

BRENDAN RAGAN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

# METROPOLIS

PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE



CHARLES  
DICKENS'

# A CHRISTMAS CAROL

NOVEMBER 25 TO  
DECEMBER 24, 2023

**BRENDAN RAGAN ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**  
**METROPOLIS PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE**

# A CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS CAROL

By **CHARLES DICKENS**

Adapted by **JACQUELINE GOLDFINGER**

Director  
**BRENDAN RAGAN\***

Lighting Designer  
**LEVI WILKINS**

Props Designer  
**THERESA NEUMAYER**

Music Director  
**KEN MCMULLEN**

Sound Designer  
**DANIEL ETTI-WILLIAMS**

Puppet and Effects Artist  
**PATRICK MCGUIRE**

Choreographer  
**KAITY PASCHETTO**

Costume Designer  
**ANDRÉS MOTA**

Intimacy Director  
**CHRISTA RETKA**

Stage Manager  
**LILI BJORKLUND**

Hair & Makeup  
Designer  
**ALICE SALAZAR**

Dramaturg  
**LINDA SCHEUFLER**

Assistant Stage Manager  
**BRIDGET KEARBAY**

Assistant Hair &  
Makeup Designer  
**MIGUEL RAMOS**

Dialect Coach  
**ERIN O'CONNOR**

Scenic Designer  
**MARA ISHIHARA ZINKY**

Casting Director  
**ROBIN HUGHES\***

# CAST

Scrooge .....	<b>STEVE CONNELL</b>
Bob Cratchit .....	<b>ANDREW BOSWORTH</b>
Mr. Fezziwig/Storyteller .....	<b>TONY CALZARETTA</b>
Mrs. Cratchit/Storyteller/Rich Woman .....	<b>LIZZIE WILLIAMS</b>
Mrs. Fezziwig/ Storyteller/Charity Woman.....	<b>DREAA KAY BAUDY</b>
Marley/Storyteller/Rich Man/Topper .....	<b>PETER BRICEÑO GERTAS</b>
Ghost of Christmas Past/Storyteller.....	<b>ZOYA MARTIN</b>
Fred/Storyteller .....	<b>GABRIEL FRIES</b>
Belle/Partier/Poor Woman/Ensemble .....	<b>MAURA FAWLEY</b>
Apprentice Scrooge/Ensemble .....	<b>BECK DAMRON</b>
Ghost of Christmas Present/Poor Old Man/Postman .....	<b>JOSH FRINK</b>
Martha Cratchit/Partier/Ensemble .....	<b>OLIVIA ZAK</b>
Peter Cratchit/Poor Young Man/Ensemble .....	<b>MASON WANG</b>
Alice/Charity Woman/Ensemble .....	<b>CARTER ROSE SHERMAN</b>
Rose/Christmas Day Woman/Ensemble .....	<b>AMANDA DONOHOE</b>
Ghost of Christmas Future/Dick Wilkins/Partier .....	<b>MICHAEL J. SANTOS</b>
Winter .....	<b>EMMA GRACE BAILEY</b>
Tiny Tim Cratchit/Ignorance .....	<b>SPENCER SCHILLINGER*</b>
Tiny Tim Cratchit/Ignorance .....	<b>BEN BROWN ‡</b>
Belinda Cratchit/Want/Wilkins Daughter .....	<b>LAYLA JOAN*</b>
Belinda Cratchit/Want/Wilkins Daughter .....	<b>NATALIE LOPEZ ‡</b>
Young Scrooge/Turkey Boy/Child .....	<b>LUCIAN GUTFRAYND*</b>
Young Scrooge/Turkey Boy/Child .....	<b>ELI VANDER GRIEND ‡</b>
Swing .....	<b>JONAH HARDER</b>
Swing .....	<b>HOLLY BEEMER</b>

\* Performing on 11/25 @ 7pm, 11/30 @ 7:30pm, 12/2 @ 3pm, 12/3 @ 3pm, 12/7 @ 10am, 12/8 @ 7:30pm, 12/9 @ 7:30pm, 12/14 @ 7:30pm, 12/15 @ 10am, 12/16 @ 3pm, 12/17 @ 3pm, 12/21 @ 10am, 12/22 @ 7:30pm & 12/23 @ 7:30pm

‡ Performing on 11/25 @ 3pm, 11/26 @ 3pm, 12/1 @ 7:30pm, 12/2 @ 7:30pm, 12/7 @ 7:30pm, 12/9 @ 3pm, 12/10 @ 3pm, 12/14 @ 10am, 12/15 @ 7:30pm, 12/16 @ 7:30pm, 12/21 @ 7:30pm, 12/22 @ 10am, 12/23 @ 3pm, 12/24 @ 3pm

# CREATIVE TEAM FOR A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Dance Captain .....	<b>EMMA GRACE BAILEY</b>
Wig Supervisor .....	<b>MIGUEL RAMOS</b>
Wardrobe Supervisor .....	<b>NANCY KOLTON</b>
Youth Coordinator .....	<b>AIDEN LAMBERT</b>
Sound Engineer .....	<b>SEAN SLABER</b>
Spot Op/A2 .....	<b>MARIE FLOROV</b>
Spot Op .....	<b>CONNOR NEVITT</b>
Run Crew .....	<b>BROOKE MENZIES</b>
Crew Swing .....	<b>ZOE SCHMIDT</b>
Crew Swing .....	<b>DASHA FLOROV</b>
Scenic Charge .....	<b>DAVID GEINOSKY</b>
Scenic Carpenter .....	<b>AUSTIN LICHTMAN</b>
Scenic Carpenter .....	<b>COLIN LONERGAN</b>
Scenic Carpenter .....	<b>SEAN SLABER</b>
Scenic Stitcher .....	<b>MADDIE DANHOUSER</b>
Stitcher .....	<b>JANELLE SMITH</b>
Programmer .....	<b>LAUREN SKULLEY</b>
Electrician .....	<b>ALEXA WILJANEN</b>
Electrician .....	<b>ISH PETERSEN</b>
Electrician .....	<b>KEVIN KRESS</b>
Electrician .....	<b>BRIAN RUNGE</b>

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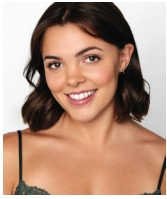
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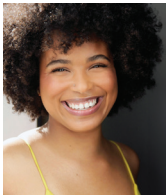
## WHO'S WHO • CAST & CREATIVES



### EMMA GRACE BAILEY

[She/Her] (Winter) appears in her Metropolis Debut! She is currently studying Musical Theatre with an emphasis in Dance

at CCPA through Roosevelt University. Various credits include: *An American In Paris*, *Legally Blonde* (Margot), *Chess*, *Escape to Margaritaville*, *Addams Family*, and the world premiere of *LOKI: At the End of the World* (Sigyn). She thanks her family and friends who are near and far for their constant love, care, and support as she slays her way through life! You can follow along with her on Instagram @emgrazz – Happy Holidays!



### DREAA KAY BAUDY

[She/Her] (Storyteller, Mrs. Fezziwig) is a New Orleans native, but recently moved to Chicago. She

graduated with her BA in Philosophy from Tulane University and has a MFA in Acting at the FSU-Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training. Some of her recent credits include: La'Trice in *Chicken & Biscuits* and Constance in Ken Ludwig's *The Three Musketeers* (Asolo Rep). Beyond her passion for acting on the stage, she's also spent the last two years as a teaching artist. Dreaa Kay loves to travel, is a plant enthusiast and a cat mom. She is excited to be making her debut at Metropolis Arts!



### HOLLY BEEMER

(Swing) is from Gurnee, Ill. and just graduated this spring from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wis. with a Bachelor of Music in

Vocal Performance. There, she starred in *Oedipus for Kids* and *The Musical of Musicals the Musical*. As president of Lawrence's Cantata Treble Choir, she performed in concerts such as the University's annual Masterwork, Kaleidoscope at Fox Valley PAC, and ACDA in Chicago. In earlier years, she performed in *Legally Blonde*, *Mary Poppins*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Catch Me if You Can*, and *Twelfth Night* (WTHS Theatre). She is looking forward to working with Metropolis Theatre!

### LILI BJORKLUND [They/Them] (Stage

Manager) Past works with Metropolis include *Xanadu*, *Ragtime*, *The Legend of Georgia McBride*, and *Shout! The Mod Musical*. Other works include 7 productions with *Death & Pretzels* as Resident Stage Manager, *How Blood Go* (Congo Square Theatre), *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* (Steepest Theatre), *A Christmas Carol* (Goodman Theatre 2021), *The Abuelas and Hope: Part II* (Teatro Vista), *Poison* (The Plagiarists), *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins* (Strawdog Theatre 2018) and *Fun Harmless Warmachine* (The New Coordinates). Lili holds a degree in Theatre for Social Change from Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa.



### Meet the Cast on Instagram

And don't forget to **love and tag us** in your photos! (Before and after the show, of course.)  
[instagram.com/metropolisarts/](https://www.instagram.com/metropolisarts/)



**ANDREW BOSWORTH** [He/Him] (Bob Cratchit) is working with Metropolis for the first time. He received his MFA from the FSU/ Asolo Conservatory in Sarasota, Fla., and

since undergrad has also worked in N.C., Wis., Texas, and Iowa. In Chicago, he has worked with Redtwist, Stage Left, Glass Apple, and City Lit. He recently received his certification to teach the Demidov approach to acting, one of four people in the world, with colleagues in London/Vienna, Athens, and Florida. Visit: <http://andrewbosworth.weebly.com> and [www.demidovchicago.com](http://www.demidovchicago.com).



**BEN BROWN** [He/Him] (Tiny Tim, Ignorance) is in 5th Grade, residing in Mount Prospect since 2016. Recent show credits: *Finding Nemo Jr.*, *Willy Wonka*

*Jr.*, *Frozen Jr.*, and *Winnie The Pooh*. Ben has also performed in numerous Metropolis School of the Performing Arts camps including "Songs and Scenes" from *Hamilton*, *Sing*, and *Happy Feet*. Ben is a Judo Green Belt. Love and Thanks to Mom, Dad, and Julia.



**TONY CALZARETTA** (Fezzwig, Storyteller 1) was most recently seen as Danny McGuire in Metropolis' production of *Xanadu*. Recent roles/productions: Julian

Marsh (*42nd Street*), Bob Wallace (*White Christmas*), Billy Flynn (*Chicago*), Leading Player (*Pippin*), Emcee (*Cabaret*), Nathan Detroit (*Guys and Dolls*) Harold Hill (*Music Man*), Proprietor (*Assassins*) and Panch (*Spelling Bee/Choreographer*). Tony is a member of the Metropolis Board of Directors and Managing Partner of a Chicagoland Law Firm.

**COMMEDORE CLARK** [He/Him] (Head of Sound) has been working in the music industry for over a decade. Mixed and designed sound for many theatres, conventions, and festivals. He's mixed everything from indie punk, to big band jazz, to metal, to opera.



**STEVE CONNELL** [He/Him] (Scrooge) is thrilled to be rejoining MPAC after playing Scrooge here many other times over the past 20+ years! He

has also played the role at the Steel Beam Theatre in St. Charles and at the Woodstock Opera House. Also at Metropolis, Steve once appeared as Henry in *The Fantasticks* and Atticus in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Recently, he performed two of his three understudied roles in *The Crucible* at Invictus Theatre in Chicago. Steve, since retiring as a physics teacher, with his wife, Amy, have been operating RCLPC Theater in Crystal Lake.



**BECK DAMRON** [He/Him] (Apprentice Scrooge) originally from Arkansas, studied acting at The University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Recent credits: *The*

*Rocky Horror Show* (Surging Films and Theatrics), *Comedy of Errors & Measure for Measure* (Hoosier Shakespeare Festival), *Andy Warhol's Tomato* (Buffalo Theatre Ensemble), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* \*Lou Nominee\* (Three Brothers Theatre), *The Tempest* (Goodly Creatures Theatre), *The Book of Will* (Edge of the Wood), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Dunes Summer Theatre), and many shows with the Chicago Kids Company. Rep: Lori Lins LTD. Find out more at [Beckdamron.com](http://Beckdamron.com).



**AMANDA DONOHOE** [She/Her] (Rose, Christmas Day Woman, Ensemble) is very excited to be making her Metropolis debut! She was last seen in

Surging Films and Theatrics production of *Catch Me If You Can* (Brenda Strong) and their Jeff nominated production of *Urinetown* (Little Becky Two Shoes) as well as *The Spongebob Musical* (Electric Skate/Ensemble). You may have seen her in Big Noise Theatre's production of *Elephant and Piggie's "We are in a Play!"* (Piggie) or *Into the Woods* (Cinderella's Mother/Ensemble). Amanda has performed at the Towle Theater in *Reefer Madness* (Sally) as well as at Six Flags Great America in *Rocklusions* (Illusionist/Singer) and *Love at First Fright* (Katie). IG: @done\_ah\_what.

**DANIEL ETTI-WILLIAMS** [They/He] (Sound Designer) is an up-and-coming Sound Designer and Engineer local to Chicago. After Studying Acting at Oklahoma City University, they moved to Chicago to participate in Steppenwolf Theatre Company's Apprenticeship Program. Since then, they have had the opportunity to work all over Chicago making theatre and telling stories and expressing their passion through design.



**MAURA FAWLEY** [She/Her] (Belle, Partier, Poor Woman) is thrilled to be back for another winter with Metropolis! Maura was recently seen in *When All Of This Is Over*

with Glass Apple Theatre. Other credits include *A Christmas Carol*, *Peppa Pig Live!* (Nat. Tour), *Chicago*, and *Sound of Music*. She also recently choreographed *Suessical Kids!* with Metropolis School of Performing Arts. Maura is represented by Big Mouth Talent.

**MARIE FLOROV** [She/Her] (A2, Spot Op) is ecstatic to return backstage for her fourth production at Metropolis. Born and raised in Chicagoland, Marie graduated with a BA in Communication and Media with a double major in English Literature from DePaul University. Recently, Marie choreographed for Blue Demon Theatre and was last seen dancing on stage at Six Flags Great America as a human, elf, and zombie. Marie is also a seasonal dance, gymnastics, and ski coach. Outside of the theater, Marie loves reading, bouldering, and puzzles. Stay frothy!



**GABRIEL FRIES** [He/Him] (Fred, Storyteller 6) is delighted to return to Metropolis, where he previously appeared in *The Buddy Holly Story* and *Baskerville*. Recent

credits include *What the Constitution Means to Me* (Paramount Theatre), *Big River* (Mercury Theater Chicago) and *The Mama & the Papa Goose* (Inkwell Arts). Gabriel is at work on an album of original music, and you can catch him in *The Merry Beggars' On the Night Train* and *The Saints* podcasts! He is a proud graduate of Wesleyan University and is represented by Big Mouth Talent. Love and thanks to Mom and Dad! [www.gabriefries.net](http://www.gabriefries.net).



**JOSH FRINK** (Present, Old Joe, Postman) is thrilled to be rounding out their year at the Metropolis Performing Arts Center! You may recognize Josh from

their stint as Tateh in *Ragtime* as well as Uncle Fester in *The Addams Family* from earlier this year! Josh would like to thank their MPAC family for being so supportive throughout the year, their Mom, Dad, Sister and Brother-in-law for



always having their back, their amazing friends and of course their amazing partner Chloe. If you care to follow their Acting or Pokémon journeys, follow them at Joshuarfrink on Instagram!



**PETER BRICEÑO GERTAS**

He/Him (Ghost of Marley, Topper, Old Man, Storyteller 4). Peter

is a graduate from CCPA with a BFA in acting and has worked

in the Chicago theatre scene ever since. Notable credits include *Out of Love* (Interrobang Theatre Co), *Emma* (Lifeline Theatre), *In To America* (Griffin Theatre), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Citadel Theatre) and *Mi Latinidad* (The Den Theatre). Peter is excited to be a part of this production and hopes everyone in the audience has a wonderful time and happy holidays!



**LUCIAN GUTFRAYND**

(Young Scrooge, Turkey Boy, Child One) is thrilled to join the magical story of A Christmas Carol at the Metropolis Performing

Arts Centre. Recent credits include: *Gypsy* (Marriott Theatre); *A Christmas Story: The Musical!* (Marriott Theatre); *Billy Elliot* (Music Theater Works); *Matilda Jr.* (The Performer's School); and *Adventures of Peter Pan* (Kidstage). When he's not on stage, you can find Lucian dancing at DancEd Dance Centre. Love and gratitude to his family, friends and artistic mentors for their support and guidance, and to the MPAC team for this opportunity!

**VICTOR GUTIERREZ** (Technical Director) originally hails from the Los Angeles area, and recently moved to Chicago after finishing an MFA at

Carnegie Mellon University in Technical Direction. He is excited for his first year at Metropolis and is enjoying working with the incredible team here putting on amazing shows. Victor has also worked as a freelance carpenter, electrician, and on the rare occasion, as a scenic and lighting designer. He would like to thank his husband for all the support. He enjoys playing TTRPGs in his free time, and does in fact put his technical capabilities to work in his games.



**JONAH HARDER** [He/

Him] (Swing) was born in Minnesota, but has been raised in the Chicago suburbs from a young age. Jonah has recently been

seen in *Columbines* (Albright Theatre), *Les Miz* (Cyt), and *The Rainbow Bar and Grill* (Albright Theatre). Jonah also attended NIU studying acting for a year, and was in several showcases there. You can also listen to his music under his name on all platforms.

**ROBIN M. HUGHES** [She/Her] (Casting Director, Lead Artistic Associate) Robin M. Hughes has been with Metropolis since 2002, directing, acting, casting, and teaching. Select MPAC directing credits: *Legally Blonde*, *Chorus Line*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Into the Woods*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *Accomplice*. Steppenwolf Acting Fellowship credits: *Sideman*, *Hysteria*, *Ballad of Little Jo*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Whispering City*, and *Orson's Shadow*. Additional credits: Guthrie, Victory Gardens, Little Theatre On the Square, Williams Street Rep, Paramount Copley, Griffin, Circle, Light Opera Works, Bailiwick, and Mary-Arrchie. Robin is a MFA Acting graduate of ISU and Steppenwolf School, an AEA candidate, and a full union member of the Society of Directors and Choreographers.



**LAYLA JOAN** [She/Her] (Belinda Cratchit, Want, Wilkin's Daughter) is excited to make her Metropolis debut this holiday season! Most recently, Layla was on

stage as Chip in *Beauty and the Beast* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, and has appeared at Paramount Theatre in Aurora in *The Sound of Music* and at Brightside Theatre in *Gypsy*. Layla calls the Children's Theatre of Western Springs and Roadshow Naperville "home", and also trains with Shannon Comiskey, Elevate, and Academy of the Arts. Outside of theatre, Layla loves reading, and being with her large family. Layla is represented by Talent X Alexander.

**BRIDGET KEARBEBY** [She/Her] (Assistant Stage Manager) is so excited to be back at Metropolis for *A Christmas Carol!* Bridget is so grateful to be working alongside such a talented group of people. Recent backstage show credits: *Little Shop of Horrors* (Paramount Theatre), *School of Rock* (Paramount Theatre); Stage Management: *Xanadu* (Metropolis), *Twelfth Night* (Kane Repertory), *The Spongebob Musical*, *Fugitive Songs*, *Animal Farm* (Aurora University). Bridget would like to thank her friends and mentors for their continuous love and support. IG: bridgetnkearbey.



**NATALIE LOPEZ** [She/Her] (Belinda, Want, Wilkin's Daughter) is thrilled to be making her Metropolis debut in this holiday classic! Natalie is a 6th grader

from Naperville where she performs with Road Show, Inc. show choir and dances with EDE. She also studies musical theater with Illinois Academy of the Arts. Recent credits: *Children of Eden*

– Broadway in Chicago, in addition to many shows with educational theaters. Favorite role to date? Miss Hannigan in *Annie!* Offstage you might find Natalie acting on screen, playing with her lizard, or making bracelets. She is represented by Talent X Alexander and thanks her family for their constant support as she chases her dreams. @natalie.lopez\_official.



**ZOYA MARTIN** [She/Her] (Storyteller #5, Ghost of Christmas Past) is thrilled to be making her Metropolis debut in this heartwarming classic.

Select credits: *Dear Jack*, *Dear Louise*, *Hamlet* (Shakespeare & Company); *Silent Sky*, *Looking for Ithaca: An Odyssey* (Asolo Repertory Theatre); *Twelfth Night*, *The Learned Ladies*, *Belleville* (FSU/Asolo Conservatory); *Thirst* (Urbanite Theatre); *Emma: The Musical* (Chance Theater). Voice and Dialect coaching credits include *Sense & Sensibility* (FSU/Asolo Conservatory) and *The Burdens* (Urbanite Theatre). Zoya is a recent MFA graduate from the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training in Sarasota, Florida. She received her BFA from Azusa Pacific University, California.

**PATRICK MCGUIRE** [He/They/Any] (Puppet & Effects Artist) Puppetry design and fabrication credits include: *The Addams Family*, *A Year With Frog And Toad*, *Shrek*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *She Kills Monsters*, *Nevermore...*, and *Gossamer*. As a performer: Sofa Shakespeare: *The Taming of the Shrew* (shadow puppetry) and Sofa Shakespeare: *Titus Andronicus* (marionettes). Patrick has done freelance work for companies including, Florentine Opera, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Music Theater Works, and Gallaudet University, as well as design/

fabrication work in historical millinery, props, and costume crafts. MA (theatre directing), CCPA at Roosevelt University; MM, Boston University; BME, Illinois State. [www.patrickmcguirearts.com](http://www.patrickmcguirearts.com).

**ANDRÉS (ANDY) MOTA** [He/Him] (Costume Designer) is a Mexican costume designer now based in Chicago. Graduated from The National Institute of Fine Arts (Mexico City) B.A. degree in Theatre design with specialization in Costume Design from The National School of Dramatic Arts and Diplomas in Costumes for TV. Film and Advertising; Costume in the Clown. Some Mexican credits include: *El Casamiento*, *Aura*, *Opera*, (National Institute of Fine Arts) Telefonemas (Hefesto Teatro; University Theater Festival Finalists); Short films: *Veronica*, *Adios Hamburgo* (Argos Productions), Dance performances: *En el Ombligo de la Luna* (Contempo-Danza). Chicagoland credits *Southern Gothic* as Assistant Costume Designer/Wardrobe Coordinator, Costume Designer for *Buried Child*, *The Language Archive* (AstonRep), *Man of the People*, *In The Back/On The Floor* and Artistic Associate (Stage Left Theater), Costume Shop Manager at Dominica University, *Aztecs Human Sacrifice* (CityLit), *I Love You*, *You're Perfect*, *Now Change*, Collected Stories, *The Gift of the Magi* (Oil Lamp Theater), *Boeing Boeing* (Dunes Arts Foundation), and now happy and excited to be part of Metropolis Arts! For more info follow on instagram @andres.mota.ru.

**ALEXIS NAU** [She/Her] (Production Manager) hails from Tuscola, IL and holds a BS in Theatre Studies from the University of Evansville. Prior to her time at Metropolis, Alexis worked with the Northbrook Park District Theatre, Porthouse Theatre, and participated in Steppenwolf Theatre's Internship program. She is grateful to contribute to

the creation of impactful art, and strives every day to serve her community with empathy and energy.

**ERIN O'CONNOR** [She/Her] (Dialect Coach) is a resident of New York City and is thrilled to make her Chicago debut with Metropolis! Erin recently graduated with her MFA from the FSU / Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training where she studied voice and dialects with Patricia Delorey. She is an actor, educator, skilled stage combatant, and now, a dialect coach. Erin has worked regionally at The Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Asolo Repertory Theatre, and Shakespeare and Company. She is a member of Actor's Equity. Much love to Sean and her Peppa.

**KAITY PASCHETTO** [She/Her] (Choreographer) is a Chicago-based musical theatre performer, dancer, and choreographer. She earned her BFA from the University of Michigan. She has trained with the Louisville Ballet's Dale Brannon and Kathy Sawyer; the University of Kentucky's Teresa Bautista; and the University of Michigan's faculty, including Ron De Jesus, Judy Rice, Sara Randazzo, and renowned musical theatre choreographer Linda Goodrich. She has performed in many Metropolis productions, including: *Anything Goes*, *Ragtime*, *Legally Blonde*, *Cabaret*, and *The Addams Family*. She is thrilled to be making her Metropolis choreography debut with this production of A Christmas Carol. Outside of the studio and stage, Kaity enjoys spending her free time in the park or at the garden with her husband Ethan and their dog, Sesame.

**BRENDAN RAGAN** [He/Him] (Artistic Director) was the founding Co-Artistic Director of Sarasota's Urbanite Theatre, where he directed the regional premieres of *The Smuggler*, *Sender*, *Wakey, Wakey*, *The Burdens*, and *The*

*Drowning Girls*, among others. He directed the National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere of Jacqueline Goldfinger's *Backwards Forwards Back*, and wrote and directed Urbanite's original immersive experience *Safe House*. For Single Carrot Theatre in Baltimore, Brendan directed the world premiere productions of *La Muñeca*, *Illuminocem*, and *A Short Reunion*, as well as American Stage's world premiere adaptation of *Tartuffe* by Robert Caisley. Regional directing credits also include the Odyssey Play Festival, ThinkTank Theatre, Hermitage Artist Retreat, and the FSU/Asolo Conservatory (Handy Award Winner - Best Direction, Reckless). Brendan is a member of Actors' Equity Association and Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

**MIGUEL RAMOS JR.** [They/Them] (Assistant Wig & Makeup Designer, Wig and Makeup Supervisor) is a freelance makeup artist and cosmetologist based out of Fox Lake, IL. Recent show credits include: *The Legend Of Georgia McBride*, *Ragtime*, *Xanadu*, and *The Addams Family*. They'd like to thank their parents and sister for the endless love and support! Creep it real!

**CHRISTA RETKA** [She/Her] (Intimacy Director) is a Chicago based stage director and intimacy director. She is excited to be back at Metropolis! Her recent credits include: intimacy director for *Anyone Can Whistle*, *Hair*, *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* (MadKap Productions), *The Wild Party* (Blank Theatre Company), *Tick, Tick...BOOM!*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (Dunes Summer Theatre), *The Legend of Georgia McBride*, *Xanadu*, *The Addams Family* (Metropolis Performing Arts Center), and assistant director for *Shout! The Mod Musical* (Metropolis Performing Arts Center). To view more of her work, visit her website at [www.christaretka.com](http://www.christaretka.com).

**ALICE SALAZAR** (Wig, Hair, & Makeup Designer) is a professional hairdresser, long hairdressing educator, and make-up artist with over 20 years' experience. She turned her passion to wig design and received two wig certifications from the DePaul University Theater School which led to her working with several theater companies in the Chicago area, including Lyric Opera, Music Theater Works, Metropolis Theater, Haymarket Opera, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, and Northwestern University Opera school. She completed six UK tours with Chamber Opera Chicago, including performances at Edinburgh Fringe Jane Austen 200 in Winchester.



**MICHAEL J. SANTOS** [He/Him] (Dick Wilkins, Ghost of Christmas Past, Partier, Ensemble) is non-union actor and singer based in Chicago, Illinois. He

is happy to be making his Metropolis debut this holiday season with *A Christmas Carol*. His recent credits include *The HMS Pinafore*, *Black Sox On Trial*, *Red Summer*, *Promises, Promises: In Concert*, and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. He is a graduate of Millikin University with a BFA in Acting. He is thankful for representation at BMG Talent for being so helpful and supportive this past year.

**LINDA SCHEUFLER** [She/Her] (Dramaturg) is excited to be returning as Dramaturg for Metropolis' production of *A Christmas Carol* – a new adaptation by Jacqueline Goldfinger. Familiar characters, songs and new storytellers bring Charles Dickens' story to life. London 1840s was a challenging time during the Industrial Revolution, but neighborly love brings hope during Christmastime. Recent dramaturg works include: *Cabaret*, *SHOUT!*, *Legally Blonde*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Anything Goes*, *Buddy*

Holly, and more. Member of Literary Managers & Dramatists Association (LMDA) and Reader for the Bay Area Playwrights' Festival (BAPF). Thanks to Brendan Ragan, MPAC, and family for their support. "God bless us, Everyone!"



**SPENCER SCHILLINGER** (Tiny Tim, Ignorance) is happy to be a part of *A Christmas Carol* at Metropolis Performing Arts Center! He has

previously played Chip in *Beauty and the Beast* (Overshadowed), *Tiny Tim in A Christmas Carol* (Wheaton Drama), a farm boy in *Gypsy* (BrightSide), and Thing 1 in *Seussical* (KAI). He loves to tap and be on the stage! He'd like to thank his family and friends who have supported him as he explores his love for theater and God for giving him his talents.

**ZOE SCHMIDT** [She/Her] (Crew Swing) is the Resident Stage Manager and youth improvisation instructor for the Metropolis School of Performing Arts. She is very excited to be involved with her first mainstage production. Recent show credits: *Willy Wonka Jr.*, *Seussical Jr.*, *Seussical Kids*, and *Finding Nemo Jr.* Other credits include: *Stand and Deliver* (Morton West High School), *The Worstest Play Ever Wrote* (Illinois State University), and *Stuart Little* (Illinois State University).



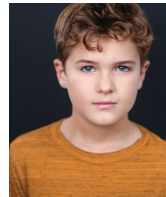
**CARTER ROSE SHERMAN** [She/Her] (Alice, Charity Woman 1, U/S Belle) is elated to make her Metropolis debut!

Recent credits include:

Amelia in *Miranda: A War-Torn Fable* (Impostors Theatre Company), Lucy in *Dracula* (SF+T), Dolores, U/S Kate in *The Wild Party* (Blank Theatre Company), Veronica in *Heathers* (SF+T), and Nell Gwynn (Chicago Shakespeare Theater).

Love and gratitude to Megan, Jill, Mel, Caleb, and the dynamos. Carter is proudly represented by Talent X Alexander. [Carterrosesherman.com](http://Carterrosesherman.com).

**LAUREN ALYSSA SKULLEY IV** [She/Her/Hers] (Programmer) is a freelance lighting designer and head electrician in the Chicago area. She was formerly the Lighting and Video Supervisor at Lookingglass Theatre Company, during which she took on *The Steadfast Tin Soldier* and *Lookingglass Alice*. She attended the University of Northern Colorado where she received a degree in Theatre Arts with an emphasis in lighting design and technology. Lauren has a passion for new and experimental theatre and enjoys working on boundary pressing productions, but loves a good classic. It is her pleasure to bring this one to you.



**ELI VANDER GRIEND** [He/Him] (Young Scrooge, Turkey Boy, Child 1) is delighted to make his Metropolis Performing Arts Centre debut. Other theatre

credits include *Madison*, *School of Rock* (Paramount Theatre). He has performed in many shows at Ovation Academy for the Performing Arts including playing Michael Hobbs, *Elf The Musical, Jr.* and Winthrop Paroo, *The Music Man, Jr.* Eli enjoys jazz and tap dance and playing the trumpet and piano. He would like to thank his vocal coach, Audrey Belle Adams, his performance coaches, Ragan and Kurt, and his agent, Laura at Talent X Alexander for believing in him.



**MASON WANG** [He/Him] (Peter Cratchit, Ensemble) is thrilled to be back at Metropolis as Peter Cratchit for the third year in a row! A current junior at

Hoffman Estates High School, previous credits include: Henry (*Newsies*, Music On Stage), Benjamin (*Joseph*, Big Noise Theater), Enjolras (*Les Misérables School Edition*, HEHS Theater). Love and Christmas spirit to my parents for their endless support. This show has been a wonderful part of my holiday season, and I hope it's helped make yours a little merrier as well! IG: @masonwang16.

**LEVI J. WILKINS** [He/Him] (Lighting Design) Born and raised on the southwest side of Chicago, Lighting Designer, Currently the lighting director at The Faith Community of St. Sabina. other past theater credits include *Day of Absence* and *What to Send Up When it Goes Down* and *How Blood Go* with Congo Square Theater, *Ruined* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* with Invictus Theater, *The Mountaintop* at Cardinal Stage Theater, *Marie Antoinette* and *the Magical Negroes* with The Story Theater, *Is God Is* with A Red Orchid Theater and *Stew and London Road* with Shattered Globe Theater. Along with many other festival, concert and dance performance design credits. Levi is a 3-time 2022 Regional Broadway World nominee and a 2-time Jeff Award Nominee. For more info about Levi visit [www.fresherlight.com](http://www.fresherlight.com).



**LIZZIE WILLIAMS** [She/Her] (Mrs. Cratchit, Storyteller 2, Rich Woman) is originally from the UK and has been Chicago-based since graduating

from Loyola University Chicago in 2019. Recent theatre credits include: *Hay Fever* (Sorel Bliss), City Lit Theater Company; *Jeeves Intervenes* (Gertrude U/S), First Folio Theatre; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oberon, Tom Snout), Dunes Summer Theatre; *Charley's Aunt* (Kitty Verdun), Saint Sebastian Players. She is so excited to be making her Metropolis debut in *A Christmas Carol* and would like to thank Mum, Dad, and Alex for their love and support! (Also, thanks to Will for all his help). Lizzie is proud to be represented by Big Mouth Talent. Website: [lizziewilliamsactor.com](http://lizziewilliamsactor.com).



**OLIVIA ZAK** (Martha Cratchit, Partier 2, Ensemble; u/s Past, Storyteller 5, Rose) is very excited to be joining the company of *A Christmas Carol*

this year! Her recent credits include: *Buttons/Newsies*, Ensemble/*Hello, Dolly!*, and *Wednesday Addams/The Addams Family*. "God bless us, everyone!"

**MARA ISHIHARA ZINKY** [She/Her] (Scenic Designer) is a Chicago-based scenic designer and props artisan. Recent Chicago credits include: *Night Watch* (Raven Theatre), *Routes* (Remy Bumpo), *Baked!* (Theo), and *The Porch on Windy Hill* (Northlight Theatre). Mara also works as a freelance props artisan, and her work has been seen onstage at Steppenwolf, The Goodman, and Chicago Shakespeare. She is a graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University (Scenic Design 2017).

## PERFORMANCE DETAILS

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# about metropolis



**Metropolis Performing Arts Centre** offers inspirational live entertainment, imaginative arts education, and impactful community partnerships within the northwest suburbs of Chicago delivering artistic excellence, shared multi generational connections and inclusive experiences that engage our community.

**Metropolis School of the Performing Arts** enriches the lives of thousands of students ranging from toddlers to seniors. Metropolis curates arts curriculum for students of all ages and abilities including those with special and different needs. Our programming focuses on multiple performing arts disciplines including musical theatre, drama, music, improvisation, dance, and more.

**By creating a space of belonging** for our broad and diverse community, we are actively building our community of patrons, students, supporters, artists, and staff through strengthening and nurturing the relationship between the artistic community and our organization that cultivates lifelong appreciation and involvement in the arts.

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