



OCT, 2018
FOR MORE INFO, PHOTOS, INTERVIEWS
PLEASE CONTACT: LISA MENNELL, COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE
PHONE: 604.251.1766 x 102 | EMAIL: communications@thecultch.com

The Cultch presents

Little Dickens

The Daisy Theatre Presents A Christmas Carol

Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes (Toronto)

WHEN: Dec 4 – 22, 2018

Dec 04, 8PM: Opening

Dec 05 – 09, 11 – 16, 18 – 22, 8PM

WHERE: Historic Theatre, 1895 Venables St.

TICKETS: Tickets from \$24. Single tickets on sale now through The Cultch's Box Office: 604-251-1363 or tickets.thecultch.com.

ADDED VALUE: Book tickets for one of the TALKBACK performances and enjoy a lively post-show Q&A session with Ronnie Burkett: Dec 05, 11, 18

**Back by popular demand!
Ronnie Burkett's holiday hit *Little Dickens: The Daisy Theatre*
returns to The Cultch this December!**

(Vancouver, BC) – The Cultch is thrilled to have world renowned puppeteer Ronnie Burkett back at the Historic Theatre this December 4-22 with his Cultch exclusive holiday hit, *Little Dicken*.

In Ronnie Burkett's *Little Dickens*, the cast of *The Daisy Theatre* take on the beloved holiday classic, *A Christmas Carol*, in the merriest marionette mash-up ever. Faded Daisy diva, Esmé Massengill, plays the role of miserly, drunken, bitter Esmé Scrooge, in this Burkett-esque retelling of the Dickens classic. As always with an improvised Daisy show, there is no set script, and in the journey of Esmé Scrooge toward redemption, she encounters all the Daisy favourites portraying Dickens' familiar characters. In keeping with the vaudeville show theme of *The Daisy Theatre*, popular Christmas songs will feature in a burlesque opening, sultry jazz solos, and the merriment of Fezziwig's party. A raucous, adults-only holiday treat, *Little Dickens* holds true to the heart of *A Christmas Carol* by featuring *The Daisy Theatre*'s most iconic and beloved character, Schnitzel, as Tiny Tim.

The Daisy Theatre is the thirteenth production from Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes, following the international successes *Penny Plain*, *Billy Twinkle*, *10 Days on Earth*, *Provenance* and the "Memory Dress Trilogy" of *Tinka's New Dress*, *Street of Blood* and *Happy*. *Little Dickens* has been created specifically for The Cultch and the amazing Vancouver audiences who have embraced The Daisy Theatre characters in five sold-out runs.

"*Little Dickens: The Daisy Theatre Presents A Christmas Carol's* unmatched puppetry and vaudevillian details make it a real gift" — Kathleen Oliver, *The Georgia Straight*

"The familiar characters from his bizarre repertoire ring a showbiz variation on Dickens' tale that's...warmer and fuzzier in a Christmassy way, punctuated by raunchy asides and moments of sheer Burkettian brilliance"—Jerry Wasserman, *The Vancouver Sun*

“Ronnie Burkett’s Little Dickens is a retelling of A Christmas Carol but with more bah-hum-buggery, fewer heartwarming lessons in morality, and a whole lot of excellent banter” — Connal Mcnamara, Vancouver Weekly

“Puppeteer Ronnie Burkett is a genius. He just is.” — Colin Thomas, colinthomas.ca

“It was a delight to see Dickens’s timeless characters given a glorious and slightly smutty twist” — Molly Gray, The Vancouver Arts Review

“Bold storytelling, black humour, and unscripted razor-edged dialogue” — John Jane, reviewVancouver

Marionette, Costume and Set Design: **Ronnie Burkett**
Musical Arrangements: **John Alcorn**
Production Manager / Artistic Associate: **Terri Gillis**
Stage Manager: **Crystal Salverda**

ABOUT RONNIE BURKETT:

Ronnie Burkett has been captivated by puppetry since the age of seven, and began touring his shows around Alberta at the age of fourteen. Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes was formed in 1986, continuously playing on Canada’s major stages, and as a guest company on numerous tours abroad.

Ronnie received the 2009 Siminovitch Prize in Theatre, The Herbert Whittaker Drama Bench Award for Outstanding Contribution to Canadian Theatre, a Village Voice OBIE Award and four Citations of Excellence from the American Center of the Union Internationale de la Marionnette.

In June 2019, Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes will premiere a new audience-interactive production, *Forget Me Not*.

ABOUT THE CULTCH:

Since 1973, The Cultch (formally the Vancouver East Cultural Centre) has been one of Vancouver’s most diverse and innovative arts and cultural hubs. The organization operates three theatrical venues, a gallery, and various ancillary spaces in the heart of East Vancouver. The Cultch offers dynamic contemporary programming in theatre, dance, music, and the visual arts, bringing world-class cultural presentations to thousands of citizens each year through its own programming and through providing rental opportunities for community users. Our purpose is to provide a venue for performance that serves a diverse and engaged public and provides space for artistic experimentation and development, building an audience for local companies and presenting cutting-edge national and international work.