

Ebeneeza A Holiday Carol by Hartbeat

Asylum Hill is fortunate to be one of the few neighborhoods in Hartford that can boast having a theater producing live shows, and their most recent offering, *Ebeneeza A Hartford Carol* is very much alive.

True to the Hartbeat model of playwriting through interview dialogue, this play retells Dickens *Christmas Carol* through the lens and with the words of Hartford residents speaking of longstanding and recent Hartford conditions. As in Dickens' version the title character Ebeneeza Scrooge (in this case female) begins the story as a very financially rich and spiritually poor individual. The series of dreams are enough to scare her from cold and heartless to kind, generous and grateful for the second chance.

The story must be familiar to practically everyone, but this particular telling is custom made for anyone local with lots of references to Hartford past and present. We can only hope that the conclusion represents our future.

I hesitate to single out any one performance, because they all do such a great job, but I find Ebeneeza's hat a fitting crown, Deb really is "Great Again".

So if you read this anytime before December 11th, go see it. You won't be disappointed. And in true Christmas and Hartbeat tradition no one is turned away for lack of funds. Whatever you can afford (almost like public radio) will get you a ticket.

More photos are available at <https://goo.gl/photos/baTVjtpbKmKsxMA6>

For Tickets go to <https://www.artful.ly/store/events/10392>

