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Alabama Shakespeare Festival  
The State Theatre of Alabama

**November 7, 2017**

**One of Alabama's favorite holiday traditions,**

***A Christmas Carol* returns with some new surprises and ASF Favorites!**

**MONTOMERY, AL**

**ASF's *A Christmas Carol* is a heart-warming, holiday, must-see** that will get you into the swing of the 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 19. Ticket prices start at \$30. Tickets may be purchased by calling **800.841.4273**, visiting online at [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 former ASF 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.

ASF's Associate Director, **Nancy Rominger** directs this year's production and has brought along an all-star cast of ASF favorite faces — including **Jacqueline Petroccia** (*Always... Patsy Cline*) and **Fredena Williams** (*Disney's Beauty and the Beast*) making their debut in ASF's ***A Christmas Carol***. Once again, ASF will partner with the Montgomery Humane Society to feature a special canine guest star in each production — a dog currently up for adoption, which the audience has the opportunity to meet in the lobby during intermission.

Local churches will also be represented on ASF's Festival stage as local pastors make guest appearances in the role of "Vicar". This special role will be filled by six community clergy members including: Rev. Tim Meadows (**Woodland United Methodist Church**), Rev. E. Baxter Morris (**First Baptist Church**), Rev. Larry Bryars (**Frazer United Methodist Church**), Rev. Dr. Brian Miller (**Algersgate United Methodist Church**), Rev. Mark E. Waldo, Jr. (**St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church**), Rev. Neil Epler (**Frazer United Methodist Church**).

Returning in the role of Ebenezer Scrooge is ASF favorite Rodney Clark. New to the role of Charles Dickens is **David Schmittou**, who was recently seen on ASF stages as Mr. Banks in *Disney's Mary Poppins*.

The Cast includes **Noelia Antweiler** (Belle, Charlotte, Fred's wife), **Brik Berkes** (Marley, Topper), **James Bowen** (Charity Man, Christmas Present), **Andrew Seth Bridges** (Fred, Fezziwig guest), **Josh Cahn** (Stage Manager, Street Person, Milkman), **Katie Fanning** (Caroler, Fezziwig Guest), **Ithamar Francois** (Caroler, Fezziwig Guest), **Briat Ott** (Street Person, Belle's Husband), **Jaqueline Petroccia** (Mrs. Cratchit, Fezziwig Guest), **Woodrow Proctor**, (Caroler, Young Scrooge, Christmas Future), **Collin M. Purcell** (Street person, Fezziwig Guest), **Billy Sharpe** (Bob Cratchit, Fezziwig Guest), **Lara Treacy** (Caroler, Fred's Party Guest), **Fredena J. Williams** (Mrs. Fezziwig, Mrs. Dilber), **Lilly Wilton** (Christmas Past, Shop Girl), and **Colin Wulff** (Caroler, Fezziwig Guest).

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

Other young local talent featured in the production include **Charlie Hill** (Montgomery Academy), **Lance Perkowski** (Maxwell Elementary School), **Brooklyn Norstedt**, **Claire Poundstone** (Montgomery Academy), **Erin Mitchell**, **Josie Stough** (Baldwin Arts Magnet), **Vinny Figiera** (Blount Elementary), **Rowan Osborne** (Holy Cross Episcopal School), **Amia Curry** (Wilson Elementary) and **Angelina Xu Dong** (Dean Road Elementary-Auburn).

The artistic team includes **Paul Wonsek** (set design), **Tom Rodman** (lighting design), **Elizabeth Novak** (costume design) and **Brett Rominger** (sound design). **Hannah-Jean Farris** serves as the stage manager.

In conjunction with A Christmas Carol, the 4th Annual ASF Tree Lighting will kick off the production on the afternoon of **Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> (4-6 p.m.)** with a free public tree-lighting event featuring live music, Dickens carolers, free hot chocolate and treats, free carriage rides in the park and visits with Santa. The ASF Tree Lighting is sponsored by Alexander Pediatrics, Baptist Health and TrueSouth Properties/Buchanan Forest Management with additional support by Country Financial and the Alabama AARP. All are welcome!

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

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