



# Theatre In The Park

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*Executive Director*

*Ira David Wood III*

*Financial Director*

*Stephen Barlow*

*Technical Director*

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*Office Manager*

*Erin West*

*Marketing Associate*

*Thomas Porter*

*Executive Assistant*

*Ashley Wood*

*Development Director*

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October 17, 2008

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Ira David Wood III's *A CHRISTMAS CAROL* at Two Triangle Locations

**Raleigh, NC** – It's the "be all, the do all, the end all," as Ebenezer Scrooge would say, for Theatre In The Park as it celebrates the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ira David Wood III's original musical, comedy, adaptation of the classic story by Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*.

Three generations of theatergoers have considered Wood's *A Christmas Carol* their kickoff to the holiday season. "Mr. Dickens gave the world a priceless gift when he wrote *A Christmas Carol*. We've been fortunate enough to be able to simply pass that gift along to others. During one very special season of the year, there's no better feeling in the world," said Ira David Wood III.

When the show premiered in 1974, "we had to sell the cushions off the lobby sofas in order to accommodate the overflow crowds," notes Wood. Each year the script changes to reflect changes in the world and more specifically in the Triangle area. Local business gain additional notoriety when mentioned in the show, such as last year's inclusion of "The Badger", from Johnson Motors.

Three decades has carried with it quite a number of changes and notable milestones. Wood and the cast have taken the show internationally to England and France, and while in Kingston-Upon-Hall, England performed for surviving members of the Dickens family (to resounding success). Theatre In The Park has been invited to return to Compiègne, France, Raleigh's sister city, in 2009, for a repeat performance, 20 years after *A Christmas Carol's* was originally performed in this loving city.

Many of the children who have been in the show have gone on to bigger and better things – like Frankie Muniz, Evan Rachel Wood, Patrick Stogner, Michael C. Hall, Terrance Mann, Bobby Bowman, Wally Jones and Eric Woodall. We've even had several marriage proposals and one wedding take place on the stage!

This year has been a year with hotly contested political campaigns, drops in the Dow, foreclosures, bail outs, soaring gas prices and the war in Iraq. With all the stress everyone is experiencing, we invite fans young and old, returning and new, to attend the show and experience the timely story's message of Scrooge: if Scrooge can do it... if he can manage such a miraculous transformation...then there is hope for us all – hope that we can become better people than we are. In this day and age, that's a message that certainly bears repeating.

*A Christmas Carol* will be the first major theatrical production to grace the stage at the New Durham Performing Arts Center, December 5 – 7, 2008, before the traditional performances at Raleigh's Memorial Auditorium, December 9 – 17, 2008. Tickets are on sale beginning Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> through Ticketmaster.com or 919-834-4000 and at the box offices at the Durham Performing Arts Center and Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, Raleigh.

# CAST

## **Ebenezer Scrooge**      **Ira David Wood III**

Lamplighter  
Bob Cratchit  
Mrs. Cratchit  
Martha Cratchit  
Peter Cratchit  
Belinda Cratchit  
Tiny Tim Cratchit

Greg Wait  
David Moore  
Paula Juras  
Tyler Crocker  
Peter Mercer  
Loren Wait  
Zachary Hylan

Jacob Marley  
Nephew Fred  
Niece  
Ghost of Christmas Past  
Ghost of Christmas Present  
Christmas Present's Elf  
Ghost of Christmas Future

David Henderson  
John Langley  
Sarah Simons  
Kelsey Healey  
John Shearer  
Frank Theraiult  
Mike Raab

Scrooge's Sister  
Mr. Fezziwig  
Mrs. Fezziwig  
Young Scrooge/ Dick Wilkins

Blair Kennedy  
Brent Simpson  
Heather Shinpaugh  
Cedric Stapleton/  
Mitch Danforth  
Jennifer Rowell/  
Rachel Osterhus

### **Chimney Sweeps**

Nicole Batalias  
Curtis Brown  
Mitch Danforth  
Tessa Joseph  
Rachel Osterhus  
Yvonne Payton  
Jennifer Rowell  
Cedric Stapleton  
Jade Watson

### **Marlettes**

Nicole Batalias  
Emily Gardenhire  
Tessa Joseph  
Rachel Osterhus  
Yvonne Payton  
Jennifer Rowell  
Jade Watson

Laura

# TOWNSPEOPLE

Gary Gardenhire  
Ben Mercer  
Blair Kennedy  
Michael Murray  
Toni Gadsden  
Frank Theraiult  
Colleen Theraiult  
Garrick Jordan  
Nina Gunnell  
Jade Watson  
Tyler Rollins  
Henry Young  
Jenny Osterhus

Bob Jensen  
Andrea Twiss  
Isabelle Twiss  
Brent Simpson  
Mason Park  
Heather Shinpaugh  
Bob Harris  
Hannah Goetz  
Morgan Goetz  
Holly Harris  
Melanie Prince  
Sean Gargan

Frank Jeffreys  
Emily Gardenhire  
Mike Raab  
Fiona Raab  
Janie Young  
Sarah Marks  
JR Richardson  
Matthew Zimmerman  
Ella Reaves Vaughan  
Scottie Black  
Patty Mercer  
Debbie Strange

Dempsey Bond III  
Brandon Veal  
Caleb Veal  
Tippy Thornton  
Ruffin Hicks  
Caitlin Raab  
Janis Coville  
Tessa Joseph  
Wilder Lowrance  
Ricky Blalock  
Gracie Goetz  
Christie Osterhus

**Director**  
**Choreographer**  
**Musical Director**

Ira David Wood III  
Brijet Whitney  
Diane Petteway

**Stage Manager**  
**Assistant Stage Manager**

Christine Rapp  
Jeffrey Nugent