



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release Date: 11/06/2023

End Date: 12/24/2023

Harlequin's unique adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* returns to the State Theater

Olympia, WA – November 6, 2023 – Harlequin Productions presents Producing Artistic Director Aaron Lamb's adaptation of Charles Dickens's [*A Christmas Carol*](#), November 24 – December 24 at the State Theater in downtown Olympia, WA. Mr. Lamb will direct.

Hailed as the greatest ghost story ever told, we evolve Artistic Director Aaron Lamb's adaptation of Charles Dickens's timeless story of transformation, absolution, and grace, with new designs and effects for 2023. It's fresh yet familiar, like all your favorite Holiday traditions. Start your Yuletide season with some theatre magic!

What can audiences expect this year? While most of the script remains unchanged from the original 2021 version, which hews to the original Dickens novel (until it doesn't), Lamb's intention is to keep the production "fresh yet familiar" with annual updates. This year's version features an almost entirely new cast, with the notable exception of Terry Edward Moore, who returns as Ebenezer Scrooge. The production will introduce new costumes. And with renovation of the State Theater backstage now underway, audiences will also sense changes not just to the set, but to the house itself, which Director Aaron Lamb will be incorporating into the production.

Why A Christmas Carol?

Says Lamb, "*A Christmas Carol* has all the best elements of live theatre. The different things we can do with the same story are limitless; it's Shakespearean in that way. The ghost story lets us as a theater company flex our technical muscles and pull out the stops where we excel. The redemption story gives the actors the purest character arc in all of theater. So you may have seen it before, but I promise you've never seen this one. We *will* surprise you!"

Link to publicity photos here: <https://harlequinproductions.org/2023/11/04/a-christmas-carol-2023-publicity-photos/>

Link to the Christmas Carol 2023 show page here: <https://harlequinproductions.org/show/a-christmas-carol-4/>

Also of note: there is a 30% single ticket discount for this production currently running from September 29 – November 10, 2023.

Production Information

Aaron Lamb (*Adapter/Director*) is the Producing Artistic Director of Harlequin Productions. As Artistic Director, he has directed or music directed *Every Brilliant Thing*, *Falsettos*, *Hundred Days*, *This Flat Earth*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *A Christmas Carol 21/22*, *The Highest Tide*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol*, *Man of La Mancha*, *A Doll's House*, *Love and Information*, and *The 1940s Radio Hour*. In eleven seasons as an actor and guest director with Harlequin he also directed *I Am My Own Wife*, *Three Days of Rain*, *Ruthless!*, *August: Osage County*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Time Stands Still*, *Middletown*, and *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*. As an actor, he most recently appeared in the 2020 season, as Frederick Fellowes in *Noises Off*. Lamb has worked in Seattle for Village Theatre, Taproot Theatre, Book-It Repertory Theatre, and Seattle Shakespeare Company, and has worked regionally throughout the country. He holds an MFA in Acting from California State University, Fullerton, a BA from Washington State University, and is a member of the Actor's Equity Association.

Terry Edward Moore* (*Ebenezer Scrooge*) reprises his role from the last two years. He also played Sherlock in *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol*, and Scrooge in the 2020 audio production of *A Christmas Carol*. He has played Scrooge three times (and Marley once) at ACT in Seattle and has performed at most of the professional theaters in the Pacific Northwest, including Seattle Repertory Theater, Book-It, 5th Avenue, Intiman, the Village, Taproot, Seattle Children's, and Seattle Shakespeare. In his spare time, Terry is Producing Artistic Director of Thalia's Umbrella (thaliasumbrella.org) a small professional theater company in Seattle.

Also reprising their roles from past productions are **Xander Layden**, who will return in the role of Fred, and **Nathan Rice**, who played Bob Cratchit in 2021 and will return to the role this year. Other Harlequin veterans include **Teri Lee Thomas** (*The Women*), **Victoria Austin** (*The Revolutionists*), **Zoey Matthews** (*Fun Home*), and **Scott C. Brown** (8 previous credits including *To Kill a Mockingbird*). All other actors are celebrating their Harlequin debuts: **Samantha Chung**, **Izumi Huff**, **Larry "LJ" Bevan**, and **Ami "AJ" Matthews**.

WHAT: Harlequin Productions presents *A Christmas Carol*, based on the Dickens classic, adapted and directed by Aaron Lamb.

WHEN: November 24 – December 24, 2023

WHERE: State Theater, 202 4th Ave East, Olympia, WA 98501

TICKETS: Tickets are available online at harlequinproductions.org, by phone at **360-786-0151**, or in person **12-5:30 pm, Tuesday-Saturday at the Washington Center**, and **beginning 2 hours before performances at the State Theater**.

General admission tickets are \$57

Senior 60+/Military \$53

Student/Youths Under 25 \$33

Rush Tickets (half-hour prior to showtime) \$28.50; Teens/Under 20 \$5

SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE:

Opening Night: Friday, November 24 at 7:30 pm

Pay-What-You-Can: Three performances TBA prior to Opening

CATEGORY: Holiday

AGE RECOMMENDATION: All ages with guidance

CAST:

Terry Edward Moore*	<i>Ebenezer Scrooge</i>
Teri Lee Thomas	<i>Player 1 (Christmas Present, Others)</i>
Samantha Chung	<i>Player 2 (Christmas Past, Others)</i>
Nathan Rice	<i>Player 3 (Bob Cratchit, Others)</i>
Scott C. Brown	<i>Player 4 (Jacob Marley, Others)</i>
Victoria Austin	<i>Player 5 (Belle, Mrs. Cratchit, Others)</i>
Xander Layden	<i>Player 6 (Fred, Others)</i>
Izumi Huff	<i>Girl (Little Fan, Martha Cratchit, Others)</i>
Zoey Matthews	<i>Girl (Little Fan, Martha Cratchit, Others)</i>
Larry "LJ" Bevan	<i>Boy (Young Scrooge, Tiny Tim, Others)</i>
Ami "AJ" Matthews	<i>Boy (Young Scrooge, Tiny Tim, Others)</i>

* Indicates membership in the Actor's Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Harlequin Productions is a professional not-for-profit theater company in Olympia, WA. We seek to invigorate, educate, and empower our community and all people to feel more, think more, play more, and judge less through the mirror of real live theatre.

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