

## WOMEN IN THE KNOW



Adrienne Sweeney as Ebenezer Scrooge

## CHRISTMAS AT THE COMMONWEAL

Leave it to the Commonwealth Theatre in Lanesboro, Minnesota, to put a new twist on an old classic—in this case, the eternal *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. For the first time in the company's history of producing this holiday favorite, the role of Ebenezer Scrooge will be played by a woman. Associate Artistic Director Adrienne Sweeney will sit behind the miser's desk this winter, beginning November 19.

"We knew there was a real demand for fresh takes on this classic story," says former Resident Ensemble member Philip Muehe. Muehe took the lead on adapting the Commonwealth's version and eventually landed on a script that tells the same familiar story, with all the characters you know and love, accompanied by female-identifying actors portraying Scrooge, Marley and all three of the Christmas Ghosts. "The material works just as well for women as it does for men," Muehe says, "and the lessons Dickens intended apply to all of us, regardless of gender identity."

"It's a role I've always wanted to do but never thought possible," says Sweeney. "It's a dream come true and a challenging proposition all at once. I am excited for our patrons to experience this story in a whole new way. With fresh eyes, they may see or feel something they hadn't before."

For a complete performance schedule of all 2021 offerings visit the Commonwealth's website, or call the Box Office at 800-657-7025 or visit [www.commonwealththeatre.org](http://www.commonwealththeatre.org).