For Immediate Release: November 4, 2014
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CYGNET THEATRE RETURNS TO ORIGINAL HOLIDAY CLASSIC WITH A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Production Celebrates a Victorian Christmas with Original Music and Puppetry

SAN DIEGO, CA— In December, Cygnet Theatre will continue its eight-year tradition of presenting a holiday show suitable for all ages. This season welcomes the return of Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol, adapted by Sean Murray with original score by Billy Thompson. This production is a completely re-imagined take on the original holiday classic featuring lively music, unique puppets and live sound effects. The airwaves of WCYG Playhouse of the Air will be silent this season as Cygnet returns to presenting a fully staged production. This “little musical ghost story” runs November 28-December 28 at Cygnet Theatre in Old Town.

The last time Cygnet Theatre presented a fully staged production of A Christmas Carol was in 2008 to commemorate the re-opening of the Old Town Theatre. “Audiences can expect 19th century tradition with a 21st century twist,” explained Murray. “This will be a clever and sweet retelling of the classic tale complete with new music and songs performed live, and is perfect for the entire family.”

Murray and the creative team will embrace storytelling through the use of original puppetry, found objects, and innovative stagecraft. Cygnet welcomes the return of set designer Andrew Hull who will transform the theatre into a Victorian Christmas card with a distinctly 1890’s feel. Hull, currently an Art Director on Mad Men, has previously designed sets for Gem of the Ocean, The Glass Menagerie, Private Lives, Bed and Sofa, The History Boys and Spring Awakening. Costumes are by Shirley Pierson and Peter Herman will provide wigs and makeup. Choreography is by Katie Whalley. Original puppets will be designed by Michael McKeon. Patrick Marion is the Music Director.

Tom Stephenson returns as Scrooge and is joined by a talented cast of Cygnet Theatre veterans including Maggie Carney (The Importance of Being Earnest, Travesties), Charles Evans, Jr. (Spring Awakening), Melissa Fernandes (Little Shop of Horrors, Assassins, A Christmas Carol), Melinda Gilb (Dirty Blond, Assassins, A Christmas Carol), David McBean (Pageant, Fully Committed, A Christmas Carol); and Patrick McBride (Travesties, A Christmas Carol).

Audiences will be invited to engage in the holiday spirit with photo ops at the lobby Christmas tree and pre-show sing-alongs from their seats. Performances are November 28 – December 28 at the Old Town Theatre. Show times are Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 pm, Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 3pm and 8pm, and Sundays at 2pm and 7pm.

For more information regarding tickets, please contact the box office at 619-337-1525 or visit www.cygnettheatre.com. Tickets may be purchased in person at the box office located at 4040 Twiggs Street. Discounts are available for students, active-duty military, seniors and groups of 10 or more. Children 12 and under receive half off tickets with each paid adult.
A CHRISTMAS CAROL FACT SHEET

WHAT: Cygnet Theatre presents Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*

WHERE: Cygnet Theatre
4040 Twiggs St. in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park

WHO: Written by Charles Dickens
Director: Sean Murray
Composer: Billy Thompson
Music Director: Patrick Marion
Scenic Designer: Andrew Hull
Costume Designer: Shirley Pierson
Lighting and Co-Scenic Designer: R. Craig Wolf
Choreographer: Katie Whalley
Sound Designer: Matt Lescalt-Wood
Puppet Designer: Michael McKeon

CAST: Maggie Carney*
Charles Evans, Jr.*
Melissa Fernandes*
Melinda Gilb**
David McBean**
Patrick McBride
Tom Stephenson*

* Member of Actors Equity Association, °Resident Artist

DATES: Previews begin: Thursday, November 28, 2014
Press Opening: Saturday, December 6, 8pm
Closes: Sunday, December 28, 2014

Performance Schedule
Wednesday & Thursday at 7:30pm
Friday at 8:00pm
Saturday at 3:00pm and 8:00pm
Sunday at 2:00pm and 7:00pm

CYGNETURE EVENTS:
Behind the Scenes Designer Forum: December 2
Social Media Night: December 4
Wine Tasting Night (Gianni Buonomo Vinters): December 11
CygNext Night, 30 and Under: December 5
Family Day at Cygnet (supporting The Salvation Army): December 7
Theater on Tap (PB Alehouse) & Friday Forum w/cast: December 12
Out Night, LGBT: December 17

PRICES: Prices start at $37
(Discounts are available for Preview Performances, children, seniors, students, active-duty military & groups)

HOW: By Phone: (619) 337-1525
Online: [www.cygnettheatre.com](http://www.cygnettheatre.com)
In Person: Old Town Theatre - 4040 Twiggs
ABOUT CYGNET THEATRE
Eleven years ago, when Cygnet Theatre opened the doors in a strip mall near La Mesa with the premiere of the rock musical *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, they were announcing the birth of an unconventional, exciting, and fresh new theatre company in San Diego. Since that opening night, Cygnet Theatre has grown into San Diego’s fifth largest theatre company and has become known for producing adventurous, entertaining and thought-provoking live professional theatre year round. At the recently renovated, state-of-the-art Old Town Theatre in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, Cygnet presents at least six main stage productions annually, ranging from classics and musicals to contemporary works that celebrate the human story. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Sean Murray and Executive Director Bill Schmidt, Cygnet has won more than 100 local awards for artistic excellence, including Theatre of the Year, Producer of the Year and multiple Best Production awards. Cygnet has been the recipient of grants from the National Endowment of the Arts and The James Irvine Foundation, among many others. In addition, Cygnet Theatre is committed to education outreach, new play development and community collaborations. For more information, visit [www.cygnettheatre.com](http://www.cygnettheatre.com).

CYGNET THEATRE MISSION STATEMENT
Believing in the power of theatre to startle the soul, stir debate and embrace the wide diversity of the community it serves, Cygnet Theatre Company is fearlessly committed to the dissection, examination and celebration of the human story through the medium of live theatre.

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