



## Press Release

For Immediate Release

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### **The American Century Theater**

**Encores 2007 Hit Adaptation of 1936 *A Christmas Carol* Radio Drama  
via Free Teleconference on Sunday, December 13, at 8 PM EST**

Once again, The American Century Theater will celebrate the Christmas season for families, shut-ins, and lovers of old time radio drama when its all-star cast of twenty-five presents a special one-hour adaptation of Charles Dickens’

***A Christmas Carol* free of charge** to anyone in the United States who calls a special 800 number at 8 PM EST on Sunday evening, December 13.

“We did this in 2007, and the response was overwhelming,” says Jack Marshall, the artistic director of the Arlington, Virginia, -based company, which specializes in reviving important dramatic works of the past. As in 2007, Marshall is directing the performance.

“Teleconference technology beautifully captures the sound and feel of the Golden Age of radio drama, when Campbell’s Soup presented an annual live broadcast of ***A Christmas Carol***, starring Lionel Barrymore as Scrooge, to millions of families across the country on Christmas Eve. Our production—with each actor performing from his or her own home—is a wonderful showcase of the vocal talents of our professional acting company and also shows how modern technology can evoke classic entertainment. This is our gift to theatergoers in Arlington, the greater Washington area, and the country.”

The actors use their telephones as microphones, and sound designer Keith Bell mixes in sound effects and music live. “It’s true: the effect is exactly the same as old radio,” says Bell, who is the real star of the show.

**To hear the broadcast:**

- A few minutes before 8 PM EST, on Sunday, December 13,
- dial the **toll-free access number 1-800-244-5901**,
- then dial the **passcode 499244**, followed by the # sign.

Listeners should use speaker phones where possible so families and groups can listen together.

**There is no charge to the listening audience for *A Christmas Carol*.**

This year's acting company includes almost the entire cast from 2007, with some new additions. Together, the cast members have appeared in sixty-one TACT productions. The company is led by Capitol Steps member **Andy Clemence**, whose uncanny evocation of Lionel Barrymore as Scrooge was a highlight of the first production. Joining him are **David Elias, Mary McGowan, Richard Rohan, Bruce Alan Rauscher, Suzanne Connors Nepi, Mary Nepi, John Tweel, Nan Savard, Glenn White, Chris Davenport, Kate Davenport, John Tremain May, Lauren May, Esther Covington, Joe Cronin, Kathryn Fuller, Tom Fuller, Alice Fuller, Michael Replogle, Tracy Krulik, Paul McLane, Tom Dillickrath, Paul McLane, and Rhonda Hill.**

"This format gives us an opportunity to get the show to people who may not be able to travel, during a time of year that can be very stressful," explained Rhonda Hill, producer. "We are bringing live theater directly into homes. And generations who have only heard their grandparents speak of the magic of radio can experience that magic first hand."

The company is encouraging everyone to alert friends and family across the country to the production and to encourage call-in listeners from every state. "There will be something special in knowing that so many others are listening, too," says Marshall. "Our company is dedicated to keeping live theater a community activity, with shared experiences and ideas. This is just one more way to tie us together."

***A Christmas Carol*** is being produced with the help of a special grant from Arlington County's Cultural Affairs Division of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources.

*The American Century Theater is a 501(c)(3) professional nonprofit theater company dedicated to producing great, important, and neglected 20<sup>th</sup> century American plays and playwrights. TACT is funded in part by Arlington County through the Cultural Affairs Division of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources and the Arlington Commission for the Arts; the Virginia Commission for the Arts; the National Endowment for the Arts; and many generous donors.*

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