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## **PRIME STAGE THEATRE PRESENTS *ONE CHRISTMAS CAROL***

**An amazing theatrical holiday imaginative experience for the whole family!**

(Performances available with captions and audio description for recorded performances only.  
Sensory Inclusive with a social story included on the web site)

(Pittsburgh, PA – November 22, 2020) On December 11, 2020, Prime Stage Theatre will present a virtual live-stream performance of ***One Christmas Carol*** adapted by **Douglas H. Baker** from ***A Christmas Carol*** by **Charles Dickens**.

**Baker** has an extensive background in professional and educational theatre. He has written two Las Vegas production shows: "Winds of the Gods" for the Luxor Hotel and "Tournament of Kings" for the Excalibur Hotel, where he performed the leading role of Merlin the Master for over ten years. ***One Christmas Carol*** had its premiere in 1996 at the Lady Luck Casino in Las Vegas. Mr. Baker has since performed *One Christmas Carol* in and around Las Vegas and throughout Nevada.

“Fans of this timeless story and theater will love this special one-man Christmas Carol,” said **Wayne Brinda**, Producing Artistic Director. “Set in a theater, noted actor **Scott Calhoon** portrays **Charles Dickens** who delightfully brings his colorful characters to life as he spices up your imaginations. It’s an amazing theatrical holiday experience for the whole family.”

A unique aspect of the production is that the story is told through a narrator who is **Charles Dickens**. The creation of his masterpiece came about partly because of the time in history. Having just read a government report on child labor in the United Kingdom, he first conceived of his project as a pamphlet addressing the social issues of the day. However, in giving it more thought he decided instead to express his arguments in a story for which audiences hungered. Published 173 years ago, **Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol** was an instant bestseller and reading or watching it became a sacred ritual for many who felt it could not really be Christmas without this essential tradition. This ritual continues to this day.

“**Christmas Carol** is such an iconic holiday story and a much need respite in the challenging times we are in,” says **Tina Marie Cerny**, Operations Director. “This version strips the story down to its most basic components and heightens the connection between the author, the story, and the audience.”

One of the biggest challenges of creating a production today is the COVID-19 pandemic. With **One Christmas Carol** the play actually takes advantage of the limitations solving one of the logistics of presenting it safely.

At a time like this when we need to accommodate social distancing having one actor play multiple characters is a godsend. **Scott P. Calhoon** will portray over 35 distinct characters in this intimate one-man performance that everyone in the family will love. **Dickens’** famous story is refined down to the basics forgoing the usual advantage of lavish scenery and a multitude of actors.

**Calhoon** was last seen in Front Porch Theatricals production of *Bright Star* and in Prime Stage’s world premiere of *The Scarlet Letter*. Regional theatre performances include WV Public Theatre, Candlewood Playhouse (CT), Gateway Playhouse (NY), Northern Lights

Playhouse (WI), Pittsburgh Playhouse and Gargaro Productions and won a PGH New Works Festival Best Supporting Actor Award. Scott can usually be 'not' scene directing shows in and around town and can be heard as the narrator of the Grammy nominated children's audio book, *Find Your Own Voice*.

"I am honored to be asked by Prime Stage to do such a challenging role and challenged greatly to do so, bringing all of Charles Dickens' characters to life," said **Calhoon**.

Directing this production is **Shane Valenzi**, making his Prime Stage directing debut. **Valenzi** returns to Prime Stage after a more than 20 year absence, having previously appeared as a child actor in Prime Stage's first *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *The Secret Garden*. Prior directing credits include The Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company (Chicago), the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington, D.C.), the Pittsburgh Savoyards, Stage 62, Jude Pohl Productions and the University of Pennsylvania.

"Few stories are ingrained in our society as fundamentally as Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*" says **Valenzi**. "For many (perhaps for most) the story itself is a holiday tradition, having been subject to perhaps more popular interpretations than any other English work of the last two centuries. With a work with so many interpretations, though, comes an expectation of spectacle - the suspense comes not in the story but in anticipation of how each element will be stylized. With this production we've endeavored to strip away the spectacle and refocus Dickens' story on the struggle within Scrooge himself to become a better man, and hope the audience will come to view the familiar characters not simply as foreign actors leading Scrooge by the nose to his own self discovery, but rather as various aspects of Scrooge's own self, fighting for purchase and helping him to find the goodness in the world and, ultimately, himself."

The Terminal in the Strip District will unveil their holiday window displays on November 28 and will run through Christmas. This year Prime Stage Theatre has been invited to decorate one of the windows and the theme will be ***One Christmas Carol***.

As with all Prime Stage productions we strive to make our online performances accessible to everyone. This production will be available with options for audio description and captions for

the recorded performances only. The performance is Sensory Inclusive and a social story will be posted on the web site. Prime Stage Theatre is the only theater company in the Pittsburgh area to attain Certified Sensory Inclusive status through KultureCity, as a leading nonprofit recognized nationwide for using their resources to affect change for those with sensory needs.

**WHAT:** *One Christmas Carol*

**WHERE & WHEN:** Live streamed on December 11, 2020 at 8:00 PM ET  
A recorded link will also be available for purchase on December 12 through December 19, 2020.

**TICKETS & INFO:** Prime Online [www.primestage.com/events](http://www.primestage.com/events)  
(online sales begin Wednesday, November 25)  
***Holiday Special Price –  
Pay What You Can Starting at \$5 per household.***  
<https://primestage.com/events/one-christmas-carol/>

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