

Theatre Memphis Auditions for *A Christmas Carol* (Daytime Version)

Based on the novel by Charles Dickens Adapted for TM's Lohrey Stage by Jason M. Spitzer

Truncated "AM" Version directed by Becky Caspersen

Music directed by Jeffery B. Brewer AM Version choreographed by Kathy Caradine

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 30th - December 15, 2023. (2 performances per weekday at 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM.)

46th 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.

Theatre Memphis is a community theatre, and all performers are volunteers.

DAYTIME SHOW AUDITIONS

On the day of your audition, please arrive about 15 minutes before your audition appointment, so that we may process your paperwork.

Tuesday August 22nd at 10:00 AM

Wednesday August 23rd at 10:00 AM

Thursday, August 24th Callbacks (if needed) at 10:00 AM

AUDITION LOCATION

Theatre Memphis; 630 Perkins Extended: Memphis, TN 38117

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.

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.

AUDITION REGISTRATION

(Everyone is welcome, but all auditions are by appointment)

- **For your AM ACC audition at <https://signup.com/go/uYNPbfX>**
- Please be sure the person listed in the "Name" section of the audition form is the name of the person who will be auditioning.
- 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 on Monday, July 31st
- Current performance résumé
- 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 July 17th, 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.
- All roles are open.

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 backstage in the children's holding area several times during the rehearsal and performance process.
- We will endeavor to create a parent schedule that works well for all parties. For the safety of both the children and the adults, we ask that parents volunteering for this position submit a form giving us permission to issue a background check. Theatre Memphis follows the guidelines set out by the Children's Advocacy Center for the safety of minors. This means we will need no less than 2 adults backstage with the children's cast at every performance. 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.]

REHEARSAL INFO:

- For the truncated version: **Regular rehearsals will be 5-6 days a week, starting October 16, 2023.**
- **Weekdays call times are based on the availability of the cast.** A rehearsal schedule will be put together from that information. 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

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 30th - December 15, 2023. (2 performances per weekday at 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM.)

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 psm@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 22, 2023.

Full Length Version: All roles are open.

Ebenezer Scrooge

Bob Cratchit

Fred

2 Charity Collectors

Mrs. Crowe

Mrs. Dilber

Marley's Ghost

Ghost of Christmas Past

Ebby, Scrooge as a boy

Cobbey, a schoolboy/girl

Graymarsh, a schoolboy/girl

Mobbs, a schoolboy/ girl

Schoolmaster

Fan

Coachman

Young Scrooge

Young Marley

Mr. Fezziwig

Belle

Fezziwig Dancers

Ghost of Christmas Present

Mrs. Cratchit

Belinda Cratchit

Annie Cratchit

Peter Cratchit

Martha Cratchit

Tiny Tim Cratchit

Millie

Topper

Lucy

Fred's Daughter

Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come

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 dower less 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.

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*)

#1 - God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen Carolers BOTH SHOWS

Traditional 18th Century Carol

Traditional 18th Century London Melody
Harmonization: John Stainer, 1867

Allegretto

E min B E min C A min7 B

mf

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, Let noth - ing you dis - may, Re -

mf

E min B E min C A min7 B

mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior Was born on Christ - mas Day; To

A min D G B7 E min A D **CHORUS** G

ff

save us all from Sa - tans pow'r When we were gone a - stray.) O - ti - dings of

that in Beth - le - hem was born The Son of God by Name.)

ff

G B E min A7 D D7 G C E min B min E min

com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy, - O - ti - dings of com - fort and joy.