

# utique Timeless Scrooge! Comes Back To Lafayette

By Sophie Braccini

The holiday season just wouldn't be the same without Scrooge, without the live performance of the story that makes us cry, and makes us laugh. The musical retelling of *A Christmas Carol* is the kind of family favorite that has the lovely smell of good times, like the Thanksgiving Turkey or the Christmas Pudding. At Town Hall Theater in Lafayette, the job of keeping it fresh this time around fell into the capable hands of Jessica Richards, Associate Artistic Director at the California Shakespeare Festival. "Seeing the community come together each year to celebrate the holidays with friends and family is what Town Hall Theatre is all about," comments Artistic Director Clive Worsley. And this year in particular, he and Richards believe the classic story is more relevant than ever.

Richards, "and the new choreography by Emily Morrison keeps everyone on their toes." Richards says that each year she comes back to the play a different person and sees different things as being important. "This year, with everything that is happening around the world, it struck me how different Scrooge is from everyone else around him," she says.

Worsley, who also returns as an actor in the play, experienced a similar shift in awareness. "A lot of our fellow Americans and people around the world are suffering," he said, "Scrooge's story is important for all of us, as we have a duty to care for those less fortunate than ourselves. The idea that someone who feeds on other's suffering could be transformed, makes me confident in the future. We need to remain forward-looking

and hopeful, and it is a great time for doing this."

Again this year, the musical will feature memorable songs such as "Thank You Very Much," "I Hate People," and "Christmas Children." "Whether you grew up with the movie like I did, or this is your first experience with this heartwarming and fun show, you are absolutely going to have a blast," says Worsley. Scrooge is played by John Blytt, Clive Worsley is Bob Cratchit, Randy Anger is the Ghost of Christmas Present and young Joel Braunstein is Tiny Tim.

*Scrooge!* runs December 3-18th, with previews on December 1 and 2. It is rated PG (due to spooky ghosts) and is about two hours long. For tickets, contact Town Hall Theatre at 283-1557, or purchase online at [www.TownHallTheatre.com](http://www.TownHallTheatre.com).



John Blytt (Scrooge) and Joel Braunstein (Tiny Tim)  
Photo Stu Selland



ns: Santas, reindeer, bears, roosters, lady designs and bright colors who attended Miralay. She used to paint ger shell "canvas" of from a farm in North clean and ready to be

## for Festivities!

Lamorinda's Holiday Events

**Saturday, December 10, 4pm and Sunday, December 11, 4pm.** "This Shining Night" featuring the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church Festival Choir, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. This is great way to listen to some of your friends and neighbors raise their sixty plus voices - number of participants, not actual ages - performing traditional choral-orchestral music for the holiday. Tickets are free, but organizers ask that you reserve seats via their website at [lopc.org](http://lopc.org) or for more information contact Sharon Francis at (925) 283-8722 x 264.

**Saturday, December 10, 10am.** Beginning students from the Lafayette campus of The Contra Costa Children's Chorus will perform "Winter Awakenings" at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Drive in Pleasant Hill. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 14 and under. Please email: [programs@childrenschorus.org](mailto:programs@childrenschorus.org) to reserve tickets and pay at the Will Call table on the day of the event.

**Sunday, December 11, 4pm.** Christmas with a Flourish at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, featuring The OSLC Choirs with an ensemble of professional instrumentalists. A festive mix of jubilant, contemplative and just-for-fun holiday music from our singing and ringing choirs. This concert features the choral music of Texas composer Randol Alan Bass, opening with his haunting arrangement of the ancient chant/carol, Personent Hodie, and ending with his dazzling carol medley, Christmas Flourish. Add our tradition of a glittering reception in the Fellowship Hall, and you have a delightful holiday experience that will leave no Christmastone unturned! For questions call: (925) 283-3722.

**Monday, December 12, 7:30-9pm.** "Winterfest," Maestro Duane Carroll will lead the 45-member Contra Costa Wind Symphony as they perform seasonal favorites with special guests - members of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, in the LOPC chapel, 49 Knox Drive Lafayette. Although they usually perform at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, the exceptional musicians of the Wind Symphony with singing special guests will rock the house with a variety of familiar seasonal selections including "Silver Bells," "Rhapsody for Hanukkah" and "Sleigh Ride." The concert will include an audience sing-along. Admission and parking are free.

Holiday Fun at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center: Holiday Cards Craft on **Thursday, Dec. 8, 3:30-4:30pm** In the Children's Room. Toddler Holiday Dance Party, Monday, Dec. 19, 10:15-11:00am In the Homework Center. Wear your party clothes and celebrate the holidays with music, dancing, and fun! This is a special event just for little ones ages 2-5. LLC is located at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette; (925) 385-2280.

**Friday, December 23, 8:00pm.** Temple Isaiah - Join us for a Shabbat service with a special Chanukah celebration. We'll have a Chanukah sing-along and treats after the service. Don't forget to bring you menorah to light. Questions? Call (925) 283-8575.

**Friday, December 9, 7pm w/Concerto; Saturday, Dec 10th, 2 pm; Sat., Dec 10th 7pm w/ Concerto; and Sun., Dec 11 2pm:** CAPA Nutcracker Ballet: Campolindo Performing Arts Center in Moraga. Tickets available online at [www.ShowTix4u.com](http://www.ShowTix4u.com) (click on California then CAPA Nutcracker). CAPA is donating proceeds from 2011 weekday student performances to fight child hunger in Contra Costa. Please bring a jar of peanut butter to any show-Donation barrels & envelopes available at all shows.)

**Saturday, Dec 10, 11am-2 pm,** take a Photo with Santa at the Rheem Valley Shopping Center. Bring your own camera. Holiday clowns & balloon art. You will need your Rheem Valley Shopping Center receipts totaling \$25.00 or more to participate.

**Saturday and Sunday, December 10 & 11, 7pm,** Concert: Christmas on the Hill. Experience a heart-warming evening of new and traditional Christmas music. At Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church.

**December 13, 14 and 15.** Winter Concerts by Campolindo High School Choir. Some concerts at the high school, others are at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. For more information, go to [www.campochoir.com](http://www.campochoir.com).

when the tree lights up. The event will feature an Orinda school chorus performance and Santa's arrival on an Orinda Fire Department fire truck. Bring your kids and your cameras - it's an annual event not to be missed.

**Sunday, December 4, 4-7pm,** Get In The Christmas Spirit! Annual Advent Celebration at Orinda Community Church, Fellowship Hall, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda 94563 A time for great Christmas crafts, cuisine and candlelight caroling! All are welcome!

December Canned Film Festival. Orinda Theatre is offering special free screenings of holiday classics when you bring a canned food item to these special Saturday morning shows: December 3rd 11:30am- Home Alone; **December 10th 11:30am - Elf**; **December 17th 11:30am - Polar Express**

**Tuesday, December 6 at 6:30pm,** The Twelfth Night Singers: A Concert of Carols at the Orinda Library. Dressed in 19th Century costume, the quintet will perform old and new carols which scan Christmas music from medieval time to the present. Along with the music, they will offer comments on the origins of the songs we all know so well. This program will take place next to the fireplace inside the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way. It is free to all. For more information, please visit the library website at [ccclib.org](http://ccclib.org) or telephone (925) 254-2184.

### Need Stocking Stuffers?

**Who doesn't love a good book?** All three Lamorinda libraries have Friends of the Library groups, and the Friends have book shops that benefit the libraries.

**Lafayette:** At the Library and Learning Center, corner of First St. and Golden Gate Way. Choose from over 25,000 titles, most under \$5. Hours:

Mon/Tues/Thurs: 10am-6pm, Wednesday: 10am-8pm, Friday: 10am-5pm, Saturday: 9am-5pm (closed Sunday).

**Moraga:** The Friends Book Shop in the library is open and staffed by volunteers on Tuesday and Thursday from 1-7pm, and Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 1-4pm.

**Orinda:** The Book Shop is located on the library level and open Monday - Wednesday, 1 - 4pm; Thursday, 1 - 6pm; Friday & Saturday, 1 - 4pm.

Friends of the Orinda Library will offer two book sales in December: Thurs. Dec. 1 - 10am- 1pm and Sat. Dec 17 - 10am-1pm. Both will be in the Book Shop and Sorting Room. The monthly sales offer quality books for all interests and ages. These December sales will offer many books ideal for holiday giving. Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. (925) 254-1358.



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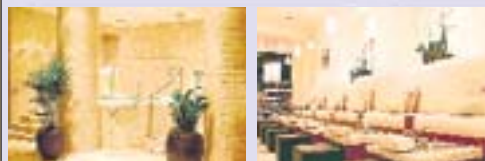
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Sun 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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(Gift certificate only applied towards the purchase during the show)

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