



SEGERSTROM STAGE / NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 24, 2019

South Coast Repertory

David Ivers
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Paula Tomei
MANAGING DIRECTOR

David Emmes & Martin Benson
FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

presents the 40th annual production of

CHARLES DICKENS' **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

adapted by Jerry Patch

Thomas Buderwitz
SCENIC DESIGN

Dwight Richard Odle
COSTUME DESIGN

Donna & Tom Ruzika
LIGHTING DESIGN

Dennis McCarthy
MUSIC ARRANGEMENT/COMPOSER

Drew Dalzell
SOUND DESIGN

Dennis Castellano
VOCAL DIRECTOR

Sylvia C. Turner
CHOREOGRAPHER

Hisa Takakuwa
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Holly Ahlborn
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Joanne DeNaut, CSA
CASTING

Talia Krispel*
STAGE MANAGER

DIRECTED BY
John-David Keller

Julianne & George Argyros/Argyros Family Foundation
HONORARY PRODUCERS

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In order of appearance)

UNDERTAKER	<i>Alex Knox*</i>
JOE, a cider salesman and a receiver of stolen goods	<i>Art Koustik*</i>
CONSTABLE	<i>Rosney Mauger*</i>
TOY LADY	<i>Melody Butiu*</i>
PUPPET SHOW	<i>Aaron McGee</i>
THOMAS SHELLEY	<i>Nick Slimmer</i>
ELIZABETH SHELLEY	<i>Monika Peña</i>
OLIVER SHELLEY	<i>Maximilian Lalli, Dane Bergman†</i>
RICH WOMAN	<i>Jennifer Parsons*</i>
RICH BOY	<i>PJ Giglia, Nicholas Brown†</i>
RICH GIRL	<i>Presley Coogan, Quinn Garcia†</i>
YOUNG GIRL ABOUT TOWN	<i>Katie Lee, Natalie Dien†</i>
TEEN GIRL ABOUT TOWN	<i>Halia Lindauer, Sarah Frazin†</i>
WREATH SELLER	<i>Timothy Landfield*</i>
LAUNDRESS	<i>Erika Schindele*</i>
TURKEY BOY	<i>Grady Farman, Sebastian Ramirez†</i>
EBENEZER SCROOGE, a grasping, covetous old man	<i>Hal Landon Jr.*</i>
BOB CRATCHIT, clerk to Ebenezer	<i>Daniel Blinkoff*</i>
FRED, nephew to Ebenezer	<i>Sol Castillo*</i>
SOLICITORS	<i>Richard Doyle*, Veralyn Jones*</i>
JACOB MARLEY'S GHOST, a spectre of Ebenezer's former partner in business	<i>Larry Bates*</i>
THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PAST, a phantom showing things past	<i>Richard Doyle*</i>
EBENEZER AS A BOY	<i>Maximilian Lalli, Dane Bergman†</i>
FAN, the sister of Ebenezer	<i>Monika Peña</i>
MRS. FEZZIWIG	<i>Veralyn Jones*</i>
MR. FEZZIWIG, a kind-hearted, jovial old merchant	<i>William Francis McGuire*</i>
JACOB MARLEY AS A YOUNG MAN	<i>Rosney Mauger*</i>
EBENEZER AS A YOUNG MAN	<i>Alex Knox*</i>
BELLE, sweetheart of Ebenezer	<i>Erika Schindele*</i>
THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT, a spirit of a kind, earthy and generous nature	<i>Timothy Landfield*</i>
"TINY" TIM CRATCHIT	<i>Yunah Choi, Lexie Morita†</i>
MRS. CRATCHIT	<i>Jennifer Parsons*</i>
BELINDA CRATCHIT	<i>Presley Coogan, Quinn Garcia†</i>
PETER CRATCHIT	<i>PJ Giglia, Nicholas Brown†</i>
MARTHA CRATCHIT	<i>Lauren Dong, Ella Webb†</i>
MR. TOPPER, a bachelor	<i>Aaron McGee</i>
PURSUED MAIDEN	<i>Monika Peña</i>
SALLY, the wife of Fred	<i>Melody Butiu*</i>
THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS YET-TO-COME, an apparition showing the shadows of things which may yet happen	<i>Rosney Mauger*</i>
WANT	<i>Katie Lee, Natalie Dien†</i>
IGNORANCE	<i>Maximilian Lalli, Dane Bergman†</i>
GENTLEMEN ON THE STREET	<i>Sol Castillo*, Larry Bates*, Richard Doyle*, William Francis McGuire*</i>
THE SCAVENGERS	<i>Veralyn Jones*, Melody Butiu*, Erika Schindele*</i>
POULTERER	<i>Rosney Mauger*</i>

Please note: Children's roles are double cast. Actors with † appear Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at noon. Others appear in balance of performances.

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



Adaptor Jerry Patch; actors Richard Doyle and Hal Landon Jr.; director John-David Keller; and actor Art Koustik.

Photo by Jurdan Kubat

SETTING

19th-Century London

LENGTH

Approximately two hours, including one 15-minute intermission.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Stage Manager	<i>Marissa Putnick*</i>
Stage Management Interns	<i>Janette Braggs, Teiya Dyke</i>
Dance Captain	<i>Erika Schindele</i>
Deck Crew	<i>Lauren Buangan, Alex Johnson, Steven McFann, Julian Olive</i>
Follow Spot Operators	<i>Rachele Ekstrand, R.J. Romero</i>
Sound Engineer	<i>Jim Lupercio</i>
Light Board Operator	<i>Keannak Parvaz</i>
Child Assistant	<i>Gabrielle Jackson</i>
Wig and Makeup Technician	<i>Gillian Woodson</i>
Wig and Makeup Assistant	<i>Kristi D'Arrigo</i>
Wardrobe Supervisor	<i>Jyll Christolini</i>
Dresser	<i>Margaret Jordan</i>
Costume Design Assistant	<i>Sarah Timm</i>
Additional Costume Staff	<i>Lalena Hutton, Ramzi Jneid, Kaler Navazo, Tessa Oberle</i>

Cellular phones, beepers and watch alarms should be turned off or set to non-audible mode during the performance.

Please refrain from unwrapping candy or making other noises that may disturb surrounding patrons.

Photos may be taken before and after the show, and during intermission, but not during the performance itself.

Show your appreciation for the play by using the hashtag #XmasSCR.

Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the theatre.

THE ORANGE COUNTY
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How We Keep Christmas



his season, we celebrate our 40th consecutive year of staging Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, adapted by Jerry Patch. Once again, Hal Landon Jr. plays Ebenezer Scrooge and John-David Keller directs. SCR Founding Artists Richard Doyle and Art Koustik, who have reprised their roles virtually every season, also are back this year. The *Christmas Carol* cast has become a family, gathering each November to do its work. New folks are made kin by our veterans; the veterans are invigorated by the newcomers. By December, we've re-created our clan (and

our show) anew. But we're not complete until joined by SCR's greater family: our audiences. A few of you have seen the show every year since 1980. Many of you first came with your parents and now bring your own children—or even grandchildren! Our production of *A Christmas Carol* has endured because it brings families together. We are reminded to celebrate the season and to consider, together, Ebenezer Scrooge's redemption. The value of love, life and family is heightened by the fact that these don't last forever. It is the equation Scrooge comes to know and one our family appreciates again each year.





See photo information on page 15.

Mr. Landon & Mr. Keller

Bid Farewell to *A Christmas Carol*



body “bah-humbugs” quite like actor Hal Landon Jr. Or somersaults into a top hat and comes up ready to greet Christmas Day in style. *The New York Times* acknowledged him as one of the longest-running Ebenezer Scrooges in the country. But, now, after 40 years of playing Scrooge—a role he originated for South Coast Repertory’s popular adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*—Landon will hang up his top hat. Joining him in retirement from the show will be its 40-year director, John-David Keller, who also portrayed the beloved Mr. Fezziwig for a number of years. And once, in 1997, Keller filled in as Scrooge. [Read more fun facts about *A Christmas Carol* on the facing page.]

As this milestone year approached, the pair spent time reflecting on the show, what it has meant to each of them and the impact on more than a half-million playgoers.

“For me, this 40-year run has so many stand-outs,” says Landon. “Playing such a terrific role and having an extended period of time to develop it has been immensely satisfying and made me a better actor, too. And to share the success of *A Christmas Carol* with the SCR family of talented actors and be able to create a true ensemble under director J-D Keller’s inspired guidance. And, of course, the response from our audience—knowing how much the show

means to them—is one of the big reasons I’ve done it for so long.”

The audience repays that sentiment in kind. Years ago, Esther Fitzgerald brought her first two grandchildren to see a then-newish show at South Coast Repertory—*A Christmas Carol*.

“She initiated this family tradition,” says daughter Mariann Raymond. “As time moved on, and as other grandchildren ‘came of age,’ Esther was treating all of them and their parents to an evening of *A Christmas Carol* delight. We now total 38 family members and every year there have been many of us in attendance, flying in from New York, Colorado, Washington, D.C., Seattle

and Northern California. Thank you, Hal Landon Jr., for pouring your heart and soul into the role of Scrooge for the last 40 years. You have brought our family much joy. You will surely be missed!”

One of Keller’s delights through the years comes from the 16 SCR Theatre Conservatory students who audition and are cast for roles that include Tiny Tim, the other Cratchit children, Turkey Boy, Girl About Town and others.

“They make me cry every year,” says Keller. “I think the best part is to watch them have those ‘aha!’ moments because I don’t think the kids realize what it means to do this show until they have their first audience and to see that audience stand up and cheer. For the children, this is so new and so joyful. I also tell them, at the very first rehearsal, ‘You think you don’t have any responsibility in this show, but that’s not true at all. Besides ‘bah, humbug,’ what is the most quoted line in this play?’ ‘God bless us. Everyone.’ And it’s said by a tiny child. That is a huge responsibility.”

Founding Artist Art Koustik, one of the original actors who joined South Coast Repertory in its early days, marks his 39th year in the show in 2019. He calls Landon and Keller bright spots in the show.

“I find delight in the consistency of Hal



John-David Keller as Mr. Fezziwig and Hal Landon Jr. as Ebenezer Scrooge.



Art Koustik as Joe.

Landon in this awesome task as Scrooge, every year and in every performance,” Koustik says. “There’s also delight for me in John-David’s joy and commitment to the production and, in particular, with the younger members of the cast.”

Alex Knox is inspired by both Landon and Keller. Some 20 years ago, while a student in the Theatre Conservatory, Knox was cast as Peter Cratchit. Now a professional actor, this is his sixth year in *A Christmas Carol* in the role of Ebenezer as a Young Man.

“Being in rehearsal is wonderful,” Knox says. “John-David is engaged with every run-through and inspires me. Hal gives it his all with every rehearsal. He sets the bar high and I love getting to watch him and model my version of Ebenezer off of him.”

As the 40th year of *A Christmas Carol* draws to a close for Landon and Keller, emotions may run high. While both men appreciate what the play has meant to Orange County audiences—it also has given them many priceless moments.

“Being in *A Christmas Carol* has been a great lesson in the value of living in the present moment, of not being concerned with past moments and not anticipating future moments,” Landon says.

“This show gives you the spirit of the season,” Keller adds. “It’s a gorgeous show to look at, there’s singing, there’s dancing, there’s joy and there are moments of great tenderness. It has everything we would want people to come to the theatre for.”

And look for the show to continue.

“Rest assured that *A Christmas Carol* will remain part of the tradition and the fabric of South Coast Repertory,” says Artistic Director David Ivers. “This Dickens timeless classic—with its rich language—will be at the center of our programming.”

SHARE YOUR BEST WISHES: In the lobby are two memory books for Mr. Landon & Mr. Keller. We hope you will write down a memory or message for the men.

“A Christmas Carol” By the Numbers

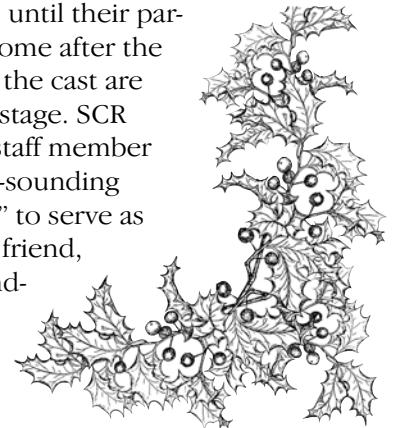


A Christmas Carol marks its 40th year, Orange County’s favorite (and longest-running) holiday show has delighted nearly 575,000 audience members

during more than 1,400 performances. Many of the theatregoers are new to the show, but others are so familiar with it that they can recite the dialogue.

Here are some other fun facts about the show:

- Over 40 years, 219 professional actors have held adult roles in the show and some 532 Theatre Conservatory children have portrayed the likes of Tiny Tim, the Cratchits and others.
- There have been roughly 5,400 hours of rehearsal time over the four decades.
- Landon’s battle scars include two broken toes—the little toe on his left foot when, in stocking feet, he ran into furniture backstage, and the little toe on his right foot, also in stocking feet, when he ran into the foot of Scrooge’s bed.
- Landon’s daughter, Caroline, auditioned and was cast as Young Girl About Town in the 1996 production, and his granddaughter, Presley, was cast as Tiny Tim (2018).
- Richard Doyle is best-known as The Spirit of Christmas Past, but also has portrayed a Solicitor, Joe, Mr. Fezziwig, a Gentleman and even Scrooge’s nephew, Fred.
- Doyle’s daughter, Sarah, auditioned and was cast as Martha Cratchit (1996).
- Conservatory Director Hisa Takakuwa, who marks 28 years with the production this year, portrayed Sally and Toy Lady for 14 years.
- From the half-hour call (30 minutes until show time), until their parents take them home after the show, the kids in the cast are never alone backstage. SCR has a fun-loving staff member with the western-sounding title of “wrangler” to serve as backstage guide, friend, mentor and sound-ing board.





Lauren Lee, Jennifer Parsons, Daniel Blinkoff, Presley Coogan, Olivia Drury and Nicholas Brown as the Cratchit family in the 2018 production of *A Christmas Carol*.

SCR Theatre Conservatory Students Shine on Stage

In today's performance of *A Christmas Carol*, you'll see young actors in the roles of Martha, Belinda, Peter and "Tiny" Tim Cratchit. And Turkey Boy. And the specters of "Want" and "Ignorance." And the young people among the partygoers. All of them are students in SCR's Theatre Conservatory who earned the roles through hard work, talent, rigorous auditions and the growth and promise they have shown in their classes.

"The students selected for *A Christmas Carol* show maturity, focus, confidence and an overall readiness to take on this exciting challenge. It's a thrill for us to provide young actors this singular opportunity to perform and learn next to professional artists in this beloved classic," says Hisa Takakuwa, conservatory director, who portrayed Sally and Toy Lady in *A Christmas Carol* for 14 years and has been assistant director for 14 additional years. "Each year's cast of 16 young actors brings a new life and energy to this wonderful show."

Seventy-five conservatory students between the ages of 9 and 17 auditioned this year for the annual holiday classic. They must have at least two years of conservatory training, show strength in their class work and have the recommendation of their teacher.

"Our acting classes guide students toward understanding the artistic process, discovering their creativity and building their ability to work confidently with others," explains Takakuwa. "Our students learn through their work in this production and when they resume classes, we see how much they have grown as artists."

"A Christmas Carol" Experience Leaves Lasting Impact

We asked Theatre Conservatory students from past productions of SCR's *A Christmas Carol* what made the experience special for them.

"All the other actors shared my enthusiasm for acting. I also loved being in a professional play and having to work really hard because it was fun to work hard. I also enjoyed performing in front of a lot of people."

—*Carissa Diller* (Belinda Cratchit, 2015)

"*A Christmas Carol* was integral to my growth as an artist and in my education. I learned that dedication requires stamina; that being present requires focus; and commitment to your fellow artists requires commitment to your choices. This experience shaped me and I am so grateful for that."

—*Sanaz Toossi* (Martha Cratchit, 2008)

"*A Christmas Carol* was my first professional stage experience and it helped me gain insight into the entire production process, which inspired me to pursue a BA in theatre from UCSD. Today, I am a K-8 educator and theatre artist—I even worked as the child assistant for the 2015 season of *A Christmas Carol*—and I would argue that the experience of working on this production was one of the most impactful moments of my training in the Theatre Conservatory's Kids and Teen Program, as well as my academic career."

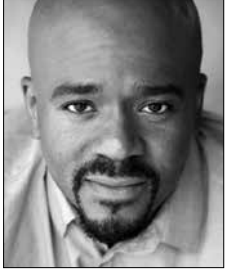
—*Brianna Beach* (Martha Cratchit, 2007, and Fan, 2008)

"*A Christmas Carol* was a portal into the world of the professional actor. While I got the chance to explore my craft with sage adult actors, I also developed crucial leadership skills among the younger actors."

—*Christopher Huntley* (Boy Scrooge, 2008, and Peter Cratchit, 2011)

Share your own story about *A Christmas Carol*. Email: theatre@scr.org

Artist Biographies



LARRY BATES

Jacob Marley's Ghost/Gentleman

is happy to be back at SCR. Some SCR favorite roles are Martin Luther King Jr. in *All the Way*, Ralph D. in *The Motherf**ker with the Hat*, Happy in *Death of a Salesman*, Booth in *Topdog/Underdog*, Cactus

in *Mr. Marmalade* and Youngblood in the SCR/Pasadena Playhouse production of *Jitney*, for which he won an NAACP Theatre Award and the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Featured Actor. His other favorite theatre credits include *Ab Wilderness!* (Goodman Theatre) and Martin Luther King Jr. in *The Mountaintop* (Matrix Theatre, San Diego Repertory, Hattiloo Theatre). His film and television credits include *Miss Virginia*, *Lions for Lambs*, "The Romanoffs," "Seal Team," "Sunnyside," "NCIS" and Stu in "Big Little Lies." Bates is a Lunt-Fontanne Fellow and a graduate of The Theatre School, DePaul University.



DANIEL BLINKOFF

Bob Cratchit

returns for his 17th consecutive year. His other SCR appearances include *An Italian Straw Hat* (Garland Award, Best Actor), *Major Barbara* (Robby Award, Best Supporting Actor), *The School for Wives*,

The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow, *Nostalgia* and *Nothing Sacred*, and Theatre for Young Audiences productions and Pacific Playwrights Festival readings. His LA credits include *The Children* (Boston Court Pasadena, *StageSceneLA* Award, Best Featured Actor), *Macbeth* (The Antaeus Company, *StageSceneLA* Award, Outstanding Ensemble, Outstanding Performance by an Actor), *Opus* (Fountain Theatre, Ovation Award), *American Tales* (The Antaeus Company), *A Distant Shore* (Kirk Douglas Theatre), *Pera Palas* (Boston Court Pasadena) and *Lunch Poet* (Yale Cabaret Blue). Regionally, he has appeared at Williamstown Theatre Festival, McCarter Theatre and many others. His film and television credits include *Rockabye*, *With Honors*, *Crossing the Bridge*, "Close to Home" (recurring) and "Law & Order." He is a member of The Actor's Center (NYC) and Antaeus Theatre Company (LA). He's an MFA alumnus of the Yale School of Drama. "My thanks to the entire cast of *A Christmas Carol* (past and present) for the pleasure and honor of working with all of them; to Hal Landon and J-D

Keller—for the best Christmases of my life; and to all of the Cratchit kids over the years, I have been blessed by your work and your hearts. It has been an honor. And, mostly, I want to thank my love, Tamlyn: I never could have imagined this wonderful life with you. You inspire me. I love you. Merry Christmas."



MELODY BUTIU

Toy Lady/Sally/Scavenger

joyfully returns to SCR where her credits include *M. Butterfly*, *Sheepdog* (featured voiceover), *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience*, *A Christmas Carol* (2018), *Shipwrecked! An Entertainment*,

The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow, *Ivy + Bean: The Musical* and *Junie B. Jones in Jingle Bells Batman Smells*. Her New York credits include *Doctor Zhivago* (Broadway) and David Byrne's *Here Lies Love* (off-Broadway, The Public Theater). Her regional theatre credits include the world premiere of *Right to Be Forgotten* (Arena Stage), *Vietgone* (Denver Center for the Performing Arts), *Here Lies Love* (Seattle Repertory Theatre), *Merrily We Roll Along* (Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts), *Sunday in the Park with George* (Huntington Theatre), *Monstress* (American Conservatory Theatre), *Stage Kiss* and *Shipwrecked!* (Geffen Playhouse), *Helen* (Getty Villa), *A Perfect Wedding* (Kirk Douglas Theatre), *Long Story Short* (San Diego Repertory Theatre), *A Little Night Music* and *Golden Child* (East West Players), *36 Views* (Portland Center Stage), *Hair* (Reprise Theatre Company) and *Dogeaters* and *Boy* (La Jolla Playhouse). Her film and television credits include *The Patients*, *A Mother's Greatest Fear*, *Untold*, "The Kominsky Method," "NCIS" and "NCIS: LA," "Kingdom," "Rizzoli & Isles," "Gotham," "Major Crimes" and "Modern Family." She received her MFA from UC-San Diego. melodybutiu.com, Instagram: @mellowdeebie



SOL CASTILLO

Fred/Gentleman

returns to SCR where he was last seen as Mino in *American Mariachi*. He is proud to make his return as Fred in *A Christmas Carol*. His other SCR credits include *The Night Fairy*, *The Hollow Lands*, the 2019 Pacific Playwrights Festival, and his eight-season run as Refugio/Buzzard in Octavio Solis' *La Posada Mágica*. He

most recently appeared in Arizona Theatre Company's production of *American Mariachi*. His other credits include Octavio Solis' *Quixote Nuevo* at California Shakespeare Theater; Lord Chaac Ha in *The Realm of the Maya* at Plaza de La Raza; the Denver Center for the Performing Arts debut of *Sunsets and Margaritas; Of Mice and Men* at Pasadena Playhouse; and *Zoot Suit* at San Diego Repertory Theatre. He is proud of his portrayal of Medal of Honor recipient Eugene A. Obregon in the national tour of *Veteranos: A Legacy of Valor*. Follow him on Instagram and Twitter @elsolcastillo.



RICHARD DOYLE

Solicitor/ The Spirit of Christmas Past/Gentleman

is an SCR Founding Artist and a 36-year veteran of *A Christmas Carol*. He has appeared in more than 200 stage events and productions here, 25 of which were new plays or SCR premieres.

Some of the shows he remembers fondly include *Candida* and *Volpone* in SCR's old Second Stage theatre; *Holy Days*, *Playland*, *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune* and *Intimate Exchanges* on SCR's Second Stage; *The Weir* on the Argyros Stage; and *She Stoops to Folly*, *The Crucible*, *Arms and the Man*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Beard of Avon* and *A View from the Bridge* on the Segerstrom Stage. Over the years, he has been busy as a film and television actor including being a regular on the live comedy show "Cheers" as Mr. Gaines and as soldiers and airmen on the Korean War series, "M*A*S*H." He has appeared in feature films like *Coma* and *Air Force One*, as well as indie features like *Abduction of Angie* and the shorts *Worth the Wait* and *Ready or Not*. A busy voiceover career put his voice in animated TV series "Ben Ten" and "Sky Commanders," as Big Boss in the video game *MGS 3*, and current Podcasts "Exeter" and "Solve." His voice is also heard as a storyteller at the Pageant of the Masters, as the live show narrator. His grandsons, James and Burnham, also enjoy a story from Papa from time to time. The story you hear at this performance is originally by Charles Dickens, but it will be told by many gifted storytellers. Please do "Enjoy The Show."



VERALYN JONES

Solicitor/Mrs. Fezziwig/Scavenger

returns to SCR where she appeared previously in *My Wandering Boy* and *Ben and the Magic Paintbrush*. Her other theatre credits include *Gem of the Ocean*, *Argonautika*, *Madwoman of Chailot*

(*A Noise Within*); *Immediate Family* (understudy, Mark

Taper Forum); *A Selfish Sacrifice* (Denver Center); *Wedding Band: A Love/Hate Story in Black and White, You Can't Take It with You* (Antaeus Theatre Company); *A Perfect Wedding* (Kirk Douglas Theater); *The Old Settler* (International City Theater); *The Father* (La Scala Theater, Stockholm, Sweden); *Three Sisters After Chekhov* (Lower Depth Theatre Ensemble); *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Los Angeles Women's Shakespeare Company); and *Othello* (Boston Court Pasadena). Her film and television credits include *Nana*, "S.W.A.T.," *Locked Away*, *No One To Blame*, "The Unit," "Southland," "Brooklyn South," "Threat Matrix," "Parenthood," "City of Angels" (recurring), "The Young and the Restless" (recurring), "Strong Medicine," "The District" and "Seinfeld" (recurring). She is a two-time *LA Weekly* Theatre Award winner, *Stage Raw* and *StageSceneLA* awards winner and received a NAACP Theater Award nomination. She is the artistic associate/producer at Lower Depth Theatre Ensemble and a member of Antaeus Theatre Company. Love always to G & K.

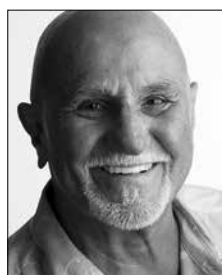


ALEX KNOX

Undertaker/Ebenezer as a Young Man

is delighted to return to SCR for his sixth season as Young Eb. As a child, he performed in the 1995 production of *A Christmas Carol* as Peter Cratchit. That same year,

he played Hal Landon Jr.'s son in *The Things You Don't Know* on the Second Stage. It is an honor to join Hal again for this momentous anniversary. He is especially grateful to director John-David Keller for believing in him and welcoming him into the show's family—the best Christmas gift ever. Knox is a company member of the Antaeus Theatre Company, where he performed earlier this year in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. His solo show, *No Static At All* (about finding enlightenment in the music of Steely Dan), has toured to New York, Seattle and Los Angeles, where it was awarded Best Solo Performance at the Hollywood Fringe Festival. He earned degrees from UC-Santa Barbara and the Yale School of Drama. He is the proud husband to Kristin and dog daddy to Cosmo.



ART KOUSTIK

Joe/Ensemble

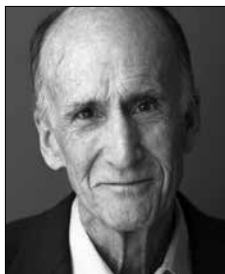
is an SCR Founding Artist who has appeared in scores of productions including *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Hollow Lands*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Tartuffe* and *Ab, Wilderness!* He also appeared in *BAFO*,

Six Degrees of Separation, She Stoops to Folly, The Taming of the Shrew, The Misanthrope, A Streetcar Named Desire, Twelfth Night, Hard Times, The Crucible, Prelude to a Kiss, Glengarry Glen Ross, Galileo, The Foreigner, Rum and Coke, The Show-Off, Saint Joan, Playboy of the Western World, Coming Attractions, American Buffalo, The Elephant Man, Time Was and 39 years of *A Christmas Carol*. He originated the role of Joe the Cider Man and Mr. Fezziwig and played the latter role for 24 seasons. Outside of SCR, he has been in film and on television programs such as *La Bamba*, "Valerie," "Hill Street Blues," "Moonlighting," "The Golden Girls," "Dallas" and "The Young and the Restless" and productions of *Guys and Dolls, Chapter 2, Brigadoon* and *Anything Goes*. He says: "With my wife, Peggy, I am at last a happy man. As the years go by, I am more aware how important faith, family and friends are. God bless us, everyone."



TIMOTHY LANDFIELD
Wreath Seller/The Spirit of Christmas Present

has appeared in the SCR productions of *Eurydice, Noises Off, Bach at Leipzig, Pinocchio, The Clean House, The Norman Conquests: Round and Round the Garden* and *Hay Fever*. His Broadway credits include *Company, The Sound of Music, Rumors, Arsenic and Old Lace, Wild Honey, The Crucifer of Blood* and *Tartuffe*. Off-Broadway, he was in the original production of *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You* and *The Actor's Nightmare*. He has played major roles in regional theatres across the country including Phileas Fogg in *80 Days* at La Jolla Playhouse. His television and film credits include "The Politician" (Netflix), "Rizzoli and Isles," "Bones," "Numb3rs," "Six Feet Under," "Without a Trace," "Monk," "Frasier," "CSI," "Law & Order" and "The Cooler" with William H. Macy. He is on the faculty at The American Academy of Dramatic Arts, where he also directs. He is proud to be a part of SCR's family.



HAL LANDON JR.
Ebenezer Scrooge

is an SCR Founding Artist who has appeared in *Gem of the Ocean, All the Way, Going to a Place where you Already Are, Rest, The Fantasticks, The Trip to Bountiful, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Hamlet, Nothing Sacred, Man from Nebraska, Born Yesterday, A View from the Bridge, Habeas Corpus, Antigone, The Drawer Boy* (Los Angeles Drama Critics Cir-

Honorary Producer

JULIANNE & GEORGE ARGYROS/ARGYROS FAMILY FOUNDATION have been leading supporters of South Coast Repertory since its earliest days. Highlights of their generosity include major contributions to the Next Stage Campaign, leading to the naming of the Julianne Argyros Stage, and to the Legacy Campaign to build the theatre's endowment. Julianne is an Honorary Trustee and, in 2013, she served as Honorary Chair of SCR's legendary 50th Season Gala, Theatrical Gold. This is the 13th year that the couple has been the Honorary Producer of *A Christmas Carol*. Speaking of the show, Julianne comments: "This holiday classic is our family's favorite tradition and, every year, it continues to delight and amaze young and old alike!" SCR is deeply grateful to the Argyros Family for their extraordinary commitment to our theatre and the community.

cle Award nomination), *Major Barbara* and *Tartuffe*. His other credits include *Arcadia, Our Town, Sidney Bechet Killed a Man, BAFO, Six Degrees of Separation, An Ideal Husband, A Mess of Plays by Chris Durang, Faith Healer, Green Icebergs, The Miser, Our Country's Good* and *Waiting for Godot*. He created the role of Ebenezer Scrooge in SCR's *A Christmas Carol* and has performed it in each of its 40 years. He appeared in *Leander Stillwell* (Mark Taper Forum), *Henry V* (The Old Globe) and as Polonius in *Hamlet* (Shakespeare Orange County). Among his television and film credits are "The Closer," "My Name is Earl," "CSI: NY," "Mad Men," *The Artist, Trespass, Pacific Heights, Pee Wee's Big Holiday* (Netflix) and *All the Way* (HBO). He also appeared in *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure, Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey* and, coming next summer, *Bill and Ted Face the Music*.



ROSNEY MAUGER
Constable/Jacob Marley as a Young Man/The Spirit of Christmas Yet-to-Come/Poulterer

is honored and ecstatic to be returning for his third stint in *A Christmas Carol*. He previously appeared at SCR in *All the Way* as Rev. Ralph Abernathy. His other credits include Bobo in *Raisin in the Sun* at A Noise Within. He completed SCR's Acting Intensive Program in 2016 and is also a graduate of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts. His highlighted roles at The Academy have been *Othello* and Hedley in *Seven Gui-*

tars. Originally from central Florida, he appeared in the August Wilson productions of *The Piano Lesson* and *King Hedley II* at Seminole State College in Lake Mary.



WILLIAM FRANCIS MCGUIRE
Gentleman/Mr. Fezziwig

appeared at SCR previously in *Shakespeare in Love*, *All the Way*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, *The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Tartuffe*. He also

has worked at the Guthrie Theater (*The Rover*, *Naga Mandala*, *The Seagull*, *Electra*, *Iphigenia at Aulis*, *The Good Hope*, *Peer Gynt* and *Billy and Dago*, among others), The Shakespeare Theatre Company (*Henry V* and *Macbeth*), Bay Street Theater Fest (*Tropeano Paints*), American Repertory Theatre (*Boys Next Door*), Yale Repertory Theatre (*Search and Destroy*) and many others. His film credits include *The Day After Tomorrow* and *Mission: Impossible III*. His television credits include "100 Deeds for Eddie McDowd" (series regular), "CSI," "Castle," "Justified," "Eagleheart," "Criminal Minds: Suspect Behavior," "The Mentalist," "Saving Grace," "Weeds," "Numb3rs," "NCIS," "Without a Trace," as well as a number of Movies of the Week. He is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama.



JENNIFER PARSONS
Mrs. Cratchit/Rich Woman

returns to SCR for her 17th year in *A Christmas Carol* (18th if you include playing Belle way back when!) She also appeared in other SCR productions such as *The Heiress*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Getting*

Frankie Married—and Afterwards, *Our Town*, *She Stoops to Folly*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Buried Child*, *Flora & Ulysses*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *Anastasia Krupnik*, *The Borrowers*, *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*, *Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business*, *Brand New Kid*, *The BFG (Big Friendly Giant)*, *The Only Child* and *Bunnycula*. She performed recently in *The Glass Menagerie*, *Silent Sky* and *Vanya, Sonia, Masha & Spike* at International City Theatre. She has performed on and off-Broadway, in regional theatres across the country and is a company member at Theatre 40. This year, she has had recurring guest star roles on "How to Get Away with Murder" and "Proven Innocent." Other recent guest star credits include roles on "All Rise," "The Romanoffs," "Longmire," "Bones," "Criminal Minds" and "Stalker." She is happily married to the Ghost of Christmas Past, Richard Doyle.



ERIKA SCHINDELE
Laundress/Belle/Scavenger

is honored to continue to be a part of this *Christmas Carol* family and help celebrate its 40th year. Previously, she appeared at SCR in the world premiere of *An Italian Straw Hat*, as well as numerous Theatre for Young Audience productions. Recently, at Laguna Playhouse, she was in the West Coast premiere of *I'm Still Getting My Act Together* (starring Gretchen Cryer), as well as *The Odd Couple* and *Love, Loss and What I Wore*. She played Stella Kowalski in the iconic *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Jewel Theatre Company) and will return there this spring as Georgie in their production of *Heisenberg*. Her other theatre credits include *Collected Stories* at Coachella Valley Repertory (Desert Theatre League Award nominee, best actress); *Merrily We Roll Along* and *1776* at Actors Co-op Theatre Company; *Hello Dolly!* at Welk Resort Theatre; and *A Christmas Carol* at Sierra Madre Playhouse and Glendale Center Theatre. She recently starred in the films *Emerald* and *The What If*; and her television appearances include "Criminal Minds" and "American Dreams." For Brent and our new baby, Jack. Thank you, Hal. It has been a joy to share the stage and this story and with you. erikaschindele.com.

PLAYWRIGHT, DIRECTOR AND DESIGNERS

JERRY PATCH (*Adaptor*) was affiliated with SCR from 1967-2005 and returned in 2014 as literary consultant. He served as dramaturg on nearly 150 new plays developed and seen at SCR including the world premieres of *Abundance*, *Freedomland*, *Golden Child*, *Intimate Apparel*, *Search and Destroy*, *Three Days of Rain* and *Wit*. He was project director for the Pacific Playwrights Festival from its 1998 inception through 2005. For seven years, he served as artistic director of the theatre program of Sundance Institute. As a professor of theatre and film, he taught at Long Beach City College, UC-Irvine, UC-San Diego, CSU-Long Beach and other institutions. He was consulting dramaturg for New York's Roundabout Theatre Company for nearly a decade and left SCR to become resident artistic director for The Old Globe in San Diego. He is an artistic consultant, following seven seasons as director of artistic development, for Manhattan Theatre Club in New York and South Coast Repertory.

JOHN-DAVID KELLER (*Director*) has been a member of SCR's resident acting company since 1973, as both an actor and director. He has directed *A Christmas Carol* for its entire 40-year history. Among his other SCR directing credits are *Godspell*, *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well* and *Living in Paris*, *In Fashion*, *The Real Inspector Hound* (SCR's first Equity show), *Peg O' My Heart* and *Tomfool-*

ery. From 1975 through 2007, he directed all of SCR's Educational Touring Productions, which were presented in elementary schools throughout Orange County. He also acted in more than 100 productions at SCR including, most recently, *Amadeus* and *One Man, Two Guvnors*. He appeared in the production of Anton Chekov's *Ivanov* at the Odyssey Theatre in Los Angeles and in *Mrs. Warren's Profession* at Antaeus Theatre Company. Keller recently celebrated his 26th year as the concert host for the Orange County Philharmonic Society's fifth-grade concerts. He is a member of Actors' Equity, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society and Antaeus Theatre Company.

THOMAS BUDERWITZ (*Scenic Design*) previously designed *The Monster Builder*, *The Whipping Man*, *Tartuffe* (co-design with Dominique Serrand), *The Whale*, *The Prince of Atlantis*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *Three Days of Rain*, *The Weir*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Collected Stories*, *The Heiress*, *Doubt*, *Pig Farm*, *Bach at Leipzig*, *Proof*, *A Delicate Balance*, *A Christmas Carol* (15 previous seasons), *But Not for Me* and the 2007-16 Galas for SCR. He has designed for other theatres including the Shakespeare Theatre Company, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Geffen Playhouse, Pasadena Playhouse, Center Theatre Group, The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Portland Center Stage, Intiman Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Artists Repertory, Laguna Playhouse, Denver Center Theatre Company, Chautauqua Theater Company, Reprise Theatre Company, Arizona Theatre Company, Rubicon Theatre Company, Boston Court Pasadena, A Noise Within, Antaeus Theatre Company, PCPA Theaterfest and San Diego Repertory Theatre. Buderwitz has received six Los Angeles Stage Alliance Ovation awards and three Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle awards. His television designs include specials and series for every major broadcast and cable network. He has been honored with three Emmy Award nominations and an Art Directors Guild Award nomination. He is a proud member of United Scenic Artists, Local 829, and is adjunct faculty at the University of Southern California School of Dramatic Arts. tombuderwitz.com

DONNA & TOM RUZIKA (*Lighting Design*) celebrate their 40th year of designing for *A Christmas Carol* and 47 years of marriage. They have enjoyed collaborating on productions at SCR, the Hollywood Bowl and other regional theatres. Ms. Ruzika has designed 20 seasons for the Utah Shakespeare Festival and 30 seasons for Fullerton Civic Light Opera. She has also designed at Kansas City Repertory, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Laguna Playhouse, Pasadena Playhouse and Long Beach's International City Theatre. Her work has also been seen in Cairo, Egypt, Bogotá, Colombia, and Barcelona, Spain. Mr. Ruzika's designs have been seen on Broadway, in national tours, at major regional theatres and with many national and international dance and opera companies.

His entertainment lighting can be seen at theme parks in six countries and his architectural lighting can be seen in prestigious hotels, casinos, restaurants, retail centers and performing arts centers across the nation and in Europe and Asia. The Ruzikas have received numerous awards for their contributions to the art and craft of lighting design.

DENNIS MCCARTHY (*Musical Arrangement/Composer*) returns to SCR, where he previously composed music for *An Italian Straw Hat*, *Getting Frankie Married—and Afterwards*, *Ben and the Magic Paintbrush*, *The Beard of Avon*, *Much Ado about Nothing* and *Of Mice and Men*. During his career, he has written music for more than 2,000 films, television movies and series episodes including "V," "MacGyver," "Parker Lewis Can't Lose," "Star Trek," "Dawson's Creek" and "Dynasty." He won two Emmy Awards during his 18 years of music for "Star Trek" and composed the music for the series' feature film, *Generations*. He was honored with ASCAP's Golden Note Award. He teaches film scoring at the Art Center of Design in Pasadena, is a Southern California native, a father of three and proud grandfather of nine beautiful grandchildren.

DREW DALZELL (*Sound Design*) is happy to be back at SCR, where he previously designed *Cloudlands*, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, *Putting It Together*, *An Italian Straw Hat*, *Imagine*, *A Little Night Music*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Bunnicula*, *The Hoboken Chicken Emergency*, *Intimate Exchanges* and *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*. His other design work includes *Toy Story: The Musical* for Disney Cruise Lines; *The Laramie Project* at Laguna Playhouse; *Fen* (Garland Award) and *As I Lay Dying* (Ovation Award nomination) at Open Fist Theatre Company; *A Time for Love*, *Songs for a New World* (Ovation Award) and *Tick, Tick...Boom* at Rubicon Theatre Company; and *Side Show* (Ovation Award nomination), *Billy Bishop Goes to War* (Ovation Award nomination), and *The Laramie Project* with the Colony Theatre Company; and *Wicked Lit!* 2012, 2013 (Ovation Award nomination), 2014 (Ovation Award), 2015 (Ovation Award), 2016 (Ovation Award nomination), 2017, and 2018 for Unbound Productions. He owns Diablo Sound Inc., whose themed entertainment projects are found around the world.

DENNIS CASTELLANO (*Vocal Director*) has musically directed the SCR productions of *The Light in the Piazza*, *The Fantasticks*, *Cloudlands*, *Ordinary Days*, *Putting It Together*, *An Italian Straw Hat*, *A Little Night Music*, *Happy End*, *Sunday in the Park with George* and *A Chorus of Disapproval*. He is the music supervisor for the six-show summer season at Broadway Sacramento, where he conducted their productions of *Shrek*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *In the Heights*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Sister Act*, *The Producers*, *Mary Poppins*, *Hair*, *Show Boat*, *Sweeney Todd* and *Funny*

Girl. His other credits include *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (5th Avenue Theatre, Seattle); *Dreamgirls*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* and *Guys and Dolls* (McCoy/Rigby Entertainment); *Bright Star*, *Elf*, *Something Rotten*, *Catch Me If You Can*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *South Pacific*, *Oklahoma!*, *Hairspray*, *Cats*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *The King and I* (Musical Theatre West); and *Li'l Abner* and *The Goodbye Girl* (Musical Theatre Guild). Castellano recently retired as head of music theatre from UC-Irvine.

HISA TAKAKUWA (*Assistant Director*) acted in *A Christmas Carol* for 14 seasons and has been assistant director for 14 years. After completing her professional training as an actor, Takakuwa appeared at SCR in *The Man Who Came to Dinner* and in 13 Educational Touring productions. Her other acting credits include work as a resident artist at A Noise Within, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Sundance Institute's Children's Theatre, Playwright's Lab and Grove Shakespeare Festival. She has directed many SCR Theatre Conservatory Players productions including *Oliver Twist*, *The Secret in the Wings*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Into the Woods*, *Seussical* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Her other productions include *Twelfth Night* and *Henry V* at Actors Co-op Theatre Company (Hollywood). She was assistant director to Art Manke on SCR's production of *The Wind in the Willows* and to Libby Appel on *A Raisin in the Sun* at Indiana Repertory Theatre. Takakuwa is SCR's Theatre Conservatory and educational programs director. This year, she received an honorable mention from the Tony Awards Excellence in Theatre Education Award and, with Erin McNally, the California Educational Theatre Association's Professional Artist Award. She received her BA from Smith College and MFA from CalArts.

TALIA KRISPEL (*Stage Manager*) is excited to be back at SCR where her credits include *A Christmas Carol* (since 2014), *Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook*, *Abundance*, *Ama-deus* and *Pinocchio*. Her other credits include *The Music Man* starring Adam Pascal, *West Side Story*, *Matilda the Musical*, *Shrek the Musical*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Peter Pan* (5-Star Theatricals); *Inherit the Wind*, *Dame Edna: Back with a Vengeance*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and a workshop of *Legally Blonde* (Broadway); *The Secret Garden* (3-D Theatricals); *The Little Mermaid* (Sound Stage LIVE!); *Mamma Mia!* (ACT of Connecticut); *Man of La Mancha* (A Noise Within); *West Side Story* and *Sister Act* (Theatre By The Sea); *Guys and Dolls* and *The Sound of Music* (Ocean State Theatre Company); *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Ogunquit Playhouse); *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and *Joseph...Technicolor Dreamcoat* (North Shore Music Theatre); *Miracle Worker* (Paper Mill Playhouse); *The Times They Are A-Changin'* (The Old Globe); and *Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacu-*

lar (Radio City Music Hall). She earned a master's degree in educational theatre in colleges and communities from New York University. For Mychal Adair-Lynch and Dad. taliakrispel.com

MARISSA PUTNICK (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is thrilled to be back with the *Christmas Carol* family where she started as a stage management intern. Her other SCR credits include *Destiny of Desire*, *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience* and *Nate the Great*. Her other credits include *A Night with Janis Joplin* (both national tour and regional sit-down); *Constellations* (Geffen Playhouse); *The Graduate* starring Melanie Griffith, *King of the Road*, *12 Angry Men* (Laguna Playhouse), *Judgment at Nuremberg* (L.A. Theatre Works) and numerous other productions in Northern California at theatres such as California Shakespeare Theater and Shakespeare Santa Cruz. She has also worked at a variety of smaller venues throughout Southern California. She currently works as a stage manager at Knott's Berry Farm. She earned her master's degree in theatre management from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

DAVID IVERS (*Artistic Director*) is responsible for the overall artistic operation of the theatre. He started at SCR this past March and the 2019-20 season is the first that he has programmed here. Prior to SCR, he was artistic director for Arizona Theatre Company and, before that, served more than 20 years as an actor and director at Utah Shakespeare Festival, with the last six as artistic director. He was a resident artist at Denver Center Theatre Company for a decade, acting in and/or directing more than 40 plays and has helmed productions at many of the nation's leading regional theatres including the Guthrie Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Berkeley Repertory Theatre and South Coast Repertory. His early career included serving as associate artistic director of Portland Repertory Theatre and he appeared in productions at some of the nation's top regional theatres including Portland Center Stage and the Oregon, Alabama and Idaho Shakespeare festivals. He taught at the University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, Southern Utah University and Southern Oregon University. He earned his BA from Southern Oregon University and his MFA from the University of Minnesota.

PAULA TOMEI (*Managing Director*) is responsible for the overall administration of SCR. She has been managing director since 1994 and a member of SCR's staff since 1979. She is a past president of the board of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national service organization for theatre. In addition, she served as treasurer of TCG, vice president of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT) and as a member of the LORT Negotiating Committee for industry-wide union agreements. She represents SCR at national conferences of TCG and LORT and served as a

theatre panelist and site visitor for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the California Arts Council. Her teaching background includes a graduate class in non-profit management at UC Irvine (UCI) and as a guest lecturer in the graduate school of business at Stanford. She was appointed by the chancellor to UCI's Community Arts Council and serves on the Dean's Leadership Society Executive Committee for the School of Social Sciences at UCI. She is also on the board of Arts Orange County, the county-wide arts council, and the board of the Nicholas Endowment. She graduated from UCI with a degree in economics and pursued an additional course of study in theatre and dance. In March 2017, she received the Mayor's Award from the City of Costa Mesa for her contributions to the arts community. In 2018, she received the Helena Modjeska Cultural Legacy Award from Arts Orange County. Most recently, she was awarded UCI's Distinguished Alumna in the School of Social Sciences at the Lauds & Laurels Celebration in May, 2019.

MARTIN BENSON (*Founding Artistic Director*), co-founder of SCR, has directed nearly one-fourth of SCR's productions. In 2008, he and David Emmes received the Margo Jones Award for their lifetime commitment to theatre excellence and fostering the art and craft of American playwriting. They also accepted SCR's 1988 Tony Award for Outstanding Resident Professional Theatre and won the 1995 Theatre LA Ovation Award for Lifetime Achievement. Benson has received the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for Distinguished Achievement in Directing an unparalleled seven times for George Bernard Shaw's *Major Barbara*, *Misalliance* and *Heartbreak House*; John Millington Synge's *Playboy of the Western World*; Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*; Sally Nemeth's *Holy Days*; and the world premiere of Margaret Edson's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Wit*, which he also directed at Seattle Repertory Theatre and Houston's Alley Theatre. He has directed American classics such as *A Streetcar Named Desire* and has distinguished himself in staging contemporary work including the critically acclaimed California premiere of William Nicholson's *Shadowlands*. He directed revivals of Beth Henley's *Abundance* and Horton Foote's *The Trip to Bountiful*; and Samuel D. Hunter's *The Whale and Rest* (world premiere); *The Whipping Man* by Matthew Lopez; and *The Roommate* by Jen Silverman (west coast premiere). Benson received his BA in theatre from San Francisco State University.

DAVID EMMES (*Founding Artistic Director*) is co-founder of South Coast Repertory. He received the Margo

Jones Award for his lifetime commitment to theatre excellence and to fostering the art of American playwriting. In addition, he has received numerous awards for productions he has directed during his SCR career. He directed the world premieres of Amy Freed's *Safe in Hell*, *The Beard of Avon* and *Freedomland*; Thomas Babe's *Great Day in the Morning*; Keith Reddin's *Rum and Coke* and *But Not for Me*; and Neal Bell's *Cold Sweat*; the American premieres of Terry Johnson's *Unsuitable for Adults*; and Joe Penhall's *Dumb Show*; and the Southland premiere of *Top Girls* (at SCR and the Westwood Playhouse). Other productions he has directed include *Red*, *New England*, *Arcadia*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Woman in Mind* and *You Never Can Tell*, which he restaged for the Singapore Festival of Arts. He has served as a theatre panelist and onsite evaluator for the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as a panelist for the California Arts Council. After attending Orange Coast College, he received his BA and MA from San Francisco State University and his PhD from USC.

PHOTO CREDITS FROM PAGES 4-5: **1.** Hal Landon Jr. as Ebenezer Scrooge (a role he has played for all 40 seasons) and John Ellington as Bob Cratchit (18 seasons) in the 1980 inaugural staging. **2.** Ron Michaelson as the Spirit of Christmas Present (13 seasons) and Landon in 1983. **3.** Howard Shangraw as Fred (26 seasons) and Landon in 1992. **4.** The cast including, center, from left to right, Candice Copeland, Landon, Michaelson and Wayne Alexander. **5.** Martha McFarland and Art Koustik as Mr. & Mrs. Fezziwig in 1989. Koustik played Mr. Fezziwig for 23 years and continues in the role of Joe today and McFarland played Mrs. Fezziwig for 21 years. **6.** Landon and Hisa Takakuwa as the Toy Lady (14 seasons) in 1996. **7.** Richard Doyle as the Spirit of Christmas Past and Landon in 1993. Doyle has played several roles during his 36 seasons and continues today as the Spirit of Christmas Past. **8.** William Francis McGuire as Fred and Ann Marie Lee as Sally in 2009. **9.** Art Koustik as Joe and Madison Dunaway as a Scavenger in 2004. **10.** Landon and Don Took as Marley (22 seasons) in 2002. **11.** Daniel Blinkoff (17 seasons) and Jennifer Parsons (17 seasons), center, as Mr. & Mrs. Cratchit in 2004. **12.** John-David Keller and Karen Hensel as Mr. & Mrs. Fezziwig in 2008. John-David Keller has directed all 40 seasons and has appeared as either the Gentleman/Solicitor or Mr. Fezziwig for 25 seasons. **13.** James MacEwan, Richard Doyle, Hal Landon Jr., Gregg Daniel and Timothy Landfield in 2014. **14.** Alexander Knox as Young Ebenezer and Erika Schindele as Belle in 2018. **15.** Landon and his granddaughter Presley as Tiny Tim in 2018. **16.** Gregg Daniel as Marley in 2013. **17.** Timothy Landfield as The Spirit of Christmas Present (14 seasons) in 2014. **18.** David Whalen and Devon Raymond (holding letter) as Mr. & Mrs. Cratchit in 2000. **19.** The cast in 2014. Photos by Henry DiRocco, Jordan Kubat and Jim Cox.



The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



The Scenic, Costume, Lighting and Sound Designers in LORT theatres are represented by United Scenic Artists Local USA-829, IATSE.



The Director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.

Ensemble



NICK SLIMMER

Thomas Shelley

is thrilled to be making his return to *A Christmas Carol* for the fourth time. He is a graduate of the SCR's Acting Intensive Program and American Academy of Dramatic Arts and is a company member of the Modjeska Unscripted Theater in Lake Forest. He is also a series regular on the popular web series "Life as a Mermaid." His favorite roles include Boy in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, Johnny Appleseed in the world premiere of *American Tall Tales* and Matt in *Dog Sees God*. Slimmer would like to thank his parents for their support, Joanne DeNaut for giving him opportunities, and his girlfriend, Emily, for her love.



AARON MCGEE

Puppet Show/Mr. Topper

is excited to be a part of the magic that is *A Christmas Carol* for a third time at SCR. He first appeared in *Christmas Carol*—after completing SCR's Acting Intensive Program in 2016—playing the role of the disheveled Thomas Shelley as well as Party Guests. McGee is so grateful to be returning this year for the 40th anniversary production in a role he always thought he was raised to be: a puppeteer. His other SCR credits include multiple roles in *Shakespeare in Love* and being a reader for the Pacific Playwrights Festival in *Sheepdog* (2018) and *Unlikeable*

Heroine (2019). One of his all-time favorite roles was getting to play Guildenstern in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* while playing the same role in *Hamlet* in repertory at American Coast Theatre Company. He would like to thank all those who helped him along the way, whether it was with advice or inspiration or encouragement, which enabled him to continue pursuing his passion for acting.



MONIKA PEÑA

Elizabeth Shelley/Pursued Maiden/Fan

is grateful to be returning to SCR and *A Christmas Carol*! She recently had a blast performing in SCR's TYA production of *Alexander... Very Bad Day*. Her favorite roles include the titular roles in *Lizzie, the Musical* (Ovation Recommended, *OC Weekly* Editor's Choice—Best Musical) and *Violet* (*LA Times* Critics Choice, Ovation Recommended, Chance Theater), Princess Fish in *Claudio Quest* (West Coast Premiere, Chance Theater), Maria in *West Side Story* (Chance Theater), *The Eight: Reindeer Monologues* (Dancer) and *In the Heights* (Ovation Recommended, Chance Theater). Her other credits include *Fancy Nancy: The Musical* (Rhonda, 2016-18, Chance Theater), *Bright Star* (Candlelight Pavilion), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Philia), *Spring Awakening* (Ilse) and *Anything Goes* (Angel Virtue). MonikaPena.com IG: @_mo_nika_



Students in SCR's Theatre Conservatory portray all the young characters in *A Christmas Carol*. Two teams alternate performances. Appearing Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at noon are (above, clockwise from top left) **Sebastian Ramirez, Sarah Frazin,**



Ella Webb, Nicholas Brown, Natalie Dien, Quinn Garcia, Dane Bergman and Lexie Morita. Appearing in the balance of performances are (above, clockwise from top left) **Grady Farman, Halia Lindauer, PJ Giglia, Lauren Dong, Katie Lee, Presley Coogan, Yunah Choi and Maximilian Lalli.**