



**BAG&BAGGAGE PRESENTS HYSTERICAL HOLIDAY FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY WITH A RATHER DIFFERENT *CHRISTMAS CAROL***

***Author Charles Dickens, Onstage With His Characters, Invents the Story For You***

Hillsboro, OR—November 14, 2009—On the heels of their critical smash hit *Death of A Salesman*, Bag&Baggage Productions is preparing for their next major theatrical project, an irreverent and tongue-in-cheek retelling of Charles Dickens' ***A Christmas Carol***. The script, adapted and directed by Hillsboro native and Artistic Director Scott Palmer, is a combination of slapstick comedy, festive music and genuine, irreverent holiday spirit. This spirited version of the beloved classic debuted in 2007 in a touring production that touched down in Corvallis, Beaverton and Hillsboro, to strong reviews and avid audiences.

"*A Christmas Carol* is such a well known story, and such great family entertainment, we just had to give it the Bag&Baggage treatment," said Palmer.

Palmer explained that when he researched the play, he read some of Dickens' diaries. The adaptation was inspired by a line in one diary in which Dickens writes that he locked himself in his room and worked frantically on the story, speaking out loud to the characters in his head. "That was the spark—what would happen if the audience were locked in Dickens' office with him, while he was writing the story, and got a chance to see Dickens himself arguing and bantering with the characters as he created them?" Palmer said.

The show stars Marion Rossi (who recently played Willy Loman in *Death of A Salesman*) as Scrooge, Maggie Chapin (who starred as Linda Loman in *Salesman*) as the Ghost of Christmas Present and The Turkey Girl, along with Bag&Baggage company members Tommy Cavanaugh, Maria Aparo, Tyler Neist and Jessica Cavanaugh.

Rossi, a full time professor at Oregon State University working with Bag&Baggage as a Visiting Guest Artist this season, will also be reprising his role as Scrooge. "When I tell people that we are doing our version of *A Christmas Carol* again, people are just thrilled. It was so successful when we toured it in 2007 that this show could easily become a holiday tradition in Hillsboro," Rossi said. "It is so much fun to play this kind of iconic role in such a new and innovative way, and audiences really love it."

Bag&Baggage Productions Presents a  
New Adaptation of Charles Dickens'  
**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

- Wed–Sun Dec 9–22, 2009, 7:30pm  
(no performance December 15)
- Special added Sat and Sun  
matinees at 2:00pm

The Venetian Theatre  
253 East Main Street  
Hillsboro, OR 97124

**Tickets:**

- \$12 for preview performances  
(December 9 and 10)
- \$18 - \$23 December 10 - 22

Online at [www.bagnbaggage.org](http://www.bagnbaggage.org)

Or by phone at 503-516-4840

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"Our *Christmas Carol* is vintage Bag&Baggage," said Maggie Chapin, who is reprising her roles as Christmas Present, Fan, and The Turkey Girl. "It relies on physical humor, slapstick, and word play all combined with holiday music and new writing. It is not only funny and slightly tongue-in-cheek, but it is also very moving and great for families."

Bag&Baggage's adaptation of Christmas Carol, according to Chapin, is "not only hysterically funny, but it is also truly moving. It gives the actors a chance to create and build these famous characters on stage, from scratch, in front of the audience, and it gives these imaginary people an opportunity to interact with Charles Dickens as he writes the story! There is really no other *Christmas Carol* like it."

Performances take place at The Venetian Theatre in downtown Hillsboro from December 9 – 22 at 7:30pm each evening, with special additional Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2:00pm. (No show on Tuesday December 15) Tickets for preview performances on December 9 and 10 are \$12 each, with tickets for the remaining run at between \$18 and \$23. Tickets are available online at [www.bagnbaggage.org](http://www.bagnbaggage.org), where audiences can also purchase the Venetian's Friday and Saturday Holiday Dinner Buffet and Sunday brunch.

#### **CHARITY/BENEFIT NOTES:**

The Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> performance is a Bag&Baggage charity night; \$5 of each ticket sold will go to the Children's Dental Health program at the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health center.

The Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> performance is sponsored by Providence Health & Services as a benefit for Camp Erin, a grief support camp for children ages 6 through 17.

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#### **AboutBag&Baggage**

Bag&Baggage was created in 2005 as a professional theatre company based in Hillsboro, Oregon, to produce live theatre in Oregon communities without a resident professional company of their own. The company is now the theatre-in-residence at the historic Venetian Theatre in downtown Hillsboro. We focus on the classics of English and American drama. As a text-based company, we hew to the playwright's vision for the play, always seeking to bring a fresh look—we call it, "Seeing a classic again, for the first time." We always partner our work with educational programs for local students. Our mission is to inspire Oregonians to engage in creative, accessible and moving live-theatre experiences. Bag&Baggage is a 501 © 3 non-profit organization.

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