



[www.NewCityStage.org](http://www.NewCityStage.org)

215-563-7500

## PRESS RELEASE

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 31, 2012

### MEDIA CONTACT:

[Publicity@NewCityStage.org](mailto:Publicity@NewCityStage.org) General inquiries

[Ginger.Dayle@NewCityStage.org](mailto:Ginger.Dayle@NewCityStage.org) 215-603-9600

[Danielle.Fredane@NewCityStage.org](mailto:Danielle.Fredane@NewCityStage.org) 610-405-6871

## New City Stage presents new musical parody of Dickens' classic conceived by Christopher Durang for the holidays

**PHILADELPHIA, PA** – New City Stage Company is pleased to announce the second show of our 2012-13 season, the Philadelphia premiere of *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge*, written by Christopher Durang and directed by Michael K. Brophy. This farcical take on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* is part of New City Stage's 7th season, entitled *The New American Dysfunctional Family*. This is the first time the show is being performed in the city of Philadelphia and the first musical produced by New City Stage. This is also the largest cast and production to ever be staged by New City. The play and lyrics are written by Pulitzer and Tony nominee Christopher Durang, who is also a resident of Bucks County, PA. The brand new musical score has been composed by Pat Lamborn and the show is being choreographed by New City Stage's Artistic Director Ginger Dayle. Performances will be held November 30 through December 23, 2012 at the Adrienne Theater Main Stage at 2030 Sansom Street in downtown Philadelphia. **Opening night is December 1 at 8 PM.** Tickets are \$10 - 35 and available at [www.NewCityStage.org](http://www.NewCityStage.org) and by calling the box office at 215-563-7500.

### The premise of this parody is the question:

**"What if Dickens' Mrs. Cratchit wasn't so goody-goody, but instead was an angry, stressed-out modern-day American woman who wanted out of this harsh 1840s London life?"**

### About the show:

In Durang's giddy version of the beloved holiday classic, the Ghost's magic is off, and Scrooge and the Ghost keep showing up at Bob Cratchit's house way too early. Mrs. Bob Cratchit, a minor character in the original story, takes center stage here. No longer loving and long suffering, Mrs. Bob is in a rage: She's sick of Tiny Tim (the goody-goody crippled child), she hates her 20 other children (most of them confined to the root cellar), and she wants to get

drunk and jump off London Bridge. Scrooge's exclamations of "Bah, humbug!" are an undiagnosed "kind of seasonal Tourette's Syndrome," and the Dickens tale of redemption and gentle grace is placed squarely on its head.

A mix of *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Mr. Magoo's Christmas Carol*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, and an original jazzy 1960s-style score make this new holiday show an instant classic.

This rowdy production is hosted by Bad Santa and the Queen Elf from the Land of Misfit Toys. Stay afterward for apple cider, a Christmas carol sing-along led by the cast, and to have your photo taken with Santa. A fun show for adults and children alike.

#### About the cast:

The show stars **Paul L. Nolan** as Scrooge and **Sam Henderson** as Bob Cratchit, who also both starred in last winter's production of Mr. Durang's *Why Torture is Wrong, and the People Who Love Them*. Mr. Nolan, a Delaware native who often works at the Walnut Street Theatre, most recently appeared in their fall production of the British musical *Love Story*, and Mr. Henderson played the title role in Lantern Theater's sold out hit *New Jerusalem, The Interrogation of Baruch de Spinoza at Talmud Torah Congregation: Amsterdam, July 27, 1656*. **Kittson O'Neill** makes her New City Stage debut playing Mrs. Bob Cratchit. She was also featured in *New Jerusalem* and is currently starring as 1950s model and photographer Lee Miller in *Behind the Eye* with Gas & Electric Arts.

Award-winning Philadelphia stage actress **Amanda Schoonover** is playing the iconic role of Tiny Tim. This is her fourth appearance with New City Stage, and she is most well known for her roles in Tracy Letts' *Killer Joe* with Theatre Exile and *Charlotte's Web* at the Arden Theatre. **Wendy Staton**, who starred in both *Miss Witherspoon* (also written by Mr. Durang) and Marsha Norman's *Night Mother* with New City Stage, is playing the Ghost, a character that actually serves as the ghost for Christmas Past, Present and Future.

Supporting players making their New City Stage debut are **John Zak**, **Isa St. Clair**, and **Megan Slater**. **Robert DaPonte**, who played the title role in New City Stage's highly acclaimed *When You Comin' Back, Red Ryder?* (also directed by Michael Brophy) plays multiple characters as well.

The ensemble consists of young local upcoming actors in Philadelphia, all making their New City Stage debut: University of the Arts student **Madeline Kolker** and alumni **Annie Such**, Temple University alumni **R.J. Magee**, University of Pennsylvania alumni **Kevin Rodden**, and Monmouth University alumni **Lizzie Spellman**.

#### About the artists:

**Michael Brophy** is directing for the third time for New City Stage, most recently staging the Philadelphia premiere of Christopher Durang's *Why Torture is Wrong, and the People Who Love Them* last December. Artistic Directors **Russ Widdall** and **Ginger Dayle** host the show as a disgruntled St. Nick and elf from the Land of Misfit Toys. They provide audience participation improv segments before the show and during intermission as well as lead the Christmas carol singalong after the show. Mr. Widdall recently starred in New City's sold out production of *RFK*, which will appear at the 2013 Capital Fringe Festival in Washington, D.C. Ms. Dayle, a seasoned dancer who has performed with Pennsylvania Ballet and the Royal Ballet of London,

is choreographing, a first for her with the company she founded. She can be seen in the spring on NBC's hit musical show *Smash* as a featured dancer. **Pat Lamborn**, a Doylestown, PA native, recent Temple University graduate, and multi-faceted musician makes his professional theatrical debut with this production. He composed and arranged the musical selections to go along with Mr. Durang's lyrics, and also engineered the soundtrack recording.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, MEDIA, OR PRESS TICKETS:

Contact publicist Ginger Dayle at [Publicity@NewCityStage.org](mailto:Publicity@NewCityStage.org) or 215-603-9600. You can also visit the production page for photos and media related to the show at <http://newcitystage.org/currentseason.html>.

*All complimentary press tickets should be requested at least 24 hours in advance.*

ABOUT THE SHOW:

***Mrs Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge***, a holiday musical parody

Written by Christopher Durang

Directed by Michael Brophy\*

Previews begin November 30 at 8 PM

**Opening Performance: Saturday, December 1 at 8 PM**

Closing Performance: Sunday, December 23 at 3 PM

Cast:

Ebenezer Scrooge

**Paul L. Nolan\***

Bob Cratchit

**Sam Henderson\***

Mrs. Bob Cratchit

**Kittson O'Neill\***

Tiny Tim

**Amanda Schoonover\***

Little Nell Cratchit

**Megan Slater**

Ghost of Christmas Past,

**Wendy Staton**

Present and Future

Jacob Marley's Ghost, George Bailey,

**John Zak\***

Mr. Fezziwig, The Beadle, Gentleman 2

Fezziwig Daughter, Hedvig, Monica,

**Isa St. Clair**

Nice Mrs. Cratchit

Fezziwig Daughter, Edvar, Clarence,

**Robert DaPonte**

Gentleman 1

Ensemble:

**Madeline Kolker, R.J. Magee, Kevin Rodden, Lizzie Spellman and Annie Such**

Hosts:

**Russ Widdall\* and Ginger Dayle**

Production staff:

Stage Manager

Janelle Caso \*

Musical Director

Pat Lamborn

Choreographer

Ginger Dayle

Assistant Director	Danielle Fredane
Dramaturge	Sarah Scholl
Scenic Design	S. Cory Palmer
Sound Design	Ren Manley
Lighting Design	Matt Sharp
Costume & Properties Design	Becca Austin & Rebecca Kanach

\* Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association.

About New City Stage Company:

New City Stage Company, founded in 2006, is dedicated to presenting high quality professional theatre that engages audiences on a variety of levels; not only entertaining them but also encouraging awareness of issues relevant to the community. We draw our season from contemporary and classical works, with a special focus on including Philadelphia premiers from playwrights whose work and stories are not normally found in the region.

###