

MEDIA RELEASE

A CHRISTMAS CAROL by Charles Dickens, adapted by Peter Leech

Paper Zoo Theatre Company presents *A Christmas Carol* for nine performances only as part of the company's first tour. The company will take this innovative production to five venues throughout Yorkshire during the winter months.

Julia O'Keeffe directs Peter Leech's adaptation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* in a production devised by former Bradford College students. Paper Zoo Theatre Company comprises of nine members; four tutors from the college, four graduates and a company manager. Having performed a showcase, *Road* by Jim Cartwright and the self-named devised piece – *Paper Zoo* as part of the course, the students chose to continue their enthusiasm for acting and form the company. The company includes Stuart Davies, Ben Eagle, Martin Knowles, Laura Milnes, Jonathan O'Connor, Damien O'Keeffe, Julia O'Keeffe, David Peel and Kate Shackleton. Thus far they have performed *A Christmas Carol* at The Priestley (Dec 2005), *Waiting For Godot* at the Yorkshire Craft Centre (Sept 2006), *Twelfth Night* at The Priestley (Dec 2006), *Funeral Games* at Bradford College (May 2007), *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Bradford Cathedral (July 2007) and *An Evening of Joe Orton* at the Yorkshire Craft Centre and Square Chapel Centre for the Arts, Halifax (Sep 2007).

Wickedly comic, unbearably raw and strangely tender, *A Christmas Carol* is one of Dickens' most enjoyable and festive dramas.

Ebenezer Scrooge has turned his back on humanity. Instead he takes solace in his wealth. On Christmas Eve (of all the nights of the year) he is visited by several ghosts who take him on a journey through his past. The experience changes the way Scrooge lives his life, forever.

Paper Zoo explore the theatricality of Charles Dickens' well-loved tale in this ingenious production. Using music, movement and multi-role storytelling, they weave a festive spell that will thaw even the hardest of hearts.

Cast (in alphabetical order):

Stuart Davies –	<i>Ebenezer Scrooge</i>	Declan O'Keeffe –	<i>Peter Cratchitt</i>
Stacey Davis –	<i>Martha</i>		<i>Boy</i>
	<i>Ghost of Christmas Past</i>	Ellen O'Keeffe –	<i>Tiny Tim</i>
	<i>2nd Charwoman</i>	Julia O'Keeffe –	<i>Narrator</i>
	<i>Neice</i>		<i>Mrs Fezziwig</i>
	<i>Poor Woman</i>	David Peel –	<i>Jacob Marley</i>
Ben Eagle –	<i>Narrator</i>		<i>Schoolmaster</i>
	<i>Fezziwig</i>		<i>Merchant</i>
Chris Haigh –	<i>Young Scrooge</i>		<i>Ghost of Christmas Present</i>
	<i>Nephew</i>		<i>Poor Man</i>
Martin Knowles –	<i>Bob Cratchitt</i>	Kate Shackleton –	<i>Belle</i>
	<i>Dick Wilkins</i>		<i>Charity Worker</i>
	<i>Topper</i>		<i>Charwoman</i>
	<i>Merchant</i>		
Damien O'Keeffe –	<i>Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come</i>		
			Directed by Julia O'Keeffe

The 90-minute production of this classic tale will be staged for nine performances only. Tickets are £7 full price or £5 for concessions.

TOUR DETAILS

Thursday 29 & Friday 30 November – GRASSINGTON, Devonshire Institute. 7:30pm. 01756 752579

Saturday 8 December – KNARESBOROUGH, Frazer Theatre. 7:30pm. 01423 864276.

Sat 15 & Sat 22 December – HAWORTH, West Lane Methodist Church. 2:30pm & 7:30pm. 01535 642230

Friday 21 December – BRADFORD Cathedral, Stott Hill, Bradford, BD1 4EH. 7:30pm. 01274 777720

Friday 8 January - SETTLE, Victoria Theatre. 7:30pm. 01729 825718.

For more information, interview requests, press previews and photographs please contact the Paper Zoo Company Manager: Jonathan O'Connor – jonathan@paperzootheatrecompany.co.uk – 07734 179801 or visit the website – www.paperzootheatrecompany.co.uk/press

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