Center REpertoire Company of Walnut Creek
Michael Butler, Artistic Director           Scott Denison, Managing Director

presents

A Christmas Carol
By Charles Dickens
Adaptation by Cynthia Caywood and Richard L. James

Director
Scott Denison

Musical Director
Mark Hanson

Choreographer
Jennifer Denison Perry

Scenic Designer
Kelly Tighe

Lighting Designer
John Earls

Costume Designer
Melissa Anne Paterson

Sound Designer
Jeff Mockus

Technical Director
Joe Mizzi

Executive Technical Director
Gerald Frentz

Casting Director
Annie Stuart

Stage Manager
Jeff Collister*

Original Choreography
Lareen Fender

Original Sound Design
Norm Kern

December 6 - 16, 2007
Lesher Center for the Arts
Hofmann Theatre

Season Sponsor          Season Partner          Media Sponsor         Show Sponsor

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States
The Scenic Designer and Sound Designer are members of United Scenic Artists Union
**Cast of Characters**

**David Beal** .................................. Georgie & Turkey Boy
**Michael A. Berg** ............................ Mr. Applebaum/Fezziwig
**Diana Boos** ................................. Char Woman
**Jesse Caldwell** ............................... Bob Cratchit
**Amanda Denison** ............................ Martha Cratchit
**Jeff Draper** .................................. Marley/Old Joe
**Daphne Ford** ................................. Fan
**Emily García** ................................. Flora Fezziwig/Cherry
**Jason Hite** .................................. Dick Wilkins
**Daniel Krueger** ............................. Young Scrooge
**Eván Lachman** ............................... Tiny Tim
**Rob Ken Melnick** .......................... Quartet
**Ryan Meupolder** ............................ Constable Durdle
**Hunter Milano** ............................. Boy Scrooge
**Kelsey Milano** .............................. Belinda Cratchit
**Michelle Pava Mills** ........................ Belle
**Marty Newton** ............................... rugge
**Amy Nielson** ................................. Dorit/Feuza Fezziwig
**Michael O’Brien** ............................ Peter Cratchit
**Jeanine Perasso** ............................ Mrs. Fezziwig/Laudness
**Jennifer Denison Perry** .................. Past
**Jack Powell** ................................. Ebenezer Scrooge
**Barbara Reynolds** .......................... Quartet
**Tim Reynolds** ............................... Quartet
**Joel Roster** .................................. Mr. Boxer
**Kevin Sanchez** .............................. Nigel Woodward
**Margo Schembre** ............................ Quartet
**Ken Ruta** .......................... Mr. Cratchit
**Garant Stroin** ............................... Charley & Perth
**Kendra Vaculín** ............................. Lavinia
**Michael Wiles** .............................. Fred
**Adam Winship** ............................... Thief/Future
**Michael Ray Wisely** ........................ Present
**Olivia Wisely** ............................... Polly
**Wendy Wisely** ............................... Catherine
**Stephen Wolff** .............................. Silas
**Special thanks to Ken Ruta**, Narrator

**CAST BIOGRAPHIES**

David Beal (Georgie/Turkey Boy) is excited to be making his first appearance at Center REP. He has performed in shows at the Willows Theatre, Woodminster Amphitheatre, American Conservatory Theatre, as well as many school productions throughout the years. He received a Shellie Award nomination for his role as Rudy in Over the Tavern at the Willows Theatre. David is a freshman at Miramonte High School in Orinda.

Michael A. Berg (Mr. Applebaum/Fezziwig) has been involved, one way or another, with Center REP’s A Christmas Carol for 11 years. He has played various roles: Bob Cratchit, Marley’s Ghost, Mr. Applebaum the Solicitor and now Mr. Fezziwig. Michael has been in the Bay Area since 1980 and has been involved with many theatre companies during this time. He has designed sets and costumes, acted, stage managed and directed for such companies as Guerilla Shakespeare, Marin Shakespeare, Shakespeare at the Beach, Theatre Rhinocerous, The Mount Play, Center REP and Ross Valley Players. He is most happy and content to call Center REP his second home.

Diana Boos (Char Woman) is excited to be doing A Christmas Carol again! Also at Center REP: The Women; Willows: The Kentucky Cycle, Dearly Beloved, The Odd Couple; Woman’s Will:Richard III, Cinnabar theatre/Playbo of the Western World; Regionally: Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival: Twelfth Night, Macbeth, Taming of the Shrew; Milwaukee Repertory Theatre: The Seagull, Playboy of the Western World, A Christmas Carol Chicago: The Artistic Home:Orpheus Descending, Sadie and Bib; Revel Theatre: Lysistrata. She has a B.F.A. in theatre, studied in London at the Royal National Theatre and is a proud member of Theatre Bay Area.

Jesse Caldwell (Bob Cratchit) is Jesse Caldwell’s first production with Center REP. He has appeared at the Knight Theatre as Charlie Dyer in American Citizens’ Theatre’s production of Staircase as well as Leon in Playhouse West’s The Love List. He also played the Hofmann Theatre as Old Joe in CCT’s Damn Yankees. Around the Bay area he has performed with American Musical Theatre of San Jose, 42nd Street Moon, TheatreFirst, California Conservatory Theatre, Shotgun Players, Crowd Fire and the Willows Theatre among others. Earlier in his career he toured the country with the National Shakespeare Co. and worked at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

Amanda Denison (Martha Cratchit) is a senior at Las Lomas High School. She has trained in the past six summers with Center REP’s Young REP Theatre Program where she recently played the role of Virginia in Brecht’s Galileo. Amanda is also a company member of Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble where she has played numerous roles, including the title role in Cinderella and Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz. She has also worked crew, run follow-spot, and has served as assistant stage-manager for Center REP. Amanda is a junior board member for Contra Costa Musical Theatre.

Jeff Draper (Marley/Old Joe) has been seen in many Center REP productions, including Great and the World in 80 Days, The Lopin Agile, and Becoming Memories. Jeff loves spending his summers with the students of Young REP, where he is Co-Education Director with Ken Ruta. Jeff would like to thank his parents and husband for supporting his crazy love of acting and theater.

Daphne Ford (Fan) is a seventh grader at Stanley Middle School in Lafayette. This is her third time performing in A Christmas Carol with Center REP. Daphne has performed with CCMT, DLOC, The Willows Theatre Company, Pleasanton Playhouse, Antioch Rivertown Theater and The Ballet Joyeux. Favorite Roles include, Scout, (To Kill a Mocking Bird) Sally, (You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown) and Dorothy (The Wizard of Oz). She has studied ballet, tap and jazz at Lawrence Fender’s Ballet School for the past nine years, and has studied voice with Pamela Brooks and Lynda Kalb.

Emily García (Flora Fezziwig/Cherry) works as a performer, director, choreographer and producer. Favorite roles include, Christmas Carol at CCT, Angela in Enter Laughing at Act Now! (Shellie nominee), Sally Bowles in Cabaret and Godspell (Player Award winner). Recent credits include Guys & Dolls with CCMT, Cinderella with Fantasy Forum, Prisoners of Love with Act Now! , and Let’s Go To Casablanca at Town Hall. Enjoy the show!

Jason Hite (Dick Wilkins) is thrilled to be a part of this holiday tradition. He is a senior at Deer Valley High School and has been involved with theatre since his freshman year. He has also been a member of the Center REP Young REP program for the past two years and has performed every minute of it. Favorite roles include Kenickie (Grease), Benedick (Much Ado About Nothing) and Wiz (The Wiz). He sends thanks out to his friends and family for their love and support.

Daniel Krueger (Young Scrooge) joins Center REP for his first time in A Christmas Carol. Other Bay Area credits include, Rick/Ben/Hustler in Six Degrees of Separation at SF Playhouse, Muleteer in Man of La Mancha at SF Playhouse, understudy for Katurian in The Pillowman at Berkeley Rep, understudy for The Artful Dodger in Oliver Twist at Berkeley Rep, Malcolm in The Cutting Ball Theatre’s Macbeth. Daniel is a proud member of San Francisco’s premiere sketch comedy group Killing My Lobster.

Evan Lachman (Tiny Tim), a third grader, is excited to be making his third appearance as Tiny Tim in Center REP’s production of A Christmas Carol. Evan recently appeared as the Sultan in the Willows Theatre Conservatory production of Aladdin Jr. He has also appeared in the role of John Henry West in The Member of the Wedding on OffStage Theatre. In addition to theatre, Evan loves skateboarding and baseball.

Robin Melnick (Quartet) Returning for his seventh season with A Christmas Carol, Robin looks forward all year to sharing in the holiday spirit with us. His favorite roles elsewhere include including Old Dave in The Fantasticks, Lancelot in Camelot, and Smudge in Forever Plaid. Robin splits his time between the high-tech industry and graduate school and is always grateful to his wife, Mary, and son, Andrew, for all of their love and support.

Ryan Meupolder (Constable Durdle) While this is his Center REP debut, Mr. Meupolder is no stranger to the Hofmann stage, after having appeared in Grease (Danny Zuko, CCMT), The Full Monty (Teddy, CCMT), Guys and Dolls (Lieutenant Johnny Brannigan, CCMT), Disney’s Beauty and the Beast (Ensemble, CCMT), We Will Rock You (Virago, DLOC), and Peter Pan (Bill Jukes, DLOC). A veteran of theater, Ryan has also appeared in such films as the Wachowski Brothers’ The Matrix Reloaded and Ang Lee’s The Hulk. He’s a proud member of Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble, and he wishes to dedicate this performance to his friends and family for their constant support.

Hunter Milano (Boy Scrooge) is 12 years old and has been in many productions such as Wonderland (Twedle Dum), The Little Mermaid (French Cook, Pierre), and The Music Man (Harold). He was also featured in the French opera Carmen. In his free time he enjoys playing the piano, guitar, and baseball, and is also currently in an acting/playwriting class. He adores acting and is very excited to be in this production.

Kelsey Milano (Belinda Cratchit) Kelsey’s favorite performances include Joseph (ensemble), Annie (Grace), Wonderland (Alice) and Metamorphoses (transformer). Kelsey also joined the program this past summer and was featured in the Musical Theatre Extravaganza performance. She is overjoyed to return to Center REP as an addition to A Christmas Carol this year. She would also like to thank her peers for their inspiration, and her friends and family for their immeasurable love, support, and encouragement.

Michelle Pava Mills (Belle) is thrilled to join the cast of A Christmas Carol this year! She was last seen as Lady Mortimer in Henry IV, Parts 1 & 2 at Marin Shakespeare CO, and has worked throughout the Bay Area with the Willows Theatre, Woodminster, Virago Theatre, Ross Valley Players, Mountain Play Association and others. Favorite roles include Louise in Steve Martin’s The Underpants (RVP), Jenny in Threepenny Opera (Virago) and Moll in Cradle Will Rock (Zellerbach Playhouse). Michelle is a recent graduate of UC Berkeley with a BA in Theater. Thanks to friends and family for all the support!

Marty Newton (Rudge) is thrilled to be making his on-stage Center REP debut in A Christmas Carol. Marty has performed in shows such as Peter Pan (Smeet) and La Cage Aux Folles (Lo Singh) for DLOC and Guys & Dolls (Benny Southstreet) and The Full Monty (Dave) for CCMT. Most recently, Marty has been stage managing shows such as Fiddler on the Roof and Urinetown. Marty is also a proud member of the Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble. Marty would also like to wish everyone a very joyous holiday season!
Amy Nielson (Dorita/Fauna Fezziwig) While this is her fifth Christmas Carol, having been a costume assistant here since 2002, Amy is thrilled to also be on her first company. A graduate of Sierra College, she was most recently seen as Mary Warren in A Christmas Carol for her 9th year. Christmas just wouldn’t be the same without sharing it with her family. In his last performance, Michael Ray Wisely is thrilled to be returning to A Christmas Carol for his 9th year. Christmas just wouldn’t be the same without sharing it with his family. Adam is a past member of FFAE and current board member for CCMT. Adam thanks Scott and Jeff for letting him spin his way through another rendition of this wonderful story. Merry Christmas.

Michael Ray Wisely* (Ghost of Christmas Present) It gives Michael Ray great joy to return with his family in A Christmas Carol. Recent credits: Heartbreak House at Berkeley Repertory and The Birthday Party at the Aurora as well as appearances with Magic Theatre, San Jose Repertory, American Musical Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, S.F. Shakes, Willows Theatre and others. Michael Ray has starred and guest-starred in television movies and series and works as a director in theatre and video.

Olivia DelRay Wisely (Polly) makes her second appearance with her parents in A Christmas Carol. She began her performing career in utoro as “a sonogram” in a commercial for a local hospital. At 5 years old, her credits include: Nickel and Dimed and The imaginary Invalid, both directed by her mother at Los Positas College in Livermore. She is currently a student at Harding Elementary in Cerritos.

Wendy McCloudish Wisely (Catherine) Wendy’s previous Center REP productions include The Diviners, The Night Hans Williams Died, and Room Service. Originally from Seattle, she has acted and directed at such theaters as San Jose Stage Co, City Lights, Willows, California Shakespeare Theatre, Role Players, Town Hall, Western Stage, and Pacific Alliance. Wendy teaches theatre at Los Positas College and Santa Rosa Junior College and is thrilled that her family is working together again in this production!

Stephen Wolff (Silas) is a 6th grader at Foothill Middle school. He recently appeared as a young suitor and bagel boy in CCMT’s Fiddler on the Roof. He played Danny in DLOC’s BrydieTom and Tom in Schoolhouse Rock Jr. Stephen is extremely honored to be in A Christmas Carol for the first time.

CREATIVE TEAM

Scott Denison (Director/Managing Director) has directed over 150 productions, including Center REP’s highly successful production The Wizard of Oz and CCMT’s Disney’s Beauty and the Beast, and the last nine productions of A Christmas Carol. Mr. Denison is the director and co-founder of Fantasy Actors Ensemble, and the creator of the Contra Costa County Shellie Awards. He has also designed lights for over 250 productions, including Center REP’s production of Hank Williams: Lost Highway, Laughter on the 23rd Floor, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, Cowgirls, Suds, Shirley Valentine and Dear Lia, and CCMT’s Titanic, Guys and Dolls and Fiddler on the Roof. He will also direct Cinderella this spring.

Michael Butler (Artistic Director) is in his second season as Artistic Director of Center REP, where he directed Hank Williams: Lost Highway, Laughter on the 23rd Floor, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, The Marriage of Figaro, How the Other Half Loves, and CCMT’s Christmas Carol. Most recently, he appeared off-Broadway at the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey as Sir Henery Adlar in The Merry Wives of Windsor. Butler holds degrees from The Juilliard School, and Isabella LRAD, both focused in Musical Theatre, and a BFA in Acting from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Butler has directed and performed regionally, with the Juilliard School, The American Shakespeare Festival, and many others. Butler is a member of Actors’ Equity Association, and a graduate of the MFA Acting Program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Butler has also taught at every level from elementary school through adult thespians, and is proud to bring his expertise to the faculty of the Bay Area Conservatory of the Performing Arts. Butler has also spent the last several years as an active member of the Bay Area theatre community, appearing in numerous productions, as well as supporting his community in many other roles. Butler is an active member of the Bay Area theatre community, appearing in numerous productions, as well as supporting his community in many other roles. Butler is a graduate of the MFA Acting Program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Butler has also taught at every level from elementary school through adult thespians, and is proud to bring his expertise to the faculty of the Bay Area Conservatory of the Performing Arts. Butler has also spent the last several years as an active member of the Bay Area theatre community, appearing in numerous productions, as well as supporting his community in many other roles. Butler is a graduate of the MFA Acting Program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Butler has also taught at every level from elementary school through adult thespians, and is proud to bring his expertise to the faculty of the Bay Area Conservatory of the Performing Arts. Butler has also spent the last several years as an active member of the Bay Area theatre community, appearing in numerous productions, as well as supporting his community in many other roles. Butler is a graduate of the MFA Acting Program at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.
artist Chris Cain for Thunder Knocking on the Door, which opened San Jose Rep's new theatre in 1997, and has written songs and underscoring for productions at the Guthrie Theatre, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, as well as the Merchant Ivory Film, Slaves of New York. He recently co-wrote two songs with noted recording artist Holly Near, which can be heard on her latest CD, Show Up. In his career as a performer he has also danced with the Erick Hawkins Dance Company, portrayed the villainous Pierre LeChance on The Guiding Light, and played guitar and harmonica in many rock, blues, and country western bands at all the notable dives in NYC.

Mark Hanson (Musical Director) returns to A Christmas Carol for a second season after conducting CCMT's Fiddler on the Roof this fall in the Hoffman Theatre. Previously, Mark conducted Disney's Beauty and the Beast, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum and Sunday in the Park with George, all for CCMT and was the pianist for Center REP's Noel and Gertie. Mark is glad to be working once more with Center REP on this timeless holiday classic – happy holidays to all!

Jennifer Denison Perry (Choreographer) Jennifer's choreography credits include: Annie, Sound Of Music, Titanic, Joseph and the Amazing…, Music Man, Wizard Of Oz, Disney's Beauty and the Beast, and in the spring Cinderella for CCMT. Jennifer directed and choreographed Red Hot and Cole for Role Players Ensemble, and just recently finished directing Guys and Dolls for CCMT. Jennifer is a proud member of Fantasy Forum Actor's Ensemble and is thrilled to be going into her 12th year of teaching for Center REP's Young REP Acting Training Program, where she serves as co-director of the Musical Theatre Program. By day Jennifer teaches ballet at Lareen Fender's The Ballet School in Walnut Creek where she serves as Director of the School and The Ballet Journey. She is honed in on the new theatre in Lareen Fender's original choreography for Center REP.

Kelly Tighé (Scenic Designer) Off Broadway: The Fantasticks, Jesus Christ Superstar (Gateway Playhouse); Beauty/Beast, Grease, Titanic, The Who's Tommy, Contra Costa Musical Theatre; Annie, Kiss Me Kate, Joseph/Dreamcoat (Ohio's Cocktail Dinner Theater); West Side Story, The Scarlet Pimpernel (DLOC); Around the World in 80 Days, The Pavilion, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, A Christmas Carol (Center REPertory Company); The Laramie Project, A Midsummer Night's Dream (PPAS/NY). Mr. Tighé served as the resident Scenic Designer for Western Michigan's Cherry County Playhouse (The Music Man starring William Katt and Josie DeGuzman), and the world premiere of Will's Women starring Amanda McBroom), and Center REP in the San Francisco Bay Area. Television: Sunday Night Wishes (starring Mo Rocca) for Animal Planet as well as several spots for Verizon, Kit Kat, Disney, and the Oxygen network. Awards and recognitions: Northern California's “Shelle”, Drama-Logue, and the S.F. Bay Area's Outer Critics' Circle. Kelly resides in New York City.

John Earls (Lighting Designer) Since joining the production staff at the Lesher Center for the Arts he has designed or directed lighting for numerous shows including the Shelle Award, Animal Rescue Foundation’s Stars to the Rescue, and Lesher Speaker Series: Newsmakers. Recent work includes Rocky Horror Show at Town Hall Theatre. John owes his introduction to the live stage to the ACMC Theatre Company.

Melissa Anne Paterson (Costume Designer) manages the costume shop for Center REP and has also designed many shows for the company including Suda: A Rocket's 60's Musical Soap Opera, Rocket Man, Cowgirls, and A Christmas Carol. Melissa is the resident costume designer for the Town Hall Theatre Co. in Lafayette (The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940, Bullshit Krakword, The Unemployed Man, Macbeth, WIT, Gypsy). Let's Go To The Movies, 5 Women Wearing the Same Dress, Rough Crossing, The Rocky Horror Show, Carmen, Carol of the Bells, Design for Living, Lend Me A Tenor, Let's Go To Casablanca, Bleacher Bums, The War! and frequently works with the Contra Costa Musical Theatre Co. Annie, Damn Yankees, Grease, South Pacific, Beauty and the Beast (Shelle Award). She has also designed costumes for the Contra Costa Civic Theatre Co. (Noises Off) and the Antioch Rivertown Theatre Co. (A Funny Thing Happened… (Shelle Award), Pump Boys and Dinete, Shelly Award). Melissa would like to thank Michael and Amy for all their hard work and of course their friendship!


Joe Mizzi (Technical Director) Joe, born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, has had an ongoing relationship with Center REP since 2002 and is proud to return for his first full season as Technical Director. Previously, he spent two years with the San Francisco production of Menopause the Musical as the assistant stage manager. His other work includes Marin Theatre Company, The Magic, A.C.T., and The San Francisco Opera Center. Joe received his B.A. in Theatre Arts from San Francisco State University.

Annie Stuart (Casting Director) has been casting in the Bay Area for the last twelve years, and has enjoyed four seasons at Center REP, the last two as Associate Artistic Director. She has long-term affiliations with Marin Theatre Company, SP Playhouse, PlayGround and the Playwright's Foundation. As freelance Casting Director, her other credits include Off-Broadway Productions (Happy Hour!) & NGNJ Productions (I Love You, You're Perfect Now Change) both in New York, The New Eureka Theater, The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Arizona Theatre Company, Los Angeles Shakespeare Festival, Braval For Women in the Arts, Theatre Rhinoceros, Z Space Studio, and Warehouse Repertory Theatre. For the camera, she has cast Falcon Crest, An Inconvenient Woman, Midnight Caller and The Two Mrs. Grenvilles.

Jeff Collister* (Stage Manager) has been Production Manager for Center REP since 1995. He has stage-managed 40 productions since starting with the company in 1989. Favorites include Almost Heaven – John Denver’s America, Becoming Memories, Suda: The Rocket’s 60’s Musical Soap Opera, Godspell, The Mystery Of Edwin Drood and numerous productions of A Christmas Carol. Jeff has been nominated for a Shelle Award for his Direction of Unirent, The Musical for Contra Costa Musical Theatre. He worked as Production Stage Manager for Dame Edna – The Royal Tour in San Francisco. Jeff is a Shelle Award winning actor and a member of Actors Equity Association. Happy Holidays!

by Russell Lees January 31 - March 1, 2008 Directed by Michael Butler
Center REPeritory Company would like to thank our generous 2007-2008 season supporters.

THANK YOU for making great theatre in Walnut Creek possible!
We could not do it without you!