tickets

**BOX OFFICE HOURS** 

During Performance Weeks Monday 9:30 am – 5 pm

Tuesday – Saturday 9:30 am – 7 pm

Tuesday – Sunday one hour prior to curtain time for in person sales only.

During Non-performance Weeks Monday – Friday 9:30 am – 5 pm

# Why I Chose This Play

Charles Dickens'
A Christmas Carol
is one of the world's
most affecting and
enduring stories.
It is a story of the
human heart, and
our potential for
goodness, compassion
and charity.

I wrote this adaptation in 1990, have directed it eight times, and have yet to make it through a rehearsal period without being reduced to tears! The sight of Ebenezer Scrooge watching his younger self dancing at the Fezziwigs,

full of joy and hope, and on the brink of love, fills me with profound sadness a sadness that makes the happiness in the play that much more of a gift! The older, hardened Scrooge juxtaposed against the golden memory of his open, expectant self is such a potent image. It is an image to which we can all relate; it reminds us of our own compromises and choices, possibly regrets, and of friends or family telling us: "you're not the person you used to be."

Perhaps we love
A Christmas Carol
because Scrooge's
reclamation, his
buoyant soul on
Christmas morning,
offers us the hope
of redemption.
It tells us that we can
become the women
and men that we
strive to be, if only
we will "open (our)
shut up hearts freely."

Nicopa

Michael Shamata Artistic Director

# Family Ticket Pack

Get a family ticket pack for A Christmas Carol.
For \$80 (+HST) you can get tickets for two adults and two children (or one adult and three children) for any performance of A Christmas Carol. Suitable for kids in grades 1–12.

To book a family pack please call our Box Office – 250-385-6815.

# **Belfry**Theatre

Single Tickets for A CHRISTMAS CAROL

from \$25 – \$40 (plus HST) at 250-385-6815 or at tickets.belfry.bc.ca

# **Belfry Season Tickets**

Family Ticket

Pack available -

details inside.

from \$60 at 250-385-6815

Join us for the remaining three Mainstage shows of the season and save.

## **NEW FLEX PASS –**

with our new season ticket option you can choose the shows you want to see, get the best seats available and save money. Call us for more information.

#### Connect with us.

Feel free to email us at hello@belfry.bc.ca or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, tumblr, Vimeo or Youtube – just search Belfry Theatre.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL NOVEMBER 13 – DECEMBER 16, 2012 BELFRY THEATRE 1291 GLADSTONE AVENUE VICTORIA, BC V8T 1G5



#### SEASON SPONSORS AND GOVERNMENT FUNDERS:



















3x3 Decisions, Lessons, Wishes

by CHARLES DICKENS, adapted by MICHAEL SHAMATA

NOVEMBER 13 – DECEMBER 16, 2012

belfry.bc.ca

Shows Story
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A Great Place to See Great Theatre

Belfry
Theatre

THIS IS THE BEST HOLIDAY SHOW I KNOW, FOR PEOPLE OF ANY

AGE, CREED, OR COLOUR. ITS MESSAGE OF LOVE IS UNIVERSAL

AND ONE THAT WE NEED NOW MORE THAN EVER. TORONTO STAR

# Welcome

We invite you to join us for one of the greatest stories ever told.

Charles Dickens' famously hard-hearted miser, Ebenezer Scrooge, is a dream for an actor he's been played by everyone from Alastair Sim to Jim Backus to Bill Murray; even Michael Caine had a go in The Muppet Christmas Carol.

Our Scrooge is the hugely talented Tom McBeath (from the plays, Mesa and Where the Blood Mixes) and we're sure you'll be charmed by his portrayal of this curmudgeon turned samaritan.

This uplifting classic is sure to put you in the Christmas spirit. Please join us for this very warm and very special holiday treat.

# More than a Ghost Story by Dave Obee

It was London, England, in December, 1843. A young author had spent six weeks writing a novella about the horrific social conditions he had witnessed, and after a dispute with his publisher, paid for it to be printed.

The author was Charles Dickens, and the novella was A Christmas Carol. It was immediately a huge success, and quickly adapted for the stage. The little book quickly helped change the way the English-speaking world thought of those in need, and of the Christmas season.

As popular today as ever, A Christmas Carol offers a reminder of things past, as well as a message for the future. While even Ebenezer Scrooge understood that Jacob Marley's ghost was not real – more of gravy than of grave, as he put it – most of the novella was an accurate reflection of the lives endured by too many people in 1843.

Consider one of the most famous passages in the novella, when Scrooge deals with two well-meaning souls who wanted to help those in need. "Are there no prisons?" he asked.

Tom McBeath

Ebenezer Scrooge

Yes, there were prisons, and they were filled with paupers. The Poor Laws were designed to force able-bodied people to work. Workhouses were built to house and feed people, who were expected to labour all day in return. The treadmill was designed to keep prisoners – and sometimes welfare applicants – motivated and moving.

These harsh conditions had been ignored by England's middle-class and upper-class citizens, but Dickens forced them to confront the social ills that saw children working in factories and mines, and adults labouring in prisons.

His impact quickly extended well beyond England. The popularity of A Christmas Carol provided a new vision of Christmas, setting the stage for what we recognize today as the true meaning of the season.

After A Christmas Carol, Christmas was not just another day. It became a major holiday, the centrepiece of a season known for turkey dinners and family gatherings.

**Brian Linds** 

Through the conversion of Scrooge, from cold and selfish to generous and warm, many people came to understand that true wealth should not be measured in material possessions, but rather in relationships and values.

Helping those in need became an accepted part of Christmas; we learned to reach out to others at that time of year. In time, extending a helping hand became the norm, during the Christmas season and later throughout the entire year. We learned to care about the "surplus population," rather than suggest that they should hurry up and die.

But how do we account for the lasting popularity of *A Christmas Carol*? We all know the story, and we can recite many of the lines, yet we keep coming back for more, year after year.

The answer is simple: It is profoundly optimistic, with the message that it is never too late to start doing the right things. It is filled with the joy of the season.

The story is 169 years old, yet it is as fresh today as it was in 1843.

Dave Obee is the Editor-in-Chief of the Times Colonist.

Amisha Parikh-Friese Celine Stubel

people three questions about we asked prominent Victorians about a decision they made that changed the course of their life, a lesson they've learned and a wish they have



that my life took the fork in the road? ...I followed my heart, totally, there was no head in that decision..." Jo-Ann Roberts, **CBC Radio Host** 

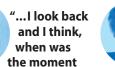


that negative side of your personality may fight back... Sometimes in the heat of a moment you might slip, and you don't feel better for it..." Dean Fortin,

Mayor of Victoria

Each Mainstage show we ask three an aspect of the show. This time

for the future. Here are a few teasers:



is beyond hockey and Tim Hortons, though I love both, and that we embrace and celebrate who we are..."

"...My wish,

is to know

for Canada,

that our culture

Glynis Leyshon, **Theatre and Opera** Director

Listen to the full interviews at www.belfry.bc.ca/ a-christmas-carol

**Alan Brodie** 

Lighting Designer

## The Belfry Librarian

To help you get a bit extra out of every show, we've unleashed the GVPL Librarians on our season scripts. For A Christmas Carol. our Librarian has put together a list of Dickens and more.

**Dickens' Christmas: A Victorian Celebration** by Simon Callow (2003)

The Map of Time: A Novel by Felix Palma (2011)

**The Painted Bridge: A Novel** by Wendy Wallace (2012)

**The Little Stranger** by Sarah Waters (2009)

**Drood** by Dan Simmons (2009)

The Man Who Invented **Christmas: How Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol Rescued His Career and Revived Our Holiday Spirits** by Les Standiford (2008)

The Selected Letters of Charles Dickens by Charles Dickens (2012)

**Charles Dickens: A Life** by Claire Tomalin (2011)

**The Life and Times** of Charles Dickens by Peter Ackrovd (2003)

**What Jane Austen Ate** and Charles Dickens Knew From Fox Hunting to Whist: The Facts of Daily Life in **Nineteenth-Century England** by Daniel Pool (1993)

List compiled by Sarah Harrison, Greater Victoria Public Library

#### **FOOD BANK COLLECTIONS**

Throughout the run of *A Christmas* Carol we'll be collecting food stuffs for local food banks. Canned fish. vegetables, pasta and rice are among the items that are constantly needed. Please bring something along when you see the show.

#### **AFTERPLAY WEEK** November 20-24

During this week of performances, we want to hear what you have to say. After each evening performance, stick around for a short discussion facilitated by one of our staff.

#### TALKBACK THURSDAY **Thursday, November 22**

Following the 8 pm performance of A Christmas Carol, join the actors from the show, and your fellow audience members, for a 20-minute Q & A session.

## BELFRY BOOKSMACK

Monday, November 26 at 7 pm After our standing room only event in October, five fast, furious and fun GVPL librarians return. They'll let their hair down, take off their glasses and speed review books and DVDs for giving – just in time for the holidays.

## CHILDREN'S HEALTH FOUNDATION / **ACTORS' FUND BENEFIT** PERFORMANCE

Sunday, December 16 at 7 pm All proceeds from this performance will be split evenly between the Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island (formerly the Queen Alexandra Foundation for Children) and The Actors' Fund of Canada.

## **TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

# **SPEAKING** IN TONGUES

## **January 22 – February 24, 2013**

Nine parallel lives – interlocked by four infidelities, one missing person and a mysterious stiletto – are woven through a series of fragmented confessionals where the lines between right and wrong become dangerously blurred. The award winning Company Theatre partners with the Belfry on this extraordinary production for us.

# cast & creatives



Lily Cave







Amanda Lisman

**Adam Lolache** 

**Bob Cratchit** 





Mrs. Cratchit



Michael Shamata

Director/Adaptor

Kim Harvey Assistant Director





thanks to our Production Sponsors for A CHRISTMAS CAROL:







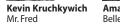






Gerry Mackay







John Ferguson