New Stage Theatre Press Contact:

Melissa Tillman, Marketing Director

mtillman@newstagetheatre.com

601.948.3533 ext. 226/ 601.594.1498

National Press Contact:

Rick Miramontez / Aaron Meier

rick@omdkc.com / aaron@omdkc.com

212 695 7400

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE**

**BREAKING: CHRISTMAS IS NOT CANCELLED!**

**“GOD BLESS US EVERYONE!” EXCLAIMS LOCAL BOY**

**TONY AWARD® WINNER**

**JEFFERSON MAYS**

**REPRISES HIS ACCLAIMED PERFORMANCE**

**IN CHARLES DICKENS’ BELOVED HOLIDAY CLASSIC**

“A CHRISTMAS CAROL”

**TO BENEFIT New Stage Theatre**

**DIRECTED BY TWO-TIME TONY AWARD NOMINEE**

**MICHAEL ARDEN**

**ADAPTATION WRITTEN BY**

**JEFFERSON MAYS, SUSAN LYONS, & MICHAEL ARDEN**

**PRODUCTION CONCEIVED BY**

**MICHAEL ARDEN & DANE LAFFREY**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW**

**AT** <https://www.onthestage.com/show/new-stage-theatre/a-christmas-carol-74330/tickets/5fa9ef38e3603f00043be586>

**New York, NY** (November 20, 2020) – New Stage Theatre and producer **Hunter Arnold** unofficially kicked off the holiday season early by announcing that a special filmed version of Charles Dickens’ beloved holiday classic ***A Christmas Carol*** starring one of the finest stage actors of our time, Tony Award® winner **Jefferson Mays**, will be released worldwide on Saturday, November 28. This streaming video event will benefit New Stage Theatre as well as other community, amateur, regional theaters across the country which have been devastated by the pandemic. Directed by two-time Tony Award nominee **Michael Arden**, adapted by Mays, **Susan Lyons**, and Arden, and conceived by Arden and Tony Award nominee **Dane Laffrey**, the filmed version is based on the wildly acclaimed 2018 production which made its world premiere at Los Angeles’ Geffen Playhouse.

Tickets for *A Christmas Carol* are now available to purchase via <https://www.onthestage.com/show/new-stage-theatre/a-christmas-carol-74330/tickets/5fa9ef38e3603f00043be586>.

Production photos of the Geffen Playhouse production by photographer Chris Whitaker are available at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7blu5zuvgc9umyh/AABs4ZHSL9-FMwXl0TwtKPYOa?dl=0>

Jefferson Mays said, “*A Christmas Carol* was my first experience of living theater. My mother and father would read it out loud every year. My father would tell the story with clarity and humanity, while my mother, eyes ablaze, would transform into the characters, from the tortured Jacob Marley, to little Fan and the entire Cratchit family. Both, in their ways, created magic. And now here we are, aspiring to bring this magic to people across the country during this challenging time.”

Michael Arden said, “My theater career began when I was a 10-year-old Texan playing Tiny Tim in the Midland Community Theatre production of *A Christmas Carol*. In a time when theaters and arts workers across the country are in great need, bringing a story that celebrates the power of creativity, community, and our shared humanity is humbling.”

Hunter Arnold said, “Due to COVID-19, the country’s theaters have lost over 80% of their income, a number that is devastating to our community. These theaters, the work they produce, and the artists and workers they support are a fundamental part of our society. We must fight for their survival.”

New Stage Theatre is a partner through a joint project between Arnold's TBD Pictures, La Jolla Playhouse, and On The Stage. Other partner theaters currently include Actor’s Express, Actors' Playhouse, Apple Hill Playhouse, Bucks County Playhouse, Bunbury Theatre, The Cape Playhouse, Centerstage, Coachella Valley Repertory Theatre, Detroit Public Theatre, Dorset Theatre Festival, Dreamcatcher Repertory Theatre, Geffen Playhouse, George Street Playhouse, Greenbrier Valley Theatre, Huntington Theatre Company, Iowa Stage Theatre Company, KC Melting Pot, Koger Center for the Arts, La Jolla Playhouse, Lake Dillon Theatre Company, Mad Cow Theatre, The MAD Factory, Midland Community Theater, ORMACO, Oklahoma City Repertory Theatre, Paper Mill Playhouse, Peoria Players, Pittsburgh Public Theater, Portland Center Stage, Red Mountain Theatre Company, Sankofa Collective, Sharon Playhouse, Shea's Performing Arts Center, South Coast Repertory, Spokane Civic Theatre, Springfield Contemporary Theatre, Theatre Tallahassee, Theatre Tulsa, and Vermont Stage.

*A Christmas Carol* was filmed at New York’s United Palace, chosen to preserve the power of the theatrical storytelling Mays and Arden have created.

When it played the Geffen Playhouse in 2018, *A Christmas Carol* and was called “a stunning adaptation” by **Jordan Riefe** of *The Hollywood Reporter*, and “a tour-de-force performance by Jefferson Mays. Every bit of theater magic you can think of. You’ll find yourself transported – hanging on to every word and relishing every last image” by **Anthony Byrnes** of KCRW.

**Charles McNulty** of the *Los Angeles Times* raved that “Jefferson Mays not only got me to see *A Christmas Carol*, something I’ve vowed never to do again. But he got me to rave about it. For true theater lovers, there can be no better gift this season.”

Experience *A Christmas Carol* unlike any other – past, present or future. The timeless tale of Ebenezer Scrooge comes to thrilling new life as Jefferson Mays plays over 50 roles in a virtuosic, master class of a performance that must be seen to be believed. This theatrical achievement comes from the haunting vision of one of Broadway’s most imaginative directors, Michael Arden.

Staged exclusively for this film and captured live with breathtaking clarity, this must-watch streaming event conjures the powerful spirits of Christmas and brings all the magic of live theatre home for the holidays.

The creative team for *A Christmas Carol* includes **Dane Laffrey**(*scenic and costume design*),**Maceo Bishop**(*director of photography*), **Ben Stanton**(*lighting design*),**Joshua D. Reid**(*sound design*),**Lucy Mackinnon** (*projection design*), **Cookie Jordan**(*hair and makeup design*), **James Ortiz**(*puppet design*), and **Nikki M. James** (*assistant director*).

*A Christmas Carol* is produced by Hunter Arnold with **George Bamber**, **Kayla Greenspan**, **Carl Daikeler**, **Roberto Quiroz Mata**, and **Tom Kirdahy** serving as Executive Producers for the film.

BIOGRAPHIES

**Jefferson Mays** (*Performer, Adaptor*) has appeared at Geffen Playhouse in *I Am My Own Wife* and *Yes, Prime Minister!*.Broadway credits are *Oslo*, *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder*, *The Best Man*, *I Am My Own Wife*, *Pygmalion*, *Journey’s End* and *Of Thee I Sing*. Off-Broadway, he has performed in *Measure for Measure*, *Lydie Breeze*, *Quills* and many more. Regional credits include *My Fair Lady*, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Tartuffe*, *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *The Winter’s Tale* and *Peter Pan*. Film and television credits include “Perry Mason,” “Westworld,” “The Blacklist,” Joel Cohen’s *Macbeth*, “I Am The Night,” the Coen Brothers’ *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs*, *Inherent Vice*, *Rebel in the Rye*, *I am Michael*, *The Notorious Bettie Page*, “The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt,” “The Americans,” “Mildred Pierce,” “Law & Order: SVU,” “Nurse Jackie,” “The Closer,” and “Dolley Madison.” Awards include Tony, Lucille Lortel, Drama Desks, Obies, Outer Critic’s Circle, Helen Hayes, Elliot Norton, Theatre World, Drama League, Jefferson, Dramalogue, and Helpmann. Mays received his B.A. from Yale College and an M.F.A. from University of California, San Diego. He is married to Susan Lyons.

**Susan Lyons** (*Adaptor*).After graduating from Australia’s National Institute of Dramatic Art, Susan worked extensively in theater, film, television and radio, playing a wide range of leading roles with all the major companies. She was awarded the Marten Bequest in 1993. Married to Jefferson Mays, she directed him in the national and international tours of *I Am My Own Wife*.

**Michael Arden**(Adaptor, Director) began his theater career at age ten playing Tiny Tim in the Midland Community Theatre’s production of *A Christmas Carol* in Midland, Texas. He is humbled to be working with the singular Jefferson Mays and all the incredible artists and technicians – including his longtime friend and collaborator Dane Laffrey – on this reimagining of Charles Dickens’ masterpiece. Past directing credits include Deaf West Theatre’s *Spring Awakening* (Tony nomination), *Once on This Island* (Tony nomination and the 2018 winner of Best Revival of a Musical), *American Dream Study* (with The Forest of Arden), *Maybe Happy Ending*, *Joseph…* at Lincoln Center, *The Pride,* *Merrily We Roll Along*, *My Fair Lady*, and *Annie* at the Hollywood Bowl. Arden is a regular director for “The Conners” on ABC and will direct the upcoming feature *Book of Ruth* starring Ruth Wilson and Matt Bomer. He is the Founder and a company member of The Forest of Arden, a collective of artists who create site-specific, immersive, and inclusive new forms of theater. He hopes Scrooge’s visitations might inspire us all to lead more empathetic and benevolent lives. God bless us, everyone! Follow @michaelarden and @forestofardenco

**Hunter Arnold** (*Producer*) is a Tony and Olivier Award-winning producer. Select Broadway & West End: *Hadestown* (Tony Award); *The Inheritance* (Olivier Award and Tony nomination); *Once on This Island* (Tony Award); *Dear Evan Hansen* (Tony Award); *Kinky Boots* (Tony Award and Olivier Award); Deaf West Theatre’s *Spring Awakening* (Tony nomination); *The Visit* (Tony nomination); *Mothers and Sons* (Tony nomination); *Moulin Rouge!* (Tony nomination); *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune* (Tony nomination); *Tina—The Musical* (Tony nomination);  *Betrayal* (Tony nomination); *Anastasia; Pretty Woman*; *The Jungle*; *The Goat, Or Who Is Sylvia?*; *Disaster!*; *It’s Only a Play*; *The Bridges of Madison County*. Off-Broadway: *Little Shop of Horrors* (Drama Desk Award and Drama League Award).

In addition to his producing projects, Arnold is the founder of ARTech Holdings, LLC, an incubator and holding company focused on generating technologies to support the live arts community. Amongst ARTech’s offerings is the premier theatrical ticketing and web presence software for schools and small theatre companies, [www.onthestage.com](http://www.onthestage.com). Arnold is also a General Partner with the Broadway Strategic Return Fund, the first focused, vertically-integrated, profit-driven evergreen hedge fund for accredited investors to capture exceptional returns from investments in Broadway musicals and plays. He earned his bachelor’s degree in Entrepreneurial Business from DePaul University and his Master’s in Business Administration from TRIUM, a joint program representing NYU Stern School of Business, H.E.C. Paris and the London School of Economics. He is a frequent lecturer and guest professor on Entertainment Trends and Economics, Commercial Theatre and Working in The Arts

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