A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens
Adapted for the stage by Tim Carroll

Nov 12 – Dec 23



SHAW FESTIVAL
Harbourfront centre

THE FLECK AT HARBOURFRONT CENTRE THEATRE
NOVEMBER 12 – DECEMBER 23

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TIM CARROLL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
TIM JENNINGS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MELISSA NOVECOSKY, ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
KIMBERLEY RAMPERSAD, ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens
Adapted for the stage by Tim Carroll

**with JANELLE COOPER, ALLISON EDWARDS-CREWE,
HAILEY GILLIS, GRYPHYN KARIMLOO,
QASIM KHAN, TARAN KIM,
MADELYN KRIESE, LAWRENCE LIBOR,
EMILY LUKASIK, GRAEME SOMERVILLE,
SANJAY TALWAR and KIANA WOO**

Directed by TIM CARROLL
Set and Costumes Designed by CHRISTINE LOHRE
Lighting Designed by KEVIN LAMOTTE
Original Music by PAUL SPORTELLI
Music Direction by RACHEL O'BRIEN
Movement and Puppetry by ALEXIS MILLIGAN
Original Sound Design by TREVOR HUGHES

Official Hotel Partner
Fairmont
ROYAL YORK

Any video and / or audio recording, streaming or distribution
of this production is strictly prohibited.

Front cover: Sanjay Talwar as Ebenezer Scrooge, illustration design by Key Gordon.

THE CAST

In Alphabetical Order

Janelle Cooper	**MRS. DILBER**
Allison Edwards-Crewe	**EMILY**
Hailey Gillis	**MRS. CRATCHIT**
Gryphyn Karimloo	**BOB CRATCHIT**
Qasim Khan	**CHRISTMAS PRESENT**
Taran Kim	**STANDBY**
Madelyn Kriese	**CHRISTMAS PAST**
Lawrence Libor	**FRED**
Emily Lukasik	**BELLE**
Graeme Somerville	**MR. HUBBLE**
Sanjay Talwar	**EBENEZER SCROOGE**
Kiana Woo	**STANDBY**

Other parts played by members of the Ensemble

***Chapter 1**: Marley's Ghost*
***Chapter 2**: The First of the Three Spirits*
***Chapter 3**: The Second of the Three Spirits*
***Chapter 4**: The Last of the Three Spirits*
***Chapter 5**: The End of It*

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION

Alex Sykes	**ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER**
Fred Gabrsek	**RECORDING ENGINEER**
Daniel Tessy	**RECORDING ENGINEER**
Jeffrey Simlett	**VOICE AND DIALECT COACH**
Taran Kim	**MOVEMENT AND PUPPET CAPTAIN**
Tanya Greve	**STAGE MANAGER**
Georgia Holland	**ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER**
Lisa Russell	**PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER**
Leigh McClymont	**ASSOCIATE PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER**

SPECIAL THANKS TO:
Agnete Haaland and everyone at Den Nationale Scene of Bergen, Norway, where an earlier version of this show was staged, and to James Oxley for his contribution to that original production.
Tiny Tim puppet crafted by Mandarava Butlin.
Additional puppets crafted in the workshops of Den Nationale Scene.

UNDERSTUDIES
TARAN KIM, Bob Cratchit, Christmas Present, Fred, Mr Hubble;
KIANA WOO, Belle, Christmas Past, Emily, Mrs Cratchit, Mrs Dilber
GRAEME SOMERVILLE, Ebenezer Scrooge

Running time is approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes including one 20-minute intermission

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST SEASON OF THE SHAW FESTIVAL

AT HARBOURFRONT CENTRE



We're delighted to share one of the Shaw Festival's most beloved holiday traditions with you here in Toronto.

The enduring magic of *A Christmas Carol* lies in the idea that no one is beyond the possibility of change - and that generosity, compassion and our connections with one another have the power to transform us. It's a story that feels especially meaningful when experienced together, live in a theatre.



Together with *Sleuth* and *Ohio State Murders*, *A Christmas Carol* is part of an exciting new artistic residency uniting the Shaw Festival and Harbourfront Centre. These productions have been specially adapted for The Fleck at Harbourfront Centre Theatre, offering you a new way to experience the artistry of the Shaw Festival in the heart of Toronto.

This is the beginning of a joyful, multi-year collaboration designed to bring more people together through theatre.

Thank you for being here at the start - and for choosing to spend part of your holiday season with us.

Tenio Evangelista
President & Chair of the Board of Directors, Harbourfront Centre

Tim Carroll
Artistic Director, Shaw Festival

ABOUT THE SHAW FESTIVAL

One of the largest charitable theatre companies in North America, the Shaw Festival's mission is to enrich and connect people's lives through theatre.

Just a short trip from Toronto, The Shaw makes its home in beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake. This holiday season, there's even more to experience with *Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella* and *A Year with Frog and Toad* on stage from November through December 2026.

And there's much more to come. The Shaw's 2027 season runs from March 31 through December 23, with more than 11 captivating productions including *Rodgers & Hammerstein's South Pacific*, *The Color Purple*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Goblin: Pygmalion*, *Deathtrap* and *Arms and the Man*.

Visit shawfest.com for more information.



Graeme Somerville as Mr. Hubble with the cast of *A Christmas Carol* (Shaw Festival, 2025). Photo by David Cooper.

BIOGRAPHIES

TIM CARROLL DIRECTOR



I don't remember ever seeing *A Christmas Carol* on stage when I was growing up. Where I grew up, in Manchester, England, it was all pantomimes of the silliest, most vulgar kind. I loved them. By the time I became a director, in my twenties, I had developed a passionate love for the works of Charles Dickens. How wonderful that my job allowed me to adapt this piece and put it on stage – and even more wonderful to hand it on to other directors and see how they respond to this most moving and life-affirming story. For me, Christmas means Charles Dickens. He invented the modern Christmas, and told us what it means – for anyone, anywhere. This is Tim Carroll's 11th season at The Shaw.

CHRISTINE LOHRE SET & COSTUME DESIGNER



My grandmother took all the family to the National Theatre in Oslo before Christmas to see *Searching for the Christmas Star*. I remember the warm light falling on the snow from the lanterns outside the old theatre. Inside, it was decorated in gold, and the stage was like looking into another world. To build an atmosphere is what inspires me, using my memories and imagination of shapes, materials and colours as tools to draw the world on stage.

KEVIN LAMOTTE LIGHTING DESIGNER



My earliest theatre memories are of being in school plays. The best thing about being a lighting designer is collaborating with other artists from many disciplines to create something new. Christmas to me means family and the joy of being all together at this time of year.

PAUL SPORTELLI ORIGINAL MUSIC



My mom starred in community theatre, and my parents took me to rehearsals when I was quite young. Other parents brought their kids too; but while the other kids were in the parking lot playing, I was inside watching rehearsal, mesmerized. Years later, I was music directing *Gypsy* at the same community theatre, with my mom as Mamma Rose. Thanks to my dad for driving me to all those piano lessons over the years. Productions of *Tristan, Maria Severa, The Next Whisky Bar* and *The Secret Garden* have been some of my highlights in my 28 seasons at The Shaw.

RACHEL O'BRIEN MUSIC DIRECTOR



Many of my earliest memories of performing are tied to singing in the Christmas concerts of the small town I grew up in – a small town with a large Christmas concert. This was the most thrilling musical event I could ever be a part of, as I stood up there with my sister in the girls' choir, all in our little jumpers with the Nova Scotia tartan pinned to our chests, singing "The Holly and the Ivy" while the packed church cheerfully sang along from their seats. For me, Christmas means gathering together, and singing. I feel very fortunate to be at The Shaw this holiday season, surrounded by lots gathering and singing. Happy Holidays!

ALEXIS MILLIGAN MOVEMENT & PUPPETRY



In my house, my children and I celebrate the dark. As the sun sets earlier and earlier, the candles are lit, the battery packs of the string lights are turned on, and we warm spiced apple cider on the stove. The three of us prioritize being as cozy as possible, changing into our "cozy clothes" as soon as we get home from school and work, and together we try to slow down the pace of the house, reclaiming it from the bright busyness of the open summer. And I am definitely one of those people who happily begins playing carols at the first hint of a drop in temperature and constantly looks out the window, wistfully waiting for the first snowflakes to fly.
Follow me at alexismilligan.com



JANELLE COOPER MRS DILBER

When I think of the holidays, I see my mother in the kitchen building a West Indian feast big enough to feed the neighbourhood. I smell fresh bread, curry powder, orange and clove. I hear Crystal Gayle's "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas" on my favourite holiday mixed tape. We never had much, but we didn't want for anything. We were full of joy, of love. Today, I'm a Mom and wrap my child in the same warmth that held me, conjuring new magic rooted in the heart of tradition. To experience this time of year through their sparkling eyes is what Christmas means to me. This is Janelle Cooper's 2nd season at The Shaw.



ALLISON EDWARDS-CREWE EMILY

My earliest theatre memory is when my mom won tickets to Ross Petty's Christmas Pantomime: *Aladdin*. I had the best time laughing, singing along and most importantly booing Jafar whenever he came on stage. It was so fun and I like to think some shows I've done have gifted people the same wonder and fun I experienced that day. I LOVE Christmas. I always have; singing carols, hymns and all the great food, and time with family. Every Christmas Eve we go to the 11pm service and right as the church bells ring 12 the congregation sings "Silent Night" only by candlelight. It's a beautiful Christmas tradition I look forward to, and of course my mom's homemade apple pie. This is Allison Edwards-Crewe's 3rd season at The Shaw.



HAILEY GILLIS MRS CRATCHIT

My first memory in a theatre was when I was 8 years old; my mother took me to see *Ragtime*. I can remember it so vividly, down to my blue dress, which my hands clasped in my lap as I heard, for the first time, the sound of a chorus of singers, and I saw a curtain opening, and a picture on stage, and I can still feel my mother's eyes on me as the show began. Now I have two kids, and they like to run around in every theatre I work in and pick their favourite chair. I've been doing this for a bit, but now I do it for them, and with them in every note and movement, they are my inspiration. This is Hailey Gillis's 1st season at The Shaw.

GRYPHYN KARIMLOO BOB CRATCHIT



Returning to *A Christmas Carol* feels extra special to me because it was my introduction to the Shaw Festival, as well as my professional debut in 2023. Having the opportunity now to revisit the show in Toronto, with a blend of artists familiar to me and new, feels like a befitting evolution and an exciting chance to rediscover this classic story once again. This play has had a long legacy at the Shaw Festival and beyond, and I have witnessed from being both onstage and in the audience its overwhelming effect of comfort and joy, and I'm very grateful and proud to be a part of that legacy. This is Gryphyn Karimloo's 4th season at The Shaw.

QASIM KHAN CHRISTMAS PRESENT



I'm from Newmarket, ON, and my hobbies as a kid included playing box office in my bedroom and staging solo productions of *The Phantom of the Opera* in the basement. Decades have passed since then, and more recently, you may have seen me on stages in Toronto, Stratford, and The Shaw. Some of my favourite roles have been in *The Inheritance, Hamlet*, and *Playboy of the Western World*. I don't know how I feel about the holidays. They're a strange mix of nostalgia and consumerism, and Christmas carols generally make me sad. But I'm grateful to be back home in Toronto, spending time with my partner, Sergio, my family, and friends. This is Qasim Khan's 3rd season at The Shaw.

TARAN KIM STANDBY



I am so honoured to be back at The Shaw as a part of this wonderful partnership with Harbourfront Centre. I come from Mississauga and I always feel so lucky to be a part of a show so close to where I grew up. My first show with Shaw was during the holidays and I'll never forget the level of community I experienced and am really looking forward to sharing it with all of you in this new space along with all of those wonderful feelings of family, love and joy. Thank you for keeping live theatre thriving and Happy Holidays! This is Taran Kim's 3rd season at The Shaw.

MADELYN KRIESE CHRISTMAS PAST



One of my first performances was at a Christmas recital, singing a solo of "Little Saint Nick" by the Beach Boys. Attempting all the harmonies myself was a decision braver than it was wise. Since then, the holiday season and I have grown up together both onstage, and in the audience, where I've felt my Christmas spirit reignited many times. Seeing theatre each Christmas is a tradition in my family, a ritual, I think, that has kept the childlike wonder of the season so stubbornly alive in me. So, if this is the start of your own Christmas theatre tradition, I couldn't be happier you're here – and if it's one you already hold dear, I hope you'll keep it going for many years to come. This is Madelyn Kriese's 5th season at The Shaw.

LAWRENCE LIBOR FRED



It was Christmas Eve, and the Libor family had abandoned all traditions. Instead of carols and mince pies, we were gathered around the TV at 3 am, watching episode 30-something of Bear Grylls tackling some frozen wilderness or other. Mum whipped up some eggnog, but instead of sipping it politely, my brother suggested we take shots when Bear ate something disgusting. Raw fish, shot. Beetle, shot. Squeezing water from elephant dung, shot. We were blind drunk and bloated, while mum slept in her chair. We all agreed – it was wonderful, weird, messy, and from that year on eggnog and Bear Grylls became the new Libor family tradition! This is Lawrence Libor's 2nd season at The Shaw.

EMILY LUKASIK BELLE



Some of my earliest theatre memories as a child are of going to a holiday show with a big group of family and friends; a tradition that has continued to this day. It's a gift to now be a part of someone else's earliest theatre memory, I hope! Christmas to me is making hundreds of perogies with my family, going on a nursing home carolling tour and best of all, spending time with loved ones reflecting on the gifts and growth of the year that's passed. What I love about Christmas is in many ways what I love about the theatre: people coming together to make music, tell stories and – as Dickens says so beautifully – "open their shut-up hearts freely." This is Emily Lukasik's 6th season at The Shaw.

GRAEME SOMERVILLE MR HUBBLE



I have a photo which was taken in the lobby of the Shaw Festival Theatre 42 years ago. In it, I stand beside my father, who has just purchased a book from the gift shop for me, entitled *Model Theatres and How to Make Them*. In a romantic gesture he has inscribed within: "To Graeme, who at the age of eight has a love for the theatre. May it last a lifetime." This Christmas will be the twelfth with our son and the fourteenth without my father. I hope that, in time, Griffin may come to love this raucous and joyful revel of an art-form as much as his grandfather did, and as his wonderful mother, Marla, and I do. This is Graeme Somerville's 23rd season at The Shaw.

SANJAY TALWAR EBENEZER SCROOGE



Decorating the tree, carols, presents (and so, shopping), *It's a Wonderful Life*, the Grinch, Scrooge, counting down to the big day (sometimes in minutes and seconds), playing games with my sister between 5 and 7 am so my parents could get some rest … but mostly Christmas has been about family for me since I was little. My parents, my sister, and at least one guest that my father would have brought to our house – an exchange student, a new Canadian, someone whose home was far away. It made me realize that family could mean more than I ever thought. Merry Christmas to you and your family. This is Sanjay Talwar's 12th season at The Shaw.

KIANA WOO STANDBY



For me, the holiday season is about family. I always look forward to heading back to Calgary, where my parents still live, and spending a blissful holiday in my childhood home. There is always a lot of shouting when my full family gets together, and it can be a little loud and overpowering, but the room is full of warmth, delicious food, and everyone is so excited to be together that they just can't contain their volume. I think that's where I got my boldness and love of stories, by sharing them with my family every holiday. I hope that when you watch our show that you feel a little bit of that family warmth, and take it home with you. This is Kiana Woo's 2nd season at The Shaw.



TANYA GREVE STAGE MANAGER

I have had the joy of being many things in my career: stage manager, educator, and arts administrator. For my daughter's entire life, she has known me as a teacher of theatre and stage management. Now, I am returning to being a stage manager after many years away from it! I always told students that it is the best of theatre professions. You have the excitement of being with a production from the very beginning to the very end. You are there at the initial creation with the full company and live with the piece until its last performance, watching it breathe, and grow. What an honour that is! This is Tanya Greve's 1st season at The Shaw.



GEORGIA HOLLAND
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

I began my career throughout theatres in Montreal and found my way to the Shaw Festival in 2024. I love doing what I do in every joy and frustration, and I hold a lot of pride in working alongside such amazing people. Since as early as two years old I have been involved in the performing arts, with some of my most precious holiday memories taking place backstage. Making holiday magic happen in Canadian winter is no easy task but there is no place I would rather be on a cold winter's day than a green room with a cup of coffee. This is Georgia Holland's 3rd season at The Shaw.



LISA RUSSELL
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Originally from Calgary, I started my professional career thirty years ago at the Citadel Theatre in Edmonton and have worked in events, dance, theatre, and musical theatre across Canada. My first trip to NOTL was to cheer on the Stratford cricket team (sorry!) at the annual Shaw/ Stratford cricket match over twenty years ago and I am thrilled to now be fulfilling a longtime bucket list item of joining the stage management team at the Shaw Festival. With the move to NOTL, I have also been able to further my pursuit of a more recent passion by setting up a home pottery studio; with the future dream of becoming a fulltime potter. This is Lisa Russell's 2nd season at The Shaw.

LEIGH McCLYMONT
ASSOCIATE PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER



I hail from small town Southern Ontario but since completing my Bachelor of Honours Drama at the University of Waterloo back in 2004, I have worked all over Canada. Niagara-on-the-Lake has been my homebase for 16 years and I always love how early spring flowers bloom here and how it signals the return to rehearsals and loads of life at the festival. I love delving into the intellectual work of the plays we do here or being in music and choreography rehearsals with so many incredibly talented people. It's hard not to love your workday when it's filled with singing, dancing and tons of laughter. This is Leigh McClymont's 18th season at The Shaw.



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The Shaw Festival is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres, and Theatre Communications Group (USA) and engages professional artists who are members of the Canadian Actors Equity Association under the terms of the jointly negotiated Canadian Theatre Agreement.

The Designers on A Christmas Carol are all members of Associated Designers of Canada ADC 659.

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By Adrienne Kennedy

"...In the hands of a master playwright... a much more visceral story of heartache."

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Sophia Walker in *Ohio State Murders*. Photo by Michael Cooper.

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