

PRESS RELEASE

UCR Palm Desert Center to host Emmy, Tony Award-winning star Hal Linden and company for community meet-and-greet event

PALM DESERT — Tony Award and three-time Emmy Award-winning actor Hal Linden, (*Barney Miller*, *Gilmore Girls*) will headline a community meet-and-greet called *Inside An Actor's Carol*, featuring the cast and writer/director of the new holiday play *An Actor's Carol*.

This free meet-and-greet will take place at 6 p.m. Dec. 1 inside the auditorium at UCR Palm Desert, 75080 Frank Sinatra Dr. Tod Goldberg, director of UCR Palm Desert's low-residency MFA program, will host the event.

The play will premiere at the Hi-Desert Cultural Center in Joshua Tree in early December. *An Actor's Carol* was written by Charles Evered, who is also directing the premiere.

An Actor's Carol tells the story of Hugh Pendleton, a world weary and cynical actor who has played the role of Scrooge one too many times and is visited by three ghosts of his own. The play is described as a "fun-loving and respectful" take on the Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol*. The cast and director will share stories about how the play evolved, what it's like to open a new play in the desert and other behind-the-scenes insights. The audience will be encouraged to ask questions.

In addition to Hal Linden playing the role of Pendleton, Barry Cutler, an accomplished TV and film actor, will take on the second weekend of performances.

Besides the two lead actors, a talented ensemble of performers will play 16 roles during the fast-paced, one-act play. The ensemble includes Alexis Dickey, who has appeared on the SyFy Channel, in independent films and in multiple viral YouTube shorts; Coachella Valley resident Kirk Geiger, forthcoming in Kurando Mitsutake's *Karate Kill* (2016) and best known for his work in *Sordid Lives*, and Ben Atkinson, an actor, writer and director (*2forStew*, *Jinxed*).

Evered, an award-winning playwright and filmmaker is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama where he studied with director George Roy Hill. Evered was a founding faculty member of UCR's Palm Desert Center from 2005 to 2006, then moved onto UCR's main campus in

Riverside, where he is currently Professor of Playwriting. Evered has written screenplays for major studios and directed two features of his own including *Adopt a Sailor* and *A Thousand Cuts*, both of which were shot in the Coachella Valley. *Adopt a Sailor* starred Emmy winners Peter Coyote and Bebe Neuwirth and went on to screen at more than 20 national and international festivals, premiering on Showtime. *A Thousand Cuts* starred Academy Award nominee Michael O'Keefe and was nominated for a Saturn Award.

The production of *An Actor's Carol* is sponsored in part by UCR's Office of Research and Economic Development as well as its Department of Theatre, Film and Digital Production.

For additional information:

University of California, Riverside Palm Desert Center: www.palmdesert.ucr.edu

Hi-Desert Cultural Center: www.hidesertculturalcenter.org

Charles Evered: www.charlesevered.com