FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 21, 2015

TWIST YOUR DICKENS RETURNS TO THE GOODMAN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SECOND CITY, BY EMMY AWARD-WINNING WRITERS PETER GWINN AND BOBBY MORT, DIRECTED BY MATT HOVDE

***CHICAGO FAVORITE FRANCIS GUINAN RETURNS AS EBENEZER SCROOGE, DECEMBER 4-27 IN THE OWEN THEATRE***

(Chicago, IL) The Second City’s irreverent and interactive seasonal satire, Twist Your Dickens, returns to Goodman Theatre for its second year with new holiday hilarity and favorite faces. Written by former The Colbert Report writers Peter Gwinn and Bobby Mort and directed by Matt Hovde, Artistic Director of The Second City Training Center and Jeff Award winner, Twist Your Dickens is the story of Scrooge, Tiny Tim and three outrageous ghosts—plus nods to other beloved yuletide specials. An all-star cast of Second City’s funniest members and Chicago favorites brings the story to life through parody and improv, featuring Francis Guinan as Scrooge; Travis Turner as the Ghost of Christmas Past; Peter Gwinn as Jacob Marley; Sue Salvi as Tiny Tim; Beth Melewski as the Ghost of Christmas Present; Danielle Pinnock as Mrs. Cratchit; and Tim Sniffen as Bob Cratchit.

“We are thrilled to present Twist Your Dickens in our second partnership with the Goodman. We had a wonderful response last year, and happily return this holiday season,” said Andrew Alexander, CEO/Executive Producer of The Second City, Inc.

Theatergoers can experience two different interpretations of the holiday classic under the same roof. The Second City’s Twist Your Dickens appears in the Goodman’s 350-seat flexible Owen Theatre, complementing the Goodman’s 38th production of A Christmas Carol, directed by Henry Wishcamper in the 856-seat Albert Theatre (Nov. 14 – Dec. 27). Twist Your Dickens runs December 4 – 27 (press night is December 10 at 7:30pm). Tickets ($15 - $45; subject to change) are on sale now, available at GoodmanTheatre.org/Twist, by phone at 312.443.3800 or at the box office (170 N. Dearborn).
About the Cast and Creators


Peter Gwinn (Co-Writer/Marley/Ensemble) is one of the original writers for The Colbert Report (two Emmy Awards) and the Amazon original series Alpha House. Other written works: The Story of a Story (the Untold Story) (Underscore Theater Co), Moulin Scrooge! (WreckingBall Theater Lab, Denver; iO Chicago), Listen Kid ... (Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre, NYC; iO Chicago), Peter Gwinn’s The Confidence Ladder (UCB Theatre), The Awesome Show (iO Chicago). Founding Member of Baby Wants Candy, a troupe that improvises one-act musicals (NY Times Critics’ Pick). Other performer credits: Late Night with Conan O’Brien, ASSSSCAT (UCB), Gravid Water (UCB), 3033 (iO), and last year's Twist Your Dickens(Goodman Theatre, Chicago).

Matt Hovde (Director) Directing Credits at Second City include Let Them Eat Chaos, Sky’s The Limit (Weather Permitting), Second City’s Game Night, Studs Terkel’s Not Working (Jeff Award - Director), Rod Blagojevich Superstar!; and Between Barack and a Hard Place. He has directed productions for The Second City in Atlanta, Dallas, Detroit, Denver, Baltimore, Vienna, Brussels, and others. Matt is the Artistic Director of the Second City Training Center in Chicago, and would like to thank his family, Pegi, Richard and Mick.

Beth Melewski (Ghost of Christmas Present/Ensemble) has been a member of The Second City Chicago family for almost 10 years. She wrote and performed in Second City’s Jeff Award-nominated show The Absolute Best Friggin’ Time of Your Life in addition to the Jeff-winning The Second City Guide to the Opera and Studs Terkel’s Not Working. She was recently seen in the online dating show in Second City's UP theater, #DATEME. She also performs improv regularly at iO Theater and Annoyance Theater. Her television credits include one season as the host of Chicago Cash Cab and Arrested Development.

Danielle Pinnock (Mrs. Cratchit/Ensemble) is honored to return to the Goodman after previously understudying in By The Way, Meet Vera Stark. As a 2015 Second City Bob Curry Fellow, she participated in the NBC Universal Break-Out Comedy Festival and performed selections from her one-woman show Body/Courage. After 5 years of development, Body/Courage will receive its World Premiere at the Rivendell Theatre Ensemble in Co-Production with Waltzing Mechanics beginning next month: January 26-February 27, 2016. The documentary play is based on interviews she has conducted worldwide with over 300 people dealing with issues surrounding body image. She received her Master’s from Birmingham School of Acting UK. Follow her on social media: @bodycourage and bodycourage.com

Sue Salvi (Tiny Tim/Ensemble) is happy to be taking part in the twisting of your dicken this year. Sue has been performing improvisation and sketch comedy around Chicago since the mid 1990’s. She also enjoys writing things. Things like to-do lists, groceries she aspires to buy and sometimes essays, television commercials and comedy scenes. Please buy her book, Someday a Bird Will Poop on You.

Tim Sniffen (Cratchit/Ensemble) began performing with The Second City in 2007, most recently writing and performing The Second City's Guide to the Opera in collaboration with Lyric Opera of Chicago, and co-writing Realish Housewives: A Parody [the throughline of these projects being divas]. Tim is currently finishing work on Death of A Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf—a show that finds some of theater's greatest personalities suddenly thrown together—to be performed at Writers Theater this spring. Twist Your Dickens is Tim's first show at the Goodman and he's been told to stay out of other people's lockers.

Travis Turner (Ghost of Christmas Past / Ensemble) returns to the Goodman where he previously appeared in Kristoffer Diaz's The Upstairs Concierge and The Second City's Twist Your Dickens. Other Second City credits include the Hubbard St Dance collaboration The Art of Falling as well as revues at Woolly Mammoth Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Denver Center for the Performing Arts and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. Northwestern grad. Atlanta born.
About The Second City

Beginning as a small cabaret theater on Chicago's north side in 1959, The Second City has grown to become a comedy empire, building a robust $50+ million business based on its core improvisational methodologies. Resident theatres in Chicago and Toronto create topical sketch comedy revues that satirize politics, culture and news of the day. Additionally, Second City performs thousands of shows each year in regional theaters, colleges, performing arts centers and through an exclusive partnership with Norwegian Cruise Line. Beyond its stages, The Second City created the foremost school of improvisation-based arts in the world with training facilities in Chicago, Toronto and Los Angeles that currently enroll over 11,000 students annually; a corporate division that works with hundreds of Fortune 500 companies in areas of training, marketing, entertainment and brand services; and The Second City's forays into television and new media include the classic, Emmy Award-winning comedy series SCTV and continues to produce new content and programming originating from The Second City Entertainment's offices in Los Angeles.

About Goodman Theatre

Called America's “Best Regional Theatre” by Time magazine, Goodman Theatre has won international recognition for its artists, productions and programs, and is a major cultural, educational and economic pillar in Chicago. Founded in 1925 by William O. Goodman and his family in honor of their son Kenneth (an important figure in Chicago’s cultural renaissance in the early 1900s), Goodman Theatre has garnered hundreds of awards for artistic achievement and community engagement, including: two Pulitzer Prizes, 22 Tony Awards (including “Outstanding Regional Theatre” in 1992), nearly 160 Joseph Jefferson Awards and more. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Robert Falls and Executive Director Roche Schulfer, the Goodman’s artistic priorities include new plays (more than 150 world or American premieres in the past 30 years), reimagined classics (including Falls’ nationally and internationally celebrated productions of Death of a Salesman, Long’s Day’s Journey into Night, King Lear and The Iceman Cometh, many in collaboration with actor Brian Dennehy), culturally specific work, musical theater (26 major productions in 20 years, including 10 world premieres) and international collaborations. Diversity and inclusion have been primary cornerstones of the Goodman’s mission for 30 years; over the past decade, 68% of the Goodman’s 35 world premieres were authored by women and/or playwrights of color, and the Goodman was the first theater in the world to produce all 10 plays in August Wilson’s “American Century Cycle.” Each year the Goodman’s numerous education and community engagement programs—including the innovative Student Subscription Series, now in its 30th year—serve thousands of students, teachers, life-long learners and special constituencies. In addition, for nearly four decades the annual holiday tradition of A Christmas Carol has led to the creation of a new generation of theatergoers in Chicago. Goodman Theatre’s leadership includes the distinguished members of the Artistic Collective: Brian Dennehy, Rebecca Gilman, Henry Godinez, Steve Scott, Chuck Smith, Regina Taylor, Henry Wishcamper and Mary Zimmerman. Joan Clifford is Chair of Goodman Theatre’s Board of Trustees, Swati Mehta is Women’s Board President and Gordon C.C. Liao is President of the Scenemakers Board for young professionals. Visit the Goodman virtually at GoodmanTheatre.org, and on Twitter (@GoodmanTheatre), Facebook and Instagram.

—30—