FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Feel the Holiday Spirit as "Scrooge!" Returns to the Near West Theatre Stage

Community theatre brings back the magical holiday classic to the heart of Gordon Square Arts District

CLEVELAND – October 22, 2024 – Near West Theatre is thrilled to announce its upcoming production of "Scrooge!", a musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." The timeless story encourages us all to reflect inward to uncover the best in one another and embrace change for the betterment of others. The musical runs three weekends from November 22 through December 8, 2024, at the theatre's building in the heart of the Gordon Square Arts District.

"Scrooge!" tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge and his journey over the course of a Christmas Eve night, as he is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley, and spirits of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come. All encounters force him to recount his life and actions, giving him a stronger sense of the impact he has on those around him.

"Our approach to this classic and well-known story is also unique. "Scrooge!" represents greed and selfishness. He preys on the unfortunate circumstances of others for his own profit and gain. We believe these traits and people exist for everyone in their daily lives" Mike Obertacz, Executive Director of Near West Theatre and director of "Scrooge!", says.

"Whether in our community, schools or even in our own family dynamics, we attempt to create a production where "Scrooge!" is more familiar to us all. Audiences will laugh, cry and have fresh moments of surprise that they may not have experienced before with this tale. I cannot think of a better way to embrace the joy, and even challenges of the holiday season, by embracing a traditional holiday tale and connecting with our emotions and humanity," Obertacz says.

One of Obertacz's goals is using scenic design, costumes and staging to emphasize class structures and societal divisions. Cameron Michalak, "Scrooge!" Scenic Designer, couldn't agree more. "Much of this story centers around societal classes and the sacrifices that Scrooge has made to grapple for a different standing or perceived respect than he was perhaps born into. I decided to draw that out in the visuals represented in the creation of the environment."

"As I see it, he [Scrooge] is an empty person, with no love of any other person. In researching the geography and the time, I stumbled upon a photo of a drained canal. A great visual representation of Scrooge: a virtually empty vessel devoid of the life that he doesn't even realize he is missing."

Tickets are on sale now for this production. Tickets are $20 with Pay What You Choose options available. Tickets are available at nearwesttheatre.org or by calling the Box Office at 216-961-6391 on weekdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The theatre, constructed as part of the Gordon Square Arts District capital campaign, is at 6702 Detroit Avenue. The facility is a state-of-the-art, ADA-compliant building that is climate-controlled and fully accessible by wheelchair.

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About Near West Theatre

Near West Theatre builds loving relationships and engages diverse people in strengthening their sense of identity, passion, and purpose, individually and in community, through accessible, affordable, and transformational theatre arts experiences. Since 1978, Near West Theatre has been shaping, changing, and saving the lives of children, teens, and adults. The community theater hosts a variety of free community events and free after-school programs to underline its commitment to accessibility for all people. The organization serves people of all ages, but a focus on youth goes back to its founding and continues to this day. www.nearwesttheatre.org. @nearwesttheatre. NWT is grateful to receive financial support from the Ohio Arts Council and Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. For more information, visit nearwesttheatre.org or follow the theatre on Facebook (facebook.com/nearwesttheatre) and Instagram (@nearwesttheatre).

[TOMBSTONE INFO]

“SCROOGE!”

"Use each magic moment well, while you are free to choose them..."

Fall Intergenerational Mainstage Production
Runtime: 2 hours and 25 minutes, 15-minute intermission

Book, Music and Lyrics by Leslie Bricusse

SCROOGE! is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.
www.concordtheatricals.com

Near West Theatre Production Cast

Mattie Adon, Amara Alberto, Nina Aust, Zion Benson, Willow Bisheimer, Selah Bisheimer, Uma Bole, Lydia Browning, Maggie Chapman, Michael Chapman, Isaac Cook, Graham Davies, Darling Davis, Sarah Durham, Jaxon Floyd, Gussie Garcia-Prignitz, Suni Garcia-Prignitz, Jackson Hardiman, Caleb Harkness, Erin Heisey, December Hiley, Tom Hill, Hans Holznagel, Giselle Jones, Reid Judkins, Connor Karboski, Anna Loehrke, Matt Loehrke, Christian McGinnis, Aria Murray, Evan Murray, Nathan Murray, Peyton Murray, Elizabeth O’Hara, Clayton Obertacz, Kendall Pallett, Lily Risner, Shiva Risner, Hannah Rutkowski, Dani Scaggs, Aida Shakarian Kvidera, Rose Shakarian Kvidera, Cayla Singleton, Neda Spears, Mayela Squires, Yamini Sridhar, Mari Starek, Esther Tan, JT Tan, Teddy Tan, Sarah Vas, Dave Weinmann, Kit Weinmann, Lydia Whitehouse, Bob Zombar

Production Staff

Director: Mike Obertacz. Music Director: Matt Gittins. Choreographer: Kenya Woods. Costume Designer: Vanessa Cook. Props Designer: McKenzie Merriman. Scenic Designer: Cameron Michalak. Sound Designer: Joshua Caraballo. Lighting Designer: David Stoughton. Technical Director: Perren Hedderson. Asst. Technical Director: Emily Hehnen. Production Manager: Michael Stein. Stage Manager: Julie Billinghurst. Asst. Stage Manager: Angela Warholic. Sound Technicians: James Romeo and Bella Brehm. Artistic Director: Trinidad Snider.

Performance Dates

Fri. November 22 - 7:30 PM

Sat. November 23 - 7:30 PM

Fri. November 29 - 7:30 PM

Sat. November 30 - 7:30 PM (ASL Interpreted Performance)

Sun. December 1 - 2:00 PM

Thurs. December 5 - 7:30 PM (Sensory Performance)

Fri. December 6 - 7:30 PM

Sat. December 7 - 7:30 PM

Sun. December 8 - 2:00 PM

Suggested Performance Listing

Near West Theatre, 6702 Detroit Ave., Cleveland's Gordon Square Arts District. Box Office: 216-961-6391 or nearwesttheatre.org. "SCROOGE!'' runs **November 22, 23, 29, 30, December 5 (Sensory Performance), 6, 7 at 7:30 p.m.**; **December 1 & 8 at 2:00 p.m**. General Admission: Tickets $20 with Pay What You Choose options available. SCROOGE! is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. www.concordtheatricals.com.