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Seattle Children's Theatre partners with "America's Got Talent" Alum, Lightwire Theater, to present *A Very Electric Christmas*

(Seattle, Wash.) SEATTLE – October 30, 2023 – **Seattle Children's Theatre (SCT)** announces a spectacular holiday production, ***A Very Electric Christmas***, presented by **Lightwire Theater**. Running **Nov. 16–Dec. 31, 2023**, audiences will follow the journey of a young bird named Max and his family as they embark on their migration south for the winter. While a soundtrack of timeless holiday hits plays, Lightwire Theater's L-Wire technology enables talented actors to dance across a completely dark stage as ultra-creative, glow-in-the-dark, larger-than-life characters. Audiences of all ages will be captivated by the dazzling visuals and unique menagerie of characters that magically appear out of the darkness.

"An eye-popping display of storytelling that's like nothing else you've ever seen"

-Broadwayworld.com

Lightwire Theater Co-Creators Ian Carney and Corbin Popp met while dancing in Twyla Tharp's *Movin' Out* on Broadway. Together with their wives Eleanor and Whitney, they began experimenting with a product called "L-wire", shaping it into different designs to develop puppetry-based neon characters. From these beginnings, the group would form Lightwire Theater.

Each character created for a Lightwire Theater production takes 200 hours to create, could use up to 16 AA batteries per performance and are sourced from recyclable materials. Creatives build everything from the ground up using common household materials such as aluminum rods, skateboard wheels, fishing poles and duct tape. The items used in construction create durable, yet pliable sculptures. Black fabric is added and lined with the "L-wire" technology, which gives a 360-degree of glowing light.

Many will recognize Lightwire from their time on multiple television competition series. In 2012 Lightwire competed in Season 7 of "America's Got Talent", impressing judges during their audition with a dinosaur-sized performance, earning them three "Yes" votes from the judges. They eventually made it past four rounds to the semi-finals, where they received enough votes to be in the Top 4 for the season.

"Their captivating combination of dance, puppetry, and lighting earned Lightwire a standing ovation"

- "TV Guide"

During the fall of 2014, Lightwire Theater was invited to compete on truTV's newest reality competition at the time, "Fake Off". After making it past multiple rounds, the group ended up winning the competition and \$100,000 prize. The group has also been seen as finalists on My TF1's, "The Best Le Meilleur Artiste" in Paris, ABC's "Game of Talents" and Italy's "Tu Si Que Vales."

Despite being based out of New Orleans, Lightwire Theater is a global experience. The group has performed to audiences worldwide, including Hong Kong, Estonia, Canada, Belarus, China, Abu Dhabi, France, Taiwan, Germany, Brazil and Russia. They have performed for five consecutive years at some of the finest performing arts centers throughout the mainland of China. Lightwire has performed in all 50 states in the U.S. with one of their seven shows.

“Our ballet background made it so that we never used words in the telling of our stories, this means nothing is in the way.”

- Co-creator Ian Carney in an interview with [ShoutoutLA](#)

Partnering with the internationally recognized Lightwire Theatre was an easy decision for SCT, as both organizations present immersive productions for children and families. *A Very Electric Christmas* is sure to be a new experience for Seattle audiences, who are used to a wet and rainy winter season. While other light shows require driving or being outside to enjoy, *A Very Electric Christmas* presents a much warmer option in SCT’s own Charlotte Martin Theatre. Audiences can release their inner child as 16-ft tall birds, dinosaurs, ducks and more, move across the stage, performed by a group described as “*Absolutely incredible*” by [Rolling Stone](#).

Additionally, as a special offering for this production, audiences can purchase tickets to an **Extended Experience**. The founders and performers of Lightwire Theater, Ian and Eleanor Carney, will be answering questions, demonstrating how they get into character, and revealing how they create the show using Lightwire’s unique L-Wire light system. The extended experience runs 25-30 minutes and takes place after the show in the same venue.

Cast & Creative:

Ian Carney: Artistic Director, Road Manager, Ensemble

Eleanor Carney: Managing Director, Ensemble

Corbin Popp: Co-Creator & Technical Supervisor

Jay Weigel: Music Director

Barry Mendelson: Executive Producer

Ian Blanco: Ensemble

April Dayok: Ensemble

Jesse Forcha: Ensemble

Symone Johnson: Ensemble

Tierney Lawson: Ensemble

Cailan Orn: Ensemble

Partnerships and Engagement:

As temperatures lower in Washington, so does the risk of cold weather exposure for Washington’s farmworkers. Throughout the run of *A Very Electric Christmas*, SCT is partnering with [WashMasks Mutual Aid](#) on the **Cold Weather Exposure Prevention Donation Drive**.

Audiences can bring hats, coats, sweaters, scarves, gloves, socks and boots to help reduce the stress of cold weather or an item from [this culturally sensitive book list](#).

Donations will be accepted in the lobby at SCT until December 31, 2023, the final performance of *A Very Electric Christmas*. Those who donate will receive a free snack from the SCT concession stand.

WashMasks Mutual Aid is also producing the inaugural reading of ***Those Who Feed Us: Stories of Food, Community & Solidarity***, an original devised theatrical-event celebrating food solidarity and awareness of the (un)seen hands that put food on our plates. For more information:

washmasks.org/those-who-feed-us

Low-cost Tickets and Additional Performances:

SCT for ALL Under SCT for ALL, SCT provides low-cost and free tickets to young people and any family who express need. To book tickets simply call (206) 441-3322 or email the Ticket Office at tickets@sct.org and set any price for any upcoming show in the 22-23 Season.

Sensory Sensitive Performance- Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 2:30pm.

SCT's Sensory Friendly performance incorporates special modifications to accommodate children and families with sensory needs. **Learn more about Sensory Friendly Performances [here](#).**

ASL Interpreted Performance- Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 4:30pm.

Central to Seattle Children's Theatre's mission is a commitment to serving diverse communities including those who are deaf and hard of hearing and who have low vision or blindness. Tickets for ASL/AD performances are available throughout the season online or through the Ticket Office at tickets@sct.org or **(206) 441-3322**.

Audio Described Performance- Saturday, December 23, 2023 at 4:30pm.

Central to Seattle Children's Theatre's mission is a commitment to serving diverse communities including those with low vision or blindness. To request this service, please contact the Ticket Office at tickets@sct.org or **206.441.3322**.

For Calendar Editors:

What: *A Very Electric Christmas* - A Lightwire Theater Production

Where: SCT's Charlotte Martin Theatre - 201 Thomas Street Seattle, WA 98109

When: November 16–December 31, 2023

Cost: Tickets range from \$15-\$50 at sct.org

About SCT:

Since 1975, SCT has been a leading generator of new works, aiming to provide youth of all ages access to professional theater and theatre education. Under new initiatives, SCT for All provides low-cost and free tickets to young people and families. In addition, every first and fifth grade classroom in Seattle Public Schools can receive free tickets under **One&Five**. Learn more information about both of these programs at sct.org.

The 2023-2024 season is supported by generous contributions from season sponsors **Microsoft**, **ArtsFund**, and **The Shubert Foundation**, which will help the organization serve 130,000 annually and provide more than 60,000 free or significantly reduced tickets to children in the Puget Sound area.

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