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'Scrooge' comes to Bucks County Playhouse

- Rita Charleston Tribune Correspondent
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One of the most beloved Christmas stories ever written takes on a decidedly New Hope twist in the Bucks County Playhouse's new comedy, "Ebenezer Scrooge's Big Playhouse Christmas Show," playing through Sunday.

"There are just five actors in the show," says Philadelphia-born Tracy Conyer Lee, one of the actors. "But other than the actor who plays Scrooge, the rest of us play many, many roles, as many as eight or nine. At first I was a little skeptical about leaving my home in New York during the holidays to play in this show. But after reading the script and realizing all the hilarity it encompassed while still keeping all the messages of love, compassion and generosity, I accepted."

Indeed, the actors infuse the story with music, laughter and a unique way of presenting the play. "The characters do everything on stage themselves to fit the scenes, from changing their costumes to making all the sound effects — everything — live on stage in front of the audience," Lee said.

Growing up, Lee, an only child, says she used to amuse herself by acting in front of a huge wall of mirrors in her parents' house. She admits she also very much enjoyed doing little plays in church and in school, never realizing her acting would, or even could, lead to a career.

When she went to college, she first majored in math and minored in theater. But after two years, she realized that the draw of the theater was just too much to be denied and she decided to major in theater. Twenty-seven years later, she's positive she made the right decision.

Over the years, Lee has appeared off-Broadway, in many regional productions and in TV and film. She even won NAACP and Barrymore awards playing civil rights pioneer Ida B. Wells in "Constant Star."

Additionally, Lee is a playwright. One of her plays will be produced in January in Maryland, where she's heading after this show closes. "And my only hope for the next quarter of a century

would be just to continue working and growing, and even have writing become a more substantial part of my career.”

Bucks County Playhouse is at 70 S. Main St. in New Hope. For tickets, call (215) 862-2121.