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Christian Kluxen, Music Director



FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Dear Patrons.

John Ferguson was one of Canada's most talented and respected designers. His sets and costumes have been seen on all the major stages across this country, including the Royal Alexandra Theatre and the Canadian Opera Company in Toronto, the Shaw Festival and the Stratford Festival, where he designed over 20 productions. He was the resident designer for Theatre Calgary, Neptune Theatre in Halifax, the National Arts Centre, and Canadian Stage Company. He was the recipient of two Dora Awards in Toronto, a Soirée des Masque Award in Montreal, and a Jessie Award in Vancouver.

Here in Victoria, he did some of his favourite designs for Pacific Opera Victoria and the Belfry Theatre, where his fragile soul was well taken care of by the amazing production teams at both organizations. He designed La Bohème, Don Giovanni and The Magic Flute for POV, and And Slowly Beauty, God of Carnage, The Year of Magical Thinking, The Real Thing and Anything That Moves for the Belfry. John and I created the concept for this production of A Christmas Carol 27 years ago, and while the scenic look has altered considerably over the years, the table, the ladder and all the other elements have remained the same. John was my life partner and my creative partner. He died February 2nd of this year, and he, and his love of actors, and his love of theatre, are sorely missed.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This beautiful stage adaptation of Dickens' extraordinary holiday story marks

the beginning of a season of celebration of family and friends, and the coming of new year. The Belfry celebrates you as part of our extended family, our friends and wishes the best of the season to all of you. Our gratitude to our thousands of audience members and the hundreds of individual donors can never be overstated; your generosity and patronage is crucial to our success.

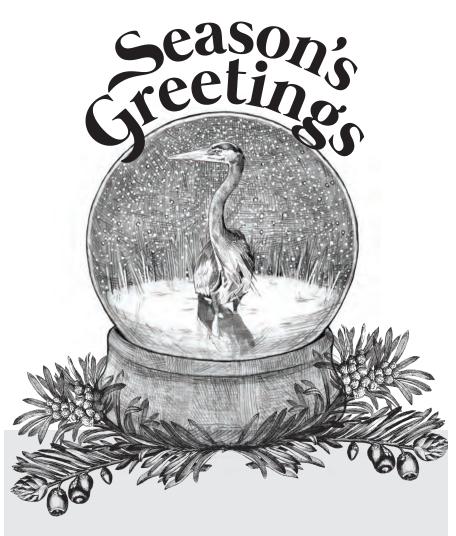
Our appreciation too to the foundations who support and understand the value of the arts in our lives, and to the public funders who invest in our communities through their investment in the arts.

Our corporate sponsors also deserve our recognition as leaders in our community who understand the value of supporting their communities through sponsorships, donations and the many other ways they support the arts, social programs and public activities in the communities they serve. I encourage everyone to support those businesses that support not only the Belfry but any of the non-profit charities in our community.

My wish that the season be "a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; when men and women seem by one consent to open their hearts, and to think of [other] people as if they were fellow-passengers."

nicopa

Wan





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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

Evan Frayne John Han Jessica Hickman Brian Linds Amanda Lisman Gerry Mackay Celine Stubel Conor Wylie Jan Wood

and as the Cratchit Children Lauren Alberico Jude Culham-Keays Azura Lepard William Robertson

Director Michael Shamata Set Designer John Ferguson Costume Designer Nancy Bryant Lighting Designer Alan Brodie Composer Geordie Haley Choreographer Jessica Hickman Stage Manager Sara Robb Assistant Stage Manager Christopher Sibbald Apprentice Stage Manager Becca Jorgensen Dialect Coach Adrienne Smook

A Christmas Carol is two hours andten minutes in length, including one fifteen-minute intermission.

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

Playwright's royalties are donated to the Belfry fund for special artistic projects.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL IS GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY

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A Christmas Carol

England, 1843

Ebenezer Scrooge

Jacob Marley

Tom McBeath **Gerry Mackay**

Spirit

John Han

Spirit

Jessica Hickman

Bob Cratchit

Evan Fravne

Mr. Fred

Conor Wylie

A Charitable Gentleman

Brian Linds

Mrs. Dilber

Jan Wood

The Past 1796 - 1812

Ghost of Christmas Past

Gerry Mackay

Ebenezer as a Boy

Jude Culham-Keays

Fan

Azura Lepard

Mrs. Bingley

Jan Wood Celine Stubel

Miss Hurst Ali Baba

John Han

Ebenezer as a Young Man

Conor Wylie

Dick Wilkins

Evan Frayne

Mr. Fezziwia

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

Azura Lepard

Peter

William Robertson

Martha Lauren Alberico

Tiny Tim Jude Culham-Keays

Mr. Fred's Wife

Celine Stubel

Mr. Clenham

Evan Frayne

Miss Jane Jan Wood

Topper

Brian Linds

Amanda Lisman

Agnes Belle's Husband

Conor Wylie

The Future 1844

Ghost of Christmas Yet-To-Come

Gerry Mackay

Businessman

Conor Wylie

Businessman

Evan Fravne

Joe

Brian Linds

Debtor

Conor Wylie

Debtor's Wife

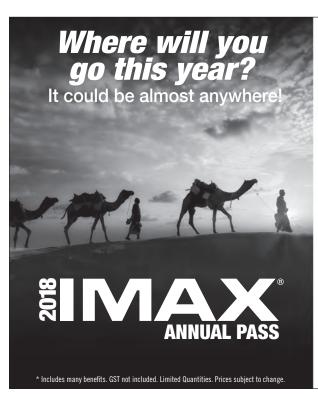
Amanda Lisman

Boy

William Robertson







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Tom McBeath Ebenezer Scrooge

Tom's association with the Belfry began with the 1982 production of *Filthy Rich*. He was a young man then! 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 this *A Christmas Carol*. I'm honoured to reconnect with so many familiar souls and excited to connect with the many new ones. My 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.



Evan FrayneBob Cratchit

Evan is a Vancouver-based actor, director and founding Artistic Director of Bleeding Heart Theatre. He has appeared with many companies including Pacific Theatre, Horseshoes & Hand Grenades, Touchstone Theatre, and the Chemainus Theatre Festival. Film and television projects include roles on *Arrow, DC's Legends of Tomorrow, iZombie,* the miniseries *When We Rise, Supernatural, Stargate SG-1* and others. Nominated for multiple Jessie Awards for his work as an actor and director, Evan is a recipient of the Sam Payne Award, and holds a BFA in Acting and an MFA in Directing from UBC.



John Han Spirit

John is a Victoria-based performer and music director. Previous credits at Belfry include: A Christmas Carol, Spring Awakening and Blisskrieg (Atomic Vaudeville/SPARK Festival). His past appearances include: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Falling: A Wake, and Pet the Fish (Chemainus Theatre Festival), Robinson & Crusoe (Kaleidoscope), and The Rocky Horror Show (Atomic Vaudeville). He is a graduate of the Canadian College of Performing Arts.



Jessica Hickman Spirit/Choreographer

Jessica is very happy to be returning for round three of this beautiful show! You may have seen her choreography in *Puttin' On the Ritz, Let Me Call You Sweetheart*, and *Mom's the Word*. Jessica just finished directing *Busted Up: A Yukon Story* for her company Open Pit Theatre, as well as *Tombstone: A Sci-Fi Western* (Ramshackle Theatre), and *The Canadian Badlands Passion Play*. Jessica teaches devised theatre/movement at the Canadian College of Performing Arts and dabbles in visual arts through her company Mixed.Media.Monsters. Enjoy the show! jessicahickman.net



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A Christmas Carol

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TIMES COLONIST







Brian Linds Mr. Fezziwig

Brian is happy to be back reprising his roles in A Christmas Carol. Some of his favourite Belfry appearances include The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Art and Moo, where he met his wife Jan Wood. His creation Reverberations, was part of the 2017 SPARK Festival. He last appeared at Blue Bridge Theatre in Our Town, Waiting for Godot and Brighton Beach Memoirs, and at the Chemainus Theatre Festival in A Christmas Story and Hilda's Yard. He is in the process of arranging a tour of Reverberations, as well as creating a sound design for the National Arts Centre's production of Carried Away on the Crest of a Wave.



Amanda Lisman Belle

Amanda has theatre credits from across Canada, including three seasons at the Stratford Festival, Alberta Theatre Projects (Betty Mitchell Award for *Venus in Fur*), Manitoba Theatre Centre (Winnipeg Theatre Award Nomination for *23.5 Hours*), the Segal Centre (Montreal English Theatre Nomination for *Noises Off*), many more with Theatre Aquarius, Arts Club, Citadel and local companies such as Blue Bridge (Critic's Choice and M Awards for *My Fair Lady*) and Atomic Vaudeville. TV credits include *Suits*, *iZombie*, *Reign*, *Taken*, *The Listener*, *Arrow*, and *Supernatural*. She is delighted to return to her hometown to reprise her role in this special show.



Gerry Mackay

Jacob Marley, the Ghosts of Christmases Past, Present and Yet-to-Come Gerry is pleased to return to the Belfry Theatre, where his last appearances were in *Alice Munro Stories* and as Burbage/Father Garnet in *Equivocation*. Other credits include: Alfred in *Indian Arm* (Rumble Theatre), Bill in *Late Company* (Touchstone Theatre), Charlie Clench in *One Man Two Guvnors* (Arts Club) and the Narrator in *For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again* (Globe Theatre). Gerry earned a BFA from the University of Victoria and an MFA from the University of British Columbia.



Celine Stubel

Mrs. Cratchit

For the Belfry: The Last Wife, Speed-the-Plow, Venus in Fur, Proud, God of Carnage, And Slowly Beauty, Unless, My Chernobyl (Jessie Richardson Award). Selected credits elsewhere: Angels in America, One Man Two Guvnors, The Graduate, The Constant Wife (Arts Club), Studies In Motion (Citadel & Canadian Stage), The Great Gatsby (Theatre Calgary), Oliver (NAC), Fire, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, A Streetcar Named Desire (Blue Bridge), Ride The Cyclone, Legoland (Atomic Vaudeville), Richard II, All's Well That Ends Well (Bard on The Beach), My Three Sisters (Theatre SKAM). Film and TV: The Cameraman, Gourmet Detective, Motive, Arrow, and Eadweard.

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Conor Wylie

Mr. Fred

Conor Wylie is a Vancouverite who splits time between performing large shows for the Arts Club, Theatre Calgary, and The Citadel, and creating smaller experimental works with Hong Kong Exile, Radix, The Only Animal, and his companies OOOO and A Wake of Vultures. His original creations have played at UNO, PuSh, Magnetic North, Summerworks, and the Vancouver Art Gallery. He is Theatre Replacement's former artist-in-residence, and the 2017 recipient of the Mayor's Arts Award for Emerging Theatre Artist. Conor is a political, queer POC, and gets all warm-and-fuzzy performing Dickens' and the Belfry's capitalism-critiquing holiday classic!



Mrs. Fezziwig

Jan has appeared at the Belfry in *Half Life* and *The Life Inside*, as well as in previous productions of *A Christmas Carol*. Most recently, she appeared in the SPARK Festival production of *Reverberations*. She has acted at Bard on the Beach, the Stratford Festival, the Blyth Festival, and most theatres in Calgary and Edmonton. Jan shares her love of acting with her students at the University of Victoria who are ever an inspiration. She is thrilled to be sharing the stage once again with her husband, Brian Linds.



Lauren is thrilled to be returning as Martha on the Belfry stage since the last production in 2015. She is a recent graduate of Claremont Secondary where she participated in the FOFA (Focus on Fine Arts) program, appearing in many of the productions, including *Cinderella*, as Gabrielle, and many more throughout the years. With an infinite love for theatre, she hopes to keep it in her life moving forward. Enjoy

the show and have a Merry Christmas!

Jude Culham-Keays

Tiny Tim Cratchit

Jude Culham-Keays is a Grade 5 student at Brentwood Elementary School. He was introduced to theatre at Artscalibre Academy where he acted in numerous shows, including playing Marty in *Madagascar the Musical*, Sid in *Ice Age* and the Baker in *Into the Woods*. Jude enjoys playing all sports, especially soccer, loves music and is currently working towards getting his black belt in karate. Jude is excited to be a part of this season's production of *A Christmas Carol*.



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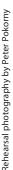
Azura Lepard Belinda Cratchit

Azura is a grade 4 student at George Jay Elementary school. This is Azura's first professional acting role, although she has been drawn to all aspects of the performing world including dance, choir, and background roles in previous theatre productions including *This Little Light* at the Belfry last December. In her free time Azura likes to practice gymnastics, choreograph dances, read, and laugh whenever possible. She is over-the-moon excited to be a part of this year's production of the classic *A Christmas Carol!*



William RobertsonPeter Cratchit

William Robertson is a Grade 11 student at École Victor-Brodeur. He started acting in 2010 at summer camp. Since then, he's been taking regular classes with Kate Rubin Studio and Theatre SKAM, as well as acting around Canada in competitions such as the Festival de Théâtre Jeunesse in Winnipeg and the Jeux de la Francophonie Canadienne. William played Israel in the Belfry's development workshop of *The Children's Republic*, and is excited to do his first professional role in this season's production of *A Christmas Carol*.





Nancy Bryant Costume Designer

Nancy Bryant designs costumes for dance, theatre, opera and film. Equivocation (Belfry Theatre), Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet (Bard on the Beach), Angels in America, Tear the Curtain, The Constant Wife (Arts Club Theatre), The Overcoat, Helen Lawrence (Canstage), You Never Can Tell, Hotel Peccadillo (Shaw Festival), Das Rheingold, The Flying Dutchman, Rodelinda (POV), Sweeney Todd, Three Penny Opera (VOC), Parade, Plot Point (Netherlands Dance Theatre), Tempest Replica, Betroffenheit (Kidd Pivot/Electric Company), Seasons' Cannon (Paris Opera Palais Garnier), Flight Pattern (Royal Opera House Covent Garden). Nancy is the recipient of numerous awards. Upcoming, The Overcoat-a Musical Tailoring (Canstage/Vancouver Opera) and Revisor (Kidd Pivot/Electric Company). www.nancybryant.ca



Alan Brodie Lighting Designer

Alan is delighted to return to the Belfry, where his productions include Alice Munro Stories, I Think I'm Fallin': The Songs of Joni Mitchell, 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. A member of the Associated Designers of Canada, Alan lives in Vancouver with his wife Michele and their boxer "Ellie". Alan recently directed 2BR02B at Studio 58 in Vancouver. He was a 2016 MFA directing grad of the Phoenix at UVic. www.alanbrodie.ca



Geordie Haley Composer

Geordie Haley is a composer, improviser, educator and guitarist based in the Maritimes. 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 and on CBC Radio 3.



Sara Robb Stage Manager

Beginning her career in stage management 10 years ago at the Belfry, Sara is excited to return to *A Christmas Carol* for a second time. Recently, she spent the summer as a pyrotechnician and stage manager for The Butchart Garden's Firework Spectacular and has been the resident stage manager at Pacific Opera Victoria for the past seven seasons. A graduate of VIU's Technical Theatre Program, she is grateful to live and work on Vancouver Island.



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Christopher SibbaldAssistant Stage Manager

Christopher is very excited to be back at the Belfry. A graduate of the University of Victoria's theatre program, he has worked for theatres across the country, including the Stratford and Charlottetown Festivals and Pacific Opera Victoria. Selected credits include: And Slowly Beauty, Puttin' On The Ritz, I Think I'm Fallin': The Songs of Joni Mitchell (Belfry Theatre), Blithe Spirit, A Midsummer Night's Dream (Stratford Festival), Anne of Green Gables: The Musical, Alice Through the Looking Glass (Charlottetown Festival), Otello, Les Feluettes, Jenufa (POV), Rock Legends (Chemainus Theatre). Thanks to Ang for all of her love and support.



Becca JorgensenApprentice Stage Manager

Becca is overjoyed to be at the Belfry this holiday season. She is a graduate of the University of Victoria, holding a BFA in Theatre Production and Management. For the Belfry: Bed and Breakfast, The Children's Republic, SPARK Festival 2016 and 2017, Belfry 101: Live. Other favourites elsewhere: 2 Pianos 4 Hands (Chemainus Theatre Festival), Threepenny Opera, Lion in the Streets, Picnic (University of Victoria), Rocky Horror: Live (Atomic Vaudeville), Runaway (Theatre SKAM), The Princess Rescue Force, The Wyrd Sisters (Victoria Fringe Festival).



HAPPY CHRISTMAS

to the Belfry Theatre community. Bravo to the cast and crew for this spirited portrayal of *A Christmas Carol*.

Hon. Carole James, MLA

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AUDIENCE INFORMATION

Smartphones, Cameras and Recording Devices

The use of cameras, smartphones or audio/visual recording equipment is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all personal electronic devices prior to the performance If you need to be contacted in an emergency, please leave your name and seat number with our House Manager.

Children and Babes in Arms

The Belfry is proud to produce adult contemporary theatre. Most of our productions are not suitable for young children. Sorry, we do not admit babes in arms. For children age 3 to 10, ask at the Box Office about our free childcare matinees. The Box Office is also happy to discuss the appropriateness of particular productions for your child.

Coat Check

Our complimentary coat check is located at the entrance to the Stewart Theatre. We are not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Latecomers & Re-admission

The Director of each production designates moments in the show when the seating of latecomers will cause the least 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, but you can watch the performance on the monitor in our lobby.

Drinks

To cut down on plastic we have moved to glassware in the lobby. If you still wish to take your drink into the theatre please transfer it to a disposable cup, available at the bar.

Food

Please feel free to take only food 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 to minimize disturbing your fellow audience members.

Lost and Found

Please check with our House Manager if you have lost an item in the theatre.

Script Library

Read the play before or after you see it. We "have scripts of the season's plays available at the Box Office, plus a bookcase filled with Canadian plays, all for reading in the Lobby.

Lobby Touchscreen

The TV monitor in our new lobby is a touchscreen device. By touching the screen you can delve deeper into each production, learn about the artists who created the show, and much more. Give it a try.

PRE-PERFORMANCE

B4Play

Live talk shows hosted by CBC Radio's Gregor Craigie and featuring artists from the upcoming show, along with experts from the community, have been designed to provide insight into each Mainstage production. Each event, held the Saturday prior to Opening, is free to attend and is also livestreamed on Facebook, and available as a podcast on our website.

Podcasts

Listen and download the full interviews from each B4Play, recent stories from The Flame, our storytelling series, and more at soundcloud.com/belfrytheatre.

Upstage Magazine

Our magazine provides insight into each Mainstage production, further enriching your experience. Upstage is available in the Lobby and on our website. Drop us a line at hello@belfry.bc.ca for an advance copy.

ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES

VocalEye

For patrons with low or no vision, we offer one VocalEye performance during each Mainstage production. Trained Audio Describers provide descriptions of the visual elements of the show, allowing people with low vision to enjoy the theatrical experience without missing any of the details.

Hearing Assist

For patrons who are hard of hearing, the theatre is equipped with an infra-red hearing assist system. We have six devices available through the Box Office.

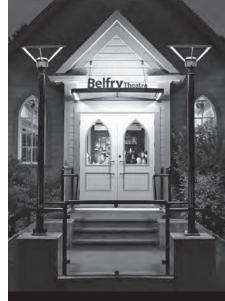
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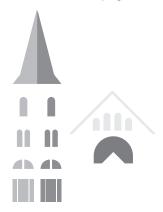


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* Gifts from estate
† Through the Victoria Foundation

OUR THANKS to the 26 individuals who donated amounts up to \$100 and the 70 individuals who have contributed to the Name a Seat campaign.



and community, and a \$340,000 grant from the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program, we have now raised \$800,000 – putting us closer to our \$1 Million goal. We need your help to support the Belfry Capital Campaign for improved patron comfort and accessibility.

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As of November 3, 2017

Jane Elizabeth Whiteley

Anonymous (14)

- **New donor
- * Donor moved up a category
- † Through the Victoria Foundation
- L Our thanks to these Belfry Legacy Society Members plus a further 8 anonymous members.

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The Belfry acknowledges the generous recent and past gifts from the estates of:

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Gift planning is an inspired, meaningful and deeply personal way to secure the future of the Belfry Theatre. The support of visionary philanthropy ensures that the Belfry will continue to flourish as Greater Victoria's premier contemporary theatre company.

Consult your professional advisors about the tax advantages of charitable donations and bequests. We would welcome the opportunity to ensure that your gift is recognized according to your wishes during and/or after your lifetime. For more information on planning your gift to the Belfry Theatre, contact:

Susan Stevenson
Director of Development
250-385-6835 ext. 229.

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Bravo!

The Belfry Theatre gratefully acknowledges the financial support of The Canada Council for the Arts, the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia through the British Columbia Arts Council and the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch, the Capital Regional District Arts Development Office and the City of Victoria.













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