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## **Montgomery's most beloved holiday tradition**

### **Final year under Geoffrey Sherman's direction *A Christmas Carol* returns with some new surprises!**

**MONTOMERY, AL**

ASF's *A Christmas Carol* is a **Heart-Warming, Holiday, Must-See** that will get you into the swing of the holiday season with Scrooge's search for redemption and a spectacular, magical evening of ghosts, spirits, festivity and goodwill. **"God Bless Us, Every One!"**

*A Christmas Carol* begins preview performances November 20. Ticket prices start at \$30. They may be purchased by calling **800.841.4273**, visiting online at [HYPERLINK "http://www.asf.net"](http://www.asf.net) [www.asf.net](http://www.asf.net) or at the ASF box office located at 1 Festival Drive in the heart of Montgomery's beautiful Blount Cultural Park.

The Montgomery Advertiser calls ASF's production of *A Christmas Carol* "a superb production that does for us what it took four ghosts to do for Scrooge — transforming thoughts of money, the hectic holiday schedules and unrelenting commercialism into a reawakening of our love for and appreciation of the true wonders of Christmas."

Adapted for the stage by ASF's producing artistic director **Geoffrey Sherman**, the play utilizes the character of Dickens who literally brings the performance to magical life along with spectacular special effects, elaborate period costumes and a magnificent set replicating nineteenth-century London.

This is the final year that the production will be mounted at ASF by Producing Artistic Director Geoffrey Sherman, who will retire at the end of season (June 2017). This year's production once again will partner with the Montgomery Humane Society to feature dogs up for adoption as part of the production. Local churches will also be represented on stage as local pastors from Aldersgate UMC, First Baptist Church (Ripley Street), Frazer UMC and St. Michael & All Angels' Episcopal Church (Milbrook) make guest appearances in the role of "Vicar" in the party scene.

Returning in the role of Ebenezer Scrooge is ASF favorite Rodney Clark. New to the role this year, ASF favorite Paul Hebron performs the role of Charles Dickens.

The Cast includes **Brik Berkes** (Marley, Topper), **James Bowen** (Charity Man, Christmas Present), **Ann Flanigan** (Caroler, Christmas Past), **Justy Kosek** (Caroler, Fezziwig Guest), **Greta Lambert** (Mrs. Cratchit), **Javon Q. Minter** (Butcher, Fezziwig Guest), **Joe O'Malley** (Belle's Husband, Christmas Future), **Kate Owens** (Catherine, Caroler), **Andre Revels** (Stage Manager, Milkman), **Tirosh Schneider** (Baker, Businessman), **Billy Sharpe** (Bob Cratchit, Fezziwig Guest), **Alice Sherman** (Belle, Fred's wife), **Joshua Sottile** (Caroler, Vicar), **Jackson Thompson** (Fred, Fezziwig Guest), **Diana Van Fossen** (Mrs. Fezziwig, Mrs. Dilber), and **Megan Woodley** (Fezziwig Guest, Fred's Party Guest).

**Sam Bolger** (Forest Avenue Academic Magnet) and **Gavin Campbell** (Bear Exploration Center) will alternate in the role of Tiny Tim.

Other young local talent featured in the production include **Tyson Chappell** (Dalraida Elementary), **Matthew Craymer** (Bear Exploration Center), **Tapley Cronier** (Saint James School), **Angelina Xu Dong** (Dean Road Elementary-Auburn), **Steven H. Gorden** (Pike Road School), **Charlie Hill** (Montgomery Academy), **Sierra Luker** (Pike Road School), **Claire Poundstone** (Montgomery Academy), **Ansley Roberts** (Ansley East Academy), **Domanikk A. Rudolph** (Carr Middle School), **Josie Stough** (Baldwin Arts Magnet) and **Natalie Thayer** (Montgomery Academy).

The artistic team includes **Dr. Joel Jones** (music director), **Billy Sharpe** (assistant director), **Paul Wonsek** (set design), **Tom Rodman** (lighting design), **Elizabeth Novak** (costume design) and **Brett Rominger** (sound design). **Amie Bajalieh** serves as the stage manager.

In conjunction with A Christmas Carol, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual ASF Tree Lighting will kick off the production on the afternoon of **Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> (4-6 p.m.)** with a free public event featuring live music, Dickens carolers, free hot chocolate and donuts, free carriage rides in the park and visits with Santa. All are welcome!

***The Alabama Shakespeare Festival is among the largest Shakespeare theatres in the world. Designated as the State Theatre of Alabama, ASF has been located in Montgomery since 1985 when it moved from Anniston as a result of Mr. and Mrs. Wynton Blount's gift of a performing arts complex in the 250-acre Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park.***

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**FUN, FESTIVE & FULFILLING – WORLD-CLASS THEATRE IN THE HEART OF THE SOUTH!**

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Alabama Shakespeare Festival  
The State Theatre of Alabama