

Firehall Arts Centre presents
Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre's

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

by Charles Dickens
starring Sanjay Talwar



DECEMBER 14-24, 2022

firehallartscentre.ca

FIREHALL
ARTS CENTRE

A Message from the Firehall's Artistic Producer



Welcome to the Firehall and this classic tale, A Christmas Carol. We hope you will enjoy this skillful telling of the original novella and consider the very astute message Mr. Dickens shares with us. He likely hoped, as he wrote, his words would encourage us to consider and reflect as we gather with friends and family during this holiday season. Little did he know his message would still be needed.

This is the Firehall's first opportunity to partner with Victoria's Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre and it is great to be able to share what is going on across the water in Victoria. We are, also, delighted to welcome back Rebekah Johnson, who is the producer and the lighting designer of this work. Rebekah has provided lighting design for many Firehall productions as well as producing numerous plays in the 90's at the Firehall with her late husband, Robert Garfat and their company Dark Horse Theatre. At this darkest time of the year, it is wonderful to see old friends and make some new ones from the Blue Bridge team.

Firehall audiences and donors have been so supportive of the Firehall over the past, difficult COVID years and we are grateful for your support. Thank you and on behalf of the Firehall Board of Directors and staff, we wish you all the best for this festive time and for 2023.

Stay safe and be kind.

Donna Spencer
Artistic Producer

The Firehall works under the jurisdiction of Canadian Actors' Equity Association and is a signator to the Canadian Theatre Agreement.

The Firehall is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres, the CanDance Network, the Alliance for Arts and Culture and the Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance.

The Firehall Arts Centre is situated on the traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

Firehall Arts Centre Presents Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre's

A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens

Setting—London, 1843

Cast

Narrator | Sanjay Talwar

Creative Team

Director | Jacob Richmond

Set Design | Hans Saefkow

Costume Design | Pauline Stynes

Lighting Design | Rebekah Johnson

Sound Design | Alex Wlasenko

Dialect Coach | Iris McGregor Bannerman

Technical Director | Theodore Sherman

Stage Manager | Rebekah Johnson

Assistant Stage Manager | Carter Gulseth

Production Support | Sandy Cumberland,
Alicia Shalapata, Ajna Nugent

Duration

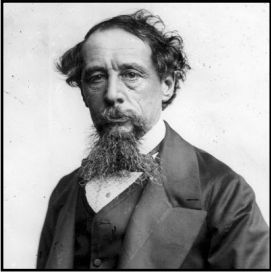
approximately 2 hours,

15-20 mins intermission



Image: Sanjay Talwar in A Christmas Carol's 2021 production at the Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre. Photo by Jam Hamidi

Playwright's Bio



Born in 1812, Charles Dickens was an English writer and social critic. He has created some of the world's best known characters and is regarded as one of the greatest novelists of the Victorian Era. Novels such as *Great Expectations*, *Oliver Twist* and *A Christmas Carol* are some of his most recognizable works and are

continuously adapted and revisited today. Dickens pioneered the serial publication of narrative fiction, which was the dominant Victorian mode for the novel publication—his novels were mostly published in weekly or monthly instalments, later published as full books. The influence of the serial publications can be found today in soap operas and film series with cliffhanger endings between instalments. Charles Dickens is considered to be one of the greatest character creators in English fiction after Shakespeare, and the whimsical names he gives these characters are well known as to be part and parcel of popular culture and took on a life of their own outside of his books.

Cast

Narrator | Sanjay Talwar



Six seasons at the Shaw Festival including—*Man and Superman*, *Victory*, *1979*, *Wilde Tales*, *The Orchard (After Chekhov)*, *Stage Kiss*, *Peace In Our Time*, *Arcadia*, *Come Back Little Sheeba*, *Helen's Necklace*, six seasons at Stratford including—*As You Like It*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Hay Fever*, *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, *Peter Pan*, *Dangerous Liaisons*, *Twelfth Night*. *The Men in White* (Arts Club), *The Road to Paradise* (Human Cargo), *Around the World in 80 Days* (ATP), *Brothel #9* (Factory), *Shakuntala* (Pleiades/ World Stage), *Bird Brain* (LKTYP – Dora Nomination), *Bombay Black* (Cahoots/Arts Club), *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Birdland), *Nabil in Helen's Necklace* (Tarragon and Pi Theatre – Jessie Award for Best

supporting Actor). Film and TV credits include: *Orphan Black*, *Puck Hogs*, *The Border*, *Flashpoint*, *Guns*, *Supernatural*, and *Murder Unveiled/A Love Story*. Sanjay is originally from Halifax and is a graduate of Dalhousie University's Theatre Program.

Creative Team

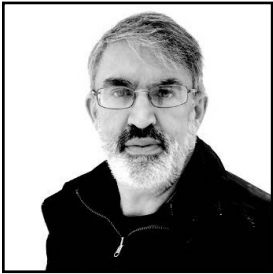
Jacob Richmond | Director



Previously for Blue Bridge: *39 Steps*, *Loot*, *Little Shop Of Horrors*, *Waiting For Godot*, *Animal Crackers*, *The Caretaker*, *Swan Song* and *Other Farces*. A graduate of Concordia University and UVic Phoenix Theatres, Jacob is also an award-winning actor and playwright whose plays have been produced across Canada and the U.S. A founding

member of Blue Bridge, he is the co-founder and Artistic Director of Victoria's *Atomic Vaudeville*. He would like to extend his love to his partner Treena Stubel and their son Ira.

Hans Saefkow | Set Design



Hans is always happy to design for Blue Bridge. Recent: *Frankie & Johnny Stones in His Pockets* (Persephone Theatre; sadly, closed on dress rehearsal night with the arrival of Covid-19), *The Sound of Music* (Western Canada Theatre), *The 39 Steps*, *Barefoot in the Park* and *Billy Bishop Goes to War* (Blue Bridge Theatre), *Isitwendam—An*

Understanding (Bound to Create's collaboration with Native Earth Performing Arts) in Toronto. Highlights include *The Drum is Calling You Home* (Sunset Theatre) and *It's a Wonderful Life* and *The Drowning Girls* (Theatre North West).

Pauline Stynes | Costume Design



Previously for Blue Bridge: *Happy Days, Our Town, Animal Crackers, My Fair Lady*. Having completed a degree in theatre design from the University of Victoria, as well as a mentorship with Pacific Opera Victoria, Pauline works regularly with the local film industry as well as several local theatres. She has been Head of Wardrobe for several

Blue Bridge productions, and most recently lent her talent to Theatre SKAM's *Fashion Machine*. Her costumes for *Amadeus*, and *Picnic* (Phoenix Theatre) were both featured at the 2015 Prague Quadrennial. Other credits include: *Threepenny Opera, Eurydice* (Phoenix Theatre), *A Christmas Carol, Putting on the Ritz, Let Me Call You Sweetheart, Equivocation, Vanya, Masha, Sonja and Spike* (Belfry Theatre), *Joan, Smalltown: A Pick Up Musical* (Theatre SKAM), *Marilyn Forever* (Aventa Ensemble), *Bella: Colour of Love* (Toronto Centre for the Arts) and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (VOS).

Rebekah Johnson | Lighting Design



Rebekah has been a lighting designer for nearly 40 years, working primarily in BC, but also at theatres across the country. She is the resident lighting designer here at the Roxy where favourite shows for Blue Bridge include *MacBeth* and *Betrayal* directed by Brian Richmond, *Billy Bishop Goes to War* and *The 39 Steps* directed by Jacob Richmond.

She has been the General Manager since 2013.

Alex Wlasenko | Sound Design



Alex Wlasenko is a writer, director, comedian, bassist, sound designer, video designer, improviser, and physicist originally from Montreal.

Iris Mcgregor Bannerman | Dialect Coach



Since 2009 I have performed or coached dialects for this outstanding theatre company. I have loved being cast to play 9 different characters in *MacBeth*, and Mrs. Higgins in *My Fair Lady* plus coaching international stars such as Gary Farmer, Meg Tilly, and Thea Gill and our very own Jacob Richmond. I have performed at The

Royal Shakespeare Theatre Company in the U.K. The Stratford Festival Theatre in Ontario and teaching at the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco, The National Theatre School of Canada in Montreal and The Ryerson Theatre School in Toronto. I have enjoyed associations with The Canadian College of Performing Arts here in Victoria, RailTown Actors Studio in Vancouver and The American College in Dublin Ireland I hold a Doctorate from the University Of Toronto and believe in life long learning and changing as new approaches to acting and teaching evolve.

About Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre

Blue Bridge Theatre is a Victoria based professional theatre operating out of the historic Roxy Theatre. Since 2009, under the Artistic Directorship of Founding AD Brian Richmond, Blue Bridge has completed 13 seasons (not including 2020!), produced over 64 productions, and won several awards including the prestigious JAYMAC Award for Best Production for their 2021 production of Harold Pinter's *Betrayal*. With its mandate to produce 'classic theatre', Blue Bridge, under the new leadership of incoming AD Tamara McCarthy, is looking forward to an exciting new chapter.

Firehall Staff

Artistic Producer | Donna Spencer

Managing Director | Cindy Reid

Associate Producer | Columpa Bobb

House Technician | Charlie Beaver

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Administrative Coordinator | Talya Nakkas

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Publicist | Teresa Trovato

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Box Office/Front of House/Bar |

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Giffen, James Jocevicius, Mikenzie Page, Jessica Wong

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The Firehall Theatre Society operates the Firehall Arts Centre and relies on your generous support to ensure the strength, endurance, and spirit of the company.

As a not-for-profit arts organization, we could not exist without the kindness of our individual donors. You are the heart of our company.

Ticket sales cover only a small portion of our production costs, so we rely on our friends and supporters in this charitable community to close the gap.

Please consider joining us by donating today.

The Firehall Theatre Society is a registered charity
Registration #119232965 RR 0001

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4-SHOW PASS: \$89 (choose one ticket to four shows)

FLEX PASS: \$99 (four tickets to use as you wish: bring a friend to two shows, bring a gang to a single show, or whatever suits your schedule). This option makes a great gift for the theatre-lover!

Have you bought a ticket to a Firehall show and want to come back? Convert your single ticket to a pass!

Note that passes expire at the end of each season and are valid for the Firehall presentations only.

Online: firehallartscentre.ca or call us at 604-689-0691.

Our Donors

Centre Stage: (\$1000 plus)

Anonymous (3), Abdul Allibhai, Elizabeth Ball, Revery Foundation, Mercury Launch & Tug, Karen Marler, Elizabeth Snow, Donna Spencer, Hamber Foundation, Allibhai Family Fund

Spotlight: (\$500-\$999)

Tony Giacinti (In memory of Lola MacLaughlin), Evelyn Harden, Victoria Henderson, Wawanesa Insurance, Joe Laughlin, Laurel March, William Millerd, Alana Murray, Jocelyn Pitsch, Jane Westheuser, The Elsie and Audrey Jang Foundation, George Heyman, Carol Carr, Judith Coffin

In the Wings: (\$100-\$499)

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Fabulous Friends: (\$10-\$99)

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What's on at the Firehall in 2023?

THE WRONG BASHIR

MARCH 2-12

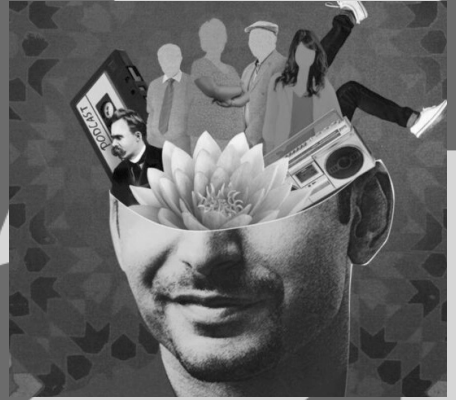


Image: by Emily Cooper



Image: Flying Officer Gerald Stubbs.
Photo by courtesy of Sally Stubbs

OUR GHOSTS

MARCH 18-APRIL 2

WHITE NOISE

APRIL 15-MAY 7



Image: Columpa Bobb in White Noise's 2022 production at the Firehall Arts Centre. Photo by Mark Halliday

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A Firehall Arts Centre and Puente Theatre Production

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Tickets & Info:
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Image: Sara Marreiros in Fado's 2019 production at the Firehall Arts Centre. Photo by Derek Ford