



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 8, 2007

Press Contact:

Jayne Powers, jpowers@trtc.org
732.345.1400 x830

Box Office: 732.345.1400
www.trtc.org

EIGHT LOCAL CHILDREN CAST
In Two River Theater Company's
Holiday Production of
Charles Dickens'
THE GHOST'S BARGAIN
A Spirited Tale for Christmas
By **Laura Eason**
Directed by **Melissa Kievman**
November 27 – December 30, 2007

Headshots of the children are available.

Red Bank, NJ – **Eight local children** will make their professional theatrical debuts this holiday season when they take the stage during Two River Theater Company's world premiere production of **Charles Dickens' *The Ghost's Bargain***. Originally planned as a six-actor play, this story will now be told by five equity actors and eight children ages six to 11. Artistic Director **Aaron Posner** explains the change of plans. "After a reading several months ago we realized what was missing from the adaptation: kids. They were mentioned, but not shown. The more the director and adaptor talked about it, the more convinced they were that having kids on stage was vital to the telling of this particular story. So budgets be damned! **Liz Green**, our casting director, started calling in kids from across this community. The result is an ensemble of eight great young performers who will be an integral part of this story of compassion, memory, family, and the true spirit of the holidays."

Seven of the eight children are alum of Two River Theater Company's summer theater classes program. Three of the eight young actors are **Colts Neck** residents. Playing Tetterby children are **SUZIE EIDMANN-HICKS**, a 6th grader at Cedar Drive Middle School; and **MORGAN JOY BELFORTI**, a 5th grader at Conover Road Elementary School. Playing boy for alternate performances are **SABRINA PARK**, a 5th grader at Conover Road Elementary School; and **CRISTINA MEDLIN**, a 4th grade student at Oak Hill Academy in Lincroft.

Also playing Tetterby children are **CHARLEY JOHNSON** and **JOE PERSICO**, both 6th grade students at Markham Place School in Little Silver; **EMILY WOODS**, a 5th grader at Fairview Elementary School in Middletown; and six year old **GILLIAN ANDRESEN**, a 1st grader at Wolf Hill School in Oceanport.

Directed by **Melissa Kievman**, *The Ghost's Bargain*, is playwright and adaptor **Laura Eason's** take on the little known **Charles Dickens'** Christmas story *The Haunted Man and the Ghost's Bargain*. A new holiday treasure from Victorian England's greatest storyteller, *The Ghost's Bargain* is a beautiful and haunting story about the importance of memory, the value of kindness, and the astonishing power of compassion. This family production, most enjoyed by those ten years and older, begins previews on Tuesday, November 27; opens Saturday, December 1; and runs through Sunday, December 30. **Tickets are \$20 - \$30** and are available by calling the TRTC Box Office at **732.345.1400**, online at www.trtc.org or by visiting the Box Office at 21 Bridge Avenue in Red Bank.

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TWO RIVER THEATER COMPANY is a professional not-for-profit regional theater company, providing outstanding plays and educational programs for audiences of central New Jersey and beyond. TRTC was founded in 1994 by Robert and Joan Rechnitz as Monmouth County's first professional regional theater in 30 years, and over the past 13 seasons has grown into one of the most vital and dynamic arts organizations in the region. Since opening its new theater in May of 2005, TRTC has hosted a number of luminaries and award winners, including Bruce Springsteen, Olympia Dukakis, Jackson Browne, Jon Bon Jovi, Edward Albee, and Sheldon Harnick. In 2006, the company received "Theatre of the Year" awards from both *The Star-Ledger* and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance. TRTC is supported in part by grants from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and contributions from hundreds of local and national corporations, foundations, businesses and individuals. Two River Theater Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group and the New Jersey Theatre Alliance.