



Press contact:  
Sherry Lamoreaux  
Bag&Baggage Publicity  
503.704.9700  
sherry.lamoreaux@comcast.net



## ENJOY A FAMILY HOLIDAY TREAT—THE HYSTERICALLY FUNNY “A CHRISTMAS CAROL”—WHILE SUPPORTING CAMP ERIN

*Special Monday, December 14 Performance of Bag&Baggage’s “A Christmas Carol” Dedicated to Raising Funds for Grieving Children’s Cause*

Portland, OR—November 15, 2009—Love, laughter and the joy of giving to others are traditional holiday pleasures. This year, Providence Health & Services has created a unique opportunity for you to enjoy classic holiday entertainment with your family while also helping bereaved children. Providence is sponsoring a special performance of “A Christmas Carol” on Monday December 14 at 7:00pm. The revenue from every ticket sold for this performance will go to Camp Erin.

Camp Erin is a grief support camp for children ages 6 through 17. It’s a weekend summer camp that combines traditional fun camping activities with grief education and emotional support. Camp Erin is offered at no charge to the children who participate, thanks to a start-up grant—and ongoing support from donors.

This “A Christmas Carol” is a delightful spin on the classic Charles Dickens story,” said Marilyn Schulte, of Providence Health & Services, Oregon region. “Bag&Baggage, an acclaimed professional theatre company in Hillsboro, has created a funny and festive theatrical evening that we’re proud to offer Camp Erin supporters.”

The adaption is faithful to the book, but brings Charles Dickens himself into the action of the play. Audiences watch while Dickens argues, debates and flatters the characters in his story. The audience also participates in this truly one-of-a-kind adaptation of Dickens’ classic tale of the Christmas spirit.

Being a grieving child is often a lonely, isolating experience. Children often do not have an avenue to express their grief or to honor and remember the person they held dear. Through a variety of activities including drama, arts and crafts, creative writing and physical activities, Camp Erin gives children have the opportunity to “get their feelings out” while memorializing their loved one.

*“This camp did help me. It was nice to be able to show my emotions and not feel weird or embarrassed.”—16-year-old girl*

*“I got rid of tears I knew I must.”—9-year-old boy*

*“It gave me friends to talk to.”—10-year-old girl*

Bag&Baggage Artistic Director Scott Palmer says, “There’s plenty here for the entire family to enjoy, and even shed a few tears over. The production does not include adult material or references, so it’s perfect for families.”

The play runs in the historic Venetian Theatre in downtown Hillsboro. The 1888-vintage building has been tastefully remodeled and features plush, comfortable seats, and memorabilia; it’s an experience in itself. The Venetian’s Bistro offers fine dining and a full bar.

Bag&Baggage Productions’

### A CHRISTMAS CAROL

**Camp Erin Charity Night**

**Monday December 14, 2009**

**7:00pm**

**Tickets \$18–22**

The Venetian Theatre

253 East Main Street, Hillsboro, OR 97124

**Buy a ticket and  
support Camp Erin!**

Online at [www.bagnbaggage.org](http://www.bagnbaggage.org)

Or by phone at 503-516-4840

### **About Camp Erin**

Camp Erin is a bereavement camp designed for children ages 6-17 who have experienced the death of a parent, friend or loved one. It is a weekend-long experience filled with traditional, fun, camp activities combined with grief education and emotional support—facilitated by grief professionals and trained volunteers. In Oregon, the Moyer Foundation partners with Providence Health & Services to host the Camp.

The camp is named after Erin Metcalf, a teenage patient of Providence Hospice of Everett, Washington. Erin's dream was to attend spring training with the Seattle Mariners baseball team, and through the Make-A-Wish Foundation, her wish was granted. She developed a special friendship with Mariners pitcher Jamie Moyer and his wife, Karen. After 17-year-old Erin died of liver cancer in 2000, Karen and Jamie suggested creating a grief camp for children as an appropriate tribute to Erin. Camp Erin has locations in the Portland area and in 28 cities across the United States, and continues to grow.

### **About "A Christmas Carol"**

Charles Dickens' book, *A Christmas Carol*, first published in 1843, is a Victorian morality tale of an old and bitter miser, Ebenezer Scrooge. Scrooge is a usurious moneylender who undergoes a profound experience of redemption over the course of a Christmas Eve night.

Bag&Baggage's adaption, written and directed by Scott Palmer, is based on a single line in Dickens' journal in which he describes his experience writing *A Christmas Carol*. Says Palmer, "He wrote like a madman, often speaking aloud in his study...as if he were in conversation with the characters in the story he was writing!" Bag&Baggage skillfully brings Dickens into the action of the play, and audiences watch while he argues, debates and flatters the characters in his story...including Scrooge. Likewise, the audience participates in this truly one-of-a-kind adaptation of Dickens' classic tale of the Christmas spirit.

### **About Bag&Baggage Productions:**

Bag&Baggage was created in 2005 as a professional theatre company based in Hillsboro, Oregon, to produce live theatre in Oregon communities without a resident professional company of their own. The company is now the theatre-in-residence at the historic Venetian Theatre in downtown Hillsboro. We focus on the classics of English and American drama and always partner our work with educational programs for local students. Our mission is to inspire Oregonians to engage in creative, accessible and moving live-theatre experiences. Bag&Baggage is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization.

For more information visit Bag&Baggage online at [www.bagnbaggage.org](http://www.bagnbaggage.org).

Press contact: Sherry Lamoreaux, Bag&Baggage Publicity, 503.704.9700, [sherry.lamoreaux@comcast.net](mailto:sherry.lamoreaux@comcast.net)

---