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By: Katie Becker Dec. 02, 2018



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ONE NIGHT IN MEMPHIS Set to Rock the Orpheum Theater Center In October

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Video: Chita Rivera Remember

No holiday season is complete without a viewing of the holiday classic A CHRISTMAS CAROL by Charles Dickens. Sioux Empire Community Theatre's (SECT) staging of the festive show opened on Thursday night at The Orpheum Theatre in Downtown Sioux Falls. A merry tone is set the moment the house doors open with various energetic carolers and characters mingling in the lobby, interacting with patrons as they arrive. Be sure to arrive early to shake hands with Mr. Fezziwig, who acts as perfect party host with contagious excitement on and off stage, and catch the talented cast perform your favorite carols.

In his first show with SECT, Louis Mehlhaff takes on the role of Ebenezer Scrooge - a wealthy businessman who loathes Christmas and all the joy and grace associated with it. Mehlhaff does a wonderful job at portraying the old curmudgeon, manipulating his





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In contrast to his curmudgeon of an uncle, Josiah Southall as Scrooge’s nephew Fred brings a light to the stage with consistent joyful energy throughout the show. Southall gained early laughs from the audience when his repeated attempts to give his uncle a hug or a handshake are denied, only to try again with persistence that won’t be dismissed.

On Christmas Eve Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his deceased business partner, **Jacob Marley**, and warned that three ghosts will visit him in the night. The arrival of these apparitions is perhaps director Matt Nesmith’s best use of the multi-level stage, with each one arriving from a different point that keeps the audience guessing. I was blown away by each entrance, but will leave these as treats for audiences who catch the show next weekend.



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The show is filled with technical effects that breathe life into the show. The lighting design by Lucas Granholm is strong but understated, beautifully setting the tone for each scene with vivid color. Snow and fog machines also add notes of whimsy or eeriness throughout the performance.

As the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come (portrayed here by [Emily Wilson](#), Mitchell Olson, and [Will Smith](#), respectively) visit old man Scrooge he is forced to reflect on his life and grapples with the choices he’s made and the man he is. The journeys that these apparitions take introduce the audience to the shows talented cast of young performers; from the touching scene between young Ebenezer and his sister Fan to the spirited Cratchit children there is no shortage of talent in the young performers on this stage.

When Scrooge awakes on Christmas morning he has come to terms with his actions and chooses to embrace the Christmas spirit, making amends with those in his life in an effort to be a better man. After his ghostly visits, Scrooge is a visibly different man. Mehlhaff adds more glee to the character with each relationship he mends until the joy is spilling out of him and he repeats “I’m getting very good at this.” The show closes with an all company rendition of *Noel* and the infamous line “God Bless us, everyone!” – at this point there couldn’t be any other acceptable ending to this timeless story.

Be sure to get your [tickets](#) to this holiday classic, the show runs at the Orpheum Theater in Downtown Sioux Falls through December 9th.

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Photo Credit: Sioux Empire Community Theatre

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Tickets On Sale Now For Spotlight Theatre Company's Fall Performance Series

Spotlight Theatre Company announced its Fall Performance Series at the Washington Pavilion. The series will feature a variety of shows, offering audiences a range of theatrical experiences this season.



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Washington Pavilion Management, Inc. Names Chief Financial Officer

Washington Pavilion Management, Inc. has announced the appointment of Nathan Brand as its new Chief Financial Officer. In this role, Brand will be responsible for advancing the organization's business and financial strategy to ensure continued growth and success.

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SERIAL KILLERS: WITH DR. SCOTT BONN Announced At Orpheum Theater Center

SERIAL KILLERS: WITH DR. SCOTT BONN to be presented at Orpheum Theater Center (315 North Phillips Ave., Sioux Falls, Sd 57104) on Friday, January 3, 2025.
FROM THIS AUTHOR - KATIE BECKER

VIDEOS



Chita Rivera Remembers Iconic Disco in STUDIO ONE FOREVER



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SOUTH DAKOTA SHOWS



The Book of Mormon (Non-Equity)

Washington Pavilion [Sommervold Hall] (5/02-5/03)



Freaky Friday

Sioux Falls Orpheum Theatre (9/26-10/06)



Mean Girls (Non-Equity)

Sioux City Orpheum (3/11-3/11)



Ain't Too Proud (Non-Equity)

Sioux City Orpheum (5/07-5/08)



Dear Evan Hansen (Non-Equity)

Sioux City Orpheum (12/04-12/04)



Shrek the Musical (Non-Equity)

Washington Pavilion [Sommervold Hall] (10/24-10/26)



Hadestown (Non-Equity)

Washington Pavilion [Sommervold Hall] (1/17-1/19)



Come From Away (Non-Equity)

Washington Pavilion [Sommervold Hall] (1/07-1/09)

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Liza Minnelli Joins DRAG: THE MUSICAL as Producing Partner



Video: Josh Groban Performs 'Pure Imagination' with the NY Philharmonic



Date Announced for 2025 Tony Awards Nominations

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