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Dallas Theater Center Casts Shakespeare Dallas' Artistic Director in Annual *A Christmas Carol*

DALLAS (August 25, 2021) - Dallas Theater Center (DTC) proudly announces a familiar face will feature in its annual production of *A Christmas Carol*! Raphael Parry, Executive and Artistic Director of Shakespeare Dallas, will star as Ebenezer Scrooge.

Parry will be collaborating with Christie Vela, Associate Artistic Director at Theatre Three and a founding member of DTC's Diane and Brierley Resident Acting Company in 2008, who is directing the production. Vela will also appear on stage at DTC in the role of Sugar in *Tiny Beautiful Things*, the theater's opening production, starting on September 8.

"Raphael is one of the most beloved theater artists in Dallas," said Kevin Moriarty, DTC Enloe/Rose Artistic Director. "His decades of work at Shakespeare Dallas, Undermain, DTC and so many theaters throughout North Texas have inspired artists and audiences alike, who have been awed by his boundless energy, theatrical bravery and creativity. It will be a joy for all of us at DTC to welcome Raphael back to our stage in the most well-known role in our season. I can't wait to see his interpretation of Scrooge. With Raphael and Christie's collaboration, *A Christmas Carol* will be an opportunity for us to not only celebrate the joy of the holidays with our audiences but to also celebrate the immense talent in our local theater community."

Parry joined Shakespeare Dallas in 2002, becoming Executive and Artistic Director in 2008. In addition to overseeing each production, he has also directed and performed in over 35 productions. Most recently, he directed *Shakespeare in Love* and performed the title role in *Titus Andronicus*. Parry is scheduled to direct *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the summer of 2022, part of Shakespeare Dallas' 50th Season.

He is also the Co-Founder and former Co-Artistic Director of Undermain Theatre, the Founding Producer of Project X: Theatre, and served for five years as Artistic Director of Young Audiences of North Texas. Parry has received multiple citations from the Dallas Theatre Critics' Forum and the Leon Rabin Awards as a director and actor. This is a return to the DTC stage for Parry. He joined the theater as an actor for several roles including in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Tartuffe*, and *Taking Steps*. He even acted in and directed DTC's *A Christmas Carol* (1995, 1997). This is the first time Parry has taken on the role of Scrooge.

"What a thrill to return to the stage at DTC in such an iconic role! *A Christmas Carol* is a great

opportunity for us to come together as a community and celebrate the holiday season with this timeless classic.” said Raphael Parry, Executive and Artistic Director Shakespeare Dallas, Ebenezer Scrooge (*A Christmas Carol*).

In *A Christmas Carol*, three spirits come to visit the miserly Scrooge, and to take him on a fantastic journey through Christmases past, present and future. But will it be enough to save Scrooge’s soul? Brimming with joyful songs, magical spirits, and holiday cheer, DTC reimagines Dickens’ classic tale of joy, redemption, and the spirit of Christmas.

After DTC transitioned to a one-time only digital version of *A Christmas Carol* during the 2020-21 season, caused by the pandemic, this season the theater is returning to its large-scale indoor production. The production will be held in the Dee & Charles Wylie Theatre November 24 - December 26. To get more information or to buy tickets please visit www.dallastheatercenter.org/show/a-christmas-carol-2021/.

ABOUT DALLAS THEATER CENTER:

One of the leading regional theaters in the country and the 2017 Regional Theatre Tony Award® Recipient, Dallas Theater Center (DTC) performs to an audience of more than 100,000 North Texas residents annually. Founded in 1959, DTC is now a resident company of the AT&T Performing Arts Center and presents its Mainstage season at the Dee and Charles Wylie Theatre, designed by REX/OMA, Joshua Prince-Ramus and Rem Koolhaas and at its original home, the Kalita Humphreys Theater, the only freestanding theater designed and built by Frank Lloyd Wright. Dallas Theater Center is one of only two theaters in Texas that is a member of the League of Resident Theatres, the largest and most prestigious non-profit professional theater association in the country. Under the leadership of Enloe/Rose Artistic Director Kevin Moriarty and Managing Director Jeffrey Woodward, Dallas Theater Center produces a year-round subscription series of classics, musicals, and new plays and an annual production of *A Christmas Carol*; extensive education programs, including the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award-winning Project Discovery, a partnership with Southern Methodist University’s Meadows School of the Arts; and many community collaborations. In 2017, in collaboration with Ignite/Arts Dallas at SMU Meadows School of the Arts and the AT&T Performing Arts Center, DTC launched Public Works Dallas, a groundbreaking community engagement and participatory theater project designed to deliberately blur the line between professional artists and community members, culminating in an annual production featuring more than 200 Dallas citizens performing a large scale theatrical production. Throughout its history, Dallas Theater Center has produced many new works, including *The Texas Trilogy* by Preston Jones in 1978; Robert Penn Warren’s *All the King’s Men*, adapted by Adrian Hall, in 1986; and recent premieres of *Miller, Mississippi* by Boo Killebrew; *Stagger Lee* by Will Power; *Hood: The Robin Hood Musical Adventure* by Douglas Carter Beane and Lewis Flinn; *Bella: An American Tall Tale* by Kirsten Childs; *penny candy* by Jonathan Norton; *Clarkston* by Samuel D. Hunter and *Moonshine: That Hee Haw Musical* by Robert Horn, Brandy Clark and Shane McAnally. Dallas Theater Center gratefully acknowledges the support of our season sponsors: Texas Instruments and Texas Instruments Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, American Airlines, City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture, Lexus, TACA, and Texas Commission on the Arts.

Commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: At Dallas Theater Center, all are welcome. We want to be the best place to work and see theater, and to be a positive and transformational force in Dallas and beyond. We stand-up for equity, diversity, and inclusion across our company and community. As a leading national theater, we recognize that building an equitable, diverse, and inclusive environment is central to our relevance and sustainability in the community we serve and love. We acknowledge the land upon which this production was filmed as the ancestral home of many Indigenous Peoples including the Caddo, Wichita, Tawakoni and Kiikaapoi, as well as the tribes that may have lived here and roamed the area including Comanche, Kiowa and Apache and those indigenous people whose names we don’t know anymore. We honor, revere and respect those who were stewards of this land long before we made it our home. We also acknowledge the neighborhood we inhabit as one of the original Freedman’s towns of Dallas built by those who were enslaved by European colonization.

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