

Performance Schedule November 13–December 16, 2012

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

B4PLAY

Saturday, November 10 at 11am

Join CBC radio's morning host Gregor Craigie for a live talk-show featuring artists from our production of *A Christmas Carol* and a host of experts from Victoria talking about all things Victorian. Free Event.

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."



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

Family Ticket Pack available – details inside.

Belfry Season Tickets

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.

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

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A Great Place to See Great Theatre

showguide

Belfry Theatre

Inside
More than a Ghost Story
Family Ticket Pack
3x3 Decisions, Lessons, Wishes

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

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

by CHARLES DICKENS, adapted by MICHAEL SHAMATA
NOVEMBER 13 – DECEMBER 16, 2012

belfry.bc.ca

More than a Ghost Story by Dave Obee

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.

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.

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.

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.

3x3 Each Mainstage show we ask three people three questions about an aspect of the show. This time 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 for the future. Here are a few teasers:



"...I look back and I think, when was the moment

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



"...It is easy, frankly, in the fray of politics...

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



"...My wish, for Canada, is to know that our culture

is beyond hockey and Tim Hortons, though I love both, and that we embrace and celebrate who we are..."
Glynis Leyshon, Theatre and Opera Director

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

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 Ackroyd (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

Tom McBeath
Ebenezer Scrooge



Lily Cave
Belinda



Jessica Hickman
Spirit



Brian Linds
Mr. Fezziwig



Adam Lolacher
Bob Cratchit



Amisha Parikh-Friese
Martha



Celine Stubel
Mrs. Cratchit



Michael Shamata
Director/Adaptor



John Ferguson
Designer



Alan Brodie
Lighting Designer



Gerry Mackay
Jacob Marley



Daniel Fong
Spirit



Kevin Kruchkywich
Mr. Fred



Amanda Lisman
Belle



Ajay Parikh-Friese
Peter



Simeon Sanford Blades
Tiny Tim



Jan Wood
Mrs. Fezziwig



Kim Harvey
Assistant Director



Nancy Bryant
Costume Designer

belfry.bc.ca/tickets

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