



Fine Arts Center  
COLORADO SPRINGS  
Theatre Company

30 West Dale Street  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903  
Box Office: 719.634.5583  
Tickets: [csfineartscenter.org](http://csfineartscenter.org)

## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** **Dickens' classic destined to become a FAC holiday tradition**

**COLORADO SPRINGS** (Nov. 6, 2007) – The holidays are the perfect time of the year for a family reunion, so the Fine Arts Center Theatre Company is bringing together some of Colorado Springs' best known and best loved local actors and actresses to stage a holiday classic, *A Christmas Carol*.

The story tells the tale of Scrooge, a businessman who makes some bad choices in life, becomes a miser and is then visited by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future.

The show opens Nov. 30 and runs through Dec. 23 at the SaGāJi Theatre at 30 West Dale Street.

"It is a faithful retelling of the story," said director **Susan Dawn Carson**, who acted as the Baker's Wife in the FAC production of *Into the Woods* last season and is a "Broadway Expatriate" having starred as Fantine in *Les Miserables* and Norma Desmond in *Sunset Boulevard* on the Great White Way.

"I am very lucky," she said. "The design team is amazing. The music is beautiful. The play does have moments of darkness, but it's darkly funny, magical and mysterious.

"Plus, we have a terrific cast; our audiences will recognize many of their favorite local actors on stage."

The lead role of Scrooge is played by the affable **Bob Rais**, who most recently was seen in TheatreWorks' productions of *Hamlet*, *Antonio's Revenge*, and *Zorro*. Rais, formerly the Artistic Director for the Star Bar Players in Colorado Springs, has appeared in 75 productions, numerous TV and radio commercials and the feature film, "Day of the Dead."

**Steve Emily**, the Jerome family father from *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, tackles the pivotal role of Jacob Marley. **Michael Augenstein** is Bob Crachit. He has appeared on the SaGāJi Theatre stage in *Little Shop of Horrors*, *1940s Radio Hour* and *She Loves Me*.

The cast includes the 2007 Pikes Peak Art Council award winners for Best Actor and Best Actress, **David Hastings** for his role in Star Bar Player's *Night and Her Stars* and **Sally Hybl** for her performance as Cinderella in the FAC production of *Into the Woods*. Hastings also earned the Best Actor award from the Gazette for the same role. Hastings plays three roles and Hybl is Mrs. Crachit.

**Mallory** and **Logan Hybl**, Sally's children, are also in the cast. Mallory plays Tiny Tim and Logan is Albert Crachit. In fact, the cast has 10 young actors, many of whom were taught by Susan Dawn Carson in the FAC Youth Rep Theatre program.

**Marco Robinson**, who just completed a successful run as Eugene in Brighton Beach Memoirs, will show off his talents in musical theatre as Young Scrooge, a pivotal role that propels the storyline via flashbacks and includes a lovely duet with Belle (**Natalie Jensen**), Scrooge's love interest as a young man.

There are numerous versions of the Charles Dickens' novella. The FAC is pulling out all of the stops with a musical version with a large cast (26), playing numerous parts in a true ensemble with a five-piece orchestra that features **Fred Martinez** playing the woodwinds for the FAC now for his 37th season.

For this version the world-renowned Academy Award-winning composer Michel Legrand teamed with Sheldon Harnick, one of the theatre's most celebrated Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize winning librettists, and the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge's prophetic Christmas Eve is reborn. From the pages of Dickens comes this scintillating musical adaptation of the Yuletide classic that continues to touch hearts and minds the world over. This universal story is ultimately one of family and conscience, of desperation and regret and second chances.

Legrand has earned three-time Academy Awards from 16 nominations, three Grammy Awards and an Emmy for his work in scoring movies and musicals. Harnick with writing partner Jerry Bock earned the Pulitzer Prize for writing the book for *Fiorello!* and a Tony Award for *Fiddler on the Roof*. The duo wrote *She Loves Me*, which was a big hit for the FAC Theatre Company two seasons ago.

"It bursts out as a real musical should ... the lyrics are, by turns, playful and tender." – *The New York Times*  
"Theatrical magic." – *New Haven Register* / "A buoyant, tuneful show." – *Worcester Telegram*

### Tickets and Show times

Thursday	7:30 p.m.	\$26 FAC members; \$28 non-members; \$30 at the door
Friday/Saturday	8:00 p.m.	\$28 FAC members; \$30 non-members; \$31 at the door
Sunday	2:00 p.m.	\$28 FAC members; \$30 non-members; \$31 at the door

For *A Christmas Carol*, the FAC is offering a **Special Family Matinee** on Saturdays at 3 p.m. (Dec. 8, 15, 22). The Special Family Matinee is a condensed version of the show, designed for families at a reduced rate. More information concerning tickets sales for individuals or groups, pre-theatre dining and the Curtain Call Society can be found at [csfineartscenter.org](http://csfineartscenter.org) or by calling the FAC Box Office at **719.634.5583**.

### Upcoming Productions

- **Sunday in the Park with George** | January 25 - February 17
- **Defending the Caveman** | Feb. 22-23
- **Fuddy Meers** | March 21 – April 6
- **Beauty and the Beast** | May 9 – June 1

*A Christmas Carol* is sponsored by Harry & Joan Hoth and Alan & Barbara Steiner.  
The 2007-2008 Theatre Season is sponsored by the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado,  
the El Pomar Foundation and The Independent.  
The Special Family Matinees are sponsored by the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado.

## **ABOUT THE FINE ARTS CENTER**

Founded in 1936, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center is a privately funded, non-profit art museum, performing arts theatre, and arts education center. A two-story, 48,000 square-foot expansion was unveiled in August 2007 which complements the original 1936 John Gaw Meem building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Visit [www.csfineartscenter.org](http://www.csfineartscenter.org).