

# MANUAL CINEMA'S CHRISTMAS CAROL



**DECEMBER 12, 2020 @ 3:00 & 7:00 p.m.**

## **STREAMED PERFORMANCE**

**This performance is free for CSB/SJU student but a ticket is required to receive the link.**

Manual Cinema brings to life Charles Dickens' holiday classic with an inventive adaptation made specifically for streaming rather than live performance.

An avowed holiday skeptic, Aunt Trudy has been recruited to channel her late husband Joe's famous Christmas cheer. From the isolation of her studio apartment, she reconstructs his annual Christmas Carol puppet show – over a Zoom call while the family celebrates Christmas Eve during a pandemic. But as Trudy becomes more absorbed in her own version of the story, the puppets take on a life of their own and the family's call transforms into a stunning cinematic recreation of this most classic story.

There will be a post-performance Q&A "Behind the Scenes with a Puppeteer" following the 7:00 p.m. performance only.

## CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS PERFORMANCE ENGAGES WITH:

- Theater
- Music
- Cinematography
- Sound Design
- Literature
- Music Composition

## ARTIST WEBSITE

[Manual Cinema](#)

[Behind the Scenes](#)

[New York Times](#)

[PBS Special](#)

[Decade of Puppetry](#)

[U of Chicago Residency](#)

## QUESTIONS

Manual Cinema has reimagined Charles Dickens' classic holiday story, retelling it through a modern lens, set in the time of a pandemic.

- How familiar are you with Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*? What versions have you encountered? How does this version compare?
- What expectations did you have before watching this performance? How did this event match and/or differ from your expectations?
- How did setting the play in modern, pandemic time impact the story? Why do artists continue to retell this story?
- What makes something a "classic"? How do you feel about this term?
- How do you feel about modernizing classics? Where have you seen this done before?

*The New York Times* has described Manual Cinema as "a puppetry-infused hybrid of film and theater."

- What is your experience with puppetry? With film and theater?
- How does this performance translate into a livestream experience?
- In what ways does the use of puppets impact your understanding of the play?
- How did the puppeteers convey emotions?
- What elements of film did you notice? What elements of theater?
- If you were to describe your aspirations as a hybrid of multiple disciplines, what would you call it?

In signature Manual Cinema fashion, hundreds of paper puppets, miniatures, silhouettes and a live original score come together to create the visual and audio experience of this production.

- How do the details in the artistry of this piece enhance the overall performance?
- Are there qualities of this music that feel familiar to you? What are those qualities?
- How does the music impact the performance?
- What elements of this performance were unexpected?
- Have you ever experienced art that challenged the ways you have engaged previously? If so, describe that experience?