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#XmasCarolLTC

Lantern Theater Company Celebrates the Holiday Season with the Return of *CHARLES DICKENS' A CHRISTMAS CAROL*, December 3 – 28, 2022

Original Adaptation by Anthony Lawton, Christopher Colucci, and Thom Weaver Also Reimagined for Film and Streaming on Demand December 14, 2022 – January 2, 2023

PHILADELPHIA (November 30, 2022) – Lantern Theater Company continues its 2022/23 season with a remount of its original adaptation of *Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol*, commissioned and developed through the Lantern's New Play Program and co-created by Philadelphia theater artists **Anthony Lawton**, **Christopher Colucci**, and **Thom Weaver**. In this wonderfully clear and direct telling of Dickens' beloved novella, acclaimed playwright and actor Anthony Lawton brings the story boldly to life with drama and frankness, in a manner Dickens himself would recognize from his dramatic readings during his own lifetime. Lawton's compelling solo performance brings each character to life in this timeless story of a miser's miraculous redemption from a life of bitterness, greed, and isolation. Hailed by the late Terry Teachout in *The Wall Street Journal* as "electrifying" and by *The Philadelphia Inquirer* as "a 95-minute masterpiece...brilliantly performed and staged," Lawton's heartwarming adaptation has captured the hearts of theater critics and audiences alike, inspiring a new Philadelphia holiday tradition.

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol runs **Saturday, December 3 through Wednesday, December 28, 2022**, at The Proscenium Theatre at The Drake; a complete schedule of performances is included in the fact sheet below. Theater critics and members of the press are invited to request press tickets for the **opening performance on Sunday, December 4 at 2 p.m.** by contacting Anne Shuff at ashuff@lanterntheater.org. To ensure a safe and comfortable theater experience, everyone other than the actor on stage must wear **properly fitted masks** while attending the performance. For audience members who prefer to watch from home, the

Lantern will also be **streaming a fully designed and edited film version** of *A Christmas Carol* from **December 14, 2022 – January 2, 2023**.

Written in 1843, Dickens' holiday classic is famous for its ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future who help Scrooge see the error of his ways. But Dickens originally envisioned *A Christmas Carol* as a social justice pamphlet denouncing child labor and poverty entitled *An Appeal to the People of England, on behalf of the Poor Man's Child*. England in the 1840s was a time of rapid industrialization, massive population growth, and widening gulfs between the rich and the poor. Throughout his life, Dickens was highly sensitive to and outspoken about social issues, particularly those involving children and economic inequality.

“There are some stories so woven into the mythos of a culture that it seems impossible to imagine a time before they existed,” said Lantern Artistic Director **Charles McMahon**. “*A Christmas Carol* is one of those stories. Stripped of holiday clichés, it is a devastating story, laying bare all the ugly forces that separate and isolate human beings from one another, turning life into a solitary torment. It is also a joyous story of one person's release from that torment just at the moment when it seems about to clasp him in its grip for all time. We are thrilled to again present this original adaption of *A Christmas Carol* – a unique version in which you will hear the simple power of the words and the characters told in a clear and simple human voice.”

Lantern Theater Company will delve deeper into the themes of *A Christmas Carol* on its **Lantern Searchlight blog**, available online at lanterntheater.org/searchlight. Published articles explore the world of Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol* in the nexus between Victorian economics and literature, the fascinating circumstances surrounding the writing of this holiday classic, and more.

Tickets for the live production of *A Christmas Carol* are \$25 – \$30 and are available online at www.lanterntheater.org or by calling the Lantern Box Office at **(215) 829-0395**. Discounts are available for students, seniors 65 and up, U.S. military personnel, and groups of 10 or more. Performances of *A Christmas Carol* will take place at **The Proscenium Theatre at The Drake**, located at 302 S. Hicks St. in Center City Philadelphia. During the 2022/23 season, the Lantern will announce updated health and safety guidelines 30 days prior to the start of each production. For *A Christmas Carol*, everyone other than the actor on stage must wear **properly fitted masks** at all times in all parts of the performance venue, including the lobby, performance space, restrooms, and stairwells. More detailed information is available at lanterntheater.org/health-and-safety.

Tickets for *A Christmas Carol* DIGITAL are \$25 per household/device and will be available online at www.lanterntheater.org beginning December 14, 2022. Closed captioning is available. Ticket buyers will receive an email confirmation with a private ticket access link, which will provide on-demand access to *A Christmas Carol* for one viewing during the December 14, 2022 – January 2, 2023 streaming period. The

production can be viewed on most internet-connected devices with email/web browser access, including desktops, laptops, tablets, smartphones, and select smart TVs.

About the Artists

Anthony Lawton (Co-Creator and the Storyteller) shows his mastery of theatrical narrative as he plays all of *A Christmas Carol*'s roles in this solo tour de force performance. Lawton is well known to Philadelphia audiences for his original works for the stage – including *The Foocy*, which had its world premiere production at the Lantern in 2005 and earned five Barrymore nominations including Best New Play, and *The Light Princess*, which premiered at Arden Theatre Company and earned eight 2017 Barrymore nominations including Best New Play and two wins. Lawton has also created original adaptations of Shel Silverstein's *The Devil and Billy Markham* and C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters* and *The Great Divorce*, which he has performed at the Lantern and across the U.S. under the aegis of his Mirror Theatre Company, earning him praise from *Philadelphia City Paper* as the city's "Best One-Man Theatre." As an actor, Lawton's local and regional stage credits include numerous stage and digital productions with the Lantern, most recently as James Joyce in *Travesties*, Thomas Cromwell in *A Man for All Seasons*, Dr. Rieux in *The Plague*, Mr. Rice in *Molly Sweeney*, and the title role in *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*. His work at other theaters includes Philadelphia Theatre Company, Arden Theatre Company, Walnut Street Theatre, The Wilma Theater, 1812 Productions, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, and theaters across the U.S. His film and television credits include *Unbreakable*, *Invincible*, *Law Abiding Citizen*, *Silver Linings Playbook*, *Hack*, and *Cold Case*. Lawton holds a BA in great books from the University of Notre Dame and an MFA in acting from Temple University.

Christopher Colucci (Co-Creator and Sound Designer) is an eight-time Barrymore Award-winning sound designer, composer, and musician whose 25+ Lantern credits include recent stage productions of *Travesties* and *A Man for All Seasons*, as well as digital productions of *The Plague*, *Molly Sweeney*, and *The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson*, *Charles Dickens & Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord*. Other recent sound design work includes *Charlotte's Web* at Arden Theatre Company, *Wolf Play* at Theatre Exile, and *Steel Magnolias* at Florida's Gulfshore Playhouse, and upcoming productions of *The Last Parade* at InterAct Theatre Company and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* at Walnut Street Theatre. Colucci holds a BA in philosophy and theology from Eastern University and an MA in philosophy from Western Kentucky University.

Thom Weaver (Co-Creator and Scenic/Lighting Designer) is an award-winning designer whose work has been honored with six Barrymore Awards, two Jeff Awards, and two AUDELCO Awards. His work has been seen locally at the Lantern, The Wilma Theater, Arden Theatre Company, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Theatre Exile, New Paradise Laboratories, and Walnut Street Theatre, and regionally at NYSF/The Public Theater, Roundabout Theatre Company, Primary Stages, Signature Theatre (NY), Center Stage, Huntington Theatre Company, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Syracuse Stage, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Shakespeare Theatre,

Asolo Repertory Theatre, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Folger Theatre, Cleveland Play House, Roundhouse Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Hangar Theatre, Spoleto Festival, City Theatre, Pittsburgh Public Theater, and Yale Repertory Theatre. He is also co-founder of Die-Cast with Brenna Geffers and a member of Wingspace, an organization of theater artists that fosters conversations on design, strengthening community, and furthering activism in the field. Weaver holds a BFA from Carnegie Mellon University and an MFA from the Yale School of Drama.

About Lantern Theater Company

Founded in 1994 and continuing its 29th season with *Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol*, Lantern Theater Company's mission is to produce plays that investigate and illuminate what is essential in the human spirit and the spirit of the times. The Lantern serves the Greater Philadelphia region with award-winning productions and education programming, notably partnering with middle schools and high schools in the Philadelphia School District to provide in-classroom residencies in support of curricular learning. The Lantern became a national leader in streaming theater during the Covid-19 health crisis, producing ten fully designed plays that were created and filmed in the company's resident home at St. Stephen's Theater, garnering coverage in national media including *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, and reaching more than 30,000 patrons in 15 countries and all 50 states.

Following its current Philadelphia premiere production of *The Royale* by Marco Ramirez, directed and choreographed by Zuhairah McGill (now through December 11, 2022) and *Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol*, the Lantern's 2022/23 season will continue with the Philadelphia premiere of *The Lifespan of a Fact* by Jeremy Kareken, David Murrell, and Gordon Farrell, directed by Matt Pfeiffer (**Press Opening: Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 7 p.m.**); and *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare, directed by Charles McMahon (**Press Opening: Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at 7 p.m.**). More information is available online at www.lanterntheater.org.

Lantern Theater Company – 2022/23 Season
FACT SHEET
Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol

ORIGINAL ADAPTATION BY:

Anthony Lawton

IN COLLABORATION WITH:

Christopher Colucci and Thom Weaver

CAST:

Anthony Lawton as the Storyteller

CREATIVE TEAM:

Anthony Lawton, Co-Creator

Christopher Colucci, Co-Creator and Sound Designer

Thom Weaver, Co-Creator and Scenic/Lighting Designer

Kierceton Keller, Costume Designer

Liz Gleason, Stage Manager

PRESS INFORMATION:

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TICKET INFORMATION:

Online: www.lanterntheater.org

By Phone: (215) 829-0395

TICKET PRICING:

\$25 – \$30

PERFORMANCES:

Saturday, December 3 – Wednesday, December 28, 2022

PREVIEWS:

Saturday, December 3 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

OPENING:

Sunday, December 4 at 2 p.m.

REGULAR RUN:

Tuesday at 7 p.m. on December 20 and December 27

Wednesday at 2 p.m. on December 28

Wednesday at 7 p.m. on December 21 and December 28

Thursday at 7 p.m. on December 22

Friday at 7 p.m. on December 16 and December 23

Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on December 10 and December 17

Sunday at 2 p.m. on December 11

Sunday at 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. on December 18

CLOSING PERFORMANCE:

Wednesday, December 28 at 7 p.m.

PERFORMANCE VENUE:

The Proscenium Theatre at The Drake, 302 S. Hicks Street in Center City Philadelphia

DIGITAL PRODUCTION – STREAMING ON DEMAND:

December 14, 2022 – January 2, 2023

\$25 per household/device

PLAY SYNOPSIS for LISTINGS EDITORS:

In this wonderfully clear and direct telling of Charles Dickens' beloved novella, acclaimed playwright and actor Anthony Lawton brings the story boldly to life as only theater can. Come rediscover Dickens' timeless story of a miser's miraculous redemption from a life of bitterness, greed, and isolation. Back by popular demand, this heartwarming adaptation captured the hearts of theater critics and audiences alike, inspiring a new Philadelphia holiday tradition. Best enjoyed by ages 9-99.