

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Hanover Theatre to Continue to Offer Sensory-Friendly Performance of the Holiday Classic *A Christmas Carol*



Worcester, Mass. (November 4, 2016) The Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts is proud to partner with the New England chapter of Autism Speaks and the Autism Theatre Initiative to offer a sensory-friendly performance of Charles Dickens' holiday classic, *A Christmas Carol*. Generously sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, this performance of *A Christmas Carol* is intended as a unique theatre experience for individuals and families impacted by autism, as well as families with young children. This performance of *A Christmas Carol* is Sunday, December 18 at 11 a.m.

The Hanover Theatre is excited to continue working with Autism Speaks to help bring this holiday classic story to a wider audience. "It's important to me that the theatre be accessible to everyone and last year's sensory-friendly performance was a great experience. I'm hopeful that the positive buzz from that will help bring more families with children impacted by autism, who might like to enjoy the show together for the holidays," said Troy Siebels, president and CEO of The Hanover Theatre and director of *A Christmas Carol*.

The sensory-friendly performance of *A Christmas Carol* takes place in a supportive and judgment-free environment. Additional accommodations of support will also be provided including a quiet area if individuals and families need a break from the performance. Trained staff and volunteers will also be available to assist with patrons' needs. Before the curtain goes up, audience members will have a chance to hear from cast members who will help explain their costumes and other production elements. The show runs 2 hours 15 minutes and includes one intermission. *A Christmas Carol* tells the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, who is visited by the ghosts of Christmases Past, Present and Future. This

holiday classic, set with timeless music and colorful costumes, lighting and scenery, follows Scrooge through a series of strange and enchanting journeys on a quest to change his destiny.

[Click here](#) for a specially arranged social story designed to help audience members prepare for the show. For information about other accessibility performances for *A Christmas Carol*, as well as interviews with the cast and production staff and special behind-the-scenes information please visit the [show page](#).

Ticket holders for the sensory-friendly performance of *A Christmas Carol* also get to hear a special pre-show performance by Shrewsbury resident and internet sensation, Jagger Lively, who is impacted by autism. Jagger, along with 25 local students, and Anna and Elsa, will perform “Let It Go” from ‘Frozen’ in the theatre’s lobby.

In April 2016, as part of a middle school talent show, Jagger Lively dressed as Olaf from ‘Frozen’, was set to perform his favorite song, “Let it Go.” After singing the first verse, Jagger had trouble remembering the words and almost immediately, his classmates and friends joined him in singing until he found his place and finished his performance. The story of friendship and support along with the video went viral, spreading beyond New England and was featured in People Magazine, USA Today and even on ‘Good Morning America’.

Tickets to this performance of *A Christmas Carol* are \$14, \$21 and \$26, depending on seating location. Discounts are available to members of The Hanover Theatre, groups of 10 or more, corporate partners, seniors and AAA members. Tickets are available online at TheHanoverTheatre.org, by phone at 877.571.SHOW (7469) or at The Hanover Theatre box office located at 2 Southbridge Street in downtown Worcester.

About The Hanover Theatre

The Hanover Theatre continues to draw over 180,000 patrons annually with world-class performances and headlining acts including Broadway hits (“Les Misérables,” “Jersey Boys”), comedians (Dave Chappelle, Jay Leno, Daniel Tosh), musical acts (Neil Young, Aretha Franklin, John Legend, Donny Osmond) and everything in between (“A Christmas Carol,” Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Alton Brown). POLLSTAR consistently ranks The Hanover Theatre as one of the Top Theatres in the World. After eight seasons, the award-winning, historic theatre continues to establish its place as a world-class performing arts venue, acting as a catalyst for the economic development of downtown Worcester. The Hanover Theatre’s acquisition of 551 Main Street houses new function space, offices, rental space for a restaurant on the ground floor and The Hanover Theatre Conservatory for the Performing Arts on the lower level.

Worcester Center for Performing Arts, a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, owns and operates The Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts and Conservatory. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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