

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM FOR WORLD PREMIERE OF YOUR LOCAL THEATER PRESENTS: *A CHRISTMAS CAROL, BY CHARLES DICKENS, AGAIN*

UC San Diego MFA Alum Anna Ouyang Moench Pens Hilarious, Subversive New Play Inspired by Holiday Classic

La Jolla, CA – La Jolla Playhouse announces the cast and creative team for its world-premiere production of *Your Local Theater Presents: A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens, Again*, by UC San Diego MFA graduate **Anna Ouyang Moench**, directed by **Les Waters** (Playhouse's *Wintertime, Nora*), former head of UC San Diego's MFA directing program, running in the Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre **November 19 – December 15**. For tickets and [information](http://lajollaplayhouse.org), please visit lajollaplayhouse.org.

The cast features UC San Diego Faculty Member **Marco Barricelli** (Playhouse's *to the yellow house*) as "Scrooge," **Juliet Brett** as "Lucy Cratchit," **Xavier J. Bush** as "Fred," **Miles G. Jackson** as "Eddie," **Tony Larkin** as "Bob Cratchit," and **Maria Elena Ramirez** as "Mrs. Cratchit," along with understudies: **Kailey Madoka Agpaoa**, **Victor A. Morris**, **Karson St. John**, **Jared Van Heel** and **Seth Weaver**.

The creative team includes **dots**, Scenic Designer; **Annie Smart**, Costume Designer; **Yi Zhao**, Lighting Designer; **Ryan Rumery**, Composer and Sound Designer; **Alberto "Albee" Alvarado**, Hair, Wig and Makeup Designer; **Taylor Williams**, CSA/Jacole Kitchen, Casting; **Kasson Marroquin**, Stage Manager; and **Alexa Burn**, Assistant Stage Manager.

Leave the little ones at home and gather 'round for a very Playhouse take on Christmas – a laugh-out-loud funny and heartfelt story for theatre lovers and holiday enthusiasts alike. In *Your Local Theater Presents: A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens, Again*, Eddie is a young actor, fresh out of Juilliard and ready to make his mark on the American Theatre. His dreams are within reach...sort of. First, he's just going to do this regional production of *A Christmas Carol*. As the years pass, Eddie finds himself back at the same local theatre, over and over and over again. Much remains the same: the play, the stage manager, the green room – though Eddie finds himself in different costumes as he ages through the male roles over the course of his career. This moving new play is a love letter to actors, artists and dreamers of all professions who make sacrifices large and small in service of their work – and ultimately wonder whether it was worth it.

"For years we've been searching for the perfect end-of-year show befitting the Playhouse's style, and I'm overjoyed we finally found it in Anna Ouyang Moench's hilarious antidote to a perennial holiday classic," said **Christopher Ashley**, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse. "This sly twist on Dickens' famed tale lets audiences in on the backstage world of the theatre, all while exploring the choices and compromises we all make as we progress through life."

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Anna Ouyang Moench is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter. Her plays include *Man of God*, *Birds of North America*, *Mothers* and *Sin Eaters*. Anna's work has been produced at Williamstown Theatre Festival, Geffen Playhouse, East West Players, Playwrights Realm, NAATCO at the Public Theater, Mosaic Theater Company, InterAct, Theater Mu, and many others. She is a former Jerome Fellow at the Playwrights' Center, Van Lier Fellow at the Lark, and Page One Fellow at the Playwrights Realm. She is the recipient of two 2023 WGA Awards for her work on *Severance* (Apple TV+), the 2020 Steinberg Playwright Award, the Gerbode Special Award in the Arts, the Paul Stephen Lim Playwriting Award from the Kennedy Center, and the NYFA Award in Playwriting/ Screenwriting. Anna received her MFA in Playwriting from UC San Diego and now lives in Los Angeles with her family.

Les Waters is an Obie Award-winning and Tony-nominated director. His productions have been seen on Broadway; Off-Broadway at Playwrights Horizons, Signature Theatre Company, The Public Theater, Second Stage Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Club, National Asian American Theatre Company, Clubbed Thumb, Soho Rep, and Brooklyn Academy of Music; and regionally at La Jolla Playhouse, Mark Taper Forum, Berkeley Rep, American Conservatory Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Goodman Theatre, and Yale Rep. From 1995-2003, he was head of the MFA directing program at UC San Diego; 2003-2012 Associate Artistic Director at Berkeley Rep; and 2012-18 Artistic Director at Actors Theatre of Louisville. He is both the subject and co-author of *The Theatre of Les Waters: More Like the Weather*, edited by Scott T. Cummings, published by Routledge in 2022. This will mark his sixth Playhouse production.

La Jolla Playhouse is a place where artists and audiences come together to create what's new and next in the American theatre, from Tony Award-winning productions, to imaginative programs for young audiences, to interactive experiences outside our theatre walls. Founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer, the Playhouse is currently led by Tony Award winner Christopher Ashley, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse, and Managing Director Debby Buchholz. The Playhouse is internationally renowned for the development of new plays and musicals, including mounting 120 world premieres, commissioning 70 new works, and sending 36 productions to Broadway, garnering a total of 42 Tony Awards, as well as the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre.

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FACT SHEET

What: *Your Local Theater Presents: A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens, Again*
By Anna Ouyang Moench
Directed by Les Waters
World Premiere

When: **November 19 – December 15** (Press Opening: November 24 at 7pm)
Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri at 7:30pm; Sat at 2pm & 8pm; Sun at 1pm & 7pm
No performance on Thanksgiving; added matinee on November 27

Where: **Sheila and Hughes Potiker Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse**
2910 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037

Who: Scenic Designer: dots
Costume Designer: Annie Smart
Lighting Designer: Yi Zhao
Composer and Sound Designer: Ryan Rumery
Hair, Wig and Makeup Designer: Alberto “Albee” Alvarado
Casting: Taylor Williams, CSA/Jacole Kitchen
Stage Manager: Kasson Marroquin
Assistant Stage Manager: Alexa Burn

Cast:	<i>Scrooge</i>	Marco Barricelli
	<i>Lucy Cratchit</i>	Juliet Brett
	<i>Fred</i>	Xavier J. Bush
	<i>Eddie</i>	Miles G. Jackson
	<i>Bob Cratchit</i>	Tony Larkin
	<i>Mrs. Cratchit</i>	Maria Elena Ramirez
	Understudies	Kailey Madoka Agpaoa, Victor A. Morris, Karson St. John, Jared Van Heel, Seth Weaver

Background: Leave the little ones at home and gather ‘round for a very Playhouse take on Christmas – a laugh-out-loud funny and heartfelt story for theatre lovers and holiday enthusiasts alike. Eddie is a young actor, fresh out of Juilliard and ready to make his mark on the American Theatre. His dreams are within reach...sort of. First, he’s just going to do this regional production of *A Christmas Carol*. As the years pass, Eddie finds himself back at the same local theatre, over and over and over again. Much remains the same: the play, the stage manager, the green room, though Eddie finds himself in different costumes as he ages through the male roles over the course of his career. This moving new play is a love letter to actors, artists and dreamers of all professions who make sacrifices large and small in service of their work – and ultimately wonder whether it was worth it.

Tickets: lajollaplayhouse.org; (858) 550-1010

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