

'A Christmas Carol' Returns to University Theatre

- December 7, 2006
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Richard Tabor as Jacob Marley's Ghost of Christmas Past. (Photo by Tom Hird)

A Christmas Carol, the holiday classic based on the story by Charles Dickens, makes its annual appearance on the California State University, East Bay stage on Friday, Dec. 15 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 16 at 2 and 8 p.m. Each show will take place in the University Theatre on Cal State East Bay's Hayward campus located at 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd.

Each year, the CSUEB production takes a new bend. This year's version, under the direction of Ann Fajilan, will incorporate unworldly creatures in the form of puppets, multimedia video streaming, and theatrical special lighting and smoke effects, telling the story of regrets, repercussions and rewards.

"As supernatural creatures and loveable characters taunt Ebenezer Scrooge, we too are reminded of our sense of humanity and will rush to edit our own New Year's resolution lists," said Fajilan. "Ebenezer Scrooge wasn't always the mean-spirited, evil monster that we have become accustomed to over the years. At one time he was a playful, kind human who responded to love and attention.

We all know that the absence of positive reinforcement leads to negative behavior and an unwillingness to engage in social improvement. This time around Scrooge gets more than he bargained for as we unleash his personal demons and spirits to pull him out of his demise."

Tickets are \$7 for general admission, \$6 for youth and seniors, \$5 for CSUEB students, \$3 for children and \$16 for a family of four. Tickets are available by telephone at (510) 885-3261 or at the door each day of the show. Additional Information is available online at <http://class.csueastbay.edu/iraevents/FallTheatreDetails.pdf>^[1].

Theatre goes, according to Fajilan, should "come journey with Scrooge as he tries to rectify his damaged life and bring compassion and kindness into his, and ultimately, our hearts."

"When Scrooge awakens from his Christmas Eve experience, he immediately wonders whether his ghosts were dreamt or real," said Thomas Hird, chair of the Theatre and Dance Department. "We are creating a dream world this year. I understand that it will be theatrical and imaginative, a world inhabited with puppet ghosts and transforming furniture."

Alden Reimonenq, dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences, is impressed with the production.

"Our Theatre and Dance Department does a marvelous job of creating a new *Christmas Carol* each year," Reimonenq said. "You won't want to miss this extraordinary production."

A Christmas Carol also will be performed at the university for school groups at various other times and days during December.