



A
CHRISTMAS
CAROL

HALIFAX
HAOS
Productions

AT THE WELLINGTON ROOMS
THIS CHRISTMAS



This Christmas, HAOS will be staging a specially adapted version of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" at the Wellington Rooms

Intention is to perform in traverse, this will be a play interceded with verses from various Christmas carols. On one corner of the traverse will be live music from the piano

Details

**Performances : Thursday 1st December – Saturday 3rd December at 19:30 (potential for a 13:00 Sat matinee)
Sunday 4th December at 13:00**

The play will be performed in traverse in two acts (approx. 55mins per act) with carols interceded throughout

Cast of approx. 15 people (could be flexed to 17)

Every cast member will play a named character role AND at various points be part of the company

Simple and straight forward audition process, taking place on Saturday 10th September

Rehearsals start on Tuesday 27th Sept and will be Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday early evenings



Roles and characters

Character	Playing info	Character Info
Ebenezer Scrooge	Male 45-60	Old before his time and embittered before his journey of discovery and enlightenment. Scrooge features in every scene and requires an experienced character actor
Narrator/ Ghost Xmas Past	Female any age	All three narrators turn into a ghost at various points and then back to narrators. They have a lot of dialogue and appear in many scenes. Need to be able to switch personalities from narrating in the current day to the audience, and then guiding Scrooge through past, present and future. To provide balance, the preference is that at least two of these will be performed by females
Narrator/ Ghost Xmas Present	Open to interpretation	
Narrator/ Ghost Christmas Future	Open to interpretation	
Bob Cratchit	Male 30-40	Scrooge's loyal and long suffering clerk
Jacob Marley/ Mr Fezziwig	Male 45-60	Marley is Scrooge's ex-business partner, doomed to an afterlife of chains. Fezziwig - jolly owner of the undertakers with whom Scrooge serves his apprenticeship
Fred	Male 23-35	Scrooge's nephew. He loves Christmas and his Uncle unconditionally. Liberal and optimistic
Scrooge's Father	Male 50-65	A cold, cruel , drunk man, who drives the young Scrooge and his sister away by his abusive nature



Roles and characters

Character	Playing info	Character Info
Young Scrooge	Male 16-20	Hard working & ambitious if a little awkward – falls in love with Belle as an apprentice, and stands up to his father’s abusive ways
Carol Singer (Nicholas)	Male 45-55	Belle’s eventual husband, he looks to raise money for the poor to Scrooge’s initial ire.
Mrs Fred	Female 25-35	Married to Fred, she dislikes Scrooge initially.
Mrs Cratchit	Female 25-35	Married to Bob, she dislikes Scrooge as she worries about her son’s health (and the Christmas meal)
Young Belle	Female 16-20	Daughter to Mr Fezziwig & engaged to Young Scrooge. She is kind and feisty.
Belle	Female 45-60	Husband to Nicholas. Daughter of Fezziwig and Ebenezer’s love interest in youth.
Young Fan	Female 18-30	Scrooge’s sister and Fred’s mother. She is kind and loving.
Tiny Tim	Male 9-13	Son of the Cratchits, Tim is extremely ill and weak, yet optimistic. Has to melt the audiences hearts
Bystanders/Company	All above	Carols intercede the scenes. As bystanders they celebrate Scrooge’s death and the feast at the end



Levels of involvement

As you can see, people are continually involved, even if their 'character' is only in one or two scenes. Sometimes as 'company' you'll be in the stage area, sometimes from the 3 entrances, sometimes behind the audience (but visible). In most occasions the 'company' will open or close scenes via a verse from a traditional carol rather than be present throughout the scene.

Performers matrix. Any square shaded with 'C' indicates 'Company', Bx is Bystanders in the street

	Act One									Act Two													
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Scrooge		x	x	X	x	x	x	x	x	X	x	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Narrator 1 / Ghost Christmas Past	N		N		G	G	G	G	G	N	N				N			N		N			N
Narrator 2 / Ghost Christmas Present	N		N	N	N			N		G	G	G	G	G				N		N			N
Narrator 3 / Ghost of Christmas Future	N		N	N	N			N		N	N				F	F		N		N	N	N	N
Bob Cratchit		B	B				C	C	C	C			B	B		B						B	B
Marley / Mr Fezziwig	C			M			F		F	C	C	C	C	C		M		Bx.	C			C	
Father	C	C				F		F			F		C	C		Bx	C		F			C	
Fred			F				C	C	C	C		F		C		F		Bx.	F			F	
Tiny Tim	C	C		C	C		C	C	C	C	C		T	T								T	T
Young Fan	C	C		C		F		F		C	C	C	C	C		Bx	C	Bx.	C			C	
Belle	C						B		B	C	C	C		B		B		B				B	
Young Scrooge	C	C				Y	Y	Y	Y	C	C	C	C	C		Bx	C	Bx.	C			C	
Mrs Fred	C	C		C	C		C	C	C	C		MF		C		Bx		Bx.		MF		MF	
Mrs Cratchit	C	C		C	C		C	C	C	C	C		M	M		Bx		Bx.			M	M	
Carol Singer (Nicholas)	C	CS			C		C	C	C	C	C	CS	C	CS			CS		C			CS	
COMPANY/Bystanders	X	X		X	x		x	x	X	x	x	X	X	X		Bx	X	Bx	X			X	



Being Involved

Auditions are Saturday 10th September

First Rehearsal Tuesday 27th Sept (week after Kinky Boots) then on Tuesday, Thursday, & early Sunday evenings weekly

Show Contribution: £25 (This is a small amount to help towards the costs of rehearsing and staging)

We have set an initial limit on numbers of people – and this is primarily down to space on the stage and audience sightlines (and experience) & to give those who are involved, as much to do as is possible

Audition Option	Song	Dialogue
(1) Ebenezer Scrooge	N/A	Two sections
(2) Narrator/Ghost	First verse of 'Hark The Herald Angels Sing"	Common dialogue
(3) Tiny Tim		Two small sections (as Ghosts of Christmas Present & Future)
(4) Any other male role		One extremely small piece of dialogue as Tiny Tim
(5) Any other female role		Common dialogue
		One small section as Fred
	Common dialogue	
	One small section as Belle	

We have deliberately tried to reduce the workload needed to audition – but provide enough material for people to display their ability to portray 'a character'



Our Plot.....Act 1

The play starts in darkness as we hear the priest at the funeral of Ebenezer and Fan's mother in 1802. The lights come up and three Narrators explain that it is now Christmas eve 1843 and that following the death years earlier of his business partner Jacob Marley, Ebenezer Scrooge runs his money lending business embittered and devoid of emotion and pleasure, ignoring the plight of those around him for a life of selfishness.

He is assisted in business by his clerk, Bob Cratchit, a kind loyal and cheerful man. Despite Bob's optimism and that of his nephew Fred, following a visit to Scrooge's shop, Scrooge affirms to spend the next day working and alone.

Upon falling asleep he is awoken by the Ghost of Marley, who tells Scrooge that he must change his ways or else face an afterlife or purgatory. Marley tells Scrooge that he will be visited by three Ghosts who will help him discover redemption.

The first of these Ghosts appears and takes Scrooge back to his past as a young man. We discover that following the death of his mother, Scrooge's father is an abusive alcoholic. In order to support his father and the sister he adores, Scrooge must seek work – and stumbles across an apprenticeship at Fezziwig's Undertakers, where he also falls in love with Fezziwig's daughter Belle. Returning home at Christmas the Young Scrooge finds his father ever more unpleasant and abusive. In a desperate attempt to shield Fan, the young Scrooge rebuffs his father's temper by striking him – vowing to never see him again and ensuring Fan's escape to her fiancé. Upset and distraught, the young Scrooge returns to Fezziwig's where he proposes to Belle. The Ghost of Christmas Past then transports Scrooge back to his arm chair asleep in the present day, much to Scrooge's ire.



Our Plot.....Act 2

Scrooge is then woken by the second spirit – the Ghost of Christmas Present & is walked through the streets of present day London, where he observes the impact of his business practices. He is comforted by a beggar desperate for change, that Scrooge recognises as his father, and shuns him, unwilling to forgive his sins. The Ghost allows him to witness a conversation in Fred’s house before visiting the house of Bob Cratchit, where Scrooge witnesses Bob’s critically ill and crippled son, Tiny Tim. To complete his ‘second lesson’ they pass by Belle’s house, and just as head back to his house and armchair, Scrooge witnesses the death of Tiny Tim in a sobbing Bob’s arms.

The third spirit arrives, and takes him on a short journey to witness what turns out to be his own funeral – attended by only Bob, Belle and Fred. Scrooge learns how he treated all three, despite which they continued to love and stay faithful to him. He returns home, where he is visited for the final time by Jacob Marley’s ghost, to whom he vows to change his ways.

When he awakes, Scrooge is relieved that it is Christmas day and he still has hope of redemption, and resolves to become a different man – the man he should have become. He dashes outside, giving the charity-collecting carol singers all the money they need to buy all remaining food so that all of Southwark rich and poor, can enjoy a Christmas feast. He then runs through the streets of London spreading Christmas spirit & is conformed by this father – but this time resolves to try and reconcile with. He then visits both Fred and Belle promising to make amends for the man he had become, and finally reaches the Cratchits. Scrooge promotes Bob with a hefty pay rise and promises to look after Tiny Tim’s medical costs. Full of joy, the Cratchits join Scrooge back to ‘Scrooge & Marleys’ where the greatest Christmas feast London has ever seen has been readied for all of Southwark to enjoy.



Which traditional carols are included ?

Act 1

- In the bleak mid winter
- God rest ye merry gentleman
- The First Noel
- Silent Night
- I saw three ships
- The holly and the Ivy

Act 2

- Hark the herald angels sing
- God rest ye merry gentleman (rep)
- Good King Wenceslas
- Oh little time of Bethlehem
- Ding Dong Merrily on High
- Oh come all ye faithful
- Joy to the world
- God rest ye merry gentleman (rep)

ENCORE

- We wish you a merry Christmas



A successful show will be.....

- (1) Involve our members in something seasonal
- (2) Everyone involved gels as a team and has a fantastically fun and collaborative rehearsal period
- (3) We can sell enough seats to add the Saturday matinee
- (4) We can put on a bloody good show for our audience
- (5) Make money for the society
- (6) Via bucket collection and raffle, we raise money for Halifax Food Bank