



CENTER REPERTORY COMPANY OF WALNUT CREEK

Michael Butler, Artistic Director

Scott Denison, Managing Director

presents



By Charles Dickens

Adaptation by **Cynthia Caywood** and **Richard L. James**

Directed by **Scott Denison**

Music Director

Mark Hanson

Lighting Designer

John Earls

Scenic Designer

Kelly James Tighe

Costume Designer

Melissa Anne Davis

Stage Manager

Jeff Collister*

Choreographer

Jennifer Perry

Sound Designer

Jeff Mockus

Hofmann Theatre

December 10 - 20, 2009

Leshner Center for the Arts

Season
Sponsor



Season Partner



Diablo Regional Arts Association

Season Media 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

Center REP is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), The National Organization for the American Theatre and Theatre Bay Area



CAST

Natalie Bartnick **Sophy Michael A. Berg**..... **Mr. Applebaum/Fezziwig**
Jesse Caldwell*..... **Bob Cratchit**
Siobhan Doherty..... **Belle**
Jeff Draper..... **Marley/Topper/Old Joe**
Daphne Ford..... **Belinda**
Emily Garcia..... **Flora Fezziwig/Cherry**
Trevor Gomez..... **Boy Scrooge**
Jason Hite..... **Young Scrooge**
Courtney Iventosch..... **Lavinia**
Daniel Lachman..... **Peter Cratchit/Georgie**
Evan Lachman..... **Tiny Tim**
Kel Mac Cormac..... **Bailey**
Robin Melnick..... **Mr. Bagstock - Quartet**
Sara Moore..... **Charwoman**
Marty Newton..... **Rudge**
Amy Nielson..... **Dorit/Fauna Fezziwig/Anne**
Jason Pedroza..... **Barkis/u/s Mr. Boxer**
Jeanine Perasso..... **Mrs. Fezziwig/Laundress**
Grace Perry..... **Lizzie**
Jennifer Perry..... **Past**
Jack Powell*..... **Ebenezer Scrooge**
Barbara Reynolds..... **Miss Skiffins - Quartet**
Tim Reynolds..... **Mr. Tiffy - Quartet**
Joel Roster..... **Mr. Boxer**
Kevin Sánchez..... **Nigel Woodward**
Kristina Schoell..... **Fan**
Kerri Shawn..... **Mrs. Cratchit**
Grant Strain..... **Charley/Perch/Turkey Boy**
Molly Kate Taylor..... **Martha Cratchit**
Molly Thornton..... **Miss Augustus - Quartet**
John Walbolt..... **Constable Durdle/Dick Wilkins**
Michael Wiles*..... **Fred**
Adam Winship..... **Thief/Future**
Michael Ray Wisely*..... **Present**
Olivia DeRay Wisely..... **Molly/Polly**
Wendy Wisely..... **Catherine**
Stephen Wolff..... **Silas**
 Special thanks to **Ken Ruta***, Narrator

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

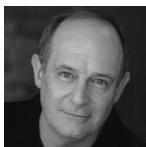
Natalie Bartnick (Sophy) is honored to return to Center REP's *A Christmas Carol* family for the second year. She is a freshman at San Ramon Valley High School this year. She fully enjoyed participating in her second summer of the Young REP Workshop and thanks all of her instructors who continue to inspire her. After 6 years in the Danville Girls Choir, Natalie is now participating in the Choir at SRVHS under the direction of Ken Abrams. Some of Natalie's favorite roles include Fan in last year's Center REP's *A Christmas Carol*, Marta in the Charlotte Wood Middle School performance of *The Sound of Music* and Sarah in CWMS's *Paper or Plastic*. Natalie is extremely grateful to Mom, Dad, Logan and Nolan for all of their support and inspiration.



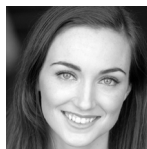
Michael A. Berg (Mr. Applebaum/Fezziwig) is happy to be included in this season's production of *A Christmas Carol* as Mr. Fezziwig and Mr. Applebaum, one of the solicitors. Michael is very pleased to be working on the costumes as well. He works full time for Center REP as a stitcher and sometime actor and if he is lucky he gets to design as well! Michael was last seen as the Usher in Center REP's production of *Witness for the Prosecution*. You may have also seen him as Starveling the tailor in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Michael and Ophelia (his four legged significant other), wish all of you a bountiful and peaceful holiday season!!



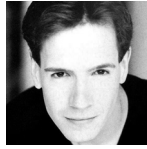
Jesse Caldwell* (Bob Cratchit) is pleased to return to Center REP as Bob Cratchit. He recently appeared on the Halloween episode of *Trauma*, and was seen in last year's *Milk*. He played Grandpa Gellman in *Caroline, Or Change* at TheatreWorks, and followed that with the Preacher in *Seven Brides For Seven Brothers* at Woodminster. He has appeared at the Knight Theatre as Charlie Dyer in American Citizens' Theatre's production of *Staircase* and as Leon in Playhouse West's *The Love List*. He also played the Hofmann Theatre as Old Joe in CCMT'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, Crowded Fire and the Willows Theatre. Earlier in his career he toured the country with the National Shakespeare Co. and performed at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.



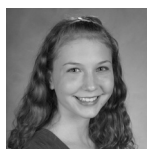
Siobhan Doherty (Belle) is thrilled to return to *A Christmas Carol*! Siobhan most recently performed with the Pear Avenue Theatre in *Tell It Slant* - a play with music about Emily Dickinson, which will remount in the spring in SF. Other credits include *42nd Street* (Dianne/CCMT), *Pericles* (Marina, Dance Captain/San Francisco Shakespeare Festival), *The Trojan Women* (Chorus, Dance Captain/Aurora Theatre), *Dolly West's Kitchen* (Dolly) and *The Bacchae* (Chorus Leader, Dance Captain) at UC Berkeley. Siobhan is a graduate of PCPA where she performed in *Beauty & the Beast* (Belle/Dance Captain) and *A Little Night Music* (Malla, u/s Anne & Petra). Siobhan holds degrees in Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies from UC Berkeley. www.siodoherty.com



Jeff Draper (Marley/Topper/Old Joe) has been seen in many Center REP productions, including *Cabaret*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *Around the World in 80 Days* and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. Jeff loves spending his summers with the students of Young REP, where he is Co-Education Director with Kerri Shawn. Jeff would like to thank his Mom, Dad, and husband Dalon for supporting his crazy love of acting and theater.



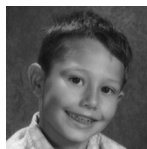
Daphne Ford (Belinda) is a Freshman at Campolindo High School in Moraga. Daphne has performed with Center REPertory, CCMT, DLOC, The Willows Theatre Company, Tri Valley Repertory, Antioch Rivertown Theater and The Ballet Joyeux. Favorite Roles include, Scout, (*To Kill a Mocking Bird*) Sally, (*You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*) and Dorothy (*The Wizard of Oz*). Daphne has studied acting with Young REP, ballet, tap and jazz at Lareen Fender's The Ballet School, voice with Lynda Kalb and classical voice with Pamela Brooks.



Emily Garcia (Flora Fezziwig/Cherry) is proud to again join this marvelous production. An award-winning performer, recent roles include *Jake's Women* (Maggie), *Enter Laughing* (Angela), *Cabaret* (Sally Bowles), and *One Night at the Hotel Grand* (Sydney). Emily works locally as a Teaching Artist and Choreographer. She wishes the happiest of holidays to all!



Trevor Gomez (Boy Scrooge) is very excited to join the *Christmas Carol* family in his debut with Center REP. Trevor is 9 years old and in the 4th grade at Strandwood Elementary in Pleasant Hill. Trevor recently played a member of Fagin's Gang in *Oliver!* (CCMT). Other roles include Little Guido in *Nine* (CCCT), Billy in *Nun-crackers* (Willow's Cabaret), Billy in *Honk!* (CC Christian Theatre). Trevor also performs with Pleasant Hill Star Quest. When he's not performing, Trevor enjoys baseball, soccer and Boy Scouts.



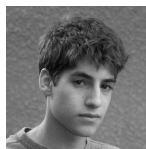
Jason Hite (Young Scrooge) is thrilled to be back for his 3rd turn at *A Christmas Carol*. Most recently he was seen as Dean Hyde in Center REP's smash hit *All Shook Up*. He has also worked with such companies as CCMT, Exit Stage Left, and trained with Center REP's Young Actors Conservatory. Next April, he will be a part of the world premier of *Girlfriend* at Berkeley Rep. Love to all my friends and family whose love and support keep me grounded and driven!



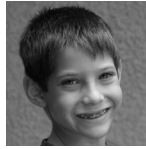
Courtney Iventosch (Lavinia) is delighted to return to Center REP and perform in her second year of *A Christmas Carol*. Recent credits include: *On the Town* (Ivy Smith) with DTC, *Cabaret* (Frenchie/Woodwinds) with Center REP, *Evita* (Mistress) with CCMT, *42nd Street* (Peggy Sawyer) with CCMT, *Beauty and the Beast* with AMTSJ, *Smokey Joe's Café* (DeLee) at Hillbarn Theatre, and *Kiss Me Kate* at Cabrillo Stage. She is thankful for this opportunity and thrilled to spend the holiday season with such a wonderful group of people. She thanks her family for their love and support!



Daniel Lachman (Peter Cratchit/Georgie) is excited to return to this production where he began his acting career eleven years ago as Tiny Tim. He has also performed with Center REP in *On Borrowed Time* and *The Man Who Came to Dinner*. Most recently, Daniel appeared as Seymour in the Las Lomas High School production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. Daniel received a Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award (Supporting Actor - Musical) and a Shellie nomination for his performance in the world premiere of *The Night of the Hunter* at the Willows Theatre. Other Willows appearances include *Cats*, *Oliver!*, *The Sound of Music*, *Mountain Days*, *Children of Eden*, and *Big River*. Daniel has also performed with Solano College Theatre (*Dead Man Walking*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, and *Seussical!*), Galatean Players (*Rivets*), and DLOC (*The Wizard of Oz*). Daniel has trained with NYU/Tisch Summer High School and Young REP Theatre Workshop. He is a proud member of the Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble.



Evan Lachman (Tiny Tim), a fifth grader, is excited to return to Center REP's production of *A Christmas Carol* in the role of Tiny Tim. Evan recently appeared in the CCMT production of *Oliver!* He has also appeared in *Above the Violet* and as John Henry West in *The Member of the Wedding* with OnStage Theatre, and as the Sultan in the Willows Theatre Conservatory production of *Aladdin Jr*. In addition to theatre, Evan loves skateboarding and baseball.



Kel Mac Cormac (Bailey) After working backstage for a year, Kel is finally ready to step out into the light. This is his first time being onstage in a professional theatre production. Kel is a Junior at Northgate High School, where he is involved in the Drama program. He has done eight years of school theatre and two years of the Young REP theatre program. He's incredibly excited and can't wait to give you a great show!



Robin Melnick (Mr. Bagstock - Quartet) Returning for his eighth season with *A Christmas Carol*, Robin looks forward all year to sharing in the holiday spirit with us. His favorite roles elsewhere have included El Gallo in *The Fantasticks*, Lancelot in *Camelot*, Rapunzel's Prince in *Into the Woods*, and Smudge in *Forever Plaid* and *Plaid Tidings*. By day, Robin is pursuing a doctorate in linguistics, having decided after 20 years in high-tech that what he really wants when he grows up is to be a starving grad student. He is grateful to Mary and Andrew for all of their love and support.



Sara Moore (Charwoman) is happy to return to the sewers of London via the glorious Center REP! She's worked as a physical comic and actor both nationally and locally. Credits include: Ringling Bros. & Barnum & Bailey Circus, New Pickle Circus, Movement Theatre International, Royal Caribbean, and Merv Griffin's Resorts. New York: Vital Theatre, La Mama, Ars Nova, Barrow Street Theatre and P.S. 122. Here in the Bay: George Coates Performance Works, Theatre Rhino, Aurora Theatre, The Climate, and Thrillpeddlers. She is a proud member of Young REP's faculty and runs Clown Corps, a physical comedy troupe here in the East Bay. And this winter Sara will appear in the world premiere musical based on the cartoon strip *Sylvia* at Ashby Stage, as Lassie The Wonder Cat!



Marty Newton (Rudge) is pleased as holiday punch being back for his third year in *A Christmas Carol*. Marty is a huge 49'ers fan and hopes Santa brings them a shot at the Super Bowl - and he wants a pony, and world peace, but not necessarily in that order. Marty is also a proud member of the Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble.



Amy Nielson (Dorit/Fauna Fezziwig/Anne) This marks Amy's 8th year with her *Christmas Carol* family. She has been a costume shop assistant with Center REP since 2002. Recent onstage credits include *Singin' in the Rain* and *Brigadoon* (Woodminster), and Rosie/Kit Kat in Center REP's *Cabaret*. This fall she directed and choreographed *Lucky Stiff* for Contra Costa Civic Theatre, where she also serves on their Artistic Advisory Committee. Audiences can see her on the Hofmann stage again this February as Georgia in the Northern California premiere of *Curtains* with Diablo Theatre Company. As always, love and thanks to the fan club.



Jason Pedroza (Barkis/w/s Mr. Boxer) just finished an out-STAND-ing run as the Warder in Center REP's *Witness for the Prosecution* and is now thrilled to be a part of such a wonderful tradition. Other credits include, *Tony-n- Tina's Wedding*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and *EMO! The Musical*. He feels overjoyed to be able to be on stage doing what he loves. Lots of love and thanks to R, V, T, J, H, L, B, D, L, D and A, for their continued love and support. Happy Holidays and enjoy the show!



Jeanine Perasso (Mrs. Fezzizwig/Laundress) "It just wouldn't be Christmas without my *Christmas Carol* family. Every year fresh new ideas turn this show into Holiday magic." Jeanine is astounded that she has been doing this show for over a decade! Besides this show, her most recent stage appearances have been in CCMT's *Oliver!* as Mrs. Sowerberry and in VMT's *Messugahmuns!* as Sr. Robert Anne. Jeanine is thankful for her most devoted fans; Fred and Miranda. You are truly my greatest gift.



Grace Perry (Lizzie) is so excited to be a part of *A Christmas Carol*. She is sharing the stage with some of her favorite people in the world. Grace takes ballet, tap and musical theatre dance at Lareen Fender's The Ballet School in Walnut Creek. Grace thanks her Nanny and Poppy for always being there for her!



Jennifer Perry (Past/Choreographer) Favorite roles include: Cassie (*A Chorus Line*), Frenchy (*Grease*), Bonnie Jean (*Brigadoon*), Louise (*Carousel*), Mary Warren (*Crucible*), Jennie Mae (*Diviners*), Suzy Hendrix (*Wait Until Dark*) and Bonnie (*Anything Goes*) for which she won a Shellie Award. Choreography credits include: *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *Cinderella* (Shellie Award) *Annie*, *Sound Of Music*, *Titanic*, *Joseph and the Amazing...*, *Music Man*, *Wizard Of Oz*, along with countless original pieces. Directing Credits include: *42nd Street*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Red Hot and Cole*, and this spring *Oklahoma!* for CCMT. Jennifer is a proud member of Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble and is thrilled to be going into her 14th year of teaching for Center REP's Young REP Acting Training Program, where she serves as co-director of the Musical Theatre Program. Jennifer is the resident Casting Coordinator for Center REP. 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 Joyeux. www.theballetschool.org



Jack Powell* (Ebenezer Scrooge) returns to Center REP for a sixth season of cranky, crotchety, ill tempered and irritable misbehavior. (As well as a bit of fear, awe, and joyous celebration.) He has performed in various theatres in the Bay Area, going back to 1963, including Berkeley Rep, Aurora Theatre, Marin Theatre Co., San Francisco Shakespeare Co., and Marin Shakespeare Co. He toured with the National Shakespeare Co., and played Sir George Thunder in the New York premiere of *Wild Oats*. Various roles include Gloucester in *King Lear*, Higgins in *Pygmalion*, Pickering in *My Fair Lady*, Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, Falstaff in *Merry Wives of Windsor*, Norman Thayer Jr. in *On Golden Pond*, Hapagon in *The Miser*, and Dr. Paramore in *The Philanderer* for which he received a Dean Goodman Award. Various TV credits include roles on *Nash Bridges* and *Midnight Caller*.



Barbara Reynolds (Miss Skiffins - Quartet) is delighted to return for her 13th season as part of Center REP's *A Christmas Carol* family. She is a summa cum laude graduate of UCLA with a degree in music, with local performances including: *Ragtime* (Mother), *The 1940s Radio Hour* (Ann Collier) and *She Loves Me* (Amalia) for South Bay Musical Theatre; *The Secret Garden* (Lily) for Theatre in the Mountains, *A Little Night Music* (Mrs. Nordstrom) and *Ragtime* with TheatreWorks; and *Show Boat* for Foothill Music Theatre (Dean Goodman Choice award as Magnolia). She appears next in the premiere of *Hold on to Love* for San Jose's Tabard Theatre in January 2010.



Tim Reynolds (Mr. Tiffey - Quartet) returns to Center REP's *A Christmas Carol* quartet for the lucky 13th year. Recent credits include *The Producers* (Leo), *Bat Boy* (Dr. Parker) and *Brigadoon* (Dean Goodman Choice award as Tommy) with Foothill



Musical Theatre; *Chicago* (Billy Flynn), *Ragtime* (Tateh), *The 1940s Radio Hour* (Johnny Cantone) and *She Loves Me* (Georg) for South Bay Musical Theatre; *The Full Monty* (Harold) and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Pilate) with City Lights Theatre Company of San Jose; and Frankie in a trio of "plaids": *Plaid Tidings* and *Forever Plaid* with West Valley Light Opera and *A Taffeta Wedding* with Tabard Theatre. He holds a theater degree from Northwestern University.

Joel Roster (Mr. Boxer) Back for his seventh year with REP's *A Christmas Carol* family, Mr. Roster just recently directed CCMT's production of *Oliver!* A Shellie Award winner and multiple nominee, he has appeared in REP's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Snug), CCMT's *Guys & Dolls* (Nathan Detroit), *Grease* (Vince Fontaine), and *South Pacific* (Luther Billis). In the spring, Leshar Center audiences can see him as Ali Hakim in CCMT's *Oklahoma!* An award-winning playwright, his musical *One Night At The Hotel Grand* debuted earlier this year at Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette. He is an acting instructor for teens, and a proud member of Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble.



Kevin Sanchez (Nigel Woodward) is very excited to join this incredible cast for his fourth year! His stage credits include roles as Bob Bradley in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* and as Bertram Cates in *Inherit the Wind*. An executive board member of the Diablo Regional Arts Association, Kevin dedicates his performance to everyone in our community who supports the Leshar Center for the Arts.



Kristina Schoell (Fan) is thrilled to be a part of this wonderful production. Thank you Jennifer and Scott for giving me this opportunity. Past productions include *Evita* (CCMT), *The Will Roger's Follies* (DTC), *The Music Man* (Tri-Valley Rep). She was most recently seen as Brigetta in *The Sound of Music* with The Vagabond Players. Youth theatre credits include Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* (Youth Theatre Company of Walnut Creek), Alice in *Wonderland* and Sally in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (STAGE Troupe). She enjoyed training with Center REP's Young REP program this past summer. Awarded 'Outstanding Actress' at Disney's 2009 Broadway Junior Festival in Atlanta, Georgia. Kristina hopes you have a joyous holiday season. Enjoy the show!



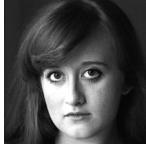
Kerri Shawn (Mrs. Cratchit) serves as Co- Education Director for Center REP and proudly co-directs Center REP's Young REP Summer Training Program with Jeffrey Draper. Her most recent credits with Center REP include *Witness for the Prosecution* (court stenographer), *Enchanted April* (Costanza), *The Mousetrap* (Mrs. Boyle) and *Shirley Valentine* (Shirley). Kerri is a company member of both FFAE and PlayGround. She looks forward to joining the cast of CCMT's *Oklahoma!* this spring in the role of Aunt Eller.



Grant Strain (Charley/Perch/Turkey Boy) is very excited to be in his 7th year of *A Christmas Carol* and is happy to be back with his Christmas family with some new faces. Grant enjoys making movies, watching movies, writing screenplays, and (more recently), skateboarding. Grant has been doing Center REP's production of *A Christmas Carol* since second grade. He dedicates his 7th year to his loving family, his expanded family, and his AMAZING friends.



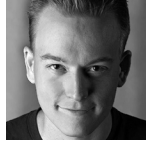
Molly Kate Taylor (Martha Cratchit) has been a student and intern in Center REP's Young REP program for the past six years and is ecstatic to be on stage in her first Center REP production. She attends Diablo Valley College where she is studying photography and theatre, and is excited to continue studying physical theatre with the Flying Actor Studio in San Francisco, and the Clown Corps, led by her friend and mentor Sara Moore. Past shows and roles that are dear to her heart include *Hamlet* (Gertrude), *Saint Joan* (Joan), *Blithe Spirit* (Madame Arcati), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Ursula) and *Through a Glass, Darkly*, where she created the role of Lorina Liddel. Molly Kate sends love and thanks to all the people who have helped her and stood by her in all of her crazy endeavors. "All you have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to you." - JRR Tolkien.



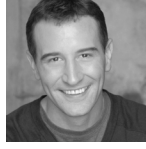
Molly Thornton (Miss Augustus - Quartet) is thrilled to be returning for her second year as part of this wonderful company and production. Mostly seen on South Bay stages, her recent credits include *The Who's Tommy* (Mrs. Walker/CLTC), *Chicago* (Mama Morton/SBMT), *Bat Boy!* (Shadow Chorus/FMT), *Man of La Mancha* (Aldonza/SDG), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Miss Flannery / SDG), *Urinetown* (Mrs. Millennium / FMT), *The Goodbye Girl* (Paula / Bus Barn), and her award-winning performances in *Mame!* (Gooch / WVLOA / ERMA Award), *Kiss Me Kate* (Kate / WVLOA / ERMA Award) and *The Will Rogers Follies* (Betty Blake / CCMT / Shellie Award). Molly dedicates this performance to her wonderful mother, Mildred, who has always been her biggest fan and source of strength. I will always love you, Mom.



John Walbolt (Constable Durdle/Dick Wilkins) is an actor/writer who has been performing in the Bay Area for the last year and a half. He was last seen in Center REP's *Cabaret* as Victor/Train Officer. Thanks to Center REP for having me join the *A Christmas Carol* family!



Michael Wiles* (Fred) returns for his 9th *Carol* with Center REPeritory Company, where he was also seen as Tom in *The Glass Menagerie*. Other West Coast stage credits include work with A.C.T (*Edward 2*, *A Christmas Carol*), American Musical Theater (*Big River*), Aurora Theater Company (*The Persians*), Berkeley Repertory Theater (*Master Class*, *The Oresteia*), California Shakespeare Theater (*Romeo and Juliet*, *As You Like It*, *Scapin*), Capital Stage Company (*Fat Pig*), Marin Shakespeare Company (*King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *Much Ado*), Pacific Alliance Stage Company (*Doubt*, *All My Sons*, *Betrayal*), San Francisco Shakespeare Festival (*Pericles*, *Love's Labour's Lost*), and Tacoma Actor's Guild (*Twelfth Night*). Michael is co-director of the Musical Theater Conservatory for Center REP's Young REP program, and serves as resident Musical Director for Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble.



Adam Winship (Thief/Future) is thrilled to be returning to the *Christmas Carol* family for his 10th season! He is a proud member of FFAE and a CCMT board member. Most importantly he dedicates this show to God, his parents and Grandma for always being there, his girlfriend Hannah, "My inspiration & joy, I love you.", his best friend and brother Trevor, Amy Williams, "You know why!" and all his wonderful friends. Finally, "May we spin our way into your lives and keep the spirit of Christmas with you all year long!"



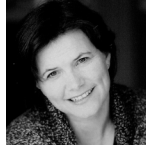
Michael Ray Wisely* (Present) feels great joy returning for another year with his family in *A Christmas Carol*. Well known to Bay Area audiences, Michael Ray has performed locally and at other west coast theatres for over 20 years. Credits include: Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Aurora Theatre Co., Magic Theatre, SF Shakespeare, San Jose Stage, San Jose Repertory, American Musical Theatre, Willows Theatre and Cabaret, Marin Shakespeare, Marin Theatre Co., and many others. Michael Ray has starred and guest-starred in television movies and series and works as a director in theatre and digital film.



Olivia DelRay Wisely (Molly/Polly) makes her 4th appearance with her parents in *A Christmas Carol*. She began her performing career in the womb as "a sonogram" in a commercial for a local hospital. 7 years old, her other credits include: *Nickel and Dimed* and *The Imaginary Invalid* at Las Positas College, as an M.C. for her schools' talent show and most recently as a Witch in *Macbeth* for her Shakespeare class. She is a 2nd grader at Harding Elementary in El Cerrito. Olivia wishes to thank you for coming to the show.



Wendy Wisely (Catherine) Wendy's previous Center REP productions include *The Diviners*, *The Night Hank 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, Townhall, Western Stage, and Pacific Alliance. Wendy teaches theater and directs at Las Positas College, Santa Rosa Junior College, and Berkeley City College. She is thrilled to be joining her family for a 4th year in this production.



Stephen Wolff (Silas) is an 8th grader at Foothill Middle School. He has performed at the Leshler Center a number of times. He has been in CCMT's *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Cinderella* and *Oliver!* He also played Danny in DLOC's *Brylcreem* and Tom in *School House Rock Junior*. Stephen is really excited to be returning to *A Christmas Carol* for the third time.



CREATIVE TEAM

Scott Denison (Director/Managing Director) has been the General Manager for the Leshler Center for the Arts since it opened 19 years ago and has worked for the Arts in this area for 36 years. Scott has directed over 150 productions, including *The Wizard of Oz*, the musical hit *Cinderella* and *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* and for the past 13 seasons Center REP's *A Christmas Carol* as well as all Fantasy Forum productions since 1972. He created and produces the annual *Shellie Awards* now celebrating 31 years. Scott has also designed lights for over 250 productions, including the national touring production of *Sylvia*. In 1979 he created the *Shellie Awards*, which annually honors outstanding performing arts achievement in Contra Costa County. Under Denison's guidance the Leshler Center for the Arts presents over 900 public events each year. He coordinates performing arts activities with over 85 producers and producing organizations. Scott created the *Chevron Family Theatre Festival* which hosted over 7,000 guests this year. He is also the Managing Director of the Center REPeritory Company producing professional productions each season; and is the director and co-founder of Fantasy Forum Actors Ensemble, an adult family performing arts company which presents programs for the young and Young at Heart.

Kelly James Tighe (Scenic Designer) Off Broadway: *The Fantasticks*, *Almost Heaven*. National tours: *Movin' Out*, *Mooseltoe*. Regional: *Dreamgirls*, *My Way*, *Aida*, *Cats*, *The Full Monty*, *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 Carousel 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 REP); *The Laramie Project*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (PPAS/ NYC). Mr. Tighe 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 Woah!* (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 "Shellie", Drama-Logue, and the S.F. Bay Area's Outer Critic's Circle. Kelly resides in New York City.

Jeff Mockus (Sound Designer) Previously for Center REP: *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Cabaret*, *Musical Of Musicals: The Musical*, *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*, *Nixon's Nixon*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, and *The Marriage of Figaro*. Mr. Mockus has also collaborated with CCMT on *Oliver!*, *Fiddler On The Roof*, *Cinderella*, *Urinetown the Musical*, *Gypsy*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*. His recent work includes *A Christmas Story* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at San Jose Rep, *Private Lives*, *Pericles*, *An Ideal Husband*, and *Uncle Vanya* at Cal Shakes, *Shipwrecked!* at Shakespeare Santa Cruz, *The Woman In Black*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged*, and *Tuesdays With Morrie* at Utah Shakespearean Festival, as well as the world premieres of *War Music* for American Conservatory Theatre, *Tracy's Tiger* for Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and *Lend Me A Tenor: The Musical* for Utah Shakespearean Festival.

John Earls (Lighting Designer) Since joining the production staff at the Leshler Center for the Arts he has designed or directed lighting for numerous shows including the *Shellie Awards*, Animal Rescue Foundation's *Stars to the Rescue*, and Leshler Speaker Series: *Newsmakers*. His work includes *Rocky Horror Show* at Town Hall Theatre. John owes his introduction to the live stage to the ACME Theatre Company.

Mark Hanson (Music Director) returns to *A Christmas Carol* for a fourth season after conducting CCMT's *Oliver!* this fall in the Hofmann Theatre. Previously, Mark conducted *The Producers* for Diablo Theatre Company and *Cinderella*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *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. Mark is glad to be working once again with Center REPeritory on this timeless holiday classic – happy holidays to all!

Melissa Anne Davis (Costume Designer) In addition to running the costume shop for Center REP, Melissa has also designed many

shows for the company including *Suds: A Rockin' 60's Musical Soap Opera*, *Rocket Man*, *Cowgirls*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Hank Williams' Lost Highway*, and *All Shook Up*. She frequently works with the Contra Costa Musical Theatre Co. (*Annie*, *Damn Yankees*, *Grease*, *South Pacific*, *Beauty and the Beast* (Shellie Award) *Guys and Dolls* (Shellie Award), *Cinderella*, (Shellie Award), *42nd St.*) Other notable credits: Town Hall Theatre Co.; *MacBeth*, *5 Women Wearing the Same Dress*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Copenhagen*, *Let's Go To Casablanca!*, *Lend Me A Tenor*, *Bleacher Bums*, *The Weir*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, *Baby Be Mine*. Antioch Rivertown Theatre Co.; *A Funny Thing Happened...* (Shellie Award), *Pump Boys and Dinettes* (Shellie Award). Thanks to Michael, Amy, and Erin for all their hard work and wonderful friendship!

Jeff Collister* (Production 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*, *Suds: The Rockin' 60's Musical Soap Opera*, *Godspell*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and numerous productions of *A Christmas Carol*. Jeff has been nominated for Shellie Awards for his direction of *Urinetown*, *the Musical* and *Grease* for Contra Costa Musical Theatre. He worked as Production Stage Manager for *Dame Edna - The Royal Tour* in San Francisco. Jeff is a Shellie Award winning actor and a member of Actors Equity Association. Happy Holidays!

Michael Butler (Artistic Director) most recently directed REP's productions of *Witness for the Prosecution* and *Enchanted April*, as well as the award-winning productions of *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and *The Marriage of Figaro*. His directing work has also been seen in New York, L.A. and at regional theatres around the country. As an actor, Michael has worked on Broadway, off-Broadway, in regional theatres, film and television. He is a published songwriter and the co-writer and composer of numerous music-theatre pieces, which he has directed and performed in NY, LA, and at festivals in India and Morocco. 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.

OUR SPONSORS

Chevron (Season Sponsor) has been the leading corporate sponsor of Center REP and the Leshler Center for the Arts for the past eight years. In fact, Chevron has been a partner of the LCA since the beginning, providing funding for capital improvements, event sponsorships and more. Chevron generously supports every Center REP show throughout the season, and is the primary sponsor for events including the Chevron Family Theatre Festival in July. Chevron has proven itself not just as a generous supporter, but also a valued friend of the arts.

Diablo Regional Arts Association (DRAA) (Season Partner) is both the primary fundraising organization of the Leshler Center for the Arts (LCA) and the City of Walnut Creek's appointed curator for the LCA's audience outreach. DRAA's role in the community is all about building partnerships with the focused goal of enhancing artistic quality at the LCA and providing opportunities for everyone to enjoy the arts. Through partnerships with the LCA and its producers, individual donors, corporate and foundation sponsors and the City of Walnut Creek, DRAA plays a vital role in advancing the arts for the betterment of the community. Please visit us online at www.draa.org.

Contra Costa Times (Season Media Sponsor) In the East Bay, the largest newspaper of the Bay Area News Group is the Contra Costa Times and its sister editions, the West County Times, Valley Times, San Ramon Valley Times and East County Times. The Times, was judged the best newspaper in its circulation category in the state five times in a six-year period by the California Newspaper Publishers Association. In 2005, it won the prestigious national Freedom of Information Award from Associated Press Managing Editors. And, in 2007, it was honored by the California Newspaper Publishers Association for its leadership on public records.

THANK YOU TO OUR
OPENING NIGHT DINNER SPONSORS:
Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar

ADDITIONAL THANKS TO:
Massimo's Ristorante
Walnut Creek Baking Company
Waters Moving and Storage
Associated Services-Alta Water
Selix Formal Wear of Pleasant Hill
Shannon and Mike Demers
Hyatt Summerfield Suites

ABOUT CENTER REPERTORY COMPANY

Center REP is the resident, professional theatre company of the Leshler Center for the Arts. Our season consists of six productions a year – a variety of musicals, dramas and comedies, both classic and contemporary, that continually strive to reach new levels of artistic excellence and professional standards.

Our **mission** is to celebrate the power of the human imagination by producing emotionally engaging, intellectually involving, and visually astonishing live theatre, and through Outreach and Education programs, to enrich and advance the cultural life of the communities we serve.

What does it mean to be a producing theatre? We hire the finest professional directors, actors and designers to create our productions at Center REP. These are not touring productions – they're conceived and developed here, the sets and costumes are built in our shops, and the actors rehearse in our rehearsal hall. Whether the production is a Bay Area premiere or a Shakespearean classic, each is devised to be a one of a kind, artistic creation that will be a unique theatre experience for our audience.

What does it mean to be a professional theatre? It means that all our artists and artisans are career theatre-practitioners. Many of the actors in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association; many of our directors and designers are members of professional unions. All do theatre because it is their profession and their passion.

We are very proud to have the opportunity to produce professional theatre for our community in the beautiful Margaret Leshler Theatre here at the Leshler Center for the Arts. Thank you for your support!

Center REPeritory Company

Managing Director - Scott Denison
Artistic Director - Michael Butler

<p><i>Audience Services</i> Audience Services Coordinator Courtney Egg Ticket Office Staff Rebecca O' Connor Caitlin Downing Elizabeth Fazio Kiersten Jones Karla Kopffhammer Sarah Leahy Hillary Pearsall Amy Rogers</p> <p><i>Production Services</i> Production Services Coordinator Toni Kilcoyne Technical Staff Doug Alvey John Earls Nicole Iannaccone Iain McKay Steve Pino Garrick Schuster Josh Stouffer</p> <p><i>Costumes</i> Costume Manager Melissa Anne Davis Assistant Costumers Michael A. Berg Amy Nielson Erin O'Donoghue Wigs Amy Nielson</p> <p><i>Education</i> Education Directors Jeff Draper Kerri Shawn</p> <p><i>Marketing</i> Marketing Director Gabe Marin Marketing Assistant Casi Maggio</p>	<p><i>Production</i> Production Manager Jeff Collister</p> <p><i>Technical</i> Technical Director Joshua Lipps Executive Technical Director Gerald Frenz Associate Technical Director Russ Milligan Master Electrician Tirzah Tyler Carpenters Stewart Munson Daniel Neely Ryan Shew Cameron Swartzell Assistant Stage Manager/ Props Coordinator Joe Coe Deck Manager Alex Logemann Quartet Manager Barbara Reynolds</p> <p><i>Production Assistants</i> Shannon Strain Demers Stephen Goza Brianna Lempesis Erin O'Donoghue Vince Perry Mat Severns</p> <p><i>Administration</i> Asst. to the Managing Director Gail Pfeifer Usher Coordinator Jody Cook Program Linda Nomura</p>
---	--

Original Choreography **Lareen Fender**
Original Sound Design **Norm Kern**

<p>CITY COUNCIL Susan McNulty Rainey, Mayor Kish Rajan Cindy Silva Robert Simmons Gary Skrel CITY MANAGER Gary Pokorny DIRECTOR Arts, Recreation and Community Services Barry Gordon</p>	 <p>ARTS COMMISSION Fritz Brunner, Chair Vice Chair Suzanne Masella Carol Fowler Reginald Marshall Jacquelyn Smith</p>
--	---