

For Immediate Release
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**METROPOLIS' A CHRISTMAS CAROL TURNS FIVE,
FAMILY-FRIENDLY HOLIDAY TRADITION IN CHICAGO'S NORTHWEST SUBURBS
RETURNS TO SPREAD SEASONAL CHEER NOV. 24-DEC. 24**

Arlington Heights, Ill., October 31, 2006 - From the first "Bah Humbug!" to the final "God bless us, everyone!," Metropolis' annual staging of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* is always a warm, lovingly staged, family-friendly homage to everyone's favorite holiday tale.

Back for its fifth consecutive outing, Metropolis' *A Christmas Carol* has matured into a bonafide holiday tradition in Chicago's northwest suburbs, not to mention the theater's biggest-selling show each year. This year's production features an all-ages cast of more than 20 actors, a live music ensemble and enough holiday drama, dancing, song, merrymaking, laughter, tears and special effects to entertain the entire family. Performances are November 24-December 24, 2006. **Press opening is Sunday, November 26 at 3 pm.** Tickets are only \$25; \$12.50 for children 12 and under. Did we mention you don't have to drive downtown and parking is free!

The Metropolis Performing Arts Centre is conveniently located at 111 W. Campbell St. in the heart of downtown Arlington Heights. For tickets and information, call the Metropolis box office, **(847) 577-2121**, stop by Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (or until show time), Sun., 1-5 p.m. (or until show time), or purchase tickets online at **MetropolisArts.com**.

C'mon, who can resist Dickens' beloved story of Ebenezer Scrooge? The greedy curmudgeon's tale unfolds on a single Christmas Eve in 1843 London, when a midnight visit from the spirit of his former business partner, Jacob Marley, sets off a series of fantastic journeys to pivotal moments in Scrooge's life. The first, Scrooge is accompanied by the Ghost of Christmas Past, second, the Ghost of Christmas Present, third - and most terrifying - the Ghost of Christmas Future. When Scrooge's eyes are opened to a possible future that connects his death to poor clerk Bob Cratchit's child Tiny Tim's, Scrooge finds redemption and magically transforms from stonehearted ogre to warm ambassador of holiday cheer.

Robin M. Hughes returns for the third time to direct **Krista Scott's** music-infused adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*. Hughes is Casting Director at Metropolis, where she has performed and directed over a dozen productions. Each year, she finds new ways to add fresh life to Dickens' wonderful holiday tale while honoring its classic origins. For this year's outing, Hughes has assembled a chorus of 30 children ages 6 to 16 from the surrounding communities who will rotate into the show throughout the run to sing, dance and act as part of the ensemble of towns people.

Members of the Children's Chorus, which rotates four additional cast members into each show, are **Mike Ancona** (Des Plaines), **Breana Button** (Park Ridge), **Breighanna Carey** (Park Ridge), **Katie Cascino** (Arlington Heights), **Alexandra Elich** (Lake Barrington), **Mason Grabowski**, **Rachel Grabowski** (both of Arlington Heights), **Julia Homola** (South Barrington), **Katherine Jordan** (Des Plaines), **Stephanie Kerbis** (Buffalo Grove), **Laney Kraus-Taddeo** (Park Ridge), **Emily Leahy** (Elk Grove Village), **Alexander Levy** (Buffalo Grove), **Riley Mangan** (Arlington Heights), **Allie Oakes**, **Katie Oakes** (both of Palatine), **Kelly O'Brien** (Palatine), **Alyssa O'Connell** (Arlington Heights), **Olivia Palak** (Lisle),

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Vanessa Parise (Arlington Heights), **Heather Pecho** (Arlington Heights), **Tricia Pendergrast** (McHenry), **Ava Raddatz** (Westchester), **Jennifer Ruda** (Arlington Heights), **Sam Schumacher** (Itasca), **Frankie Skinner** (Arlington Heights), **Donald Smith** (Des Plaines), **Brigid Van Der Bosch**, **Jim Van Der Bosch** (both of Arlington Heights), and **John Weicher** (Arlington Heights).

Lead cast members include **Stephen Connell** as Ebenezer Scrooge, with **Damian Arnold** (Bob Cratchit); **Shawn A. Bechtol** (Ghost of Christmas Future/Schoolmaster); **Natalie Bounassar** (Ghost of Christmas Past/Martha Cratchit); **Melonie Collmann** (Belle); **Lauren Creel** (Charity Woman 1/Constance/Mrs. Crow); **Bridget Euker** (Belinda Cratchit/Belle's daughter); **Daniel Euker** (Nicholas Cratchit/Turkey Boy); **Kristen Freilich** (Mrs. Cratchit); **Kent Lundsberg Joseph** (Mr. Fezziwig/ Ghost of Christmas Present); **Steve Lehtman** (Baker/Belle's Husband/Ghost of Jacob Marley); **Jonathon Lynch** (Dick Wilkens/Fred); **Isabella Murad** (Fan/Elizabeth Cratchit/Want); **Matt Rice** (Ignorance/Ebby/Belle's Son); **Mollie Rice** (Tiny Tim Cratchit); **Lisa Rock** (Mrs. Fezziwig/Beggar/Old Joe); **Michael Rosenblum** (Young Scrooge/Topper/Poulterer); **David Thill** (Peter Cratchit); **Carolyn Wright** (Charity Woman 2/Prudence/Mrs. Dilber); and **Clarissa Yearman** (Maggie).

Musicians are **Naomi Culp** (piano), **Kathryn Diana** (violin), **Les Olds** (clarinet, bass clarinet) and **David Orlitz** (clarinet, bass clarinet.)

Designers are **Ken McMullen**, music director; **Kristen Gurbach**, choreographer; **John W. Holman**, set; **Yousif Mohamed**, lights; **Vicky J. Strei**, costumes; **William A. Franz** and **Corey Harrison**, sound; and **David A. Loranca**, props. **Jennifer Price** is stage manager. **Yousif Mohamed** is Production Manager. **Tim Rater** is Executive Director, Metropolis Performing Arts Centre.

The performance schedule for *A Christmas Carol*, November 24-December 24, 2006, is:

Friday, November 24 at 7 pm
Saturday, November 25 at 3 pm
Sunday, November 26 at 3 pm (press opening)
Friday, December 1 at 11:30 am and 7 pm
Saturday, December 2 at 3 pm
Sunday, December 3 at 2 pm
Wednesday, December 6 at 9:15 am and 11:30 am
Friday, December 8 at 9:15 am, 11:30 am, 7 pm
Saturday, December 9 at 3 pm
Sunday, December 10 at noon and 3 pm
Wednesday, December 13 at 9:15 am, 11:30 am and 7:30 pm
Friday, December 15 at 9:15 am, 11:30 am, and 7 pm
Saturday, December 16 at 3 pm
Sunday, December 17 at noon and 3 pm
Monday, December 18 at 11:30 am
Tuesday, December 19 at 10:30 am
Wednesday, December 20 at 11:30 am and 7:30 pm
Friday, December 22 at 11:30 am and 7 pm
Saturday, December 23 at noon and 3 pm
Sunday, December 24 at 3 pm

The official sponsor of Metropolis' production of *A Christmas Carol* is **The Peoples' Bank of Arlington Heights**, 10 S. Vail Ave., Arlington Heights.

Metropolis' *A Christmas Carol* turns five.10.31.06.pg 3 of 3

In addition to *A Christmas Carol*, Metropolis proudly presents these other holiday shows this season:

The Second City's Dysfunctional Holiday Revue

November 24-December 30, 2006

One cup seasonal-satire; two cups Joseph and Mary; a pinch of spiked eggnog and a dash of dysfunction. That's the recipe for hysterical holiday comedy. With sketches, songs and improvised scenes, this is how The Second City laughs at dysfunction, the chaos of the holidays and enjoys the season. Suggested rating R. Proudly brought to you by The Peoples' Bank of Arlington Heights.

A Celtic Holiday Celebration featuring Arranmore, Donnybrook and the McNulty Irish Dancers

November 24, 1 and 3:30 pm

A unique holiday music experience - traditional and contemporary, Irish and American, Christmas and Arranmore, one of the area's leading Irish folk bands.

Metropolis Youth Symphony

December 9, 11 am

A festive holiday concert by Metropolis' own resident youth symphony, directed by Javier José Mendoza, Music Director and Conductor of the Metropolis Youth Symphony.

Lakeside Singers

December 11, 8 pm

Don't miss Chicago's acclaimed choral ensemble sing holiday songs composed as early as the middle ages, and as recently as last month.

I'll Be Home-icidal for Christmas

Wednesday, December 20, 6 pm

Tickets \$50 (includes 3-course meal, show and cash bar, in the beautiful Metropolis Ballroom)

You'd think after years of seeing all those ghosts and getting all their warnings, he'd stop acting like a jerk. But alas, in this holiday-themed Murder at Metropolis Mystery Dinner Theatre, Scrooge gets whacked! And it's up to you to find out who did it. Just cause he's tiny doesn't mean Tim couldn't have done it. And Cratchet's been getting the shaft for years. Maybe it was the person sitting next to you!

New Year's Eve with The Second City

December 31 Two shows, 6:30 and 10 pm

You can do the usual again this New Year's Eve: Party with people you barely know. OR you can laugh till you blow bubbly out your nose with legendary comedy troupe The Second City. Late show includes streamers, balloon drops and a champagne toast. Suggested rating R. Proudly brought to you by The Peoples' Bank of Arlington Heights.

The Metropolis Performing Arts Centre is located in the heart of Chicago's northwest suburbs, at 111 W. Campbell St. one block south of the downtown Arlington Heights Metra station. Free parking is available in the covered garage directly behind the theater. Patrons can ask the box office to book pre- or post-show dinner reservations at nearby restaurants including Carlos n' Carlos, a new dining destination located right in the Metropolis complex. Metropolis offers wheelchair and easy access seating. Metropolis also continues to make live theater more accessible to younger audiences, with a half-price student rush policy on single tickets, one hour before show time.

For more information about Metropolis and a complete 2006/2007 performance schedule, go to **MetropolisArts.com**.

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