

**AUDITION NOTICE**

# **A Christmas Carol**

by Charles Dickens, adapted by Steven Adams

<b>Directors:</b>	<b>Steven Adams, Mimi Goddard, Suzanne Buist</b>
<b>Musical Director:</b>	<b>Ella Turk-Thompson</b>
<b>Production dates:</b>	<b>6 – 14 December (matinees on 7, 8 and 14 Dec, no evening shows 8 or 9 Dec)</b>
<b>Auditions:</b>	<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept at 2pm in the bar</b>
<b>Rehearsals:</b>	<b>13 October - 5 Dec (Probably Sundays, Mondays, Weds and Fridays – smaller roles wouldn't necessarily be needed to attend every rehearsal)</b>

**Charles Dicken's classic Ghost Story for Christmas.**

It's Christmas Eve but the cold-hearted Scrooge hasn't an ounce of festive cheer. As the cold night draws in, four ghostly spirits take Ebenezer on a magical journey through his past, his present and his future, hoping to show him the error of his ways. With Christmas spirit, fun, music and magic at its heart, this timeless Charles Dickens tale is brought vividly to life in full Victorian splendour.

The miser Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley and the spirits of Christmases Past, Present and Yet To Come. After their visits, Scrooge is transformed into a kinder, gentler man.

We are looking for a large ensemble cast with doubling of most of the roles. Some roles (including Scrooge) are open to any gender. Playing ages below are approximate and should not be considered strict.

There will be some group singing of Christmas carols but nothing too difficult.

For all the children's roles we are intending to use puppets in an "Avenue Q" style where the actor holding the puppet is fully visible and acts along with the puppet. This should be an exciting opportunity for people to learn or increase their puppetry skills!

As well as actors we are interested in hearing from people who would like to work behind the scenes. There will be a very complicated set that will require some effects work and a need for a large costume team to source/make the costumes. Do get in touch if you are interested in any backstage role.

**For more information and audition pieces, please contact Steven Adams by email [stevenadams1969@gmail.com](mailto:stevenadams1969@gmail.com)**

<b>Character</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Playing age</b>
Charles Dickens	He narrates the play and interacts with the characters. Doesn't have to mimic the look of Dickens completely. Could be Dickens anytime after 1843 when the book was written.	35+
Scrooge	A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! Obviously, the main part. We are opening this up to men or women to audition for. If a woman is cast it will either be playing the part as a man or we may change the gender of Scrooge to female but have her played in a "Gentleman Jack" style – i.e. a woman who dresses and lives very much like a man. This is to be decided!	45+
Bob Cratchit	A penniless office clerk. Despite being forced to work in uncomfortable conditions for very little pay, Bob remains loyal to Scrooge.	Late 20s – mid 40s
2 Charitable Ladies	Two ladies who visit Scrooge at the beginning of the tale seeking charitable contributions and reappear briefly at the end.	Any age but probably not too young
Fred Cheerily	Scrooge's nephew, a genial man who loves Christmas.	Early 20s – mid 30s
A Poor Carolling Child	A puppet character, he/she sings outside Scrooge's door at the beginning and returns at the end to get the turkey!	Any age
Jacob Marley	In the living world, Ebenezer Scrooge's equally greedy partner. Marley died seven years before the narrative opens. He appears to Scrooge as a ghost condemned to wander the world bound in heavy chains.	45+
The Ghost of Christmas Past	The first spirit to visit Scrooge, a curiously childlike apparition somehow looking like a young girl and an old woman at the same time.	Any age
Scrooge as a boy/girl	This will be a puppet Character. Scrooge when he was a lonely young boy/girl.	Any age
Fan, Scrooge's sister	Another puppet. Scrooge's kindly, caring sister.	Any age
Fezziwig	The jovial merchant with whom the young Scrooge apprenticed.	40+
Mrs Fezziwig	Fezziwig's wife – also jovial!	40+
Scrooge as a young man/woman	Scrooge when he was Fezziwig's apprentice, becoming more serious but still has some spirit.	20 - 30

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Dick Wilkins	Scrooge's fellow apprentice, happy go lucky. He later marries Belle.	20 -30
Belle	A beautiful young woman who Young Scrooge loved deeply.	20 - 30
The Ghost of Christmas Present	The second spirit to visit Scrooge, a majestic person clad in a green robe. His or her lifespan is restricted to Christmas Day.	Any age but probably not young
Mrs. Cratchit	Bob's wife, a kind and loving woman with a bit of a temper!	Late 20s – mid 40s
Martha Cratchit	The Cratchit's oldest daughter, who works in a milliner's shop	Any age
Peter Cratchit	A puppet character, the Cratchit's oldest son	Any age
Belinda Cratchit	A puppet character, the Cratchit's next daughter, brave in ribbons!	Any age
2 other Cratchit children	Also puppets. Young boy and girl.	Any age
Tiny Tim	Tiny Tim will be a puppet probably operated in turn by Bob and Mrs. Cratchit.	
Fred's wife	A very pretty, happy and charming young lady with a good sense of humour.	Early 20s – mid 30s
Topper, Fred's friend	A hearty young bachelor	Early 20s – mid 30s
Fred's wife's sister	Another young lady	Early 20s – mid 30s
Want and Ignorance	2 puppet children – a boy and girl - wretched, abject, frightful, hideous, miserable.	Any age
The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come	The third and final spirit to visit Scrooge, a silent phantom clad in a hooded black robe. This will probably be large puppet like creation operated by the stage crew.	
Two Businessmen	Very wealthy, and of great importance	35+
Old Joe	A grey-haired rascal	50+
Mrs Dilber, a laundress	Scrooge's laundress	40+
A charwoman	Scrooge's charwoman	40+

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