

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY **CHARLES DICKENS**

ABRIDGED ADAPTATION BY **GEOFFREY SIMON BROWN**



ONLINE: DECEMBER 2 - 31, 2021

THIS PRODUCTION IS MADE POSSIBLE
BY THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF:

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theatre:
CALGARY

Stafford Arima, Artistic Director

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The cast of *TC Returns*. Photo by Trudie Lee.

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WELCOME TO THEATRE CALGARY



I've always believed that *A Christmas Carol* is one of the most powerful stories in existence. It has always profoundly moved me because its story is woven around a man who, until one very unusual Christmas Eve, has not truly noticed all the good and wonderful humanity that surrounds him. The message of the story rings even more true than in the past – to freely open your heart to others and be filled with gratitude for the people in our lives. In its simplicity, Dickens' story reminds us that we all have the potential to better ourselves, and thus make those around us better too.

Our filmed production of *Carol* features three extraordinary actors, and a team of world-class creative minds who came together, over three days in November 2020, to bring the magic of *Carol* to life. Over 20,000 people viewed this intimate production over the holidays from Calgary, to Hawaii to as far away as Tokyo!

This year, we are thrilled to present for your viewing pleasure, a newly edited "Director's Cut" of *A Christmas Carol*. There were a plethora of beautiful shots that ended up on the cutting room floor. I thought it would be fun to include some of those priceless moments in this special edition version.

On behalf of our Executive Director, Maya Choldin, and myself, we could not be prouder of the efforts of everyone at Theatre Calgary for making this filmed production possible and ensuring that an important piece of Calgary's holiday cultural fabric continues.

I wish you and your loved ones nothing but good health, and safety, over the holidays.

- STAFFORD ARIMA
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the spirit of reconciliation, Theatre Calgary acknowledges that we live, work and create on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Îyâxe Nakoda Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta. They were the original occupants of this land and continue to be here to this day. Theatre Calgary is grateful to have the opportunity to present in this territory.

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PLAYWRIGHT'S NOTES

As I first adapted *A Christmas Carol* for Theatre Calgary back in 2019, I was constantly thinking about the relevancy in the messages Dickens was writing about almost 200 years ago: to pay attention to those around us; that we all belong to the same world. I thought a lot about how, in an increasingly individualized world, with technology driven isolation and polarized politics dividing friends and family, it feels so vital that we can come together around a story to remind us of our shared humanity.

Of course, over the past two years, those things have been put into hyperdrive. We have spent so much of this time separated from family, separated from friends, from community. I know so many people who have been left feeling scared, feeling angry, and those feelings can make it that much harder to feel connected to the larger world in which we live.

It feels strange and lonely to not be able to come together with my *A Christmas Carol* family: the full team of artists who brought this story to life on the Max Bell stage last year and for every year for longer than I have been alive. It was such a joy and an honour to be invited into that family, to get to create alongside such a large and inspiring band of Calgary artists. It was our hope to be able to share that production with our city again this year. But instead we are being asked to do what theatre artists have done for thousands of years: adapt.

I know that this play is a tradition for so many people and families in this city and beyond. I hope that this year's *Carol* can bring some normalcy to a very unfamiliar holiday season. And for those who are experiencing this play for the first time, I hope you can find comfort and reflection in this story about redemption, resiliency, and change.

As I tried to imagine how to adapt this play to film it was really important to me to lean into the theatricality of what we were doing. So we have stripped down the set to a handful of set pieces and pulled back the curtains to expose the full machinery of the theatre, with our three incredible actors transforming character to character right in front of you. My hope is that as much as you are transported back to London in 1843, you also feel transported to our theatre, sharing this space with all of us.

This year we have the great privilege to reach people beyond our city, beyond our country, and all of those who, for whatever reason, have never been able to join us in a physical theatre space. I'm so glad you are able to be here with us. Wherever you are watching from, I hope you feel a connection to everyone who has come together to watch this story and to all of us on the other side of the curtain.

From my home to yours, Merry Christmas and enjoy the show.

- GEOFFREY SIMON BROWN
PLAYWRIGHT

DECEMBER 2 - 31, 2021

theatre:
CALGARY

Stafford Arima, Artistic Director

presents

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY **CHARLES DICKENS**

ABRIDGED ADAPTATION BY
GEOFFREY SIMON BROWN

DIRECTOR	STAFFORD ARIMA
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY	AARON BERNAKEVITCH
EDITOR	ADAM SCHRADER
PRODUCTION DESIGN	SCOTT REID
COSTUME COORDINATION	KATIE KLINGVALL
SOUND DESIGN & COMPOSITION	ALLISON LYNCH
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	HAYSAM KADRI
DRAMATURG	JENNA RODGERS
VOICE & DIALECT COACH	JANE MACFARLANE
STAGE MANAGER	SARA TURNER
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	KENNEDY GREENE

A Christmas Carol is performed without an intermission.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL by Charles Dickens as adapted for the stage by Geoffrey Simon Brown is produced by permission of the Author and Marquis Literary (Colin Rivers) www.mqlit.ca.

FILMED IN ARTS COMMONS MAX BELL THEATRE

This production of *A Christmas Carol* was shot between November 20 - 22, 2020.

The health and safety of our cast, crew, and creative team was paramount.

Strict adherence to Alberta Health Services protocols during filming were followed at all times.

THE CAST

STEPHEN HAIR

EBENEZER SCROOGE (AT ALL AGES),
FEZZIWIG, ALICE CRATCHIT, PENNY, TOPPER

JAMIE TOGNAZZINI

FRED, BETHEL, FAN SCROOGE, BELLE, BELINDA,
MARGARET & TIM CRATCHIT, WALTON, DILBER, CAROLINE, PICKLE,
THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST

MARSHALL VIELLE

BOB CRATCHIT, ETHEL, JACOB MARLEY,
CREAKLE, GERTIE FEZZIWIG, PETER CRATCHIT, BEN CRATCHIT,
EMILY, KOCH, SIMON, THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

ALLISON LYNCH

MUSICIAN



Jamie Tognazzini, Stephen Hair, Marshall Vielle. Photo by Trudie Lee.

LATER THIS SEASON

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET

APR 26 - MAY 22
2022

BOOK BY COLIN ESCOTT AND FLOYD MUTRUX
ORIGINAL CONCEPT AND DIRECTION BY FLOYD MUTRUX
INSPIRED BY ELVIS PRESLEY, JOHNNY CASH, JERRY LEE LEWIS
AND CARL PERKINS

DIRECTED BY THOM ALLISON

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BY THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE

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LEGACY FUND



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Originally developed and produced by Relevant Theatricals, John Cossette Productions and Northern Lights, Inc. at the Goodman Theatre, Robert Falls, Artistic Director - Roche Shulfer, Executive Director and transferred to The Apollo Theatre, Chicago, IL, 2008. Produced by the Village Theatre, Issaquah, Washington, Robb Hunt, Producer - Steve Tompkins, Artistic Director, 2007 and Seaside Music Theater, Daytona Beach, FL, Tippin Davidson, Producer - Lester Malizia, Artistic Director, 2006

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CAMERA OPERATOR	VINCE VARGE
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DOLLY OPERATOR	DYLLAN GOODMAN
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT & DATA TECH	QUINN EASTWOOD

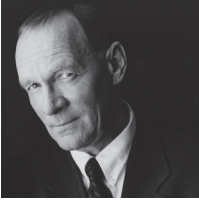
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THEATRE CALGARY PRODUCTION TEAM

HEAD OF SOUND	BRONWYN BOWLBY
HEAD OF LIGHTING	CATHARINE CRUMB
HEAD OF VIDEO	MARC LAVALLEE
HEAD STAGE CARPENTER	SCOTT MORRIS
HEAD DRESSER	RACHEL MICHELLE SHERIDAN
HEAD SCENIC CARPENTER	ANDREW RAFUSE
HEAD OF PROPS	LILLIAN MESSER
HEAD OF WARDROBE	KATIE KLINGVALL
HEAD SCENIC PAINTER	LOUIS BEAUDOIN
ASSISTANT HEAD OF LIGHTING	MIKE BOOTH
ASSISTANT HEAD OF SOUND	MICHAEL GESY
ASSISTANT HEAD STAGE CARPENTER	MELISSA LABINE
ASSISTANT HEAD OF PROPS	CELINA BAHARALLY
ASSISTANT HEAD OF WARDROBE	MYRA SLOAN
DYER	CARLEY LAINE POWELL
SCENIC CARPENTER	CARLEE FIELD
CARPENTER	DAVID DENNIS
CARPENTER	MARC DENNIS
CARPENTER	TESS COWIE
CARPENTER	RAJIV RATHORE
ELECTRICIAN	TRISHA HERBERT
ELECTRICIAN	KELSEY MILLER
ELECTRICIAN	GRAEME JANZEN
ELECTRICIAN	KIM CRELLER
SOUND AND VIDEO	BEN CORNER

THE CAST



STEPHEN HAIR

It has been a great privilege to be your Scrooge for these 27 years. And a great surprise. No actor expects to be playing the same role for so long. And so my thanks to all of you who, over many years, have made our *Christmas Carol* tradition a part of your family's annual celebration. And to those newcomers to our show...Welcome! If I have learned anything in playing this wonderful role it is simply this...we all make mistakes in life but we never lose the chance to be able to change and advance from darkness to light. Many of you have shared with me your own stories of being moved by Scrooge's journey. As an actor, to know that you may have touched someone and made an impact in their life is a humbling thing. And not something I take lightly. But that is why actors and audiences come together in a darkened room...to share, to laugh, to cry and to learn from each other. Thanks to all of you for allowing me to be a part of this remarkable journey.



JAMIE TOGNAZZINI

(they/she) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: *A Christmas Carol* (2019-20), *Agápi sti Fury* (Page to Stage New Play Festival). Jamie T is a queer transdisciplinary artist with special interest in vocal performance/musical theatre, physical theatre/circus, and puppetry. This year, Jamie was a featured artist for 35 for 35 *Who Are You Now?* at the High Performance Rodeo, filmed *A Midsummer Daydream* with OYR/BYA for the NAC, and workshoped the new musical *Black Horse* at Caravan Farm Theatre (Summer 2022 premiere). In 2019, Jamie T was honoured as co-recipient of the Betty Mitchell Award for Best Ensemble for their work in *Giant* by Ghost River Theatre. SELECT CREDITS: *The Gin Experience* (Ghost River Theatre); *Modern Times Redux* (The Grand YYC); Catalyst Theatre's *Fortune Falls* (ATP/Citadel Theatre); *The Drowning Girls* (Vertigo Theatre); *Songs from Nightingale Alley* (FoF); *Awesome Girl and Radical Boy* (Lunchbox Theatre); *The Toxic Avenger Musical* (Broadway West); *Evil Dead: the Musical* (GZT/H&M); *Moon, Moon No Moon, and Calgary, I Love You but You're Killing Me* (OYR). "It's a sublime thrill, returning to live performance together... sincerest gratitude to the outstanding people making this tradition possible."



MARSHALL VIELLE

(they/he) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: *A Christmas Carol* (2019-20), *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Shakespeare by the Bow), *Blow Wind High Water*. ELSEWHERE: *Christmas Carol: A Drag Story* (Blue Jeans Theatre); *Mx., These Four Walls* (Alberta Queer Calendar Project, Cardiac Theatre); *Where the Two-Spirit Lives* (Intrepid Theatre, The Cultch, Theatre Outré); *Istotsi*, KAAHSINONIKS (Making Treaty 7 Cultural Society); *We Are All Treaty People* (Quest Theatre). Marshall is an Actor, Director, Playwright, Podcaster, and Drag Performer from the Kainai Nation. They work as an advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusion in the performance sector, while also lending their creativity to several Queer Youth initiatives. They received the 2018 Stephen Hair Emerging Actor Award and are very excited to be back at Theatre Calgary for another holiday season!

THE CREATIVE TEAM



STAFFORD ARIMA DIRECTOR

(he/him) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: *A Christmas Carol* (2019-20), *Billy Elliot the Musical*, *Mary and Max - A New Musical*, *The Secret Garden*. ELSEWHERE: *Allegiance* (Broadway); *Ragtime* (West End); *Carrie* (Off-Broadway); *Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living In Paris* (Stratford Festival); *Red Velvet* (The Old Globe, CA); *The Tin Pan Alley Rag* (Roundabout Theatre Company, NYC); *Altar Boyz* (Off-Broadway); *bare* (Off-Broadway); *Candide* (San Francisco Symphony); *Bowfire* (PBS television special); *A Tribute to Stephen Sondheim* (Boston Pops); *Saturday Night* (Off-Broadway); *Two Class Acts* (The Flea Theatre, Off-Broadway); *Poster Boy* (Williamstown Theatre Festival); *Guys and Dolls* (Paper Mill Playhouse, NJ); *Children's Letters to God* (Off-Broadway); *The New World* (Bucks County Playhouse, PA); *Bright Lights, Big City* (Prince Music Theater, PA); *The Princess and the Black-Eyed Pea* (San Diego Rep); *Total Eclipse* (Toronto); *Spring Awakening - The Musical* (UC Davis); and *Marry Me A Little* (Cincinnati Playhouse). Stafford served as associate director for the Broadway productions of *A Class Act* and *Seussical*. He is on the faculty of Broadway Dreams, and a former adjunct and Granada Artist in Residence at the University of California, Davis. Stafford studied at York University in Toronto. staffordarima.com



GEOFFREY SIMON BROWN PLAYWRIGHT

(he/him) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: Playwright - *A Christmas Carol* (2019-20); Actor - *Skylight*, *Much Ado About Nothing*. Geoffrey is a Calgary-based playwright, actor, director, and co-creator of the Major Matt Mason Collective. As a playwright, his work has been produced in Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, and Montreal. His plays include *Destroy, Air, Control, Still Still Still, Michael Mysterious, If I Could Tell You Everything* with the Theatre Junction High School Mentorship Ensemble, and *The Circle*, which was published by Scirocco Drama in 2017. He is the winner of two Betty Mitchell Awards, Theatre Calgary's Stephen Hair Emerging Actor Award, and Tarragon's RBC Emerging Playwright Award. Geoffrey is a graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada's playwriting program. Love to M, D, A, & E.

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- BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ALBERTA ACTOR - STEPHEN HAIR
- BEST SCREENWRITER (SCRIPTED OVER 30 MIN.) - GEOFFREY SIMON BROWN
- BEST ORIGINAL MUSICAL SCORE (SCRIPTED OVER 30 MIN.) - ALLISON LYNCH

TOONIES FOR TURKEYS

Once again this year, we will be accepting donations for our annual Toonies for Turkeys campaign to support local families in need. 100% of all donations collected go directly to the Calgary Food Bank to help fight hunger in Calgary.

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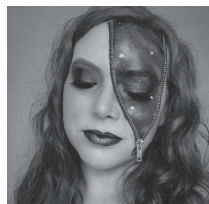
Our heartfelt thanks to **The Cal Wenzel Family Foundation** for supporting our production of *A Christmas Carol*, and to **Shane Homes** for their generous **\$20,000 donation** to kick-start the 2021 Toonies for Turkeys campaign.





SCOTT REID PRODUCTION DESIGN

(he/him) FOR THEATRE CALGARY (selected): *TC Returns*, *A Christmas Carol* (lighting - 1999, set & projections - 2019, production design - 2020), *Billy Elliot the Musical*, *Mom's The Word: For Crying Out Loud*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Gaslight*. ELSEWHERE: *Stealing Sam*, *Disgraced*, *The New Canadian Curling Club*, *The Virgin Trial*, *The Last Wife*, *1979* (ATP); *Strangers on a Train*, *Dracula: The Bloody Truth*, *The Thin Man*, *The Lonely Diner*, *Nine Dragons*, *The Drowning Girls* (Vertigo Theatre); *Eugene Onegin*, *South Pacific*, *Die Tote Stadt* (Calgary Opera); *Our Canada*, *Class Acts* (Alberta Ballet); *Better Get Hit in Your Soul*, *Modern Vaudevillians*, *Juliet and Romeo* (DJD). Scott has also designed for such companies as Quest Theatre, Lunchbox, and The Shakespeare Company.



KATIE KLINGVALL COSTUME COORDINATION

(she/her) Katie has worked with Theatre Calgary since 2004 in various different roles and departments. From 2010-2013, she ran away to join Dragone Entertainment in Macau as a Wardrobe Attendant and got to travel all over South East Asia while there. Currently she is the Assistant Head of Wardrobe at Theatre Calgary and misses the rest of her Wardrobe Collective greatly.

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The cast of *The Louder We Get*. Photo by Trudie Lee



ALLISON LYNCH SOUND DESIGN & COMPOSITION

(she/her) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: Sound Designer/Composer – *A Christmas Carol* (2019-20), *The Scarlet Letter*; *As You Like It*, *Romeo and Juliet* (SBTB 2013); Music Director – *A Christmas Carol* (2016-19); Actor – *A Christmas Carol* (2011-2019), *The Secret Garden*, *Dear Johnny Deere*, *One Man, Two Guvnors*. Allison has appeared on most of Calgary's stages either onstage as an actor or behind the scenes as a composer/sound-designer/music director (and sometimes all simultaneously). Allison was the recipient of three Betty Mitchell Awards for acting (*Romeo & Juliet* – The Shakespeare Company/Hit & Myth, *Ash Rizin'* – ATP, *Twisted* – Forte) and one for composing (*The Scarlet Letter* – Theatre Calgary), as well as the 2019 Critic's Choice Award for Outstanding Design for her score for *The Ministry of Grace* (The Belfry) at the Greater Victoria Regional Theatre Awards. You may have seen her outside Alberta onstage at the NAC, The Grand, Rainbow Stage, Persephone, The Arts Club, The Drayton Festival, The Belfry or The Chemainus Theatre Festival, and as far abroad as Kuala Lumpur with the Malaysian Symphony Orchestra. You can find her debut album *Skin & Flame* on all streaming platforms.



HAYSAM KADRI ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

(he/him) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: *TC Returns*, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, *Enron*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Crucible*, *A Christmas Carol* (Actor – 2012-14, Assistant Director – 2019-20). ELSEWHERE: *The Hollow*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *Black Coffee* (Vertigo Theatre); *Richard III*, *Macbeth*, *Othello*, *William Shakespeare's Land of the Dead*, and *The Winter's Tale* (The Shakespeare Company); *The Virgin Trials*, *The Last Wife*, *Cockroach*, *The Motherfu**er with the Hat*, *Shakespeare's Dog*, *Robin Hood*, *Oliver Twist* (ATP). FILM/TELEVISION: *The Last of Us*, *The Revenant*, *Hell on Wheels*. Haysam is the Artistic Producer of The Shakespeare Company.



JENNA RODGERS DRAMATURG

(she/her) Jenna is a mixed-race Director and Dramaturg based on Treaty 7 Territory. She is the founding Artistic Director of Chromatic Theatre – a company dedicated to producing and developing work by and for artists of colour. Jenna is also the Dramaturg for the Playwrights Lab at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, the Board Co-Chair of LMDA, and the Artstrek Director for Theatre Alberta. She is a passionate arts equity advocate, a graduate of the NTS Artistic Leadership Residency (2020), the Banff Centre's Cultural Leadership Program (2019), and a member of the artEquity National Facilitator Training cohort (2018). She was shortlisted for the 2021 Gina's Prize and is a recipient of a 2018 Lieutenant Governor's Award for Emerging Artists. She holds a MA in International Performance Research from the universities of Amsterdam and Tampere.



JANE MACFARLANE VOICE & DIALECT COACH

(she/her) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: Resident Voice Coach – More than 60 productions since 2000 including *Admissions*, *The Louder We Get*, *Noises Off*, *Billy Elliot the Musical*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *Mary and Max – A New Musical*, *Honour Beat*, *The Secret Garden*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Audience*, *Skylight*, *Bad Jews*, *The Crucible*, *Liberation Days* (WCT co-pro), *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *The Mountaintop*, *Enron*, 10 seasons of *Shakespeare by the Bow* and 15 years of *A Christmas Carol*. Jane has also worked for ATP, is the Voice & Dialect Consultant for Vertigo Theatre and the Voice & Text Coach for The Shakespeare Company. She has taught at such institutions as York University, Harvard University, Southern Methodist University, MRU, UofA, and is currently teaching in the Drama Division in the School of Creative & Performing Arts at the UofC.



SARA TURNER STAGE MANAGER

(she/her) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: SM – *TC Returns*, *A Christmas Carol* (2020); ASM – *The Louder We Get*, *The Secret Garden*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Audience*, *The Light In The Piazza*, *The Little Prince – The Musical*, *The Crucible*. Other stage management credits: *Naughty But Nice Vaccin8te*, *Naughty But Nice: Six In The City*, *Crossing Swords*, *Touch Me: Songs For A (dis)Connected Age*, *Naughty But Nice Too!* (Forte Musical Theatre); *SensoryBox*, *Giant* (Ghost River Theatre); *Strangers On A Train*, *The Thin Man*, *The 39 Steps*, *Our Man In Havana*, *Dial “M” For Murder*, *Vintage Hitchcock* (Vertigo Theatre); *In Flanders Fields*, *Ride, It’s a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* (Lunchbox Theatre); *Legends Of Country*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *Rumors & Dreams* (Stage West); *Canada 151*, *Million Dollar Quartet* (Drayton Entertainment); *The Patron Saint of Stanley Park* (Theatre North West); *The Red Priest* (ATP); *Polygraph* (Sage Theatre); *The Peace Maker* (Next Stage Festival). Wishing you joy and love this holiday season!



KENNEDY GREENE ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

(she/her) FOR THEATRE CALGARY: *TC Returns*, *A Christmas Carol* (2020), *The Louder We Get*. ELSEWHERE: *Filumena*, *Turandot*, *South Pacific*, *Rigoletto*, *Everest*, *Hansel & Gretel* (Calgary Opera); *All That Binds Us* (Azimuth); *There Goes the Bride*, *80’s Solid Gold 1 & 2*, *Spamalot*, *Chicago*, *Love Train*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Gameshow* (Stage West); *The Thin Man*, *The Hollow* (Vertigo Theatre); *A Love Letter to Emily C*, *A Chitenge Story*, *The Tall Building* (Handsome Alice); *Flight Risk* (Lunchbox Theatre); *Assassinating Thompson* (Lunchbox/Inside Out); *Make Love Not Art* (Inside Out); *Benefit* (Downstage); *La Boheme*, *L’incoronazione di Poppea* (Centre for Opera in Italy); *Sylvia*, *Twist & Shout*, *The Drawer Boy*, *Frolic!*, *Tidings* (New West Theatre). Kennedy is a proud graduate of the University of Lethbridge’s Technical Theatre Program.

SPECIAL THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Al Osten & Buddy Victor; Shane Homes for their support of Toonies for Turkeys
Jenna Turk; Healthy Space Technologies; Arts Commons;
Trudie Lee Photography

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Jamie Tognazzini, Stephen Hair. Photo by Trudie Lee.

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