THE SECOND CITY'S TWIST YOUR DICKENS RETURNS TO GOODMAN THEATRE FOR ITS THIRD YEAR, DIRECTED BY AND STARRING RON WEST AS EBENEZER SCROOGE

***WRITTEN BY EMMY AWARD-WINNING WRITERS PETER GWINN AND BOBBY MORT, TWIST YOUR DICKENS APPEARS DECEMBER 2-30 IN THE OWEN THEATRE***

(Chicago, IL) The Second City’s irreverent and interactive seasonal satire, Twist Your Dickens returns to Goodman Theatre for its third year with new yuletide yuks and favorite faces. “A satisfying twist on the traditional tale” (Time Out Chicago), Twist Your Dickens is written by former The Colbert Report writers Peter Gwinn and Bobby Mort and directed by and starring Second City Alum Ron West. An all-star cast of Second City’s leading members brings to life the skewered version of Charles Dickens’ classic story through parody and improv, including: West as Scrooge; Joel Boyd as the Ghost of Christmas Past; Joe Dempsey as Jacob Marley; Sarah Dell’Amico as Tiny Tim; Carisa Barreca as the Ghost of Christmas Present; Katie Caussin as Mrs. Cratchit; and Greg Matthew Anderson as Bob Cratchit.

“Our partnership with the Goodman has been a terrific experience, and our third presentation of Twist Your Dickens acknowledges the audience response and strong Goodman support,” 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 Owen Theatre, complementing the Goodman’s 39th annual production of A Christmas Carol, directed by Henry Wishcamper in the 856-seat Albert Theatre (November 19 – December 31). Twist Your Dickens runs December 2 - 30 (press night is December 8 at 7:30pm). Tickets ($20 - $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** (Playwright) is one of the original writers for The Colbert Report (two Emmy Awards) and the Amazon original series Alpha House. Other written works include The Story of a Story (the Untold Story) (Underscore Theater Company), 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) and The Awesome Show (iO Chicago). He is a founding member of Baby Wants Candy, a troupe that improvises one-act musicals (The New York Times’ Critics’ Pick). Other performing credits include Late Night with Conan O’Brien, ASSSSCAT (UCB), Gravid Water (UCB), 3033 (iO) and the 2014 production of Twist Your Dickens.

**Bobby Mort** (Playwright) is a writer and actor who studied improv and sketch comedy in Chicago. He performed as part of the iO Theater ensemble People of Earth and sketch trio Maximum Party Zone. Mort wrote the screenplays for Circle of Pain and Beatdown and won an Emmy Award for his work on The Colbert Report.

**Ron West** (Scrooge/Director) reprises the role of Scrooge after appearing in the original Los Angeles production of Twist Your Dickens at Center Theatre Group. Recent television credits include The Soul Man and Blunt Talk. Recent directing credits include Life Expectancy (Hollywood Fringe), The 39 Steps (Malibu Playhouse), Twist Your Dickens (Portland Center Stage) and a reading of the Swann/West musical The People vs. Friar Laurence (Steppenwolf Theatre Company). He has directed many shows for The Second City, including the award-winning Curious George Goes to War and the international tour of Sex & The Second City. He won a 2008 Jeff Award for his adaptation of The Comedy of Errors at Chicago Shakespeare Theater.
Cast Announced for Twist Your Dickens at Goodman Theatre in Partnership with The Second City

**Greg Matthew Anderson** (Cratchit/Ensemble) Second City credits include *Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf: A Parody* with Writers Theatre. Chicago credits include *Rock 'N Roll* (Goodman Theatre); *Immediate Family; Power; The Best Man; Les Liaisons Dangereuses; Night and Day; The Importance of Being Earnest; Chesapeake* (Jeff Award nomination); *Northanger Abbey; Travesties* (Jeff Award nomination) and *An Inspector Calls* (Remy Bumppo Theatre Company, where he is an artistic associate); *Arcadia* (Writers Theatre); *The City of Conversation; The Mousetrap; Sense and Sensibility* (Northlight Theatre); *Arcadia* (Court Theatre); *Sons of the Prophet and Oklahomal* (American Theater Company) and *A Moment Alone* (iO Theater). Television credits include *Chicago P.D., Chicago Fire, Betrayal, The Playboy Club, Underemployed, The Chicago Code, Detroit 187* and the pilot *Matadors*. Film credits include *Transformers: Age of Extinction, The Middle Distance, Game Day and Older Children*. He is a graduate of Duke University's Department of Theater Studies.

**Carisa Barreca** (Ghost of Christmas Present/Ensemble) is an alumna of three Second City resident stage revues. Additional Second City credits include working with Patrick Stewart and Renée Fleming in *The Second City's Guide to the Opera* (in collaboration with The Lyric Opera of Chicago) and *The Art of Falling* (in collaboration with Hubbard Street Dance). She was awarded Best Actress from the *Chicago Reader* and The Midwest Filmfest for her web series *Doomsdate* (Doomsdateseries.com). On Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat @Cinderisa

**Joel Boyd** (Ghost of Christmas Past/Ensemble) performs around Chicago as a stand-up comedian, as well as in sketch and improv comedy performances at venues including The Laugh Factory, Second City, Zanies, The Comedy Bar, iO Theater, The Annoyance Theatre and more. Chicago theater credits include *The Burials* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company), *Wastewater* (Steep Theatre) and #DateMe: An OKCupid Experiment (The Second City). He is a founding member of the Chicago stand-up collective The Martin Luther Kings of Comedy. JoelBoydTV.com

**Katie Caussin** (Mrs. Cratchit/Ensemble) spent the first half of 2016 traveling the U.S. with The Second City Theatrical's production of *The Realish Housewives*, where she got to portray an ex-con politician. She has worked with The Second City on many productions over the years including *Sex & the Second City* at Northlight Theater and on tour, as well as a USO tour for troops in the Balkans. In Chicago, she has improvised at the iO Theater, ComedySportz and The Annoyance Theatre, where she is also an improvisation instructor. She has also performed at the Magnet Theater in New York and worked on *The Onion Network’s Special Report*. She grew up in Springfield, Virginia and received her degree in theater from Radford University. On Twitter @KatieCaussin

**Sarah Dell’Amia** (Tiny Tim/Ensemble) has worked with The Second City Theatricals abroad the Norwegian Cruise Line Breakaway and Star and has understudied for #Date Me: An OKCupid Experiment and *The Second City’s Life Hacks*. She is a recipient of The 2015 Second City NBCUniversal Bob Curry Fellowship. She can currently be seen in The Second City’s *Fast Loud & Funny* and improvising with ALL CAPS at the iO Theater. She is represented by BMG Talent.

**Joe Dempsey**’s (Marley/Ensemble) Chicago credits include the recent *West Side Story* at Paramount Theatre, as well as productions at Goodman Theatre, Theater Wit, Court Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Drury Lane Theatre, Victory Gardens Theater, Northlight Theater and many more. Regional credits include work with Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, St. Louis Repertory Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Center Stage in Baltimore, City Theatre in Pittsburgh and Cincinnati Playhouse, where he performed in Second City’s *Pride and Porkopolis*.

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
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.

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