



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 7, 2008

Orange County Premiere of *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol* to take the stage at Anaheim's Chance Theater

**Guest director Tony Vezner of Concordia University to helm
Tom Mula's award-winning play in a new version**

Anaheim Hills, CA (November 7, 2008) – Artistic Director Oanh Nguyen and Managing Director Casey Long are pleased to announce the upcoming Orange County Premiere production of ***Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol* (Press Opening: November 15)** by multi-Joseph Jefferson award-winning playwright Tom Mula. The production will be helmed by veteran director Tony Vezner, Assistant Professor of Theatre at Irvine's Concordia University.

The play is a retelling of the classic Christmas story with a twist – this time we hear the tale from Scrooge's partner. Marley was dead to begin with... but when Scrooge's partner entered the afterlife, his story was only beginning a new chapter. We bring you the "real" story of [A Christmas Carol](#) - the story of Jacob Marley's heroic behind-the-scenes efforts to save old Scrooge's soul - and in the process, save his own. Irreverent, funny, and deeply moving for the whole family, you'll never watch the Dickens' tale the same way again.

Says playwright Mula of the play's origin, "The first year I played Scrooge in Chicago's Goodman Theatre's annual production of *A Christmas Carol*, my close friend and brilliant director Terry McCabe brought his children to see a matinee. At lunch afterwards, his ten-year-old daughter Hazel Flowers McCabe commented that she thought 'Jacob Marley got a raw deal,' (arranging Scrooge's ghostly visits, but remaining in chains himself). We all agreed she had a point."

Originally written for playwright Mula to perform as a solo piece, ***Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*** has also been published in a four-actor version. The Chance production will be performed by seven actors including seven year-old Rylee Montgomery as Tiny Tim and other characters.

"This play sees [A Christmas Carol](#) from a whole new perspective," said directed Vezner. "It's like the *Wicked* of the [Christmas Carol](#) story – telling us how we got where we are in that famous story. It really gets to the root of what theatre is all about – good storytelling. It relies on the actors to make the story come alive – all of the fun, pain, and the special effects too!"

Vezner continues, "It's one of the most touching stories of redemption I've read in a long time. It's got a little of all the best Christmas stories in it – a misfit angel like *It's a Wonderful Life*, a chance at a new start like *A Christmas Carol* or *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and all of the wonder of the supernatural. And great characters. And actors who fly! It really has a little bit of everything."

The cast for ***Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*** will include (in alphabetical order) Bryan Barton* (Marley), Marisa Persson (Bogle), Glenn Koppel (Scrooge), Jeff Hellebrand* (The Record Keeper, Cratchit), Bryan Seastrom (Nephew Fred, Ensemble), Alex Bueno* (Damned Woman, Ensemble) and Rylee Montgomery (Tiny Tim, Ensemble).

Creative staff and designers include Christopher Scott Murillo (Set Designer), Jeff Brewer* (Lighting Designer), Sarah LeFeber (Costume Designer), Dave Mickey (Sound Designer), Jeremy Haven (Asst. Sound Designer), David J. Dalton* (Projection Designer), Glenda Morgan Brown (Dialect Coach), Jonathan Josephson (Dramaturg), Jeanne Valleroy (Stage Manager), and Marisa Persson (Assistant Director).

PA: OC Premiere of *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol* opens at The Chance Theater on Nov. 15

** Denotes Chance Theater resident company member*

If you would like to arrange an interview with any of the creative team or cast or would like more information, reservations or complimentary press passes, please call Managing Director at Casey Long (714) 777-3033 or email him at casey@chancetheater.com.

About The Chance Theater

Voted as the #2 Live-Theater Group by *OC Register* readers for the second time in as many years, The Chance is proud to be completing its Tenth Anniversary Season as the region's leading ensemble-based theater. The Chance Theater was also recently named "Best Small Theater" by *Orange Coast Magazine*, and "Best Theater Group in OC" by *MyFoxLA*. A recipient of the 2007 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle's (LADCC) Polly Warfield Award for Excellence, a vital component of The Chance Theater's mission has always been to intimately present personally meaningful, uniquely engaging stories that promote dialogue within our community and provide a visceral experience for theatergoers. As a constituent member of Theater Communications Group (TCG) and Network of Ensemble Theaters (NET), The Chance continues to bring national attention to Southern California theater through its recent achievements, which include a 2006 GLAAD Media Award nomination for Outstanding Los Angeles Theater; recognition as the 2004 Arts Orange County Outstanding Arts Organization; and participation in the *365 Days/365 Plays* National Theater Project.

Performance & Ticket Information

Nov. 14 - Dec. 21 (Press Opening: November 15)

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol

By Tom Mula

Directed by Tony Vezner

* Orange County Premiere

Go behind-the-scenes of Scrooge's redemption

Fri at 8:00 p.m., Sat at 3:00 and 8:00, Sun at 2:00 p.m.; \$25-35.

There will be no 3pm performance on Saturday, November 15

The Chance Theater
5552 E. La Palma Ave
Anaheim Hills, CA 92807
www.chancetheater.com

Box Office Information:

Phone number: (714) 777-3033

Hours: Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 2 hours before curtain on performance days. Or make secure reservation at www.chancetheater.com.

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