

## THE DICKENS, YOU SAY!

Background information on some of the names and words used in *A Christmas Carol*.

- ★ **SCROOGE:** The name was derived from a word meaning to squeeze or crowd.
- ★ **TIM:** Originally called Little Fred, he may have been inspired by Dickens' nephew, who suffered from tuberculosis and died young. He is referred to as Tiny Tim only twice in the novella.
- ★ **PLUM PUDDING:** There were no plums in Mrs. Cratchit's Christmas pudding. It was a traditional English dessert -- a steamed pudding filled with nuts, spices, and dried fruit such as raisins, which were then called plums.
- ★ **FIFTEEN SHILLINGS A WEEK:** Bob's salary equals about \$80 a week in today's currency, but the cost of living was much cheaper in 1843. A typical salary for a clerk at that time was 25 shillings or more.
- ★ **HALF A CROWN:** A coin worth about 2.5 shillings, an extremely generous tip for the turkey boy. It was approximately a day's wages for Bob, who would have worked 12 hours or more to earn that much money.
- ★ **WALK-ER:** An exclamation of disbelief, as in "You're pulling my leg," used by the Turkey Boy, who would have found half a crown to be an unbelievably big tip.
- ★ **POOR LAW:** Ostensibly enacted to help the poor, it made escaping poverty almost impossible. Dickens, who grew up poor and showed great compassion for poor people, was an outspoken opponent of the Poor Law.
- ★ **OLD SCRATCH:** Probably derived from an Old Norse word meaning devil, goblin, or monster.
- ★ **SMOKING BISHOP:** A hot punch named for the dark red color of the wine, which resembled the color of a bishop's robe. A typical recipe: five unpeeled oranges, one unpeeled grapefruit, ¼ pound of sugar, two bottles of strong red wine, and one bottle of port.
- ★ **CRATCHIT:** From "cratch," an archaic word for "creche," the manger in which the infant Jesus was laid. Also suggests the scratching of the clerk's pen on paper.
- ★ **BAH, HUMBUG!** Scrooge's famous catchphrase was only said twice by him in the book.
- ★ **COUNTING HOUSE:** A business office for correspondence and keeping accounts. These were poorly heated and dimly lit. Most firms were small, consisting of only one or two employees. A workday of 12 to 13 hours, six days a week was not uncommon.
- ★ **BURIED WITH A STAKE OF HOLLY THROUGH HIS HEART:** It was common practice at that time to bury a murderer or someone who committed suicide with a wooden stake through the heart.
- ★ **MILLINER'S APPRENTICE:** These apprentices were among the hardest-worked and worst-paid employees in Victorian England. The fact that Martha had to work Christmas morning may mean her employer was as mean as Scrooge.
- ★ **FANNY:** This was also the name of Dickens' favorite older sister.
- ★ **MARLEY:** An Irish doctor Dickens met on St. Patrick's Day while he was writing *A Christmas Carol*.
- ★ **THE WORLD DEALS HARD WITH POVERTY:** Dickens had a life-long fear of poverty. When his father was sent to debtors prison, he was taken out of school at age 12 and worked in a factory pasting labels on bottles.

*The headline at the top of this page does not refer to Charles Dickens. Dickens was a name once given to the devil, as in: The devil, you say!*



November 28 - December 14, 2014 2014/2015 season



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### A Home-Grown Tradition

People celebrate holidays in many different ways. Christmas traditions aren't always... traditional. Do you favor a fragrant, freshly cut fir tree, or the convenience of an artificial version? The 1960s animated *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* rerun, or modern Hallmark specials? Midnight Madness or Midnight Mass?

Variety abounds in our choices of tradition. However, in Annapolis, one single tradition has been a gift enjoyed since 1981: *A Christmas Carol*. The seeds are from England, but this is The Colonial Players' very own homegrown version.

With book and lyrics by local playwright and long-time CP colleague Rick Wade, and with the participation of countless individuals and families onstage and backstage over the decades, *A Christmas Carol* is one of this area's longest-running holiday traditions. Why? Because when Rick turned Charles Dickens' novella into a script, and put words to the music of his collaborator, Dick Gessner, it was done with a deep admiration for the classic story and an even deeper love for our community. While some of the poorer characters you'll see on our stage may be wearing threadbare clothes, the love in this show is a strong thread that weaves itself through the set pieces and props, the sound, lights, costumes, and direction, and especially the performances you will see today.

The story is timeless: The cold heart of a lonely, sad man, rich in wealth but poor in spirit; a heart thawed by the warm fires of unconditional love he witnesses among people whose wealth is nowhere to be found, except in each other.

We're glad you're here, whether it's for the 30th time or the first. Our all-volunteer organization holds a deep and abiding love for this marvelous community. That is why we are honored to share our beloved tradition with you.

— DARICE CLEWELL

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*Colonial Players gratefully acknowledges the generous bequest from Roland Riley, a longtime patron whose gift helps assure the future economic viability of our theater.*

## ABOUT OUR NEXT PLAY

Nothing cures the winter blues better than laughter, and Colonial Players is ready to provide a huge supply of laughs with our January-February production of *The Liar*, a sparkling comedy based on a 17th century French farce. David Ives, one of America's leading playwrights, has translated and updated this story based on a man who cannot tell the truth and a servant who cannot lie. Together, they roar into Paris and into the pursuit of ladies named Clarice and Lucrece, whom they meet in the Tuilleries Gardens. Dorante falls instantly and madly in love with one of them, but confuses their names. That confusion sets up a classic and swiftly paced romp of mistaken identities and deceptive actions that lead the hero to the brink of disaster before all ends happily.

*The Liar* drew rave reviews after its premiere production at Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington. A reviewer for *The Wall Street Journal* called it possibly the funniest play ever written and said he "...laughed so hard I was

sore the next day." The play was described as: "Astonishingly fresh, funny, and totally appealing to modern audiences," by *The Washington Examiner*, and *The Washington Post* described Ives as "...an inveterate jester, a trait that serves him well on an evening that is all jest."

*The Liar* opens January 16 and runs through February 7. Details about the performance dates are available at [thecolonialplayers.org](http://thecolonialplayers.org). Tickets can be purchased online or by calling 410-268-7373. Call the box office for information about reduced price tickets for some performances.

Ives describes his play as a "translaptation," a combined translation and adaptation of Pierre Corneille's play, which was first produced in 1643. He said in one interview that he had to bend the 361-year-old to what works in current theater. "I think Corneille's play ... is a wonderful play, but it wasn't going to work if I just translated it as it was," he said.

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



**CAROL YOUMANS** has been a devoted participant in community theater for more than 30 years, learning most of what she knows about theater from workshops and experience gained by working on every aspect of theater at Colonial Players. She has designed sets, lights, costumes, and sound and has crewed and served on many boards, most recently as artistic director; previously she was president, director of marketing and community

outreach, vice president, house director, and others. Her links to *A Christmas Carol* go back 33 years when, as a new member of Colonial Players, she was tapped to design the set for the first production of the new musical by Rick Wade and Dick Gessner. Now, after directing many other shows at Colonial Players, she is delighted to have her hand on the helm of this beloved show. Thanks to this happy, talented cast and hard-working creative staff, it has been a most marvelous time of the year, keeping Christmas at CP.

## ABOUT THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



After 13 years without a "Hilli-Ho Chirrup" while he was serving as the Academic Dean of Webb Institute of Naval Architecture (one of America's best kept college secrets) in Glen Cove, NY, **ROGER COMPTON** (or Bob Cratchit, as he was known around Colonial Players for 15 years) is delighted to be back in Maryland, retired (for the second time), and involved again with Wade and Gessner's *A Christmas Carol*. While in New

York, he returned to his primary musical interest (i.e., the musical in musical theater) by founding the Webb Family Singers – a mixed chorus of students and staff numbering as many as 30 singers (from the total student body of about 80) – and directing the musical aspects of two shows directed by Jill Compton (Mrs. Cratchit in earlier productions). Roger and Jill have founded an adult community chorus in Prospect Bay, where they reside. When not singing, they enjoy boating on the bay, travelling, and golfing.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Charles Dickens was a social reformer whose concern for the poor and downtrodden infused his stories with characters struggling with ill fortune. He wrote *A Christmas Carol* partly to awaken his society to the sufferings of the lower classes and to rail against prevailing social attitudes and legislation that did nothing to help them. The habit of celebrating Christmas as a time of good will among all men, a time for people of all classes to smile benevolently upon each other, was in decline in 1843. Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol* to remind his readers of the benefits of taking time to appreciate all of our fellow travelers on this earth and to lift up the ones who need it most. "I have a great faith in the poor," he wrote in a letter in 1844. "To the best of my ability, I always endeavor to present them in a favorable light to the rich."

Many of the happenings in the story come out of Dickens' childhood. When the family moved to London in 1824 from Chatham, Dickens' father fell on hard times and went into debtors' prison, and the 12-year-old Dickens was removed from

school to work in a boot-blackening factory. It was a scarring experience. The family scraped out a living from a house in Camden Town like that of the Cratchit's four rooms: two up, two down, only with six children and parents. Dickens drew on first-hand experience in telling of the death of Tiny Tim, as he had lost a brother and sister when he was very young. He knew what being poor meant, and he believed "...that these creatures have the same elements and capacities of goodness as yourselves."

*A Christmas Carol* was a resounding success from its first appearance to our times 160 years later. A friend wrote to Dickens: "Well, you should be happy yourself, for you may be sure you have done more good, and not only fastened more kindly feelings, but prompted more positive acts of benevolence, by this little publication, than can be traced to all the pulpits and confessionals in Christendom, since Christmas 1842."

– CAROL



## MUSIC SYNOPSIS

*Overture*.....Orchestra  
*Christmas Eve in London*.....The Carolers, Londoners  
*That Most Marvelous Time of the Year*.....Fred, Bob Cratchit  
*Mind Your Own Business*.....Scrooge, Londoners  
*As If It Were Yesterday*.....Scrooge  
*Hilli-Ho! Chirrup!*.....Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig, Guests  
*In Your World*.....Belle  
*In Your World Ballet*.....Anna Thomas, Remy Browne  
*Cornucopia*.....Ghost of Christmas Present, Londoners  
*Bless Us All*.....Cratchit Family  
*One Fine Funeral*.....Undertaker's Man, Laundress, Charwoman  
*Keeping Christmas*.....Scrooge  
*Finale*.....Scrooge, Company

## THE AUTHOR

**RICHARD WADE** has been writing, directing, and occasionally performing for Maryland theaters for more than 40 years. In addition to *A Christmas Carol*, he has written the plays and lyrics for eight other musicals produced locally and regionally. His play, *Foxgloves*, was included in last summer's One-Act Play Festival at Colonial Players. He has directed many productions for CP, Annapolis Summer Garden

Theatre, Bay Theatre, the Annapolis Opera, and other companies. He is proud to have served for five years as president of Colonial Players and for many years on its Board of Directors. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in Arnold and are particularly happy that their daughter, Sarah, is an active Colonial Players member and is in the cast of *A Christmas Carol* once again.

## THE COMPOSER

**DICK GESSNER** collaborated with Rick Wade to write the music for *A Christmas Carol* and also wrote music for Wade's adaptations of children's musicals *Pinocchio*, *Puss 'n Boots*, *Rumpelstiltskin*, and *Treasure Island*. A popular entertainer in the Annapolis area for many years, Gessner is now retired and living in Florida. He

served as musical director for many productions in Maryland, including *Carnival*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *My Fair Lady* at Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre and *Little Mary Sunshine*; *The Apple Tree*; *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; *The Contrast*; and *Carnival* at Colonial Players.



## A CHRISTMAS CAROL: ON THE SCREEN

Charles Dickens' simple story of a man transformed by the Christmas message of love, generosity, and kindness toward other people has proved an irresistible lure for makers of movies and television shows. The web site IMDB lists more than 200 versions of *A Christmas Carol* that have played in movie theaters or been seen on television as Christmas specials or as episodes of a television series.

Six major motion pictures have been made since 1938, with Ebenezer Scrooge played by famous actors such as Albert Finney, George C. Scott, and even Bill Murray. Don't forget Mr. Magoo. He starred in one of many cartoon versions of *A Christmas Carol*. The story was also adapted for the prehistoric Flintstones and the futuristic Jetsons, along with The Muppets and Mickey Mouse. There was an all-dogs version and one for Barbie, although she presumably didn't play Scrooge.

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## THE STAFF (continued)



**JOAN K. TOWNSHEND**  
(Producer)

Joan has been active both onstage and backstage with Colonial Players. Her favorite roles were Praskowia in *The Merry Widow* at AACC Opera and Ethel Savage in *The Curious Savage* at CP. She has directed *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, *Over My Dead Body*, and *Spitfire Grill* for CP. Stage managing and working in the light and sound tech booth keep her grounded and aware of all the pieces that go into making theater come alive! She sings in two choirs and keeps busy with five children and seven grandchildren. When not busy with theater, she consults with organizations on leadership and change management.

**ANDY SERB**  
(Sound Designer)

Andy showed up at Colonial Players in May, 2009, and the following day found himself operating the sound system for *Over My Dead Body*. He went on to run sound and lights for *Wonder of the World*, *Little Women*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *1776*, and has designed sound for *The Curious Savage*, *Chapter Two*, *Wit*, *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You*, *The Actor's Nightmare*, and *In The Next Room*. Andy's experience began with running sound systems for numerous churches and bands, which sparked his interest and led him to broaden his horizons into more technical venues. While attending the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT, he managed sound for the academy's praise band; during those four years he stepped up as lead sound tech and lighting coordinator for *Anything Goes*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Me and My Girl*, and *Oliver!*.



**DIANNE ANDREW SMITH**  
(Costume Designer)

Dianne has been a member of The Colonial Players "family" for many years. She made her first stage appearance at Players in *Godspell*, then *Carnival*, *Tricks*, and several summers in *Cabaret for Kids*. Dianne graduated from Maryland Institute College of Art with a BFA in design. Her first professional job was to design and create her roommate's bridal gown and the bridesmaids' dresses. She was the

costume designer for three years for Severna Park High School's first *Rock 'n Roll Revival* shows. Though she has had many "jobs" with CP, this will be her first time as costumer. Happy Holidays!



**TOM STUCKEY**  
(Stage Manager)

After producing *Rocket Man*, the first show of the current season, Tom returns as stage manager for the 30th production of *A Christmas Carol*. His favorite previous experience as stage manager was many years ago for *The Diary of Anne Frank*, which he contends had the most difficult scene change in Colonial Players history. (Other stage managers probably disagree.) Tom has been involved with Colonial Players since 1969, when he appeared in the ensemble for *Carousel*, and has been involved with dozens of productions onstage and offstage. He currently handles newspaper publicity and edits programs, along with other duties such as painting sets, hanging lights, ushering, and serving on committees.

### ORIGINS OF A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Charles Dickens was inspired to write *A Christmas Carol* when he and future British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli spoke at an 1843 charity night. Dickens said he took a long nocturnal walk after the meeting and came up with the idea for his "little Christmas book." He wrote obsessively for six weeks, finishing the novella at the end of November so it could be published before Christmas. It went on sale December 17, and sold out in three days.



## THE CAST



**GREG ANDERSON**  
(*Ghost of Christmas Present*,  
*Second Gentleman*)

Greg is excited to be back at CP, having first appeared in the One-Act Festival last summer.

He is also excited to be performing again in *A Christmas Carol* with daughter Kaitlin Shannon. A few years back, Greg, as Bob, held Kaitlin, as Tiny Tim, on his shoulder in PGLT's production. His favorite roles with PGLT, BCT, and other groups include Bobby Dwayne in *The Hallelujah Girls*; Fred Gailey in the U.S. stage premiere of *Miracle on 34th Street*; Leon in *Fools*; Teddy in *Arsenic and Old Lace*; G.W. in *Sordid Lives*; Tin Woodman in *The Wizard of Oz*; Hysterium in ... *Forum*; Schroeder in *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*; and the big guy with the white beard in *The Elves Who Saved Christmas*, written by daughter Tiffany Shannon for Children's Theatre of Annapolis. Greg thanks Suzanne, Gabriel, Harper, and the other VIPs for their support, and truly appreciates being given the opportunity to work with Carol, Roger, Tom, and this talented cast and crew!



**STEVE BAIRD**  
(*Nephew Fred*, *Young Scrooge*)

Steve is thrilled to be making his debut at Colonial Players. Previous roles include Patsy in *Spamalot* at Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre and, at Laurel Mill Playhouse, Giles in *The Mousetrap* and Sam in *The Wild Party*. As a drummer, he has appeared in numerous pit orchestras for shows such as *Rent* at Stevenson University, *Shrek: The Musical* at Children's Theatre of Annapolis, and *Urinetown* at Heritage Players. He would like to thank his friends and family for their support, especially his wonderful girlfriend, Elsbeth, for keeping him sane during back-to-back shows.



**REMY BROWNE**  
(*Fanny Phantom*)

Remy is nine years old and a fourth-grade student at Mayo Elementary School. She is a member of the Royal Academy of Dance under the tutelage of Eileen Razetti. She has performed in the recitals: *Snow White*,

*Cinderella*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Peter Pan*, and, most recently, *The Wizard of Oz*. She also studies piano and enjoys creative writing. Remy is very excited about participating in her first production with The Colonial Players.



**MACKENZIE CURRIE**  
(*Tim Cratchit*)

Mackenzie Currie, a fourth-grade student at Arnold Elementary School, is overjoyed to be playing Tiny Tim in her Colonial Players debut. She is excited to be a part of such a talented cast in this beloved and celebrated play. Mackenzie started musical theater and dance at the age of four, and has enjoyed performing with the Annapolis Musical Theater Company. Her favorite performances include roles in *Matilda*, *Oliver!*, and *Seussical*. When she isn't singing and dancing, she can be found on a sailboat or a basketball court. She hopes to continue performing with Colonial Players and learn to play a guitar, and her biggest dream is to one day perform on the big stage.



**DR. DOUG DILLNER**  
(*Undertaker's Man*, *Party Guest*)

This is Dr. Dillner's ninth appearance in *A Christmas Carol* at Colonial Players. In the past, he has been Scrooge, Marley's Ghost, Mr. Fezziwig, Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come, and is delighted to reprise his role as the Undertaker's Man this year (still pushing to be Tiny Tim though!) Dr. D. started acting in high school, and it has been his avocation ever since. He has enjoyed playing such characters as Henry Higgins (*My Fair Lady*) and the Innkeeper (*Man of La Mancha*) as well as a host of others. He wants to thank his wife for putting up with his avocation and especially wants to thank his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for all he has brought to him.



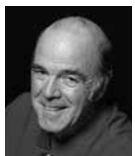
**KIRSTI DIXON**  
(*Ghost of Christmas Past*)

Kirsti is very excited to be in her first production with The Colonial Players. She has been involved in theater since high school, when she performed in the fall musicals



## THE CAST (continued)

and in three years of *Rock 'n Roll Revival* at Severna Park High School. At the University of Maryland College Park, Kirsti sang in an all-girl capella group called The UMD Treblemakers and performed in and directed many student-run productions such as *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Olive), *A Very Potter Musical* (Ginny, Co-director), and *AVPS* (Luna, Co-director). She would like to thank her family and her boyfriend for always being so supportive of her theatrical passion.



**MICHAEL N. DUNLOP**  
(*Ebenezer Scrooge*)

Michael is very happy and excited to return to The Colonial Players as Scrooge in this year's production of *A Christmas Carol*.

In the mid- 80s, Mike was in the cast for two productions, with Marvin Hunter as Scrooge the first year and Dan Higgs as Scrooge the following year. He is honored to be in such company. Previously, Michael worked with several local production companies, including Colonial Players, where he appeared in *Something's Afoot*, *Sly Fox*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and *Trying*. He was recently seen in the Compass Rose Studio Theater's *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Prince George's Little Theatre's productions of *Deathtrap* and *Don't Dress for Dinner*. He also been active with Bowie Community Theatre, appearing in a number of productions, including *Daddy's Girl*, *Dearly Departed*, and *Dearly Beloved*. Michael has been a SAG AFTRA member since 1988 and has acted in film, television, and commercial video productions in the Baltimore/Washington market, with a recent role in *Veep* on HBO. He is the owner and operator of Dove Video Productions in Annapolis. This company supports producers with a variety of video services.



**PETER EGLITIS**  
(*Mr. Fezziwig, Third Gentleman*)

This is Peter's first performance as an adult with The Colonial Players... or anywhere else for that matter! He had a dream;

then he woke up! It has been over 30 years since Peter appeared on stage in a middle school production, and in an effort to fill another slot

and check it off his bucket list, here he is. Along with family, singing has always been on top of his "to do" list, with plenty of time spent in choir practice and singing in the shower. "Thank you, Darice and Jim, for your vote of confidence!"



**DEAN FISHER**  
(*Bob Cratchit*)

This is Dean's first stage role ever. He is crossing one item off of his bucket list by performing in *A Christmas Carol* this year.

Dean's annual reading of *A Christmas Carol* to his three children has been the highlight of his holiday seasons these past twenty years or so. He was surprised to learn that the show would entail singing and dancing as well as acting, but he showed up to audition anyway. Dean is honored to have been selected for the role of Bob Cratchit as one of the many things he does is work with Maryland's local governments and non-profits on energy efficiency programs that benefit low and moderate income people. Dean raises his cup to all who have supported, indulged, and enabled his desire to be in this play. Bless us all!



**VAN FISHER**  
(*The Mistletoe Man*)

Van is excited to have his first-ever acting role in this year's *A Christmas Carol*. He has really enjoyed getting to the know

The Colonial Players community through his participation in this play. Van plays lacrosse and attends Broadneck High School. "I wish the merriest of Christmases to you and yours."



**PATTI GRIEB**  
(*Party Guest*)

Patti joins the cast of Colonial Players' *A Christmas Carol* for the 14th time in the last 20 years.

This year, she appears as Party Guest, Bump Woman, and Mean Aunt. Over the years of participating in this production, Patti has played many roles, including Mrs. Fred, Mrs. Fezziwig, Charwoman, Laundress, and, two years ago, Ghost of Christmas Past. When not performing her full-time job as office manager for a busy dental practice, Patti enjoys travel,



## THE CAST (continued)

Academy of Ballet in Purchase, NY. She has also danced in many of the Academy Ballet School's productions, and most recently she was Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*. She has never been part of any Colonial Players productions before, but would like to thank her ballet teacher, Mrs. Razzetti, as well as Mrs. Youmans for giving her the opportunity to be a part of something so special.



**ALLISON VALLIANT**  
(*Laundress*)

Allison is thrilled to be a part of the cast of *A Christmas Carol*. This is her first production with the Colonial Players. Allison, who has a B.A. in theater, is a 2010 graduate of Washington College, where she was cast in numerous roles, including Mrs. Miller in *Doubt*, Helen in *Fat Pig*, and a Protean in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, to name a few. She would like to thank her parents, sister, other family, and friends for being so supportive

and as excited as she was to have gotten the chance to be a part of this show.



**SARAH WADE**  
(*Charwoman*)

Sarah is very pleased to be back in *A Christmas Carol* as the Charwoman. She was most recently seen on the CP stage as

Catherine Donahue in *These Shining Lives*. Prior to that, she had the pleasure of performing at Dignity Players as Lisa Morrison in *Collected Stories*. Back on the CP stage, she was the Star to Be in *Annie*, Jessica in *Communicating Doors*, and before that, Kitty in *Taking Steps*. At Compass Rose Theater, she appeared as Bet and the Strawberry Seller in *Oliver!* and sound designer for their productions of *The Miracle Worker* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. She would like to thank Lois Evans and Carol Cohen for teaching her so much, Eric for everything, and her friends and family for always understanding that, "I can't, I have rehearsal."



## THE STAFF



**ERIC GASIOR**  
(*Lighting Designer*)

Eric is proud to be working with The Colonial Players on his second production after designing lights for last

summer's One-Act Festival, *This or That*. Other credits include lighting design in Baltimore with the Yellow Sign Theatre (*Darkspell*) and Fluid Movement (*Hound Dog Crew*, *Gliteracy: A Book Review*). He worked on the tech crew in Washington for The Rude Mechanicals (*Henry VI*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*). Since 2009, he has been the technical director for Balticon, the largest Mid-Atlantic literary science fiction convention, and was the technical director for the North American Discworld Convention in 2013. In his spare time, he is a systems engineer at Millennial Media in Baltimore.



**CONSTANCE ROBINSON**  
(*Properties Designer*)

In past years, Connie has volunteered as marketing assistant and graphic designer for Colonial Players in addition

to manning the phone at the box office. In 2013, she worked as properties designer for *Collected Stories* with Dignity Players. For the 2013-14 CP season, she enjoyed being the properties designer for *In The Next Room, Or The Vibrator Play*; the sold-out musical *Annie*; and *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. She was properties designer for *Rocket Man*, the opening production of the current season. "It is a pleasure working again with Director Carol Youmans for this wonderful musical." Connie thanks her husband, John, for his support, and also appreciates when family and friends donate props.



## THE CAST (continued)

loves to help her clients find new homes. Kaitlin would like to dedicate this performance to Kevin and Baxter.



### ANDREW "DREW" SHARPE (*Scrooge as a boy, Turkey Boy*)

Drew (age 12) is excited to be performing in his third production of *A Christmas Carol* with The Colonial Players.

He has also appeared as Tiny Tim (2012) and Boy Ebenezer (2010). His other theater credits include: Young Abel, Storyteller in *Children of Eden* (2014) with 2nd Star Productions in Bowie; Amahl in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (2013) with Opera AACC (Anne Arundel Community College); the Narrator in *Into the Woods* (2013) with Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre; Thomas in *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You* (2013) with Bay Theatre Company. Drew is a chamber singer with the All Children's Chorus of Annapolis; he also likes to play the piano and trumpet. Outside of the arts, he's an active 6th grader. He would like to thank his directors for this opportunity and his family for all their support! Happy Holidays!



### DEB SOLA (*Mrs. Fezziwig*)

Deb is thrilled to be joining The Colonial Players as Mrs. Fezziwig for this, her first production with the company, as well as

her first experience performing in a theater-in-the-round! Deb has performed with 2nd Star Productions with ensemble roles in *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Hello, Dolly!* Deb plays a "Geek" during the day in her role as a high school computer science teacher and loves being back on the stage again! Many moons ago, she participated in high school, college, and community productions. Her years of dedication as a church musician, cantor, and prior member of the Columbia Pro-Cantare choir have helped to keep her vocal chops up. She considers herself a "Top-Chef" in her own kitchen and lives to travel. Hugs and love to my supportive husband and family who make every day of my life joyous!



### DANIEL STARNES (*Peter Cratchit, Dick Wilkins*)

Daniel, an 11th grade honor roll student at Southern High School, is proud to make his fifth consecutive appearance

in CP's *A Christmas Carol*. He continues toward his goal of one day appearing in every speaking male role in this endearing Annapolis tradition. Daniel has appeared in various local theater productions. Some of his recent and favorite roles have been Abel/Japheth in *Children of Eden* and Barnaby in *Hello, Dolly!*, both at 2nd Star, 9 to 5 at Southern High School, Leather Apron in *1776* at Colonial Players, Ren in *Footloose* at AACC Kids in College, and Freidrich in *The Sound of Music* at Compass Rose Theater. When not onstage, Daniel loves ping-pong, DC Comics, and video games. Daniel would like to thank the wonderful CP production staff and his teachers, friends, and family who support his acting addiction/hobby.



### FRED TAYLOR (*Ghost of Jacob Marley, First Gentlemen*)

Fred is thrilled to return to the Colonial Players stage, where he has appeared in *A Christmas Carol*

as well as *1776*, *Busie Body*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Rebecca*, and *Arcadia*. He has also performed with Pasadena Theatre Company. He failed retirement in 1996 and is currently the courtside announcer for UMBC's basketball programs, a tour guide with Watermark, and the official Town Crier for Annapolis. He dedicates his performance to: "My entire support team from Catonsville to Durham. NC and everywhere in between, especially my eight grandchildren. Love you ALL. And to Carol, and her entire production team, backstage crew, and terrific cast, a gazillion thank yous. God Bless Everyone! Merry Christmas!"



### ANNA THOMAS (*Belle Phantom, Choreographer*)

Anna Thomas is a 17-year-old senior at Broadneck High School. She has lived in Annapolis for 12 years and has danced with The

Academy Ballet School for the past 10 years. This summer she danced with the American



## THE CAST (continued)

Jazzercise, and spending time with her hubby, four children, and six grandchildren. She would like to thank all of the production staff, cast, and crew for another wonderful production.



### ANNA GRACE KELLER (*Belinda Cratchit*)

Anna Grace is a seventh-grade student attending Severna Park Middle School. She was just five years old when she appeared

in her first musical, *School House Rock*. Anna Grace continued acting and appeared in musical performances, including *Annie JR* and *Mulan JR*. Her inaugural Colonial Players' performance was as Duffy in *Annie*. She is an accomplished pianist and flutist. Anna Grace enjoys playing goalie for her select A division field hockey team, is an avid ski racer, and loves fostering animals for the SPCA. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support.



### ALLISON MARTIN (*Martha Cratchit*)

Alley is very excited to be in her first show at Colonial Players as Martha Cratchit. Alley is a junior at Southern High School.

Some of her credits include Judy Bernly in *9 to 5*, Rita in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, the Witch in *Into the Woods*, and Gertrude McFuzz in *Seussical*. Alley would like to thank her family, friends, and fellow cast members for all of their ongoing support.



### KATHERINE MCMORROW (*Belle*)

Katie is very excited to be joining The Colonial Players family with her first appearance in our production of *A Christmas Carol*.

Primarily a vocalist, she has performed with various bands and choruses around Maryland. Sixteen years old, she performs with her school, South River High School, in *Rock and Soul Revue*. She is pleased to take on a serious acting role at Colonial Players.



### KAELYNN MILLER (*Mrs. Cratchit*)

Kaelynn is delighted to be a part of her second *A Christmas Carol* production. Favorite onstage credits at CP include *Annie*

(Grace Farrell), *1776* (Martha Jefferson), and *Moonlight and Magnolias* (Miss Poppenghul), with behind-the-scenes credits on too many shows to count. Last year, Kaelynn was nominated for two Washington Area Theatre Community Honors awards: one for her portrayal as Martha Jefferson and one for the craziest costume creations ever in *Shipwrecked!* At CP, Kaelynn serves as treasurer and membership chair. She pays her bills by working as a customer service representative in the music industry, which actually sort of relates to her Bachelor's degree in Music and Vocal Performance. Kaelynn wishes a Christmas season full of hot cocoa and hippopotamusesses to all the people who make her smile on a daily basis.



### AVA PHILLIPS (*Fanny*)

This is Ava's first performance with Colonial Players. She spends a lot of time in the performing arts world. Along with playing

the violin, flute, and piano, she sings and has participated in various choral groups. Her acting experience includes summer programs and workshops at Childrens Theatre of Annapolis. Ask her and she will tell you, "I love acting."



### KAITLIN SHANNON (*Fred's Wife*)

Kaitlin is thrilled to be making her Colonial Players debut in *A Christmas Carol*! She's also very excited to be sharing the

stage again with her stepfather, Greg Anderson. Kaitlin is so glad to be returning to the theater after being away from it for far too long. She's been seen in previous productions with 2nd Star and PGLT and has worked with her sister, Tiffany Shannon, at the Children's Theatre of Annapolis. She would like to thank the cast and crew for a wonderful experience and for such a fun way to spend this festive time of year! When she's not performing, Kaitlin works as a Realtor and

THE COLONIAL  
PLAYERS, INC.  
*presents*



*Book and Lyrics by*  
**RICHARD WADE**

*Music by*  
**DICK GESSNER**

*Directed by*  
**CAROL YOUMANS**

### TIME AND PLACE

The play takes place in the streets of Victorian London and in the counting house and bedchamber of Ebenezer Scrooge. In the revelations of the ghosts and in Scrooge's memory, we are transported to times and places of Scrooge's past, present and future.

*Produced by special arrangement with the authors.*  
Taking photographs and using any recording devices are strictly prohibited.  
Smoking is prohibited throughout the building.

### THE CAST *(in order of appearance)*

*Bob Cratchit*.....Dean Fisher  
*Ebenezer Scrooge*.....Michael Dunlop  
*Nephew Fred*.....Steve Baird  
*First Gentleman*.....Fred Taylor  
*Second Gentleman*.....Greg Anderson  
*Mistletoe Man*.....Van Fisher  
*Ghost of Jacob Marley*.....Fred Taylor  
*Ghost of Christmas Past*.....Kirsti Dixon  
*Scrooge as a Boy*.....Andrew Sharpe  
*Fanny*.....Ava Phillips  
*Dick Wilkins*.....Daniel Starnes  
*Young Scrooge*.....Steve Baird  
*Mr. Fezziwig*.....Peter Eglitis  
*Mrs. Fezziwig*.....Deb Sola  
*Belle*.....Katherine McMorrow  
*Belle Phantom*.....Anna Thomas  
*Fanny Phantom*.....Kaitlyn Alsina (Nov. 28-30),  
Remy Browne (Dec. 4-14)  
*Ghost of Christmas Present*.....Greg Anderson  
*Mrs. Cratchit*.....Kaelynn Miller  
*Belinda Cratchit*.....Anna Grace Keller  
*Peter Cratchit*.....Daniel Starnes  
*Martha Cratchit*.....Allison Martin  
*Tim Cratchit*.....Mackenzie Currie  
*Fred's Wife*.....Kaitlin Shannon  
*Party Guest*.....Patti Grieb  
*Party Guest*.....Doug Dillner  
*Undertaker's Man*.....Doug Dillner  
*Laundress*.....Allison Valliant  
*Charwoman*.....Sarah Wade  
*Third Gentleman*.....Peter Eglitis  
*Turkey Boy*.....Andrew Sharpe