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David zum Brunnen

MELISSA BREEDLOV Production Offers Insight to Dic Writing, Thoughts

It's the holiday season and I'm in the mood for giving Sandhills Theater Company's production of "The M Christmas Carol."

Seeing a true-to-life portrayal of Charles Dickens (David zum Brunnen of Raleigh) as he develops the ghas Ebenezer Scrooge makes me shiver and shake i

It's not fear, though, one feels while settling into the seat, it is as though seated at home with firelight flicker welcome and children's toys scattered about. Each purpose, but the immediate reaction is a feeling of Said simply, the stage props, lighting and cozy blue the stage for a night with wordsmith Charles Dicke

Kudos to the set construction crew, Fred Lyons, Mr Ryan Gertz, who offer the audience some Dickens mirror, placed on the audience's left, was a wonder Dickens mannerisms were often mimicked through showing the audience both sides of the gestures a neat effect.

Actor David zum Brunnen (Dickens) has appeared on stage and in film and is the executive director of Theatre Conference, a leadership and service organization state's theater organizations and the artists. His dedication shines through in this character as he alone grace life to Jacob Marley, women of 1800s England in his scarves, Scrooge and more.

The play itself, written by Dr. Elliot Engel who has written Dickens internationally, draws the audience in to a

evening just as Dickens is starting to think of a new tale to write. Under great pressure to produce another great novel, Dickens is uninspired and looks to the spirits — a role the audience plays — for some inspiration.

Brunnen's portrayal combined with Engel's wit through the written word, produces pure magic bringing laughter and emotion throughout the hour-and-a-half play. The play is directed by Serena Ehardt, zum Brunnen's wife, with technical direction by Arthur Tew, stage management by Larry Bird and lighting and scenic design by Sandhills Theater Company's Sandra Epperson.

Ehardt is a familiar name in our area with numerous children's programs under her belt as well as accomplished acting credits. She says this production is among her favorites and her husband, zum Brunnen, agrees. The duo says the life of a two-actor family is hectic, but they have learned in their almost 15 year marriage to adjust.

"I've learned to separate life with my work," zum Brunnen said after Tuesday's sneak-peak rehearsal/ performance for The Pilot. "She's my eyes and my ears while I'm on stage and I couldn't do it without her."

See the Christmas couple's work at STC as a holiday treat to yourself. A plus, too, is that the show was written by one of North Carolina's own — now who could be a "Bah Hum-Bug" about that.

Ticket Information

"The Night Before Christmas Carol" plays starting Nov. 29 (tonight) and runs through Saturday, Dec. 2 at 8 p.m. each night. There is a matinee on Saturday at 2 p.m. Tickets are available by calling the box office (910) 692-3799. \$10 week nights \$12 on Friday and Saturday. Student tickets are half price.

