FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE

BREAKING: CHRISTMAS IS NOT CANCELLED!
“GOD BLESS US EVERYONE!” EXCLAIMS LOCAL BOY

TONY AWARD® WINNER
JEFFERSON MAYS
REPRISES HIS ACCLAIMED PERFORMANCE
IN CHARLES DICKENS’ BELOVED HOLIDAY CLASSIC
“A CHRISTMAS CAROL”
TO BENEFIT ACTORS’ PLAYHOUSE AT THE MIRACLE THEATRE

DIRECTED BY TWO-TIME TONY AWARD NOMINEE
MICHAEL ARDEN

ADAPTATION WRITTEN BY
JEFFERSON MAYS, SUSAN LYONS, & MICHAEL ARDEN

PRODUCTION CONCEIVED BY
MICHAEL ARDEN & DANE LAFFREY

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW
AT https://www.onthestage.com/show/actors-playhouse/a-christmas-carol-79981/tickets/5f970fb8960c9d00040155b1

New York, NY (October 27, 2020) – Actors’ Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre and producer Hunter Arnold unofficially kicked off the holiday season early today, announcing that a special filmed version of Charles Dickens’ beloved holiday classic A Christmas Carol starring one of the finest stage actors of our time, Tony Award® winner Jefferson Mays, will be released worldwide on Saturday, November 28. This streaming video event will benefit Actors’ Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre as well as other community, amateur, regional theaters across the country which have been devastated by the pandemic. Directed by two-time Tony Award nominee Michael Arden, adapted by Mays, Susan Lyons, and Arden, and conceived by Arden and Tony Award nominee Dane Laffrey, the filmed version is based on the wildly acclaimed 2018 production which made its world premiere at Los Angeles’ Geffen Playhouse.
Starting today, tickets for *A Christmas Carol* are now available to purchase via
https://www.onthestage.com/show/actors-playhouse/a-christmas-carol-79981/tickets/5f970fb8960c9d00040155b1

Production photos of the Geffen Playhouse production by photographer Chris
Whitaker are available at
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7blu5zuvqc9umyh/AABs4ZHSL9-FMwXi0TtwKPYOa?dl=0

Jefferson Mays said, “*A Christmas Carol* was my first experience of living theater. My
mother and father would read it out loud every year. My father would tell the story with
clarity and humanity, while my mother, eyes ablaze, would transform into the
characters, from the tortured Jacob Marley, to little Fan and the entire Cratchit family.
Both, in their ways, created magic. And now here we are, aspiring to bring this magic
to people across the country during this challenging time.”

Michael Arden said, “My theater career began when I was a 10-year-old Texan
playing Tiny Tim in the Midland Community Theatre production of *A Christmas Carol.*
In a time when theaters and arts workers across the country are in great need,
bringing a story that celebrates the power of creativity, community, and our shared
humanity is humbling.”

Hunter Arnold said, “Due to COVID-19, the country’s theaters have lost over 80% of
their income, a number that is devastating to our community. These theaters, the
work they produce, and the artists and workers they support are a fundamental part of
our society. We must fight for their survival.”

Actors’ Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre is a partner through a joint project between
Arnold’s TBD Pictures, La Jolla Playhouse, and On The Stage. Other partner theaters
currently include Actors’ Playhouse, Geffen Playhouse, George Street Playhouse,
Iowa Stage Theatre Company, La Jolla Playhouse, Sankofa Collective, Shea’s
Performing Arts Center, South Coast Repertory, Springfield Contemporary
Theatre, Theatre Tallahassee, and Vermont Stage.

*A Christmas Carol* was filmed at New York’s United Palace, chosen to preserve the
power of the theatrical storytelling Mays and Arden have created.

When it played the Geffen Playhouse in 2018, *A Christmas Carol* and was called “a
stunning adaptation” by Jordan Riefe of *The Hollywood Reporter*, and “a tour-de-
force performance by Jefferson Mays. Every bit of theater magic you can think of.
You’ll find yourself transported – hanging on to every word and relishing every last
image” by Anthony Byrnes of KCRW.

Charles McNulty of the *Los Angeles Times* raved that “Jefferson Mays not only got
me to see *A Christmas Carol*, something I’ve vowed never to do again. But he got me
to rave about it. For true theater lovers, there can be no better gift this season.”

Experience *A Christmas Carol* unlike any other – past, present or future. The timeless
tale of Ebenezer Scrooge comes to thrilling new life as Jefferson Mays plays over 50
roles in a virtuosic, master class of a performance that must be seen to be believed.
This theatrical achievement comes from the haunting vision of one of Broadway’s most
imaginative directors, Michael Arden.
Staged exclusively for this film and captured live with breathtaking clarity, this must-watch streaming event conjures the powerful spirits of Christmas and brings all the magic of live theatre home for the holidays.

The creative team for A Christmas Carol includes Dane Laffrey (scenic and costume design), Maceo Bishop (director of photography), Ben Stanton (lighting design), Lucy Mackinnon (projection design), Joshua D. Reid (sound design), Cookie Jordan (hair and makeup design), James Ortiz (puppet design), and Nikki M. James (assistant director).

A Christmas Carol is produced by Hunter Arnold with George Bamber, Kayla Greenspan, Carl Daikerel, Roberto Quiroz Mata, and Tom Kirdahy serving as Executive Producers for the film.

BIOGRAPHIES


Susan Lyons (Adaptor). After graduating from Australia’s National Institute of Dramatic Art, Susan worked extensively in theater, film, television and radio, playing a wide range of leading roles with all the major companies. She was awarded the Marten Bequest in 1993. Married to Jefferson Mays, she directed him in the national and international tours of I Am My Own Wife.

Michael Arden (Adaptor, Director) began his theater career at age ten playing Tiny Tim in the Midland Community Theatre’s production of A Christmas Carol in Midland, Texas. He is humbled to be working with the singular Jefferson Mays and all the incredible artists and technicians – including his longtime friend and collaborator Dane Laffrey – on this reimagining of Charles Dickens’ masterpiece. Past directing credits include Deaf West Theatre’s Spring Awakening (Tony nomination), Once on This Island (Tony nomination and the 2018 winner of Best Revival of a Musical), American Dream Study (with The Forest of Arden), Maybe Happy Ending, Joseph… at Lincoln Center, The Pride, Merrily We Roll Along, My Fair Lady, and Annie at the Hollywood Bowl. Arden is a regular director for “The Conners” on ABC and will direct the upcoming feature Book of Ruth starring Ruth Wilson and Matt Bomer. He is the Founder and a company member of The Forest of Arden, a collective of artists who create site-specific, immersive, and inclusive new forms of theater. He hopes Scrooge’s visitations might inspire us all to lead more empathetic
and benevolent lives. God bless us, everyone! Follow @michaelarden and @forestofardenco

**Hunter Arnold (Producer)** is a Tony and Olivier Award-winning producer. Select Broadway & West End: *Hadestown* (Tony Award); *The Inheritance* (Olivier Award and Tony nomination); *Once on This Island* (Tony Award); *Dear Evan Hansen* (Tony Award); *Kinky Boots* (Tony Award and Olivier Award); Deaf West Theatre’s *Spring Awakening* (Tony nomination); *The Visit* (Tony nomination); *Mothers and Sons* (Tony nomination); *Moulin Rouge!* (Tony nomination); *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune* (Tony nomination); *Tina—The Musical* (Tony nomination); *Betrayal* (Tony nomination); *Anastasia; Pretty Woman; The Jungle; The Goat, Or Who Is Sylvia?; Disaster!; It’s Only a Play; The Bridges of Madison County*. Off-Broadway: *Little Shop of Horrors* (Drama Desk Award and Drama League Award).

In addition to his producing projects, Arnold is the founder of ARTech Holdings, LLC, an incubator and holding company focused on generating technologies to support the live arts community. Amongst ARTech’s offerings is the premier theatrical ticketing and web presence software for schools and small theatre companies, [www.onthestage.com](http://www.onthestage.com). Arnold is also a General Partner with the Broadway Strategic Return Fund, the first focused, vertically-integrated, profit-driven evergreen hedge fund for accredited investors to capture exceptional returns from investments in Broadway musicals and plays. He earned his bachelor’s degree in Entrepreneurial Business from DePaul University and his Master’s in Business Administration from TRIUM, a joint program representing NYU Stern School of Business, H.E.C. Paris and the London School of Economics. He is a frequent lecturer and guest professor on Entertainment Trends and Economics, Commercial Theatre and Working in The Arts.

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