

THE PREMIERE PLAYHOUSE
PRESENTS



A
Christmas
Carol


BY CRISPIN WHITTELL

December 2 - 12, 2021

at The Orpheum Theatre
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Presents

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

By Crispin Whittell

Director
Lary B. Etten

Music Director/Arranger/Composer
Matthew Walicke

Choreographer
Magen Richeal

Stage Manager
Jazlyne Williams

Scenic Designer
Victor E. Shonk

Lighting Designer
Corey Shelsta

Sound Designer
Malia Lukomski

Costume Designer
Kendra Dexter

Hair & Makeup Designer
Bekki Kniep

Scenic Build
Heartland Scenic Studio, Inc

SYNOPSIS

A miserly and miserable man, Ebenezer Scrooge greets each Christmas with a "Bah, humbug!" until he is visited one Christmas Eve by the Ghosts of Jacob Marley, Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas Future. Through a restless night, the spirits show him happy memories from his past, cruel realities from the present and a grim future should he continue his cantankerous ways. Charles Dickens' timeless tale continues to be a perennial favorite and holiday tradition that invites audiences of all ages to celebrate the merriment of the season with their family and loved ones.

RIGHTS

This Play was originally commissioned and produced by the Guthrie Theater
Joe Dowling, Artistic Director

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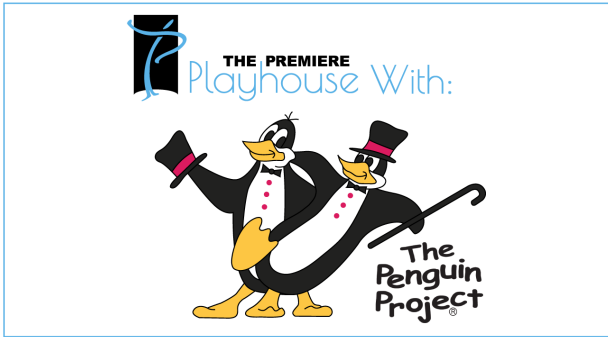


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Executive Director's Note



By now you should be sitting in your seat in the Historic Orpheum Theater waiting for *A Christmas Carol* to begin and hopefully you are already beginning to realize that this production is shaping up into something really rather special. If so, then we are achieving our goal of creating an experience beyond the performance itself. We have worked hard to make *A Christmas Carol* a truly spectacular production that is so powerfully entertaining you will want to make it an annual, MUST SEE family tradition. We have gone so far above and beyond our normal levels of investment into our shows to create something as close to a Broadway experience as it is possible to do. Professional set design and construction, lavish costumes, special effects, original music, the Guthrie script, additional sound equipment, snow, fog and a stellar cast are some of the many moving parts that combine together to bring joy to our patrons at this special time of the year. We hope that you and your family leave the theater today with a warmth in your hearts and a feeling that this was a wonderful start to your family Christmas season. Each year we will add even more from both the technical and artistic perspectives so that the production just keeps getting better and better. Perhaps next year you will either return to develop this new family tradition and involve even more of your friends and relatives or you may be inspired to audition and take part in the show.

We are a community theatre and we actively encourage everyone in our community to become involved with us either onstage, backstage, front of house, scenery shop, costume shop and dozens of other volunteer opportunities. Please don't hold back, everyone is welcome.

As our mission statement says: "We strive to create exceptional theatre through education, accessibility, inclusivity, and collaboration to enrich our community". On behalf of the Staff and the Board of The Premiere Playhouse let me wish you all a Healthy and Happy Christmas.

Robin Byrne

Executive & Artistic Director



About The Show

ABOUT CRISPIN WHITTELL

Crispin was born in Kenya and was educated at Cambridge University.

Previous plays include: *Clever Dick* (Hampstead Theatre), *Happy Valley* (Liverpool Everyman), and *Killing Him* (Edinburgh Festival), all of which he directed. Other plays include: *Party Tricks* (Nottingham Playhouse) and *Darwin In Malibu*, which premiered at Birmingham Repertory Theatre and was nominated for a TMA Award for Best New Play. He also translated Rafael Spregelburd's play *Stupidity* for the National Theatre Studio.

TV work includes: *Happy Birthday*, which was directed by Helen Mirren for Showtime, and *Hot Dog*, a short film which Crispin directed for PLAY UK. Also, as a director: *Coming Up* (Channel 4), and *Twisted Tales* (BBC).

COURTESY POLICY

- Audio/Video taping and photography of this production is strictly forbidden.
- Please turn off or silence all electronic devices.
- Please make sure that when you parked your car, you paid attention to all posted warnings. If you do not adhere to the posted warnings, your car may be towed at your own expense.
- Enjoy the show and please help spread the news about this production. Share with others on Facebook and Twitter. Please include #HeyPremiere in your tweet!

MERCHANDISE

We will have limited edition merchandise available for our inaugural performances of *A Christmas Carol*. Items will be available at our merch table as well as our online store at:

www.thepremiereplayhouse.com

Director's Note



I'm sure we all have our favorite *A Christmas Carol*, whether it is the Alistair Sim film version, a radio play version, or even the Muppet's take on this fabulous Christmas perennial. Our sincere hope is that this newer version (originally from the Guthrie Theater) will also become one of your favorites.

When I first read it, the sense of humor mixed with compassion for this troubled man truly stood out. There were also plot and character elements that I had never seen before, all of which enticed me into directing it. Then the daunting weight of doing a show with about fifty-four cast members, a staff of over ten, and a huge technical support team became apparent. Lucky for me (and hopefully for you as well) this production succeeds on the shoulders of a phenomenal group of people (designers, builders, volunteers, and parents) who have dedicated much of their lives over the last three months to the goal of making this the best *A Christmas Carol* possible.

If we have succeeded, I hope to see you back here next year to celebrate a new family holiday tradition with us. Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to you all. And as Tiny Tim would say...well, I'm sure you know what he would say!

Lary B. Etten

Director



Cast

| | |
|---|---|
| Ebenezer Scrooge | Tom Roberts |
| Tiny Tim | Wyatt Cooper |
| Ghost of Jacob Marley | Rick Weiland |
| Ghost of Christmas Past | Lezlee Parker |
| Ghost of Christmas Present | Matthew Walicke |
| Ghost of Christmas Future/Dick Wilkins/Belle's Future Huband | Joshua Sauer |
| Bob Cratchit | Bart Workman |
| Mrs. Cratchit | Ashley (Annie) Laird-Blau |
| Peter Cratchit | Christian Heiberger |
| Martha Cratchit | Marisa Moser |
| Belinda Cratchit | Hanalei Barrett |
| Merriweather | Nancy Henrichsen |
| Carol Singers | Amanda McMillan, Emma Taylor, Mary Pierce, Mike Kutter, Phil Kappen, Rod Pierce |
| Bunty/Ensemble | Lyn Mock |
| Bumble/Ensemble | Nancy Fees |
| Beggar Boy | Jaxson Boen |
| Youngest Ebenezer Scrooge | Perrin Boraas-Getman |
| Mr. Sykes | Phil Kappen |
| Old Fezziwig | Rick Huffman |
| Mrs. Fezziwig | Lisa Barlow-Kutter |
| Young Ebenezer Scrooge | Pierce Humke |

Cast



| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Belle | Stacie Soderstrom |
| Fred | Jon Buchanan |
| Kitty/Ensemble | Amy Gage |
| Jane/Ensemble | India Johnson |
| Sally/Ensemble | Alexandria Mathews |
| Mabel/Ensemble | Mo Hurley |
| Vicar Polkinghorne | Rod Pierce |
| Mrs. Polkinghorne | Mary Pierce |
| Topper/Ali Baba/Ensemble | Tristan Chasing Hawk |
| Old Joe | J.A. Murphy |
| Mrs. Dilber | Kimberlee Stroud |
| George/Ensemble | Dan Davis |
| Mr. Wimple | Thomas Andrew Simmons |
| Mrs. Wimple/Ensemble | Emily Glatt |
| Want/Ensemble | Jaye Olszewski |
| Ignorance/Ensemble | Penelope Kustak |
| Young Fanny | Malia Buchanan |
| Dora Fezziwig | Emma Taylor |
| Deirdre Fezziwig | Morgan Moritz |
| Daisy Fezziwig/Ensemble | Samantha Hendriks |
| David/Ensemble | Joshua Allen |
| Daniel/Ensemble | Shawn Shannon II |



Cast

| | |
|---|--|
| Donald/Ensemble | Jackson Heiberger |
| Mr. Bull/Ensemble | Paavo Rasmussen |
| Mr. Bear/Ensemble | Sean Mueller |
| Mr. Bones/Parrot | Casey Kustak |
| Urchins/Students/Child Of London | Collin Tebben, Emerson Newcomb Weiland, Leif J. Moritz, Lisa Glatt, Sophia Fette |
| U/S Ebenezer Scrooge | Mike Kutter |



Production

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Assistant Director/Ghost Puppet Advisor | Nancy Fees |
| Assistant Stage Managers | Luke Salerno Sadie Mickelson |
| Dialect Coach | Terry Zerfas |
| Assistant Scenic Designer | Jill Clark |
| Assistant Costume Designer | Janet Liesinger |
| Design Assistant | Teddy McMahon |
| Hair & Makeup Assistant | Alexondrea Thong Vanh |
| Technical Coordinator | Shawn Shannon II |
| Projections | Gavin Wigg |
| Props Master | Luke Salerno |
| Ghost Makeup Artist | Rebecca Swift |

Crew



| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Light Board Operator | Mercedes Arnett |
| Sound Board Operator | Maddie Lukomski |
| Run Crew | Alli Goeller, Aurora Frobes, Ayden Gage, Beckett Kustak, Debra Piper, Emily Piper, Nicole Fette, Rebekah Kane, Joe Fette, Tina Gonzalez Vega |
| Dressers | Ann Henkhaus, Teddy McMahon |
| Fly Rail Operators | Ayden Gage, Katelyn Boyd |
| Audio Crew | Abby Kustak, Beth Kniep |
| Child Helpers | Annie Wingen, Mateja Barrett, Sara Tebben |
| Stitchers | Ann Henkhaus, Donna Dexter, Ellie Olson, Janet Liesinger, Kendra Dexter, Lindsay Lindaman, Melissa Maher, Teddy McMahon, Scott Nelson |
| Prop Carpenters | Tad Lacey Tod Nelson, Tristan Love |
| Ghost Puppet Carpenters | Joshua Sauer, Shawn Shannon II |

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Meet The Cast



Alexandria Mathews / *Sally, Ensemble*

Alexandria is making her debut on the Orpheum stage and she is honored to be part of such a talented cast. Alex is a full-time student and volunteers at Sanford Children's Hospital. While not studying or rehearsing she enjoys all things food & wine related, singing, spending time with family, and reacquainting herself with Sioux Falls after being away for so long.



Amanda McMillan / *Carol Singer*

Amanda is delighted to return to the stage for her second community theater acting production, previously performing as the Enchantress in *Beauty and the Beast*. She is honored to share the stage with such an immensely talented cast. In her spare time she enjoys reading, running, skiing, paddle boarding, and playing with her cat. You can find her acting as a character performer regularly for Simply Ever After Entertainment.



Amy Gage / *Kitty, Ensemble*

Amy is thrilled to be returning to the stage with The Premiere Playhouse. You may recognize her from: *It's a Wonderful Life* (Sally Applewhite), *Beauty and the Beast* (Mrs. Potts), and *Footloose* (Vi Moore). When Amy isn't busy with family or theatre endeavors she is a Nurse Case Manager. Amy is excited to share the stage with this talented group of performers! Also deserving of a standing ovation is her husband, Matt and their 5 children - Ally, Ashleigh, Ayden, Anderson, & Archer. Without their love and support none of this would be possible. Now sit back and enjoy this EPIC show!



Ashley (Annie) Laird-Blau / *Mrs. Cratchit*

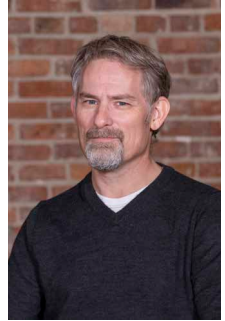
Ashley, better known as Annie, is excited to return to the stage. She thoroughly enjoyed performing in *Beauty and the Beast*, which reignited her passion for theater. Annie loves losing herself in a story—either one she is reading, writing, or reenacting—and she is so grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this incredible classic! When she is not acting, Annie is typically reprising her role at home as a forgetful and fun-loving mom/step-mom to seven active and imaginative children. She would like to thank those same children for putting up with her British accent over the last two months, and her husband Nicholas, for his constant love and support, and for reminding her how beautiful life can be.

Meet The Cast



Bart Workman / *Bob Cratchit*

Bart has been a veteran of local theatre productions for over three decades. He returns to the Orpheum stage after a seven-year hiatus. He was last seen as George in *Of Mice and Men*. He fell in love with *A Christmas Carol* when he played Scrooge in 1989 at the old Washington High School. Bart has been blessed to be married to his beloved bride Barbara for over 25 years. He is the proud father of Rachael and Dean. Bart is an IT Analyst at Citibank where he has worked for over 31 years.



Casey Kustak / *Mr. Bones, Parrot*

Casey is performing in his second show with The Premiere Playhouse. You may remember this dashing handsome man as LeFou in *Beauty and the Beast*. Casey is a stand up comic and has performed all over the U.S. He is excited to take the stage with his youngest daughter, Penelope! He is incredibly grateful for the love and support from his daughters and amazing wife, Abby as well. Enjoy the show everyone! Except Steve, I hope you suffer.



Christian Heiberger / *Peter Cratchit*

Christian is an actor from Sioux Falls who is excited to perform with his friends again. His recent theatre credits consist of *Mamma Mia!* in 2019, *Lend Me Tenor* in early 2020, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Footloose* this year at the Orpheum, and most recently *Accomplice* at Olde Towne Dinner Theatre in Worthing. When he's not performing, Christian works full time at the Glory House of Sioux Falls. His hobbies include performing on stage, free hand climbing at Falls Park, biking, parkour, game nights with friends or family and baking for his friends and coworkers.



Collin Tebben / *Urchin, Student, Child of London*

Collin is thrilled to be back on stage at The Premiere Playhouse. Previously Collin made his Premiere Playhouse debut in *Singing in the Rain Jr.* Collin is nine years old and attends Adventure Elementary in the Harrisburg School District. He enjoys reading, playing video games, drawing, playing soccer, and acting. Collin would like to thank the cast and crew of *A Christmas Carol* for making this an awesome experience.





Meet The Cast



Dan Davis / *George, Ensemble*

Dan is making his way back on stage after 28 years. His previous works include *Greater Tuna*, *Guys & Dolls*, and *A Bad Day at Gopher's Breath*. Dan studied acting and play production while attending East High School in Sioux City, Iowa. In his sophomore year, Dan lettered in drama for his accomplishments in theater and mime competition. From 2006 to 2013, Dan took to the stage as a stand up comedian; but his true passion is his family. He and Rita have been married for nearly 22 years and are raising one child.



Emerson Newcomb Weiland *Urchin, Student, Child of London*

Emerson is a 3rd grader at Susan B. Anthony Elementary. Emerson is no stranger to the stage, as this is her second theatre performance. Never at a loss for words, Emerson frequently sings, recites lines from her favorite books and movies, and challenges the status quo with critical questions. In her spare time, Emerson loves to skateboard, draw, play with her two corgis Palmer and Killer Bob, and cuddle her baby sister Juliet. She is the daughter of Samantha Chapman and Carter Newcomb Weiland.



Emily Glatt / *Mrs. Wimple, Ensemble*

Emily is excited to join the Premiere Playhouse in her very first community theater production. The last time she was on stage was as a middle schooler, playing *Oliver Twist* at age 11 and *Snow White* at age 14! Now at the tender age of 50 she has returned to the stage! Ms. Glatt is honored to share the stage with such a joy-filled and talented cast. A registered nurse by day, she has enjoyed the thematic aspects of Dickens' beloved *A Christmas Carol*, including the difficulties and health disparities faced by impoverished families during the 1800's. This beautiful story touches on themes of loneliness and isolation but also on redemption and the true meaning of Christmas-time. Emily is pleased to share the stage with her daughter, Lisa.



Emma Taylor / *Carol Singer, Dora Fezziwig*

Emma is so excited for her first performance with the Premiere Playhouse! Emma is a senior in high school at Sioux Falls Lutheran. She performed in her school's very first musical production, *The Wizard of Oz* (Cowardly Lion), and has also been in productions with DAPA at the Washington Pavilion. Emma is so happy to be singing and dancing onstage with so many other talented actors, and is thankful to her fellow cast members and family for this opportunity.

Meet The Cast



Hanalei Barrett / *Belinda Cratchit*

Hanalei is glad to be back for her second show with The Premiere Playhouse. Previously she played the ensemble characters The Grey Stuff and Village Child in *Beauty and the Beast*. She is thrilled to be cast as the youngest Cratchit child, Belinda, in *A Christmas Carol* considering that off stage she is a big sister to Ardiana, Hosea and Selah. When she is not playing jokes on her father and mother she enjoys making music. Hanalei loves to read and is honored to be a part of this Charles Dickens' classic with her theater friends.



India Johnson / *Jane, Ensemble*

India is happy to be back performing at The Premiere Playhouse, with her last performance being in *Blood Brothers*. When she's not on stage, India loves to draw, write songs, collect Legos, and make silly TikToks. India currently isn't going to college, but in the meantime, she wants to do plenty of theatre. She'd like to thank all of her friends that she's met from performing, because they've been the best support and motivation.



J.A. Murphy / *Old Joe*

J.A. Murphy, to whom most people refer simply as "Murphy", has been doing every sort of theatre imaginable since he was about 5 years old, which was shortly after the invention of dirt. Favourite roles: Norman in *On Golden Pond*, Lucien in *The Boys Next Door* and Voltaire as narrator for SD Symphony Orchestra's opera *Candide*, among many. Want to know more? Ask him!

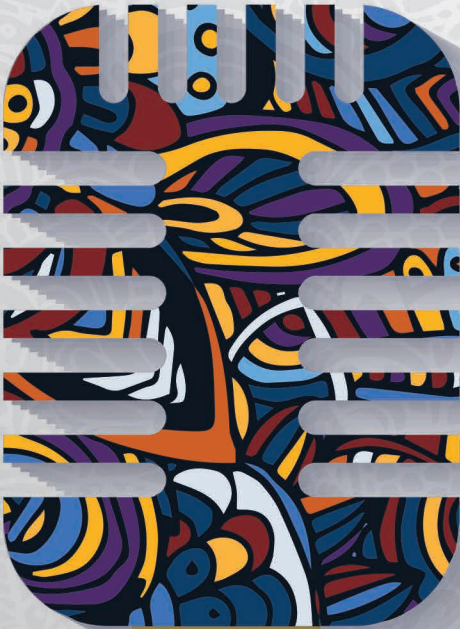


Jackson Heiberger / *Donald, Ensemble*

Jackson is excited to return to the Premiere Playhouse stage! You may remember him recently in *Blood Brothers* (Sammy) and *Footloose* (Lyle), or even in 2019's *Mamma Mia!* (Ensemble). When he's not performing, Jackson can be found working overnights at the Glory House, or enjoying some books, video games, or playing piano in his free time. Jackson would like to thank all his friends and family for the support they continue to give him in his theatre endeavours. Love you all!



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Meet The Cast



Jaxson Boen / *Beggar Boy*

Jaxson is a 3rd grader at Robert Bennis in Brandon. This is his first ever performance and has quickly found a passion for theater. Jaxson just loves his part because he thinks it's "hilarious!". He is very proud to be performing at the Orpheum Theater. In his free time, Jax loves to read, play piano, hang out with family and friends, and play video games. Everyone is so excited for him! He is the son of Dan and Jen.



Jaye Olszewski / *Want, Ensemble*

Jaye is a 6th Grader at Sioux Falls Lutheran School. This is her first Premiere Playhouse production and she is loving the experience! Jaye has been in multiple plays including *The Frog Prince*, *The Wizard of Oz* & *Annie*. Besides acting, she also enjoys church, cheer, singing, & playing the guitar. She would like to thank her family, her teacher Mr. Raaen and everyone in the production for being so welcoming!



Jon Buchanan / *Fred*

Jon first played Wayne in a truly horrible church original play combining Wayne's World with Mother Goose (don't ask). He then took a 30 year hiatus from acting, springing back to the stage as Elvis in *Lost in Vegas* and Cogsworth in SECT's *Beauty and the Beast*. He loves acting with his children and is delighted to share the stage with his daughter, Malia, who (ironically) plays his mother, Fanny in the show. Don't look too deep into that family tree! He cherishes 4 fabulous children and a stunningly beautiful, (and very patient) wife.



Joshua Allen / *David, Ensemble*

Joshua is excited to return to the stage for The Premiere Playhouse's second show! After having a fantastic experience with *Blood Brothers* he is enjoying a very different experience working with such a large cast. When not on stage you will find him at the gym, playing board games with lons, or running a *Dungeons and Dragons* game for some close friends. Enjoy this classic tale recounted in such a fun fashion!

Meet The Cast



Joshua Sauer / *Dick Wilkins, Belle's Future Husband, The Ghost of Christmas Future, Ghost Puppet Carpenter*

Joshua is beyond enthusiastic to be a part of the Premiere Playhouse's production of *A Christmas Carol*! Even more so to finally be playing a long time dream role of his: The Ghost of Christmas Future, where he can continue to use his skills of scaring that he learned while volunteering at Jaycee's Haunted House, as well as working at Universal Orlando's Halloween Horror Nights. Joshua is also happy to be growing his theatre family, with an astounding cast of over 50 fellow actors! He also hopes that you enjoy yourselves this holiday season, and that you always carry the spirit(s) of Christmas in your heart!



Kimberlee Stroud / *Mrs. Dilber*

Kimberlee is delighted to be taking the Orpheum stage once again. This is her second season with a production of *A Christmas Carol*. She has been acting since age 13 and recently she has been doing radio commercials and voice overs. She will tell you little trumps about stepping on stage and being part of the Sioux Falls acting community. When not performing she loves spending time with her family. Kimberlee and her husband, Chuck, have three grown children and two grandchildren. She works as an Administrative Assistant and Restoration to Competency Trainer through the Minnehaha Co. Jail at MWI Health.



Leif J. Moritz / *Urchin, Student, Child of London*

Leif is excited to debut in his first production with The Premiere Playhouse. He is currently a third grader at Garretson Elementary and spends his free time leveling up his video game skills, ninja warrior training, playing imaginative games, and cuddling his cats. Leif thanks his sister Morgan for pulling him into acting and for driving him everywhere.



Lezlee Parker / *Ghost of Christmas Past*

Lezlee is making her Sioux Falls debut! She is a runway and couture model with credits to Ito Curata and L'Oréal. Lezlee has worked in theater, and on feature films such as; "Wildflowers" and the Academy Award winning, "What Dreams May Come". She is honored to be working with this talented cast, crew and director, Lary Etten. When not in front of the camera, Lezlee's passion is cooking, writing her cookbook and winning the 2016 Taste of Home Grand Prize for her original recipe. Special Thanks to The Premiere Playhouse for this amazing opportunity!





Meet The Cast



Lisa Barlow-Kutter / Mrs. Fezziwig

Lisa is honored to play Mrs. Fezziwig and share the stage once again with her husband, Mike, also with Rick Huffman to reprise their stage marriage from *Les Miserables*. (Thenardiars) She was last seen in *Tuesdays with Morrie* and *Steel Magnolias* (Clairee) among other playhouse and regional productions over the years. She has taken part in the Spirit of Christmas with the SD Symphony for 2 years and is currently in a reality TV show on the Pursuit channel as well as filming an independent film. She is a retired RN with 2 adult sons who are also active in theater and too many pets to mention. Happy Holidays and Don't Let Anyone Dull Your Sparkle!



Lisa Glatt / Urchin, Student, Child of London

Lisa is thrilled to be back on stage at the Orpheum. Her previous performances include *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Lion King* and *Madagascar*. She is currently a seventh grader at Bishop O'Gorman Junior High. Her other hobbies include running cross country and playing volleyball for the O'Gorman Knights and participating in show choir at school. Lisa is pleased to share the stage with her mom, Emily for their first time together! She and her mom hope to make *A Christmas Carol* a lasting family tradition.



Lyn Mock / Bunty, Ensemble

Lyn is returning to the stage in her third performance with The Premiere Playhouse as Bunty; a proper yet sassy Londoner. Lyn isn't always proper in real life, but she has the sassy part down in spades. She was also in *Beauty & the Beast* (Narrator) and *Oliver* (Mrs. Bedwin) as well as an ensemble member for *Lost in Vegas* 2020. When not on stage, she can be found in her many flower and vegetable gardens or singing at church with her fellow praise team members at Peace Lutheran church. She is a Branch Office Administrator for Edward Jones by day and enjoys the outdoors whenever possible. She would like to thank her husband and family for always supporting her in her theatre ventures. She hopes you enjoy this feel good Christmas classic and remember to always keep the spirit of Christmas alive in your heart.



Malia Buchanan / Young Fanny

Malia is excited to be in her fifth play. Previously she was an orphan village girl in *Beauty and the Beast* with SECT, part of the chorus in *Lost in Vegas* with Lights Up! productions, an orphan in *Oliver!* with SECT, and an orphan in *Annie Jr.* with DAPA. She is delighted to be in the show, as it is her first time with spoken lines in a play! She loves the cast, especially the bloke playing Fred, and is very excited for the show to come together! Malia is excited to be something other than an orphan as she has been parentless in three of the last four plays. She would like to thank her friends and directors in this production.

Meet The Cast



Marisa Moser / *Martha Cratchit*

Marisa is excited to return to The Premiere Playhouse stage. Her recent work includes Linda in The Premiere Playhouse's inaugural production *Blood Brothers*, Mud Eyes in *10 Years: A Climate Change Play*, and Florence Unger in *The Odd Couple: Female Version*. She is a graduate of King's College London and Stewart School, and the recipient of the 2021 Sioux Falls Stage Award for Best Actress in a Play or Musical, for Sioux Empire Community Theatre's *It's A Wonderful Life* (Lana Sherwood/Violet Bick/Ernie). Marisa would like to thank the community for their continuing support of the arts in Sioux Falls, and her directors, castmates, and crewmates past and present, for their support, guidance, knowledge, and friendship.



Mary Pierce / *Carol Singer, Mrs. Polkinghorne*

Mary is a founding member of The Premiere Playhouse (formerly SECT). She played Sister Sophia in *The Sound Of Music*, with two of her children, who played Friedrich and Brigitta von Trapp. She played her favorite role, Jennie Mae (*The Diviners*), twice, first at the Sioux Falls Community Playhouse and two years later at the Chimera Theatre in Minneapolis, MN. This is the first time Mary has appeared on stage with her husband, Rod, since they were dating, more than 38 years ago. Mary is a longtime member of the St. Joseph Cathedral choir.



Matthew Walicke / *Arranger, Composer, Music Director, Ghost of Christmas Present*

Matthew is thrilled to be working on this incredible show, as a member of the production team and the cast. He is an active composer and arranger with works available through several major publishers and, recently, he was arranger/music director for the original theatrical production *Heaven to Heaven*. Matthew has been music director for numerous local shows including *Sweeney Todd*, *Rent*, and *Les Miserables* with SECT, as well as *9 to 5* and *Nunsense* at the Olde Towne Dinner Theater in Worthing. As an actor, Matthew recently played Tevye in SECT's production of *Fiddler on the Roof* and Trekkie Monster in *Avenue Q*. Matthew is in his 12th year as Director of Music at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, and enjoys spending time with his wife Tasondra, his children Evan and Abi, and their dogs Arya and Rocko.



Michael Kutter / *Carol Singer, Ensemble, U/S Ebenezer Scrooge*

Michael feels blessed to have had so many opportunities with The Premiere Playhouse both on the stage and behind the scenes. You may have seen him on stage playing opposite his wife in several productions including *The Sowerberrys in Oliver* or The Pontifers in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Other roles they have played together include Mr. Hart and Violet in *9 to 5*, and Guardian Angels in *SUDS* both at the Olde Town Dinner Theater in Worthing. They have shared the stage on many other occasions including performances with the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra in *Tis the Season* and *Candide* and participated in the Pettigrew Murder Mysteries, Woodlawn Lantern Tours and *Broadway and Beyond*. His favorite roles were Judge Turpin in *Sweeney Todd* and Morrie in *Tuesdays with Morrie*, both under the direction of Lary Etten. Michael wishes to thank his family and all of those who encouraged and supported his love for theatre and music through the years.





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Meet The Cast



Mo Hurley / *Mabel, Ensemble*

Mo is excited for *A Christmas Carol* to be her fifth show on the Orpheum stage. She has previously appeared in *Footloose* (Ensemble), *The Odd Couple* (Vera), *Lend Me a Tenor* (Maggie Saunders), and *The Great Gatsby* (Michaelis, dancer). She has also performed with the Mighty Corson Art Players in their production of *A Christmas Carol: A Live Radio Play* (Sally Applewhite). Mo works at the Sanford Cancer Center as the survivorship program coordinator.



Morgan Moritz / *Deirdre Fezziwig*

Morgan has been singing, acting, and dancing her entire life. Her most recent credits include Mayor Coffee in *Pony Espresso* and Narrator I in *Brother's Grimm Spectaculathon*, and The Premiere Playhouse's (SECT) renditions of *Peter Pan* and *Seussical the Musical*, among others. She has also been Assistant Choreographer for Arts & Mentoring Project's *Moana, Jr.* and *Lion King, Jr.* as well as a camp counselor for The Premiere Playhouse. She is a senior at Garretson High School and is grateful her parents put up with her expensive hobbies.



Nancy Fees / *Bumble, Ensemble, Assistant Director, Ghost Puppet Advisor*

Nancy has been volunteering at Sioux Falls community theaters for more than 20 years. She has directed, assistant directed, stage managed, ran everything tech-wise that there is and acted on stage. Nancy has worked at the original Sioux Falls Playhouse, Sioux Empire Community Theater and now the Premiere Playhouse. She has also worked with the Mighty Corson Art Players, Worthing Dinner Theater and the South Dakota Symphony. Nancy loves to sing and will shortly go back to her First Congregational Church choir. It's great to be back at the Orpheum and she thanks her honey, Arnie, for putting up with her crazy schedule.



Nancy Henrichsen / *Merriweather*

Nancy is well acquainted with more than a dozen members of the cast, having appeared with them on many stages in the surrounding area. The role she holds most dear is that of co-director of the Patrick Henry Middle School annual spring musical for the past 20+ years. She sends her thanks and love to husband Todd Smith and her children for their support through the years.

Meet The Cast



Paavo Rasmussen / *Mr. Bull, Ensemble*

Paavo hasn't trod the boards for six years at the Orpheum Theater for SECT/Premiere Playhouse. You may remember him from such shows as *Grease*, *Spamalot*, *Cabaret*, or *The Odd Couple*. He is delighted to be back, especially with such a talented group of people. Paavo has been an educator with the Siouxland Heritage Museums for over ten years. He writes, directs and acts in the Museums' yearly productions *Voices from our Past*; *Woodlawn* by Lantern and the *Pettigrew Murder Mystery*. Paavo sends his love to his family Heather, Oliver and Iain.



Penelope Kustak / *Ignorance, Ensemble*

Penelope is making her debut with The Premiere Playhouse! It's almost as if the part of *Ignorance* was made for her! Penelope is an avid animal lover, having 2 dogs, a guinea pig and tries to make squirrels her friend when she isn't competing in *Ninja Warrior* competitions. She is so excited to be on stage with her dad and cannot begin to thank her mom and sister for all the love, hugs and support. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Perrin Boraas-Getman / *Youngest Ebenezer Scrooge*

Perrin is thrilled to be in his first Premiere Playhouse main stage production! Previous roles include Patch in *101 Dalmatians* and Big Mike in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*. Perrin would like to thank his parents, siblings, and his grandparents for all the love and support!



Phil Kappen / *Carol Singer, Mr. Sykes*

Phil is a long-time fixture in the Sioux Falls theater scene, and he is thrilled to be sharing the stage with such a wonderful cast. Among Phil's favorite Premiere Playhouse/ SECT roles have been Seymour Krelborn in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Froggy LeSueur in *Foreigner*, Arthur in *On Tidy Endings*, Eddie in *A View from the Bridge*, Michael Wells in *Two Rooms*, the Emcee in *Cabaret*, and Patsy in *Spamalot*. He was also in SECT's company for *Sweeney Todd* and has toured in the one-man show *Bully: An Adventure with Teddy Roosevelt*. Phil and his wife Diana live in Sioux Falls where they met on the playhouse stage.





Meet The Cast



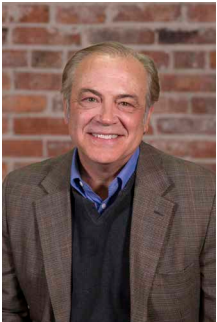
Pierce Humke / *Young Ebenezer Scrooge*

Pierce is über thrilled to be a part of this production of *A Christmas Carol*! It is a timeless tale with an excellent message and a great reminder to reflect. The Premiere Playhouse is doing fantastic work in the community, and it is very exciting to see such development. There are a number of local organizations which are enthusiastic about acceptance, education, and arts, and offer numerous ways to be involved. Pierce says "I am lucky to be surrounded by incredible talent, (com)passion, creativity, and kindness, and to be inspired by all of it."



Rick Huffman / *Old Fezziwig*

Rick has appeared in many local productions over the past three decades. His roles have included Bill Austin in *Mamma Mia!*; Thenardier in *Les Miserables*; Daddy Warbucks in *Annie*; Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*; Macbeth in *Macbeth*; Teyve in *Fiddler on the Roof*; Petruccio in *Taming of the Shrew*; and Toad in *A Year with Frog and Toad*. Rick is Director of Sponsorship Sales at Denny Sanford Premier Center and is the proud dad of his amazing daughter Isabelle.



Rick Weiland / *Ghost of Jacob Marley*

Rick is excited to be sharing the stage with his grand-daughter Emerson Newcomb-Weiland and the rest of a very talented cast and crew. A lover of the arts and in particular, live theatre, Rick was last seen on the Orpheum stage as Pontius Pilate in *Jesus Christ Superstar* in 2016, and Bert Barricune in *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* in 2017. Rick is enjoying his role as Jacob Marley in this inaugural production of a ten-year run of *A Christmas Carol*. He gets to act scary and remind us of the business of mankind: "The common good was my business. Charity, mercy, forbearance, benevolence. This was my business." Rick also serves as the President of The Premiere Playhouse Board of Directors.



Rod Pierce / *Carol Singer, Vicar Polkinghorne*

is a founding member of The Premiere Playhouse (formerly SECT). Roles include Billy Flynn (*Chicago*) and Beadle (*Sweeney Todd*). He has worked professionally with Chanhassen Dinner Theaters, Old Log, Illusion Theater, and the Minnesota Opera, among others. Favorite roles include Starbuck (*The Rainmaker*), Pat (*State Fair*), Billy Flynn (*Chicago*), and Jesus (*Jesus Christ Super Star*). He served on the Sioux Falls Visual Arts Commission, is a charter member of the St. Joseph Cathedral Men's Schola, and sings in the bluegrass band The Crabgrass Crew.

Meet The Cast



Samantha Hendriks / *Daisy Fezziwig, Ensemble*

Samantha is thrilled to be making her Premiere Playhouse debut. This is her first production in more than a decade. But you may have caught her in productions at Southwest Minnesota State University or the Pipestone Performing Arts Center. When not on stage, Samantha spends her days homeschooling her three beautiful kids. She would like to thank her husband Ryan and their children - Cameron, Micah, and Rowan - for encouraging her to come back to the stage. It has been such a joy to be a part of this stellar production.



Sean Mueller / *Mr. Bear, Ensemble*

is honored once again to be sharing the stage with so many talented individuals. This will be Sean's 3rd show since his return to the stage as Maurice in *Beauty & the Beast* and Uncle Wes Warnicker in *Footloose*. Sean is grateful for his family and friends and their ongoing support of his passion for the stage. He is humbled by the acceptance of The Premiere Playhouse (Jaz, Jesse, Luke etc.) and director Lary Etten for giving him the opportunity to continue pursuing his passion. Sean would also like to thank all of you! Without you, we couldn't do any of this. God bless us everyone!



Shawn Shannon II / *Daniel, Ensemble, Ghost Puppet Carpenter*

Shawn is thrilled to be back on stage with the Premiere Playhouse. His previous work includes the Premiere Playhouse's inaugural production of *Blood Brothers* (Mickey), Monstrous Little Theatre Company's *Melancholy Play* (Lorenzo), and Sioux Empire Community Theatre's *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Capt. Robert Falcon Scott) and *Oliver!* (Ensemble). He has also assisted with set construction, and load-in/load-outs on numerous shows in the past.



Sophia Fette / *Urchin, Student, Child of London*

Sophia is a 5th grader at JFK Elementary. She is excited to return to the stage. Sophia has acted in many plays with DAPA, and most recently as an ensemble character in the Premiere Playhouse's production of *Beauty and the Beast*. She has enjoyed growing her theater family with the Orpheum, and is excited to be part of this new Sioux Falls theater tradition. In her free time, Sophia loves to do crafts, draw, and play board games with her family. She is the daughter of Joe and Nicole Fette.





Meet The Cast



Stacie Soderstrom / Belle

Stacie is thrilled to be back on stage with the Premiere Playhouse! Her previous work includes the Sioux Empire Community Theatre's production of *Mamma Mia!* (Ensemble), Augustana Theatre Company's *Crimes of the Heart* (Chick), and Augustana Collaborative Theatrical Society's production of *Tartuffe* (Madame Pernelle). She is currently finishing her master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of South Dakota and will graduate this month - yay! Stacie would like to thank her family, specifically her mother and lovely roommates Joel, Patty, and Molly Eiesland, for all their love and support this past year!



Thomas Andrew Simmons / Mr. Wimple

Thomas most recently tread the Orpheum boards as Fagin in *Oliver!*, Alan in *God of Carnage*, Starbuck in *The Rainmaker*, and Milos in *A Funny Thing....* Other roles at the Orpheum include Stone in *City of Angels*, Elyot in *Private Lives*, Danny in *Grease*, and Judas/John in *Godspell*. Thomas would like to thank Dana, his fiancée, for putting up with his shenanigans anytime he is onstage.



Tom Roberts / Ebenezer Scrooge

Tom is the author of several books that he has written over the past 20 years as a way to raise awareness and support for the kids and families served by Children's Home Society of South Dakota. His books include, 'Twas The Night Before Christ; Santa's Prayer; The Little Lost Sock; Return To The Farm; The Greatest Gift; On That One Christmas Eve; Something About Christmas; and A New Norm. He and his wife, Tammy, have been married for nearly 45 years and he is a proud father and grandfather. Tom works as an events coordinator at Children's Home Society.



Tristan Chasing Hawk / Ali Baba, Topper, Ensemble

Tristan is enthused to combine two of his biggest loves (Christmas and theatre) in this amazing holiday production. You may have most recently seen him in The Premiere Playhouse's *Blood Brothers* production as *Narrator*. He will also be playing the role of George in Monstrous Little Theatre Company's *Stop/Kiss* this January. Tristan is a graduate from the University of South Dakota. When he isn't acting, Tristan enjoys coaching collegiate speech, working with Humanity Launch, and spending time with his family.

Meet The Cast



Wyatt Cooper / *Tiny Tim*

Wyatt is extremely honored to be joining The Premiere Playhouse's cast of *A Christmas Carol*. Wyatt is a sixth-grader at Ben Reifel Middle School. This is Wyatt's third appearance in a production for The Premiere Playhouse. Previously he has performed in *Oliver* and *Beauty and the Beast*. Wyatt would like to thank his mom Leslie, dad Brian, and his sister Ainsley for their love and support. He also thanks director Lary Etten for allowing him to enjoy this valuable experience.



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Meet The Crew



Lary B. Etten / *Director*

Lary was the original founding member of the Sioux Empire Community Theatre (now The Premiere Playhouse). Lary also performed as the Artistic Director for its first ten years, directing over twenty of the productions and designing most of their shows, including *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *The Crucible*, *Chicago*, *I Hate Hamlet*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Miracle Worker*, *Annie*, *Sweeney Todd (the Demon Barber of Fleet Street)* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Since leaving SECT, Lary has directed a number of local productions, among them: *The Fantasticks* (Green Earth Players), the award-winning *Waiting for the Parade* (Mighty Corson Art Players), and both *La Boheme* and *Candide* for the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra, as well as the recent SECT production of *Tuesdays with Morrie*. Lary also works regularly in local media and video production as both a director and producer, and enjoys the amazing support of his wonderful wife Sue.



Jazlynne Williams / *Stage & Production Manager*

Jazlynne is ecstatic to be a part of the first year of what will be an annual holiday tradition! This show has been the greatest challenge for her, but she is grateful for all the support she has received. Jazlynne is honored to be a part of making the magic you see on stage happen. She works full time as the Stage Manager for The Premiere Playhouse, and proudly holds a BFA in Stage Management from the University of Central Florida in Orlando. Thank you for coming, and BAH HUMBUG!

www.jazlynnewilliams.com



Luke Salerno / *Assistant Stage Manager, Props Master*

Luke is excited to be working on the Premiere Playhouse's inaugural production of *A Christmas Carol*! Luke graduated from the University of Central Florida in 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theatre Studies. Luke's previous roles backstage and onstage include *Blood Brothers*, *Footloose*, *Beauty and The Beast*, *A Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder*, and *Titanic*. Luke would like to thank his family, his loving girlfriend, Jazlynne, and his fellow cast and crew members as they begin this new holiday tradition!



Sadie Mickelson / *Assistant Stage Manager*

Sadie is so excited to be working on such an amazing show as *A Christmas Carol*. She has been doing theatre her entire life and plans on continuing it into adulthood and her career. She wants to thank everyone at The Premiere Playhouse for this amazing opportunity as well as her friends and family for always supporting her!

Meet The Crew



Bekki Kniep / *Hair & Makeup Designer*

Bekki is thrilled to be a part of *A Christmas Carol* with The Premiere Playhouse! Having performed several shows with the Playhouse previously (*Mamma Mia*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Footloose*, and most recently *Blood Brothers*), Bekki is excited to be on the crew side of this production and looks forward to sharing her love of hair and makeup with all of you! Many thanks to The Premiere Playhouse for the opportunity to try something new, and to our audiences who keep our productions alive!

Corey Shelsta / *Lighting Designer*

Corey is a Professor of Theatre at South Dakota State University. He designs lighting, scenery and sound for productions at SDSU as well as other theatres in the region. He teaches courses in design and technical production, and has been known to teach theatre history from time to time as well. His interests include incorporating digital technology and virtual reality simulations in the classroom and the stage. During the summer, Corey is the production manager for Prairie Repertory Theatre. When he is not teaching, designing or mentoring student designers, he can be found getting his fingers tangled up in guitar and banjo strings.

Jesse Jensen / *Community & Development Coordinator*

Jesse made his Premiere Playhouse acting debut in the 2018 production of *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Black Stache) after previously directing *Beauty & the Beast Jr.*, *God of Carnage*, and *Of Mice and Men*. Jesse brings years of experience in both professional theatre and children's productions having worked with Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Raven Theatre Company, and Piven Theatre Workshop in Chicago, IL; and City Circle in Iowa City. His wife, Melissa, is a physician at Sanford Children's Hospital in Sioux Falls and the two have three children - Prentice, Maddux, and Camden. Jesse graduated with a BFA in Acting from the University of South Dakota.

Kendra Dexter / *Costume Designer*

Kendra is the owner of Designs By Dexter, and has made everything from wedding gowns to Irish dance costumes. Her recent achievements include work on a short film project and an American College Theater Festival Award for her design work on *Much Ado About Nothing* (Fall 2016) at the University of Sioux Falls. Kendra runs her business and is the Costume Director for the University of Sioux Falls and O'Gorman High School. Kendra has costumed more than 75 shows in South Dakota, several of which were right here at The Premiere Playhouse. A new recipient of her Master's in Theater from Regent University, Kendra Dexter is thrilled to bring new skills to the Premiere Playhouse during *A Christmas Carol*.

Janet Liesinger / *Assistant Costume Designer*

Janet is happy to share her talents and love of theatre during retirement. Janet has helped with costume work for theatre productions all over Sioux Falls since the late 80's. Her contributions to the community will be showcased during *A Christmas Carol*, a favorite for Janet. When not sewing costumes, she loves to spend time with her husband of 43 years and her 5 grandchildren.



Meet The Crew

Magen Richeal / *Choreographer*

Magen is excited to be part of *A Christmas Carol*! She has done choreography for and been part of the ensemble cast for several Premiere Playhouse productions, including *Beauty and the Beast*, *Footloose*, and *Blood Brothers*. Magen is a graduate of USD, a dance instructor and studio owner, as well as a competitive cheerleading coach. She would like to thank all of the wonderful people of Premiere Playhouse for their shared love of music and theatre!

Malia Lukomski / *Sound Designer*

Malia is the Premiere Playhouse's Sound Designer for the 2021 - 2022 season. They made their design debut with *Footloose* and have worked with the Playhouse ever since. They are a graduate of Augustana University with degrees in Theatre and Media Studies (2020) and a graduate of the SALT Institute for Documentary Studies with a Graduate Certificate in Radio and Podcast Production. Currently, they are working as a field producer for iHeartMedia. For more information on their current and future endeavors, you can go to www.malialukomski.com.

Victor E. Shonk / *Scenic Designer*

Victor has been working as a professional freelance scenic designer since 1996. He has designed scenery for television, theatre, and opera in many states across the country including South Dakota, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, California, New York, Michigan, Colorado, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. Victor's work with The Premiere Playhouse has included designing the sets for *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Rock of Ages*. He is currently the Resident Scenic Designer/Associate Professor at the University of South Dakota and is a proud member of United Scenic Artists, Local 829.



Special Thanks

Brian Cooper – *Cast & Crew Headshots*

Dean Liesinger – *For the Tiny Tim leg brace*

Otis Priester – *For the Tiny Tim Coffin*

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