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312.443.5151 or [Press@GoodmanTheatre.org](mailto:Press@GoodmanTheatre.org) **October 17, 2024**

IMAGES: [Goodman Theatre Press Room](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/f4bhbl58a3v7srb6prq1h/AGdFsrNySSXS_tqcyySQEjM?rlkey=r65271889dh3rdj3pgjdmb90t&st=eoc5s5mj&dl=0)

**CHRISTOPHER DONAHUE, KATE FRY, ANTHONY IRONS AND BRI SUDIA ARE AMONG THE CHICAGO FAVORITES CAST IN**

**GOODMAN THEATRE’S 47TH ANNUAL *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*—WITH 8-YEAR-OLD AVA ROSE DOTY AS TINY TIM—**

**DIRECTED BY JESSICA THEBUS, ON STAGE NOVEMBER 16 – DECEMBER 30**

**\*\*\*SPECIAL EVENTS AND PERFORMANCES INCLUDE A SPANISH-SUBTITLED PERFORMANCE (DECEMBER 15) AND A SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE (DECEMBER 29)\*\*\***

(Chicago, IL) Rehearsals for the 47th annual production of *A Christmas Carol*,“the greatest seasonal story of all*”*(*Chicago Tribune*), are underway. Acclaimed Chicago artist **Jessica Thebus** returns for her fifth season directing a 34-member all-Chicago cast that stars **Christopher Donahue** in his first year as Ebenezer Scrooge, along with other local favorites new to the production—**Kate Fry** (Narrator), **Anthony Irons** (Bob Cratchit), **Bri Sudia** (Ghost of Christmas Present) and more. As Alternate Scrooge, **Austin Tichenor** steps into the miserly businessman’s shoes for 10 performances. A new Tiny Tim this year—**Ava Rose Doty** (last seen as Young Tommy in *The Who’s TOMMY*) is joined by young performers **Isabel Ackerman**, **Viva Boresi, Annabel Finch**, **Xavier Irons** and **Henry Lombardo**. A complete cast list appears below. *A Christmas Carol* is on stage November 16 – December 30 (opening night is Sunday, November 24 at 7pm). Tickets ($25 - $149; subject to change) are on sale at [GoodmanTheatre.org/Carol](http://goodmantheatre.org/Carol) or by phone at 312.443.3800. Visit the website for performance dates when Tichenor will appear as Scrooge. Goodman Theatre is grateful for the support of PNC (Major Corporate Sponsor) and Abbott Fund (Corporate Sponsor Partner).

“Building the world of *A Christmas Carol,* which is a true Chicago tradition, is like weaving a quilt,” said Director **Jessica Thebus**. “The fabric is strong, and the pattern is familiar, but details can be added to keep it fresh and new. With actors bringing their own stories and experiences to the quilt in unpredictable ways, I’m excited to see what emerges this year.”

The "perfect Chicago holiday tradition” (*Chicago Parent*), Dickens’ classic is a “beautiful, timeless message of generosity’s triumph over greed” (*Chicago Tribune*). Businessman Ebenezer Scrooge’s sizable bank account is only matched by his disdain for the holidays. But one fateful Christmas Eve, Scrooge is visited by four ghosts who take him on a spectacular adventure through his past, present and future, helping him on his discovery of kindness, compassion and redemption in a tale with a “first-rate cast and marvelous staging (that) shines merry and bright" (*Chicago Sun-Times*). Now in its fifth decade, *A Christmas Carol* is “still the best Christmas story ever told” (*Time Out Chicago*) and a signature event of the Chicago holiday season with a star-studded history that includes stage and screen notables like Jessie Mueller, Joe Minoso, Del Close, Harry J. Lennix, Felicia P. Fields, Raul Esparza, Sally Murphy and Frank Galati.

**Full Company of *A Christmas Carol*** (in alphabetical order)

By Charles Dickens, Adapted by Tom Creamer, Directed by Jessica Thebus

**Isabel Ackerman**…Belinda Cratchit/School Child  
**Jazzlyn Luckett Aderele**…Chestnut Seller/Philomena/Mrs. Dilber  
**Dee Dee Batteast**…Frida  
**Hillary Bayley**…Musician  
**Mark Bedard**…Max Fezziwig/Abe  
**Viva Boresi**…Child in Doorway/Pratt/Emily Cratchit/Ignorance  
**Amira Danan**…Belle/Ghost of Christmas Future  
**William Dick**…Marley/Topper/Old Joe  
**Tafadzwa Diener**…Martha Cratchit/Fan/Catherine  
**Christopher Donahue**…Ebenezer Scrooge  
**Ava Rose Doty**…Tiny Tim/School Child  
**Arash Fakhrabadi**…Poulterer/Stag Deer/Young Marley/Undertaker/Ensemble  
**Kate Fry**…Narrator  
**Brian Goodwin**…Musician  
**Jalbelly Guzmán**…Dance Captain/Hat Seller/Doe Deer/Felicity/Young Woman/Ensemble  
**Gregory Hirte**…Musician/Dick Wilkins/Young Man  
**Anthony Irons**…Bob Cratchit/Wreath Seller  
**Xavier Irons**…Johnston/Peter Cratchit/Turkey Child  
**Susaan Jamshidi**…Mrs. Cratchit  
**Henry Lombardo**…Newspaper Seller/Boy Scrooge/Gregory Cratchit **Daniel José Molina**…Young Scrooge/Pie Seller  
**Malcolm Ruhl**…Music Director/Musician  
**Robert Schleifer**…Mr. Fezziwig  
**Lucky Stiff**…Ghost of Christmas Past, Makeup Consultant for Ghost of Christmas Past  
**Bri Sudia**…Charwoman/Ghost of Christmas Present  
**Austin Tichenor**…Alternate Ebenezer Scrooge  
**Penelope Walker**…Crumb/Mrs. Alice Fezziwig  
**Wai Yim**…Ortle/Tree Seller/School Official

Understudies for this production include **Tatiana Bustamante**, **Annabel Finch**, **Jordan Golding**, **Sam Hyson**, **Loren Jones** and **Anne Sheridan Smith**.

**Creative Team**

Associate Director….**Tor Campbell**

Set Designer…..**Todd Rosenthal**

Costume Designer ……**Heidi Sue McMath**

Puppet Designers & Creators….**Jillian Gryzlak** and **Rachel Anne Healy**

Lighting Designer…..**Keith Parham**

Associate Lighting Designer…**Brian Elston**

Sound Designer….. **Pornchanok Kanchanabanca**

Composer….**Andrew Hansen**

Music Director…..**Malcolm Ruhl**Voice and Dialect Coach.....**Sammi Grant**  
Choreographer….**Tommy Rapley**  
Fly Director….**Andrea Gentry**

Casting is by **Lauren Port**, CSA. **Neena Arndt** is the Dramaturg. **Jennifer Gregory** is the Production Stage Manager and **Beth Koehler** and **Duncan McMillan** are the Stage Managers. Flying effects are provided by **ZFX Inc**.

**ENHANCED AND ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES AT GOODMAN THEATRE**

**Touch Tour\* and Audio-Described Performance: Saturday, December 7, 12:30pm Touch Tour; 2pm performance**– The action/text is audibly enhanced for patrons via headset.

**ASL-Interpreted Performance: Friday, December 13 at 7:30pm**– Professional ASL interpreter signs the action/text as played.

**Open-Captioned Performance: Sunday, December 15 at 2pm**– An LED sign presents dialogue in sync with the performance.

**Spanish-Subtitled Performance: Sunday, December 15 at 7pm**– An LED sign presents Spanish-translated dialogue in sync with the performance.

**Sensory-Friendly Performance: Saturday, December 29 at 2pm**– Sensory-friendly/relaxed performances are designed to create a performing arts experience that is intended for patrons who have autism or other social, cognitive and physical challenges that create sensory sensitivities and their families.  
*Visit Goodman theatre.org/Access for more information about Goodman Theatre’s accessibility efforts.*

**ABOUT GOODMAN THEATRE**

Chicago’s theater since 1925, **Goodman Theatre** is a not-for-profit arts and community organization in the heart of the Loop, distinguished by the excellence and scope of its artistic programming and community engagement. Led by Artistic Director **Susan V. Booth** and Executive Director **John Collins**, the theater’s artistic priorities include new play development (more than 150 world or American premieres), large scale musical theater works and reimagined classics. Artists and productions have earned two Pulitzer Prizes, 22 Tony Awards and more than 160 Jeff Awards, among other accolades.

The Goodman is the first theater in the world to produce all 10 plays in August Wilson’s “American Century Cycle.” Its longtime annual holiday tradition *A Christmas Carol*, now in its fifth decade, has created a new generation of theatergoers in Chicago. The Goodman also frequently serves as a production and program partner with national and international companies and Chicago’s Off-Loop theaters.

Using the tools of theatrical practice, the Goodman’s Education and Engagement programs aim to develop generations of citizens who understand and empathize with cultures and stories of diverse voices. The Goodman’s Alice Rapoport Center for Education and Engagement is the home of these programs, which are offered for Chicago youth—85% of whom come from underserved communities—schools and life-long learners.

Goodman Theatre was built on the traditional homelands of the Council of the Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi Nations. We recognize that many other Nations consider the area we now call Chicago as their traditional homeland—including the Myaamia, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac and Fox, Peoria, Kaskaskia, Wea, Kickapoo and Mascouten—and remains home to many Native peoples today. While we believe that our city’s vast diversity should be reflected on the stages of its largest theater, we acknowledge that our efforts have largely overlooked the voices of our Native peoples. This omission has added to the isolation, erasure and harm that Indigenous communities have faced for hundreds of years. We have begun a more deliberate journey towards celebrating Native American stories and welcoming Indigenous communities.

Goodman Theatre was founded by William O. Goodman and his family in honor of their son Kenneth, an important figure in Chicago’s cultural renaissance in the early 1900s. The Goodman family’s legacy lives on through the continued work and dedication of Kenneth’s family, including Albert Ivar Goodman, who with his late mother, Edith-Marie Appleton, contributed the necessary funds for the creation on the new Goodman center in 2000.

**Julie Danis** is Chair of Goodman Theatre’s Board of Trustees, **Lorrayne Weiss** is Women’s Board President and **Kelli Garcia** is President of the Scenemakers Board for young professionals.

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