

STUDIO

THEATRE WORCESTER

The Gift of the Magi

A short Christmas comedy

adapted from the story by O. Henry and directed by
MICHAEL WALKER

produced by
ROB KLIMECZKO

spanish translation by
VILMARY LOPEZ

technical design by
DAVID N. FARREH

costume design by
VAL SCHILLAWSKI

stage managed by
ANNA LEVIN

NOVEMBER 12-21, 2021

First Baptist Church (Gordon Hall), 111 Park Avenue, Worcester, MA 01609

For more information and tickets please visit StudioTheatreWorcester.org



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WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY
LATINO EDUCATION INSTITUTE

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A Short Christmas Comedy

November 12-21, 2021



adapted and directed by

MICHAEL WALKER



produced by

ROB KLIMECZKO

technical direction by

DAVID N. FARREH

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VALERIE SCHILLAWSKI

wig design by

STEVEN CRISTOFONO

stage managed by

ANNA LEVIN

Spanish translation by

VILMARY LOPEZ



with



Marta Rymer.....CARMEN COLÓN / MARGARET PORTER
Cristiano Lourenço Jr.....CARLOS COLÓN
Jim Douglas.....NARRATOR / WILLIAM PORTER (O.Henry) / MR. FAIRCHILD
Regina Stillings.....NARRATOR / SUSAN / MRS. SOFRONIE
Trish Aponte.....RACHEL
Derek Sylvester.....FRANKIE



Notes from the Director



Once the decision was made for Studio Theatre Worcester to come out of COVID retreat, and once the production of ***Doubt, A Parable***, was scheduled, it was necessary to fill out the rest of 2021-2022 Season, starting with choosing our first “holiday” play. The Board and Artistic Team quickly stepped away from presenting the ubiquitous holiday plays available elsewhere, and decided to create something new for Worcester: and adaptation of “The Gift of the Magi,” a 1905 short story by O. Henry.

We further decided to create a production that centered Latino and Latina characters and incorporated Spanish language into the production, which is in concert with our commitment to be a theatre company that is representative and responsive to the needs of the Worcester community and one that lifts up and amplifies the voices of BIPOC community members.

Our most bold aspiration was to create two productions – one in Spanish and one in English with some Spanish. Alas, there wasn’t enough time to create and rehearse two productions but we will explore that format again in the future.

After settling on the production’s format, the task became to grow O. Henry’s simple, five-page short story into an evening of theatre. His story begins late on Christmas Eve, when we find the newlyweds woefully poor and without the means to buy each other a present. Why they were down to their last pennies that evening was left to the readers’ imaginations. By beginning our play in the early morning, we believe you will come to know Carmen and Carlos a little better throughout that day. We hope you will appreciate how loving and giving they are – how selflessly they care for others – and we hope you will see them as true Magi and embrace their spirit this season.

-Michael Walker





The Cast



Marta Rymer (CARMEN COLÓN/MARGARET PORTER)

Marta is grateful to be a part of *The Gift of the Magi*! Recent credits include **National Tour:** *Once* (Apex Touring). **Regional:** *The Tempest* (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company), *Once* (Speakeasy Stage), *The Spitfire Grill* (Oregon Cabaret Theatre), *West Side Story* (Fiddlehead Theatre), *The New Electric Ballroom* (The Actor's Table), and *A Tale of Two Cities* (York Theatre). Upcoming: *A Christmas Carol* (Hanover Theatre). Marta is a graduate of AMDA. She sends love to her family for their endless support!

www.martarymer.com



Cristiano Lourenço Jr (CARLOS COLÓN)

Cristiano is a Brazilian actor who has been living in Worcester, Massachusetts for the past five years. He is a student at the Hanover Theatre Conservatory and is very excited to be on stage for the production of *The Gift of the Magi*. Previous projects Cristiano has worked on include Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* by the THT Rep in Worcester, *Em Azul Um Musical* (In Blue, a Musical), *Little Prince-The Musical*, *Velório à Brasileira* (Funeral in Brazilian), an adaptation of the popular Brazilian tv show "Castelo Ra-Tim-Bum", as well as multiple national tours and over 10 different productions. Cristiano is happy to be a part of this show with the challenge of portraying Carlos and wanted to thank his parents for always supporting his career, as well as every teacher, director, and choreographer who believed in his potential.

[@cristianojr](https://twitter.com/cristianojr)



Jim Douglas (NARRATOR/WILLIAM PORTER (O.Henry)/MR. FAIRCHILD)

This is Jim's first appearance with STW and he is excited to work with such a wonderful cast and director. Since starting in theater in 2011, Jim has performed in over 40 plays and musicals throughout Central Massachusetts and Northeast Connecticut. Some of his favorite roles include the title role in *Tuesdays With Morrie*, Scrooge (*A Christmas Carol*), Donny Dubrow (*American Buffalo*), Sheridan Whiteside (*The Man Who Came to Dinner*), Potter (*It's a Wonderful Life*), Charlie (*Death of a Salesman*), Lazar Wolf (*Fiddler on the Roof*), and Jacob (*Awake and Sing!*). When not on stage, Jim enjoys 'prepping' books for audiobook narrators.



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The Cast



Regina Stillings (NARRATOR/SUSAN/MRS. SOFRONIE)

Although new to STW, Regina is no stranger to local stages, having performed as Mrs. Tottendale in *The Drowsy Chaperone* with Worcester County Light Opera, Eulalie Shinn in *The Music Man* with Vanilla Box Productions, Sister Robert Ann in *Nunsense* with Stageloft Theater, and one of her favorite roles as Louise in *Always, Patsy Cline* with her best friend Trish Aponte at Theatre at the Mount! She's happy to be sharing the stage again with Trish, under the direction of Michael Walker!



Trish Aponte (RACHEL)

Trish is grateful for the opportunity to be work with such a wonderful cast and Studio Theatre Worcester having performed on the stage for over 35 years. She has been seen professionally with Foothills Theatre in *Chicago* (Roxy Hart), *A Christmas Carol*, *Gypsy* (Tessie Tura), *Ragtime* (Evelyn Nesbitt), *Beehive the 60's Musical*, *Holiday at the Hills* (player). She also performed with Trinity Rep in *A Christmas Carol* (Ghost of Christmas Past), Lyric Stage in *Side Show* (Snake Lady), Speakeasy Stage Company in *Bacharach Review*, American Stage Festival and Stoneham Theatre (now Greater Boston Stage Company) in *Little Shop of Horrors* (Crystal). Trish has worked with Theatre at the Mount for many years and it's one of her favorite places to perform. Some of her roles include, Patsy Cline in *Always Patsy Cline*; Robert Anne in *Nunsense*, Peter Pan in *Peter Pan*, Tanya in *Mama Mia*, Diana Morales in *A Chorus Line*, Drowsy Chaperone in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and Masha



Derek Sylvester (FRANKIE)

Derek is excited to be returning to Studio Theatre Worcester for his third appearance, where he has been seen in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* and *The Fantasticks* (Hucklebee). Other local appearances include *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Durdles), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Frank, Riff Raff), and *Bent* (Horst).



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To improve the academic
achievement and well-being of
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Studio Theatre Worcester is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code. Your financial contributions make it possible for us to continue producing productions and creating programs that enrich the city of Worcester. Please consider making a donation today.

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Tap the icons to the right to follow us.



VOLUNTEER

Would you like to join our team of volunteers? We are always on the lookout for people who love theatre as much as we do and also want to connect more with the community. We have many areas in which you can volunteer including, but not limited to:

- Box Office
- Ushering
- House Management
- Light & Sound Board Op
- Props Coordination
- Play Reading
- Production Assistant
- Back Stage Crew
- Wardrobe/Dressers

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