

Charles Dickens'
**A Christmas
Carol**

Adapted for Performance by

TONY BROWN

Directed by

JUSTIN ANDERSON

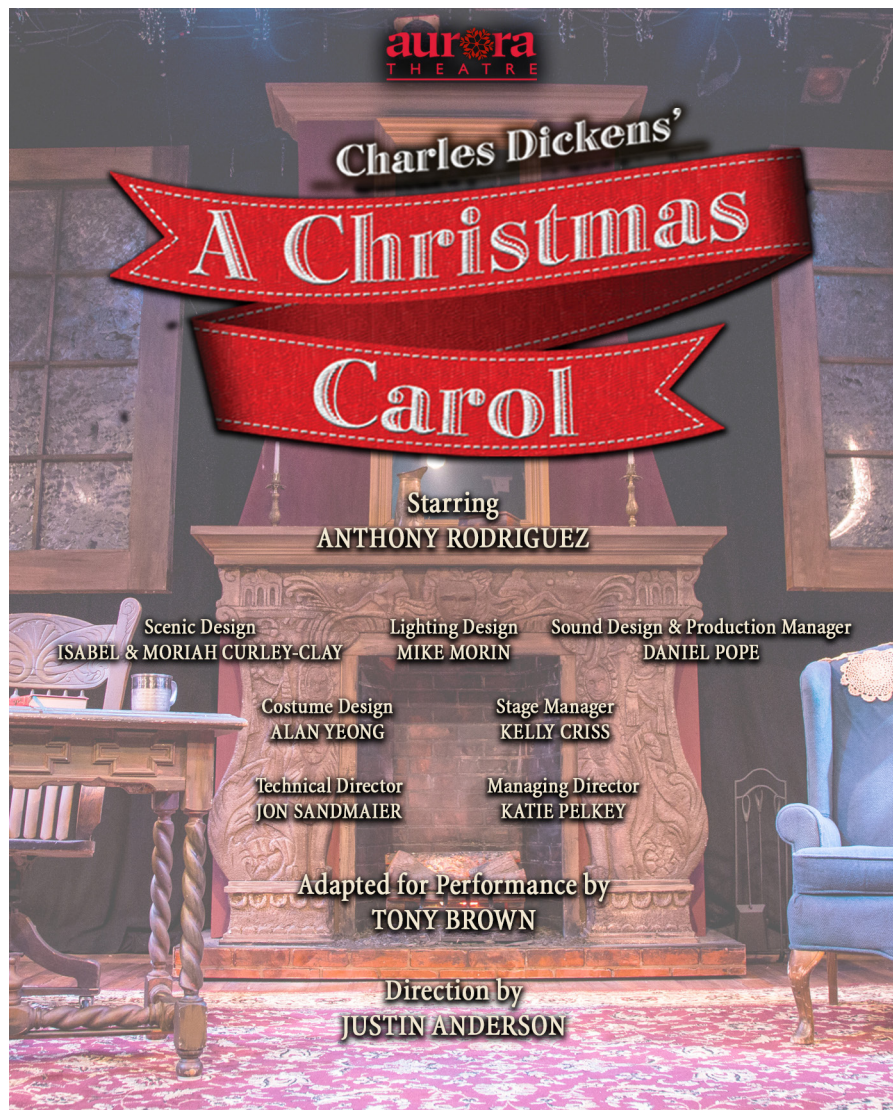


DECEMBER 16 - 23, 2020

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PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Technical Director **ASHLEY HOGAN**
 Scenic Painter..... **SARAH THOMSON**

THANK YOU!

to those who have made very special contributions to our production:
Aurora Volunteer Guild

FROM THE PRODUCERS

"Keep some room in your heart for the unimaginable." -Mary Oliver

This has been a year of waiting. This pandemic has sent our county, our nation, our world into a state of waiting....perpetual waiting. As Americans, we have grown incredibly impatient. We want results now. We want healing now. We want salvation now. And while waiting, our minds wander. Minds can wander to the joyful memories of past holidays. Or our minds can drive us crazy with despair as we relive our greatest losses. One day, while I was particularly haunted, I stumbled upon poet Mary Oliver. And I used her poetry as prayer:

"I believe in kindness. Also in mischief. Also in singing, especially when singing is not necessarily prescribed." -Mary Oliver

That's what Christmas is: It is **MUSIC**. It is **JOY**. It is **HEALING**.

During each Yuletide season, Aurora Theatre has endeavored to create unique events that everyone can rejoice in: where every person, of every age, of every faith, of every race, can join together in praise. Whether it's Anthony's socially distanced *A Christmas Carol* at Aurora Theatre, or Jeremy Aggers' streaming *This Wonderful Life*. Or **SURPRISE!!!** You can join us for *Christmas Canteen*, filmed in front of a live audience (just like an old television special of the 70's.) Our staff joined together to create various events to remind you that we are still here. We have not given up. And the New Year brings life. You see, we have all been waiting.... waiting to come back to work again, waiting to tell stories, waiting to christen a new building, waiting to publicly acknowledge our gratitude, waiting to share this dream with our community, waiting to celebrate the miracle of creation.

Many of us, as Believers, celebrate the miracle of creation every day. And in our loneliest times, our faith remains unshaken. Our year of waiting has brought unimaginable challenges. So as Mary Oliver suggests, if in some way your heart has room this season, if Aurora has brightened your day, lightened your load, given you a small sliver of hope, or provided a moment of peace, *please* help us carry the weight of this dream we began 25 years ago, which right now is just too heavy to carry alone.

"Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" -Mary Oliver

We made a promise to our city, one we intend to keep. Long after any election, we will still be here serving our community, not with optimistic promises that often go unanswered, but with a vibrant center for the arts that promises to welcome everyone. We don't mean a physical building. We mean a **CENTER** - the point from which all activities are focused.

But right now.... we are waiting: waiting for the opening of a new building, waiting to be able to go back to work, waiting for the grace of healing.

"You can have the other words - chance, luck, coincidence, serendipity. I'll take grace. I don't know what it is exactly, but I'll take it." -Mary Oliver

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Feliz Noche de Velas, Happy Kwanza! Whatever you celebrate, may we celebrate together.



Anthony Rodriguez
Producing Artistic Director/Co-Founder

Ann-Carol Pence

Ann-Carol Pence
Associate Producer/Co-Founder



Bella Rodriguez
Barx Office Manager

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ Aurora Theatre opened in the summer of 1996 and Anthony Rodriguez and Ann-Carol Pence established Aurora Theatre, Inc. as a non-profit organization in 1999. Under their leadership, the theatre grew from 120 season subscribers to the 5000 subscribers. Aurora's success led to an ABBY Award nomination in 2002 for Arts Professional of the Year. Mr. Rodriguez's greatest accomplishment to date was the successful negotiation to relocate Aurora Theatre to downtown Lawrenceville, where it is now undergoing a \$32 million campus expansion. Aurora's accomplishments include: Learning Library, an Educational Theatre Program, Aurora's Apprenticeship for recent college graduates, Aurora Academy and Conservatory where students learn about theatre from working professionals, Aurora's Musicals by Moonlight an annual outdoor summer concert, Cabaret and Comedy Series musical and stand-up comedy evenings between mainstage events, and Teatro Aurora, a professional Spanish-language theatre company that was created to highlight Latinx cultural heritage and to help build social bridges in our community. Anthony is past Chair of Partnership Gwinnett and past Chair of the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, where he was the first Latino and Arts leader to serve in that position. Mr. Rodriguez is a member of Screen Actor's Guild, is on the boards of NAMT (National Alliance for Musical Theatre) and TCG (Theatre Communications Group), and serves on the national steering committee for the Latinx Theatre Commons. Mr. Rodriguez is a graduate of Marist High School, the University of Georgia with a BFA in Theatre, the Atlanta Regional Commission's Regional Leadership Institute and the National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures' Leadership Institute, and Advocacy Institute. Mr. Rodriguez is a cancer survivor and has been cancer free for 29 years.

PRODUCTION STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

TONY BROWN (Adapter) is honored to be a part of this annual Aurora holiday tradition. A member of Aurora's Summer Concert Series (*The Music Man*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, and *The Wizard of Oz*), he has appeared on Aurora's mainstage as Merlin in *Camelot*, as well as the Interlocutor in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and Colonel Mustard in *Clue: The Musical*. He directed the Suzi nominated *Over the River and Through the Woods*. Tony is a senior company member in his 27th consecutive season with the Atlanta Shakespeare Company. Directing: *A Christmas Carol* (in its 14th year), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *Our Town*, *Cymbeline*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Tempest* and *King Lear*. Acting credits exceed 3,200 performances, and having completed Shakespeare's canon. Favorite roles: King John of France in *Edward III*, Lord Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Bellomy in *The Fantasticks*, Senex in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and every role Shakespeare wrote for Sir John Falstaff (*Henry IV*, Parts 1 and 2 and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*). He's also acted for Georgia Ensemble Theatre and acted and directed for Art Within. Thanks to the good people of Gwinnett for placing this theatre at the heart of its social and cultural life, and Tony Rodriguez for this glorious 12 year partnership. Love to Sharon, Bradshaw and Nola. Non nobis, non nobis, Domine, sed nomini tuo da Gloriam!

JUSTIN ANDERSON (Associate Artistic Director/Director) has served as Aurora Theatre's Associate Artistic Director since 2014. His directorial work has earned 12 Suzi Bass Award Nominations for Outstanding Direction (Winner for *The Bridges*

of *Madison County* and *Les Misérables* at Aurora Theatre, in 2017 and 2013 respectively). He is also an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia where he directs and teaches courses in acting and musical theatre. He holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Campbell University and an M.A. in Theatre Studies from Regent University, with additional course study at Rutgers. Much love to Michael.

KATIE PELKEY (Managing Director) is celebrating twelve seasons with Aurora! In 2013, Katie transitioned to the role of Company Manager, having previously served as Resident Stage Manager. She also created the highly-successful Stage Management and Costume Apprentice programs that operate simultaneously with Aurora's Acting Apprentice Company program. For five seasons, she worked as Aurora's Educational Resources Associate developing educational curriculum for teachers to use in conjunction with Aurora's TYA Learning Library offerings. And for over a decade, Katie served as Production Stage Manager for New Plays for Young Audiences, a prestigious TYA summer staged reading series based at New York University. She received her BA in Educational Theatre from New York University with a minor in Dramatic Literature. Many thanks to Michael, Maxwell, and Alexander for their love and support!

KELLY CRISS (Director of Corporate & Individual Giving/Stage Manager) has been working in Atlanta for a little over a decade as an Arts Administrator, Actor, Director, Producer, and Teaching Artist. She joins the Aurora Theatre team after serving as Manager of Special Projects at the High Museum of Art. Before the High, she worked at Horizon Theatre in various capacities including artistic support, mentoring the apprentice company, and as the primary coordinator for the Young Playwrights Festival. Kelly currently teaches beginning acting courses for teens at the Alliance Theatre. She also taught elementary aged children through adult professionals here at the Aurora Theatre with both the after school and summer drama academy programs. Additionally, Kelly is a founding member and former producer with the Weird Sisters Theatre Project, where she currently serves on the Board of Directors.

ALAN YEONG (Costume Designer) is honored to be a part of *Christmas Canteen*. Alan is lucky to be collaborating with an amazing production design team and acting company. He is a Professor of Costume Design at The University of West Georgia during the day, occasionally freelancing with metro Atlanta theatre companies for the past 17 years. He recently was honored with 2016 Broadway World Atlanta Regional Best Professional Costume Design for a Musical for *Miss Saigon* (Serenbe Playhouse). Several Suzi Bass Award nominations - *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Aurora Theatre/Theatrical Outfit), *Miss Saigon* (Serenbe Playhouse), *Les Misérables* (Aurora Theatre), *The Little Foxes* (Theatre in the Square). Also a special thank you to Aurora Theatre for believing in my work. Special thanks to all of his friends, colleagues, students, and University of West Georgia Theatre Arts Department for allowing him to continually be part of the vibrant metro Atlanta theatre community. Come visit, alanyyeong.com

ISABEL & MORIAH CURLEY-CLAY (Scenic Designer) work can be seen on stages around Atlanta as well as on several regional stages. Recent designs at Aurora include: *Native Gardens*, *Be Here Now*, *Maytag Virgin*, *I'm not Rappaport*, *Abigail/1702*, and *Clybourne Park*. Other recent Atlanta area designs include: *Book of Will*, *I Love To Eat* and *Lady Day* at *Emerson's Bar & Grill* (Theatrical Outfit), *A Dolls House Part 2* (Co-Pro with Aurora) *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Appropriate* and *Murder Ballad* (Actors Express), *The Magic Negro* and *Other Blackity Blackness As Told By An African American Man Who Also Happened To Be Black* (Alliance

Theatre), *Skeleton Crew*, *Dot*, *Between Riverside and Crazy*, *American Buffalo*, *Exit Strategy*, *Smart People* (Kenny Leon's True Colors), *Nomad Motel*, *Citizens Market*, *The Cake*, *The Wolves*, *Pipeline*, (Horizon Theatre). Recent Regional favorites include *Two Trains Running* (Triad Stage), *Lumberjacks in Love*, *Elf*, *Beauty and the Beast* (Penobscot Theatre Co), *Top Dog/Underdog* (North Carolina Black Rep.), *Honor Killing*, *A Gentleman Guide to Love and Murder*, *Wednesday's Child*, *One Man Two Guvnors*, *Butler* (Florida Studio Theatre), *Dot* (The Billy Holiday Theatre NYC) Isabel and Moriah are the recipients of multiple Suzi Bass Awards and Critics' awards, Resident Scenic Designers at Horizon Theatre, Artistic Associates at Theatrical Outfit, and members of IATSE, United Scenic Artists 829.

MIKE MORIN (Lighting Designer) is a lighting designer based out of Atlanta. He is excited to be returning to the Aurora after designing last year's production of *This Wonderful Life* as well as this fall's production of *The Roommate*. Off-Broadway design credits include *Here I Sit Broken Hearted: A Bathroom Odyssey* as well as *Alcestis Ascending*, which also performed in Havana, Cuba. Favorite design credits include *The Phantom of The Opera*, *Parade*, *Urinetown*, and *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*. He is a graduate of The University of Alabama holding his MFA in Lighting Design and Technical Production. In 2014 he was selected to participate in USITT's Young Designer Forum. Currently he serves as the Technical Director and Resident Designer at Holy Innocents' Episcopal School. Website: www.MikeTMorin.com

DANIEL POPE (Production Manager/Sound Designer) is proud to be a member of the team at Aurora Theatre as Production Manager. Daniel has been a sound designer and engineer in the Atlanta area for the past eight years. He's had the pleasure of designing sound for the Aurora Theatre on many occasions on shows such as: *Into the Woods*, *Christmas Canteen*, *Sweep*, and most recently *The Bridges of Madison County*. Additionally, he's worked on countless other productions in the Atlanta theatre community including: *Evita* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* as Sound Designer and Production Manager at Serenbe Playhouse. Daniel received a Bachelors in Marketing with a specialization in sales and a minor in Music from The University of West Georgia in 2010.

ASHLEY HOGAN (Assistant Technical Director) is excited to officially join Aurora's family as a staff member. She has enjoyed working her summers at Aurora the past few years while pursuing her degree at Georgia State University. After graduating summer of '18, she has spent the past year expanding her skill craft as an over-hire carpenter at Aurora.

AURORA THEATRE STAFF

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Producing Artistic Director/Co-Founder | ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ |
| Associate Producer/Co-Founder | ANN-CAROL PENCE |
| Managing Director | KATIE PELKEY |
| Associate Artistic Director | JUSTIN ANDERSON |
| Director of Cross-Cultural Programs | JUAN CARLOS UNZUETA |
| Director of Education | RENITA JAMES |
| Director of Corporate & Individual Giving | KELLY CRISS |
| Production Manager..... | DANIEL POPE |
| Technical Director..... | JON SANDMAIER |
| Assistant Technical Director..... | ASHLEY HOGAN |
| Director of Sales and Marketing | AL STILO |
| Marketing & Retention Manager..... | AMEE VYAS |
| Graphic Design & Marketing Associate..... | ARI MCBRIDE |
| Director of Patron Relations..... | JENNIFER OWENS |
| Box Office & Front of House Staff..... | DAISIE AKKASHA, ROBYN ROGERS |

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BY STEVE MURRAY
CONCEIVED BY MARK SETLOCK

Starring Jeremy Aggers | Directed by Justin Anderson

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