

LAWRENCE HELMAN *PUBLIC RELATIONS* - E-mail heytheresells@gmail.com

Cell 415- 336- 8220 - DO NOT PUBLISH

For Press Materials and hi-res color Press Photos, visit:

www.sfmt.org/a-red-carol-press

TICKETS: <https://www.zspace.org/redcarol>

WEB SITE: <https://www.sfmt.org/a-red-carol>

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"A RED CAROL is a leftist's dream wish for the Holiday season, and every other day of the year. It hits hard at people who "weigh everything by profit," (and) ruling class propoganda, and the idea that ignorance and want will keep the poor entrenched in the stations. Seasonal charity is a great concept, but SF Mime Troupe can't be satisfied with any trickle-down economics, Xmas time or not. Bravo comrades!"

- BroadwayWorld.com

For Immediate Release: **11-8-24 REV. 11-29-24**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
INDOORS • THEATRE SEATS!**

The San Francisco Mime Troupe in cooperation with Z Space presents...

A RED CAROL

An Activist Adaptation of the Dickens Classic - Featuring Traditional Music

Based on the novel *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

Starring MIKE McSHANE (*B'way., Film & TV actor*) as *Ebenezer Scrooge*

Adapted For the Stage and Directed by Michael Gene Sullivan

Dec. 14 – 29, 2024

Limited Engagement – 9 Performances Only!

Z Space – 450 Florida St. in SF 94110 *

Featuring: A six person cast that includes present and veteran SF Mime Troupers:

Velina Brown; Keiko Shimosato-Carreiro, Lisa Hori-Garcia, Jed Pasario, Brian Rivera.

Musicians: Daniel Savio - *piano*, Guinevere Q – *bass*, Jason Young – *mandolin*.

with Additional Lyrics / Arrangements by Daniel Savio

Music Consulting by Bruce Barthol

Sound Design & Engineering by Taylor Gonzalez

To arrange an interview Michael Gene Sullivan (writer, director), Mike McShane (actor) or any of the other performers in *A RED CAROL*, please email or call publicist

Lawrence Helman heytheresells@gmail.com 415-336-8220

The San Francisco Mime Troupe (SFMT) presents *A RED CAROL* - An Activist Adaptation of the Dickens Classic - Featuring Traditional Music. Based on the novel *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens.

Starring Mike McShane (B'way., Film & TV actor) as *Ebenezer Scrooge*. Featuring a 6-person cast performing multiple roles that includes present and veteran SF Mime Troupers including: **Velina Brown,**

Keiko Shimosato-Carreiro, Lisa Hori-Garcia, Jed Pasario, Brian Rivera. Musicians: **Daniel Savio - *piano*, Guinevere Q – *bass*, Jason Young – *mandolin*.** **Dec. 14 – 29, 2024.** Limited Engagement -9 Shows only

at Z Space – 450 Florida St. (at 17th St.) in SF. 94110. The show runs 80 min. – no intermission.

***A RED CAROL* is directed and adapted for the stage by Michael Gene Sullivan.**

Tickets: General Admission Seating. \$20 - \$40 Sliding Scale, \$50 Supporter Tickets

TICKETS: <http://www.zspace.org/redcarol>

*** Venue Accessibility Info.: The auditorium and its restrooms are ADA-accessible.**

All actors appear in accordance of agreements with SAG-AFTRA.

Performance Dates: Dec. 14 – 29, 2024 - Limited Engagement – 9 Performances. Only!

Previews (2) Sat. Dec. 14, - 8:00 pm,

Sun. Dec. 15 -2:00 pm-

(No Press at Previews Please)

Opening Night: Mon., Dec. 16, 2024 - 7:00 pm

Individual Performance Dates:

December 14, Sat. 8:00 pm (Preview)

December 15, Sun. 2:00 pm (Preview)

December 16, Mon. 7:00 pm Opening Night

December 20, Fri 8:00 pm

December 21, Sat. 8:00 pm

December 22, Sun. 2:00 pm Matinee (MASKED PERFORMANCE)

December 27, Fri 8:00 pm (MASKED PERFORMANCE)

December 28, Sat. 8:00 pm

December 29, Sun. 2:00 pm Matinee (Closing Performance)

A RED CAROL

An Activist Adaptation of the Dickens Classic - Featuring Traditional Music.

Based on the novel *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

Six people, telling the story, playing all the roles, In an abandoned industrial space. This isn't your average, feel-good Christmas tale. But it was never supposed to be.

We all know the story: The redemption of a cranky miser at Christmas, a ghost story designed to let an audience feel good about themselves for not being heartless. But Charles Dickens wasn't trying to make people feel good, he was trying to show them a stark reality, scaring them into being more human. He wrote "A Christmas Carol" to shake up society, and with *A Red Carol* we are re-establishing his story as the revolutionary call-to-action Dickens intended.

With music, joy, and plenty of harsh truths about his time and ours, *A Red Carol* is the demand for economic and social justice Dickens wanted then, and we need now.

"People always think this story is about you," Bob Cratchit tells Scrooge. "But it ain't about you, it's about us - and how we let ourselves get infected with your ideas, your greed, your lies, it's you steppin' over the hungry and homeless and us following your lead, it's us lettin' you turn our government into a casino, listenin' while you say day after day that profit is the new god, and us not standin' up and shouting "NO!". "It ain't about you," Cratchit says. "It's about us."

TECH CREDITS:

Keiko Shimosato-Carreiro - Costume Design; **Jim Cave**; Lighting Design; **TBD**; Set Design; Sound Design & Engineer by **Taylor Gonzalez**, Stage Managed by **Karen Runk**, Photos: **David Allen, Lawrence Helman**, Publicity.

For info: 415-285-1717 or <https://www.sfmt.org/a-red-carol>

Q: Why do you call yourself a Mime Troupe if you talk and sing?

We use the term "mime" in its classical and original definition, "The exaggeration of daily life in story and song." It is a form of popular theater that is as old as the marketplace itself. From the ancient Greek and Roman farces to the Renaissance commedia dell'Arte to modern Chinese Opera, using archetypes comically to illustrate people's issues is a time-honored worldwide tradition. Our broadly drawn characters are instantly recognizable allowing the audience to immediately engage in the action. **Our work is political satire and anything but silent.** SF MIME TROUPE HISTORY: [sfmt.org/press-history](https://www.sfmt.org/press-history)

CREATIVE TEAM – Selected Bios

Link to ALL Bios here: <https://www.sfmt.org/a-red-carol>

Michael Gene Sullivan (Director, writer)

Michael Gene Sullivan is an Actor/Writer/Director/Activist based in San Francisco. He is an alum of the Playwrights Foundation, and has been awarded both a Djerassi Arts Center Fellowship and a Guggenheim Fellowship as a dramatist. Michael is also Resident Playwright for the Tony and OBIE award-winning (and always revolutionary, never ever silent) San Francisco Mime Troupe, where he has written or co-written over 30 plays, including: *1600 Transylvania Avenue*, *Too Big To Fail*, *Freedomland*, *Making a Killing*, *Back To The Way Thing Were*, the *Tales of the Resistance* radio/podcast series. This past season, in addition to writing SFMT's

summer hit *American Dreams*, his play *Sign My Name To Freedom: The Unheard Songs of Betty Reid Soskin* opened to critical-acclaim at the SF Bay Area Theatre Company, and his stage adaptation of George Orwell's *1984* - already translated into six languages and performed in fourteen countries on five continents - was produced by The Aurora Theatre. Michael's other plays include *The Great Khan*, which premiered at SF Playhouse, San Diego Rep. and Chicago's Red Twist Theatre. Michael has taught playwriting at the American Conservatory Theatre, SFMT's Young California Writers Project, has guest lectured on play creation or taught playwriting workshops at Yale, Stanford, Dartmouth, and USC. For ten years Michael was also a Contributing Writer for The Huffington Post. Michael's directing credits include work with the SF Shakespeare Festival, Marin Shakespeare Company, the African American Shakespeare Company, Mystic Bison Theatre, TheatreFirst, and a dozen productions with the SF Mime Troupe (SFMT). As an actor Michael has performed at theaters throughout the Bay Area (including at all four of the Bay Area's Tony-winning theaters), has toured nationally and internationally - including off-Broadway and at the Kennedy Center.

<https://www.michaelgenesullivan.com/michael>

In one calendar year – Dec. 2023 to Dec. 2024 - playwright Michael Gene Sullivan will have achieved a remarkable milestone: four of his plays will have been produced by three different Bay Area's theaters - and three of those plays will have been world premieres. (During this time, Michael has also continued to perform, direct, and teach.)

In Dec. 2024, after years of planning and workshops, the SF Mime Troupe will produce the world premiere of "A Red Carol," Michael's deconstructed, activist adaptation of Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol."

While Michael's plays have been produced for decades in the Bay Area at theaters like the SFMT, SF Playhouse, Berkeley's Central Works, and others (as well as across the country and around the world) four plays in a single calendar year, at three different theaters, in an area as artistically rich and rigorous as the San Francisco Bay Area, is a unique achievement.

Mike McShane (Actor -*Ebenezer Scrooge*)

Mike McShane is a veteran Emmy-nominated actor film and TV actor, improviser, and has performed on stages from London to Broadway. Mike got his start with *Faultline* - a groundbreaking improv troupe based in the SF Bay Area. Mike was a company member of Berkeley Shakespeare Festival, American Conservatory Theatre, and the SF Shakespeare Festival, and his West Coast stage credits include - *Henry IV Part 1*, *Hamlet*, *King John*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *The Winter's Tale* (CA Shakespeare Festival), *Waiting For Godot*, *You, Nero* (Berkeley Repertory Theater), *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to The Forum*, *Golden Boy*, (American Conservatory Theater) *A Bright Room Called Day*, *The Stick Wife* (Eureka Theater), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Little Foxes*, *Cousin Bette*, *The Seagull*, and *Tonight At 8:30* (The Antaeus Theater Company) Broadway credits include: *La Cage Aux Folles*, and *Taller Than A Dwarf*. In London West End he appeared in: *Assassins*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *La Cage aux Folles* (Menier Chocolate Factory). In film Mike achieved peak nerdism by being a villain in *Doctor Who*, driving the Batmobile whilst dressed as a Klingon, and as Friar Tuck kicking Kevin Costner in the face in *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*. Other film credits include *Richie Rich*, *Tom & Huck*, *Office Space*. His TV credits include *Seinfeld*, *ER*, *Frasier*, *Malcolm in the Middle*, *Wayward Pines*, *Doctor Who*, *NCIS:LA* and *NCIS*, he is a past nominee for a Daytime Emmy, and was honored with a Cable Ace Award. Mike is extremely happy to be joining old friends and new comrades in a great American institution, The SF Mime Troupe. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_McShane

About Z Space - Z Space is a non-profit theater company located in the heart of San Francisco's Mission District. They produce their own works, foster and subsidize the development of other creative artists with our Subspace program, and serve as a presenting home to a wide variety of performing arts organizations through our curated rental program. Operating out of an old can-making factory, they now activate two performance venues, an 83-seat intimate theater (Z Below) and a 236-seat flexible theater space (The Steindler Stage), with a warehouse aesthetic and an adventurous edge. Z Space is also home to Word for Word, our resident theater company that brings works of fiction to the stage in their own unique style.

CALENDAR LISTINGS

WHAT:

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