

“What’s to-day, my fine fellow?”  
“To-day!”replied the boy, “Why, Christmas Day!”  
Said Scrooge to himself, “I haven’t missed it!”



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Saint Paul City Ballet brings a Holiday Classic to dance!  
***A Christmas Carol, the Ballet***

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA—July 16, 2004—Saint Paul City Ballet will give Minnesota audiences a chance to experience a favorite Holiday classic in ballet form when it premieres *A Christmas Carol, the Ballet* at The O’Shaughnessey, Friday, Dec. 3 through Sunday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, with a second showing at the Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud, Wednesday Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Calling it a blend of ballet and theatre, executive director, Georgia Amdahl, said the production has been in the works for two years and is choreographed by artistic director, Karen Paulson Rivet to an original score that Rochester, Minn., musician, Robert Stanley Peter Gardner, composed for *A Christmas Carol*.

## **A Christmas Carol, the Ballet/Cont.**

Charles Dickens' great, great grandson, Gerald Charles Dickens, will narrate several scenes at the Dec. 3rd and Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> performances. The ballet involves 50 dancers, including Royal Anderson, as *Scrooge*, Andrew Lester as *Young Scrooge*, Maria Ethen as Scrooge's fiancé, *Belle*, and Clare Wojda as *Tiny Tim*.

Paulson Rivet said there are 19 scenes in the ballet as envisioned by the composer. "The challenges have been surprising," she said. "It is rare to have a ballet with set changes and props used for every scene. That is why this ballet is truly ballet-theatre."

Another challenge, she said, is to turn the exquisite dialogue from A Christmas Carol into movement. "It is very important to capture the mood and essence of Charles Dickens' text. That is part of the reason we have chosen to use (Gerald) 'Charles Dickens' as part of the ballet. His appearance after the scene of *The Counting House*, for example, will clarify some of the more important dialogue presented in that scene."

A Christmas Carol has captivated many readers and given them the motivation to make changes in their lives, added Paulson Rivet. "This story offers an opportunity to reflect on one's past, present and future. We often go through our day without acknowledging the people that are most important to us. We become 'misers' with our affections, praise, wealth, time and love. But it's never too late to make changes in our lives."

Performances will be held at The O'Shaughnessey, on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 a.m. (school show) and 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec.

**A Christmas Carol, the Ballet/Cont.**

5<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at The O'Shaughnessey Box Office, 2004

Randolph Avenue in St. Paul. Phone: 651-690-6700. Prices are \$25 for adults, \$23 for seniors, \$20 for children, 12 and under.

Performances at the Paramount Theatre in St. Cloud are Wednesday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8 p.m., and Thursday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at the Paramount Theatre, 913 West St. Germaine Street, or by calling 320-259-5463.

More information is available at [www.saintpaulcityballet.org](http://www.saintpaulcityballet.org)

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