

Theatre Memphis

Auditions for *A Christmas Carol*

Based on the novel by Charles Dickens

Adapted for TM's Lohrey Stage by Jason M. Spitzer

Truncated "AM" Version directed by Becky Caspersen

Full "PM" Version staged by Jordan Nichols and Travis Bradley

Both Versions music directed by Jeffery B. Brewer Full Version choreographed by Kathy Caradine

ALL PARTICIPANTS, AGE 12 AND UP, WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE PROOF OF COVID VACCINATION BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO AUDITION.

This show requires two casts: A cast for regular evening and weekend performances (full version or PM Show) and a cast for weekday school matinee performances (truncated version or AM Show). Auditionees have the opportunity to select the cast for which they would like to be considered. Auditionees may choose to be considered for both casts. While most actors on the Theatre Memphis stage are volunteers, actors who perform in the weekday school cast of *A Christmas Carol* do get a small stipend.

Weekday school matinee performances (truncated version) are on the Lohrey Stage. Depending on whether or not the local school system will permit field trips, there will be 10 – 26 performances, November 28 - December 16, 2021 (2 performances per day at 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM.)

Regular performances (full version) are on the Lohrey Stage December 2 - 23, 2021

44th Annual Production

A Memphis Family Holiday Tradition. Miserly Ebenezer Scrooge is approached by the ghostly vision of his former business partner, Jacob Marley, who warns him of an upcoming spiritual journey. An eye-opening exploration leads to happiness and enlightenment, not to mention song, dance and holiday cheer. Based on the Charles Dickens novel.

AM SHOW AUDITIONS: (Please plan to be available for one of the initial audition sessions on Monday and Tuesday with callbacks following Tuesday's auditions.)

Monday 8/22 :

10AM - 12 PM ages 7 to 14

1 PM - 5 PM Adults

Tuesday 8/23:

10 AM - 11 AM ages 7 -14

11 AM - 1 PM Adults

2PM - 5PM Callbacks

PM SHOW AUDITIONS: (Please plan to be available for one of the initial audition sessions on Saturday or Sunday AND Sunday evening for callbacks.)

Sat, 8/27 @ 10 AM (Children 7 -14 yrs)

Sat, 8/27 @ 11:30 AM (Adults)

Monday, 8/29 @ 5:45PM (Children 7 -14 yrs)

Monday, 8/29@ 6:30 PM (Adults)

Monday, 8/29 @ 7:30 PM - Callbacks Auditions

By Invitation - Callback auditions may include dance, readings from the script, &/or a simple vocal audition.

Prepare for Auditions:

- The initial audition will consist of readings from the script. (Sides are located at the bottom of this audition notice. Additional cold reading assignments may be given.) Help will be given to children who may have trouble reading; however familiarity with the script is strongly advised for all auditionees.

MUSIC PREPARATION (For ALL children. For adults who are called back.)

- The Music Director will teach auditionees a Christmas carol at auditions. Auditionees will then perform the carol individually or in groups. (Sheet music is located at the bottom of this audition notice.)
- The singing required for this production is fun and easy. The director prefers to see all adults attempt a vocal audition, but will not require it of any auditionee who feels that they are not equipped to participate.
- The role of Christmas Present in both versions of the show require strong singers. The role of Belle in the PM Show also requires a strong singer.

DANCE PREPARATION (For ALL children auditioning for the full version. For adults who are called back.)

- The Choreographer will teach auditionees fun, easy holiday dance and movement. Auditionees will then perform the movement in groups.
- Please come dressed to move. Wear appropriate footwear that will allow you to move well. Formal dance shoes are not required, but all auditionees should wear a closed toed, closed heeled, hard soled shoe. (No crocs, flip flops, sandals, or bare feet.)
- The dance required for this production is fun and easy. The director prefers to see all adults attempt a dance audition, but will not require it of any auditionee who feels that they are not equipped to participate.

ADDITIONAL PREPARATION AND INFORMATION

- **Audition Registration:** (Everyone is welcome, but all auditions are by appointment.):
 - Please schedule your AM ACC audition at <https://signup.com/go/DQiSnjE>
 - For your PM ACC audition at <https://signup.com/go/aqoGxmV> [If you are unable to click to follow this link, please copy and paste it into your web browser.]
 - Please be sure the person listed in the “Name” section of the audition form is the name of the person who will be auditioning.
 - Registering multiple people? – Depending on the device you are using, the system may or may not let you register more than one name with the same email address. If you wish to register multiple people under the same email address and the system won’t allow you to do so, list each person’s first & last name in the “comment” section of the registration page.
 - On the day of your audition, **please arrive about 15 minutes before your audition appointment**, so that we may process your paperwork.
- **Audition Paperwork:** Arrive at auditions with all of your completed paperwork paper clipped together.

- Audition Form – Available for download via our website the Monday before Auditions.
 - Current performance resume
 - Current headshot (a good photo from the shoulders up)
 - Note from the TM Costume Shop for those offered a role in this show: Generally, actors are expected to supply their own shoes, hosiery, undergarments, hair supplies and makeup. If assigned a wig or hairpiece, those with hair longer than an inch or two will be required to prep their own hair. Standard prep methods are small, tight braids or pin curls. If you cannot provide the items requested of you, please do not hesitate to let the costume staff know, and they will find a resolution.
- **Script Rental:** Scripts (provided on a first-come/first-serve basis) will be available to check out beginning August 12th, at the theatre box office during regular box office hours. Materials may be rented for up to 3 days with a refundable \$10 deposit. All scripts are due the first day of auditions, before auditions begin. Rental deposits are forfeited if materials are returned after the due date.
 - **Roles Available:** Between the two shows, we are casting up to 40 adult roles, male and female, ages 15 to 80+ years old, and 8-12 children, 7 to 14 years old. See character lists below. The role of Ebenezer Scrooge will be played by David Shipley in the PM Show.
 - **PARENTS OF CHILDREN 12 & UNDER:** In order to provide a safe and organized experience for our youngest cast members, we ask that parents provide assistance several times during the rehearsal and performance process. We will endeavor to create a parent schedule that works well for all parties, but parents of all child cast members are expected to assist as needed with the preparation and care of the full children's ensemble. Parents will receive additional show tickets, as a thank you for volunteering. **Please note that it may not be possible for non-cast children to accompany cast children to rehearsal/performance.
 - **PARENTS of cast members who won't be driving themselves to rehearsals/performances:** Please be prepared to provide transportation that will result in prompt delivery of your child to the theatre and prompt pick up, once rehearsal/performance has concluded. [There is often (but not always) a room available to be used as a "waiting room" for parents.]
 - Theatre Memphis is a community theatre, and all performers are volunteers.
 - **Audition Location:** Theatre Memphis; 630 Perkins Extended: Memphis, TN 38117

Rehearsal Info:

For the truncated version: **Regular rehearsals will be 2-4 days a week, 2-3 hours per day in the morning or afternoon, starting October 10, 2022.** Closer to the opening performance, actors may be called for weekend and/ or evening rehearsals 5-6 days per week, for longer periods each call. Actors will only be called for rehearsals for which they are needed. Only actors with no or very limited conflicts will be considered for roles in this production. For the good of the show and fairness to all production volunteers and staff we ask that you not add conflicts to your schedule once you have committed to a Theatre Memphis production. If you are cast in *A Christmas Carol* and are unable to keep your rehearsal and performance commitments, Theatre Memphis reserves the right to replace you.

For the full version: **Regular rehearsals will be 5-6 days a week, starting October 10, 2022. Weekdays call times are 7-10 pm.** Weekend times may vary. Actors will only be called for rehearsals for which they are needed. Only actors with no or very limited conflicts will be considered for roles in this production. For the good of the show and fairness to all production volunteers and staff we ask that you not add conflicts to your schedule once you have committed to a Theatre Memphis production. If you are cast in *A Christmas Carol* and are unable to keep your rehearsal and performance commitments, Theatre Memphis reserves the right to replace you.

Performance Info:

For the truncated version: **Depending on whether or not the local school system will permit field trips, there will be 10 – 26 performances, November 28 - December 17, 2021.** Performances run Monday – Friday. There are two shows per day: at 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM. Call time is 45 minutes before the first performance. The second performance should end by 12:30 PM.

For the full version: **Evening and weekend performances will run December 2 - 23.**

Performances run Friday- Sunday the first week, Thursday through Sunday the second week, Wednesday through Sunday the third week, and Tuesday through Thursday the final week. All evening performances begin at 7 PM. All matinees begin at 3 PM. There will be 2 performances per day the last two Saturdays and final Sunday. See the audition sheet for more details. Call time is one hour before curtain.

COVID Policy (Actor participation):

TM strives to be a place that takes thoughtful care of our community partners (that's you!) and aims to be good stewards of our mission and means within the community. Throughout the pandemic, we have followed CDC guidelines and instructions provided by local health agencies. We have made choices that we feel best serve our community and our 100-year old organization, even when very difficult decisions have had to be made.

We understand and regret that our policies may mean some treasured volunteers will not be able to participate with us at this time. Please know that we support your decision to do what is best for you. We hope that you will respect our decision to do what is best for the Theatre Memphis family of volunteers, staff and other participants, as well as the future of the organization.

Auditions

For all participants' well-being, Theatre Memphis requires that all auditionees, age 12 and up, provide proof of vaccination prior to auditioning for *A Christmas Carol*. A Theatre Memphis staff member will be present to discreetly check your vaccine card.

If you have started the process of being vaccinated but are not yet full vaccinated, we will allow you to audition. – Please bring your COVID card to show proof of your first shot.

Further information about what to expect when auditioning or being cast in a production at Theatre Memphis may be found online at <http://www.theatrememphis.org/audition-tips>. All audition and volunteer information for the current season may be found online at www.theatrememphis.org under the JOIN tab.

If the information and links above do not answer all of your questions, please contact Amy Salerno Hale at ashale@theatrememphis.org or 901-682-0518.

CHARACTERS

- We want a diverse and energetic cast with all shapes, sizes, colors and ages. Many of the roles in A Christmas Carol can be played by any gender.
- Age Minimum: 7 years on or before August 14, 2022.

Truncated School Matinee Version: ALL ROLES OPEN

Ebenezer Scrooge
Bob Cratchit
Fred
2 Charity Collectors
Beggars
Mrs. Dilber
Marley's Ghost
Ghost of Christmas Past
Ebby, Scrooge as a boy
Cobbey, a schoolboy
Graymarsh, a schoolboy
Mobbs, a schoolboy
Schoolmaster
Fan
Young Scrooge
Mr. Fezziwig
Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come/Belle (actor must weigh less than 190 pounds)
Ghost of Christmas Present
Mrs. Cratchit
Belinda Cratchit
Annie Cratchit
Peter Cratchit
Martha Cratchit
Tiny Tim Cratchit
Millie
Topper
Lucy
Fred's Daughter
Old Joe
Turkey Boy
Narrators 1-20

Full Length Version: The role of Ebenezer Scrooge has been cast.

Ebenezer Scrooge
Bob Cratchit
Fred
2 Charity Collectors
Harking
Poole
Beggars
Mrs. Dilber
Marley's Ghost
Ghost of Christmas Past
Ebby, Scrooge as a boy
Cobbey, a schoolboy
Graymarsh, a schoolboy
Mobbs, a schoolboy
Schoolmaster
Fan
Coachman
Young Scrooge
Mr. Fezziwig
Mrs. Fezziwig
Fezziwig Dancers
Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come/Belle (actor must weigh less than 190 pounds)
Ghost of Christmas Present.
Mrs. Cratchit
Belinda Cratchit
Annie Cratchit
Peter Cratchit
Martha Cratchit
Tiny Tim Cratchit
Millie
Topper
Lucy
Fred's Daughter
Old Joe
Turkey Boy
Narrators 1-20

Side 1 (Narrator)

Stave One. Marley's Ghost. Marley is dead, to begin with. Dead as a doornail. There can be no doubt whatever about that. Old Scrooge knows he's dead. How could it be otherwise? The register of his burial was signed by the clergyman, the clerk, and the undertaker. Scrooge himself signed it. And yet, he never painted out Old Marley's name. There it stands... Scrooge and Marley, above the warehouse door. These facts must be distinctly understood or nothing wonderful can come of the story we are about to relate!

Side 2 (Fred)

Fred: A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!

Scrooge: Bah! Humbug!

Fred: Christmas a humbug, uncle? Surely you don't mean that!

Scrooge: (*Sneering*) Merry Christmas? What right have you to be merry? You're poor enough!

Fred: Come then. What right have you to be dismal? You're rich enough!

Scrooge: Bah...

Fred: Don't be cross uncle!

Scrooge: What else can I be when I live in such a world of fools as this! If I could work my will, every idiot who goes about with "Merry Christmas" on his lips would be boiled with his own pudding and buried with a stake of holly through his heart.

Fred: Uncle!

Scrooge: Nephew! You keep Christmas in your way, and let me keep it in mine!

Fred: Keep it? But you don't keep it!

Scrooge: Let me leave it alone then. Much good it may do you! Much good it has ever done you!

Fred: Christmas may never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, but I believe it is a good time...

Scrooge: Oh, bah!

Fred: ...a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time. I believe it has done me good, and will do me good: and I say God bless it!

Side 3 (Charity Collectors)

Both Charities: Ahem!

First Charity: Scrooge & Marley's, I believe. Have I the pleasure of addressing Mr. Scrooge or Mr. Marley?

Scrooge: Mr. Marley is dead, gentlemen. You'd have to go a long way for the pleasure of addressing him.

Second Charity: Oh! How awful. But we have no doubt his liberality is well represented by his surviving partner.

Bob: *(Unable to contain himself)* HA! *(All look at him; he coughs loudly)*

First Charity: At this festive season of the year, Mr. Scrooge, it is more than usually desirable that we should make some slight provision for the poor and destitute.

Scrooge: Are there no prisons?

Second Charity: Plenty of prisons, sir.

Scrooge: And the workhouses, are they still in operation?

Second Charity: They are.

Scrooge: Oh. I was afraid that something stopped them in their useful course.

First Charity: A few of us are endeavoring to raise a fund to buy the poor some meat and drink and means of warmth. What shall we put you down for?

Both Charities: Hmmmm?

Scrooge: Nothing.

Side 4 (Crowe & Dilber)

Dilber: You missed a spot.

MRS. CROWE screams.

Crowe: Don't sneak up on me like that! This dark place gives me the shivers when I'm 'ere alone by myself.

Dilber: I expect the spirits may've had something to do with it.

Crowe: Spirits? Be there evil spirits about this room?

Dilber: Only the spirits in that there bottle.

They cackle.

Crowe: How about a little extra warmth, Mrs. Dilber?

Dilber: Bless you for that, Mrs. Crowe! Regularly, I wouldn't dream of drinking on the job, but as I'm no longer on the job ...

Side 5 (Marley)

Marley: Man of the worldly mind! Do you believe in me or not?

Scrooge: Mercy! I believe! I believe! (*The chaos fades.*) Dreadful apparition, why do you walk the earth, and why do you trouble me?

Marley: It is required of every man that the spirit within him should walk abroad among his fellow men, and if that spirit goes not forth in life, it is condemned to do so after death.

Scrooge: Why do you wear those horrid chains?

Marley: I wear the chain I forged in life; I made it link by link, and yard by yard. Is its pattern strange to you? Or would you know the weight and length of the strong coil you bear yourself? It was as heavy and as long as this, seven Christmas Eves ago. You have labored on it since. It is a ponderous chain!

Scrooge: Speak comfort to me, Jacob!

Marley: I have none to give. I cannot rest... I cannot stay... I cannot linger anywhere. Oh! Captive, bound, and double-ironed. It is tragic that no space of regret can make amends for a life misused.

Side 6 (Belle & Young Scrooge)

Belle: Where were you?

Young Scrooge: I had work to do, I'm sorry.

Belle: Yes, your work occupies you constantly.

Young Scrooge: It's important that I use my time and opportunities wisely.

Belle: Another idol has replaced me in your eyes.

Young Scrooge: What idol?

Belle: A golden one. Made of golden coins. Your dreams have died, one by one. And now, only avarice remains.

Young Scrooge: Even if I have grown so much wiser, what then? I am not changed towards you...

Belle: You are changed. When our contract was made, you were another man.

Young Scrooge: I was a boy.

Belle: I release you then.

Young Scrooge: Have I ever sought release?

Belle: In words, no.

Young Scrooge: In what then?

Belle: In an altered nature. Can I believe that if you were free today, you would choose a dowerless girl? You who weighs everything by gain?

YOUNG SCROOGE is silent.

Belle: You see. Your own heart tells you, you are not who you were. Perhaps your coins can cheer and comfort you in times to come. May you be happy in the life you have chosen.

Side 7 (Bob & Mrs. Cratchit)

Mrs. Cratchit: And how did little Tim behave in church today?

Bob: As good as gold and better! Somehow he gets thoughtful, sitting by himself so much, and thinks the strangest things you ever heard. He told me, coming home, that he hoped the people saw him in church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk and blind men see. *(and then, less confident)* You must know Martha, our Tim is getting stronger every day. *(to MRS. CRATCHIT)* You've noted it as well, haven't you my love?

She doubts BOB'S statement, but she reassures MARTHA.

Mrs. Cratchit: Oh yes, my dear. Much stronger.

INTO

Bob: And now, my dears, I give you the founder of our feast. To Mr. Scrooge!

Mrs. Cratchit: The founder of the feast, indeed! I wish I had him here. I'd give him a piece of my mind to feast upon, and I hope that he would choke on it!

Bob: My dear, the children! Christmas Day!

Mrs. Cratchit: It should be Christmas Day before one drinks to the health of such and odious, stingy, hard, unfeeling man as Mr. Scrooge. You know he is Robert. Nobody knows it better than you, poor fellow.

Bob: My dear...Christmas Day.

Mrs. Cratchit: I'll drink to his health for your sake, and the day's; not for his. To Mr. Scrooge!

Side 8 (Christmas Present)

Present: Come, Scrooge, my time draws near.

Scrooge: Are spirits' lives so short?

Present: My life upon this globe is very brief. And now that our time together is at an end, Ebenezer Scrooge, will you profit from what I have shown you of the good in most men's hearts?

Scrooge: How can I promise such a thing?

Present: If it's too hard a lesson for you to learn on your own, then learn THIS lesson!

WANT and IGNORANCE are revealed crawling through the US scrim.

Scrooge: (*appalled*) They are fine...fine...children. Are they yours?

Present: They are mankind's! This child is ignorance, and this child is want. Beware them both, but most of all beware this child (*indicating IGNORANCE*), for on his brow I see that written which is doom, unless the writing be erased.

Scrooge: Have they no refuge or resource?

Present: Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?

PRESENT exits through the US scrim by the end of the following line.

Present: The present is fast fading Scrooge. Look to yourself, before it is gone...gone...gone!

Side 9 (Turkey Boy)

Scrooge: YOU! Boy! What's today, my fine fellow?

Turkey Boy: Why it's Christmas Day, sir!

Scrooge: Why it's Christmas Day, sir! I haven't missed it. The spirits have done it all in one night! They can do anything they like. Of course they can! Of course they can! My fine fellow!

Turkey Boy: Yes, sir?

Scrooge: Do you know the Poulterer's in the next street?

Turkey Boy: I should hope I did.

Scrooge: An intelligent boy! A remarkable boy! Do you know whether they've sold the prize turkey?

Turkey Boy: The one as big as me?

Scrooge: What a delightful boy! It's a pleasure to talk to him! Yes, lad, the one as big as you!

Turkey Boy: It's hanging there still!

Scrooge: How much is it?

Turkey Boy: About a sovereign, sir!

Scrooge: Well, here are two sovereigns. Go and buy it for me and k...k... (*this is very difficult to say*)... keep the change!

Turkey Boy: Wot?

Scrooge: And....merry Christmas!

Turkey Boy: Blimey! (*he exits*)