

Holiday Highlights



DICKENS CONDENSED

CHRISTMAS TRADITION FOR THE WEE ONES.

A new twist on an old favorite is featured this holiday season as Lord Leebrick Theatre Company presents a one-hour adaptation of Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*. Playwright Douglas Jones' has condensed the story into what director Lynda Czajkowska calls a "self-conscious" approach. A little girl reads aloud the Dickens story, and as she does the characters come to life. All action takes place on one set, designed by Michael Lane, and only seven actors play all the characters. Each actor goes to an onstage trunk to select scarves, mufflers or hats to show their character change.

Czajkowska has taken some liberties with the script, adapting the set of characters to each actor's abilities, rather than follow Jones' guidelines as to how they should be combined.

The actors "tell the story obviously and directly to the audience," says Czajkowska, and that approach has "smatterings of humor in its self-conscious quality."

But the quick-paced show has more fun; the ghosts, the fear factor — there's even a fog machine — are part of the experience, yet the chilling aspects of the play are balanced out by the loving, sentimental aspects to the story.

What Czajkowska concentrates on in her version is Scrooge's psyche. When

he has regret, she says, "I really want to take that emotion and take that through all the way — what makes his heart so bitter, what are those emotions, that fear that turned him into what he was." In addition, she chooses to place extra emphasis on the fact that Scrooge gets a second chance.

Both Czajkowska and LLTC Artistic Director Craig Willis say the show is appropriate for the youngest children, because it's short and exciting.

In years past, LLTC has presented a Holiday Vaudeville show for holiday family entertainment, but the talent that came out for auditions in recent years



was not up to par, and the board chose to scrap it. Willis did some research and came upon this script, which he found to be "clever, theatrical and imaginative."

A Christmas Carol opens Dec. 4 and continues Dec. 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, and 20 at 8 pm and Dec. 7 and 14 at 2 pm. Tix are \$8 children, \$12 adults, or \$30 for four people. 465-1506. —AS

Amahl & the Night Visitors

EUGENE SYMPHONY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 8 PM

Eugene Symphony
University of Oregon Soloists & Dancers
University of Oregon Chamber Choir

Musicians, dancers & soloists share the stage in this heartwarming holiday classic. A starlit night brings together a poor shepherd boy, a devoted mother, and three Kings in a tender tale of faith, charity, good deeds and miracles!

Tickets 682.5000 www.eugenesymphony.org

Concert Sponsors: KeyBank, THE CADDIS FLY
Cast Sponsor: David Kammerer

Sunday, December 7, 2003 at 2:30 pm
Silva Concert Hall, Hult Center
Tickets 682-5000

An Old Fashioned Christmas

Holiday treasures to make your heart sing

Pre-Concert Festivities at 1:00 pm in the Hult Lobby

Concert Sponsors: NEWMAN'S, QSL
Media Sponsor: kva1

- Bach's *Gloria in Excelsis Deo* with Oregon Mozart Players
- David Fanshawe's "Dona nobis pacem" from *African Sanctus*
- Dance Theatre of Oregon joins ECC for Fred Waring's "Twas the Night Before Christmas"
- South Eugene HS Concert Choir
- The Don Latarski Band with Marilyn Keller
- The Fiero (boys) & Lyrica (girls) choirs of Oregon Festival Choirs

Eugene Concert Choir
Diane Retallack, Artistic Director & Conductor