



[theatre]

## Emerson troupe introduces Charles Dickens

Was there ever a more eloquent spokesperson for the downtrodden than Charles Dickens? If not for him, we would never have known of the subjugated innocence of Oliver Twist, the pure heart of Nell Trent, or Tiny Tim, the young boy who, despite all odds, was filled with hope and love. For these, and a myriad of other colorful characters, we can thank Mr. Dickens, and again for the chance to view humanity at its best and, certainly, at its worst.

We can also thank Albert Cremin for creating an entrancing one-man show, *Introducing Mr. Charles Dickens*, in which he showcases his own considerable talent, in the persona of the venerable 19<sup>th</sup> century author. He offers his creation through Dec 7 at the Emerson Theater Collaborative (ETC) in the Olde Mistick Village Meeting House, just off Exit 90 in Mystic, CT.

“I wrote the show in the early 80s when I was teaching high school. Students were complaining about having to read Dickens, so I wanted to bring him to life for them,” states the actor. “I started with the Pickwick Papers, which was only the tip of the iceberg.”

Indeed, because of the success of this first venture, demand came for him to extend the tale of Dickens and to bring it to a much larger audience. He brought the full-scale production to the Performers’ Studio in Boston in 1984, and then on to other venues throughout New England and New York. It is a scaled down version that he presents at ETC, touching on “Oliver Twist,” “Captain Boldheart,” “The Pickwick Papers,” “David Copperfield” and “The Old Curiosity Shop.”

In order to bring you into the world of Dickens’ words, Cremin flawlessly transforms himself from the author into a great number of his characters, within a blink of the eager eye. He offers this in moments from the British and American tours, where Dickens himself performed readings of his novels to packed and appreciative audiences.

From the instance of his entrance, to his final farewell, we are captivated by the actor with his flamboyant depictions of a multitude of beloved and bedeviled characters that were born of the prolific pen of Charles Dickens. Watching Cremin onstage as the author brings vibrant life to the pages of his novels, which beforehand were relegated to the foggy visions of our minds.

This time of year naturally makes one think of his holiday classic *A Christmas Carol*. But you won’t find it here in this production. Cremin felt there was no need to remind us of his best-known novel, and instead concentrated on Dicken’s works that should be as favored as that one. In truth, it is not missed, as, in the spirit of the original author he has breathed much warranted life into his creation. I am sure that Dickens would be proud.

Call 860/705-9711 for reservations or visit their website at: [www.emersontheatercollaborative.org](http://www.emersontheatercollaborative.org) for more information.