GOODMAN THEATRE
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LARRY YANDO STARS IN HIS 9TH TURN AS EBENEZER SCROOGE IN A CHRISTMAS CAROL,
DIRECTED BY HENRY WISHCAMPER, NOVEMBER 19 – DECEMBER 31

***GOODMAN THEATRE’S 39TH ANNUAL PRODUCTION FEATURES NEW FACES AND RETURNING FAVORITES***

(Chicago, IL) With new stage magic and Chicago favorites, Goodman Theatre’s A Christmas Carol—hailed as “the crown jewel of the holiday season” (Daily Herald) and “no better way to get into the holiday spirit” (Chicago Sun-Times)—takes the stage in its 39th year. Returning for his fourth year, Henry Wishcamper’s directs Charles Dickens’ tale of hope and redemption. His production has been praised as “wise and warm... sometimes about loss, sometimes renewal, always about treasuring our time huddled together as ‘fellow-passengers to the grave’” (Chicago Tribune). Leading the cast of 24 is acclaimed Chicago actor Larry Yando, who brings “great joy to the role of Scrooge” (Newcity) as he journeys through his past, present and future to discover the importance of kindness and compassion towards others. A Christmas Carol appears November 19 – December 31; press/opening is November 27 at 6:30pm. Tickets ($25 - $102) are available at GoodmanTheatre.org/Carol, by phone at 312.443.3800 or at the box office (170 N. Dearborn). Discounted Group Tickets for 15+ are available at 312.443.3820. Fifth Third Bank is the Major Corporate Sponsor; Allstate Insurance Company and KPMG LLP are the Corporate Sponsor Partners; Chicago Tribune Media Group is the Media Sponsor; and American Airlines is the Airline Partner for A Christmas Carol.

“It’s an honor and a privilege to direct A Christmas Carol at the Goodman, where this timeless story is told in a production that pioneered inclusive casting—a notion that was groundbreaking three decades ago, but common practice today and absolutely essential to the universality of Dickens’ message,” said Wishcamper, Goodman Artistic Associate whose recent Goodman productions include The Matchmaker and The Little Foxes. “Each year, we approach the production with fresh eyes and make some changes that we hope will delight audiences—both those who are new and those who make the production an annual tradition—and further extend and reflect the story’s relevance in 2016.”

Wishcamper’s cast includes returning favorites Ron E. Rains as Bob Cratchit; Joe Foust as Ghost of Jacob Marley; Travis A. Knight as Ghost of Christmas Past; Kim Schultz as Ghost of Christmas Present; Penelope Walker as Mrs. Fezziwig; Kareem Bandealy as Narrator and Scrooge Alternate; John Lister, who last appeared in the 2011 production, as Mr. Fezziwig; and Nathaniel Buescher in his third year as Tiny Tim, and more. Newcomers include Hannah Gomez, Mariah Gordon, Emma Ladj, Sadieh Rifai, Aaron Stone and Jonah D. Winston.

In addition, Wishcamper has cast Kristina Valada-Viars as Scrooge’s niece, “Frida”—a role traditionally rendered as “Fred”—while J. Salome Martinez portrays Frida’s husband, Abe.

A complete cast list appears below.

A long-standing holiday tradition for Chicago audiences (and beyond)—more than 1.2 million theatergoers have attended the Goodman’s annual production of A Christmas Carol. First performed in 1978 at the Goodman’s original venue at the Art Institute, the annual offering has hosted 10 directors, 33 Tiny Tims and eight Ebenezer Scrooges who’ve collectively uttered nearly 23,000 “Bah Humbugs.”

As traditionally done for the past 29 years, cast members from A Christmas Carol will be present in the lobby following each performance to collect donations to support Season of Concern, an organization that supports local artists with illnesses, as well as Broadway Cares/Equity Fight AIDS. Since 1991 audiences have raised over $400,000 to spread the holiday spirit to those in need.
Company of A Christmas Carol
By Charles Dickens, Adapted by Tom Creamer, Directed by Henry Wishcamper

Justin Amolsch....................................................Musician, French Horn
Kareem Bandealy..................................................Narrator/Young Scrooge/Topper/Scrooge Alternate
Nathaniel Buescher.................................................Tiny Tim
Ali Burch.............................................................Female Understudy
Andrew Coil..........................................................Musician, Violin
Joe Foust..............................................................Jacob Marley/Young Marley/Old Joe
Hannah Gomez.....................................................Miss Ortle
Mariah Gordon......................................................Belinda Cratchit
Andrew Jessop.....................................................Young Scrooge Alternate/Male understudy
Travis A. Knight......................................................Ghost of Christmas Past
Emma Ladji..........................................................Martha Cratchit/Fan/Young Woman
Aaron Lamm..........................................................Boy Scrooge/Aaron Cratchit
John Lister............................................................Mr. Fezziwig
J. Salome Martinez..................................................Abe/Dick Wilkins
Larry Neumann Jr..................................................Schoolmaster/Percy/Undertaker
Ron E. Rains.........................................................Bob Cratchit
Sadieh Rifai............................................................Mrs. Cratchit
Malcolm Ruhl........................................................Music Director, Accordion
Madeline Ruhl........................................................Musician, Flute
Amaris Sanchez....................................................Emily Cratchit/Want
Kim Schultz..........................................................Ghost of Christmas Present/Charwoman
Aaron Stone........................................................Peter Cratchit/Ignorance/Child in Doorway
Kristina Valada-Viars..............................................Frida/Belle
Penelope Walker...................................................Mrs. Fezziwig/Miss Crumb
Jonah D. Winston..................................................Young Man/Poulterer/Tree Seller
Larry Yando..........................................................Ebenezer Scrooge

Creative Team

Todd Rosenthal.....................................................Set Designer
Heidi Sue McMath..................................................Costume Designer
Andrew Hansen....................................................Composer
Richard Woodbury................................................Sound Designer
Malcolm Ruhl........................................................Music Director
Keith Parham......................................................Lighting Designer
Tommy Rapley ......................................................Choreographer
Alden Vasquez.......................................................Production Stage Manager

Flying effects are provided by ZFX Inc.

About Goodman Theatre

America’s “Best Regional Theatre” (Time magazine) and “Chicago’s flagship resident stage” (Chicago Tribune), Goodman Theatre is a not-for-profit organization distinguished by the quality and scope of its artistic programming and civic engagement. Founded in 1925, the Goodman is led by Robert Falls—“Chicago’s most essential director” (Chicago Tribune), who marks 30 years as Artistic Director this season—and Executive Director Roche Schulfer, who is celebrated for his vision and leadership over nearly four decades. Dedicated to new plays, reimagined classics and large-scale musical theater works, Goodman Theatre artists and productions have earned hundreds of awards for artistic excellence, including: two Pulitzer Prizes, 22 Tony Awards, nearly 160 Jeff Awards and more. Over the past three decades, audiences have experienced more than 150 world or American premieres, 30 major musical productions, as well as nationally and internationally celebrated productions of classic works (including Falls’ productions of Death of a Salesman, Long Day’s Journey into Night, King Lear and The Iceman Cometh, many in collaboration with actor Brian Dennehy). In addition, the Goodman is the
first theater in the world to produce all 10 plays August Wilson’s “American Century Cycle.” For nearly four decades, the annual holiday tradition of A Christmas Carol has created a new generation of theatergoers.

The 2016 opening of the Alice Rapoport Center for Education and Engagement (“the Alice”) launched the next phase in the Goodman’s decades-long commitment as an arts and community organization dedicated to educating Chicago youth and promoting lifelong learning. Programs are offered year-round and free of charge. Eighty-five percent of the Goodman’s youth program participants come from underserved communities.

Goodman Theatre was founded 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. The Goodman family’s legacy lives on through the continued work and dedication of Kenneth’s family, including Albert Ivar Goodman, who with his late mother, Edith-Marie Appleton, contributed the necessary funds for the creation of the new Goodman center in 2000.

Today, Goodman Theatre leadership includes the distinguished members of the Artistic Collective: Brian Dennehy, Rebecca Gilman, Henry Godinez, Dael Orlandersmith, Steve Scott, Chuck Smith, Regina Taylor, Henry Wishcamper and Mary Zimmerman. Joan Clifford is Chair of Goodman Theatre’s Board of Trustees, Cynthia K. Scholl is Women’s Board President and Justin A. Kulovsek is President of the Scenemakers Board for young professionals.

Visit the Goodman virtually at GoodmanTheatre.org—including OnStage+ for insider information—and on Twitter (@GoodmanTheatre), Facebook and Instagram.