

# a christmas carol

## FACT SHEET

The production runs from December 6 through December 23, 2006. Tickets to *A Christmas Carol* range in price from \$8.00 to \$42.50, with December 3 serving as a Pay-What-You-Can performance. Virginia Stage Company will continue its popular Best Ticket in Town Program on December 6<sup>th</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup> when all tickets will be sold for \$8.00. Tickets may be purchased at the VSC Box Office, by calling (757) 627-1234 or online at [www.vastage.com](http://www.vastage.com).

**Box Office Information:** In Person: At the Wells Theater (corner of Tazewell & Monticello Streets), Phone: 757-627-1234, Fax: 757-628-5958, Online: [www.vastage.com](http://www.vastage.com). Tickets may also be purchased at any Ticketmaster outlet or by calling Ticketmaster at (757) 671-8100.

## CAST

Jacob Marley.....CHRISTOPHER BLOCH\*

Ghost of Christmas Present.....JOHN-PATRICK DRISCOLL\*

Fred.....SHAUN HALL+

Ghost of Christmas Past.....ASHLEY HAMMOND+

Bob Cratchit.....MICHAEL KROEKER\*

Ebenezer Scrooge.....PETER MOORE\*

Young Scrooge.....JAMES SIMMONS+

Tiny Tim.....ALEC TEKAMP

Mrs. Cratchit.....AMY KIM WASCHKE\*

Belle.....REBECCA WILLIAMS+

\* denotes membership in Actors' Equity Association  
+ denotes membership in VSC's Emerging Artist Ensemble

COMPANY:

**Chris Hanna**  
Artistic Director



**Keith Stava**  
Managing Director

presents

# a christmas carol

by **Charles Dickens**  
Adapted by **Virginia Stage Company**

SCENE DESIGN  
**Anita Tripathi Easterling**

COSTUME DESIGN  
**Jeni Schaefer**

LIGHTING DESIGN  
**A. Nelson Ruger IV**

SOUND DESIGN  
**Michael Boso**

STAGE MANAGER  
**Bradley C. Cooper**

ORIGINAL SOUND DESIGN  
**Walter Tillman**

MUSICAL DIRECTOR  
**Joseph Walsh**

DIRECTED BY  
**Patrick Mullins**

**Based on Original Staging by Aaron Cabell**

Virginia Stage Company is funded in part by grants from the Norfolk Commission on the Arts and Humanities, The Business Consortium for Arts Support, The Virginia Commission for the Arts, the City of Norfolk, The Norfolk Foundation and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

## **Additional Staff for *A Christmas Carol***

DAWN M. CHOATE  
Assistant Stage Manager

MICHAEL KROEKER  
*Voice, Dialect, and Text Coach*

JIM McGAUGH AND REBECCA SCOTT  
*Wig Designers*

DANIEL BARBEE  
*Sound Technician*

LEIGH BROOKS  
*Choreographer*

Virginia Stage Company is a member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT) and is a constituent of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national service organization for the non-profit professional theatre.



The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association

the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



United Scenic Artists represents the designers and scenic painters for the American Theater.

**WEBSITE**  
[www.vastage.com](http://www.vastage.com)

**BLOG**  
[www.vastage.blogspot.com](http://www.vastage.blogspot.com)

**MYSPACE**  
[www.myspace.com/vastage](http://www.myspace.com/vastage)

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

Governor's School for the Arts Theater Department  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
Patty Darden

## **Performance Schedule**

**Pay-What-You-Can Performance:** Sunday, December 3 7:00pm

**Best Ticket in Town Performances (Previews):** Wednesday, December 6 at 7:00pm and Thursday, December 7 at 7:00pm

**Opening Night/Press Night:** Friday, December 9 at 8:00 pm

**Public Performances:** Saturday, December 9 at 4:00pm and 8:00pm; Sunday, December 10 at 2:00pm w/ Discussion; Wednesday, December 13 at 7:00pm; Thursday, December 14 at 7:00pm; Friday, December 15 at 8:00pm; Saturday, December 16 at 4:00pm and 8:00pm; Sunday, December 17 at 2:00pm; Tuesday, December 19 at 7:00pm; Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00pm; Thursday, December 21 at 7:00pm; Friday, December 22 at 8:00pm; Saturday, December 23 at 4:00pm and 8:00pm

**After Performance Discussion:** Sunday, December 10 at 2:00pm

**Closing Performance:** Saturday, December 23 at 8:00pm



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## THE CAST



**Christopher Bloch** (*Jacob Marley*) is pleased to return to Virginia Stage, having appeared in *A Christmas Carol* and *Dinner with Friends* in the winter of 2000. Chris performed in the National tour of *The Buddy Holly Story* and has worked regionally at The Guthrie Theatre, The Kennedy Center, ACT, Indiana Rep, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. Washington D.C. work includes Ford's Theatre productions of *State of the Union*, *Shenandoah*, *Big River, 1776*, and *A Christmas Carol*; at The Arena Stage: *Damn Yankees*, *Black No More*; at Everyman Theatre: *Uncle Vanya*, *Jaques Brel, Light Up the Sky*; at The Signature Theatre: *Urinetown* (Helen Hayes Nomination), *20<sup>th</sup> Century, Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*; and at The Olney Theatre: *Carousel*. Film/TV work includes *West Wing*, *Butler, MN*, *Dakota Conflict* and *The Great Northfield Raid*- PBS, *Fast Food Films* for FX, *WCBDC!* and *Star Wars* audio for Lucas Productions.



**John-Patrick Driscoll** (*The Ghost of Christmas Present*) JP is thrilled to be back this year for the Christmas season in his second VSC production. He recently completed his fourth consecutive season at the Utah Shakespearean Festival playing the roles of Horatio in *Hamlet*, Scarus in *Antony and Cleopatra*, and Bardolf in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Prior regional work includes roles with The Virginia Stage Company, The Texas Repertory Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Milwaukee Shakespeare Co., and The Utah Shakespearean Festival. Prior New York work includes the Little Apple Children's Theatre Co., Feed the Herd Theatre Co, Shakespeare in the Wild, TrustUs Theatre, Ballet For Young Audiences, and a part-time member of The Blessed Unrest Theatre Co. John-Patrick graduated from the University of South Carolina's MFA program receiving a degree in theatre performance.



**Shaun Cameron Hall** (*Fred*) comes to VSC from Pittsburgh where he attended Point Park University and received his BFA in Acting. He is a member of VSC's Emerging Artist Ensemble and can be seen as the Fisherman in VSC's Educational Touring Production of *The Fisherman and His Wife*. Regional credits: *Work Song* (City Theatre) and a workshop of *King Lear: The Storm at Home* (VSC). Awards: Best Acting Duo from the Pittsburgh Post Gazette.



**Ashley Hammond** (*Ghost of Christmas Past*) is pleased to be performing with the VSC as a part of the Emerging Artists Ensemble. She attended the University of Kentucky where she earned her BFA in Acting. She has toured for The Lexington Children's Theatre and The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati. Currently she is touring with VSC's production of *The Fisherman and His Wife* and has also been seen as a Pinhead in *The Elephant Man*. Her past credits include *Blue Jacket*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Proof*.



**Michael Kroeker** (*Bob Cratchit*) is delighted to return to VSC and to this production of *A Christmas Carol*, after appearing as Emlyn Jenkins in last year's *Treasure Island*. Other theatre credits include: *The Merchant of Venice*, *Peg O' My Heart* (Utah Shakespearean Festival), *Of Mice And Men* (Texas Repertory Theatre Co.); *Richard II* (The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey); *Richard III*, *Mary Stuart* (Milwaukee Repertory Theater); *Twelfth Night*, *Measure For Measure* (Nebraska Shakespeare Festival). He also appeared as the young cop in the film *Radio*, and as a food critic/bar patron on *Dawson's Creek*. Michael received his BA in Acting from San Francisco State University, and received further training from the MFA program in Acting at the University of South Carolina.



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## THE CAST



**Peter Moore** (*Ebenezer Scrooge*) appeared at VSC as Scrooge in last season's *Christmas Carol*; audiences may also remember him as Billy Bones and Capt. Smollet in *Treasure Island*. He lives in Minneapolis, where he is a frequent performer and director at the Guthrie Theater. Other Twin Cities credits include *Mixed Blood*, *Park Square*, *History Theatre*, *Illusion*, *Chanhassen* and the *New Classic Theatre*, where he was the Artistic Director. He has performed Off-Broadway in NY as well as with Detroit's *Meadow Brook Theatre*, *Florida Stage*, the *Utah Shakespeare Festival* and the *Heritage Rep* in Charlottesville. Feature films include *Factotum*, *The Cure*, *Overnight Delivery*, *Trauma*, *The ABC After School Special*, *Rose Red* and numerous television commercials.



**James Simmons** (*Young Scrooge*) is a recent graduate from the University of Georgia with a B.A. in English. He is a member of VSC's Emerging Artist Ensemble and tours as the Fish in *The Fisherman and His Wife*. Favorite Productions include *Anna In The Tropics*, *Hotspur 1H4*, & *Tommy Tuttle (Paradise Hotel)*. Also a playwright and filmmaker, his play *Waxing Romantic* was selected to The Horizon Theater's New South Young Playwrights festival, and his ten-minute play; *Wild and Particular*, was recognized by The Kennedy College Theater Festival. James would like to thank his family and friends.



**Alec Tekamp** (*Tiny Tim*) is 9 1/2 years old and is participating in his first Virginia Stage production. He is a life long resident of Norfolk, is the twin brother of Zachary and has a big brother Austin and big sister Katherine, plus 2 cats and a dog named George. Alec loves sports and would love to be a sport announcer when he grows up. He plays soccer, baseball and basketball, and will run track in the spring. Alec is a 4th grader at Saint Patrick Catholic School. Prior to that he attended The Williams School in Norfolk.



**Amy Kim Waschke** (*Mrs. Cratchit*) is thrilled to be back, performing her third *Christmas Carol* with Virginia Stage Company! Her regional theater credits include *Metamorphoses* (Weston Playhouse Theatre Co.), *Bloodline: The Children of Argos* (Hangar Theatre), *Tibet Through the Red Box* (Seattle Children's Theatre), *Golden Child* (Seattle Repertory Theatre), *Measure for Measure* (Seattle Shakespeare Company). New York credits include *Living in Denmark* (Vampire Cowboys Theatre), *The Water Station* (Pacific Performance Project), *Grief* (Estrogenius Festival at manhattantheatresource), and *Identity* (Law & Order SVU). Amy is a graduate of the University of Washington's MFA acting program.



**Rebecca Williams** (*Belle*) is a member of VSC's Emerging Artist Ensemble and has been seen as the Wife in VSC's Touring Production of *The Fisherman and His Wife* and as a Pinhead in *The Elephant Man*. She is a recent theater graduate from the University of South Carolina. Some of her credits include *Shelly (Buried Child)*, *Anya (The Cherry Orchard)*, *Elma (Bus Stop)*, *Hotspur (Henry IV, Part One)*, *Dawn (Lobby Hero)*, and *Jenny (The Shape of Things)*. She would like to thank her wonderful family for all their support and love.



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## THE COMPANY

**Patrick Mullins** (*Director*) is making his mainstage directing debut at Virginia Stage Company with *A Christmas Carol*. Mr. Mullins hails from Atlanta, GA, and his theatrical work has taken him across the nation, spanning from Florida to Colorado although his first career was spent in secondary education primarily in the Atlanta area. Recent directorial work includes *The Fisherman and His Wife*, *Metamorphosis*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Oedipus Rex*. Local audiences will recognize Mr. Mullins from the Virginia Stage Company production of *Treasure Island* and *Goodly Creatures*, as well as Hampton Roads Shakespeare Festival's *Hamlet*, in which he played the title role. Recent acting work includes Danny in *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* and John Hale in *The Crucible*. Mr. Mullins holds an MFA from the University of South Carolina and is proud to be a resident artist of Virginia Stage Company.

**Anita Tripathi Easterling** (*Set Designer*) is pleased to be designing again for the Virginia Stage Company. In the past, Anita has designed numerous sets for VSC including: *Crowns*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Vincent in Brixton*, *Private Lives* and *Greetings!*. Various other design credits include: *Life Is A Dream* (Old Dominion University); *Proof*, *Honky Tonk Angels*, and *Old Wicked Songs* (Greenbrier Valley Theatre); *King Lear* and *As You Like It* (Virginia Shakespeare Festival), *Ten Little Indians* and *Guys and Dolls* (Regent University). In New York, Anita assisted David Gallo with model making for *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and has worked regionally as a Scenic Charge and Props Master. Anita holds an M.F.A. in Scene Design from the University of South Carolina. She is currently the Lecturer in Scene Design at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte. Anita is a member of United Scenic Artists, Local 829.

**Jeni Schaefer** (*Costume Designer*) is thrilled to be a part of the Virginia Stage Company family for her fifth season as Resident Costume Designer and Costume Shop Manager. Jeni holds an MAC in Costume Design from Wichita State University and has designed over 25 productions including the Virginia Stage Company productions of *Crowns*, *Drawer Boy*, *Yellow Man*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *The Taste Test* and *Of Mice and Men*. Jeni would like to thank Chris and Keith for giving her the opportunity to continue to grow as an artist and her husband Tony for always believing in her talents. She would also like to thank her beautiful little girl Sara for playing dress up and helping me color "pretty pictures."

**A. Nelson Ruger IV** (*Lighting Designer*) is happy to be joining Virginia Stage Company this year as the Resident Lighting Designer and Production Manager, as well as enjoying a successful career as a theatrical scenic and lighting designer at theaters across the United States. Credits include lighting for VSC's productions of *Crowns*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Treasure Island*, *Vaudeville*, and *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. Other credits include designs for The Savoy Company, Syracuse Stage, The Redhouse, Queens Theatre In The Park, Surflight Theatre, Old Dominion University, Opera Delaware, Lincoln Square Theatre, Muhlenberg College, Proper Villains Theatre Company, as well as over a dozen productions at Circa '21 Playhouse. He is an alumnus of Muhlenberg College, holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in Lighting and Scenic Design from Syracuse University and is a former faculty member at Millikin University and Syracuse University.

**Walter Tillman** (*Original Sound Design*) is pleased to be associated with VSC's production of *A Christmas Carol*. Other VSC designs include: *Vincent in Brixton*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Private Lives*, *Drawer Boy*, *Greetings*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. Off-Broadway: *Joy* (Assistant Designer).

**Joseph Walsh** (*Musical Director*) recently conducted performances of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* at the Amalfi Coast Music Festival in honor of the anniversary of the composer's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mr. Walsh begins his first season as Virginia Opera's Associate Conductor and will conduct the company's premiere production of Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah*. Mr. Walsh has been involved in musical preparation for more than thirty-five Virginia Opera productions since joining the company in 1995 and is the company's resident Chorus Master, having been recently praised by Celia Porter of The Washington Post for his ability to produce choral singing that is "as perfect as human voices can be in tone quality, diction, blend, dramatic conviction and intonation."

**Bradley C. Cooper** (*Stage Manager*): Bradley is happy to be returning to Virginia Stage Company for his fourth season. *A Christmas Carol* is his 10<sup>th</sup> production as an Equity Stage Manager for VSC. He spent this past summer in Sacramento working for the California Music Circus. This season he has already Stage Managed *Crowns* and is scheduled to work on *Indoor/Outdoor* and *To Kill A Mockingbird* later this season for VSC. Past favorites at VSC include *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Of Mice And Men*, and *Contact*.