

## ***A Christmas Carol at Geva Theatre – presented by KeyBank*** ***A refreshed adaptation of Dickens' Classic Story*** ***Rochester's holiday tradition begins November 23***

**Rochester, N.Y.** — *A Christmas Carol*, presented by KeyBank, returns to Geva Theatre in an all new adaptation by award-winning playwright **Harrison David Rivers**, in collaboration with **Sally Lobel**. Based on the classic by Charles Dickens, this adaptation begins with a wish made by young Tim Cratchit. Over the course of one night, notorious grump Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by four ghosts, but will their intervention prompt him to change his “humbug” ways? Filled with humor, heart, hope – and a little bit of horror – *A Christmas Carol* reminds us that it is never too late to have a change of heart. This production is directed by Geva’s Artistic Director **Elizabeth Williamson** and runs November 23 - December 29, 2024. Tickets are on sale now; visit [GevaTheatre.org](https://www.gevatheatre.org) or call the Box Office at 585-232-GEVA(4382).

Since 1985, *A Christmas Carol* has been a beloved holiday tradition in Rochester. Over the past four decades the company has presented three different adaptations and is thrilled to share this World Premiere from Harrison David Rivers, who wrote this adaptation in collaboration with Dramaturg **Sally Lobel**. This new production features period costumes by Costume Designer **Ilona Somogyi**, whose costumes Geva audiences will remember from *Jane Eyre*, a mixture of traditional carols, and a brand new set inspired by Victorian London by Scenic Designer **Se Hyun Oh**.

Playwright Harrison David Rivers shared, “Charles Dickens knew what he was doing. Nearly 200 years ago, he wrote a story that we continue to tell today. And why? Because humor, horror, heart, and hope are timeless. It has been an honor to adapt Dickens’ classic tale for the present moment. We can’t wait to share it with the Rochester community!”

“I’m so thrilled to be working with a wonderful mix of new and longstanding collaborators on this simultaneously effervescent, compelling, and yes, occasionally scary, new production of *A Christmas Carol*,” said Director and Artistic Director Elizabeth Williamson. “It’s an honor to be shepherding Harrison and Sally’s vision of a *Carol* that truly is for all of us to the stage for the first time.”

“KeyBank is proud to continue our support of Geva Theater’s cherished tradition of presenting *A Christmas Carol*,” said Vince Lecce, KeyBank Rochester Market President. “We believe in the power of the arts to bring communities together and this timeless story of hope, transformation and generosity resonates with audiences of all ages. It is our honor to partner with Geva in sharing this holiday classic and creating meaningful experiences for the Rochester community.”

Geva is proud to present a free performance of *A Christmas Carol* called “Home for the Holidays” on December 26th at 7PM for Blue Star Families, who are active-duty service men and women, veterans, and their families. Through the generous support of RG&E and the Rochester community, Geva is thrilled to share the joy of the holiday season and honor these families.

### The Cast:

**Michael Preston** (he/him), who played the role of Ebenezer Scrooge in two previous versions of *A Christmas Carol*, both at Geva in 2022 and 2023, and before that at Hartford Stage, will be returning as Scrooge in this new production (former member of The Flying Karamazov Brothers, including three stints on Broadway). Joining him in the cast are **Sommer Carbuccia** (he/him) as Ghost of Christmas Future and Solicitor (*A Christmas Carol*, Geva 2018; *Riverdale*), **Blake Hamilton Currie** (he/him) as Apprentice Scrooge (*Twelfth Night*, Chicago Shakespeare), **Tom Holcomb** (he/him) as Fred, Mr. Fezziwig, and Ghost of Christmas Present (*we are continuous*, Geva 2023), **Carman Lacivita** (he/him) as Bob Cratchit and Marley (Broadway: *Marvin's Room*, Off-Broadway: *To My Girls*), **Sujaya Sunkara** (she/they) as Belle (*Cowboys and East Indians*, Denver Center), **Esther Winter** (she/her) as Mrs. Cratchit and Mrs. Fezziwig (*A Christmas Carol*, Geva 2023), and **Imani Youngblood** (she/they) as Fan, Martha, and Ghost of Christmas Past (*Hood*, Asolo Repertory Theatre). The role of Tim Cratchit will be played by **Reid A. Antal** (he/him) and **Adriana Ruya Venable** (she/her). The remaining ensemble includes: **Evan Burmeister** (he/they), **Colin Cedeño** (he/him), **Rachel Ekstrom** (she/her/he/him), **Willow Sky Fisher** (she/her), **Frederick R. Hawkins** (she/her), **Lauren Hochreiter**, **Rosemary Laprime** (she/her), **Millicent Mahar** (she/they), **Deonne Major** (he/him), **George Martone**, **Gabriel Pierce** (he/him), **Nailah Rollins** (she/her), **Julia Schubbe** (she/her), **Kaley Sumeriski** (she/her), **Kit Wanek**, **Aurora Wantuch** (she/her), with Swings **Kai Hoag** (he/they) and **Sydney Johnson** (she/her).

### The Creative Team:

This World Premiere Commission is adapted by **Harrison David Rivers** (he/him; *we are continuous* at Geva) in collaboration with Dramaturg **Sally Lobel** (she/her) and Directed by **Elizabeth Williamson** (she/her; OBIE Award for *Russian Troll Farm*; TheaterWorks / TheatreSquared / The Civilians; *Jane Eyre* and *Newtown* at Geva), with musical direction by **Don Kot** (he/him; *A Christmas Carol* and *Sister Act* at Geva) and choreography by **Ashleigh King** (she/her; Helen Hayes Award for *Legally Blonde* at Keegan). The rest of the creative team includes Scenic Designer **Se Hyun Oh** (he/him; *Clyde's*, Cincinnati Playhouse), Costume Designer **Ilona Somogyi** (she/her; *Jane Eyre* at Geva), Lighting Designer **Nic Vincent** (he/him; *The Salvagers*, Yale Rep), Sound Designer and Composer **André Pluess** (*The Minutes*, Broadway), Associate Sound Designer **Andrew Mark Wilhelm** (he/him), Wig Designer **Emma Gustafson** (she/her), Dialect Coach **Thom Miller** (he/him), and Associate Director **Jasmine B. Gunter** (she/her). The Rehearsal Stage Manager is **Colt Luedtke** and the Production Stage Manager is **Jack Meister-Lopez** (he/they) with Assistant Stage Managers **Shannon Toot**

(she/her) and **Julia Bregy** (she/her). Casting Directors **Danielle Pretsfelder Demchick**, CSA (she/her) and **Elizabeth Hay**.

The **KeyBank** production of *A Christmas Carol* is produced with additional support from Lead Producer **Vision Automotive**, the official vehicle sponsor of Geva Theatre, and media sponsors **WHEC-TV Channel 10** and **WARM 101.3**.

## **TICKET AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION**

**When:** November 23 - December 29, 2024

**Where:** On the Wilson Stage, 75 Woodbury Boulevard, Rochester, New York 14607

**To Purchase:** Tickets may be purchased [online](#), by calling 585-232-GEVA(4382), or in-person from the Box Office. *All prices, dates, and times are subject to change.*

**Accessibility:** Learn about our accessibility options [here](#).

### **About KEYCORP**

KeyCorp's roots trace back nearly 200 years to Albany, New York. Headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, Key is one of the nation's largest bank-based financial services companies, with assets of approximately \$190 billion at September 30, 2024.

Key provides deposit, lending, cash management, and investment services to individuals and businesses in 15 states under the name KeyBank National Association through a network of approximately 1,000 branches and approximately 1,200 ATMs. Key also provides a broad range of sophisticated corporate and investment banking products, such as merger and acquisition advice, public and private debt and equity, syndications and derivatives to middle market companies in selected industries throughout the United States under the KeyBanc Capital Markets trade name. For more information, visit <https://www.key.com/>. KeyBank is Member FDIC.

### **About Geva Theatre**

Founded in 1972, Geva Theatre is a not-for-profit, professional theatre company dedicated to creating and producing professional theatre productions, programs, and services of a national standard.

Geva offers a wide variety of educational, engagement, and literary programs, nurturing audiences and artists alike. Geva Theatre sits on the ancestral and unceded territory of the O-non-dowa-gah, or "the people of the Great Hill." In English, they are known as the Seneca people, "the keeper of the western door." They have stewarded this land through generations, and Geva pays respect and gives thanks to their elders, past and present.

Geva is under the leadership of Artistic Director Elizabeth Williamson and Executive Director James Haskins.

Find out more about Geva Theatre at [GevaTheatre.org](http://GevaTheatre.org) or by connecting with us on social media.

Facebook: [facebook.com/gevatheatrecenter](https://facebook.com/gevatheatrecenter), Twitter: [@gevatheatre](https://twitter.com/gevatheatre), Instagram: [@gevatheatre](https://instagram.com/gevatheatre), LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/geva-theatre-center](https://linkedin.com/company/geva-theatre-center).

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