

FALL PLAY AUDITIONS - 2023 - A CHRISTMAS CAROL

REMEMBER - To audition to be in the Play, you must have a completed Audition Form. Please check the Auditions website for more information.

THE STORY: Ebenezer Scrooge is a miserable old soul, obsessed with money with no regard whatsoever for anyone, or anything else - especially Christmas. When an old partner reaches from beyond the grave, and Scrooge is visited by three ghosts - Past, Present, and Future - Ebenezer Scrooge comes to face to face with the reality of his existence. This absolute classic tale by Charles Dickens is guaranteed to warm your heart - after accompanying Scrooge on a frightful journey.

There are many available roles in this play; therefore, it is recommended that you read the novella or watch a film version of this classic story by Charles Dickens (And yes, that includes the Muppet version!). We will be presenting the version adapted for the stage by Romulus Linney.

SIDES

Please select one of the sides provided below. For your audition, be sure to make specific (*and creative*) choices when you are deciding on your character; don't just read the lines. Gender bending is welcome for this initial audition. Memorization is not required, but recommended.

NEPHEW. I have always thought of Christmas as a good time: a kind, charitable, time, when men and women open their hearts, think of others as fellow passengers to the grave, and not another race of other creatures bound on other journeys. The way, Fan, my mother and your sister, thought of it. And therefore, Uncle, though Christmas has never put a scrap of gold in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good and will do me good and I say God bless it! (*Cratchit applauds gently.*)

CHRISTMAS PRESENT. Come! ~~(Wind. Against the back wall or on a screen, projections and films of etchings and paintings and living people of Victorian England celebrating Christmas, plus a sound montage of different carols, all rushed together with the wind. Light on the Ghost of Christmas Present, holding Scrooge around the shoulders and pointing ahead of them. We hear the voice of the Ghost of Christmas Present as we watch the scene change.)~~ Do you see, Scrooge! Christmas Present! People in the streets, in the fields, in the mines, in the cities and in the countries, on the land and on the sea, they stop. They have a kinder word for each other than at any other time of the year! This is my Spirit! The Spirit of Christmas! Good cheer, kindness, and love! And some of it, Scrooge, some of it lasts throughout the year! ~~(The projections and films vanish, and a single voice is heard, laughing.~~

SCROOGE. Oh! ~~(Scrooge drops to his knees, in terror. From this figure emerges another, smaller figure, the same but life size, in the same black robe. This is the Spirit of Christmas Yet to Come. Against the huge black figure, the smaller figure stands, not speaking, looking at Scrooge.)~~ Are you the Spirit of a Christmas Yet To Come? ~~(The Spirit nods.)~~ You are about to show me shadows of things that have not happened but will happen in the time before us? ~~(The Spirit points onward.)~~ Phantom of the Future. I fear you more than any specter I have seen. But as I know you propose to do me good, and as I hope to live to be another man from what I was, I am prepared to bear you company and do it with a thankful heart. Will you not speak to me? ~~(No response.)~~ Lead on, Spirit. ~~(Wind. The Spirit of Christmas Yet to Come moves away and Scrooge follows him. They meet a street car.~~

poorer bed moves across the stage on a platform. The bed is empty. Sitting in a chair beside the bed, at its head, is Bob Cratchit. At the foot of the bed stand Mrs. Cratchit and all the Cratchit Children. Cratchit is reading from the Bible.)

CRATCHIT. "And he took a child and set him in the midst of them." *(He stops reading.)* My eyes hurt.

~~MRS. CRATCHIT. You went again, Robert?~~

CRATCHIT. ~~Yes, my dear.~~ I wish you all could have gone. It would have done you good to see how green a place it is. I promised him I would walk there every Sunday. *(He weeps.)* My child. My Tim.

~~SCROOGE. Spirit, no! No!~~

CRATCHIT. At the grave I met Mr. Scrooge's nephew, the pleasantest spoken gentleman you've ever heard. He said, "I am heartily sorry, Mr. Cratchit, for you and for your good wife and for your other children." He gave me his card. "If I can be of any service to you, in any way, please let me know." He was so kind. It was as if he had known our Tiny Tim himself.

~~MRS. CRATCHIT. I'm sure he's a good soul.~~

CRATCHIT. He said he might find Peter there a better situation, working for him.

~~MRS. CRATCHIT. Hear that, Peter?~~

~~MIRANDA. And then Peter will find himself a girl and set~~

the play.)

SCROOGE. Before I draw nearer to this grave, answer me one question, Spirit. Are these the shadows of Things That Must Be or are they shadows of Things that May Be Only? Answer me! ~~(The Spirit of Christmas Yet to Come moves back into the great black shadow that has loomed above everything, pointing as he goes, and disappears. Scrooge goes to the grave. He kneels and brushes dirt away from its level, brass headstone. Reads.)~~ Scrooge. ~~(He stands up.)~~ Oh, Spirits, wherever you be, hear me! I am not the man I was! I will not be the man I have been! Why can I not change what you have shown me? ~~(Scrooge turns and faces the huge black figure behind him. Light glows behind it, making it an even more formidable presence.)~~ Why show me all this if I am past all hope? ~~(A crashing dissonant chord. Scrooge runs to the figure, seizes its cloth substance and pulls the whole great thing down to the floor. It parts in the middle. Each side is whipped offstage and is gone. Blackout! Sound: tremendous noise, reverberating! Lights whirl around the proscenium! Every possible effect! Silence. As the reverberations die away, slow light discovers Scrooge, eyes closed, holding on to one of the bedposts of his bed, which sits alone now on the stage, backed by a wintry sky.)~~ Spirit! Spirit! I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all year! I will live in the Past, the Present and the Future! I will not shut out the lessons you have taught me! Spirit! ~~(Pause.) Ah! Where am I now? A bedpost. My bedpost! My curtains, not torn down! Am I home~~

~~strolling around the fountain.) Ah! That's what we did! Together!~~

BELLE. Marry? I wanted that more than anything. I fell quite in love with you, my dear, right at that dance. I loved your awkwardness, your shyness, and I thought, your preference for me.

~~SCROOGE OLDER. You were right. I did prefer you.~~

~~BELLE. You did then.~~

~~SCROOGE OLDER. And do now!~~

BELLE. But it makes no difference now.

~~SCROOGE OLDER. No difference? That I love you before all others?~~

BELLE. Before all other women, yes, I believe that you love me.

~~SCROOGE OLDER. Then marry me!~~

BELLE. But - Women in love know they have other rivals.

~~SCROOGE OLDER. I can't imagine who.~~

BELLE. Ebenezer, you can't imagine at all. You can't see it.

~~SCROOGE OLDER. Don't be vague. See what?~~

BELLE. You have left me.

~~SCROOGE OLDER. I have not! My love for you is stronger than ever!~~

BELLE. Your love for me is one thing. But there is another love. It seemed natural at first. But it became passionate, fierce, and consuming, and it is for someone else.

~~SCROOGE OLDER. That is not true!~~

~~SCROOGE. And it wasn't! I loved her! With all my heart!~~

(A Boy comes running around the fountain.)