



Tuesday, November 23, 2004

'A Christmas Carol' returns to Meadow Brook Theatre

By **Dawn Pauli**, contributing writer

More than 10,000 people and another 10,000 area students will visit Oakland University's campus to see the annual production of the Charles Dickens classic, "A Christmas Carol," at **Meadow Brook Theatre**, which runs Nov. 26-Dec. 23.

This is the 24th year Meadow Brook Theatre is presenting Charles Nolte's adaptation of the timeless holiday classic.

"A Christmas Carol is truly special at Meadow Brook," said John Manfredi, managing director of Meadow Brook Theatre. "For more than 20 years, the Meadow Brook family has produced this holiday favorite and almost every actor, artisan or technician who has passed through this theatre has worked one 'A Christmas Carol' or another."

Manfredi noted he began as part of the stage crew for "A Christmas Carol" and worked his way up to managing director of the theatre.

The Meadow Brook Christmas Carolers perform traditional Christmas music 30 minutes prior to each show in the theatre's elegantly decorated lobby.

Kitty Gentile, MBT box office manager, has her own fond memories of "A Christmas Carol." A patron once asked what play was showing and when the ticket agent said "A Christmas Carol," they asked, "just one song?"

"We started keeping track of some of the funny things people say a few years ago, and it has become several pages long," Gentile said. "There was a man who wanted to improve his season tickets because he became engaged in the theatre during 'A Christmas Carol' two years ago."

Another time, a ticket agent asked a patron if they had a date in mind for "A Christmas Carol," and the patron indignantly replied, "of course I know who I'm bringing."

Meadow Brook Theatre will once again add some holiday music to the annual Thanksgiving Day Parade in Detroit. The actors and singers who perform as Londoners in "A Christmas Carol" will sing traditional holiday songs throughout the parade. Dressed in their period costumes and full of holiday cheer, the eight-person group will not only be heard on the parade route but also throughout the morning on Channel 4 WDIV as part of their coverage of the event.

For ticket information for "A Christmas Carol," call the Meadow Brook Theatre Box Office at (248) 377-3300 or visit the **Meadow Brook Theatre** Web site. Senior, student and group discounts are available plus receive a 20 percent discount on "A Christmas Carol" tickets by purchasing a four-play subscription for under \$80. That's less than \$20 per show for Michigan's most celebrated and award-winning theatre.

SUMMARY

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