

# A CHRISTMAS CAROL- THE LIVE EXPERIENCE!

## ***SYNOPSIS***

*A Christmas Carol: The Live Experience* is a performance put on by the Tyler Public Library in conjunction with our many talented volunteers from across the community. In it, one of the most beloved Christmas tales come to life in a way not seen before, bringing the patrons right into the heart of Victorian London to experience the joy, the fear, the sadness, and the delight of this story of redemption as if they are really there.

Unlike normal shows, where the audience sits in place and the actors move about, the patrons are brought together in small groups. Each of these groups will follow the story through a series of tableaus stationed across the library. Each tableau is a crucial scene of the story, such as Scrooge's office, the Cratchit's home, or the Scrooge's gravesite in the future. With some exceptions, the characters in these tableaus merely act out or pantomime what is being said, and a Narrator tells the group what is happening in the scene, almost like the pages of Dickens' classic book are coming to life right before the patron's eyes.

Many scenes will feature the same location, the same character, or the like. In these cases, different actors will portray the same character across tableaus. The Narrator will stay the same for a few tableaus, before passing the group off to another, so they may take over for another group.

## ***Scenes***

1. *Prelude: "Marley was dead..."*
2. *In Scrooge's office*
3. *Visit by Marley*
4. *Past- @ school*
5. *Past- Fezziwig*
6. *Present @ Cratchit's House*
7. *Present- Nephew's House*
8. *Future- Selling Scrooge's wares*
9. *Future- Death of Tiny Tim and Scrooge's tombstone*
10. *Christmas Day- Scrooge's house*
11. *Christmas Day- Fred's house*
12. *Cratchit's House and Ending*

## **Casting Call**

*Total Cast: 45-48 people*

*A compendium of preferred “looks” to our cast, including a small description of the character to see if they can give that impression. Race is no object; the stage is colorblind! Certain roles can be gender-bent as required. Notice that we say “prefer”; roles can be adjusted as deemed fit.*

*There are two types of roles: speaking and non-speaking. Whether a character will have lines or merely pantomime will be denoted in brackets before the description. Also, given the unique “tableau” nature of the show, multiple parts will be played by multiple actors across different tableaus. How many actors will portray a single character will also be denoted in those brackets.*

**MARLEY:** *[Speaking, 1]* Male, 50 or older. No size specifications. Taller than the Scrooge of his scene so he can tower over him. He is a phantom, lost, despondent, full of regret.

**SCROOGE:** *[Non-Speaking (4) and Speaking (2)]* Male, 60 or older. Younger will be accepted if able to play old well with makeup. Thin but not emaciated. Average height. Most of the Scrooges will have a look of contempt and anger, as if their very soul is rotten. The last should radiate warmth and the look of a man reformed.

**BOB CRATCHIT:** *[Non-Speaking (2) and Speaking (2)]* Male, in his forties. Average height. Skinny, on account of his poverty. Brown or black hair, preferably peppered with white. He looks like a family man, with smile wrinkles.

**FRED (SCROOGE’S NEPHEW):** *[Non-Speaking, 3]* Male, in his late 20s/early 30s. Tall, Blonde hair. Looks like he’s the spitting image of his mother. He is always smiling, full of joy and happiness.

**GENEROUS MEN:** *[Non-Speaking, 2]* Can be “generous persons” or “women of charity”. Preferably a double act where one is short and the other tall. If men, one should have a beard. Serious, but not mean, quite the opposite; they are serious about their mission of goodwill.

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST:** *[Speaking, 1]* Either male or female. Should look gender neutral, androgynous. Young but looks like someone from the 1940's, giving them an ageless look. Short hair, blonde. Almost elfin, with sharp features and piercing eyes. Serious but not cold.

**YOUNG SCROOGE:** *[Non-Speaking, 1]* Male. Convincingly looks like the older Scrooge. Blonde hair, preferably. Small, able to shrink away. Age: 6-10. He should look sad and lonely.

**FAN:** *[Non-Speaking, 1]* Female. Young, about 8-10. Blonde hair. She exudes the joy her future son will have.

**DICK:** *[Non-Speaking, 1]* Male. Same age as Young Scrooge. No height specifications. Red hair preferably. He's full of energy and always getting Scrooge into schemes.

**TEEN/YOUNG ADULT SCROOGE:** *[Non-Speaking, 1]* Male. Once again, convincing as Scrooge's past self. Blonde preferred. Age: 16-26. Near same height as Old Scrooge. He should look like a man full of ambition, before things go wrong.

**FEZZIWIG:** *[Non-Speaking, 1]* Male. Mid-50's. Portly, like a mall Santa Claus, and full of the same energy. Any hair color.

**FEZZIWIG'S WIFE:** *[Non-Speaking, 1]* Female. Mid-50's. Imagine Fezzwig, but a woman. Ha.

**FEZZIWIG'S PARTYGOERS:** *[Non-Speaking, 2]* No specifications. All are welcome to Fezzwig's!

**SCROOGE'S BETROTHED:** *[Non-Speaking, 1]* Female. Beautiful girl, preferably with black hair. Same age as YA Scrooge. Sad, but strong.

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT:** *[Speaking, 1]* Male. Stout, burly, and strong. Red hair and a long beard with a touch of silver. Preferably long hair to shoulder, also. A generous and large smile with a voice and presence that fills a room. Looks like in mid-40's but also with an ageless look.

**MRS. CRATCHIT:** *[Non-Speaking (1), Speaking (2)]* Female. Mid-forties. Any hair color. A little tired, but very beautiful in a classical sort of way. Exudes that cleverness, strength and love that mothers do.

**THE YOUNG CRATCHIT'S:** *[Non-speaking (3) and Speaking (3)]* Any age, any gender. Energetic but obedient.

**TINY TIM:** *[Non-Speaking (1) and Speaking (1)]* Male. 3-6 years old. Same hair as his mother. Beautiful and frail.

**FRED'S WIFE:** *[Non-Speaking, 2]* Female. Early to mid-twenties. Any hair color. Drop dead gorgeous and absolutely in love with Fred.

**FRED'S PARTYGOERS:** *[Non-Speaking, 2]* Everyone loves a party. No specifications.

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS YET TO COME:** *[Non-Speaking, 1]* Either gender. Thin and very tall. Should be the tallest member of the cast. When in the robes, they should almost look like a living skeleton is underneath. Able to be silent and still as the grave.

**PAWNBROKER:** *[Speaking, 1]* Male. Late forties. Black hair or balding, with a beard. He's got a darkly mischievous look in his eyes and is a little gross.

**SCROOGE'S MAID:** *[Speaking 1]* Female. 50's to 60's. She's short. Looks like a gossip and a woman who can hold a grudge.

**BOY AT CHRISTMAS:** *[Speaking, 1]* Male. Young, like maybe 6-10. Red hair. Looks like your typical Victorian street urchin.