

Austin Playhouse  
presents

# A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens

directed by Lara Toner  
starring Bernadette Nason



King Theatre ~ December 9 - 21, 2010

# AUSTIN PLAYHOUSE

Don Toner Producing Artistic Director  
Lara Toner Artistic Director, Larry L. King Theatre

presents

## A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens  
directed by Lara Toner

starring Bernadette Nason

Stage Manager Michael Stuart  
Lighting Designer Don Day  
Set Designer Mike Toner

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*A Christmas Carol* ♦ December 10 - 21, 2010  
Austin Playhouse ♦ P.O. Box 50533 Austin, TX 78763-0533  
phone: 512.476.0084 ♦ e-mail: austinplayhouse@aol.com  
www.austinplayhouse.com

## STARRING Bernadette Nason\*

as The Storyteller, Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, Fred,  
Jacob Marley, Christmas Past, Christmas Present, Fan,  
and everyone else.

*\*Member Actors' Equity Association,  
the union of professional actors and stage managers.*

*A Christmas Carol runs approximately one hour  
and is played without intermission.*

*Photography, recording devices,  
and cell phones are prohibited.*

### PRODUCTION STAFF

Producing Artistic Director.....	Don Toner
Associate Artistic Director.....	Lara Toner
Set Construction.....	Don Toner, Mike Toner
Development Manager.....	Erin Hefner
Administrative Associate.....	Cyndi Williams
Box Office Associates.....	Kathleen Toner, Kate Eminger

**Special Thanks**  
to Don Day, Diana Huckaby, Trevor Lemoine,  
Christopher Loveless, Buffy Manners, and Laura Walberg.



This project is funded and supported in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.



# COMPANY BIOS

**Don Toner** (Producing Artistic Director) founded Austin Playhouse in 2000. Before that he was Producing Artistic Director of the State Theater Company/Live Oak Theatre for thirteen years. Prior to coming to Austin he was Associate Producer for the inaugural season of the Los Angeles Theatre Center, Associate Producer/Director of the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park for three seasons, and he founded Theatre Center of Mississippi; the state's first Equity theatre. He has also produced and directed at New Stage Theatre, Bucks County Playhouse, Theatre Midland and Theatre Four in New York City. For Austin Playhouse he has produced and directed *The Trip to Bountiful*, *The 39 Steps*, *Jacques Brel...Paris*, *Misalliance*, *The Mousetrap*, *Frost/Nixon*, *The Fantasticks*, *A Flea in Her Ear*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Amadeus*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Bliethe Spirit*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *Inherit the Wind*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Steel Magnolias*, *An Ideal Husband*, *The Night Hank Williams Died*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *The Odd Couple*, *House*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Rumors*, *Enchanted April*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Underpants*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Private Lives*, *Travesties*, *The Dead Presidents' Club*, *Damn Yankees*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Copenhagen*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *Blues in the Night*, *The Seagull*, *Arcadia*, *Mahalia*, and *Light Up the Sky*. He has appeared in Austin

Playhouse productions of *Heroes*, *Afterplay* and *The Threepenny Opera*.

**Lara Toner** (Director) is a member of the Austin Playhouse Acting Company and Artistic Director of Austin Playhouse's Larry L. King Theatre. For Austin Playhouse she has directed productions of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *Age of Arousal*, *Heroes*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Dug Up*, *Women Who Steal*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, *Garden*, *A Texas Romance*, and co-directed *Speed the Plow* and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. She has appeared in Austin Playhouse productions of *The 39 Steps*, *Misalliance*, *Frost/Nixon*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *Bliethe Spirit*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *An Ideal Husband*, *The Night Hank Williams Died*, *House and Garden*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *Enchanted April*, *Rumors*, *Travesties*, *The Underpants*, *The Seagull*, and *Arcadia*. She has appeared in local productions for State Theatre Company, Hyde Park Theatre, Aunt Lulu Productions, and Austin Script Works, among others.

**Michael Stuart** (Stage Manager) is a member of the Austin Playhouse Acting Company. Austin Playhouse productions include *The 39 Steps*, *Misalliance*, *The Mousetrap*, *Frost/Nixon*, *The Fantasticks*, *Heroes*, *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, *A Funny...Forum*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *Inherit the Wind*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, *An Ideal Husband*, *The*

*Night Hank Williams Died*, *The Odd Couple*, *House and Garden*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Rumors*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Travesties*, and *The Dead Presidents' Club*. He directed their production of *Sylvia* and co-directed *Speed the Plow*. For more than ten years, Michael was the Artistic Director of OnStage Theatre Co. producing, directing, and acting in over forty productions including *Harvey*, *Shirley Valentine*, and *Ten Little Indians* here at Austin Playhouse. He will appear in an encore production of *Educating Rita* at Austin Playhouse this November.

**Don Day** (Lighting Designer) has been designing professionally for over 30 years winning both Austin Circle of Theatre and Austin Critics' Table awards for his work. Don designed light for the Austin Playhouse productions of *The 39 Steps*, *Jacques Brel*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *The Mousetrap*, *The Turn of the Screw*, *Frost/Nixon*, *The Fantasticks*, *Age of Arousal*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Sylvia*, *Dug Up*, *Amadeus*, *A Funny...Forum*, *Bliethe Spirit*, *Speed the Plow*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Exits and Entrances*, *Women Who Steal*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *An Ideal Husband*, *The Night Hank Williams Died*, *The Dead Presidents' Club*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *The Odd Couple* and *House*. He is currently having a great time working with students as Technical Director at Southwestern University in Georgetown. He also recently designed lights for *The Collection* for Hyde Park Theatre. Don

holds an MFA from the University Of Texas.

**Mike Toner** (Set Designer) designed the set for Austin Playhouse's production of *The Turn of the Screw*. He has worked in scenic construction for Austin Playhouse on over twenty productions including *The 39 Steps*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Misalliance*, *The Mousetrap*, and *Frost/Nixon*.

**Bernadette Nason** (Scrooge et al) With Austin Playhouse: *Misalliance*, *Sylvia*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Bliethe Spirit*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Steel Magnolias*, *The Odd Couple*, *An Ideal Husband*, *The Underpants*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *The Man who came to Dinner*. Other favorite productions include: *Melanchly Play*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Hay Fever*, *The Rivals*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Shirley Valentine*. She has received multiple nominations and awards from ACoT and the Austin Critics Table including the 2007 Critics' Table Special Citation, "The John Bustin Award for Conspicuous Versatility." Nason is a proud company member of Austin Playhouse, Onstage Theatre Co. and Pollyanna Theatre Co. By day, she is a professional touring storyteller ([www.bernadettenason.com](http://www.bernadettenason.com)) recently appearing at the National Storytelling Festival's Exchange Place in Jonesborough, TN.

## CHARLES DICKENS' A CHRISTMAS CAROL

### **Preface to *A Christmas Carol***

*I have endeavored in this Ghostly little book, to raise the Ghost of an Idea, which shall not put my readers out of humour with themselves, with each other, with the season, or with me. May it haunt their house pleasantly, and no one wish to lay it.*

*Their faithful Friend and Servant,*

*Charles Dickens, December 1843.*

Charles Dickens was born in 1812. His childhood experiences would later be reflected in his novel *David Copperfield* (1849-50). His father, a government clerk, was imprisoned for debt. At the age of twelve, Charles was sent to work. He taught himself shorthand and became a reporter for the *Morning Chronicle*. He began *Oliver Twist* in 1837, followed by *Nicholas Nickleby* in 1838 and *The Old Curiosity Shop* in 1840. By the time he published *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens was already a very popular novelist.

*A Christmas Carol* was written in 1843. It is the first of Dickens' Christmas Books that includes *The Chimes*, *The Cricket on the Hearth*, *The Battle of Life*, and *The Haunted Man*. The Christmas Books are not linked through subject matter or setting, but they do all contain a focus on the importance of family, and the ability of memory to affect beneficial change.

*A Christmas Carol* has retained its place as the most popular of the Christmas Books for over 150 years. There have been almost 30 film adaptations. The earliest surviving one is *Scrooge, or Marley's Ghost* (1901), a silent British version.

Charles Dickens abridged *A Christmas Carol* to streamline the story and make it appropriate for readings. Our version uses the text (almost entirely) from Charles Dickens' own abridged version of his tale.

## AUSTIN PLAYHOUSE MISSION

Austin Playhouse is dedicated to providing opportunities for Austin artists and audiences to celebrate the human experience. Austin Playhouse will nourish your mind, delight your spirit, and enrich your life through professional productions of classic, contemporary and musical plays.

## AUSTIN PLAYHOUSE ACTING COMPANY

The Acting Company is comprised of artists who have made a significant contribution to the high quality of theatre at Austin Playhouse. Acting Company members are an active presence in the theatre. Their leadership and dedication provide the foundation for Austin Playhouse's continuing artistic excellence.

Kimberly Barrow  
Brian Coughlin  
Mary Agen Cox  
Rachel Dendy  
Amber Dupuy  
Babs George  
Gray G. Haddock  
Margaret Hoard  
Huck Huckaby

Molly Karrasch  
Barry Miller  
Bernadette Nason  
Andrea Osborn  
Tom Parker  
Lauri Raymond  
Rick Roemer  
David Stahl  
David Stokey

Michael Stuart  
Benjamin Summers  
Zach Thompson  
Lara Toner  
Dirk van Allen  
Hans Venable  
Cyndi Williams  
Ben Wolfe

## COMING SOON

### MAIN STAGE

*The Importance of Being Earnest*  
by Oscar Wilde  
January 14 – February 13, 2010

### KING THEATRE

*Proof*  
by David Auburn  
January 28 – February 20, 2010

[www.austinplayhouse.com](http://www.austinplayhouse.com)

## A CHRISTMAS CAROL LEXICON

**Carol:** A song or ballad of joy celebrating the birth of Christ

**Humbug:** Nonsense

**Parliament:** The legislature of Great Britain

**Workhouses:** Union workhouses: home for the poor and destitute where people worked in exchange for room and board; often riddled with disease and death

**City of London:** Business district of London

**Knocker:** A device, usually metal and ornamental, attached by a hinge to a door, used for knocking

**A dowerless girl:** Dickens deleted the word "orphan" from this description. Apparently, Belle is in mourning due to the death of her parents who have left her nothing

**Charwoman:** A servant hired by the day to do odd housework

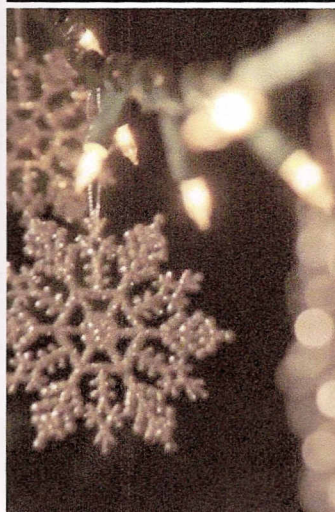
**Old screw:** Slang for a miser

**Half a crown:** Two shillings and six pence (an eighth of a British pound in old currency)

**Blithe:** Happy

**Next morning:** St. Stephen's Day, called "Boxing Day" in England, when gratuities (or Christmas boxes) are given to those who have provided services during the year.

**Smoking Bishop:** A spicy punch made with port, similar to mulled wine (a popular tavern drink in the 18th century)



### Austin Playhouse Winter Gala

A Festive Celebration For Everyone!  
Sunday, December 19, 2010, 6pm - 9pm

- ~ Featuring live swing music by The Copa Kings
- ~ Tasty cocktails courtesy of Tito's Handmade Vodka
- ~ Delicious food from Maudie's Tex-Mex, Mangia Pizza, Waterloo Ice House, Pie Fixes Everything, Rio's Brazilian Cafe, and more!
- ~ An incredible silent auction with over 170 items!
- ~ Live auctions for a week in New Orleans, a sightseeing flight tour, and more!

Call 476-0084 for tickets

only \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door

All proceeds benefit Austin Playhouse.  
[www.austinplayhouse.com](http://www.austinplayhouse.com)