



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER NAMES PILLAR PARTNER BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATER MILWAUKEE RECIPIENT OF THE A CHRISTMAS CAROL FAMILIES PROGRAM**

November 15, 2016 - (Milwaukee, WI) Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* is a timeless tale of hope and redemption that has been a cornerstone of [Milwaukee Repertory Theater](#) for more than 40 years playing to 1.5 million people making it Milwaukee's favorite holiday tradition. This year brings a completely new production to life on the historic Pabst stage, adapted and directed by **Artistic Director Mark Clements**. In fostering The Rep's mission of creating positive change in the community, the **A Christmas Carol Families Program** raise funds for underprivileged families during the holiday season. This year we are pleased to announce that families from the **Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee**, one of our new Pillar Partners, will be this year's recipient of the *A Christmas Carol* Families Program.

After each performance of *A Christmas Carol* cast members will collect money to purchase holiday gifts for these families in need. The Rep staff volunteers will purchase and wrap the gifts, and then present them to the families. Any leftover funds are then donated to the **Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee** for all the excellent work they do in the community. In years past, The Rep has raised nearly \$40,000 annually toward these efforts benefiting such organizations as Running Rebels, COA, Big Brothers Big Sisters, La Causa, Journey House, Sojourner Family Peace Center, Next Door Foundation and more.

"Our Christmas Carol Families Program has become as much a tradition as the show itself." Stated **Managing Director Chad Bauman**. "Over the years, Rep staff has volunteered thousands of hours to ensure that families in need are not forgotten this holiday season. With a new production this year and our amazingly generous audiences, we hope to set a record this year for the most funds raised to support local families and the exceptional work of Boys & Girls Clubs."

"We are honored to have been chosen as a Pillar Partner by Milwaukee Repertory Theater and a beneficiary of the *A Christmas Carol* Families Program," said **Vincent Lyles, President & CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee**. "The holidays can be an especially difficult time of year for some of our families, but it's also a time when we see an extraordinary outpouring of love and compassion. We are grateful to Milwaukee Repertory Theater and its patrons for embodying the true spirit of the season through their generous donations and volunteerism."

### **About Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee:**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee (BGCGM), one of the largest and longest youth serving agencies in Milwaukee, offers structured after-school and summer programming to more than 43,000 children and teens each year. Within the safety of 44 locations, youth have access to free meals, academic support, role models and opportunities to build character and explore new interests.

Through programs like SPARK Early Literacy Initiative and World of Work, the Clubs provide a structured pathway for members to thrive in all stages of their education and gain valuable job experience that will help them develop successful careers as adults.

More than 86 percent of the organization's annual budget goes toward youth programming. Charity Navigator, America's largest and most-utilized charity evaluator, has given BGCGM its highest rating of four stars. For more information, please visit [www.boysgirlsclubs.org](http://www.boysgirlsclubs.org).

### **About A Christmas Carol:**

Milwaukee Rep is excited to present a new, family friendly adaptation written by Rep Artistic Director **Mark Clements**, featuring the same traditional story and characters you love. You'll be transported back to the heart of Victorian London for a magical immersive experience on the biggest and most elaborate set The Rep has ever created. **Jonathan Wainwright**, a favorite of local audiences, will take on the role of Scrooge becoming the 12th actor to portray one of Dickens' most recognizable characters. Jonathan has been seen previously in *A Christmas Carol* as Mr. Cratchit and recently appeared as George in The Rep's production, *Of Mice and Men*. Join Bob Cratchit, Tiny Tim, and Scrooge in this holiday classic the whole family will love!

**A Christmas Carol** is proudly presented by **Wells Fargo** with media sponsorship from **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel** and equipment sponsored by **Studio Gear**. **A Christmas Carol** runs at The Pabst Theater from November 29 - December 24. Tickets can be purchased online [www.MilwaukeeRep.com](http://www.MilwaukeeRep.com), by calling The Rep's Ticket Office at **414-224-9490** or in-person at **108 East Wells Street** in downtown Milwaukee.

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### **About Milwaukee Repertory Theater**

Milwaukee Rep is a nationally-recognized company that presents compelling dramas, powerful classics, award-winning contemporary works and full-scale musicals housed in its three unique performance venues – the Quadracci Powerhouse, Stiemke Studio and Stackner Cabaret. The Rep also produces an annual production of *A Christmas Carol*, featuring a World Premiere of a new adaptation in 2016, at the historic Pabst Theater. Under the leadership of **Artistic Director Mark Clements** and **Managing Director Chad Bauman**, Milwaukee Repertory Theater ignites positive change in the cultural, social, and economic vitality of its community by creating world-class theater experiences that entertain, provoke, and inspire meaningful dialogue among an audience representative of Milwaukee's rich diversity.