

Contact: Kelsey Guy, Public Relations Manager
214-252-3923 kelsey.guy@dallastheatercenter.org

Dallas Theater Center Announces New Casting of *A Christmas Carol* and Continued Partnership with North Texas Food Bank

Kalita Humphreys Theater • 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. (at Blackburn)

Previews: Nov. 26 – Dec. 2 • **Opening Night: Friday, Dec. 3 7:30 p.m.** • **Full Run:** Nov. 26 – Dec. 24

Tickets: 214-880-0202 or www.dallastheatercenter.org

DALLAS (November 19, 2010) – Dallas Theater Center is delighted to announce the new cast of Dallas' favorite holiday production, *A Christmas Carol*. Brierly Resident Acting Company member Chamblee Ferguson will play the role of Ebenezer Scrooge for the first time in this production's more than 20 year history. Other announcements include Resident Acting Company members Liz Mikel as Jacob Marley and Matthew Gray as director. The "Best Christmas Show" in Dallas according to the Dallas Observer's Annual Best of Dallas issue will be performed at the historic Kalita Humphreys Theater Nov. 26 – Dec. 24. DTC has also teamed up with the North Texas Food Bank for the third year in a row to increase awareness and raise funds for the organization's work.

"A year ago when Joel Ferrell and I started discussing this production, our first goal was to make the play as fresh and new and exciting as possible. One way to do this was to challenge the entire cast by making certain that no actor would be cast in a role they had previously played," says DTC artistic director Kevin Moriarty. "The second goal was to find a new Scrooge and Chamblee Ferguson was the obvious choice. We felt he was the perfect actor to anchor, drive and inspire a brand new version of a play that we have all loved for so long."

Ferguson, who has played Bob Cratchit for the last five years and has 12 years of *A Christmas Carol* experience with DTC, also has an extensive list of stage and screen credits. DTC credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Henry IV*, *Death of a Salesman* and *In the Beginning*. Film and television credits include *Friday Night Lights*, *Prison Break*, *The Chase* and *A Scanner Darkly*.

"This show means so much to DTC staff, actors, production team and to so many, families in Dallas and throughout North Texas. It is refreshing to be reminded of what Dickens intended when he wrote this story," says director and Resident Acting Company member Matthew Gray. "He wanted us to be our brother's keeper, to look out for our fellow man -- and not just on Christmas, but every day. Yes, we are here to put on a good show, but we are here to do so much more."

As part of its ongoing commitment to give back to the community, DTC will again partner with the North Texas Food Bank to help close the gap on hunger in North Texas. After collecting more than \$81,000 in the last two years, members of *A Christmas Carol* cast will once again invite patrons to make cash donations at the end of each performance. In addition to collecting monetary donations, DTC staff, Brierly Resident Acting Company members and *A Christmas Carol* cast have already donated their time by volunteering at the NTFB warehouse in October. After two days of working in the warehouse, DTC readied 19 pallets of food for distribution – the equivalent of 12,469 meals.

"Dallas Theater Center and the North Texas Food Bank are partnering for a third consecutive year to raise necessary funds, provide volunteer hours and help educate our community about the face of hunger in North Texas," says DTC artistic director Kevin Moriarty. "That includes a significant collaborative education effort that will reach more than 6000 students. In the same way that Scrooge changes and learns that he is part of a community larger than his own private world, so too can our audiences celebrate the true meaning of Christmas by helping those in need here in north Texas."

The cast features DTC Resident Acting Company members Chamblee Ferguson as Scrooge, Liz Mikel as Jacob Marley, Cedric Neal (The Ghost of Christmas Past), Abbey Siegworth (Belle), Lee Trull (Fred/Young Scrooge) and Christina Vela (Mrs. Fezziwig). Regan Adair, J. Brent Alford, Emily Gray, Alex Organ and Cara Statham Serber join Resident Acting Company members along with Christian St. John Chiles, Caitlin Hale Daniels, Mark Fisher, Jake Gray, Aiden Langford, Marlhy Murphy, Paloma Renteria, Halle Tomlinson and Ben Villasenor in the children's roles. SMU Meadows School of the Arts students include David Gorena, Tiffany Hobbs and Rachel Werline.

The design team for *A Christmas Carol* includes Lindy Heath Cabe (Music Direction and Choreography), Bob Lavallo (Scenic Design), Wade Laboissonniere (Costume Design), Matthew Richards (Lighting Design), Emily Gray (Dialect Coach), Jeff Gifford (Production Manager), Meilissa Daroff (Stage Manager), Chris "Waffles" Wathen (Assistant Stage Manager), Lee Trull (Casting) and Preston Swincher (Assistant Director).

All performances of *A Christmas Carol* will be held in the Kalita Humphreys Theater located at 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. (at Blackburn), where it runs Nov. 26 – Dec. 24. Preview performances are Nov. 26 – Dec. 2. Opening night is **Friday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m.** Performance times are Tuesday through Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.; and select Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$15-\$70 and are available by calling the box office at 214-880-0202 or by visiting www.dallastheatercenter.org. The Pay What You Can performance of *A Christmas Carol* will be Friday, Nov. 26 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be available at the Kalita Humphreys box office at 5:30 p.m. Pay What You Can allows patrons to purchase ANY seat in the house for ANY amount they choose. For as little as a penny, theatergoers can see world-class live theater at Dallas Theater Center.

ABOUT DALLAS THEATER CENTER:

One of the leading regional theaters in the country, Dallas Theater Center (DTC) performs to an audience of more than 90,000 North Texas residents annually. DTC is a resident company of the AT&T Performing Arts Center and presents its mainstage season at the Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre. DTC also presents productions at Kalita Humphreys Theater, the only freestanding theater designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright. DTC engages, entertains and inspires a diverse community by creating experiences that stimulate new ways of thinking and living by consistently producing plays, educational programs and other initiatives that are of the highest quality and reach the broadest possible constituency.

The mission of DTC is to engage, entertain and inspire our diverse community by creating experiences that stimulate new ways of thinking and living. With the leadership of Artistic Director Kevin Moriarty and Managing Director Mark Hadley, DTC is committed to consistently producing plays, educational programs and other initiatives that are of the highest quality and reach the broadest possible constituency.

ABOUT NORTH TEXAS FOOD BANK:

The North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) is a nonprofit hunger relief organization that distributes donated, purchased and prepared foods through a network of 1,184 feeding programs in 13 North Texas counties. The NTFB supports the nutritional needs of children, families and seniors through education, advocacy and strategic partnerships. Close the Gap is the NTFB's 3-year initiative to unite the community to narrow the food gap by providing access to 50 million meals annually by 2011.

Founded in 1982, the NTFB is a member of Feeding America (feedingamerica.org). Last year, the NTFB provided access to almost 45 million meals through its efforts, 7.7 million meals, or 21 percent more, than the previous year. Each month Member Agency pantries distribute food to nearly 25,000 people every day. Every dollar donated to the NTFB provides four meals for the hungry.

###