



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Dec. 19, 2005

## MEDIA RELEASE

Please include in DECEMBER  
calendar listings and announcements

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### Benefit Performance Of **THE FARNDALE... CHRISTMAS CAROL** To Aid Orphans In Uganda – December 23 At 2pm

**IN SHORT: Pacific Theatre's hit comedy THE FARNDALE... CHRISTMAS CAROL has just added a Benefit Performance on December 23 at 2pm to aid orphans from war and AIDS in Uganda. With 14 SOLD OUT shows to date, even Scrooge is full of Christmas cheer! Now playing until Jan 1. For tickets (\$14-\$28) call 604.731.5518 or [pacifictheatre.org](http://pacifictheatre.org).**

Vancouver, BC – Now playing until January 1, 2006

With 14 SOLD OUT shows to date, Pacific Theatre's hit comedy **THE FARNDALE... CHRISTMAS CAROL** has just added a Benefit Performance on December 23 at 2pm, to aid orphans from war and AIDS in Uganda. Benefit tickets are \$20 (children \$15), and even Scrooge is full of Christmas cheer!

The initiative for this Benefit Performance came from the cast of **THE FARNDALE... CHRISTMAS CAROL**, as a way to give a Christmas gift to Uganda's orphans. All proceeds from this Benefit Performance will go towards the UGANDA JESUS VILLAGE PROJECT, in order to complete a children's village in Kampala, Uganda to care and provide education for 800 of the nation's 3 million orphans.

UGANDA JESUS VILLAGE PROJECT is an initiative of Fresh Fire Ministries (a registered Canadian Charity based Abbotsford, BC), Be A HERO (a registered Canadian Charity based in Kelowna, BC, for more information see [www.beahero.org](http://www.beahero.org)) and Streams of Life (an indigenous charitable organization based in Kampala, Uganda). For more information on orphans from the AIDS crisis in Africa see <http://www.avert.org/aidsorphans.htm>.

The play's full title is **THE FARNDALE AVENUE HOUSING ESTATE TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD DRAMATIC SOCIETY'S PRODUCTION OF A CHRISTMAS CAROL**, the 8th in a series of 11 British comedies about a fictional troupe of ladies who reside on Farndale Avenue (they first slaughtered MACBETH in 1976). All of the plays were written by David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Jr., who became inspired after seeing McGillivray's mother in a production put on by an all woman cast.

Tickets are going fast with 14 SOLD OUT shows to date—and the critics are raving:

- **"Fabulously funny... endless imagination... had me howling with laughter... a comic classic."** —Jerry Wasserman, *The Province* (Dec 5, 2005)
- **"Real joy... topnotch comedic talent... inspired lunacy..."** —Kathleen Oliver, *The Georgia Straight* (Dec 15, 2005)
- **"A great cast... one of the highlights of the holiday season. Director Kerry van der Griend hasn't missed a beat."** —Peter Birnie, *The Vancouver Sun* (Dec 6, 2005)
- **"Loads of laughter... no shortage of comedic chops."** —Jo Ledingham, *The Vancouver Courier* (Dec 14, 2005)

This festive farcical romp features the comic talents of Erla Faye Forsyth as Mrs. Reece (the troupe's ringleader who plays Tiny Tim) and Trish Pattenden as Thelma (the prima donna Scrooge). They are joined by Julia Mackey as the ancient and immobile Mercedes, Christy-Lynne Guthrie as the neurotic Felicity, and the Jessie Award-winning Kyle Rideout, cross-dressing again after spending a summer in skirts at Bard On The Beach; he plays Gordon, the guild's reluctant stage manager who's forced to play Mrs. Cratchit.

<b>Details:</b>	<b>THE FARNDALE... CHRISTMAS CAROL</b> by David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin, Jr.
<b>When:</b>	<b>Uganda Benefit Dec 23 at 2pm</b> – Playing until Jan 1, Wed–Sat 8pm / Sat at 2pm Extra shows: Dec 27 at 8pm, Dec 28-29 at 2pm and Jan 1 at 2pm
<b>Where:</b>	<b>Pacific Theatre</b> , 1420 West 12 <sup>th</sup> Ave (at Hemlock St), Vancouver, BC
<b>Tickets:</b>	\$14 - \$28 – To reserve call 604.731.5518, or visit <a href="http://pacifictheatre.org">pacifictheatre.org</a> , or in person.