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Riverfront Announces Schedule and Special Benefit with Annual Presentation of Christmas Carol

For the 16 th consecutive year, The Riverfront Playhouse at 11-13 South Water Street Mall in downtown Aurora will present their own original version of A CHRISTMAS CAROL. This year's performances will begin on Friday, December 11 at 8pm, with added shows on Saturday, December 12 at 8, Sunday, December 13 at 3pm, Friday December 18 at 8pm, Saturday December 19 at 8pm, and Sunday December 20 at 3pm.

Adapted from the classic Charles Dickens story by Riverfront veteran Jack Schultz, this production of A CHRISTMAS CAROL features 9 songs also written by Schultz.

Under the direction of Sherry Winchester Schultz, the Riverfront's version of A CHRISTMAS CAROL has become a tradition for not only the playhouse, but for many of the actors who frequently revive their portrayals from year to year, as well as many area families who return time and again to relive the unique and sometimes heart-warming but always hilarious retelling of the Dickens' classic.

This year's presentation features the talents of Thommas Dickens as Scrooge, Shawn Dooley, Kathleen Dooley, Sarah Knauf, Gary Riggle, Bridget O'Malley, Sherry Winchester Schultz, Heidi Schultz, Jackson Schultz, Steve Rasmussen, Reegan McCue, Collin Curtis, Heidi Humiston, Julia Weis, and Robert Becker as Bob Cratchit.

Schultz has taken the Dickens story and tells it in the traditional way, but with an untraditional spin: imagine that a travelling band of itinerant actors have come into town on a circus wagon to tell the story. This seemingly bizarre twist blends seamlessly into the action of the story, providing the audience with a frame of reference to explain the phenomenon experienced by Ebenezer Scrooge in the other-worldly visits he receives from his long deceased partner, Jacob Marley, and the three spirits of Christmas, representing the past, the present, and the dreaded future.

Jack Schultz has written a number of shows for the playhouse in the past, including the country-western parody, FAT BILL'S ROADSIDE CAFÉ and this year's popular presentation of NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD: THE MUSICAL. He has also delighted Riverfront audiences with such plays as ERETICA, NICHT MARA, THE GYPSY STING, and ALTERNATIVES.

Also, the performance for Sunday, December 13 will be a special benefit for the family of Bart Loiacono. Bart was the publisher of NiteLife.org, a local entertainment magazine that promoted the Riverfront and local restaurants and bars. A Christmas Carol was his favorite show and he made sure that our production was an annual family tradition in his household. The Riverfront and downtown Aurora establishment, Ballydoyle Irish Pub who is also a beneficiary of NiteLife.org's support will combine talents for a fun afternoon of entertainment, food and merry-making. After the 3pm production, there will be a party with the cast at Ballydoyle Pub. The whole family is welcome to help us celebrate the life of a family man who dedicated his life to the entertainment industry.

Tickets for A CHRISTMAS CAROL are \$15 for adults, \$12 for students and senior citizens, and \$10 for children under the age of 12. Reservations are definitely recommended since many of the performances of A CHRISTMAS CAROL sell out rather quickly. You can make reservations by calling the playhouse box office at (630) 897-9496.

ABOUT THE AACVB:

The Aurora Area Convention & Visitors Bureau serves as the tourism marketing and management organization for Aurora, Batavia, Hinckley, North Aurora, Montgomery, Plano, Sugar Grove and Yorkville. This not-for-profit organization provides numerous travel resources to visitors via the Web site at www.enjoyaurora.com and a toll-free number 1-800-477-4369