



PRESS RELEASE **THE RUDE MECHANICALS**

Annual Staged Reading of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*:
Expanded Offerings for Greater Access to this Classic Tale

Media Contacts:

**Liz Fenstermaker, Interim Executive Director, liz@rmtheatre.org or
Cyndi Kimmel, Artistic Director, cyndi@rmtheatre.org
<https://www.rmtheatre.org/>**

Tri-Cities - The Rude Mechanicals proudly presents our annual staged reading of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, adapted by Katie Clark and Directed by Rude Mechanicals Artistic Director Cyndi Kimmel. Performed since 2017, this presentation has become a beloved community tradition.

In 2023, we are **expanding access** to this production, and to live theatre in the area, by:

- Offering a **virtual, on-line** performance of the reading on **December 8th, 7pm**, admission by "pay-what-you-can" tickets from \$5-19.
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- Presenting a **free-of-charge performance** at the Kennewick Union branch of the Mid-Columbia Libraries on **December 9th at 2pm**. This branch serves a wide radius of the community. Capacity will be limited to 120 audience members per Library policies.
- Selling "**pay-what-you-can**" tickets from **\$5-19** for all other performances: **December 15 & 16, 7pm and December 17, 2pm**. These performances will be held at The Space, 1384 Jadwin Avenue, Richland. Experience a cozy Winter Market, complete with treats and crafts for sale, before the show!

Run time of this family-friendly presentation is approximately 60 minutes with no intermission.

As a company, The Rude Mechanicals is renewing its vision that **classic works are for everyone**, and reducing barriers to participation in the arts makes for a more connected, vibrant community.

New Artistic Director, Cyndi Kimmel, a respected actor, Shakespeare scholar, and educator with an MFA in Shakespeare and Performance from Mary Baldwin University, writes of our production: "I find myself repeatedly drawn to Marley's text, "I wear the chain I forged in life. I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I created it of my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it." This statement tells us Marley's purpose in the story, but also offers us a glimpse into the "hero's progress" journey of healing Scrooge will experience. He too will come face to face with the chain he's built within and around himself.

Interestingly, Scrooge's nephew Fred describes Christmas as "the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up

hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys.” His thought suggests there’s more than one kind of chain, and recognizing the links between humanity can be a good and beautiful thing. My goal as director is to explore the chains and links we carry and wear in a way that encourages us all, as fellow humans, to be ok with caring for ourselves and each other.

Our show is playfully performative and presented in a less formal, reader’s theatre style - in the round! We’re engaging with our whole performance space for a dynamic, creative experience. We want the audience to feel as though they’re a part of the story, fellow characters on the page, along with the actors.”

About The Rude Mechanicals (English/español):

The Rude Mechanicals is a 501(c)3 nonprofit performing arts organization with a mission to enhance, educate, elevate, and entertain. We enhance our community through the performing arts, educate the public on the value and impact of live theatre, elevate the quality of live theatre locally, and entertain the community by delivering high-quality Shakespeare-inspired theatre produced by our ensemble cast and crew.

The Rude Mechanicals es una organización 501(c)3 sin fines de lucro con un misión de aumentar, educar, elevar, y divertir. Aumentamos nuestra comunidad por las artes escénicas, educamos el público de la importancia y efecto de teatro en vivo, elevamos la calidad de teatro en vivo localmente, y divertimos la comunidad con obras de teatro por Shakespeare y otros producido por nuestras actores y equipo técnico.