

December 1—20  
2015

# A Christmas Carol



BY *Charles Dickens*

ADAPTED BY MICHAEL SHAMATA

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## Artistic Director's Notes

Welcome to our production of *A Christmas Carol*. It's beginning to feel a lot like tradition – and what a grand feeling that is! This story is immortal, and is also that rare classic whose message remains potent year after year after year.

Dickens' writing is so exceptional that no matter how many times I have directed *A Christmas Carol* – and it must now be close to 15 – I have never failed to be profoundly moved. Ebenezer Scrooge's rediscovery of past joys, when his heart has been closed off for so many years, is a remarkable sight. That Scrooge is able to move beyond his injuries and resentments, and re-enter the world with humanity and love, is a hopeful and positive reminder to us all.

What bliss to work on this piece again with Tom McBeath – one of our greatest actors – in the company of such rich talents as Jessica Hickman, Brian Linds, Amanda Lisman, Celine Stubel, Jan Wood, our new company members Geoffrey Ewert, John Han and Anton Lipovetsky, and back again as Tom's constant companion on his journey through time, Gerry Mackay. Plus our younger and smaller actors: Lauren Alberico, Abby Baker, Ajay Parikh-Friese and Kyle Atlas Stahl.

It is my great thrill to return to this story, and my great joy to share it with you again.

May you and your family experience all the blessings of this holiday season,



### Save The Date May 14

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Photo: Jo-Ann Richards, Works Photography

## Notes from the Executive Director

As part of our Belfry family, we welcome you to this beautiful stage adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*. Its story signals the time of year when our hearts and minds turn to family, community, and sharing the kindness of the season.

It is also a time to appreciate all we receive from our loved ones and our community. We are so grateful to our many sponsors and supporters; we could not possibly produce the work we bring you without their generous contributions to us. The many local businesses who contribute to the arts in our community deserve your patronage. We take pride in having them as our friends and in recognizing their assistance in each of our programmes and I encourage you to frequent our business partners as you shop for gifts and other needs during the holiday season and beyond.

However you celebrate this time of year, may your family, friends, and all who cross paths with you enjoy the season and be healthy and prosperous as we enter into a new year's promise.

"Men's courses will foreshadow certain ends, to which, if persevered in, they must lead," says Scrooge.

"But if the courses be departed from, the ends will change."



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The Belfry Theatre presents

# A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens  
adapted by Michael Shamata

starring

**Tom McBeath** as Ebenezer Scrooge

with

**Geoffrey Ewert John Han Jessica Hickman  
Brian Linds Anton Lipovetsky Amanda Lisman**

**Gerry Mackay Celine Stubel Jan Wood**

&

**Lauren Alberico Abby Baker**

**Ajay Parikh-Friese Kyle Atlas Stahl**  
as the Cratchit Children

Director	<b>Michael Shamata</b>
Costume Designer	<b>Nancy Bryant</b>
Set Designer	<b>John Ferguson</b>
Lighting Designer	<b>Alan Brodie</b>
Composer	<b>Geordie Haley</b>
Choreographer	<b>Jessica Hickman</b>
Stage Manager	<b>Sara Robb</b>
Assistant Stage Manager	<b>Erin Voaklander</b>
Apprentice Stage Manager	<b>Sadie Fox</b>
Assistant Director	<b>Tristan Bacon</b>
Assistant Lighting Designer	<b>Ben Burrow</b>
Dialect Coach	<b>Adrienne Smook</b>

*A Christmas Carol* is approximately two hours in length, including one 15-minute interval.

*A Christmas Carol* was originally produced by Theatre New Brunswick in 1990,  
starring Douglas Campbell.

The use of video and/or audio recording devices is strictly prohibited at all times.

*A Christmas Carol* is generously sponsored by:



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Please enjoy the performance.

# A Christmas Carol

## Synopsis

Hard-hearted, miserly Ebenezer Scrooge sits in his counting-house on a gloomy Christmas Eve. His clerk, Bob Cratchit, shivers in the anteroom because Scrooge refuses to spend money on coal for the fire. When Scrooge's nephew, Fred, pays a visit, Scrooge rejects Fred's invitation to spend Christmas with him and his new wife. A gentleman drops by collecting money for the poor, and Scrooge responds that he helps support the workhouses, the prisons and the treadmill "and those who are poorly off must go there."

At home that evening, Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his dead partner, Jacob Marley, who relates his unfortunate fate: as punishment for his greedy, self-serving life, his spirit has been condemned to wander the Earth weighed down by heavy chains. Marley hopes to save Scrooge from sharing his fate, by sending three Spirits who will "haunt" him on each of the next three nights.

The Ghost of Christmas Past escorts Scrooge on a journey through scenes from his youth: his Christmas alone at boarding school; the Christmas his sister came to rescue him; Christmas with the Fezziwigs, where he was an apprentice; and the Christmas when his fiancé Belle broke off their engagement because his lust for money had eclipsed his ability to love.

The Ghost of Christmas Present – who exists for just this one day – flies Scrooge over London to witness some of the pleasures of the holiday season. They visit the impoverished home of his clerk, Bob Cratchit, whose children include the lame and sickly Tiny Tim. The Ghost takes Scrooge to his nephew's home where he witnesses the warmth of friendship, and understands how he has wounded Fred. As Christmas Day comes to a close, the Ghost forces Scrooge to acknowledge the existence of Ignorance and Want: two evils that society must erase.

The silent Ghost of Christmas Yet-To-Come leads Scrooge through a series of mysterious scenes, related to the death of an unnamed man: businessmen discussing the man's funeral; a woman selling his personal effects; a poor couple rejoicing at the death of their merciless creditor; and the Cratchit family mourning the death of Tiny Tim. Scrooge, begging to know the name of the dead man, finds himself in a churchyard, facing a grave, where the headstone is revealed to have his own name carved upon it. He implores the Spirit to alter his fate, promising to renounce his selfish ways, and to honor Christmas with all his heart.

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# A Christmas Carol

## England, 1843

Ebenezer Scrooge	Tom McBeath
Jacob Marley	Gerry Mackay
Spirit	John Han
Spirit	Jessica Hickman
Bob Cratchit	Anton Lipovetsky
Mr. Fred	Geoffrey Ewert
A Charitable Gentleman	Brian Linds
Mrs. Dilber	Jan Wood

### The Past 1796 – 1812

Ghost of Christmas Past	Gerry Mackay
Ebenezer as a Boy	Kyle Atlas Stahl
Fan	Abby Baker
Mrs. Bingley	Jan Wood
Miss Hurst	Celine Stubel
Ali Baba	John Han
Ebenezer as a Young Man	Geoffrey Ewert
Dick Wilkins	Anton Lipovetsky
Mr. Fezziwig	Brian Linds
Mrs. Fezziwig	Jan Wood
Flora	Celine Stubel
Belle	Amanda Lisman

### The Present 1843

Ghost of Christmas Present	Gerry Mackay
Mrs. Cratchit	Celine Stubel
Belinda	Abby Baker
Peter	Ajay Parikh-Friese
Martha	Lauren Alberico
Tiny Tim	Kyle Atlas Stahl
Mr. Fred's Wife	Celine Stubel
Mr. Clenham	Anton Lipovetsky
Miss Jane	Jan Wood
Topper	Brian Linds
Agnes	Amanda Lisman
Belle's Husband	Geoffrey Ewert

### The Future 1844

Ghost of Christmas Yet-To-Come	Gerry Mackay
Businessman	Geoffrey Ewert
Businessman	Anton Lipovetsky
Joe	Brian Linds
Debtor	Geoffrey Ewert
Debtor's Wife	Amanda Lisman
Boy	Ajay Parikh-Friese
Brigit	Jan Wood

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Box Office Clerk  
Production Manager  
Marketing & Communications  
Director  
Box Office Manager  
Box Office Clerk  
Assistant Box Office Manager  
Front of House Manager  
Executive Director  
Facilities Supervisor &  
Head Technician  
Company Manager  
Scenic Artist  
Graphic Designer  
Artistic Associate &  
Outreach Coordinator  
Belfry 101 Co-ordinator  
Box Office Clerk  
Financial Officer  
Head of Props  
Master Carpenter  
Artistic Director  
Scenic Painter & Custodian  
Technical Director  
Development Manager  
Head of Wardrobe  
Associate Artist  
Box Office Clerk  
Front of House

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Lighting

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Stitcher  
Stitcher  
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Alice Hawes  
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Please turn off your cellphones and pagers when you enter the theatre. If you need to be contacted in an emergency, please leave your name and seat number with our House Manager.

### Latecomers & Re-admission

The Director of each production designates moments in the show when the seating of latecomers will cause the least amount of distraction for actors and audience members. Should you leave the theatre, our House Manager will not be able to reseat you until one of these breaks.

### Babes in Arms

Babes in arms are not permitted in the theatre.

### Recording Devices

No cameras or recording devices are permitted in the theatre.

### Audience Advisories and Running Times

We make every effort to advise you of strong language, subject matter or extreme technical effects (strobe lights, fog). Please look for signs at the entrances to the theatre. Advisories and running times are available at the Box Office as of the first preview.

### Food & Drinks

Please feel free to take only food and/or drinks you've purchased from the Belfry bar into the theatre. Our goodies are packaged so that they don't make a lot of noise and disturb your fellow audience members.

### Perfume & Cologne

Please refrain from using perfume and cologne when you come to the theatre. Some of our patrons are highly allergic to scents.

### Electronic Cigarettes

Please refrain from using electronic cigarettes in the theatre, to avoid distraction for other patrons and the Artists on stage.

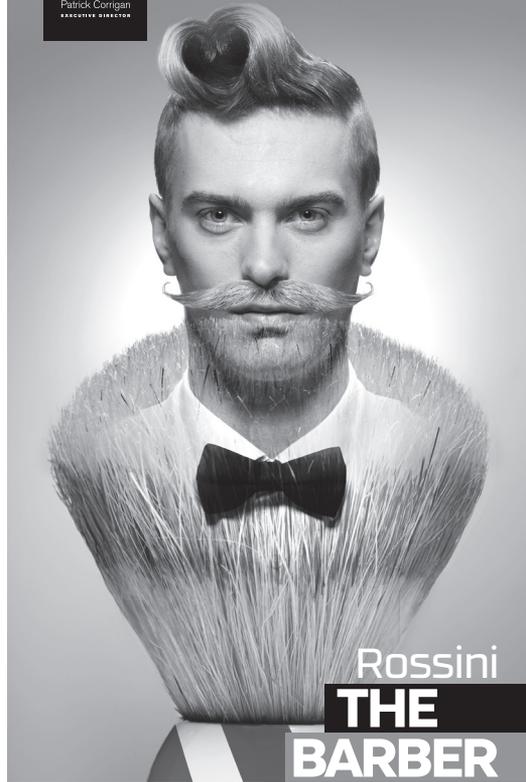
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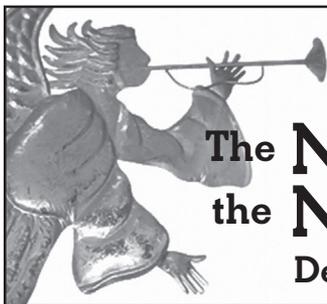


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## Acting Company



Tom McBeath



Geoffrey Ewert



John Han



Jessica Hickman

### Tom McBeath *Ebenezer Scrooge*

Tom's association with the Belfry Theatre began with the 1982 production of *Filthy Rich*. He was a young man! Other productions include *Emerald City*, *Memories of You*, *Mesa*, and Kevin Loring's *Where the Blood Mixes*. It's a great pleasure to return with *A Christmas Carol*. He is honoured to reconnect with so many familiar souls and excited to connect with the many new ones. His thanks and appreciation to all the souls, past and present, who have created, maintained, and continue to shape this unique and special theatre space that is the Belfry.

### Geoffrey Ewert *Mr. Fred*

Geoffrey is thrilled to make his Belfry mainstage debut with *A Christmas Carol*. As a director and/or performer, Geoffrey has worked with (selected): Alberta Theatre Projects, Theatre Calgary, Ghost River Theatre, Vertigo Theatre, Sage Theatre, Citadel Theatre, Chelsea Theatre (UK), Rich Mix (UK), Istropolitana

(Slovakia), and Nordurpollinn (Iceland). Recent award recognition includes: (Director) *The Dazzle* and *One Flea Spare* (Sage Theatre) total of 8 Betty Mitchell Award Nominations; (Performer) Betty Nomination *Trainspotting* (Sage Theatre), and Betty Recipient *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Sage Theatre). Geoffrey studied at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London, UK.

### John Han *Spirit*

John Han is a Korean-Haligonian performer, music director and educator. *A Christmas Carol* is his mainstage debut at the Belfry Theatre. Past appearances include: Georg in *Spring Awakening* (Belfry Theatre with Company C), Phantom in *The Rocky Horror Show* (RKO), Miguel in *Lieutenant Nun* (Puente and Snafu Dance Theatre), and Man 2 in *Robinson & Crusoe* (Kaleidoscope Theatre Family Festival). John thanks the Belfry Theatre for their contribution to new Canadian classics and for their vital role in this community.

*Rehearsal photography by Peter Pokorny*

### Jessica Hickman

#### *Spirit / Choreographer*

Jessica is very happy to be returning for round two of this beautiful show! Some recent choreography credits include *Elf: The Musical* (Chemainus Theatre Festival), *Let Me Call You Sweetheart* (Belfry Theatre), *The Tempest* (GNS), *Smalltown: A Pickup Musical* (TheatreSKAM), *Chicago* (Guild Theatre), *A Christmas Carol* (Belfry Theatre), as well as directing/choreographing *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (VOS), and *Bye Bye Birdie* (GNS). Jessica has been working as the Crowd Director for the past two seasons at *The Canadian Badlands Passion Play* (Drumheller), and is the Co-Artistic Director of Open Pit Theatre (Whitehorse). Upcoming for Jessica is the premiere of an exciting cardboard puppet show called *Tombstone: A Sci-Fi Western* with Ramshackle Theatre, and choreography for *Puttin' on the Ritz* here at the Belfry Theatre. (jessicahickman.ca)



*We wish the  
Belfry Theatre  
community a very  
Happy Christmas!*



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## Acting Company



Brian Linds



Anton Lipovetsky



Amanda Lisman



Gerry Mackay

*Rehearsal photography by Peter Pokorny*

### Brian Linds

#### *Mr. Fezziwig*

Brian is happy to be back reprising his roles in *A Christmas Carol*. Favourites of his ten Belfry appearances include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Art* and *Moo*, where he met his wife Jan Wood. He recently appeared at Chemainus Theatre in *Jeeves Intervenes* and at Blue Bridge Theatre in *Waiting for Godot* and *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. Last year he played at the Arts Club Theatre and Thousand Islands Playhouse in two separate productions of *Driving Miss Daisy*, playing Boolie. Next up is the sound design for the Belfry's *The Valley*, and the creation of an original production which will be mentored by the Belfry's New Incubator Project.

### Anton Lipovetsky

#### *Bob Cratchit*

Anton Lipovetsky is thrilled to return to the Belfry after playing King James in last year's *Equivocation*. Other acting credits include: *STATIONARY* (Delinquent Theatre), Bobby Strong in *Urinetown* (Firehall Arts Centre), and 3 seasons at

Vancouver's Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival. Anton is also a composer; his recent musical collaboration *Best Laid Plans* (Touchstone/Patrick Street) was shortlisted by the Playwright's Guild of Canada for a 2015 Tom Hendry Award. He is the recipient of 2 Jessie Awards and the 2011 Vancouver Mayor's Arts Award for Emerging Theatre Artist. Anton is a graduate of Studio 58. @antonlipovetsky

### Amanda Lisman

#### *Belle*

Amanda is delighted to return to the Belfry having performed in its first production of *A Christmas Carol*, and in last year's *Spring Awakening*. Other credits include *Venus in Fur* (Alberta Theatre Projects; Betty Mitchell Award for Outstanding Performance), *Othello* (Segal Centre), *Titus Andronicus*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *The Tempest*, *Zastrozzi*, *Macbeth* (Stratford Festival), *Private Lives*, *My Fair Lady* (Critic's Choice Spotlight Award; M Award), *Uncle Vanya* (Blue Bridge), *Pride and Prejudice* (Citadel), and *Miss Shakespeare* (Escape Artists). TV credits

include *The Listener*, *Arrow*, *Supernatural*, *24 Hour Rental*, *Copper*, *The L.A. Complex*, and *Psych*. Amanda is a graduate of UVic (BA in Anthropology), the University of Alberta (BFA in Acting), The Citadel/Banff Theatre Program and The Stratford Festival's Birmingham Conservatory.

### Gerry Mackay

#### *Jacob Marley, the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet-To-Come*

Gerry is pleased to return to the Belfry Theatre, where he last appeared as Burbage/Father Garnet in *Equivocation*. Recent select theatre credits include Alfred in *Indian Arm* (Rumble Theatre), Bill in *Late Company* (Touchstone Theatre), Charlie Clench in *One Man, Two Guvnors* (Arts Club Theatre) and Cymbeline in *Cymbeline* (Bard on the Beach). Gerry earned a BFA from the University of Victoria and an MFA from the University of British Columbia.



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### Celine Stubel

#### *Mrs. Cratchit*

Celine is overjoyed to return to this very special show with this outstanding group of people. Belfry productions include: *Speed-the-Plow*, *Venus in Fur*, *Proud*, *A Christmas Carol*, *God of Carnage*, *And Slowly Beauty*, *Unless*, *Garage Sale*, and *My Chernobyl*, (Jessie Richardson Award). Elsewhere: *The Great Gatsby* (Theatre Calgary), *Oliver* (NAC), *Macbeth*, *Fire*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre), *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *The Graduate*, *The Constant Wife* (Arts Club), *Studies In Motion* (Electric Company), *Tyland* (ATP), *Ride The Cyclone*, *Legoland* (Atomic Vaudeville), *Richard II*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, (Bard on The Beach), *Unity (1918)*, and *My Three Sisters* (Theatre SKAM). Film and TV: *Motive*, *Girlfriend's Guide to Divorce*, *Arrow*, and *Eadweard*.

### Jan Wood

#### *Mrs. Fezziwig*

Jan has appeared previously at the Belfry in *Half Life* and *The Life Inside* as well as in the

first production of *A Christmas Carol*. Locally, she has also worked with Theatre SKAM on *My Memory's Not So Good*. She has acted at Bard on the Beach, the Stratford Festival, the Blyth Festival and most theatres in Calgary and Edmonton. She presently devotes most of her time sharing her love of acting with her students at the University of Victoria. Ever an inspiration to her, her students affirm that the theatre is an art form that will endure through their passion, creativity and ingenuity. Tonight's performance is dedicated to her Mom and Christmases past.

### Lauren Alberico

#### *Martha Cratchit*

Lauren is a budding actress excited about her professional theatrical debut at the Belfry in *A Christmas Carol*. She is a grade 11 student at Claremont Secondary School participating in drama and musical theatre. She has performed in several amateur productions since age 6 including productions at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney BC and Randy Erp productions in North Vancouver. Recently, she appeared in a

Suess Animation production promoting oral health for the state of Washington. Lauren also enjoys drinking fancy coffee and listening to Frank Sinatra. She is incredibly grateful to everyone for their endless support.

### Ajay Parikh-Friese

#### *Peter Cratchit*

Ajay is thrilled to be returning to the cast of *A Christmas Carol*! Stage credits include *Oliver Twist* in *Oliver* and *Carlos* in *Legally Blonde* (SMUS), *Puck* in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Akira* in *Hana's Suitcase* (Kaleidoscope) and *Harry* in *Albert Herring*, *Flavio* in *Rodelinda* and *Jerome* in *South Pacific* (Pacific Opera Victoria). Screen credits include Disney XD's *Mr Young* and Nickelodeon's *One Crazy Cruise*. He next haunts the McPherson Playhouse in February as the Phantom in SMUS' *Phantom of The Opera*. When not acting he is shooting photos (500px.com/friese) and composing and performing the award-winning *Close the Bombay Doors* – his debut album comes out in February.

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Acting Company



Kyle Stahl

Abby Baker

**Kyle Atlas Stahl**

*Tiny Tim*

Kyle Atlas Stahl is making his professional acting debut. Kyle is a local and is seven years old. When asked why he would

like to be acting, his response was “so everyone can see me.” He enjoys performing and can soon be seen in *Monkey Up* on Netflix this winter.

*Rehearsal photography by Peter Pokorny*

**Abby Baker**

*Belinda Cratchit*

Abigail Baker is a Grade 6 student at Central Middle School. She was introduced to theatre at Sir James Douglas Elementary where she played the Minister of Coin in *The Emperor’s New Clothes*. She divides her time between Fernwood and Oak Bay where she enjoys painting, drawing, riding her scooter, reading everything, and baking with sugar. Abby is excited to be a part of this season’s production of *A Christmas Carol*.



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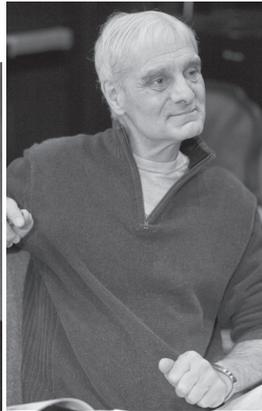
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## Creative Team



Nancy Bryant



John Ferguson



Alan Brodie



Geordie Haley

### Nancy Bryant

#### Costume Designer

Nancy designs costumes for dance, theatre, opera and film. Credits include *Equivocation* (Belfry Theatre), *Hamlet* (Bard on the Beach), *The Overcoat*, *Helen Lawrence* (Canadian Stage), *You Never Can Tell*, *Hotel Peccadillo* (Shaw Festival), *Das Rheingold*, *The Flying Dutchman*, *Rodelinda* (POV), *Sweeney Todd* (VOC), *Tear the Curtain*, *The Constant Wife* (Arts Club Theatre), *Hello Dolly*, *Oliver* (Vancouver Playhouse), *Parade*, *Plot Point* (Netherlands Dance Theatre), *Tempest Replica*, *Betroffenheit* (Kidd Pivot / Electric Company). Nancy is the recipient of many Jessie Awards and a Leo Award. Upcoming is *Romeo & Juliet* for Bard on the Beach and a new work by Crystal Pite for the Paris National Opera. [www.nancybryant.ca](http://www.nancybryant.ca)

### John Ferguson

#### Set Designer

John designed both set and costumes for the Belfry productions of *God of Carnage* and *And Slowly Beauty*. He has been resident designer for Theatre

Calgary, Neptune Theatre, the National Arts Centre, and the Canadian Stage Company. He has designed for all the major regional theatres from coast to coast, as well as Mirvish Productions, the Canadian Opera Company, Pacific Opera Victoria, the Shaw Festival and the Stratford Festival, where he has designed twenty productions. He is the recipient of two Dora Mavor Moore Awards, Montreal's la Soirée des Masques Award, Vancouver's Jessie Richardson Award and a Tyrone Guthrie Award. Previous Belfry designs include *The Year of Magical Thinking*, *The Real Thing* and *Anything That Moves*.

### Alan Brodie

#### Lighting Designer

Alan is delighted to return to the Belfry, where his previous productions include *Equivocation*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *The Syringa Tree*, *Mary's Wedding*, *When We Were Singing*, *The Drawer Boy*, *Two*, *Skylight*, *Come Rain or Come Shine*, *Anatol* and *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid*. Alan has collaborated many times with Michael Shamata, including

past POV productions of *Mary's Wedding* and *La Bohème*, and the upcoming *The Light in the Piazza* at Theatre Calgary. A member of the Associated Designers of Canada, Alan lives in Vancouver with his wife Michele and their boxer "Ellie." This spring Alan will direct *Summer and Smoke* at UVic as his Masters degree major project. [www.alanbrodie.ca](http://www.alanbrodie.ca)

### Geordie Haley

#### Composer

Geordie Haley is a composer, improviser, educator and guitarist. Geordie has been presenting songs, rhythm based compositions and improvised music for over 25 years in Fredericton, Toronto, and now Halifax. Geordie has been a featured artist in concert and festival programs presented by Upstream Music, Suddenly Listen, Canadian Music Center, Motion Ensemble, Jazz East, and Harvest Jazz Festival, and as an educator at the Nova Scotia Community College Music Arts Department. Geordie's music can be heard at [www.myspace.com/geordiehaley](http://www.myspace.com/geordiehaley) and on CBC Radio 3.



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## Creative Team



Sara Robb

Erin Voaklander



Sadie Fox



Tristan Bacon

Rehearsal photography by Peter Pokorny

### Sara Robb

#### Stage Manager

In her fifth season as resident stage manager for Pacific Opera Victoria, Sara is excited to be back home at the Belfry for the first time since she completed her apprenticeship in 2010. A graduate of VIU, she has been fortunate to live and work on Vancouver Island, though earlier this year she travelled to the Adelaide Festival with Aventa Ensemble's production *Marilyn Forever*. Favourite credits: *Otello*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Albert Herring*, *MacBeth* (POV), *Twist and Shout: The British Invasion*, *Les Miserables*, *Singin' In The Rain* (Chemainus Theatre), *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Blithe Spirit* (Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre).

### Erin Voaklander

#### Assistant Stage Manager

Erin is thrilled to spend Christmas at the Belfry. Favourite credits include: *The Bomb-itty of Errors* (20 Something Theatre for the Belfry and the Arts Club), *Sia* (Pyretic Productions), *The Lonely Hearts* (Cannonball),

*Sofa So Good* (Small Matters), *Don't Dress for Dinner* and *Chicago* (Mayfield), *White Christmas* (Arts Club), *True Love Lies*, *Blackbird*, and *Courageous* (Citadel Theatre). Erin has worked as an assistant director on *Featuring Loretta* and *Criminal Genius* (Punctuate! Theatre), and *The Particulars* (Pyretic Productions.)

### Sadie Fox

#### Apprentice Stage Manager

Sadie was introduced to the Belfry during her third year of studies at the Canadian College of Performing Arts, working as Stage Manager on *Spring Awakening* and she couldn't be more thrilled to be back! Since graduating, Sadie has been working as a costume and prop designer, scenic artist, and apprenticing in stage management. Most recently, she designed Story Theatre's *The Call Went Out*, which opened at the Royal BC Museum in November. *A Christmas Carol* is the third show in the Belfry's 40th anniversary season that Sadie has had the pleasure of being involved in.

### Tristan Bacon

#### Assistant Director

Tristan is a graduate of Capilano University and University of Victoria, and is immensely grateful to be part of his first production at the Belfry. He is the founding Artistic Director of working-class theatre, a site-specific performing arts society specializing in contemporary takes on the classics. Selected directing credits include: *Hedda Gabler* (Craigdarroch Castle), *Savage in Limbo* (Intrepid Theatre Club), *Rope of Sand* (Inlet Theatre and Victoria Fringe Festival). Tristan is originally from North Vancouver, and is happy to now call Victoria his home.



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GLOBE AND MAIL

2016

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March 15 – 19

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2013 Governor General's Award for Drama

March 15 – 19

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MONDAY MAGAZINE 1977

# Belfry Theatre

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## Master of the Revels

*Local architect John Keay has been foundational in building the Belfry we know today*

By John Threlfall

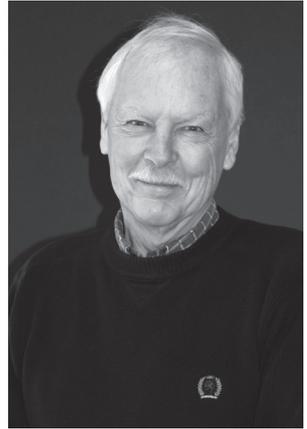
If people are the heart of the Belfry (staff, audiences and artists alike) and the productions are its soul, then the man responsible for the care and well-being of its body over the past 40 years has to be local architect John Keay. From the lobby and the balcony to the shops and studio, Keay's work might be the Belfry's most seen but least recognized aspect.

Originally built as 1887's Spring Ridge Chapel (now the lobby) and 1890's Emmanuel Baptist Church (the mainstage), Keay says the Belfry fits nicely into his overall architectural vision. "I've always been interested in heritage and the preservation of community, how you retain the feeling of an old structure but still make it work in a contemporary sense," he explains, noting some of his other projects like the Rialto Hotel and Fort Street's Wentworth Villa.

But Keay's real work started once the Belfry bought the building in 1990. First came the lobby renovations ("it had essentially collapsed at some point . . . the walls weren't plumb, the rafters were cracked"), followed by the mainstage in 1996. "We had to take out the entire balcony because it had no railings and was so poorly built," he recalls. "It looks now like it did before, but it's been completely rebuilt with hidden steel beams."

Keay is quick to credit his team—including project engineer Chris Grant and general contractor Alf Small, plus then-General Manager Mary Desprez and Artistic Director Glynis Leyslon. "They were all fabulous to work with and extremely supportive. There was always the potential for compromise... but they always went for the longer-term, better-quality answer."

Putting his award-winning Belfry renovations in the \$3 million-range, Keay says the real nail-biter was the century-old foundation. "The whole area is sand, so we had to dig down 12 feet to get sufficient bearing. Then we found a few bones and there was a concern we'd suddenly become an archeological site... but it turned out to just be a pig. We shut down in April and were scheduled to reopen in September, and we finished it all with two days to spare. It was really scary."



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Tribute artist Bill Zaalberg - Double Diamond - will take audiences through 5 decades of Neil Diamond's musical success - the looks, the songs and the meanings behind dozens of his greatest hits. Main backup vocalist and Stevie Nicks tribute artist Kathleen Zaalberg will also include several top Stevie Nicks songs to add to this non-stop 90 minute performance.



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*Mummer in Lantern Light, 1993, etching, 14" x 11"*



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