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Ebenezer Scrooge (John Durbin) is frightened by a Christmas spirit in the Nebraska Theater Caravan's *A Christmas Carol*, playing Sunday at the Hult Center.

## Hult stages 'A Christmas Carol'

By Layne Lakefish  
Emerald Entertainment Editor

Christmas just isn't Christmas without Ebenezer Scrooge.

The American Christmas tradition, which actually began in Victorian England, comes to life Sunday on the Hult Center's Silva Concert Hall stage. *A Christmas Carol*, performed by the Nebraska Theater Caravan, will be performed at 2:30 and 8 p.m.

"This is a wonderful production," said Pat Cusick, Hult Center assistant marketing director. "Last year we sold out the show, so this year we decided to add the matinee."

This production is bound to please young and old alike as the miserly Scrooge travels from Christmas past to Christmas present.

The troupe makes exceptional use of special effects for the ghost and utilizes a magical bed that spins around as Scrooge travels through time. It also boasts a dressing room wardrobe of over 200 Victorian costumes.

"The show is very well done in the way it takes advantage of the special effects of theater," Cusick said.

The Nebraska Theater Caravan brings Charles Dickens' story to life in a way unparalleled by most theater groups. "This group is so professional and so packaged," Cusick said. "They run

a tight ship."

The stage will also come to life through music, employing a theater form known as masque. This means that music is incorporated into the show, but not used to develop the story line, Cusick explained.

"This is not music in the sense of a musical," she said. "For example, you'll see Scrooge doing the books, and then some carolers will come to his door. It's traditional, English carols."

Scrooge will be played by John Durbin, an actor who's appeared on television in shows such as "thirtysomething," "Star Trek: The Next Generation," "Moonlighting," and "Hill Street Blues." Alongside him will be a host of 38 other cast members.

"The acting is so fresh and polished," Cusick said. "At last year's production, there were little kids leaning forward with their chins on the seats in front of them. They were obviously caught up in the whole thing."

"It's the magic of live theater."

This particular theater group first performed *A Christmas Carol* in Eugene last year. "Other presenters were real thrilled with it," Cusick said. "They had a good reputation and we thought it would be fun."

For ticket information, call the Hult Center box office at 687-5000.

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