

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



ACT CONTEMPORARY THEATRE ANNOUNCES CAST  
AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR THEIR 48th PRODUCTION OF  
**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

By Charles Dickens | Adapted by Gregory Falls

Directed by R. Hamilton Wright | Music by Adam Stern |

Choreography by Donald Byrd

*Single tickets and holiday gifting ticket packages are on sale now  
at [acttheatre.org](http://acttheatre.org).*



SEATTLE, WA (October 24, 2023) — ACT Contemporary Theatre announced today the cast and creative team for their 48th production of the beloved classic, ***A Christmas Carol***. Originally adapted for the stage in 1976 by ACT founder **Gregory Falls**, this season's production will see Seattle actor **Darragh Kennan** in the infamous role of Ebenezer Scrooge. This classic holiday tradition is directed by ACT & Seattle mainstay **R. Hamilton Wright** with choreography by the legendary **Donald Byrd**, Artistic Director of Spectrum Dance Company.

The timeless magic of Charles Dickens' plays in ACT's Allen Theatre November 24 – December 24. Tickets and discounted tickets for groups of 10+ are available now at [ACTtheatre.org](https://www.acttheatre.org) or by calling the ACT Box Office at (206) 292-7676.

"Over the last 20 years I have played Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* many times, and this is my fourth time directing it," said **Director R. Hamilton Wright**. "Each time I come back to it I experience a revelation - something new, something unexpected, something that had never occurred to me. It's amazing. A little like magic."

"I am amazed each year at the ingenuity, the fresh perspectives, and the layers of joy and fellow feeling that the artists who are drawn to our annual production of *A Christmas Carol* bring to this timeless work," said **ACT Contemporary Theatre Artistic Director John Langs**. "This year, Darragh Kennan's portrayal of Scrooge and new choreography by Donald Byrd will be guided by the vision of our Director R. Hamilton Wright. Wright has mined this play for years as an actor and director and is bringing his heartfelt enthusiasm to bring to life this production that we have all come to love."

New to 2023, ACT Contemporary Theatre is presenting a sensory-friendly performance of *A Christmas Carol*. In partnership with [Sensory Access](#), the December 10 performance will be adapted with key sensory-friendly changes to create a calm and welcoming environment.

ACT's production of *A Christmas Carol* is recommended for ages 5 and up. The show run time will be 90 minutes with no intermission.

## MEET THE CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

### ABOUT THE CAST

*A Christmas Carol* features **Darragh Kennan** (ACT: *Oslo*; *Romeo & Juliet*) in the role of Ebenezer Scrooge; **Jon Lutyens** (ACT: *Mary Stuart*) as Bob Cratchit; **Josephine Keefe** (Spokane Civic: *The Humans*) as Mrs. Cratchit; **Ray Tagavilla** (ACT: *Sweat*) as Marley; **Mandy Rose Nichols** (Reboot Theatre: *Sweeney Todd*) as Spirit 1; **Arlando Smith** (ACT: *Choir Boy*; *Sweat*) as Spirit 2; **Anne Allgood** (ACT: *Mary Stuart*; *The Crucible*) as Mrs. Fezziwig; **Rob Burgess** (ACT: *A Christmas Carol*) as Mr. Fezziwig; **Rio Alberto** (Spokane Ensemble Theater: *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*) as Fred; **Hazel Rose Gibson** (Seattle Public Theater: *Pipeline*) as Belle and Niece; **Morgan Gwilym Tso** (ACT Theatre: *Wolf Play*) as Middle Scrooge; **Evangeline OpongParry** (Seattle Children's Theatre: *Corduroy*) as Belinda Cratchit; **Molly Aidlin** (ACT: *A Christmas Carol*) as Elizabeth Cratchit; **Leif Coomer** as Street Urchin; **Micah Hutchinson** as Charles Cratchit; **Isaiah Hyde** as Peter and Young Scrooge; **Liam Kuriatnyk** as Tiny Tim; and **Anneliese Ulmer-Schultz** as Marth and Miss Fezziwig.

Understudies include **Calder Jameson Schilling**, **Jennifer Ewing**, and **Shawn Belyea**.

### ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

The creative team features **R. Hamilton Wright** (Director); **Donald Byrd** (Choreographer); **R.J. Tancioco** (Music Director); **Alyssa Keene** (Dialect Coach); **Shelley Schermer** (Scenic Design); **Deb Trout** (Costume Design); **Andrew D. Smith** (Lighting Design); and **Brendan Patrick Hogan** (Sound Design).

#### **ABOUT R. HAMILTON WRIGHT (Director)**

R. Hamilton Wright has appeared in over fifty productions at ACT Theatre, the first being Sam Shepard's *Buried Child* in 1981 directed by Robert Loper and the latest being Reginald André Jackson's *History of Theatre* in 2023 directed by Valerie Curtis-Newton. His original play *Sherlock Holmes and The Vanishing Thimble* premiered last spring at Vertigo Theatre in Calgary.

#### **ABOUT DONALD BYRD (Choreographer)**

Donald Byrd is a Tony-nominated (*The Color Purple*) and Bessie Award-winning (*The Minstrel Show*) choreographer. He has been the Artistic Director of Spectrum Dance Theater in Seattle since December 2002. Formerly, he was Artistic Director of Donald Byrd/The Group, a critically acclaimed contemporary dance company, founded in Los Angeles and later based in New York that toured both nationally and internationally. He has created dance works for many leading companies including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Pacific Northwest Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet, and Dance Theater of Harlem, among others, and worked extensively in theater and opera.

#### **ALSO THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AT ACT!**

Join us this holiday season as **Dina Martina** returns to ACT Contemporary Theatre with her annual Christmas show, December 8 – 24! A beloved Seattle tradition for over 25 years, Dina Martina brings a mix of traditional and contemporary holiday tunes, treated with her undeniably surreal comic sensibility. ***The Dina Martina Christmas Show*** performs in the Falls Theatre at ACT. **[For tickets & info >>](#)**

#### **FOR EDITORS/PRODUCERS:**

##### **WHAT:**

##### ***A Christmas Carol***

By Charles Dickens

Adapted by Gregory Falls

Directed by R. Hamilton Wright

Music by Adam Stern

Fill your heart with joy! Charles Dickens' enchanting tale of compassion and hope comes to life once again. On a snowy Christmas Eve brimming with memorable characters, ghostly apparitions, and visits to the past, present, and future, miserly Ebenezer Scrooge discovers the joy of charity and redemption. Capture the timeless magic of Dickens' Yuletide classic, proudly returning for the 48th year.

ACT's production of *A Christmas Carol* is recommended for ages 5 and up. Children under the age of 5 will not be allowed in the theatre.

**WHEN:**

**November 24 – December 24, 2023**

Evening performance times are 7:30 p.m. and matinees are 2 p.m. A full performance schedule can be [found here](#).

Run time is approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.

**Key Dates:**

- Opening Night: Thursday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m.
- Student Matinees: November 28 at 11 a.m.; November 29 at 11 a.m.; November 30 at 11 a.m.
- Audio Described Performance: December 9 at 2:00pm
- ASL performance: December 9 at 2:00 p.m.
- Sensory Friendly Performance: December 10 at 2:00 p.m.
  - The production and venue will be adapted with key sensory-friendly changes to create a calm and welcoming environment.

**WHERE:**

**ACT Contemporary Theatre's Allen Theatre**, located at 700 Union Street in Downtown Seattle.

**TICKETS:**

**Tickets start at \$49.** We are proud to offer a range of ticket prices for all our plays, including pay what you choose tickets for select performances, making theatre affordable for everyone.

To purchase tickets, visit <https://acttheatre.org>

**PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO**

For available pre-production images, current artwork, past production photos and video [please visit our Press Room online >>](#)

**CONNECT ON SOCIAL:**

[acttheatre.org](https://acttheatre.org)

Facebook - [/ACTtheatre](#)

Instagram - [@ACTtheatre](#)

Show tags: #ACTtheatre #ACTSeattle #ACCatACT #ChristmasCarolSeattle #ChistmasCarolACT

**ABOUT ACT CONTEMPORARY THEATRE**

Steadfast in its dedication to producing work that sparks an authentic curiosity about the human condition, ACT produces bold, audacious works of contemporary theatre from its home in Seattle. Over the last 58 years, ACT remains the voice of contemporary theatre in the Pacific Northwest, presenting necessary and relevant works on current themes and producing more than 300 plays and musicals, including 47 world premieres. Led by Artistic Director John Langs and Managing Director Anita Shah, ACT nurtures theatre-makers of the next generation, with a mission to be a contemporary theatre where artistic ambition and civic engagement unite.

ACT is here to challenge how stories are told. For more information on ACT Contemporary Theatre please visit [ACTTheatre.org](http://ACTTheatre.org).

*Thank you to ACT Contemporary Theatre's Theatre and Season Sponsors: 4Culture, ArtsFund, Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, The Shubert Foundation, Nesholm Family Foundation, ArtsWA, Bowery Valuation, The Grousemont Foundation, NBBJ, The Norcliffe Foundation, The Sunderland Foundation, and Katharyn Alvord Gerlich.*

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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