

Audience Favorite, *A Christmas Carol*, Anchors the Holiday Season

The Dickens classic returns to the Wells Theatre December 3-23, 2008

Virginia Stage Company brings back the family holiday favorite *A Christmas Carol*, written by Charles Dickens, adapted by Virginia Stage Company and directed by Associate Artistic Director Patrick Mullins. Back by popular demand, *A Christmas Carol* tells the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge and his encounters with the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future. Through these encounters, tens of thousands of Virginia Stage Company patrons have learned the true meaning of the holiday season.

The production runs from December 3 through December 23, 2008. Tickets to *A Christmas Carol* tickets range in price from \$10.00 to \$42.50, with November 30 serving as a Pay-What-You-Can performance. Virginia Stage Company will continue its popular Best Ticket in Town Program on December 3rd and December 4th. Opening night will be December 5th at 8pm.

VSC will present two special Holiday performances on December 23 at 4pm and 8pm, featuring a seasonal cookie and cider reception prior to each performance. All tickets may be purchased through Ticketmaster by calling (757) 671-8100 or at any Ticketmaster outlet, at the VSC box office, or online at www.vastage.com.

A Christmas Carol was published in 1843 as a novella and it rapidly became a holiday favorite. Today it is arguably the most-adapted non-Biblical Christmas story. Ebenezer Scrooge is the surviving partner of Scrooge and Marley, a "business" that places profit above all else. On Christmas Eve, Scrooge is his usual miserly self, chasing off solicitors for the poor, chastising his sole employee, Bob Cratchit, for wanting to take off Christmas Day and insulting his nephew Fred for celebrating a holiday that "has never put a penny in anyone's pocket." But that night, Scrooge is visited by three spirits who show him the desolate path he has chosen and a chance to avoid it and gain his redemption. It is a story that continues to touch hearts, no matter how often it has been seen.

New to the production this year is the addition of a more racially diverse cast. Making their debuts in VSC's annual production are African-American actors Don Mayo as Jacob Marley, Alvin Keith as Bob Cratchit and Thursday Farrar as Mrs. Cratchit. Don Mayo and Alvin Keith were both last seen at VSC in last season's acclaimed production of August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson*.

"Dickens' tale is more than just ageless, it touches each of us no matter who we are or where we come from." said Artistic Director Chris Hanna. "A Christmas Carol is a story for all of humanity and that should be shown onstage and in the audiences."

For a complete press kit, please contact Ryan J. Pointer, Director of Communications, at (757) 627-6988 ext. 343.

A Christmas Carol **December 3-23, 2008**



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			3	4	O 5	6
			8:00	8:00	8:00	4:00 8:00
D 7	8	9	10	11	12	S 13
2:00			8:00	8:00	8:00	4:00 8:00
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2:00			8:00	8:00	8:00	4:00 8:00
21	22	23	HOLIDAY EXTRA!			
2:00		4:00 8:00				

Performance days and times for *A Christmas Carol* vary from the schedule used for regular season productions.



Media Release

For immediate release, November 21, 2008 - Contact: Ryan J. Pointer, Director of Communications
757-627-6988 x343 rpointer@vastage.com

Chris Hanna,
Artistic Director
Keith Stava
Managing Director
P.O. Box 3770
Norfolk, VA 23514
P: 757-627-6988
F: 757-628-5958
www.vastage.com