



Willamette Week

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

A Christmas Carol



Bag&Baggage Productions offers an unexpected new look at Charles Dickens' holiday classic. Adapted by Scott Palmer, this piece takes its form from a line within one of author's own diaries, in which Dickens reveals that he had confined himself to his room and argued aloud to the characters as he created of what would become one of his most famous works. At Hillsboro's Venetian Theatre, Dickens "himself" shows up to walk audiences through the crafting of his yuletide tour de force, allowing spectators the chance to see him interact with his own characters as they guide him through the writing process and act out their comical interpretations of his clever words. With simple and effective set designs, an exceptional cast and deft writing, the production brings farcical humor and delightful new life into scenes that had, until now, become mere wintry routine. BRITTANY ROGERS. *The Venetian Theatre*, 253 E Main St., Hillsboro., 516-4840. 2 and 7:30 pm Saturdays-Sundays, 7:30 pm Dec. 17-18, 21-22. \$12-\$23. [Map](#)