

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

What you need to know

It is a great experience being in a show but it is also a lot of hard work. Here are some things you need to know about being involved in a show with HAOS Productions.

How we work:

Operating since 1901, HAOS Productions is a creative organisation which encourages and inspires its members of all ages to be involved in a wide range of activities encompassing stage production. The company is a charity with its aims firmly focused on developing our members' confidence and skills through participation in theatre, whilst providing a platform to create affordable entertainment and social interaction for all.

To assist us in achieving our goals we focus our attention on 6 key drivers...

Open arms – Everyone is welcome

Everyone matters – your opinion counts

Value – The best quality at affordable prices

A home for all – a space owned and managed by us, available to all.

Peace of mind – welfare and safety of all is paramount

To challenge – pushing the boundaries!

Take a look at the 'About Us' section on the website for more detailed information about these and find a way to meet the team. We also have a 'policies and procedures' section on the website which will explain in more detail how we work in certain areas and how you can raise any concerns.

Commitment:

Rehearsals will start from Tuesday 27th September. They will predominantly take place on a Tuesday and Thursday from 7:30pm and Sunday at 6:00pm.

You will not need to attend all these rehearsals at the start of the rehearsal period however please ensure you are available at these times *if* you are called. A rehearsal schedule will be issued early in the rehearsal period so you know exactly when and for how long you will be needed each week.

It is important you are at rehearsals you are called for, your attendance is not just about what *you* are doing it is your interaction with others on stage also. As part of the EOI submission you will be asked if you have any existing commitments during the rehearsal period that clash with rehearsals; If we know this in advance we may be able to shape the schedule so you are not called on those days without disruption.

If you are unable to attend any additional rehearsals for any reason you must notify the production secretary in advance with an appropriate reason. If we receive no notification that you will be missing a rehearsal a 'strike' will be received. There is a '3 strikes and out' rule where there is no communication regarding none attendance, which means you may be asked to leave the production. Repeated absence with limited notification (ie. last minute) will be treated in the same manner.

As the show approaches, additional rehearsals may be scheduled if needed, but you will be provided notice of these. You will need to be available to attend all calls the week of the show. If you cannot make any of the these calls, sadly you will be unable to participate in the show, HAOS takes this H&S mitigation against risk extremely seriously.

It is expected that you will spend some of your own time out of the rehearsals going over what has been set and learning lines.

Being part of a show is fun and very rewarding but it is also lots of hard work! Please do not underestimate the commitment that will be required of you by taking part in the production.

Membership:

You need to be a full paid up member of the society in order to be in the show, annual membership for HAOS is £15 for students and those aged 65 or over and £25 for everyone else. Details on membership and how to become a member can be found at [Full Membership | HAOS Productions](#)

You do not need to be a member to audition, but if you are successful in gaining a place in the show you will need to register as a member before you are permitted to take part in any rehearsal so we have all of your details, including how we can communicate with you in line with our communication and data protection policy.

Production Fee:

There are lots of costs incurred when putting on a show, including the cost of keeping the rehearsal space (including heating and lighting), the hire of items to create the theatrical space, costumes, insurance, sound and lights to name a few. There is an amount you are expected to contribute towards these costs as a member of the cast, for this production this will be £25 per cast member.

This payment is required to be confirmed at least 2 weeks before show week and can be paid in instalments or all in one go, we encourage you not to leave this until the last minute, there are multiple methods of payment accepted.

How to get involved?

A Christmas Carol will only have a limited cast due to the size of the performance space. All cast will be a named character, therefore anyone who wishes to be involved will be required to audition.

To do this you will need to register by completing the online Expression of Interest (EOI) found via the auditions website pages. This needs to be completed by Wednesday 7th September by 11:30pm. The form will automatically close on the deadline and will not be available to be completed after this time.

All details of parts available and audition material is presented on the “take part” section of our A Christmas Carol what’s on page on the HAOS website.

Although this is a play, due to the nature of the writer’s vision and when it is set, all characters other than Ebenezer Scrooge will be required to sing Christmas carols, therefore there will be a sung element included in most auditions.

What happens on the audition day?

Individual auditions will take place on **Saturday 10th September**. You will be provided with an audition time before the day, with a time slot of 5 - 10 minutes depending on which role you are auditioning for. We expect you to be familiar with the audition piece you have chosen to perform, and that the material is presented in the character being auditioned for. You can only audition for your preferred role, however you can still be considered for other roles by indicating this on your expression of interest form.

Please refer to our casting principles [Policies & Procedures | HAOS Productions](#) for more information on how auditions are managed including how decisions are made and communicated.

Please do not see this as a daunting experience but try to relax and enjoy it, we all want you to do well and will give you every encouragement we can. If there is something you are unsure of, if you want to sing through your audition piece before you perform it, then that’s absolutely fine. It is your audition, use props, use the space and do whatever you are comfortable with.

Other members of the committee will be there to meet and greet you on the day.

What if I am unable to make the audition day?

If you are unable to make the audition day you will not be considered in the initial discussion of casting. However, if you submitted your expression of interest form and we were unable to cast any role at that stage, your interest will still be considered.

HAOS Productions wishes everyone auditioning the very best of luck.