

PRESS RELEASE

From: Clear Space Theatre Company
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How better to celebrate the holiday season than with the Madison Square Garden version of Charles Dickens' beloved classic, A CHRISTMAS CAROL?! Opening Friday, November 23 and running through Sunday, December 9, at Clear Space Theatre in Rehoboth Beach, A CHRISTMAS CAROL: THE MUSICAL features all the well-known characters: a curmudgeonly Scrooge, (Andy Nyland), the Ghosts of Christmases Past (Daphne Branner), Present (Drew Colegrove) and Future (Deb Mengert), longsuffering Bob Cratchit (Rick Nazzaro) and – of course! – Tiny Tim (Wyatt Stout).

But wait! A CHRISTMAS CAROL: THE MUSICAL offers even more: It features the music and lyrics of Broadway's Alan Menken and Lynn Ahrens, who gave us favorites such as *Beauty and the Beast* and *Seussical*, respectively.

Nyland, appearing in his first featured role with Clear Space, speaks to what the music adds to the well-known tale: "At its heart, this is the classic Christmas tale that people want to see. But the songs serve to move the story along and enhance it – they don't feel like pasted-in extras. This production blends the old and new together really well."

Of his own role, Nyland adds, "I've never portrayed Scrooge in a full-fledged production, though I developed the character for a radio play adaptation and I once portrayed him in a compilation piece. The challenge for me in this production is that Scrooge runs that whole arc—from "bad guy" to "good guy"—over the course of a 90-minute show. But it's not only a challenge—it's also great fun! As a character of extremes, there just are no holds barred in playing him. Scrooge's mean is the meanest and his joy – at the end – knows no bounds."

Asked what brought him – a resident of Salisbury – to pursue a role at a theater in Rehoboth Beach, Nyland explained, "What drew me initially to Clear Space Theatre Company was the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of productions, and with a large population of performers. I was particularly attracted to the theatre by its youth programs and its focus on developing rising talent; I want to contribute to those missions. The drive back and forth can be long and tiring, but my family fully supports my pursuit of opportunities with Clear Space; it's been an interesting and exciting year for all of us!"

Sponsored by Jack Lingo, REALTOR, A CHRISTMAS CAROL: THE MUSICAL runs weekends through Sunday, December 9, with Friday and Saturday performances at 7:00 pm (Friday, November 23 performance at 7:30) and Sunday performances at 3:00 pm. There also is a Thursday performance, on December 6, at 11:00 am. Tickets for all shows are \$17 - \$32, and may be purchased on-line at www.clearspacetheatre.org, or by calling the box office at 302-227-2270.