



KANSAS CITY REPERTORY THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kansas City Repertory Theatre's
A Christmas Carol in
GRAND RE-OPENING of NEWLY
RENOVATED Spencer Theatre
Nov. 20 through Dec. 24, 2015

Kansas City, MO (Oct. 28, 2015) – Kansas City Repertory Theatre continues its 2015-16 season with the beloved holiday classic, Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, adapted for the stage by Barbara Fields and directed by Kansas City Repertory Theatre's Producing Director Jerry Genochio. Performances run November 20 through December 24 at the NEWLY RENOVATED Spencer Theatre. Kansas City's favorite holiday tradition is back for its 35th season, and the magnificent new Spencer Theatre promises an experience that's more magical than ever. Come share the joy of the holiday season, as our theatre transforms into a page right out of the classic tale by Charles Dickens. Richly textured sets, ornate costumes and spectacular special effects will transport the entire family into the tale of the grumpy Ebenezer Scrooge, who requires the intervention of a few ghostly guides to find the true meaning of Christmas – and life itself. Opening night is Saturday, November 28th at 8:00 pm. Past production high resolution photos can be found [here](#) .

The newly renovated Spencer Theatre will celebrate its grand reopening with *A Christmas Carol*, Kansas City's favorite holiday tradition. The theatre underwent a substantial \$5.6 million renovation with significant improvements which will enhance the audience experience including the installation of new lighting and acoustic technology, a new stage floor, new carpet and chair coverings inside the theatre, and 5,500-square-feet of new construction, including new restrooms, second floor lounge, and a beautiful expansion of the lobby of the performing arts center. Further upgrades include state-of-the-art technology for the lobby, permanent signage on the exterior of the building, and enhanced sound equipment and new headsets for the theatre's assisted listening system. Little had been done to modernize the space since it opened in 1979. Spencer Theater is located in UMKC's James C. Olson Performing Arts Center on the Volker campus.

This huge production features a cast of more than a hundred Kansas City professional actors, designers and production staff, including UMKC Theatre faculty and graduate students and children and young performers from throughout the metropolitan area.

Jerry Genochio (Director) leads the production and artistic teams and is responsible for mounting all productions as well as season budgets, calendars and planning. Before joining the team at KC Rep, Genochio served as production manager for Alabama Shakespeare Festival, PlayMakers Repertory Company, Sacramento Theatre Company and Southwest Missouri State University. He also spent ten seasons as Scenery Director for the Utah Shakespearean Festival and served as Technical Director at Illinois State University, Lafayette College, and Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and toured nationally with Minneapolis' Children's Theatre Company. Genochio has an MFA in Technical Production from Florida State University and a BS from Northwest Missouri State University.

In addition to the return of **Gary Neal Johnson** as Ebenezer Scrooge, cast members include: **Katelyn Baron** (Aunt Fezzie, Giggly), **Martin S. Buchanan** (Fred, Parent), **Jason Chanos** (Bob Cratchit/Fezzi Guest), **Walter Coppage** (Marley, Fezziwig), **Scott Cordes** (Old Joe, Fezzi Guest), **Jacob Cullum** (Young Ebenezer), **Daniel Fleming** (Bobby, Poulterer, Marley Ghost), **Peggy Friesen** (Mrs. Fezziwig, Harp), **Charles Fugate** (Dickens), **Joshua Gilman** (Albert Hall), **Colleen Grate** (Belle, Soprano), **Katie Kalahurka** (Mrs. Fred, Fezziwig Guest), **Daria LeGrand** (Fan, Fezzi Guest), **Andy Perkins** (Ghost of Christmas Future, Solicitor #3), **Samuel Salary** (Dick Wilkins, 1st Young Man), **Jonathan Schriock** (Violin), **Vanessa Severo** (Mrs. Cratchit, Fezziwig Guest), **Rusty Sneary** (Ghost of Christmas Present, Solicitor #1) **Kris Stoker** (Topper, Associate #1), **Bradley Thomas** (Marley Ghost/2nd Young Man), **Nick Uthoff** (Bed, Bass, Fezziwig Guest), **Caroline Vuchetich** (Laundress, Fezziwig Guest), **Cheryl Weaver** (Ghost of Christmas Past, Solicitor #2), **Brianna Woods** (Serious, Fezziwig Guest, Marley Ghost) and **Dianne Yvette** (Charwoman, Fezziwig Guest). Tiny Tim will be played by **Delilah Pellow** and **Owen Winkler**.

The Teen Ensemble includes: **Dylan Cooper, Francis Cooper, Lauren Daugherty, Maeve Donovan, Mary Grace Greene, Brett Gieras, Addison Landes, Cameron Mabie, Mia McManamy, Khalil Odums, Lela, Pereira, Chloe Philgreen, Margo Roberts, Victoria Schmidt, , Scottie Sharp, McKenna Shaw, Leah Slemmons, Janey Wetzel, and Terrace Wyatt.**

The Youth Ensemble is made up of : **Dominic Adams** (Want), **Sophia Adams** (Ignorance), **Maddox Bane** (Peter Crachit), **Wes Battey** (Peter Crachit), **Holly Jackson** (Martha Crachit) **Scarlet Nevins** (Ignorance), **Ellie McManamy, Sawyer Nevins** (young Scrooge), **Josephine Pellow** (Belinda Crachit), **Emerson Pereira** (Belinda Crachit), **Benjamin Priestland, Archer Schmidt** (young Scrooge), **Olivia Shackelford** (Want) , **Janey Severson, Claire Rupp, Charlie Trent, Sam Wise** (Simon).

The design and production team for **A Christmas Carol** includes **Anthony Edwards** (Music Director), **Jennifer Martin** (Choreography & Movement Coach), **Vanessa Severo** (Dance Staging), **Scott Stackhouse** (Vocal Coach), **Joshua Horvath (Sound Design), Jeffrey Cady** (Lighting & Projections), **John Ezell** (Scenic Design), **Caitlin Tuten** (Costume Supervisor & Additional Costume Design), and **Jennifer Collins** (Production Stage Manager) and **Rachel Dyer** (Assistant Stage Manager).

Performances begin Friday, Nov. 20 and run through Thursday, Dec. 24 at the newly renovated Spencer Theatre. Press night is scheduled for Opening Night Sat., Nov. 28, 8pm curtain. High res rehearsal photos can be found [here](#) . *Appropriate for ages 4 +.*

Fri., Nov. 20	8:00 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 21	8:00 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 22	7:00 p.m.
Wed. Nov. 25	7:00 p.m.
Fri., Nov. 27	2 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 28	2 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.*
Sun., Nov. 29	1 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 2	7:00 p.m.
Thurs. Dec. 3	7:00 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 4	8:00 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 5	2 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 6	1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 9	7:00 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 10	7:00 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 11	8:00 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 12	2 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 13	1 p.m & 5 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 16	7:00 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 17	7:00 p.m.
Fri. Dec. 18	8:00 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 19 2 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 20 1 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Mon. Dec. 21 7 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 22 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 23 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Thurs. Dec. 24 1 p.m & 5 p.m.
* press night

NEW GIFT SHOP

As part of the Spencer Theatre renovations, a newly expanded gift shop is now available to patrons. Many more high quality items will be available for purchase including: A Christmas Carol books, autographed posters, collectible Christmas ornaments, coloring books, and of course our famous collectible bobble heads! Other items such as limited edition glassware, clothing and more from our 2015-16 season will also be available.

Subscriptions and Tickets

Tickets to *A Christmas Carol* start at \$29. For season subscription and ticket information for the remainder of the 2015-16 season, please contact the Box Office at 816.235.2700 or visit www.KCRep.org.

Education

Approximately 10,000 students experience world class theatre at KC Rep each year. The Student Matinee Series is an affordable way for students to experience arts education through professional theatre in Kansas City. After every performance, students and teachers can enjoy a Q&A conversation with the cast. All matinee orders include one complimentary chaperone ticket for every ten students, a study guide for students.

Student Matinee Series: Student Matinees of *A Christmas Carol* will be performed on Fri., Nov. 20; Tues., Nov. 24; Tues., Dec. 1; Wed., Dec. 2; Thurs., Dec. 3; Tues., Dec. 8; Wed., Dec. 9; Thurs., Dec. 10; Tues, Dec. 15; Wed., Dec. 16 and Thurs., Dec. 17 at 10:30 a.m. Student tickets are \$20 and include a pre-show class orientation, learning guide and post-performance Q. and A. with the cast. Order forms are available at www.kcrep.org or by emailing owensaa@kcrep.org.

Gala 2016

Save the date for Friday, May 20, 2016 at the newly renovated Spencer Theatre! Last year's Fearless Fête raised more than \$655,000 which helps ensure that KC Rep can continue to create professional productions that garner regional and national acclaim and provide lifelong learning opportunities through our Education and Community Programs which benefit more than 10,000 Kansas City area students each year. For more information, please contact Amanda Middaugh at Middaugham@kcrep.org or 816.235.1489.

About Kansas City Repertory Theatre

Kansas City Repertory Theatre, one of the nation's oldest and most respected regional theaters, is the center of a great theatre town. KC Rep produces theatrical excellence, creating and sharing stories at the center of our nation's creative crossroads. KC Rep's mission is to advance the art form while cultivating passionate audiences, artists, and advocates to invest in our region's creative future. We build community by connecting people through productions and outreach that educate, entertain, challenge and inspire. Lauded by *The Wall Street Journal*, *TIME* magazine, *Variety* and *The Toronto Sun*, KC Rep produces mainstage plays and special events at Spencer Theatre, where it serves as the professional theatre in residence at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), and Copaken Stage located in downtown Kansas City. KC Rep employs more than 250 professional artists, technicians and administrators, and serves more than 100,000 patrons and 12,000 school children annually. Kansas City Repertory Theatre is led by Artistic Director Eric Rosen and Executive Director Angela Lee Gieras.

Social and Digital Media

Receive daily updates by 'Liking' KCRep's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/KCREP and follow KC Rep on Twitter at @KCREP or on YouTube by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/user/kansascityrep>. High resolution photos can be downloaded [here](#). B-roll is available upon request.

2015-2016 Season At A Glance Kansas City Repertory Theatre

Kansas City Repertory Theatre ticket office 816.235.2700
Purchase tickets online at www.kcrep.org.

Sunday in the Park with George

September 11- October 4, 2015 | Atkins Auditorium at the Nelson-Atkins Museum | Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim | Book by James Lapine | Directed by Eric Rosen

You've seen Georges Seurat's famous painting, but have you heard it? Those who love art, music or both are in for a rare treat as Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's stunning Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece takes the stage inside the Nelson-Atkins Museum. While Seurat works on his famous painting, we see the fascinating drama of his life unfold around him. Savor the Grammy award-winning score that moves the audience through time as we celebrate life, love and the creation of art.

"An audacious, haunting, and in its own intensely personal way, touching work." – *The New York Times*

Origin KC - WORLD PREMIERE

Blueprints to Freedom: An Ode to Bayard Rustin

October 16- November 15, 2015 | Copaken Stage| Written by Michael Benjamin Washington| Directed by Lucie Tiberghien| Co-production with La Jolla Playhouse

Written by and starring Michael Benjamin Washington, this story is more than relevant. It's riveting. Those who stand up for equality in 2015 are following in the footsteps of Bayard Rustin, the lesser known but powerfully influential civil rights leader who orchestrated the March on Washington and stepped forward himself as an openly gay man at a time when few had the courage to do so. In this ode, an exiled Rustin masterminds "a tribute to the ancestors" 100 years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

A Christmas Carol

November 20 - December 24, 2015 | GRAND RE-OPENING of Spencer Theatre | Written by Charles Dickens / Directed by Jerry Genochio

Bah, humbug! Kansas City's favorite holiday tradition is back for its 35th season, and the magnificent new Spencer Theatre promises an experience that's more magical than ever. Come share the joy, as our theatre transforms into a page right out of Dickens. Richly textured sets, ornate costumes and spectacular special effects will transport the entire family into the tale of the grumpy Ebenezer Scrooge, who requires the intervention of a few ghostly guides to find the true meaning of Christmas – and life itself.

The Santaland Diaries

December 3- December 24, 2015 | Copaken Stage | Written by David Sedaris | Directed by Eric Rosen

Leave the kids at home for this hilariously irreverent holiday show. It's David Sedaris' side-splitting send-up of Christmas and his brief, misguided career as a Macy's elf. Featuring an uproarious soundtrack of holiday tunes, *The Santaland Diaries* skewers everything we love (and secretly loathe) about the holidays. See what it's like for the subversive to work at Santaland, where the only thing more plentiful than good cheer is a good case of the giggles.

"...lots of acerbic asides, plenty of irony and numerous chuckles thanks to the incongruous humor of an embittered elf holding back the curtain for us to see the grimy reality of creating 'holiday magic.'" – *Kansas City Star*

The Diary of Anne Frank

January 29 – February 21, 2016 | Spencer Theatre | Written by Frances Goodrich & Albert Hackett | Newly Adapted by Wendy Kesselman | Directed by Marissa Wolf

The most personal aspects of Anne Frank's story went untold until newly discovered writings became part of a mesmerizing Pulitzer-Prize winning play, adapted for our stage by Wendy Kesselman. Peer into the world of a family in hiding and a gifted young writer who came of age during the horrors of the Holocaust. This adaptation weaves together Anne's reflections with

actual survivor accounts to tell the chilling story of Nazi persecution and the prevailing hopes of a girl who – despite everything – inspired generations with her unwavering faith in humanity.

"A powerful new version that moves the audience to gasp, then tears." —Associated Press.

WORLD PREMIERE

Roof of the World

February 26 – March 27, 2016 | Copaken Stage | Written by D. Tucker Smith| Directed by Eric Rosen

Part spy thriller, part Downton Abbey, this world premiere production is an epic love story about a British explorer and an Indian spy during Queen Victoria's rule. This high speed, sweeping drama takes you into uncharted territory (quite literally), where suspense and romance keep your pulse racing and your knees weak. It's fun, sexy, edge-of-your seat excitement that will leave you breathless from the exhilaration of a grand overseas adventure.

The Fantasticks

March 18 – April 10, 2016 | Spencer Theatre | Book and Lyrics by Tom Jones| Music by Harvey Schmidt | Directed by Jerry Genochio

It's the longest-running musical in history for a reason. This is theatre magic in its purest form, with clever props, snappy dialogue, plot twists and the mesmerizing performances of a stunningly talented cast. The delightful drama starts as a tale about a boy and a girl whose fathers lovingly hatch a plan to bring them together. But when the sly El Gallo steps in to assist, the young lovers experience the harsh realities of life before wising up to the world and fully realizing their love. A small cast never made such a big impression. Don't miss it.

Origin KC- New Works Festival

Two WORLD PREMIERES presented in rotating repertory
April 22- May 22, 2016 | Copaken Stage | Curated by Marissa Wolf

Fire in Dreamland

Written by Rinne Goff | Directed by Marissa Wolf

Moments after you've settled into your seat, this coming-of-age story grabs you with such intensity that you can't look away. A world premiere from celebrated playwright Rinne Groff (*Saved!*, *Compulsion*), it's the story of a modern-day young woman named Kate who is seduced by the vision of a Dutch filmmaker obsessed with the tragic 1911 fire on Coney Island. Past and present converge against a destructive backdrop, and when Kate finally sees the illusion of filmmaking – and of life with an inattentive lover – she rediscovers her ambitions as an independent woman.

Lot's Wife

Written by Eric Rosen

You're at times inside the play, at times behind the scenes, all the while wondering whether the story is actually a murder confession. This world premiere production from KC Rep Artistic Director Eric Rosen centers on Adam Mace, a promising playwright

with a troubling past who has written his first new play since the tragic deaths of his wife and infant child. Set as a 1930s noir thriller, the script opens old wounds between ex-friends and lovers as actors are made to play themselves, and even the dead take the stage to tell their side of the story in an epic meta-theatrical murder mystery that is both heartbreaking and hilarious.

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**Please direct all media inquiries to: Ellen McDonald at 816.444.0052,
816.213.4355 (cell) or publicity@kcrep.org.**

For further information, please visit our Web site at www.kcrep.org.

For Tickets: 816.235.2700 or www.kcrep.org.



The KCRep logo is prominently displayed on the left. To its right, a grid of eight production cards is shown, each with a title and dates. The cards are: 'SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE' (SEP 11 - OCT 4, 2015), 'BLUEPRINTS TO FREEDOM AN ODE TO BAYARD RUSTIN' (OCT 16 - NOV 15, 2015), 'A Christmas Carol' (NOV 20 - DEC 24, 2015), 'SANTALAND DIARIES' (DEC 3 - 24, 2015), 'THE MARY OF ANNE FRANK' (JAN 29 - FEB 21, 2016), 'ROOF OF THE WORLD' (FEB 26 - MAR 27, 2016), 'FANTASTICKS' (MAR 18 - APR 10, 2016), and 'NEW WORKS FESTIVAL' (APR 22 - MAY 22, 2016).

NEW LOOK : NEW SEASON! SEASON TICKETS ON SALE NOW at 816.235.2700 or visit KCRep.org.
