

Director's Note

THE TRIP's Christmas Carol

A Christmas Carol is an epic journey and stylistic mashup. It's a ghost story, sci-fi time warp, nostalgic memory, nightmare, and Victorian relic rolled into one. There are hundreds of characters, dozens of locations and scene changes. Tradition says the story belongs to its famous miser, Scrooge. But I'd argue to the contrary, perhaps because I like theater that empowers the whole ensemble. I'd suggest that *A Christmas Carol* belongs to *everyone around Scrooge* who collectively create and populate the dream landscapes through which he wanders. To put it another way, everyone around Scrooge is like a great backstage crew, building the walls and hustling them into place just in time for the next scene in Scrooge's life. Thank goodness the crew is so good, because without scenery we'd surely be lost!

And one more thing. Scrooge is not just a miser, and his story is not just about waking up to the "Christmas spirit." *A Christmas Carol* is the story of a man waking up to himself. It's the story of a blind man seeing again. The world pours into Scrooge's dark cell, and he is overcome with emotions that run from joy to despair. Writing this adaptation, I couldn't stop thinking about how beautiful and traumatic it would be to suddenly see your dim gray surroundings blaze with color and light.

I am unbelievably grateful to Brian Johnson and his extraordinary company for tackling this new Christmas Carol with me.

Tom Dugdale
December, 2015