

# CHARLES DICKENS



A


# CHRISTMAS CAROL



ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY

## GEOFFREY SIMON BROWN

# 29 NOVEMBER – 29 DECEMBER, 2024

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# WELCOME



**A**s Theatre Calgary brings its 37th production of the holiday classic *A Christmas Carol* to the stage, I find myself reflecting on the story's timeless call for compassion, community, and change.

Written nearly two centuries ago, Dickens' tale reminds us that no matter the era, humanity's capacity for kindness and transformation remains one of its greatest strengths.

The story's themes of social responsibility and empathy have a special place in the heart of Calgary, a city known for its resilience, generosity, and community spirit. At the core of *A Christmas Carol* is the journey of Ebenezer Scrooge, a man whose heart has grown cold and isolated in pursuit of wealth. In the grip of his haunting realizations, Scrooge discovers the hollowness of life without love, family, or a sense of purpose beyond profit.

For today's audience, Scrooge's journey is a reminder for us to look inward and question what values drive our lives. In a world that often feels polarized, Dickens reminds us that each of us holds the power to make a difference – not only for ourselves but for those around us. As we gather in the Max Bell Theatre to share in this tale, may we be reminded that Calgary's strength lies in its people, as well as the city's stunning artists (who are sharing their unbeatable talents with you at this performance).

Let *A Christmas Carol* be both a celebration of our shared humanity, and a challenge to keep choosing kindness, generosity, and hope in a world that needs it now more than ever.

**- STAFFORD ARIMA**  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the spirit of reconciliation, Theatre Calgary acknowledges that we live, work and create on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Îyâxe Nakoda Nations, the Métis Nation of Alberta, Districts 5 & 6, and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta. They were the original occupants of this land and continue to be here to this day. Theatre Calgary is grateful to have the opportunity to present in this territory.

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We're proud to support  
Theatre Calgary and  
this year's performance  
of *A Christmas Carol*.

Happy Holidays from everyone at McCarthy Tétrault LLP.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- Cameras and audio/visual recording devices are not permitted in the theatre.
- Video and audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.
- We ask that you please refrain from using your cell phone, smart watch, or any other digital device, in any capacity, during the performance.
- Good theatre etiquette benefits everyone. Please do not talk or unwrap candies during the performance, remain in your seat until the curtain call is finished and the house lights have been turned on.
- Babies are not permitted in the theatre.
- We also offer relaxed performances. For more information, visit our website.
- Assisted listening devices for the hard of hearing are available at the coat check.
- For first aid assistance, see the house manager, or nearest usher.

## SAFETY AND COMFORT

- At Theatre Calgary, we recognize our responsibility to have practical guidelines in place to ensure our performances are safe and enjoyable for everyone. To learn more about our current Safety and Comfort protocols go to [theatrecalgary.com/comfort-and-safety](http://theatrecalgary.com/comfort-and-safety) or scan here:



# PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTES



The first time I read the original novella of *A Christmas Carol* I was struck by how timely it felt. Even though he was writing so specifically about the time he was living in – almost 200 years ago – it feels like Dickens tapped into something that we all seem to forget and need to be reminded of again and again: to pay attention to those around us; that we all belong to the same world.

When I first adapted *A Christmas Carol* for Theatre Calgary back in 2019, I spent a lot of time thinking about how, in an increasingly individualized world, with technology driven isolation and polarized politics dividing friends and family, it feels so vital that we can come together around a story to remind us of our shared humanity. Of course, over the past five years – living through a pandemic, through the eruption of devastating global conflicts, through cost of living spiking at an alarming rate – those things have been put into hyperdrive. We have spent years separated from family, separated from friends, from community, and have come out the other side somehow more divided than before. I know so many people who have been left feeling scared, feeling angry, and those feelings can make it that much harder to feel connected to the larger world in which we live.

And so, in this time of uncertainty, I feel extraordinarily grateful to be able to gather together once more alongside such a large and inspiring band of Calgary artists and to share this production with our city again. So, regardless of whether this play is a yearly tradition for you, or you are experiencing it for the first time, I hope you can find comfort and reflection in this story about redemption, resiliency, and change.

Thank you to Theatre Calgary for this tremendous opportunity and thank you for coming.

Merry Christmas and enjoy the show.

**- GEOFFREY SIMON BROWN**  
PLAYWRIGHT

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Theatre Calgary gratefully acknowledges the support provided by the City of Calgary through Calgary Arts Development, the Government of Alberta through the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, the Government of Canada through the Canada Council, Canadian Heritage, and all corporate and private contributors.



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Max Bell Theatre at Arts Commons  
November 29 - December 29, 2024



presents

# A CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY **CHARLES DICKENS**

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY **GEOFFREY SIMON BROWN**

Director	<b>STAFFORD ARIMA</b>
Associate Director, Voice & Dialect Coach	<b>JANE MACFARLANE</b>
Choreographer	<b>JESSE ROBB</b>
Set & Video Design	<b>SCOTT REID</b>
Costume Design	<b>DEITRA KALYN*</b>
Lighting Design	<b>KEVIN LAMOTTE*</b>
Associate Lighting Design	<b>ANTON DEGROOT</b>
Composer & Music Director	<b>ALLISON LYNCH</b>
Associate Sound Design	<b>DARREN YOUNG</b>
Additional Orchestrations	<b>JEREMY SPENCER</b>
Dramaturg	<b>JENNA TURK</b>
Additional Dramaturgy	<b>JENNA RODGERS</b>
Dance Captain	<b>GREG PEMBER</b>
Stage Manager	<b>CARISSA SAMS ROULEAU</b>
Assistant Stage Managers	<b>KENNEDY GREENE, CHANDLER ONTKEAN</b>
Apprentice Stage Manager	<b>SERENA LEMIRE</b>

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\* Indicated designers on this production are represented by the  
Associated Designers of Canada, IATSE Local ADC659.

Theatre Calgary is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and operates within the jurisdiction of the Canadian Theatre Agreement. Theatre Calgary employs technicians under a collective agreement with the I.A.T.S.E. Theatre Calgary is a resident company of Arts Commons, operating out of Arts Commons Max Bell Theatre.



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*theatre:*  
**CALGARY**

Stafford Arima, Artistic Director



# A CHRISTMAS CAROL

## CAST (in alphabetical order)

Jacob Marley	Mr. Fezziwig, Old Joe	<b>MARK BELLAMY</b>
	Martha Cratchit, Jane	<b>SCARLETT BOWLER</b>
	Tiny Tim	<b>MAX CHRISTENSEN</b>
	Alice Cratchit, Bethel	<b>ANNA CUMMER</b>
	Ben Cratchit, Fan, Want	<b>CECILIA CURRIE</b>
	Emily, Caroline	<b>EMILY DALLAS</b>
	Tiny Tim	<b>LAURA DESMARAIS</b>
	Dick Wilkins, Topper, Simon, Koch	<b>CHRISTOPHER DUTHIE</b>
	Boy Scrooge, Thomas, Ignorance	<b>DEACON EDWARD</b>
	Fred, Walton	<b>DANIEL FONG</b>
	Gertie Fezziwig, Ethel, Mrs. Charnock	<b>KAREN JOHNSON-DIAMOND</b>
	Fiddler	<b>ALLISON LYNCH</b>
	Ebenezer Scrooge	<b>DOUG MCKEAG</b>
	Margaret Cratchit, Molly, Jill	<b>RAINA MURADALI</b>
	Peter Cratchit, Steerforth	<b>PARKER PAINCHAUD</b>
	Young Scrooge, Sam, Arnault	<b>JOE PERRY</b>
	Belinda Cratchit, Pickle	<b>NICOLE PHENIX</b>
Ensemble, Ebenezer Scrooge Understudy		<b>LUIGI RISCALDINO</b>
	Bob Cratchit, Mr. Creakle	<b>MIKE TAN</b>
	Christmas Past, Rose	<b>JAMIE TOGNAZZINI</b>
	Belle, Penny, Mrs. Dilber	<b>KELSEY VERZOTTI</b>
	Christmas Present	<b>MARSHALL VIELLE</b>
	Swing	<b>BRETT DAHL</b>
	Swing	<b>JESSICA ECKSTADT</b>
	Swing	<b>KAITLYN OLFERT</b>
	Swing	<b>GREG PEMBER</b>

## SETTING

1843, London, England.

*A Christmas Carol* has one 20-minute intermission.

## CREW

	Head of Sound	<b>BRONWYN BOWLBY</b>
	Head of Lighting	<b>CATHARINE CRUMB</b>
	Head Stage Carpenter	<b>BEN MOORE</b>
	Head Dresser	<b>RACHEL MICHELLE SHERIDAN</b>
	Head of Video	<b>DEREK MIILLER</b>
	Head of Wigs	<b>CHRISTA HOEFLING</b>
	Assistant Head Dresser	<b>CHELSEA BREWER</b>
	Assistant Head of Sound	<b>MICHAEL GESY</b>
	Assistant Head Stage Carpenter	<b>JOSHUA SEMOS</b>
	Stage Hands	<b>JACKSON BUCHANAN, TESS COWIE</b>
	Sound Technician	<b>TRAVIS MCKINNON</b>
	Dressers	<b>BRIANNA DIODATI, TARA KIELY, KIERRA VOLK</b>
	Wig Runners	<b>MELISSA SAVINKOFF, SHAWNA SULEK</b>
	Young Company Chaperone	<b>KALEIGH RICHARDS</b>

# TOONIES FOR TURKEYS

Once again this year, at the conclusion of the performance we will be accepting donations in our lobby for our annual Toonies for Turkeys campaign to support local families in need. 100% of all donations collected go directly to the Calgary Food Bank to help fight hunger in Calgary.

You can also donate online at:  
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Our thanks to The Cal Wenzel Family Foundation for supporting our production of *A Christmas Carol* and to Shane Homes for their donation to the Toonies for Turkeys initiative.

# CAST



## MARK BELLAMY

### Jacob Marley, Mr. Fezziwig, Old Joe

(he/him) For Theatre Calgary: Director - *Noises Off*; Assistant Director/Choreographer - *Rough Crossing*; Actor - *Camelot*, *A Christmas Carol* (1990, 1993, 1995, 2019, 2023), *Anne of Green Gables* (1994), *Evita* (1993), *Pal Joey*. Mark is very happy to be back at Theatre Calgary with friends old and new to revisit *A Christmas Carol*. Recent credits include: Director - *Deathtrap*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* (Stage West); *Becoming Dr. Ruth*

(TNW); Actor - *Murder in the Studio*, *Deathtrap* (Vertigo Theatre); *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead* (ATP); *Moon, Moon, No Moon* (OYR); *In On It* (Lunchbox Theatre). He is the proud recipient of several Betty Mitchell Awards, as well as the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. Mark would like to dedicate his performance to the memory of his dear friend Kevin Rothery, who truly knew how to keep Christmas well.



## SCARLETT BOWLER

### Martha Cratchit, Jane

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: *A Christmas Carol* (2023). Elsewhere: Cannonball Festival, Paroxysm (CYPT). Scarlett loves to tell a good story and is so grateful to have the opportunity to do so again with this amazing cast and company. In addition to singing, dancing, and acting, she's a big fan of marine biology and always has her nose in a book. Scarlett is in grade nine and would like to thank her family, teachers, and her friends for their

support and encouragement throughout this incredible experience. A special shout out to: Olio Gigo, Nana, my 'little big sister', Dobby's mini human, Liz, and Kat. Love you guys. Merry Christmas!



## MAX CHRISTENSEN

### Tiny Tim

Theatre Calgary debut. Max Christensen, a vibrant 10-year-old boy, is thrilled to make his stage debut as Tiny Tim in Theatre Calgary's production of *A Christmas Carol*. Max's acting journey began at a young age, landing his first role in the 2016 film *It Stains the Sands Red*. His passion for acting continued to grow as he took part in the ongoing web series *Scaredycats*, a project he works on with his father. This fall, Max took on his first starring

role in the upcoming horror film *Night of the Reaper*, marking a significant milestone in his blossoming career. His dedication and enthusiasm for acting shine through in every performance, making him a young talent to watch.

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Have questions? Contact Jennie Esdale - [jesdale@theatrecalgary.com](mailto:jesdale@theatrecalgary.com)

# CAST



## **ANNA CUMMER**

### **Alice Cratchit, Bethel**

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: *A Christmas Carol* (2018-19, 2023), *Admissions*, *Noises Off*, *Twelfth Night* (2018), *The Shoplifters*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare on the Go adaptation - 2023). Anna is a Calgary-based actor and playwright. She has performed across Canada at The Vancouver Playhouse, The Arts Club, Bard on the Beach, Alberta Theatre Projects, Vertigo Theatre, Persephone Theatre, and the National

Arts Centre. Anna also works in voice-over as well as in film & television as an actor and puppeteer. She has been nominated for Jessie Richardson Awards, Betty Mitchell Awards, Calgary Critics' Awards, and Broadway Across Canada Awards with a few trophies making their way to her mantle. Anna is also the Associate Artistic Director at Theatre Calgary.



## **CECILIA CURRIE**

### **Ben Cratchit, Fan, Want**

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: *Beaches the Musical*. As a grade five student who loves to sing and dance, Cecilia is thrilled to be joining this incredible production. A ballet student from the age of four, theatre has been an exciting next step in her artistic journey. Past productions: Jemima Potts in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* at Storybook Theatre. When not on stage you can find her reading, dancing, studying all things dragons, building lego, and

making cool crafts. She sends thanks to the team for their tremendous support and love to her family. Enjoy the show!



## **EMILY DALLAS**

### **Emily, Caroline**

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: *Beaches the Musical*, *As You Like It* (Shakespeare by the Bow). Previous credits include: Miss Bennet in *Christmas at Pemberley* (Persephone); *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Arts Club); *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (Bard on the Beach); *Home for the Holidays* (Lunchbox); *As You Like It* (RMTC/ Citadel); *Once* (Citadel); *A Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder* (Stage West). Emily is also a passionate

teaching artist, and has taught with companies such as the Arts Club, Bard on the Beach, The Performance Studio, and the Calgary Opera. Training: Fiasco Theatre Conservatory, Arts Club Actors Intensive, Theatre Performance Diploma (MRU), BFA Musical Theatre (PACE University), MFA Creative Writing (UBC). Love to Mini, Bear and Prawn: this one is for you.



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# CAST



## LAURA DESMARAIS

### Tiny Tim

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: *A Christmas Carol* (2023). Laura is thrilled to return to *A Christmas Carol*! She has also appeared onstage as Young Charlie in Front Row Centre Players' award winning production of *Kinky Boots*. Laura is delighted to be a part of this classic Christmas tale and is so excited to reunite with an amazing cast and crew. Offstage, Laura is a grade four student who keeps busy practicing Spanish, taking multiple dance classes

with Diversity Dance, and pursuing her newfound love of golf. She enjoys honing her acting and musical theatre skills with camps and classes through Storybook Theatre and Theatre Calgary. She loves writing songs and creating magical worlds with her older sister and her friends. Laura thanks her loving family and friends for their unconditional support. She hopes you enjoy the show and wishes a Merry Christmas to all!



## CHRISTOPHER DUTHIE

### Dick Wilkins, Topper, Simon, Koch

(he/him) For Theatre Calgary: *The Importance of Being Earnest* (2022), *A Christmas Carol* (2007-09, 2019, 2023). Christopher has been acting professionally for more than a decade in productions with Ghost River Theatre, Vertigo Theatre, One Yellow Rabbit, Lunchbox Theatre, Quest Theatre, Alberta Theatre Projects, etc. He is represented by Details Talent for film/tv and voice over. As a playwright and theatre creator, his

plays and creations include: *A Dinner Party* (Shortlisted for the 2020 Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award for Drama); *n00b* (Vertigo Theatre Y-Stage Series); *SensoryBox* (Ghost River Theatre) and *SensoryBox TYA* (Young People's Theatre); *La Boîte Sensorielle* (L'UniThéâtre) co-created with Eric Rose. He holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Guelph and a BFA in Drama from the University of Calgary. He is eternally grateful for his wife, Alexandra, for all her love and support, and excited to spend his first Christmas with their newborn son, Harrison.



## DEACON EDWARD

### Boy Scrooge, Thomas, Ignorance

(he/him) Theatre Calgary debut. Deacon is an energetic, inquisitive and joyful child who loves performing. He is a chorister for the Calgary Boys' Choir since March, 2021, and enjoys singing for audiences large and small, with a special interest in canonical music. He also performed as Chum in a school musical of *Finding Nemo Junior*, and is an experienced hip-hop dancer. While not performing, Deacon can be seen on the ice playing hockey in the

winter and on the pitch as a keeper for his soccer team in the spring and summer.

# CAST



## DANIEL FONG

### Fred, Walton

(he/him) For Theatre Calgary: *Forgiveness, A Christmas Carol* (2018, 2023), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare in the Park, 2012); Assistant Director - *The Play That Goes Wrong*. Daniel is a mixed race Chinese/European performer born and raised in Moh-kíns-tsis (Calgary) in the Treaty 7 region of Alberta. Elsewhere: *The Three Musketeers* (Citadel Theatre); *Jekyll & Hyde* (Vertigo Theatre); *Romeo & Juliet* (Bard on the Beach); *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *The Skin of Our Teeth* (Rosebud Theatre); US (The Globe); *Alberta Kitchen Party*, *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *Fortune Falls*, *The Circle* (ATP). Daniel was the recipient of the Stephen Hair Emerging Artist award in 2020. Daniel is supported by his amazing wife Nadia and his friends and family and he wishes you all the happiest of holidays!



## KAREN JOHNSON-DIAMOND

### Gertie Fezziwig, Ethel, Mrs. Charnock

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: *A Christmas Carol* (2019, 2021, 2023), *The Crucible*, *Jake and the Kid*. Karen is a Calgary based actor, director, and improviser and recently performed with her own son Griffin Cork in Rosebud Theatre's *For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again*. Karen's mom doesn't like biographies that are just 'lists', so here's another Neil Diamond song you should listen to: *Brooklyn Roads*. (Last year's suggestion was *Be* from the Jonathan Livingston Seagull soundtrack. You're welcome.) Next up, Karen will direct *Silent Sky* (Ambrose University/Fire Exit Theatre), and perform in *Every Brilliant Thing* (Verb Theatre). Love to Kevin, Griffin, and Neil Diamond. Thank you for supporting live theatre.

Automation provided by Creative Connors Inc.

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## SPECIAL THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

*The generous support of Canadian Actors' Equity Association; Elena Belyea; Meredith Johnson; Yousef Kadoura; Alan Kingsley; Mark Limacher; Debbie Patterson; V.A. Hill Fine Strings*

**SPIRITS:** *Alex Currie, Cecilia Currie, Brent Falk, Samuel Markholm, Elizabeth Raynor-Hohol, Victoria Tharakan, Jenna Turk*



# CAST



## ALLISON LYNCH

### Composer, Music Director, Fiddler

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: Actor – *Forgiveness, Steel Magnolias, A Christmas Carol* (2010-21, 2023), *The Secret Garden, Dear Johnny Deere, One Man, Two Guvnors*; Sound Designer/Composer – *A Christmas Carol* (2019-21), *Steel Magnolias, The Scarlet Letter, As You Like It, Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare by the Bow), *Comedy of Errors* (Shakespeare on the Go); Music Director – *A Christmas Carol* (2016-19). Allison has appeared

as an actor, singer, MD or sound designer/composer on stages across Canada and internationally, including the NAC, The Grand, Drayton Festival, Arts Club, Persephone, Rainbow Stage, Calgary Folk Festival, the Malaysian Philharmonic, Calgary International Jazz Festival among others, and as a soloist with the Calgary Philharmonic. Allison has five Betty Mitchell Awards and a Critic's choice award for Outstanding Score (Greater Victoria Regional Theatre Awards). Also scoring for film and TV, Allison wrote and performed the song *Try* for episode 6 of *HUDSON* on CBC Gem and recently scored seven documentary shorts for the new SAM Centre at the Calgary Stampede. Her album *Skin & Flame* is available on all streaming platforms. Allison was recently named one of Avenue Magazine's 2024 Top 40 Under 40, and you can catch her next at the Stratford Festival both acting and composing for the 2025 season.



## DOUG MCKEAG

### Ebenezer Scrooge

(he/him) For Theatre Calgary: More than 30 productions. Favourites include: *A Christmas Carol* (10 previous productions), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, From Berlin to Broadway with Kurt Weill, God of Carnage, Jimmy Buffett's Escape to Margaritaville, Enron, Evita* (1992 & 2002), *Cabaret, The Cripple of Inishmaan, Into the Woods, Twelfth Night* (2017), *The Secret Garden, One Man, Two Guvnors, Ragtime: A Concert Performance*. Other faves

elsewhere: *Little Mercy's First Murder, Lord Arthur Savile's Crime, The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Vertigo); *X-Ray, The Alan Parkinson's Project, DOOM 2012* (Ghost River); *Toad of Toad Hall, Amadeus, Candide* (ATP); *Carmen, Die Fledermaus* (Calgary Opera); *Chimerica* (RMTC/Canstage); *Late Company, The Cottage, The New Canadian Curling Club* (RMTC); and dozens of performances with the Calgary Philharmonic and many other orchestras worldwide, from Kuala Lumpur to the Hollywood Bowl. Doug is the proud owner of "BonnyBoom", Calgary's new arts playground in Bonnybrook, and home to the Old Trout Puppet Workshop. You can see Doug flex his musical chops next spring, in Forté Musical Theatre's *Austentatious*. Doug dedicates this season's performance to the memory of David Rhymmer, who composed music to *A Christmas Carol* from 1990-95.

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# CAST



## **RAINA MURADALI**

### **Margaret Cratchit, Molly, Jill**

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: *A Christmas Carol* (2023). Raina's passion for storytelling through acting, singing, and dance has been a lifelong pursuit since the age of three. Her impressive acting portfolio includes memorable roles in productions such as *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *The Music Man*, *Singers @Sunset*, *Miscast*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, and *The Sound of Music* (Storybook Theatre); *Clue* and *The Poison Squad* (Calgary Young People's

Theatre), and a return to *The Sound of Music* (Painted Fish Theatre). You can also find her in the upcoming production of *Once on This Island* at Storybook Theatre in May 2025. Currently a grade eight student, Raina enjoys spending time with her friends, reading, and hanging out with her little brother. Raina extends her heartfelt gratitude to her unwavering parents for their continued support. @rainamuradali



## **PARKER PAINCHAUD**

### **Peter Cratchit, Steerforth**

(he/him) For Theatre Calgary: *A Christmas Carol* (2023). Last season he played Peter Cratchit and Boy Scrooge, and learned so much through that experience. He began his passion for acting with Calgary Young People's Theatre. This past year, Parker wrote his first play - *The Ghost of Who Knows What*, and saw it come to the stage in his directorial debut, at Cannonball Festival 2024. He has performed in other CYPT mainstage productions,

most recently wrapping up his role as Frank Aldersley in *The Frozen Deep*, 2024. When not acting, Parker enjoys spending time with friends, working on creative endeavors, and the occasional round of golf. He is a comic book enthusiast, loves to read, and would like to advocate for "sleeping in" as a valued, sought after, expertise.



## **JOE PERRY**

### **Young Scrooge, Sam, Arnault**

(he/him) For Theatre Calgary: *A Christmas Carol* (2015-16,2023). Elsewhere (selected): *The Woman In Black*, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*, *The Extractionist* (Vertigo Theatre); *Premium Content* (Major Matt Mason); *Chariots Of Fire* (Rosebud Theatre / The Grand); *Gordon* (Theatre Network); *This Is War* (Punctuate); *The Circle* (Alberta Theatre Projects). Selected Film/TV: *Coupled Up For Christmas* (Northern Gateway Films); *Range Roads* (North

Country Cinema); *The Expanse* (Amazon Prime); *Black Summer* (Netflix). Joe is an artist and creator working across Canada in theatre, film and television. He graduated from Mount Royal University's Performance Program and received his BFA in acting from the University of Alberta. Joe is thrilled to be joining The Stratford Festival's Birmingham Conservatory for the 2025-26 seasons. To keep up with upcoming projects you can follow on Joe on Instagram @joewperry or visit his website joewperry.com

# CAST



## NICOLE PHENIX

### **Belinda Cratchit, Pickle**

(she/her) Theatre Calgary debut. Nicole is currently a grade eight student, and is thrilled to be making her Theatre Calgary debut this holiday season. Outside of theatre, Nicole enjoys dance, piano, guitar and singing as well as spending time with family and friends. Happy holidays to all!



## LUIGI RISCALDINO

### **Ensemble, Ebenezer Scrooge Understudy**

(he/him) For Theatre Calgary: *The Light in the Piazza* (Italian coach). Elsewhere: *The Dark Lady* (Lunchbox Theatre & The Shakespeare Company); *Sleuth, Murder on the Orient Express* (Vertigo Theatre); *Wolf on the Ringstrasse, A Streetcar Named Desire, Of Mice and Men* (Spirit Fire Theatre); *King Lear, Titus Andronicus, Othello, Macbeth, Richard III, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Taming of the Shrew, Romeo and Juliet, Much Ado About Nothing* (The Shakespeare Company). Film/TV: *Billy the Kid* (Paramount+); *Foul, Fortunate Son* (CBC); *In Plainview, Tin Star* (Prime); *Wynonna Earp* (Syfy); *Hell on Wheels* (AMC). Luigi has been nominated for Betty Mitchell Awards and has moonlighted as a foreign language coach for Theatre Calgary and ATP, and even taught some Italian for the Calgary Opera. He is thrilled to be at Theatre Calgary, working with this incredible group of people, and would like to thank his family for all their love and support.



## MIKE TAN

### **Bob Cratchit, Mr. Creakle**

(he/him) For Theatre Calgary: *The Mousetrap, A Christmas Carol* (2017-18, 2021, 2023). Mike is a Treaty 7-based theatre artist and photographer. He has worked as a co-creator in devised theatre creation ensembles with Downstage, Theatre Junction, and Ghost River Theatre; an acting ensemble member at the Banff Centre Playwrights Lab workshoping new plays from around the world; and as an actor at Vertigo Theatre, Alberta Theatre Projects, and Theatre Calgary. Mike also works as a documentary photographer for arts and culture organizations, events, and independent artists. He lives with his loves, Di, Aiden; and their cat babies, Frankie and Prismo.



## SHAUN SMYTH

### Bob Cratchit, Mr. Creakle

(he/him) For Theatre Calgary: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Of Mice and Men*. Select Credits: *The Seafarer*, *Stones In His Pockets (ATP)*; *Playing with Fire (Canadian Tour)*; *Macbeth*, *Amadeus*, *Moby Dick (Stratford Festival)*; *The Galileo Project (Tafelmusik Walt Disney Theatre LA)*; *The Pillowman*, *Closer*, *Trainspotting (Canadian Stage)*; *The Chet Baker Project (Crows Toronto)*; *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot (Birdland Toronto)*; *Hamlet (Necessary Angel Toronto)*;

*Shining City (Citadel)*; *The Glass Menagerie (Grand London)*. Select TV & Film: *Suits*, *Fringe*, *The Killing*, *Supernatural*, *Once Upon a Time In Wonderland*, *Arrow*, *Witches of East End*, *Almost Human*, *Alert*, *Heartland*, *The Silencing*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Pit Pony*. Born in Scotland and raised in Calgary, Shaun has been acting professionally for nearly 30 years, garnering multiple theatre nominations and awards cross Canada, the US and internationally. He recently returned to Calgary with his wife Jennie and three children, Maggie, Iona, and Tom. Shaun is also a Realtor with CIR and sits on the board of PAL Calgary, a charity dedicated to affordable housing for artists.



# A CHRISTMAS CAROL

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# CAST



## JAMIE TOGNAZZINI

### **Christmas Past, Rose**

(they/them/she/her) For Theatre Calgary: *A Christmas Carol* (2019-21, 2023). Jamie T is a transdisciplinary artist with special interest in music/voice, clown/eccentric performance, and making puppets. Honoured in 2019 as co-recipient of the Betty Mitchell Award for Best Ensemble in *GIANT* by Ghost River Theatre, it was a privilege to win the Best Ensemble award for *A Christmas Carol* (TC) in 2023. Select credits include: *Wyrd AKA*

*Hags! Hags! Hags!* (Atomic Vaudeville/Larrikin Entertainment), *Indians and Cowboys* (Making Treaty 7 at the High Performance Rodeo), *Blackhorse* (Caravan Farm Theatre), *Peter and the Wolf* (Old Trout Puppet Workshop), *Naughty but Nice 9 Live!* (Forte Musical Theatre), *Gold Rush Redux & ModernTimes Redux* (The Grand YYC); Catalyst Theatre's *Fortune Falls* (ATP/Citadel); *The Drowning Girls* (Vertigo Theatre); *The Toxic Avenger Musical* (Broadway West); *Evil Dead: the Musical* (Ground Zero/Hit&Myth); *Moon, Moon No Moon* and *Calgary, I Love You but You're Killing Me* (One Yellow Rabbit). Special thanks to Stafford, the kind folks behind the scenes at TC, and the generous audiences who make it possible to celebrate the season together with this heart-filled production!



## KELSEY VERZOTTI

### **Belle, Penny, Mrs. Dilber**

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: *Mary and Max*. Kelsey is so happy to be in her hometown getting in the Christmas spirit with this amazing cast & crew! Since graduating in 2017 from Sheridan College's Music Theatre Performance Program, she has worked in many notable theatres across the country. Her select theatre credits include: *Anne of Green Gables* (Charlottetown Festival); *Dion: A Rock Opera*, *The Antipodes* (Coal Mine Theatre);

*Pollyanna* (Theatre Aquarius); *Bittergirl*, *Anne of Green Gables* (Thousand Islands Playhouse); *Kelly v. Kelly*, *Life After* (CanStage/ Musical Stage Co.); *Gaslight* (Vertigo Theatre); *A Christmas Carol* (Shaw Festival); *Into the Woods* (Talk is Free Theatre); *The Adventures of Pinocchio* (YPT); *Ai Yah – Sweet and Sour Secrets* (Lunchbox Theatre). Lots of love to her parents, Rainer & Kola. IG: @kelseeyverzotti

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# CAST



## MARSHALL VIELLE

### Christmas Present

(they/them) For Theatre Calgary: *A Christmas Carol* (2019-21, 2023), *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Shakespeare by the Bow), *Blow Wind, High Water*. Elsewhere: *Father Tartuffe* (Arts Club); *The Jungle Book* (Alberta Theatre Projects); *The House of Bernarda Alba* (Sage Theatre); *Christmas Carol: A Drag Story* (Blue Jeans Theatre); *Where the Two-Spirit Lives* (Theatre Outré); *Napi and the Rock* (Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra); *liyistsiyii, Istotsi, Kaahsinoniks* (Making Treaty 7 Cultural Society); *We Are All Treaty People* (Quest Theatre). Marshall is an actor, director, playwright, and drag performer from the Kainai Nation. They are especially interested in using theatre for community development, having been involved in projects both locally and internationally aimed at using artistic practices to promote social change. They work as an advocate for diversity and inclusion in the performance sector, while also lending their creativity to several Queer Youth initiatives. Marshall is ecstatic to be back at TC for another holiday season!



## BRETT DAHL

### Swing

(they/them) For Theatre Calgary: *A Christmas Carol* (2019, Swing - 2023), *TC Sings for Pride, Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare in the Park/MRU). Brett is a queer director, writer, and performer and is the Artistic Director of Theatre Outré. Selected acting credits: *The Hooves Belonged to the Deer* (In Arms Collective); *The Tempest, Romeo & Juliet, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and Measure for Measure* (Freewill Shakespeare); *Like Orpheus* (OUTstages, International Dublin Gay Theatre Festival, Theatre Outré); *Tiny Beautiful Things* (Shadow Theatre); *Sleeping Beauty* (Alberta Ballet); *Chariots of Fire* (The Grand Theatre); *King Lear, Twelfth Night* (Canadian Stage); *The Circle* (Alberta Theatre Projects); *All's Well That Ends Well* (Shakespeare Company); *A Thought in Three Parts* (Theatre Outré); *A Worthy Opponent* (Lunchbox Theatre); *Soul Collector* (Catalyst Theatre). Brett is a graduate of the BFA-Acting and MFA-Directing programs from the University of Alberta. Brett is a recipient of the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Emerging Artist Award, and the RBC Emerging Artist Award.





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# CAST



## JESSICA ECKSTADT

### Swing

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: *Beaches the Musical*, *Selma Burke*, *Meteor Shower* (Voice & Dialect Mentee), *A Christmas Carol* (Swing - 2023), *Ragtime: A Concert Performance*. Jessica discovered her love for the performing arts at a young age and believes sharing her passion through performing or teaching is one of the best experiences in life. Jessica is also very proud to be an award-winning choreographer for the Youth Singers of Calgary, as well as teaching students to hone and discover their passion for the performing arts

through various classes and private lessons. She is a Betty Mitchell Award winner and nominated performer and has performed across Canada, the United States, Europe, and South America. She holds a performance diploma from Mount Royal University (Calgary, AB) and BFA from Concordia University (Montreal, QC). Jessica is very proud to be part of the team that brings this holiday classic to life and wishes everyone a wonderful holiday season! Love to Mike, Aurora, my family, and everyone who supports me.



## KAITLYN OLFBERT

### Swing

(she/her) Theatre Calgary debut. Kaitlyn is a Calgary-based performer thrilled to be creating with Theatre Calgary this holiday season. She is an emerging artist who completed her training at the University of Lethbridge, and enjoys using the theatre as a gathering space for memory-making and deep thinking and feeling. Select credits include: *Mary Jane* (Fire Exit Theatre); *Girls Like That* (New West Theatre); *Snow White* (Birnton Theatricals); *Top Gunn* (Jubilations Dinner Theatre); *Hippo Needs a Bath* (Wagonstage

Children's Theatre). A huge thank you to Jordan and to the Sticky Jar Collective for their inspiration and support. <https://kaitlynolfert.wixsite.com/kaitlyn-olfert>



## GREG PEMBER

### Swing, Dance Captain

(he/him) For Theatre Calgary: *A Christmas Carol* (2023), *Jimmy Buffett's Escape to Margaritaville*, *Crazy For You*; Assistant Director - *Beaches the Musical*. Elsewhere: *Spamalot*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Screwball Comedy*, *Priscilla: Queen of the Desert* (Stage West), *Brigadoon* (Shaw Festival), *Beauty & the Beast* (Theatre Aquarius), *Newsies*, *Shear Madness*, *The Rainmaker*, *Rock of Ages*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *White Christmas*, *The Music Man*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Footloose*, *Legally Blonde*, *Mary Poppins* (Drayton Entertainment), *Ghostlight* (Off Broadway/Signature

Theatre), *Spring Awakening*, title role in *Hamlet* (The Roxy). Choreography: *Something Rotten!* (Betty Mitchell and Critic's Choice Awards Nominee for Best Choreography), *Beauty & the Beast*, *Elf: The Musical*, *Honk!* (Storybook Theatre) and Swing Dance Choreographer for *Forgiveness* (Theatre Calgary). Training: B.F.A. in Musical Theatre from The Boston Conservatory. Love and gratitude to Mom, Dad, Bob, and Scott for their unconditional support and for allowing me to follow my dream. Website: [yogawithgreg.com](http://yogawithgreg.com) IG: @yoga.with.greg

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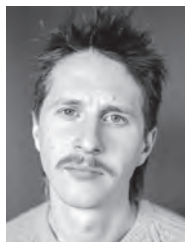


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# CREATIVE TEAM



## GEOFFREY SIMON BROWN

### Playwright

(he/him) For Theatre Calgary: Playwright – *A Christmas Carol* (2019-2021, 2023); Actor – *Skylight*, *Much Ado About Nothing*. Geoffrey is an award-winning Albertan playwright, actor, and theatre creator. He is a founding member of the Major Matt Mason Collective where he has developed and produced small-scale independent theatre for the past fourteen years. His other plays include *Static*, *Michael Mysterious*, *The Circle*, *Night*, *Progress*, *Still Still Still*, *Control*, *Air*, *Destroy*, and *If I Could Tell You Everything* (written alongside the Theatre Junction high school mentorship ensemble). As an actor he has performed on many of the major stages in Calgary as well as some living rooms and basements. He is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada's playwrighting program. More at [geoffreysimonbrown.com](http://geoffreysimonbrown.com).



## STAFFORD ARIMA

### Director

(he/him) For Theatre Calgary: *Forgiveness* (Outstanding Direction, Betty Mitchell Award), *Ragtime: A Concert Performance*, *A Christmas Carol* (2019-21, 2023), *Billy Elliot the Musical*, *The Secret Garden*, *Mary and Max*. Broadway: *Allegiance*, *Seussical* (Associate Director), *A Class Act* (Associate Director). Off-Broadway: *Altar Boyz*, *Carrie*, *The Tin Pan Alley Rag*. Regional: *Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* (Stratford Festival), *Dial M for Murder* (The Old Globe), *Bhangin' It* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Candide* (San Francisco Symphony), *Miss Saigon* (California Music Circus). International: *Ragtime* (West End, Olivier nominated), *Bhangra Nation* (Birmingham Rep.), *Broadway Dreams* (Moscow). Stafford is a graduate of York University, and a founding Board member of the Canadian Guild of Stage Directors and Choreographers. [staffordarima.com](http://staffordarima.com)



## JANE MACFARLANE

### Associate Director, Voice & Dialect Coach

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: Assistant Director - *A Christmas Carol* (2023), Resident Voice Coach – More than 80 productions since 2000 including: *The Lehman Trilogy*, *Beaches the Musical*, *Selma Burke*, *Meteor Shower*, *The Mousetrap*, *Forgiveness*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *Steel Magnolias*, 12 seasons of Shakespeare by the Bow and 18 years of *A Christmas Carol* (incl. playing Mrs. Cratchit from 2001-02). Additionally, Jane adapted and directed the 2022 Shakespeare on the Go production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. She has also worked for ATP, Vertigo, and The Shakespeare Company, and coaches Voice and Presence through her business Voice Activated. She has taught Voice for the Actor and Acting at such institutions as York University, Harvard University, Southern Methodist University, MRU, UAlberta, and is currently on faculty in the Drama Division in the School of Creative & Performing Arts at UCalgary.



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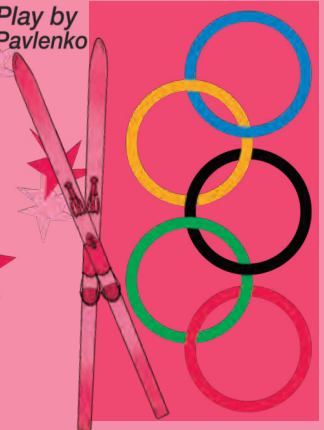
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# CREATIVE TEAM



## JESSE ROBB

### Choreographer

For Theatre Calgary: *A Christmas Carol* (2019, 2023). Jesse is a Tony Award nominated and Chita Rivera Award winning choreographer based in New York City. An honors graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Jesse's resume covers a wide variety of work including Broadway, Cirque Du Soleil, Disney, Cameron Macintosh, Mirvish Productions, Momix, Prime Video, Opera Philadelphia and Turner Classic Movies. On Broadway, Jesse is the co-choreographer (alongside Shana Carroll) for the new musical *Water For Elephants*, now playing at the Imperial Theatre in New York City. The production is directed by two-time Tony Award nominee Jessica Stone (*Kimberly Akimbo*) and was nominated for 7 TONY Awards including BEST MUSICAL. Jesse and Shana received Tony Award, Drama Desk, and OCC nominations for their work as well as the Chita Rivera Award for Outstanding Choreography. Currently, Jesse is the Movement Director for the North American touring, South Korean, and Tokyo companies of *Les Miserables*, and also choreographed *Spamalot* for the Stratford Festival. Many thanks to his parents, Les and Roberta Robb, for their unwavering support.



## SCOTT REID

### Set & Projection Design

(he/him) For Theatre Calgary (selected): *The Mousetrap*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *TC Returns*, *A Christmas Carol* (lighting – 1999, set & projections – 2019, 2023, production design – 2020, 2021), *Billy Elliot the Musical*, *Mom's The Word: For Crying Out Loud*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *A Raisin in the Sun*. Elsewhere: *Pride and Prejudice*, *Clue* (Citadel); *Alberta Kitchen Party*, *Stealing Sam*, *Disgraced*, *The New Canadian Curling Club* (ATP); *Misery*, *Clue*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Strangers on a Train*, *Dracula: The Bloody Truth* (Vertigo); *Macbeth*, *Eugene Onegin*, *South Pacific* (Calgary Opera); *Our Canada*, *Class Acts* (Alberta Ballet); *Better Get Hit in Your Soul*, *Modern Vaudevillians*, *Juliet and Romeo* (DJD). Scott has also designed for such companies as Quest Theatre, Lunchbox, and The Shakespeare Company. [scottreiddesign.com](http://scottreiddesign.com)



## DEITRA KALYN

### Costume Design

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: *The Mousetrap*, *A Christmas Carol* (2019, 2021, 2023), *MDQ*, *Noises Off*, *Shakespeare by the Bow* (2012-2018, 2021), *Blow Wind High Water*, *The Crucible*, *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *King Lear*. She has been designing theatre, dance, film, and TV across the prairies for well over a decade. She is an awarded designer who was educated both at Grant MacEwan University and ACAD. Her career in design has allowed her to work with some of the best companies in the country. Selected credits include: *Dracula: the Bloody Truth!*, *Calamity Town*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The 39 Steps* (Vertigo); *Intimate Apparel*, *Legend Has It*, *playRites 2013* (ATP); *The Penelopiad* (ATP / Arts Club). Wishing everyone a safe and joyous holiday season! Sending all my love to my brood of boys. xo

# CREATIVE TEAM



## KEVIN LAMOTTE

### Lighting Design

(he/him) For Theatre Calgary: *A Christmas Carol* (2000-18, 2023), *The Crucible*, *The Philadelphia Story* (2005, 2015), *Enron*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Beyond Eden*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Timothy Findley's The Wars*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Saint Joan*, *Macbeth*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *True West*, *Candida*. Kevin has created lighting designs for theatre, dance and opera across Canada and internationally. Recently: *Sankofa - A Soldier's Tale* (Art of Time), *Kamiko's Pearl* (Bravo), *La Traviata* (Opera de

Montreal); *Secret Garden*, *The House That Will Not Stand*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Playboy of the Western World*, *The Clearing*, *Gem of the Ocean*, *Everybody*, *Desire Under the Elms*, *White Christmas* (Shaw Festival); *Mahabharata* (Barbican London, International Tour); Kevin's awards for Outstanding Lighting Design include Calgary's Betty Mitchell Award and Toronto's Dora Mavor Moore Award. He is the Lighting Design Director for the Shaw Festival in Niagara on the Lake, Ontario, and a member of The Associated Designers of Canada/IATSE 659.

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# CREATIVE TEAM



## ANTON DEGROOT

### Associate Lighting Design

(he/him) For Theatre Calgary: *A Christmas Carol* (2023), *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Noises Off*, *The Shoplifters*. Anton is a set, light, and sound designer based here in Calgary. Select credits: *Heist*, *Misery*, *Nine Dragons*, *Dracula: The Bloody Truth* (Vertigo); *The Seafarer*, *The Circle*, *Cockroach*, *Charlotte's Web* (ATP); *STRUCK*, *GIANT* (Ghost River); *Treasure Island*, *HMS Pinafore*, *Brontë: the World Without* (Stratford Festival); *Jersey Boys*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (Stage West); *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *All's Well That Ends*

*Well* (Shakespeare Company). Up next: *Liars at a Funeral* at ATP, and *The DaVinci Code* at Vertigo. All the love to Meg, and to our menagerie of misfit creatures.



## DARREN YOUNG

### Associate Sound Design

(he/him) For Theatre Calgary: *A Christmas Carol* (2023). Multi-instrumentalist, composer, sound designer, music director, and educator Darren Young is an exciting artist with a diverse palette. He has been a featured performer with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, New Music Edmonton, New Works Calgary, Kensington Sinfonia, Instrumental Society of Calgary, and Theatre Calgary. Darren is a core member of the experimental music collective Timepoint Ensemble and with them has given premieres of many

new compositions. He also performs and records regularly as a member of the bands Diatessaron, Jung People, and Lucky Sonne. His compositions and sound designs have been heard in productions and installations in Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver, and many places in between. Darren recently composed music for the dance film *Odeon*, choreographed by Meghann Michalsky, which played at the 2024 Calgary International Film Festival. He is the President of the Classical Guitar Society of Calgary and has been on faculty at the MRU Conservatory since 2019.



## CARISSA SAMS ROULEAU

### Stage Manager

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: Stage Manager - *A Christmas Carol* (2023), *Little Women*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2019, 2012), *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *As You Like It*, *Hamlet* (Shakespeare by the Bow). Assistant Stage Manager - *Beaches the Musical*, *Jimmy Buffett's Escape to Margaritaville*, *Steel Magnolias*, *A Christmas Carol* (2019), *Billy Elliot the Musical*, *The Humans*, *Skylight*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *Bad Jews*. Other selected credits: *The Dark Lady*, *Raising Stanley/Life with Tulia* (Lunchbox); *Undressed*, *Stealing Sam* (ATP);

*The Woman in Black*, *Heist*, *Misery*, *Clue*, *Murder in the Studio*, *39 Steps*, *The Haunting*, *Our Man in Havana*, *I'll Be Back Before Midnight* (Vertigo); *The Children*, *A Doll's House Pt. 2* (Belfry Theatre); *Smoke* (Downstage). Carissa would like to thank her husband, Myles, and her parents for their continued support. Shout-out to The Littles!



# CREATIVE TEAM



## KENNEDY GREENE

### Assistant Stage Manager

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: *As You Like It*, *The Mousetrap*, *Jimmy Buffett's Escape to Margaritaville*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, *A Christmas Carol* (2020-21), *TC Returns*, *The Louder We Get*. Kennedy is thrilled to be back at Theatre Calgary! She is a Calgary based Stage Manager, a self-proclaimed stationery nerd and theatre brat. Select credits include: *Deathtrap*, *A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline*, *There Goes the Bride* (Stage West); *Ms. Holmes & Ms.*

*Watson - #2B*, *The Thin Man*, *The Hollow* (Vertigo); *Don Giovanni*, *Das Rheingold*, *Carmen*, *La Traviata*, *Rigoletto*, *Everest*, *Filumena*, *Turandot* (Calgary Opera); *Naughty But Nice TenMas!*, *Naughty But Nice 9*, *LIVE!* (Forte Musical Theatre Guild); *Many Mothers*, *Seven Skies: Scenes for Tomorrow* (Many Mothers Collective); *Allergic to Water* (Wee Witches/Inside Out Theatre); *STRUCK* (Ghost River Theatre); *Heaven*, *Calling Out Christmas!*, *Flight Risk* (Lunchbox); *Kim's Convenience* (Alberta Theatre Projects/Arts Club).



## CHANDLER ONTKEAN

### Assistant Stage Manager

(she/her) For Theatre Calgary: *The Lehman Trilogy*, *A Christmas Carol* (2023), *Noises Off*, *Mary and Max A New Musical*. Elsewhere: *The Girl on the Train*, *Whispers in the Dark*, *Deathtrap*, *The Lonely Diner*, *Undercover*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily* (Vertigo Theatre); *Shark Bite*, *Home For the Holidays* (Lunchbox Theatre); *Screwball Comedy*, *Elvis Has Left the Building* (Stage West); *The Birds and the Bees*, *Cowgirl Up*

(Alberta Theatre Projects). When not working in theatre, Chandler also works in film costuming, watches LOTS of movies, and admires sloths for their beauty and grace. Thanks to her family, friends, roommates, and local movie theatre employees who keep her sane and feed her popcorn.



## SERENA LEMIRE

### Apprentice Stage Manager

(she/her) Theatre Calgary debut. Serena is an Apprentice Stage Manager based out of Calgary. She is thrilled to be joining Theatre Calgary for *A Christmas Carol*! She graduated from the University of Lethbridge in 2022 to pursue a career in stage management. She is a forever learner and loves to expand her knowledge of theatre on every project that she engages in. Her recent credits include: *Heathers*, *Elf: The Musical*

(Storybook Theatre); *Yabber: A Junk Musical* (Mudfoot Theatre); *Tick, Tick... BOOM* (Forte Musical Theatre); *MiddleMarch* (One Yellow Rabbit); and *Honour Beat* (New West). When not working in the theatre, she's halfway across the world or playing Hogwarts Legacy! Thank you, Todd and Alison, for your endless love and support. Without you, it wouldn't have been possible.

# A CHRISTMAS CAROL

“Marley was dead, to begin with.” With those six words, Charles Dickens invited us into the world of *A Christmas Carol*, indelibly introducing us to Ebenezer Scrooge, the three ghosts of Christmas, Tiny Tim, and a full cast of memorable characters. Though he spent mere weeks writing it, Dickens’ novella about the original Christmas Grinch has been a holiday staple for nearly two centuries, giving rise to countless adaptations for stage and screen. It was such an immediate hit, that barely a month after its debut, Dickens was embroiled in a legal fight against a publishing company that had printed pirated copies.

In the spirit of the season, here are some interesting facts you may not know about the Christmas classic.

**Did you know...** *A Christmas Carol* was just one of several Christmas-themed stories written by Charles Dickens. The novella’s full title is *A Christmas Carol. In Prose. Being a Ghost Story of Christmas*.

**Did you know...** Dickens wrote the novella in just six weeks, under financial pressure. Reportedly Dickens wrote the story while taking hours-long nighttime walks around London.

**Did you know...** *A Christmas Carol* was first published on December 19, 1843, with the first edition sold out by Christmas Eve. By 1844, the novella had gone through 13 printings and continues to be a robust seller more than 175 years later.

**Did you know...** Dickens didn’t make very much money from early editions of *A Christmas Carol*. Though it was a runaway best seller, Dickens was very fastidious about the endpapers and how the book was bound, and the price of materials took a big chunk out of his potential profits.

**Did you know...** Like many of Dickens’ other works, *A Christmas Carol* was written as a work of social commentary. Dickens had a lifelong devotion to helping the underserved due to his own family’s experiences with debtors’ prison, which forced him to drop out of school as a boy and work at a factory. As Dickens’ biographer Michael Slater described, the author thought of *A Christmas Carol* as a way to: “help open the hearts of the prosperous and powerful towards the poor and powerless...”

**Did you know...** Upon publishing the first edition of *A Christmas Carol*, Dickens had his 66-page heavily revised handwritten manuscript bound in crimson leather and decorated in gilt before gifting it to his friend—and creditor—Thomas Mitton, whose name was also inscribed on the cover in gilt.

**Did you know...** While *A Christmas Carol* was received favorably by many of Dickens’ author peers, a 32-year-old Mark Twain was not a fan. Credited as the first writer to do reading tours of his work, Dickens read *A Christmas Carol* to American audiences during his second visit to the U.S. Twain’s review of the now-iconic book? “There is no heart. No feeling—it is nothing but glittering frostwork.”

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written & compiled by Lucia Frangione



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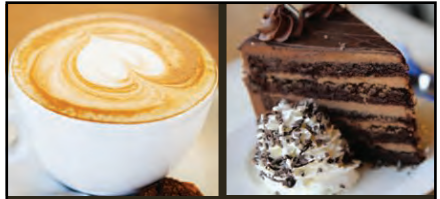
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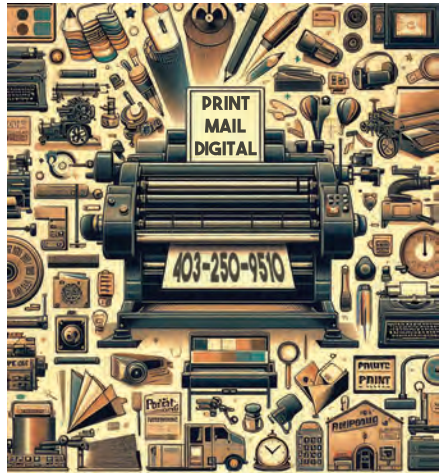
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The cast of *A Christmas Carol* (2023)  
Photo by Trudie Lee