



SEGERSTROM STAGE / NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 24, 2024

South Coast Repertory

David Ivers
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Suzanne Appel
MANAGING DIRECTOR

David Emmes & Martin Benson
FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

presents the 44th annual production of

CHARLES DICKENS'

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

adapted by Jerry Patch

Thomas Buderwitz
SCENIC DESIGN

Dwight Richard Odle
COSTUME DESIGN

Amy L. Hutto
ADDITIONAL COSTUME
DESIGN

Donna & Tom Ruzika
LIGHTING DESIGN

Dennis McCarthy
MUSIC ARRANGEMENT/COMPOSER

Drew Dalzell
SOUND DESIGN

David Nevell
DIALECT COACH

Sylvia Turner
CHOREOGRAPHER
with additional staging by Kelly Todd

Joanne DeNaut, CSA
CASTING

Talia Krispel*
STAGE MANAGER

DIRECTED BY

Hisa Takakuwa

based on the original staging of John-David Keller

Julianne & George Argyros/Argyros Family Foundation
HONORARY PRODUCERS

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In order of appearance)

UNDERTAKER	<i>Tommy Beck*</i>
JOE, a cider salesman and a receiver of stolen goods	<i>Eduardo Enrikez*</i>
CONSTABLE	<i>Larry Bates*</i>
TOY LADY	<i>Erika Schindele*</i>
PUPPET SHOW	<i>Thomas Anawalt</i>
THOMAS SHELLEY	<i>Nick Slimmer</i>
ELIZABETH SHELLEY	<i>Kelsey Bray</i>
OLIVER SHELLEY	<i>Beatrice Main, Brady Barrett†</i>
RICH WOMAN	<i>Melody Butiu*</i>
RICH BOY	<i>Isaac Person, Matthew Chan†</i>
RICH GIRL	<i>Natalie Yokota, Kennedy Levine†</i>
YOUNG GIRL ABOUT TOWN, holly seller	<i>Claire Jeong, Megan Chan†</i>
TEEN GIRL ABOUT TOWN, laundress	<i>Libby Rue, Aya Hanai†</i>
FLOWER SELLER	<i>Alicia Coca*</i>
CHIMNEY SWEEP	<i>Charlie Wellman, Lola Brett†</i>
EBENEZER SCROOGE, a grasping, covetous old man	<i>Richard Doyle*</i>
BOB CRATCHIT, clerk to Ebenezer	<i>Preston Maybank*</i>
FRED, nephew to Ebenezer	<i>Larry Bates*</i>
SOLICITORS	<i>Diana Burbano*, William Francis McGuire*</i>
JACOB MARLEY'S GHOST, a spectre of Ebenezer's former partner in business	<i>Michael Manuel*</i>
THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PAST, a phantom showing things past	<i>Jennifer Parsons*</i>
EBENEZER AS A BOY	<i>Beatrice Main, Brady Barrett†</i>
FAN, the sister of Ebenezer	<i>Kelsey Bray</i>
MRS. FEZZIWIG	<i>Diana Burbano*</i>
MR. FEZZIWIG, a kind-hearted, jovial old merchant	<i>William Francis McGuire*</i>
JACOB MARLEY AS A YOUNG MAN	<i>Eduardo Enrikez*</i>
EBENEZER AS A YOUNG MAN	<i>Tommy Beck*</i>
BELLE, sweetheart of Ebenezer	<i>Alicia Coca*</i>
THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT, a spirit of a kind, earthy and generous nature ...	<i>Richard Soto*</i>
“TINY” TIM CRATCHIT	<i>Penelope Main, Lara Anderson†</i>
MRS. CRATCHIT	<i>Melody Butiu*</i>
BELINDA CRATCHIT	<i>Natalie Yokota, Kennedy Levine†</i>
PETER CRATCHIT	<i>Isaac Person, Matthew Chan†</i>
MARTHA CRATCHIT	<i>Quinn Garcia, Justine Roussel†</i>
MR. TOPPER, a bachelor	<i>Thomas Anawalt</i>
PURSUED MAIDEN	<i>Kelsey Bray</i>
SALLY, the wife of Fred	<i>Erika Schindele*</i>
WANT	<i>Claire Jeong, Megan Chan†</i>
IGNORANCE	<i>Beatrice Main, Brady Barrett†</i>
THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS YET-TO-COME, an apparition showing the shadows of things which may yet happen	<i>Nick Slimmer</i>
GENTLEMEN ON THE STREET	<i>Larry Bates*, William Francis McGuire*, Michael Manuel*</i>
THE SCAVENGERS	<i>Diana Burbano*, Jennifer Parsons*, Erika Schindele*</i>
TURKEY BOY	<i>Charlie Wellman, Lola Brett†</i>
POULTERER	<i>Tommy Beck*</i>

UNDERSTUDIES

Mrs. Fezziwig, Mrs. Cratchit, the Spirit of Christmas Past and Sally*Kaci Hamilton**
Ebenezer Scrooge*David Nevell**
Bob Cratchit, the Spirit of Christmas Present, Fred and Jacob Marley's Ghost*Michael Polak**

SETTING

19th-Century London

LENGTH

Approximately two hours, including one intermission.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Director *Nick Slimmer*
Assistant Stage Managers *Jenny Ludwig*, Julian Olive**
Production Assistant *Arielle Hightower*
Dance Captain *Erika Schindele**
Choral Director *Tom Shelton*
Deck Crew *Dibbs Dibley, Cybelle Kaehler, Steven McFann, Ben Morrow, Amanda Picard*
Follow Spot Operators *Chelsea Garcia-Perez, Adam Manning*
Sound Engineer *Jordan Buckelew*
Light Board Operator *Hannah Ferla*
Young Performers Supervisors*Rachel Bailey, Zoë Kinne, Vita Muccia*
Wig and Makeup Crew *Miki Gonzales, Alex Guerra*
Wardrobe Supervisor *Corbyjane Troya*
Dresser *Jillian Pricco*
Costume Design Assistant *Ayrika Johnson*
Additional Costume Staff *Claire Carroll, Sean Castro, Angela Cateora, Serena Chang,*
.....*Ruby Hernandez, Jillian Pricco*

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.*

*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.
Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the theatre.*

  @SouthCoastRepertory    @SouthCoastRep



Media Partner



In Memoriam, [‘Ring out, wild bells’]

Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-92)

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,

The flying cloud, the frosty light:

The year is dying in the night;

Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,

Ring, happy bells, across the snow:

The year is going, let him go;

Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind

For those that here we see no more;

Ring out the feud of rich and poor,

Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,

And ancient forms of party strife;

Ring in the nobler modes of life,

With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,

The faithless coldness of the times;

Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes

But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,

The civic slander and the spite;

Ring in the love of truth and right,

Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;

Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;

Ring out the thousand wars of old,

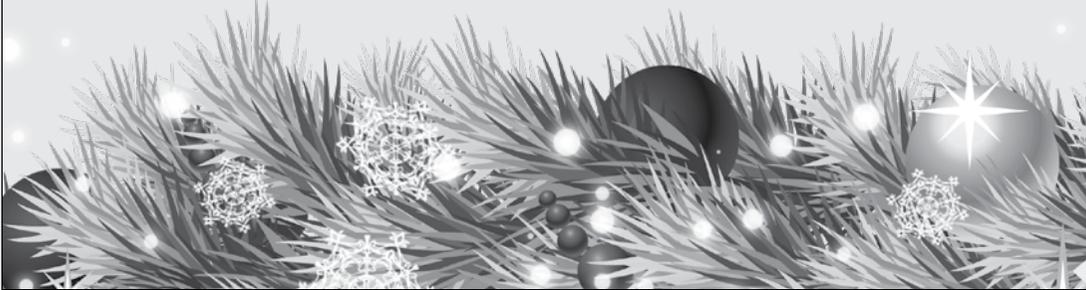
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,

The larger heart, the kindlier hand;

Ring out the darkness of the land,

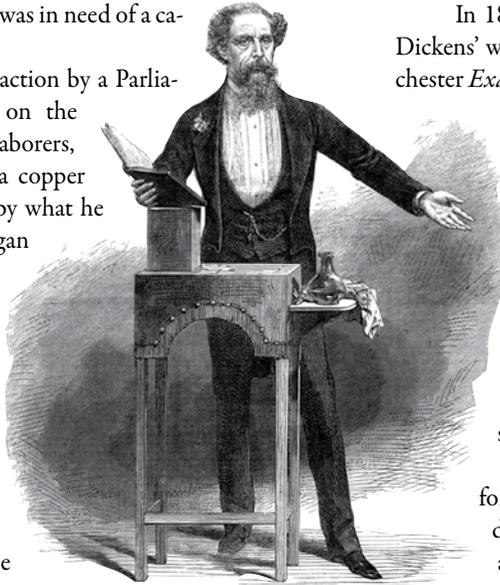
Ring in the Christ that is to be.



The History and Success of 'A Christmas Carol'

In the late fall of 1843, the 31-year-old author of *Oliver Twist* and *Nicholas Nickleby* began writing a story to be published during the Christmas season. With four children and a wife to provide for, flagging sales and decreasing interest in his latest work, Charles Dickens was in need of a career jump start.

Moved to action by a Parliamentary report on the plight of child laborers, Dickens visited a copper mine. Appalled by what he saw, Dickens began to develop ideas for his next story—a story that would, in the author's words, “strike a blow on behalf of the poor man's child.” He titled the piece *The Sledgehammer*; more than 170 years later, it's the story known all over the world as *A Christmas Carol*.



The *Illustrated London News* depicted Dickens giving his last public reading of *A Christmas Carol* in March 1870.

Writing the story in just six weeks, Dickens told friends that the Cratchits were “ever tugging at his coat sleeve, as if impatient for him to get back to his desk and continue the story of their lives.” Dickens could hardly have imagined that his tale would become beloved by so many.

In 1857, *A Christmas Carol* became the first of Dickens' works that he performed publicly. The *Manchester Examiner* reported that “there is always a freshness about what Mr. Dickens does—one reading is never anything like a mechanical following of a previous reading.” In 1867 and 1868, Dickens put on a blockbuster *A Christmas Carol* tour of the United States, turning a profit of \$140,000—more than \$3.25 million today. President Andrew Johnson took his family to every performance in Washington D.C., and theatergoers camped overnight in the streets to purchase tickets.

A Christmas Carol has been translated for readers all over the world and adapted into dozens of stage productions, films and even an opera. Though he could not have anticipated how successful his novella would prove to be, Dickens would surely be happy that his story of the virtues of goodwill and generosity continues to reach millions of people every year.

About Dickens

Charles Huffman Dickens was born in Landport (now part of Portsmouth), England, on February 7, 1812. In 1824, he was given his first position in business in the employ of Warren's Blacking Factory, Chatham. For six months, the young Dickens adhered labels to containers of blacking, and perhaps unknowingly, collected material for what would become world-famous portrayals of Victorian England's working class. By the mid 1800s, Dickens had achieved widespread fame with



the publication of *The Pickwick Papers*, *Oliver Twist* and *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*.

A Christmas Carol, like many of Dickens' other works, has autobiographical elements woven throughout. Like the Cratchits, the Dickens were a large brood. His own frail, sickly brother often was called “Tiny Fred.” Dickens' spendthrift father, John, caused the family, except 12-year-old Charles, to relocate to a debtor's prison for a time. Charles worked in a factory during this time, and never forgot the experience.



SCR Theatre Conservatory Students Shine on Stage



n 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 Conservatory Director Hisa Takakuwa, who portrayed Sally and Toy Lady in *A Christmas Carol* for 14 years, served as assistant director for 14 additional years and directs the production for the fourth consecutive year. "Each year's cast of 16 young actors brings a new life and energy to this wonderful show."

Many conservatory students between the ages of 9 and 17 audition each year for the annual holiday classic.

They must be active students in our training program, 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."

Above, Conservatory students dance at the Fezziwig party and below, Richard Doyle (Scrooge), Penelope Main (Tiny Tim), Justine Roussel (Martha) and Megan Chan (Belinda) in the 2023 production of *A Christmas Carol*.

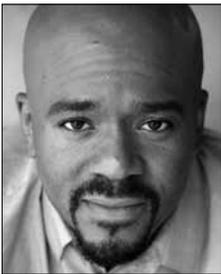


Artist Biographies



THOMAS ANAWALT
*Puppet Show/Gentleman/
Mr. Topper*

is thrilled to make his South Coast Repertory debut in *A Christmas Carol*. Other theater credits include *The Outsider* (International City Theatre), The Miracle Project's *Rehearsing for Life* (The Wallis), Ken Ludwig's *'Twas the Night* (national tour), *The Seagull* and *Rhinoceros* (Red Monkey Theater Group, NYC), *Julius Caesar* (Gene Frankel Theater, NYC), *Odd Squad Live!* (first national tour), *Dunsinane* (National Theatre of Scotland/Royal Shakespeare Company at The Wallis), *Einstein is a Dummy* (Sierra Madre Playhouse), and *The Threepenny Opera* (A Noise Within). Anawalt stars in *Flat-Earther*, a short film directed by Chris Wronka, available on YouTube. He is a graduate of South Coast Repertory's Acting Intensive Program and has an MFA in acting from USC School of Dramatic Arts. IG:@tomanawalt



LARRY BATES
Constable/Fred/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. Other theatre credits include *Trial of the Catonsville Nine* (Mark Taper Forum), *Pedro Play* (Cornerstone Theater), *Human Error* (Denver Center Performing Arts), *JQA* (San Diego Repertory), *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," "Big Little Lies," and "American Born Chinese." Bates is a Lunt-Fontanne Fellow and a graduate of The Theatre School, DePaul University.



TOMMY BECK
*Undertaker/Ebenezer as a
Young Man/ Poulterer*

is excited to be back at SCR having just appeared as The Old Man in Outside SCR's *The Old Man and The Old Moon*. His recent credits include *The Explorers Club*, *All My Sons* (Jewel Theatre Company); *Marjorie Prime*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Miss Bennet* (Marin Theatre Company); *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Kansas City Actors Theatre); *Colossal* (San Francisco Playhouse); *The Real Thing*, *The Monster Builder*, *Eccentricities of a Nightingale* (Aurora Theatre Company); *A Few Good Men* (Hillbarn Theatre); *Pride & Prejudice*, *Persuasion* (Livermore Shakespeare Festival); *Sleuth*, *Dracula* (Center REpertory Company); *Sense & Sensibility* (TheatreWorks); *Much Ado About Nothing* (Cal Shakes); *Cymbeline* (Marin Shakespeare Company); *Hamlet*, *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, *The Three Musketeers* (City Lights Theater Company). Beck has worked extensively in performance capture, most notably with 2K Games, Hangar 13, Firaxis, Pixar, Epic Games, and Industrial Light & Magic. He received his BA from New York University and is a proud member of AEA & SAG/AFTRA.



KELSEY BRAY
*Elizabeth Shelley/Fan/
Pursued Maiden*

(she/her) is so excited and grateful to be back performing in *A Christmas Carol* at South Coast Repertory! She began her career as a student in SCR's Youth Conservatory for more than 11 years and had the chance to perform as Belinda Cratchit in the 2010 production of *A Christmas Carol*. Regional credits include *Appropriate* and *The*

Little Foxes (River Rayner/Cassidy Lafayette u/s, Alexandra u/s, SCR's Voices of America series), *Junie B. in Jingle Bells*, *Batman Smells!* (Junie B., Oklahoma Children's Theatre), *Clean Slate* (Gina, world premiere, Ignition Arts) and *Illuminate* (world premiere, original company member, Ignition Arts). Other credits include *Antigone* (Antigone), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia), and *The Wolves* (#00). She earned her BFA in Acting and Directing from Oklahoma City University. Endless gratitude to her amazing family, friends and mentors. Happy Holidays! kelseybrayactor.com IG: @Kelsey.bray98



DIANA BURBANO

Solicitor/Mrs. Fezziwig

(she/ella), is a Colombian playwright and actor featured in *Los Angeles Times'* LA Vanguardia: Latino Innovators. Burbano is a resident artist at Center

Theatre Group, The Latino Theatre Company, and Breath of Fire Latina Ensemble. Her play *Luzmi*, a Nuestro Planeta commission for HERO Theatre, recently premiered at Inner City Arts in Los Angeles. Other plays include, *Ghosts of Bogotá*, *Sapience* and *Fabulous Monsters*, about women in punk rock, featuring the music of Chicana punk group FEA. She has commissions with Antaeus, Artists Repertory Theatre, Center Theatre Group and Livermore Shakespeare Festival. As an actor, Burbano played Amalia in Jose Cruz González's *American Mariachi* at South Coast Repertory and Arizona Theatre Company, Marisela in *La Ruta* at Artists Repertory and Izzy in the world premiere of Julie Hébert's *Drunk at the Base of the Bodhi Tree* for Mile High Theatre. You can also see her as Viv the Punk in the cult musical *Isle of Lesbos*. She is on the Dramatists Guild Council representing Southern California. She dedicates this performance to Martha McFarland.



MELODY BUTIU

Rich Woman/Mrs. Cratchit

is elated to return to SCR, where her credits include *A Christmas Carol* ('22/'21/'19/'18), *M. Butterfly*, *Shipwrecked!* *An Entertainment*, *The*

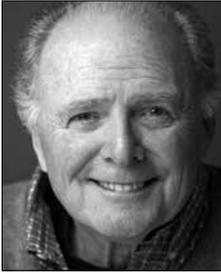
Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow, *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed*, *Junie B. in Jingle Bells*, *Batman Smells!* and more. She plays Sofia in *The Queen of Versailles*, a new musical by Stephen Schwartz and Lindsey Ferrentino, starring Kristin Chenoweth, and heading to Broadway in the 2025/2026 season. Her Broadway credits include David Byrne's *Here Lies Love* (2023) and *Doctor Zhivago*. Regionally, she has appeared at NY's Public Theater, Theatre Under the Stars, Geva Theatre, Arena Stage, REV Theatre Company, Denver Center, Seattle Rep, Wallis Annenberg Center, Huntington Theatre, ACT, Geffen Playhouse, Getty Villa, Kirk Douglas Theatre, San Diego Rep, Singapore Rep, East West Players, Portland Center Stage and La Jolla Playhouse. Select film and television credits include *Easter Sunday*, *Untold: This is My Story*, *Swearing*, "FBI," "Young Sheldon," "Mom," "Call Me Kat," "This is Us," "The Kominsky Method," "NCIS," "NCIS: LA," "Kingdom," "Rizzoli & Isles," and "Gotham." Voiceover work includes: *Request sa Radyo* (Makati City, Philippines), *Welcome Me to the Kingdom* (audiobook), *Shame on You!* (short film), and *Tell Me Why* (video game). More at melodybutiu.com, Instagram: @themelodybutiu



ALICIA COCA

Flower Seller/Belle

returns to South Coast Repertory after appearing in *Quixote Nuevo* (2023), *A Christmas Carol* (2022 and 2023), *She Loves Me* (2020) and *American Mariachi* (2019 and 2021). Other credits include the West Coast co-production of *Quixote Nuevo* by Octavio Solis at Seattle Repertory (2024) and Portland Center Stage (2024); SCR's Pacific Playwrights Festival (2022); Arizona Theatre Company's *American Mariachi* (2019); Latino Theater Company's 2020 virtual productions of *Just Like Us* directed by Fidel Gomez; and *August 29* directed by Alberto Barboza. Coca is a 2018 theater arts graduate of the University of California, Davis. @alicia_coca



RICHARD DOYLE
Ebenezer Scrooge

is an SCR Founding Member playing Scrooge for the fourth season live and fifth overall. He played many different characters over his 37 seasons in the production. Before he debuted as Scrooge in 2021, Doyle was last seen at SCR in *Outside Mullingar* (2020) and previously in *The Fantasticks*, *Kings, Rest*, *The Weir* and more than 200 other productions. His other SCR favorites include *Holy Days*; *The Beard of Avon*; *You, Nero*; *Men's Singles*; *Unsuitable for Adults*; *Playland*; *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*; *The Crucible*; *Intimate Exchanges*; *Cyrano de Bergerac*; *A View from the Bridge*; *Of Mice and Men*; and—from SCR's Third Step Theatre—*The Tavern* by George M. Cohan. Live stage is his first love, but he has kept busy with film and television, including a regular role as Mr. Gaines on "Cheers"; several roles on "M*A*S*H"; his first feature, the Michael Crichton film *Coma*; Wolfgang Peterson's *Air Force One*; and *Mass Appeal*. He has also appeared in many independent features, including *The Western Heathens and Thieves*, and *Abduction of Angie*. Voice acting enhanced his love for live storytelling and Doyle's work as an animation voiceover actor ranges from "Sky Commanders" "The Chimp Channel," "Batman," "Ben Ten" and "Spiderman" to video and motion capture performances in dozens of video games like "MGS 3" as Big Boss, to podcasts, such as Capt. Woodruff in "Exeter," Gib Wilson on "Hunt for Red Gold" and Arthur on "Hoagies." Fifteen years ago, Doyle joined The Pageant of the Masters as the narrator for this unique event, where he encourages people to "enjoy his storytelling surrounding this arts-themed show." Here at SCR, he likewise hopes that you "Enjoy the Show" and have a wonderful holiday season.



EDUARDO ENRIKEZ
Joe/Jacob Marley as a Young Man

is excited to return to the *Christmas Carol* family. You recently saw him at SCR in *La Havana Madrid*, *American Mariachi* and *Destiny of Desire*. He was in the original Lon-

don West End production of the musical, *On Your Feet*, the story of Emilio and Gloria Estefan (London Coliseum); he reprised his role as Emilio in a production at Moonlight Amphitheatre, West End/European credits include *On Your Feet*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged*, *Eating Raoul*, *Time Square Angel*, *Saturday Night Fever* and *Hair*. Enriquez's regional credits include *The Wedding Singer*; *Destiny of Desire*; *American Mariachi*; *Miss Saigon*; *Mother Road*; *The Secret Garden*; *Into the Woods*; *Papi*; *Me and César Chávez*; *Sweet Charity*; *Cabaret*; *Blood Brothers*; *Is This Any Way to Start a Marriage*; *Ragtime*; *The Musical of Musicals*, *The Musical!*; *Love Songs—A Musical*; *Bat Boy, The Musical*; *Hercules On Normandie* and *Schoolhouse Rock*. His film and television credits include *Sin Frontera*, *Stigma*, *Emilio, Jornada al norte*, *Dog Tags*, *Immigrant*, *Infertile Hearts*, "The Bridge," "Locked up Abroad" and "Bluff." He wrote the musical *ILCAHULLIA* (to forgive), which just had readings in New York and Los Angeles. @eduardoenrikez.



MICHAEL MANUEL
Jacob Marley's Ghost/Gentleman

is happy to be returning to SCR where he last appeared in *A Christmas Carol* and as Editor Webb in *Our Town*. Also at SCR, Boris in *Amos and Boris*, Madame Pernelle in *Tartuffe*, Big Stone in *Eurydice*, Francis Flute/Thisbe in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and in numerous readings and workshops since 1994. He has worked in regional theatres across the country including Alley Theatre, Empty Space Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory, Arena Stage, Shakespeare Theatre DC, Group Theater, Yale Repertory Theatre, New Jersey Shakespeare Festival among others. In L.A., he has worked with A Noise Within (Ovation, LADCC Awards for *Frankenstein*) Pasadena Playhouse (LADCC for *The Father*), Mark Taper Forum, Cornerstone Theater Company, Shakespeare Festival LA, Geffen Playhouse, Interact Theatre Company, UCB, Main Street Players, and Impro Theatre where he is a member of the Main Company. He has appeared in numerous television programs and films, including the upcoming feature *Redux Redux* directed by the McManus Brothers. Manuel is an Acting Coach and has served as the

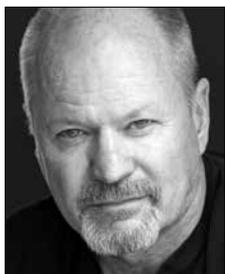
coach and creative consultant for *John Legend: An Evening of Songs and Stories*. He is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama and a 2023 Lunt-Fontanne Fellow.



PRESTON MAYBANK

Bob Cratchit

is delighted to be back at SCR, where he has appeared in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Don Pedro), *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (the Duke of Milan), *Terra Nova* (Amundsen), *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Valvert), *The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler* (Lovborg), *The Hoboken Chicken Emergency* (Anthony LaPalma) and numerous other productions. Other SoCal productions include *The Final Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (King Of Bohemia) at the Pasadena Playhouse, *The Pursuit of Happiness* (Spud) at Laguna Playhouse, *The Foreigner* (Froggy) at La Mirada Theatre and *Tartuffe* (Tartuffe) at A Noise Within. In addition to numerous other theatre, film and television credits, he toured Europe with The Karol Armitage Ballet in the original ballet *Hucksters of the Soul*. He is also the creator of the critically acclaimed “stop-mo” animated series “The Agitated” which can be found at theagitated.com.



WILLIAM FRANCIS MCGUIRE

Solicitor/Mr. Fezziwig/Gentleman

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 has also 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,” “Eagle-

heart,” “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 Chair of the Department of Theatre Arts at Saddleback College and a graduate of Yale School of Drama.



JENNIFER PARSONS

The Spirit of Christmas Past/Scavenger

returns to SCR for her 4th year as Spirit of Christmas Past and 22nd year in *A Christmas Carol*—17 as Mrs. Cratchit and one as Belle (back in the long ago). She has also appeared in the SCR productions of *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 *Bunnica*. Other recent SoCal performances include *The Glass Menagerie*, *Silent Sky* and *Vanya, Sonia, Masha & Spike* at International City Theatre. New York credits range from Broadway (*Quilters*) and Off-Broadway (*Steel Magnolias*, *Smoke on the Mountain*) to several Off, Off Broadway shows. She’s performed in regional theatres across the country and done a bunch of plays at Theatre 40. Her current television credits include recurring guest-star roles on “How to Get Away with Murder,” “Proven Innocent” and guest-star roles on “All Rise,” “The Romanoffs,” “Longmire,” “Bones,” “Criminal Minds” and “Stalker.”



ERIKA SCHINDELE

Toy Lady/Sally/Scavenger

is honored to continue to be a part of this beloved Christmas tradition. At SCR, she originated the role of Helen in the world premiere of *An Italian Straw Hat*, as well as performing in numerous Theatre for Young Audience productions. Some favorite roles include Georgie Burns in *Heisenberg* and Stella Kowalski in the iconic *A Streetcar Named Desire*, both at Jewel

Theatre Company; and Lisa in *Collected Stories* at Coachella Valley Repertory, for which she earned a Desert Theatre League Award nomination for best actress. Other theatre credits include *Emma* at the Ensemble Theater in Santa Barbara; 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*; *Merrily We Roll Along* and *1776* at Actors Co-op Theatre Company. Her film and television credits include *Emerald*, "Ribbons" (of which she was a co-creator), "Criminal Minds" and "American Dreams." Schindele also narrates audiobooks and can be heard on many titles in various genres from YA, Romance and Non-fiction. Merry Christmas and love to my whole family. For Brent and Jack Jack. erikaschindele.com



NICK SLIMMER

Thomas Shelley/ The Spirit of Christmas Yet-to-Come (Assistant Director)

(he/him/his) is thrilled to be making his return to *A Christmas Carol*, his third time as Assistant Director.

He is a graduate of SCR's Acting Intensive Program, the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, and Arizona State University. He is also an integral member of South Coast Repertory's Theatre Conservatory, serving as the Conservatory and Educational Programs Associate. Slimmer also serves as a company member of Modjeska Unscripted Theatre producing and performing in fully improvised, full-length plays in various genres (Murder Mystery, Hallmark Christmas, Screwball Comedy, etc.). Slimmer would like to thank his friends and family for their boundless support, and director (and mentor) Hisa Takakuwa for giving him the opportunities in London and beyond.



RICHARD SOTO

Wreath Seller/The Spirit of Christmas Present/Rich Man

a member of SAG-AFTRA and Actors Equity, is overjoyed to be back again with the tradition of *A Christmas Carol* for a 16th year.

His other SCR credits include Vecino in *A Long Road Today/El Largo Camino de Hoy*, SCR's Dialogue/*Diálogos* project in Santa Ana. He also appeared in *Coriolanus*, *The School for Scandal* and *Romeo & Juliet* at The Old Globe. Other credits include *So It Is! If So It Seems To You!* and *King Lear* at A Noise Within. Soto is a faculty instructor with SCR's Theatre Conservatory, and adjunct professor of stage combat at Vanguard University. As fight director, he has choreographed stage fights around the SoCal region, including SCR, Latino Theater Company, Native Voices at The Autry, Teatro Meta, American Coast Theater, Imagine Theatre, Vanguard University, Pomona College, and Actors Co-op, where he was recognized for his outstanding fight choreography. He is currently navigating life, while working on projects involving his passions of people, history, art, education, and comic books. Follow him at Instagram @therichardsoto



KACI HAMILTON

Mrs. Fezziwig/Mrs. Cratchit/Spirit of Christmas Past/Sally (Understudy)

is thrilled to be returning to the SCR stage. Most recently, she played Hermione and Paulina in back-to-

back productions of *The Winter's Tale* (Antaeus and Southern Shakespeare Company). Favorite credits include *Crassis* (Pacific Playwrights Festival), *The Little Foxes* (SCR), *Menstruation: A Period Piece* (Big Little Theatre Company), *King Lear* (staging), *Julius Caesar* and *Romeo and Juliet* (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company), *Julius Caesar* (Warriors for Peace Theatre Company), *Henry V* (Fairbanks Shakespeare Theatre/World Shakespeare Congress, Brisbane, Australia), *The Crucible* (Perseverance Theatre), and *The List* (The Player's Theatre). Currently, she can be seen in the short, *In Foreign*, which premiered at the 2024 AFI Fest, and *Getaway*, which premiered at the 2023 Toronto Black Film Festival, the Pan African Film Festival and the Essence Festival. Hamilton is a graduate of the William Esper Studio in New York. Instagram @thesweetbacon.



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, top row, left to right) **Aya Hanai, Justine Roussel, Brady Barrett, Matthew Chan**



(bottom row) **Lola Brett, Kennedy Levine, Lara Anderson and Megan Chan**. Appearing in the balance of performances are (above, top row, left to right) **Libby Rue, Quinn Garcia, Isaac Person, Charlie Wellman** (bottom row) **Penelope Main, Natalie Yokota, Beatrice Main and Claire Jeong**.



DAVID NEVELL

Ebenezer Scrooge
(*Understudy*) and *Dialect Coach*

previously appeared at SCR in *A Raisin in the Sun, Shakespeare in Love, Peter and the Starcatcher*

and *Arms and the Man*. Other Southern California appearances include *Twelve Angry Men, Driving Miss Daisy* and *The Odd Couple* at Laguna Playhouse; *The Price, A Walk in the Woods* and *God of Carnage* at International City Theatre; *Twelfth Night* at New Swan Shakespeare; *The Morini Strad* at The Colony; and *The Comedy of Errors, Twelfth Night* and *Romeo & Juliet* at Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles. Regionally, Nevell appeared in *The Scene* at Ensemble Theatre Company of Santa Barbara; *Amphitryon* at Huntington Theatre Company; *The Crucible* at Pittsburgh Public Theatre; *Henry VIII* and *The Tempest* at Utah Shakespeare Festival; *A Christmas Carol* at Geva Theatre; *Crazy for You, On Borrowed Time* and *My Fair Lady* at La Mirada Theatre; *The Game of Love and Chance* at San Jose Repertory; and in numerous roles while a resident artist at Pacific Conservatory Theatre/PCPA. Nevell earned his MFA in Acting at UC Irvine and his BA in Political Science at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. davidnevell.com



MICHAEL POLAK

Bob Cratchit/Spirit of Christmas Present/Fred/Jacob Marley's Ghost
(*Understudy*)

is thrilled to be back at SCR. His New York credits include *Soldier's Wife* at the Mint Theatre. Regionally he has appeared at The Rubicon Theatre, North Coast Repertory Theatre, Ensemble Theatre Company, La Mirada Theatre, International City Theatre, Pioneer Theatre Company, Northern Stage, Delaware Theatre Company, Chicago Shakespeare, Philadelphia Theater Company, Caldwell Theatre Company (New Times Award winner and Carbonell Award nominee for the role of Shane Mungitt in *Take Me Out*), The Shakespeare Theatre, Hartford Stage, Playmaker's Repertory Theatre, American Conservatory Theatre, Cape Playhouse, PCPA, San Jose Stage Company and the California, San Francisco, and Texas Shakespeare Festivals among others. Television and film credits include "Bel-Air," *Mid-Century, 86 Melrose Ave*, and numerous soaps, web series, and shorts. Polak received his MFA from Pennsylvania State University and his BA from California State University, Fullerton. michaelpolakactorfd.com

PLAYWRIGHT, DIRECTOR AND DESIGNERS

JERRY PATCH (*Adapter*) served as dramaturg on more than 150 new plays, including SCR's world premieres of *Abundance*, *Freedomland*, *Golden Child*, *Intimate Apparel*, *Search and Destroy*, *Three Days of Rain*, *Ruined* and *Wit*. He was the founding project director for South Coast Repertory's Pacific Playwrights Festival and artistic director of the theatre program of Sundance Institute. A professor of theatre and film, he was consulting dramaturg for Roundabout Theatre Company (New York) for nearly a decade and resident artistic director at The Old Globe in San Diego. He is now artistic consultant for Manhattan Theatre Club, where he served more than a decade as Director of Artistic Development, and is resident dramaturg at SCR.

HISA TAKAKUWA (*Director*) is a classically trained actor, director and educator. She has worked at theatrical institutions around the country including the Sundance Children's Theatre, The Music Center on Tour and the Indiana Repertory Theatre. At SCR, she appeared in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, in 14 seasons of *A Christmas Carol* and Education Touring Productions. She is the Director of SCR's Theatre Conservatory and directed many Players productions including *Metamorphoses*, *Matilda The Musical*, *Cinderella*, *After Juliet*, *Peter Pan*, *Mary Poppins*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Into the Woods*, *Seussical*, *Oliver Twist*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Nicholas Nickleby* and the world premiere of *Cursed*. While a longtime resident artist at A Noise Within, she appeared in many productions, including *The Triumph of Love*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Misanthrope*, *Another Part of the Forest*, *The Seagull* and *Our Town*. She directed *Henry V*, *Twelfth Night* and *Shooting Stars* at the Actors Co-op Theatre in Hollywood. She holds a BA from Smith College and an MFA from the California Institute of the Arts.

THOMAS BUDERWITZ (*Scenic Design*) previously designed *Outside Mullingar*, *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*, *Putting It Together*, *Collected Stories*, *The Heiress*, *Doubt*, *Pig Farm*, *Bach at Leipzig*, *Proof*, *A Delicate Balance*, *A*

Honorary Producers

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 17th year that the couple has been the Honorary Producers 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.

Christmas Carol (21 previous seasons), *But Not for Me* and the 2007-16 Galas for SCR. His designs for other theatres include 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 Theatre, Laguna Playhouse, Denver Center Theatre Company, Chautauqua Theater Company, Reprise Theatre Company, Arizona Theatre Company, Utah Shakespeare Festival, 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.

AMY L. HUTTO (*Additional Costume Design*) has been managing the Costume Shop for South Coast Repertory for 27 seasons. Before her arrival in Costa Mesa, she managed shops in Northern California and North Carolina. In addition to designing additional costumes and maintaining the design integrity for *A Christmas Carol*, she designed costumes for a streaming version of *Red Riding Hood*, *Lobby Hero* and *Oleanna* at SCR. Hutto designed costumes for *Man of La Mancha* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* for Foothill Theatre Company; *Hamlet*, *Taming of the Shrew* and *Much Ado About Nothing* for Sacramento Shakespeare Festival; and *A Christmas Carol* for Sacramento Theatre Company. In North Carolina, she designed both scenery and costumes for *The Miracle Worker* and *Inherit the Wind*; and costumes for *Oklahoma*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Guys and Dolls* among others for High Point Theatre Company. Hutto has taught classes ranging from public speaking to various theatre arts at Northern Kentucky University, Monmouth College, High Point University and University of North Carolina-Greensboro. On a personal note, she is an avid quilter as it offers another way to express her love of color, fabric and texture and has won her blue ribbons and honorable mentions at the Orange County Fair.

DONNA & TOM RUZIKA (*Lighting Design*) celebrate their 44th year of designing for *A Christmas Carol* and 52 years of marriage. They have enjoyed collaborating on productions at SCR, the Hollywood Bowl and other regional theatres. Ms. Ruzika has designed 23 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, Ebony Repertory Theatre 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*) 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* at SCR. 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. McCarthy 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*. 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; *Songs for a New World* (Ovation Award) at Rubicon Theatre Company; *Side Show* (Ovation Award nomination), and *Billy Bishop Goes to War* (Ovation Award nomination), 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 is the president of Diablo Immersive, which designs immersive experiences such as *Delusion for 13th Floor*, *Stranger Things: The Drive Into*, and *Arcane* with Secret Cinema and Netflix, and other clients around the world.

TALIA KRISPEL (*Stage Manager*) (she/her) is excited to be back at SCR, where her credits include *A Christmas Carol* (since 2014), *Prelude to a Kiss*, *The Musical*, *Alice’s Wonderland*, *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, *Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook*, *Abundance*, *Amadeus* and *Pinocchio*. Her other credits include *The Lonely*

Few starring Lauren Patten (Geffen Playhouse); *The Little Mermaid* (McCoy Rigby /La Mirada); *Newsies!*, *Oliver!* (Musical Theatre West); *Aida* (Stages St. Louis); *Oliver!*, *The Addams Family* starring Teri Hatcher, *Newsies!*, *Something Rotten*, *The Music Man* starring Adam Pascal, *Mamma Mia!*, *West Side Story*, *Matilda The Musical*, *Shrek the Musical*, *Beauty and the Beast* starring Susan Egan, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *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); *Newsies!*, *The Secret Garden* (3-D Theatricals); *The Little Mermaid* (Sound Stage LIVE!); *Mamma Mia!* (ACT of Connecticut); *The Times They Are A-Changin'* (The Old Globe); and *Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular* (Radio City Music Hall). Additional: Geva Theatre Center, A Noise Within, Rubicon, Theatre By The Sea, Ocean State Theatre Company, Ogunquit Playhouse, North Shore Music Theatre and Paper Mill Playhouse. For Mychal Adair-Lynch, Mama and Dad. IG: @teekrisp.taliakrispel.com

JENNY LUDWIG (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is thrilled to be back for her third production of *A Christmas Carol* at SCR. Other credits include Production Assistant for SCR's *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Old Man and The Old Moon*, *Prelude to a Kiss*, *The Musical* and *Coleman '72*. She has stage managed *Plaid Tidings* for Enlightened Theatrics, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Shakespeare Orange County and assistant stage managed *The Tragedie of Macbeth* and *Twelfth Night, Or What You Will* for Shakespeare Orange County. She has also worked as a Production Assistant for 3D Theatrical's *Newsies*, *Kinky Boots*, *Shrek The Musical*, *The Secret Garden*, *Once*, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, *Parade*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *Mamma Mia*, *42nd Street*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Spamalot*, *Once on This Island*, *Oklahoma* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

JULIAN OLIVE (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is excited to be back at SCR! His previous SCR credits include *Alice's Wonderland*, *Junie B. Jones is Not A Crook*, *She Loves Me*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *A Christmas Carol*. Selected other credits include *Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer* (national tour),

Jersey Boys (CCAET Theatricals), *The Little Mermaid*, *Jersey Boys* (La Mirada Theatre), *Newsies!* (Musical Theatre West), *The Lonely Few* (Geffen Playhouse), *Shrek*, *Matilda*, *West Side Story*, *The Music Man*, *Something Rotten!*, *Newsies!*, *The Addams Family*, *Oliver!* (5-Star Theatricals), *Jersey Boys*, *Spamalot*, *The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey* (Forestburgh Playhouse), *Newsies!* (3-D Theatricals) and *The Honeymooners* (Paper Mill Playhouse). Happy Holidays!

DAVID IVERS (*Artistic Director*) is responsible for the overall artistic operation of the theatre. The 2019-20 season was the first he programmed for SCR and during that season, he directed *She Loves Me*. In addition, he directed the 2024 production of *Joan*, the 2021 Pacific Playwrights Festival reading of *Coleman '72* by Charlie Oh and the 2022 reading of Spenser Davis' *A Million Tiny Pieces*. He spent August of last season directing Guthrie Theater's production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. He was last seen onstage at SCR as John in Richard Greenberg's world premiere of *A Shot Rang Out* and as part of his SCR tenure created the theatre's Outside SCR program in partnership with Mission San Juan Capistrano. Prior to his appointment as Artistic Director, he directed the SCR-Berkeley Repertory Theatre co-production of *One Man, Two Guvnors*. Before arriving to SCR in his current capacity, Ivers 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 for the Performing Arts 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 Theater, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Berkeley Repertory Theatre and South Coast Repertory. Ivers' early career included serving as associate artistic director of Portland Repertory Theatre and appearing in productions at some of the nation's most prestigious theatres, including Portland Center Stage and the Oregon, Alabama and Idaho Shakespeare festivals. He has 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.

SUZANNE APPEL (*Managing Director*). For more than two decades, Suzanne Appel has pursued a personal mission to bring people together through transformative experiences led by form-challenging artists. Her accomplishments as Managing Director of Vineyard Theatre (2017-2024) include expanding the revenue-generating capacity of the organization, bringing on seven new board members, negotiating a two-production, industry-first producing partnership with Audible (David Cale's *Harry Clarke* and Ngozi Anyanwu's *Good Grief*), and transferring four Tony-nominated productions to Broadway. She is perhaps most proud of working with Artistic Director Sarah Stern to keep all Vineyard Theatre full-time staff employed during the COVID pandemic and developing a 2022-26 plan raising all arts worker wages. Appel joined The Vineyard after serving as director of external affairs for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and as managing director at Cutting Ball Theater in San Francisco. She was recently awarded the Alfred Drake Award from Brooklyn College, an annual honor given to an accomplished theatre professional who has made significant contributions to the American theatre. Other previous positions include roles with Dance Theater Workshop, Yale Repertory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre and Wesleyan University. She is a graduate of Wesleyan University, Yale School of Drama and Yale School of Management (MFA/MBA).

MARTIN BENSON (*Founding Artistic Director*), co-founder of SCR, has directed nearly one-fifth of SCR's productions, including the 2020 production of *Outside Mullingar*. 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.



This Theatre operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theatres and 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.



The theatre is a member of Arts Orange County, the official local arts agency.