A CHRISTMAS CAROL

KANSAS CITY'S FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITION COMES DIRECTLY TO YOU

Cover photos by Don Ipock
Double your gift by Dec. 9!

More than Just a Stage... it’s Your Community.

With programs like **Ghost Light: A Haunted Night of Songs and Stories from KC’s Cultural Crossroads** on public lawns and **A Christmas Carol** on digital platforms, it’s clear that KCRep’s stage is wherever you, our patrons, are. *We’re not just a stage, but a community.* KCRep is a community of theatre lovers, and you’re part of it!

Can you make a donation to help KCRep?

Great news! The Victor E. and Caroline E. Schutte Foundation will match all contributions made by December 9, dollar-for-dollar, up to $50,000. By acting now, your Christmas gift to KCRep will make it possible for us to act later – creating theatre beyond this holiday season!

Now you can play a key role in the future of American theatre by taking your place as a member of KCRep’s Planned Giving Society. Take your place in the spotlight by sharing your plans with Carrie Lenahan at LenahanC@KCRep.org or 816-235-5420.
in partnership with Kansas City PBS presents

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Sponsored By

CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE FUND
MILLER & JEANETTE NICHOLS

William T. Kemper
Fund for Classic Theatre

Cast

Stave 1................................................................. Walter Coppage
Stave 2............................................................... Vanessa Severo
Stave 3.................................................................. Bri Woods
Stave 4 & 5 ............................................................ Gary Neal Johnson

Musicians

Music Director and Pianist .................................. Anthony Edwards
Harpist ................................................................. Peggy Friesen
Violinist ............................................................... Jonathan Shriock

Artistic Team

Directed and Adapted by .................................... Stuart Carden
Edited by............................................................ Brad Austin
Costume Design .................................................... Jenny Green
Location Art Design.............................................. Grace Hudson
Music Recorded by ............................................. Miles Mosher and Dylan Young
Music and Sound Editing..................................... Anthony Edwards
Happy Holidays,

This time last year, in my first season as Artistic Director, I welcomed audiences to nearly every performance of *A Christmas Carol*, and we played a game. I posed the question, “who has experienced KCRep’s *A Christmas Carol* before today?” Nearly every adult hand thrust into the air. I then asked, “Who has come for five years… ten, fifteen, twenty years?” A third of the hands remained proudly raised.

“Twenty-five years, thirty years?” Spontaneous applause would build as we advanced. “Who has attended *A Christmas Carol* for THIRTY-FIVE YEARS?” Each night, applause erupted as we discovered at least one person who made us part of their lives for nearly four decades. This included a married couple, who first attended on a date night — now celebrating their 36th straight year. There’s also the grandmother, who first attended in high school and continues the tradition by filling an entire row with children and grandchildren. These magical moments sparked joy, and exemplify how much this tradition means to our community.

Keeping the tradition alive, despite the pandemic, became a beacon for us. We were compelled to reimagine a safe and meaningful way for artists and audiences to find inspiration in this story yet again.

Charles Dickens helped. After tracking down the “prompt book” from his 1867-1868 European and American tours, an idea sparked. We’ll feature storytellers sharing Dickens’ words directly with you! Kansas City’s own Walter Coppage, Vanessa Severo, Bri Woods, and beloved Scrooge, Gary Neal Johnson, became enthusiastically engaged along with our talented musical trio: Anthony T. Edwards, Peggy Friesen, and Jonathan Schriock. Suddenly this spark of an idea caught flame!

That flame now dances in the fireplace below a festively dressed mantle as we invite you to gather around the hearth to experience the miraculous story of Ebenezer Scrooge.

My profound appreciation goes out to our resilient staff, artists, and artisans who overcame obstacles with generosity and grace. Their spirit and resolve to share this story with you is an inspiration.

Filmed in partnership with our friends at KCPBS and Proximity, against the handsome backdrop of Vaile Mansion, and with lead sponsorship from USBank and the Celebrating our Heritage Fund—Miller & Jeannette Nichols, we are so moved and grateful that you’ve joined us for our landmark 40th anniversary production.

And now, please lean forward to experience, Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*.
Charles Dickens was a British novelist, journalist, editor, illustrator and social commentator who wrote such beloved classic novels as Oliver Twist, A Christmas Carol, Nicholas Nickleby, David Copperfield, A Tale of Two Cities and Great Expectations.

Dickens is remembered as one of the most important and influential writers of the 19th century. Among his accomplishments, he has been lauded for providing a stark portrait of the Victorian-era underclass, helping to bring about social change.

**QUICK FACTS**

- Worked in boot-polish factory
- London newspaper reporter
- Published 15 novels
- Wrote *A Christmas Carol* in six weeks
- Sketched under name "Boz"
WALTER COPPAGE

GARY NEAL JOHNSON

KCREP: *Death of a Salesman* (Willy Loman), *Give ‘Em Hell, Harry* (Harry Truman), *Oleanna* (John), *M. Butterfly* (Gallimard), *Royal Hunt of the Sun* (Pizarro), *Treasure Island* (Long John Silver), *Bus Stop* (Virgil), *A Delicate Balance* (Harry), *Of Mice and Men* (George), *August: Osage County* (Charlie), *The Drawer Boy* (Morgan), *Nicholas Nickleby* (Squeers), *King Lear* (Gloucester), *Julius Caesar* (Caesar), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Mushnik), *Cabaret* (Herr Schultz), *The Fantisticks* (Hucklebee), *Last Days of Summer* (Rabbi Lieberman), among others. Local: *A Lie of the Mind*, *A Number*, *The Mousetrap*, *A Lesson from Aloes*, *Morning’s At Seven*, among others (KCAT); *King Lear* (Lear), *Merchant of Venice* (Shylock), among others (Heart of America Shakespeare Festival); *Wizard of Oz* (Wizard), *Annie* (FDR) (Starlight Theatre); *Fiddler on the Roof* (Tevye, Spinning Tree Theatre); *Hello, Dolly* (Vandergelder: Musical Theatre Heritage); Regional: Goodman Theatre (Chicago), ACT (San Francisco), Shakespeare Theatre Company (D.C.), Utah Shakespeare Festival, Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre. Awards: Dean Goodman Award for best supporting actor (San Francisco) 2006. AEA Member.
Vanessa Severo

**KCreP:** Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Frida...A Self Portrait, Sex with Strangers, Vanya Sonia Masha and Spike, August: Osage County, Cabaret, Roof of The World, Lot’s Wife, A Christmas Story: The Musical, A Christmas Carol. **Local:** Desdemona, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, Death And The Maiden, Blithe Spirit, Taking Sides, and Hamlet (KCAT); The Revolutionists, Venus In Fur; Men on Boats, Motherf**kerwith the Hat, The Clean House (Unicorn Theatre); Much Ado About Nothing, Twelfth Night (Heart of America Shakespeare Festival); The Miracle Worker (The Coterie); Annapurna, Black Bird, Burn This (The Living Room Theatre); Black Pearl Sings!, West Side Story (Spinning Tree Theatre).

Ms. Severo has studied at Missouri State University, as well as The American Conservatory Theatre, San Francisco. She is the recipient of the TCG 11th Round of the Fox Foundation resident Actor Fellowships, 2017. She has performed for the past 12 seasons at Kansas City Repertory Theatre, and is certified in Suzuki Method, and Viewpoints under the instruction of Ellen Lauren, SITI company. She is the playwright and actor of Frida...A Self Portrait (2020 Kilroys List) a one woman production about the tumultuous and brilliant life of Frida Kahlo.
BRI WOODS

**KCRep:** School Girls; or the African Mean Girls Play, Welcome to Fear City, Between the Lines, A Raisin in the Sun, A Christmas Carol. **Local:** Who’s Your Baghdaddy, or How I started the Iraq War (Unicorn Theatre); The Ballad of Lefty and Crabbe (The Living Room Theatre). **Regional:** Harvey, Angel Street (Kansas Classical Rep).

**Education:** University of Kansas. AEA Member.
ANTHONY EDWARDS

KCREp (Music Director/Pianist): A Christmas Carol, Fun Home, Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street, Side by Side by Sondheim, Evita, The Fantasticks, Sunday in the Park with George, Hair: Retrospection (Music Director/Keyboards), A Little More Alive (Keyboard/Orchestra Contractor), The Tallest Tree in the Forest (Orchestra Contractor), Little Shop of Horrors (Music Director, Conductor/Keyboards), Cabaret (Music Director, Conductor/Pianist, Orchestra Contractor), Into the Woods (Assistant Music Director/Conductor, Orchestra Contractor). Local: Resident Musical Director for Starlight Theatre, The Coterie, Unicorn Theatre, All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, Eventology Events. Additional Local: New Theatre, Quality Hill Playhouse, Theatre in the Park, Late Night Theatre, Musical Theater Heritage. Regional: Red Barn Theatre, Waterfront Playhouse (Key West). New York: New Victory Theatre. Mr. Edwards has served as musical director for theatres across the country including the Denver Center for the Performing Arts and is Adjunct Faculty for UMKC. Mr. Edwards is a Kurzweil-endorsed artist and is a Board Member of the AIDS Service Foundation of Kansas City. anthonyedwards.com
PEGGY FRIESEN


**Local:** Shearwater, The Grave (The Living Room Theatre); Steel Magnolias (Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre); *Morning’s at Seven, King Lear, The Mousetrap, A Lesson from Aloes, The Cripple of Inishmaan* (KCAT); *Stories My Grandmother Told Me, Little Foxes, The Dinner Party* (American Heartland Theatre); *The Clean House, Spinning into Butter, Frozen, Wit, Aunt Dan and Lemon* (Unicorn Theatre). **Regional:** Ghosts (Repertory Theatre of St. Louis); *Blithe Spirit, Hay Fever, The Tempest* (Guest Artist, Stephens College). **Upcoming:** *The Lifespan of a Fact* (Unicorn Theatre).

**Film:** *Ride with the Devil, Kansas City, King of the Hill, The Big Brass Ring, Truman, My Antonia, Sarah, Plain and Tall.*

Ms. Friesen has been the harpist for KCREP’s *A Christmas Carol* for 35 years.
JONATHAN SCHRIECK

**KCRep** (Violinist): Last Days of Summer, A Christmas Carol, Evita, Sunday in the Park with George, Cabaret. **Local:** Violinist with Stevie Wonder (Sprint Center); Tuck Everlasting (The Coterie); Hands on a Hardbody, Everyday Rapture (Unicorn Theatre); The Producers (Musical Theater Heritage); Fiddler on the Roof, West Side Story, Hello Again (Spinning Tree Theatre); Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (New Theatre); Les Misérables, Company, Chicago, The Producers, Peter Pan (Jewish Community Center, Shirley White Theatre); Legend of Zelda Symphony (KC Music Hall). **Regional:** Fiddler on the Roof (Fireside Theatre Company); A Catered Affair (Porchlight Theatre); Fiddler on the Roof, Hank Williams’ Lost Highway, Always Patsy Cline (Lyceum Theatre); Bus Stop (Sapulpa Theatre); I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change, Fiddler on the Roof (Crown Uptown Dinner Theatre); The Importance of Being Ernest (Kechi Playhouse); Killer Joe (Theatre on Consignment); Ohio Lite Opera, Light Opera of Oklahoma, Wichita Symphony. **International:** Recitals in Austria, Germany, France.
Christmas Carol Mad Libs
Fill in your own word in the blank and then sing along to your own Mad Lib Christmas Carol!

O Christmas__________, o Christmas__________,
   (noun)           (noun)
How_________________________
   (adjective)           (noun)

O Christmas__________, o Christmas__________,
   (noun)           (noun)
How_________________________
   (adjective)           (noun)

Your______________________ so____________________ in summertime
   (noun)           (adjective-color)

Stay bravely____________________ in wintertime
   (adjective-color)

O tannenbaum, o Christmas__________
   (noun)
How_____________________
   (adjective)           (noun)

Let us all____________________
   (verb)

In our____________________ giving and our____________________
   (adjective)           (emotion)

With our____________________ and____________________ and loved____________________
   (noun)           (noun)           (noun)

The real and true meaning of Christmas

The birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
A Christmas Carol Charades

Without talking, only using physical gestures, act out these phrases and see if your friends or family can guess who or what you are! To make this more challenging set a 3min timer!

Tiny Tim
Scrooge
Bob Cratchit
Ghost
Eating Christmas dinner
Sleigh
Wrapping presents
Chimney
Roasting Chestnuts
Carolers

Fireplace
Snow
Counting money
Falling in love
New Year
A banker
Ghost of Christmas Present
Want and ignorance
Christmas Shopper
Ghost of Jacob Marley

For more fun and free Christmas activities, CLICK HERE!
KCRep extends its deepest gratitude to our long-time restaurant partners, Bristol Seafood Grill and Café Trio.

Enhance your virtual *A Christmas Carol* experience this year by making the seasonal offerings from our local restaurant partners part of your cozy night in!
For over 50 years, Kansas City Repertory Theatre (KCRep)/Missouri Repertory Theatre (MRT) has been a source of inspiration to thousands of our nation’s best artists and to millions of Americans in Kansas City and beyond. KCRep productions, especially large-scale collaborations with UMKC, such as the co-production of plays in KCRep’s OriginKC: New Works Festival, provide opportunities for theatre students to work side-by-side with professional actors, designers, and directors. It is this partnership, based on a shared belief in quality education and stage artistry, which prepares students to take on the rigors and demanding standards of professional theatre.

Missouri Repertory Theatre was founded in 1964 by Dr. Patricia A. McIlrath, who is among a select few pioneers of the regional theater movement who believed that theater could change the world and could change our town. Kansas City’s citizens continue to benefit from Dr. Mac’s passionate commitment to artistic excellence, innovation, education, and community transformation. Under her direction, Kansas City’s theatre fans enjoyed many memorable shows, including an unforgettable production of *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby* in 1983.

Following Dr. Mac’s retirement in 1985, George Keathley was appointed as Artistic Director. During his tenure, and through his partnership with Executive Director James D. Costin, MRT was established as the pinnacle of artistic achievement for local theatre artists, creating a legacy of excellence through work in the civic community and with legendary MRT productions such as *Dracula* and *Richard III*.

In 2000, Peter Altman joined MRT as Artistic Director for a seven-year tenure. His vision included laying the groundwork to more aggressively promote the city as a center for nationally recognized theatre artists, and he spearheaded changing the theatre’s name to Kansas City Repertory Theatre in 2006 to help achieve this goal. He also helped create KCRep’s second permanent performance venue, Copaken Stage, in downtown Kansas City’s Power & Light District.

Eric Rosen was hired as Producing Artistic Director in 2007. During his tenure, he was instrumental in cultivating a national reputation and brand for KCRep and the city as a destination for reimagined classics such as *Into the Woods* and *Evita*, and critically-acclaimed new works, including *Venice* and *Between the Lines*.

In 2013, KCRep returned to the co-CEO structure when Rosen was partnered with Executive Director, Angela Lee Gieras. Together, they led the company through a successful campaign and renovation of Spencer Theatre, rebranded the organization, and crafted a five-year $5 million campaign that increased investment in audiences, new works, and education. The OriginKC: New Works Program, including a festival and the Monday Night Playwright Series, came to fruition.

Director, producer, and educator Stuart Carden joined KCRep as its fifth Artistic Director in September 2019. He is deeply committed to centering KCRep in this region. He looks forward to celebrating stories and creating initiatives both on stage and in the community that provide greater access and reflect the passions, curiosities, and stories of the diverse communities that make KC such a vibrant city.
Special thanks to both The Vaile Mansion and The Vaile Victorian Society for the use of our beautiful filming location.

The Harvey M. Vaile Mansion, built by Colonel and Mrs. Harvey Vaile in 1881, was “the most princely house and the most comfortable home in the entire west,” the Kansas City Times reported in 1882. Situated on North Liberty Street in Independence, MO, the three-story Gothic-like structure today sits in solitary splendor, an architectural anomaly among the surrounding Midwestern homes.

The 31 room mansion includes 9 marble fireplaces, spectacular painted ceilings, flushing toilets, a built-in 6,000 gallon water tank, and a 48,000 gallon wine cellar. This mansion is one of the best examples of Second Empire style architecture in the United States.

After Harvey Vaile’s death in 1894, the home had many uses. It was used as a private asylum and sanitarium. A mineral water company, the Vaile Pure Water Co., operated from the site soon after the turn of the century. Later it became a rest home for the aged.

In 1961 it was rescued by Roger and Mary Mildred DeWitt. They intended to restore it and live there, but Roger died unexpectedly.

And upon Mary’s death in 1983, it was given to the citizens of Independence. Her friends formed the Vaile Victorian Society in honor of her memory.

The Vaile Victorian Society accepted the responsibility to furnish the mansion in the splendor and style of the Victorian Era. The Society has been able to secure an outstanding collection of furnishings and accessories from generous individual donations.

For more information or to plan a visit, please visit the website at: www.vailemansion.org

Photo courtesy of Vaile Mansion.
SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Produced in partnership with Kansas City PBS

Kansas City PBS

Kliff Kuehl President & CEO, Kansas City PBS

Creative Director ................................................................. Cole Blaise
Creative Arts Producer .......................................................... Brad Austin
Production Manager ............................................................ Sandy Woodson
Production Company ............................................................ Proximity
Director of Photography ....................................................... Joseph Pollock
Camera Op ........................................................................... Matt Terwilliger

KCRrep Production Team

Artistic Producer ................................................................. Kim Martin-Cotten
Artistic Associate ............................................................... Yetunde Felix-Ukwu
Production Manager ............................................................ Daniel R. Earnest
Location Manager ................................................................. April Brewer
Assistant Location Manager .................................................. Amanda Arany
COVID-19 Compliance Officer ............................................ Amy M. Abels Owen

2020 • 2021 Season Underwriters

Hall Family Foundation
CORPORATE FOUNDATION
KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR ARTS
UMKC
SOS! Help KCRep meet the match and save our seats! When you make a donation by December 9, the Victor E. and Caroline E. Schutte Foundation Trust E, David W. Frantze and Bank of America, N.A., Trustees will match your donation of any size – up to $50,000!

Because of donors like you, KCRep is able to reimagine what theatre can be in the distant world that COVID-19 has made for us. Your donation ensures the ghost light is illuminating the theatre in our absence, ready to welcome us all back together when it is over.

CLICK HERE TO MAKE A DONATION

CLICK HERE FOR A LIST OF OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Kansas City Repertory Theatre is thankful for the guidance and service of our Board of Directors.

CLICK HERE FOR A LIST OF OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

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KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST KCREP NEWS!
STUART CARDEN (Artistic Director, Adapter, Film Director) begins his second year as Artistic Director of KCRep and as a proud Kansas Citian. A Christmas Carol marks his film directing debut. Earlier this season he created and directed KCRep’s first annual Ghost Light: An Evening of Haunting Songs and Stories, experienced on the lawn of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Stuart is a theatre director, producer, and educator who has worked throughout the United States creating performance experiences ranging from classic literary adaptations to intercultural drama to lo-fi/hi-imagination spectacle. He has a particular passion for creating cross-disciplinary performance and original concert-theatre hybrids that feature bands and music-making at the heart of the theatrical experience. He has developed and directed plays for many of America’s leading theatres including The Old Globe, The Lyric Opera, The Second City, The Goodman Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, New Victory Theatre, City Theatre Company, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Silk Road Rising, Victory Gardens, People’s Light, Northlight Theatre, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, ArtsEmerson, The Wallis, Philadelphia Theatre Company, and Chicago Children’s Theatre. As the Associate Artistic Director of Writers Theatre in Chicago, Stuart produced over 25 productions, advanced Writers’ new play development program, created multiple audience engagement and enrichment programs and was intimately involved in the design of the theatre’s $32 million Jeanne Gang designed theatre complex. Prior to Writers, Stuart spent two years in Pittsburgh as Associate Artistic Director of the new play theatre, City Theatre Company. With a commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusivity, Stuart has created and advocated for inclusive practices as a director as well as creating institutional initiatives and programs that prioritize inclusive spaces and activate voices and stories that need to be heard in the American theatre. His commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion is grounded in the belief that all voices deserve to be heard, lifted, and illuminated while audiences deserve to see themselves and their stories reflected on the stage. In addition to his professional accomplishments, Stuart is a committed teacher and mentor, often teaching and lecturing at institutions such as Carnegie Mellon University, DePaul University, and Loyola University, among others. Stuart holds a B.A. in Theatre from Hanover College and an M.F.A. in Directing from Carnegie Mellon University. He is a member of the Society for Stage Directors and Choreographers and represented by Beth Blickers and the Agency for Performing Arts. Stuart is married to public art curator Neysa Page-Lieberman and dad to nine-year-old twins.

ANGELA LEE GIERAS (Executive Director) Angela Lee Gieras is in her eighth season leading KCRep’s business operations. She co-leads with the artistic director to fulfill the company’s artistic vision and mission. During her career, she has overseen the production of over 50 plays including twelve world premieres with three artistic directors. A former commercial banker, Gieras began her career in arts administration at the Warehouse Theatre in Greenville, South Carolina, and went on to serve as the associate managing director of the Dallas Theater Center, where she led finance and operations and oversaw the acquisition of a new production facility. Just prior to joining KCRep, she served as director of development at Florida Theatre in Jacksonville, where she executed fundraising strategies that nearly doubled annual giving in three years. Gieras earned an MBA and MA in arts administration from Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas and a BS in finance with a minor in theatre from the University of Florida. She has guest lectured at the University of Florida, Southern Methodist University and at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Ms. Gieras serves on the board of directors for League of Resident Theatre (LORT), Theatre Communications Group (TCG) and as co-chair of the LORT Equity Diversity and Inclusion Committee. She has served as a panelist for the NEA, and the Alumni Board for SMU’s Cox School of Business. She is a founding board member for Theatre Alliance of Kansas City (TAKC) and a member of the Executive Women’s Leadership Council at the KC Chamber.
Leadership

Artistic Director .............................................................. Stuart Carden
Executive Director .......................................................... Angela Lee Gieras

Administration and Finance

Director of Finance .......................................................... Melanie Coleman
Manager, Information Services ........................................ Michelle Blaine
Finance Manager ............................................................... Caycee Garlow
General Manager ............................................................ Amy M. Abels Owen

Artistic

Associate Artistic Director – KCrep/UMKC Theatre Partnership ................................... Jason Chanos
Artistic Producer ............................................................. Kim Martin-Cotten
Artistic Associate ........................................................... Yetunde Felix-Ukwu
Production Manager ......................................................... Daniel R. Earnest
Assistant Production Manager ........................................... April Brewer
Company Manager .......................................................... Amanda Arany

Development

Director of Development ................................................... MaryLee Guthrie
Associate Director of Development .................................... Carrie Lenahan
Development Operations Manager .................................. Keri Losche Noerrlinger
Grant Writer ..................................................................... Diana Silver

Education and Community Programs

Director of Education & Community Programs .................. Melinda McCrary

Marketing and Communications

Director of Marketing & Communications ......................... Jana Liles
Associate Director of Marketing & Audience Development .... Andrew Cotlar
Digital Marketing Manager ................................................ Dayna Meyer
Social Media & Content Supervisor .................................... Jennifer Spaw
Ticketing Agent ................................................................ Claire McEwen
Public Relations (Press Contact) ......................................... Ellen McDonald
The professional theatre in residence at UMKC