

# A Christmas Carol



December 17-20  
2020 Season

83RD SEASON



**proudly presents**

# A CHRISTMAS CAROL

**WRITTEN BY CHRISTOPHER SCHARIO**  
BASED ON THE BOOK BY CHARLES DICKENS

**Director**  
Brandon Thomsen

**Asst. Director**  
Alison Shafer

**Costume Designer**  
Susan Scholz

**Scenic and Lighting Designer**  
Lorne Kelley

A CHRISTMAS CAROL is sponsored by



“A Christmas Carol” is presented by special arrangement with  
Dramatists Play Services, Inc., New York.



# PRODUCTION STAFF

Director ..... Brandon Thomsen  
Scenic and Lighting Designer .....Lorne Kelley  
Costume Designer .....Susan Scholz  
Properties .....Sue Allen, Elizabeth Swick  
Sound Designer and Board Operator.....Jay Trimble  
Assistant Director and Choreographer ..... Alison Shafer  
Stage Manager ..... Drew Quintero  
Lighting Design Assistant ..... Ryan McElroy  
Run Crew ..... Aaron Stutheit, Terri Stuheit,  
..... Alta King, Katie Kraushaar, Sue Allen  
Set Crew ..... Ryan McElroy, Randy Wolfmeyer,  
..... Amber Kelley, Don Kelley, Linda Kelley  
Costume Crew ..... Carol Rankin, Jeanette Brickman, Justin Crouch  
Hair and Wigs ..... Sally McCarl  
House Photographer ..... Chet Coonrod  
Audition Welcome Table.....Doris Malacarne, Alta King, Cindy Crist  
The QCT Carolers Music Director ..... Elizabeth Mannhardt  
The QCT Carolers ..... Mike Drew, Elizabeth Mannhardt,  
.....Kristi Sanderson, Mark Snyder

# Cast of Characters

Ebenezer Scrooge ..... Darwin Smith  
Tiny Tim ..... Quinton Miller  
Bob Cratchit and Marley's Ghost..... Kevin Williams  
Fred, Fezziwig, the Ghost of Christmas Present, and Old Joe..... Mark Hespen  
Gentlewoman #1, Fan, Mrs. Fezziwig, Belle, Martha Cratchit, and the Laundress .....  
.....Emma Figge  
Gentlewoman #2, the Ghost of Christmas Past, Mrs. Cratchit, and the Charwoman.....  
.....Gretchen Wolfmeyer

# Special Thanks

Julie Ginos  
Jarid Jones  
Shari Mulch  
Angie Neadeck  
Connie Phillips  
Brendan Shea  
Specs  
Spencer Smith  
Warner's Dry Cleaning

# Director's Note

A Christmas Carol has been a part of my life from a very early age. My oldest brother played Tiny Tim in a community theatre production of it, and the following year my two brothers and I acted out the story for my grandparents, using Mickey's Christmas Carol as our outline. I've been in it multiple times and have directed it once before at QCT. Yet every time I visit it (or does it visit me?), I hear a new phrase or have a new thought about it.



When directing a piece of theatre, it's helpful to look at a script through the lens of when it was written and the lens of when it's being produced. At the time Charles Dickens wrote his "ghost story of Christmas," he was very concerned with impoverished children who turned to crime and delinquency in order to survive. In his story, he included the appearance of two ragged children, Ignorance and Want, and said of them, "Beware them both, but most of all, beware this boy, for on his brow is written doom, unless the writing be erased." Ignorance doesn't equal bliss; it equals doom.

We produced A Christmas Carol during the time of a heated election and a global pandemic, and that influenced the way that I saw the story in 2020. Woven amongst ghosts and turkeys and humbugs is Dickens' reminder to notice each other, and like Tiny Tim, be gentle and patient with one another. As he did when he first wrote the story in 1843, Dickens wants us to get in touch with humanity and "open our shut-up hearts freely." Let knowledge and empathy come before judgment. During the time when we are asked to keep physical distance, we must move our hearts even closer together.

As we encounter this story year after year, may we always learn or, as Scrooge would say, "profit by it."

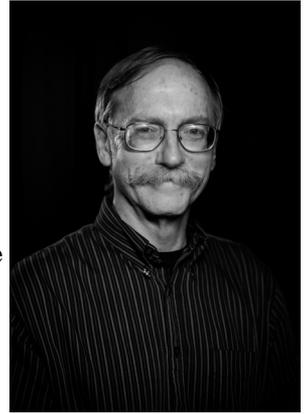
On behalf of Quincy Community Theatre, peace and joy to you this holiday season.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brandon J. Thomsen".

Brandon J. Thomsen  
Artistic Director

# Meet the Cast

**Darwin Smith (Scrooge)**, a retired science teacher, still preaches for a rural congregation twice a month. He is glad to be retired in these weird times for teachers. Happily married, he enjoys time with his grandson. He was previously seen on the QCT stage in *Lady Windermere's Fan* (Lord Stutley), *Our Town* (Editor Webb), and *You Can't Take It with You* (Grandpa Martin VanderHof.) He is very excited to be a part of theatre again!



**Quinton Miller (Tiny Tim)** is a 5th grade student at Highland Elementary. He lives in Ewing, MO with his mom, dad, and brother. He has performed as Stuart Little in *Stuart Little* and Benny in *The Boxcar Children* at QCT, along with many Highland High School Drama Club performances. He loves to sing, act, play soccer, read, and spend time with his dog, Maggie.

**Mark Hespen (Fred, Christmas Present)** is thrilled to return to the QCT stage! Mark moved to Quincy last year to co-host "Mornings w/Mark and Sam" on 97.9 KICK-FM. Mark is a Second City Conservatory graduate and has a BFA in Acting from NIU. Follow Mark on Twitter & Instagram @MarkHespen.



# Meet the Cast

## **Kevin Williams (Bob Cratchit, Jacob Marley)**

is excited to be back on stage for the first time in 8 years! He performed in many shows during his high school and college years and is looking forward to telling this classic tale with a total of 6 actors! Kevin is happily married to Karilyn Williams, and they have two young children that keep them very busy. When not at rehearsal, Kevin can be found spending time with family, watching a good movie, or rooting for his favorite sports teams. Kevin previously appeared on the QCT stage in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Ramona Quimby*.



## **Emma Figge (Gentlewoman #1, Fan, Mrs.**

**Fezziwig, Belle, Martha)** is a Quincy native and is thrilled to be returning to QCT for *A Christmas Carol*. She is a recent graduate of Carthage College in Kenosha, WI, where she studied Music Theatre and Dance. Emma is the oldest of five kids and loves spending time with her family. Emma was most recently seen as Charity Valentine in *Sweet Charity* at her alma mater and was last seen on the QCT stage in *Hello, Dolly!*

## **Gretchen Wolfmeyer (Gentlewoman #2, Christmas Past, Mrs. Cratchit, Charwoman)**

loves to volunteer at QCT with her wonderful husband, Randy, and their two amazing kids, Thalia and Conall. Last seen in *Bye Bye Birdie*, her favorite QCT roles have been Mrs. Who in *A Wrinkle in Time* and Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd (QUILTA.)* Always trying new things, Gretchen wrote an original play this summer for QCT's *Virtual Playwrights Festival*.



# A Christmas Carol



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