



***A Christmas Carol* brings Dickens's authentic story-telling back to Greenwich**

**Monday 16th December (7:30pm) and Monday 23rd December 2024 (2:30pm, 7:30pm)
Greenwich Theatre, Crooms Hill, London, SE10 8ES**

This festive season, European Arts Company will be bringing the spirits of Christmas past, present and future back to Greenwich in Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*. Performing the timeless Victorian ghost-story using the same performance script that Dickens himself would have read from in the 19th century, John O'Connor will be taking to the stage as Charles Dickens again in this highly acclaimed show's sixth year at Greenwich Theatre.

The well-known festive classic will follow the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge as he is visited by a series of ghosts on the eve of Christmas, evaluating his past and influencing his future. This exciting production of *A Christmas Carol*, adapted from Dickens's own public reading scripts and eyewitness accounts of him on stage, recreates the spirit of his original performances, just a stone's throw from the Greenwich Literary Institution on Royal Hill where Dickens himself performed in 1866.

Dickens's public readings of *A Christmas Carol* became hugely popular throughout Britain and America. He performed the story over 150 times and, remarkably, made more money from his readings than from all his novels put together.

Dickens originally wanted to be an actor and by all accounts had a magnetic stage presence, riveting eyes, expressive voice, dynamic energy and wonderful powers of characterisation. *A Christmas Carol* was the first public reading he ever did and also the last. After the very first performance, he said *The success was most wonderful and prodigious - perfectly overwhelming and astounding*

altogether. The starting point for this production was what must it have been like to be in the audience hearing the story direct from Dickens the author and performer?

Actor John O'Connor comments, *It's wonderful to be returning to Greenwich where Charles Dickens was a frequent visitor and which was an important location in his life and work. Greenwich features in Sketches by Boz, The Uncommercial Traveller, David Copperfield and Bleak House. In Our Mutual Friend, there's even a wedding in St Alfege's Church (opposite the theatre) and a reception in The Trafalgar Tavern! Dickens's own parents lived in Blackheath and he did one of his famous readings here in 1866. Greenwich Theatre is the perfect place to recreate Dickens's magical performance of his best-loved Christmas Story*

Past praise for *A Christmas Carol*:

This almost feels immersive. O'Connor's performance is a delight. A festive treat! – The Stage

A Christmas Carol is an engaging, thoughtful production which evokes the true spirit of the original source text. As such, it's a delightful festive treat for audiences. – Broadway World

You too can experience what it must have been like to be in the presence of Charles Dickens in the 1860s, while enjoying a seasonal treat in the spirit of Christmas past, present and future. – Southwark News

A Christmas Carol is at Greenwich Theatre as part of a festive UK tour this December.

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Mr Charles Dickens presents A Christmas Carol</i>
Dates	Monday 16 th December 2024 (7:30pm) Monday 23 rd December 2024 (2:30pm / 7:30pm)
Location	Greenwich Theatre, Crooms Hill, London, SE10 8ES
Box office	Tickets are available from https://greenwichtheatre.org.uk/events/a-christmas-carol/
Social Media	@europeanartsco #AChristmasCarol

Running Time	90 minutes
Age guidance	12+
Performer	John O'Connor
Associate Director	Eva Savage
Original Director	Peter Craze
Set & Costume Design	Tom Paris
Lighting Design	Duncan Hands
Sound Design	Matthew Eaton

John O'Connor

John is an actor, director, writer, and producer. He studied Drama at the University of Manchester before living and working in Japan. In 2002, he founded the touring theatre group European Arts Company (www.europeanarts.co.uk). Their first production was a British Council-sponsored tour of Greece with Harold Pinter's *The Dumb Waiter* and *The Lover*. Since then, the company has gone from strength-to-strength touring all over the UK, Ireland, Greece, Germany, and Italy with 25 shows that have delighted audiences everywhere. In 2014, John co-wrote and produced *The Trials of Oscar Wilde* (with Wilde's grandson Merlin Holland) which toured the UK before a sell-out run at Trafalgar Studios in London. The following year, his adaptation of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* enjoyed another sell-out run in the West End. John appeared in two series of *Before We Die* on Channel 4 opposite Lesley Sharp and will next be seen in BBC's *Eastenders*.

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