

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY

CHARLES DICKENS

Adapted for the stage by

Mike Goshorn, 2020

LIST OF CHARACTERS

Narrator 1 (could be doubled as Bob Cratchit) – minor role – Any adult	Belle – minor – F 21-35	Mrs. Oliver- cameo – F Adult
Narrator 2 - minor role Any adult	Child 1 Any	Old Joe- cameo – M 30-60
Bob – major support – M 25-35	Child 2 Any	Mrs Dilber- cameo – F Adult
Ebenezer Scrooge – lead – M 40-70	Child 3 Any	Mr. Tackleton- cameo- Any Adult
Fred - major support M 20-35	Child 4 Any	Caroline - (Mr. Harrington's wife) – cameo – F 18-40
Mr. Bertram - minor role Any - Adult	Husband - Belle's Husband – (Could be Dick) M 20-35	Boy - (gets turkey) – cameo – Any 10-16
Mr. Applegate- minor role- Any - Adult	Ghost2 - major support – M 40-65	Poulterer- cameo Any Adult
Marley - major support – M 40-70	Mrs. Cratchit – minor role – F 25-35-	Servant - add Fred's house- cameo – F 14-18
Mr. Harrington - minor role – M 20 - 40	Martha – cameo – F 14-16	Ensemble: Adults and Children
Ghost 1 – of Christmas Past - major support – F 16-50	Tiny Tim – minor B – 10-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spirits -<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 2 spirits that haunt Ebenezer,○ 2 spirits that haunt Marley (non - speaking)○ 1 Spirit haunt Mrs Cratchig○ 1 Spirit haunt Topper• Ensemble<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Townspeople, Any○ Party (Fezziwig, Fred's) – ad lib lines 2 M, 3 F Adults○ Spirits○ Choir – a few songs
Fan – cameo – F 12-16	Peter – cameo B 12-16	
Boy Scrooge – cameo – M 10-12	Singer 1 – cameo -Any	
Fezziwig – minor – M 30-70	Singers 2&3 (maybe more) – cameo - Any	
Young Scrooge – major support role – M 20-35	Wife - Fred's Wife – minor role – F 18-35	
Dick – minor – M 20-35	Topper cameo – M 25-40	
Mrs. Fezziwig – cameo F 30-60	Spectre (non-speaking) – minor Any (tall person, 5' 10" or greater)	
	Man 1- cameo – Any Adult	
	Man 2- cameo – Any Adult	
	Man 3- cameo – Any Adult	

Many of the minor roles will come from the Ensemble. Likely people will take on many minor roles. Same for Children. They will be in Christmas Past as kids at the school, as Belle's kids, in Christmas present and future as Cratchit kids, and on the street, etc...

Set concept : (small stage, a large stage will have a different design)

Color Coding:

SOUND – pre show Christmas songs

CURTAIN - closed

LIGHTS - house

SLIDES -- Cast BIO

SLIDES Christmas Tree 001

Act I.

Opening Scene

(curtain opens)

TOWN SLIDE - 005 London day

LIGHTS UP

and we see the front of Scrooge and Marley's business,

a boy comes out and is throwing snowballs

town person enters looking for another person and waits,

Narrators 1 enters tossing an apple and holding a small book. comes out and talks to audience.

NARRATOR 1

(talking to the audience). Hello, and welcome to our Christmas Carol. A very strange thing to refer to a play as a "carol", a carol by definition is a song, especially of joy, now this doesn't make much sense either, but when you look at the archaic definition perhaps it will be a little more clear. *(opens the book to a page)* Ah yes here it is: "a song sung in a circle around a set of stones"

(Narrators 2 enters, and steals the apple, as they banter back and forth the apple gets passed back and forth)

NARRATOR 2

What are you doing? *(demanding as if what the other is doing is wrong)*

NARRATOR 1

I'm telling the story of Ebenezer Scrooge.

NARRATOR 2

By boring them to death?

NARRATOR 1

I was simply trying to tell them why it's called a Christmas Carol.

NARRATOR 2

No, No, No, No Everyone knows you start off by saying, "Marley was dead, there is no doubt whatever about that, Old Marley was as dead as a door-nail"

NARRATOR 1

Come, come what in particular is dead about a door-nail? I might myself, regard a coffin-nail as the deadeast piece of metal.

NARRATOR 2

Ok, Ok, Marley was a dead as a coffin-nail. Are you happy now?

NARRATOR 1

No, I want to get to the SPIRTUAL matter at hand.

NARRATOR 2

You are going to confuse them. The most important fact is that there is no doubt that “Marley was dead”. This must be distinctly understood, or nothing wonderful can come of the story we are going to tell.

NARRATOR 1

The thing to recognize is what the good book tells us: *(opens book to a page and reads)* Ephesians 6:12. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against sprits, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, and against spiritual wickedness in high places.

NARRATOR 2

Yes, but certainly NOT poignant to our story?!

(Towns person enters, the other one moves over and they embrace and talk a bit)

NARRATOR 1

Indeed it is the center point of our story! Let me explain. Men walk through life making choices, and those choices in turn effect their decisions. For example. Take a man who first decides to consume alcohol to cope with hardships. That decision now makes it easier to do it again, and again. Each time increasing, until the man is consumed with a spirit of drinking.

NARRATOR 2

Ah, knock off your sermon preacher!! What they need to know are the basic facts: Marley died 7 years ago, and Scrooge never painted out Old Marley's name on the sign above his shop. Scrooge was so greedy, that He thought it too expensive to have it done.

NARRATOR 1

Yes, my point exactly! The more tightly that Scrooge held onto money, the colder he got, until he no longer felt the cold. He was consumed with greed, and his greed invited apathy.

(Bob sticks his head out to see if Scrooge is coming, and closes the door)

(Scrooge is seen walking on stage from stage left, he is wrapped in grey chains, and there are two actors portraying oppressions holding onto the ends of those chains. They are in grey whispery attire, and on each in large letters are their names: GREED, and APATHY. Nobody sees the oppressions including Scrooge himself. as people go by Scrooge they move out of his way)

As he walked the street on the way to his office, most people simply stayed clear of him.

NARRATOR 2

On this 7th anniversary of Marley's death, Bob Cratchit, Scrooge's clerk, was endeavoring to keep warm,

OFFICE SLIDE - 015_office

Bob Scene

(Scrooge enters the shop stage right door (his oppressions have chains on him and walk close behind. Scrooge's walk is affected by the weight of the chains) and sees Bob.) (Actors freeze as the set rotates around them)

(The set rotates to allow us to see the room)

LIGHTS come up office

SCROOGE

Mr. Cratchit! *(bob is caught in surprise, and drops a lump of coal he was acquiring to put on the fire)*

BOB

I'm sorry Mr. Scrooge, but my fingers were getting cold.

SCROOGE

Mr. Cratchit, what are these? *(points to his waist coat and shirt)*

BOB

A Waist Coat and Shirt, Mr. Scrooge.

SCROOGE

They are clothes, Mr. Cratchit, and they are not consumable. Coal is consumable! *(Greed is seen getting very excited)*

BOB

Yes, Mr. Scrooge!

(Bob returns to his desk, and makes an attempt to write in the ledger with his frozen fingers)

Fred Scene

Bright LIGHTS SR

FRED

(Fred Enters through the door stage right)

A merry Christmas, uncle! God save you!

SCROOGE

(the two oppressions are agitated from the mention of Christmas, and pull on Scrooge)

Bah, Humbug! It's a fraud!

FRED

Christmas a fraud, uncle! You don't mean that, I am sure?

SCROOGE

I do. Merry Christmas?! What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry? You're poor enough.

FRED

Come, then, what right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be morose? You're rich enough.

SCROOGE

Bah! Humbug.

LIGHTS *Change and focus on spirit.*

Actors Freeze and Spirit puts a weight on. Title on the weight: "Denial"

LIGHTS *change back. ACTION continues*

FRED

Don't be cross, uncle!

SCROOGE

What else can I be, when I live in such a world of fools as this? Merry Christmas indeed! Out upon merry Christmas! What's Christmas time to you but a time for paying bills without money; a time for finding yourself a year older, but NOT an hour richer; a time for balancing your books and finding you have less than you started with. Why if I could work my will, every idiot who goes about proclaiming 'Merry Christmas', should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart. Bah Humbug!

FRED

Uncle *(Pleading for compassion)*

SCROOGE

Nephew! *(sharply returned)* keep Christmas in your own 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 may it do you! Much good it has ever done you!

FRED

There are many things from which I might have derived happiness, but have not profited one cent, and I dare say, Christmas is among them.

Of course, Christmas has a specialness due to its sacred name and origin,

But in addition to Christmas' inherent holiness, I have always thought of Christmas time, when it arrives each year, as a time for kindness, forgiveness, and charity.

The only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women naturally seem to open their hearts freely and think of all people as if they really were fellow beings in this world and not inferior creatures.

And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it *has* done me good, and *will* do me good; and I say, God bless it! And Merry Christmas!

(the oppressions are agitated again, and pull on Scrooge)

(Bob applauds. Realizing his error passes it off as something else (pretending to keep his fingers warm))

SCROOGE

Let me hear another sound from *you*, *(Points to Bob)* and you'll keep your Christmas by losing your situation!

(Back to Fred) You're quite a powerful speaker, sir, I wonder you don't go into Parliament.

FRED

Don't be angry, uncle. Come! Dine with us to-morrow.

SCROOGE

When Hell freezes over!

FRED

But why? Why?

SCROOGE

Why did you get married?

FRED

Because I fell in love.

SCROOGE

Because you fell in love! *(sarcasm and derision)* Good afternoon!

FRED

Nay, uncle, but you never came to see me before that happened. Why give it as a reason for not coming now?

SCROOGE

Good afternoon, *(firmly and terminally, oppressions push him forward)*.

FRED

I want nothing from you; I ask nothing of you; why cannot we be friends?

SCROOGE

Good afternoon, *(growing in anger)*.

FRED

I am sorry, with all my heart, to find you so resolute. We have never had any quarrel, to which I have been a party. But I have made the journey in honor of my mother and your sister and in honor of Christmas, and I'll keep my Christmas humor to the last. So, A Merry Christmas, uncle!

SCROOGE

Good afternoon! *(anger)*.

FRED

And A Happy New Year!

SCROOGE

Good afternoon! *(exploding)*.

FRED

(turns to leave stage left door, but then remembers that he has a package of letters.)

By the way Uncle Ebenezer, I found these old letters that you had written my mother. I thought you might like them.

(Fred tosses them to Scrooge; Fred leaves the room without an angry word. He stops at the outer door to greet Bob) (Scrooge on catching the letters is suddenly released of his oppressions and stumbles accordingly, this represents something magical in the letters that helps reach through Scrooge's oppressions)

FRED

Merry Christmas Bob!

BOB

And to you too sir! *(cordially)*

LIGHTS down some

SCROOGE

(Coming to his former self as the chains are taken up again, Talking to the air) There he is, my clerk, with fifteen shillings a week, and a wife and family, talking about a merry Christmas. Bah Humbug!

(To Bob) I'll be retiring to dinner at Nags Head Pub.

Bertram & Applegate Scene

MR BERTRAM and MR APPLGATE

(enter from stage left shortly after Fred left, with their hats off They have books and papers in their hands. They speak to Bob)

MR BERTRAM

Scrooge and Marley's, I believe?

MR APPLGATE

Have I the pleasure of addressing Mr. Scrooge, or Mr. Marley?

SCROOGE

(quickly gets up to address the pair, in anticipation of a business deal)

(very polite) Mr. Marley has been dead these seven years, He died seven years ago, this very night.

MR APPLGATE

We have no doubt his generosity is well represented by his surviving partner, *(shows his credentials)*

(oppressions have re-gained control and are pulling him back) (At the ominous word generosity, Scrooge frowns and shakes his head, and hands the credentials back.)

MR BERTRAM

Mr. Scrooge, at this festive season of the year, it is customary to make some small provision for the poor and destitute. They suffer greatly at the present time. Many thousands are freezing; hundreds of thousands are in want of basic comforts, sir.

SCROOGE

Are there no prisons?

MR BERTRAM

Plenty of prisons.

SCROOGE

And the Union workhouses? Are they still in operation?

MR APPLGATE

They are. Still, I wish I could say they were not.

SCROOGE

The Parliamentary laws to protect us from the poor are in full vigor, then?

MR APPLGATE

To my shame, they are enforced to their fullest extent, sir.

SCROOGE

Oh! I was afraid, from what you said at first, that something had occurred to stop them in their useful course, I'm very glad to hear otherwise.

MR BERTRAM

With the imposition that the government scarcely furnishes Christian cheer to the multitude....

A few of us are endeavoring to raise money to ah..., buy the poor some meat and drink, *(as an after thought)* ... and some blankets and firewood for warmth.

We choose this time, well,... because it is Christmas, and we find that people are more inclined to give. What shall I put you down for?

SCROOGE

Nothing!

MR APPLEGATE

You wish to remain anonymous?

SCROOGE

I wish to be left alone, since you ask me what I wish, gentlemen, that is my answer. I don't make merry myself at Christmas and I can't afford to make idle people merry. I help to support the establishments I have mentioned with my taxes—they cost enough; and those who are badly off must go there.

LIGHTS *Change and focus on spirit.*

Actors Freeze and Spirit puts a weight on.

LIGHTS *change back. ACTION continues*

MR BERTRAM

Many can't go there; and many would rather die.

SCROOGE

If you'll pardon me, but —we, ah... I can't possibly know that.

MR APPLEGATE

But you might know it if you were to talk with those in need.

SCROOGE

LIGHTS *change to red. (oppressions have emboldened him even more and are pushing on Scrooge, the following starts out normal volume and crescendos in a rage)*

It's not my business. It's enough for a man to understand his own business, and not to interfere with other people's. Mine occupies me constantly. If they would rather die, they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population.

Good afternoon!

MR APPLGATE and MR BERTRAM

(somewhat alarmed the two begin to leave hastily, perhaps even tripping a bit in an effort to get away)

Ah, Ah, --- Happy Christmas to you Sir

(the letters from Fred seem to have some sort of an attraction, Scrooge returns to his desk, and sits, fondling the letter bundle)

Choir Scene

Outside Slide - 025_carolers

LIGHTS focus SR as carolers enter

CHOIR

God bless you, merry gentleman!
Let nothing you dismay!
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day.
To save us all from Satan's power...

...

SCROOGE

(The oppressions hold their ears. Scrooge seizes a cane and strikes the window/walls and yells at the carolers.)

LIGHTS briefly redish

Get on with ye, you bunch of hoodlums. Before I call the local constable!!

LIGHTS back to previous

Office Slide - 015_office

(SCROOGE. Looks at the letters that Fred left him. Opens the ribbon around them and we hear the Ghost of Marley moaning)

MARLEY

Scro-o-o-o-oge.

(Scrooge is shaken)

Harrington Scene

(Mr Harrington enters stage right, on the very heels of Marley's word)

LIGHTS *change to show trouble*

MR. HARRINGTON

Ah, Mr. Scrooge, I am so sorry to disturb you on Christmas Eve, but I know how long are the hours you work, and took the chance that I might find you here still—at your office—at this late hour.

SCROOGE

What trick are you up to? *(Accusing Harrington of the moan)*

MR. HARRINGTON

Trick, Mr. Scrooge?

SCROOGE

Yes, what game are you playing at, moaning like that as you enter?

MR. HARRINGTON

Um, I'm playing no game, I assure you sir. ---- Is something wrong?

SCROOGE

You made no moaning noise then? *(Harrington looks at Scrooge with wonder).* Uhhh, no. No, nothing's wrong.

(Scrooge tosses the letters).

Well then Mr. Harrington I assume you are here to make a payment.

MR. HARRINGTON

(Crosses stage left to bolster courage from Bob's presence)

Ah, yes well, I've run into a bit of a problem –you see—and I need to make some sort of arrangement for an extension Mr. Scrooge

SCROOGE

The terms of the loan were quite clear when you signed them.

MR. HARRINGTON

Yes, of course, sir, but it's not easy finding a position at the moment you see and if I could just have a little more time...I'm good for it...I'm a hard worker...

SCROOGE

(the oppressions are pushing again)

None of this is my concern Mr. Harrington. If you are unable to pay off your loan you must pay the penalty and do so in a timely fashion or forfeit your collateral.

Otherwise you will find yourself in debtor's prison. There is no court in the land that will not rule in my favor.

MR. HARRINGTON

Maybe so sir, but that doesn't make it right.

SCROOGE

I have a right to be paid the money owed me.

MR. HARRINGTON

But Mr. Scrooge I'm sure you've seen tough times yourself and have needed a helping hand from time to time.

SCROOGE

God helps those who help themselves. Good night Mr. Harrington.

LIGHTS *Change and focus on spirit.*

Actors Freeze and Spirit puts a weight on.

LIGHTS *change back. ACTION continues*

(then as an afterthought, he shouts out)

And a full payment is due by the end of the year.

MR. HARRINGTON

Were you always so cold and unfeeling a man, Mr. Scrooge?

SCROOGE

You may find me cold and unfeeling sir, but I would venture to say I am a man of my word.

A man whose word carries weight; a man whose word allows him the ability to strike a deal and back it up with his signature.

My signature is worth something. Yours it would appear –if you continue to treat your financial obligations and business dealings in this manner –will soon be worthless.

Now if you'll excuse me, I'm off to the Nags Head Pub for a well-earned and well-deserved supper. Good day!

(HARRINGTON exits SL)

BOB

(puts away his work tools). I'll be going now sir, if you please.

SCROOGE

You'll want all day to-morrow, I suppose?

BOB

If quite convenient, sir.

SCROOGE

It's not convenient, and it's not fair. If I was to stop half-a-crown for it, you'd think yourself ill-used, I'll be bound?

(Bob keeps his temper and simply makes a soft small smile and nods).

SCROOGE

And yet, you don't think *me* ill-used, when I pay a day's wages for no work.

BOB

It's only once year sir.

SCROOGE

A poor excuse for picking a man's pocket every twenty-fifth of December!

(Scrooge puts his coat on and readies to leave himself)

But I suppose you must have the whole day. --- Be here all the earlier next morning!

BOB

Yes Sir, Indeed Sir. As you say sir, of course Sir.

(they both leave the office together and go different ways, Scrooges oppressions in tow),

(CLOSE CURTAIN set change)

SLIDE – Stock Exchange 030_stock_exchange

LIGHTS full apron

Grain Exchange

(Man #1 and #3 enter from stage right)

Man #1

Ebenezer, I was afraid you weren't coming. It's almost closing time.

SCROOGE

I'm here aren't I?

Man #3

I told him you would be here, didn't I say he would be here? I knew you'd change your mind.

SCROOGE

You are right I have changed my mind.

Man #1

Oh good then you'll take our bid?

SCROOGE

The price has gone up.

Man #3

Gone up? But that's not possible.

SCROOGE

If you want my corn gentlemen, then you must meet my quote, plus 5% for the delay.

Man #3

That's outrageous Scrooge, you'll be left with a warehouse stuffed with rotting corn.

SCROOGE

Well, that's my affair isn't it.

Man #1

But if we pay your price our bread will be more expensive, the poor will suffer because we can not purchase enough.

SCROOGE

Buy the corn someplace else. Good day. *(Scrooge acts as if he is going to leave)*

(Man #1 and #3 talk to each other in whispers, then suddenly turn toward Scrooge)

Man #1

Scrooge a moment. We'll take your corn, at the price you quoted yesterday.

SCROOGE

Too late, if you wait until tomorrow, it will cost you another 5%

Man #3

Damn it! Scrooge it's not fair.

SCROOGE

No. But its business. I'll give you a moment to make up your mind.

LIGHTS *Change and focus on spirit.*

Actors Freeze and Spirit puts a weight on. "swindling"

LIGHTS *change back. ACTION continues*

(long pause as the two whisper a discussion again, finally bursting out)

Man #1

Alright Scrooge. Done and Done.

SCROOGE

Very Good gentlemen, now make sure a draft for the entire amount of this transaction is deposited with my clerk. I don't ship until I have the cash in hand. Good Day.

Close of Business Scene

Slide London *Night 010_london_night*

LIGHTS *a little darker*

(in front of curtain, Scrooge walks slowly from SR to SL, then back from SL to Center.)

NARRATOR 1

Scrooge took his melancholy dinner in his usual pub; and having read all the newspapers, he then wasted the rest of the evening examining and re-examining his banker's-book, only after he was content with the amount of money he had gained, did he proceed to head home.

NARRATOR 2

He lived in chambers which had once belonged to his deceased partner. The yard was so dark this evening that even Scrooge, who knew its every stone, had to grope with his hands.

(Scrooge takes out a large key and attempts to unlock the door)

NARRATOR 1

Now, it is a fact, that there was nothing at all particular about the knocker on the door, except that it was very, very large.

NARRATOR 2

It is also a fact, that Scrooge had seen it a thousand times in all the years that he lived there.

CURTAIN OPENS. Set in configuration)

NARRATOR 1

Let it also be borne in mind that Scrooge had **NOT** bestowed one thought on Marley, since his last mention of his seven years' dead partner that afternoon.

NARRATOR 2

Yet when Scrooge, had his key in the lock of the door, he saw in the knocker, a dreadful apparition.

LIGHTS – very low in front of curtain

SLIDE - Marley face in knocker Door Knob Ghost

SCROOGE is upon the apron of the stage, in front of a door, and pantomiming his reaction to the sudden visage, his oppressions are puzzled)

MARLEY

(A ghostly cry as MARLEY is trying to come through the portal to this world)

Scrooo-ooo-ge.

NARRATOR 1

As Scrooge looked fixedly at this phenomenon, it was a knocker again.

SLIDE – Door-knocker-plain

Marley Scene

LIGHTS spooky

SCROOGE

(Startled, but overcoming his fear with resolve, goes through the door)

Bah, Humbug!

(After Scrooge and opperssions enter door, they freeze as walls rotate around them)

(Walls rotate. Set in configuration)

(Here we see a bed and an armchair and a stool)

(SCROOGE peers behind things, and under the bed).

(Returns to the door and Pantomimes severely locking the door)

SOUND Door lock

SLIDE – 010_london_night

SCROOGE

Humbug! *(Sits upon his bead)*

SOUND (all the bells, clocks and stuff go off in the house)

SCROOGE

It's humbug still! I won't believe it.

(same sound keeps playing)(very heavy footsteps and the clanking of chains)

(Scrooge's oppressions are startled)

(Suddenly the door is opened, and in comes MARLEY's ghost with oppressions behind him, holding onto chains that are wrapped about Marley's body.)

LIGHTS – add UV

SCROOGE

How now *(squeaky and unsure)* What do you want with me?

MARLEY

(the oppressions push Marley forward. He struggles to remove the bandage around his head that is keeping his mouth shut. Then finally blurts out)

Much!

SCROOGE

Who are you?

MARLEY

Ask me who I *was*.

SCROOGE

(shakily) Who *were* you then? You're particular, for a shade.

MARLEY

In life I was your partner, Jacob Marley.

SCROOGE

Can you? —can you sit down? *(doubtful)*.

MARLEY

I can.

SCROOGE

Do it, then. *(shakily)*

MARLEY

You don't believe in me. *(said factually and sitting)*.

SCROOGE

I don't! *(with increased bravery)*.

MARLEY

What evidence would you have of my reality beyond that of your own senses?

SCROOGE

I don't know.

MARLEY

(demanding). Why do you doubt your senses?

SCROOGE

Because a little thing affects them. A slight disorder of the stomach makes them dishonest. You may be an undigested bit of beef, a blot of mustard, a crumb of cheese, a fragment of an underdone potato. There's more of gravy than of **grave** about you, whatever you are!

(scrooge is nervous and tries to hide behind his words)

You see this toothpick?

MARLEY

I do, *(he is not looking at Scrooge but at the room, and Scrooge's oppressions)*

SCROOGE

You are not looking at it,

MARLEY

(irritated). But I see it, notwithstanding.

SCROOGE

Well! I have but to swallow this and be for the rest of my days persecuted by a legion of goblins, all of my own creation. Humbug, I tell you! humbug!

MARLEY

SOUND - chains

(Marley begins to moan loudly scarry, but more of in mental anguish !) Whoooooo-a-a-a-a-a-a--

SCROOGE

(Scrooge falls upon his knees and clasps his hands before his face.)

Mercy! Dreadful apparition, why do you trouble me?

MARLEY

Man of a worldly mind! Do you believe in me or not? *(Very demanding)*

SCROOGE

I do, *(in shaking voice)* I must. *(with sincerity)*. But why do spirits walk the earth, and why do they come to me?

MARLEY

It is required of every man, that the spirit within him should walk abroad among his fellowmen, and travel far and wide; and if that spirit goes not forth in life, it is condemned to do so after death. It is doomed to wander through the world—oh, woe is me! *(with pain)*. —and witness the joys of life that it cannot share, but might have shared on earth, and opportunities for happiness, in both giving and receiving!

SOUND - chains

(begins to moan loudly! Shaking chains as it contemplates the countless opportunities lost) Whoooooo-a-a-a-a-a-a-a

SCROOGE

You are fettered, Tell me why?

MARLEY

I wear the chain I forged in life, I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I girded it on of my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it.

(with mockery). Is its pattern strange to you?

(SCROOGE trembles)

Oh, would you know, the weight and length of the strong coil you bear yourself? It was full as heavy and as long as this, seven Christmas Eves ago. You have labored on it, since. It is a ponderous chain!

SCROOGE

(glancing at the floor looking for chains, without seeing any on himself).

Jacob, Old Jacob Marley, tell me more.

Speak comfort to me, Jacob!

MARLEY

(almost in tears because he needs comforting himself) I have none to give, it comes from other regions, Ebenezer Scrooge, and is conveyed by other ministers, to other kinds of men.

Nor can I tell you all that I want to share. A very little more is all that is permitted to me by higher powers. *(building in intensity)* I cannot rest, I cannot stay, I cannot linger anywhere. My spirit never walked beyond our counting-house—mark me! —in life my spirit never roved beyond the narrow limits of our money-changing hole; and weary journeys lie before me now! *(crying)*

SCROOGE

You must have been very slow about it, Jacob *(, in a business-like manner, though with humility and deference)*.

MARLEY

(questioning Scrooge's logic). Slow?

SCROOGE

Seven years dead and travelling all the time!

MARLEY

The whole time, No rest, no peace. Incessant torture of remorse. *(crying)*

SCROOGE

You travel fast?

MARLEY

(sarcastic) On the wings of the wind, *(shakes his chains, points to his oppressions)*

SCROOGE

You might have got over a great quantity of ground in seven years,

MARLEY

SOUND - chains

(begins to moan loudly!) Hear meeeeeeeeeee—ee

I was, I am captive, bound, and double-ironed,

I did not know my torment would be eternal, for this earth must pass into eternity before its labor ceases.

(crying) I did not know what little opportunity I had in life to affect the lives of others and my own.

But most of all I did Not know that no amount of regret can make amends for one life's opportunity misused! Yet such am I! Oh! such am I! *(sobbing)*

SCROOGE

But you were always a good man of business, Jacob,

MARLEY

(stops crying, and chastise Scrooge) Business?! Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were, all, my business. The dealings of my day to day trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my true business!

At this time of the rolling year, I suffer most. *(crying)* Why did I walk through crowds of fellow-beings with my eyes turned down, and never raise them to that blessed Star which led the Wise Men to a poor abode on that first Christmas Day! Were there no poor homes to which its light would have conducted *me!* *(pleading)*

(Scrooge trembles)

(calms himself and get serious) Hear me! My time is nearly gone.

SCROOGE

I will, but don't be hard upon me! Don't be flowery, Jacob! Please!

MARLEY

How it is that I appear before you in a shape that you can now see, I may not tell. But, I have sat invisible beside you many and many a day.

(Scrooge trembles)

And that alone is no light part of my penance.

I am here to-night to warn you, that you have yet a chance and hope of escaping my fate. A chance and hope of procuring, Ebenezer.

SCROOGE

You were always a good friend to me. Thank'ee!

MARLEY

You will be haunted, by Three Spirits.

SCROOGE

(Scrooge with shaking doubt)

Is that the chance and hope you mentioned, Jacob?

MARLEY

It is. *(sternly)*.

SCROOGE

I—I think I'd rather not.

MARLEY

(firmly). Without their visits, you cannot hope to shun the path I tread.

(catching himself).

Expect the first to-morrow, when the bell tolls One.

SCROOGE

Couldn't I take 'em all at once, and have it over, Jacob?

MARLEY

Expect the second at the end of the first day's sojourn at about the same hour.

The third upon the end of the following day when the last stroke of Twelve has ceased to vibrate.

Look to see me no more; and look that, for your own sake, you remember what has passed between us!

(approaches Scrooge)

(with crescendo-ing emphasis) I impart to you one additional gift. Until the three spirits are done, you will be able to see your own chains and oppressions. *(points to and holds Scrooges chains before him, and points to the opperssions)*

Spirit Storm Scene

SOUND Heavy winds.

SLIDE – flying_ghosts

(Marley Bandages his head, gathers his chains)

(Many spirits everywhere, and they suddenly disappear)

(Scrooge can now suddenly see his own chains choreographed battle ensue between Scrooge and oppressions as the other spirits sweep Marley from the stage)

LIGHTS OUT.

CLOSE CURTAIN

Act II.

SLIDE – big_ben

SOUND Clock is striking midnight. On the **last three chimes** the curtain opens

(Scrooge changes into nightgown with the curtain closed)

OPEN CURTAIN.

LIGHTS UP PARTIAL

Christmas Past Opening Scene

SCROOGE

Twelve! It was past two when I went to bed. The clock must be wrong. An icicle must have got into the works. Twelve?!

(runs to look at another clock on his wall, to see if it says the same)

Why, it isn't possible, that I can have slept through a whole day and far into another night. It isn't possible that anything has happened to the sun, and this is twelve at noon!

(runs to the window to assure that it is still dark outside)

Was it a dream or not?

(Scrooge goes over to the chair and falls to sleep again.)

LIGHTS - down

SOUND: 1 o'clock

LIGHTS – up

(Ground fog)

SCROOGE

One o'clock already. Bah, Humbug!

SLIDE – bright_lights

LIGHTS – up very bright

(from stage right a bright lively young woman appears dressed in simple country clothes)

SCROOGE

Are you the Spirit, whose coming was foretold to me?

GHOST 1

I am!

SCROOGE

Who, and what are you? *(demanding)*.

GHOST 1

I am the Ghost of Christmas Past.

SCROOGE

Long Past?

GHOST 1

No. Your past. *(jovially)*

SCROOGE

(overcome by the brightness of the spirit) I prithee to put your cap upon your head.

GHOST 1

What! would you so soon put out, with worldly hands, the light I give?

Is it not enough that you are one of those whose passions made this cap *(looks at the hat, and holds it towards him)* and force me through multitudes of years to wear it low upon my brow!

SLIDE – BLACK

LIGHTS – Down to normal

SCROOGE

I most sincerely apologize. I meant no offense, nor have I any knowledge of forcing anyone to wear a cap. But may I enquire as to purpose of your visit?

GHOST 1

Your welfare!

GROUND FOG STOPS

SCROOGE

Thank'ee, but would not a complete and restful sleep be the best remedy for my welfare?

GHOST 1

Your reclamation, then. Take heed! (*chastising*)

(*putting out her hand and grasping Scrooge by his arm*)

Rise! and walk with me!

(*talking to his oppressions pointing at them.*)

These shall remain here! (*the oppressions cower at her command and release Scrooge's chains*)

(*Scrooge stares at them in horror, and though just seeing them again. Scrooge and GHOST 1 move toward the apron as the curtain closes behind them*)

SCROOGE

I am a mortal, and liable to fall.

GHOST 1

Bear but a touch of my hand *there* and you shall be upheld in more than this!

CURTAIN CLOSES. They stand in front of the curtain

LIGHTS in front

SLIDE - cottage

SOUND - Birds

SCROOGE

Good Heaven!

(gazing at the TV screen picture)

I was bred in this place. I was a boy here! *(said with nostalgia)*

SLIDE – treehouse

(Spirit gazes upon him. Scrooge starts to sniff as if he smells the pines, and has a tear upon his cheek)

GHOST 1

(reaches out to wipe the tear) Your lip is trembling, and what is that upon your cheek?

SCROOGE

(with a choke in his voice and a quick swipe of a tear from his cheek)

Lead on Spirit

Boarding School Scene

SLIDE- boardinghouse

GHOST 1

You recollect the way?

SCROOGE

Remember it! I could walk it blindfold.

Strange to have forgotten it for so many years! Let us go on.

LIGHTS – up

SLIDE- classroom

CURTAIN OPENS *(shows a room with a half dozen children playing and singing “God Rest ye Merry Gentlemen” and playing blind man’s bluff with Scrooge.)*

SCHOOL MASTER *(offstage)*

Hey you kids, your mums and dads are here, Get out of here!

(kids grab their bags and burst off the stage through the door on stage left, and yelling Happy/Merry Christmas to each other as they go)

SCROOGE

Bob, Jacob, Samuel, Caroline, Phoebe. *(cries out in excitement)*

GHOST 1

These are but shadows of the things that have been, they have no consciousness of us.

(spirit walks over to boy scrooge)

The school is not quite deserted, A solitary child, neglected by his friends, is left there still.

SCROOGE

(boy scrooge has removed his blindfold and is now sitting on a stool and reading a book)

(Scrooge choked up a little. Then catches himself).

My father was still in debtor prison, so I had to remain at the boarding school.

(then with an interruption)

but I wasn't all alone, I had Ali Baba, and Hercules, and Ulysses.

(picks up and points to the books around the boy, suddenly realizes it was all bravado and feels lonely again)

I wish, -----but it's too late now.

GHOST 1

What is the matter?

SCROOGE

Nothing, Nothing. There was a group of people singing a Christmas Carol at my door last night. I should like to have given them something that's all.

GHOST 1

(waving hand as to move on) Let us see another Christmas!

Fan Scene

LIGHTS – down

SLIDE - boardingschool_summer

FAN

(FAN comes through the door on stage left)

LIGHTS - up

I have come to bring you home, dear brother! To bring you home, home, home!

BOY SCROOGE

(as if he doesn't believe it) Home, little Fan?

FAN

Yes! Home, for good and all. Home, for ever and ever.

Father is so much kinder than he used to be, that home's like Heaven!

He spoke so gently to me one dear night when I was going to bed,

that I was not afraid to ask him once more if **you** might come home;

and he said

Yes, Yes you should;

and he sent me in a coach to bring you.

(suddenly remembering) Oh, And you're to be a man! You are never to come back here.

But first, we're to be together all the Christmas long, and have the merriest time in all the world.

(coughs a deep cough, indicating some frailness)

BOY SCROOGE

My how tall you have gotten Fan! *(holds his hand up measuring how tall she has grown)*

FAN

We will cook together, and make trickle tarts, and build snowmen, and chase the geese on the lake.

(calling as if to someone backstage) Bring down Master Scrooge's box, there!

BOY SCROOGE

Oh Fan, can we **really** do all those things? No washing or wood cutting, Can I sit in my old tree house?

FAN

If you think you can still fit in it. You have grown much little brother. *(holds her hand up measuring how tall he has grown)*

(suddenly remembering the house work to be done) But we may have to wash a thing or two and chop a stick, it's just that, we'll work at it together!

BOY SCROOGE

Oh Fan, How **wonderful!**

(BOY SCROOGE and FAN exit stage left)

CURTAIN CLOSES

LIGHTS – Front and Apron

SLIDE - BLACK

GHOST 1

Always a delicate creature, whom a breath might have withered, but she had a large heart!

SCROOGE

So, she had, You're right. I will not gainsay it, Spirit. God forbid!

GHOST 1

She died a woman, and had, as I think, children.

SCROOGE

One child,

GHOST 1

True, Your nephew!

SCROOGE

Yes. ----- Fred

GHOST 1

He resembles his mother

SCROOGE

(denying it) Does he?

GHOST 1

Hmmm, I thought you recognized her visage in his?

SCROOGE

(adamantly) I saw no such thing!

Fezziwig Opening Scene

SLIDE – fezziwig_outside

GHOST 1

Do you know this place?

SCROOGE

Know it! Why I was apprenticed here!

CURTAIN OPENS. Showing Fezziwig's office

LIGHTS - up

SCROOGE

(SR, FEZZIWIG enters, followed by Marley (looking alive and not ghostly))

Why, it's old Fezziwig! Bless his heart; it's Fezziwig alive again! And a Young Jacob Marley, the very day I first met him.

SLIDE – BLACK

FEZZIWIG

(Marley has a chain attached to his back and oppression GREED following him, Young Scrooge enters from SL)

Ebenezer, I'd like you to meet a business associate of mine, Jacob Marley.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Very pleased to meet you, Mr. Marley.

(crosses and shakes MARLEY's hand)

MARLEY

So, you're the young man I've been hearing so much about.

FEZZIWIG

Ebenezer has a keen mind when it comes to business Jacob. Why, year over year, we've more than doubled our profits –can you believe it!

(Dick waves to Fezziwig from the door, SL)

Yo-ho, there! Dick!

(Dick enters)

SCROOGE

(to GHOST 1) What is that protruding and pulling upon Jacob Marley?

GHOST 1

Even now, your partner is building his chain without knowing of its existence.

DICK

Mr. Fezziwig, sorry to interrupt, but Harvey Grayson is here to see you.

FEZZIWIG

Oh dear, what does he want now? *(Fezziwig exits with Dick to take care of a problem)*

SCROOGE

Dick Wilkins, to be sure! Bless me, yes. There he is. He was very much attached to me, was Dick. Poor Dick! Dear, dear!

MARLEY

(Marley is pushed forward by his oppression, GREED)

So, tell me Mr. Scrooge, in your professional opinion, is old Fezziwig conducting his business, in such a manner, as to maximize his profits?

YOUNG SCROOGE

Well Mr. Marley, I don't think it's right for me to comment on my master's business affairs.

MARLEY

Oh, come now, I am asking your opinion, not as a friend of Fezziwig's, but as a man of business. Is old Fezziwig –to put it plainly –making as much money as he could?

YOUNG SCROOGE

(Hesitates) Mr. Fezziwig, while a good man –but not always of business unfortunately, has other priorities.

MARLEY

Ha, ha! I thought so. I was going to buy him out you know Mr. Scrooge. I'd even made him an offer. And then you come on the scene and suddenly old Fezziwig is drowning in money and I ask myself how did he manage that? Well,... he didn't manage it, did he? You did. Ha, ha! You're the one, and a very shrewd man of business you are Mr. Scrooge! I am most impressed.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Well, thank you Mr. Marley. That's very kind of you to say.

MARLEY

Nonsense, I speak the truth. If you let your heart rule your business, like Old Fezziwig does, I would call you a fool and say you deserve any punishment your foolishness gets you, but you are no fool are you Mr. Scrooge.

YOUNG SCROOGE

I don't think of myself as a fool, but...I do think...there's more to life than business.

MARLEY

Ah, that's Fezziwig talking. Life is business and the business of life is profit. And you and I must talk business. *(pausing to make sure no one is listening)*

I am fully prepared to offer you a position in my firm.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Are you indeed, sir?

MARLEY

Yes, I have been seeking a keen young man that I can groom to be my partner and I dare say from my inquiries that you appear to be that man. If you hadn't come along Old Fezziwig would have ended up in the poor house this winter instead of celebrating Christmas. Why not come work for me where you can reap all the profits of your labor? A junior partner to begin with, but I promise you, an equal partnership if you prove yourself worthy.

YOUNG SCROOGE

My word Mr. Marley, that's very kind of you and I am very tempted and overwhelmed by your generous offer, but...

MARLEY

But?

YOUNG SCROOGE

But Mr. Fezziwig has been more than fair with me, and I feel I owe him a debt of gratitude.

MARLEY

You are loyal, I will say that. Well, you needn't decide right now, Mr. Scrooge, but you must make a point of coming to see me in the New Year so we can discuss matters further. You have a great future ahead of you Ebenezer –if you're willing to take it.

(FEZZIWIG and DICK return.)

FEZZIWIG

That Mr. Grayson will be the ruin of me

MARLEY

Why do business with him then?

FEZZIWIG

He has been a client of mine for many years and stuck with me when times were hard, so I feel it only fair that I stick with him during his hard times. Ebenezer make note that Mr. Grayson's payment for the lumber we shipped to him last month will be moved to the beginning of March.
(Marley flinches at this)

YOUNG SCROOGE

Yes, Mr. Fezziwig.

FEZZIWIG

Poor fellow. Now Jacob, you must stay and have a glass of punch and join us in celebrating the holiday.

MARLEY

Ahh. Yes..... *(Marley is about to accept when his oppression pulls on his chains, he grasps his chest as having a heart attack).*

Ah, Thank you no, Mr. Fezziwig. I'm afraid, I have some other business to attend to.

FEZZIWIG

Mr Marley? Are you quite alright? *(Pause, and wait to see his reaction to your question)*
Must you go on Christmas Eve?

MARLEY

Yes, it's nothing, a bit of indigestion. But I have a small matter, but a matter that demands my attention non-the-less. Good day sir.

FEZZIWIG

Merry Christmas, Mr. Marley.

MARLEY

Yes, *(oppression pulls again, but he squeaks it out nonetheless)*. Merry Christmas.
(with sudden relish of thinking that he has convinced Scrooge to take his offer. Much clearer he blurts out)
And Merry Christmas to you, Mr. Scrooge.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Merry Christmas, sir.

(MARLEY and oppression exits)

Fezziwig Party Scene

LIGHTS – party scene

FEZZIWIG

Yo ho, my boys! No more work to-night. Christmas Eve, Dick. Christmas, Ebenezer! Let's have the shutters up, before a man can say Jack Robinson!

(large gathering of the cast comes in with table, food, decorations, all go about decorating the office)

Hilli-ho! Clear away, my lads, and let's have lots of room here! Hilli-ho, Dick! Cheer up, Ebenezer!

(Fezziwig helps where he can uttering an ad-lib line here or there in correction or approval. "No that would look better over here, ah, that looks nice there, well done", etc...., when all is ready he pronounces it so, and then announces)

Let's have a country dance!

SLIDE – musical-notes-animation

SOUND - song

(5 couples get up and get into a circle. Belle is on stage left and Young Scrooge is stage right. Scrooge counts and realizes that Belle is not his partner, Dick is. Young Scrooge in a very apparent maneuver, pushes Dick out of his spot and swaps positions with him)

(the music commences. A simple country dance, where the group goes in a circle and at intervals individual couples come together in the middle and do a quick jig together. The last couple to come together is Young Scrooge and Belle)

(the song ends, people go about chatting with each other, eating party foods, etc...)(Scrooge and Belle separate slightly as though embarrassed)

LIGHTS – normal

SLIDE - BLACK

MRS. FEZZIWIG

Why husband, you never told me that our dear Mr. Scrooge was such an accomplished dancer.

FEZZIWIG

Yes, my dear, it would appear that young Ebenezer has feet for dancing as well as a head for business. Ha, ha, ha. Good lad!

MRS. FEZZIWIG

(Young Scrooge and Belle are within earshot, and Mrs. Fezziwig addresses Belle on the next comment)

What more could you ask for in a husband, I wonder, eh Belle? *(nudges Belle closer to Young Scrooge)*

MR. FEZZIWIG

Now, now my dear we're making the young couple blush. Come let us attend to our other guests.

(MR. FEZZIWIG & MRS. FEZZIWIG mingle with the other guests as they talk and drink and enjoy the party. BELLE and YOUNG SCROOGE move to a more private area where they can talk alone. Stage Left down.)

BELLE

Don't be embarrassed Ebenezer, they're only teasing.

YOUNG SCROOGE

I know, but it takes a great deal more than being able to dance to provide for a family and a wife in this harsh world. It takes time to build wealth and position. Time that you, my dear and beautiful Belle, may not wish to wait. If only there was some small sign by which I could know your heart.

(as if on queue, BELLE softly hugs YOUNG SCROOGE. There is tenderness and love between them.)

BELLE

I love you Ebenezer and have told you often that I will wait until our fortunes are better

(a small oppression of GREED sneaks up from behind Young Scrooge)

YOUNG SCROOGE

Well then, speaking of fortunes, Mr. Marley seems willing to make me an offer to be a junior partner in his firm –can you believe it!

BELLE

Are you not happy here?

YOUNG SCROOGE

Very, but if given the opportunity to improve one's position in life, I see no reason not to take it.
(a small oppression of GREED now attaches a chain to YOUNG SCROOGE, and will be seen with him in the following scenes)

Why? Does it trouble you?

BELLE

From what I know of Mr. Marley, I'm not so certain he's the kind of man you should be working for.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Nonsense. He's successful and rich and if he takes an interest in my future then I should at least consider his offer.

DICK

(DICK interrupts YOUNG SCROOGE and BELLE, by nudging in between them)

And what are you two up to?

YOUNG SCROOGE

We're not up to anything.

DICK

Oh, well then, perhaps I could convince Belle to join me for a dance.

BELLE

I'm sorry Dick, but my dance card is already filled.
(shows her dance card, that is dangling from her wrist, and is quite empty.)

DICK

Is it? Come now, what's going on here? You can tell your friend Dick Wilkens.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Well, if you must know *(Belle and Young Scrooge exchange glances)* Belle and I plan to marry.

DICK

(very excited) Do you. Ha. I thought there was something going on between you two. *(sudden exuberance)* Well, congratulations Ebenezer. Congratulations Belle. I wish the two of you a long and happy life.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Thank you, Dick.

BELLE

And I'm sure that one day you'll meet a fine young woman and marry her and have a very happy and fine family of your own.

DICK

If I'm ever fortunate enough to meet someone as beautiful and sweet as you are Belle, then I hope I'm smart enough to let her know how I feel and snatch her up before someone else does.

(with much joy)

Again congratulations.

(Dick goes to get three cups with drinks)

YOUNG SCROOGE

What a grand night.

DICK & SCROOGE *(together)*

Grand, indeed!

BELLE

Yes, and all thanks to old Fezziwig.

YOUNG SCROOGE

What a fine and generous man he is.

SCROOGE

Hear, hear!

DICK

To our dear Mr. Fezziwig, may he have a long life, and may good fortune follow him all his days.

YOUNG SCROOGE & SCROOGE *(together)*

Well said.

BELLE

Agreed

CURTAIN CLOSES

LIGHTS – front

GHOST 1

A small matter to make these silly folks so full of gratitude.

SCROOGE

Small?!

GHOST 1

Why! Is it not? He has spent but a few pounds of your mortal money three or four perhaps. Is that so much that he deserves this praise?

SCROOGE

It isn't that Spirit. He has the power to render us happy or unhappy; to make our service light or burdensome; a pleasure or a toil. Say that his power lies in words and looks.

In things so slight and insignificant that it is impossible to add and count 'em up what then? The happiness he gives, is quite as great as if it cost a fortune.

(suddenly stops speaking as he senses GHOST 1 glaring at him).

GHOST 1

What is the matter?

SCROOGE

Nothing particular.

GHOST 1

Something, I think?

SCROOGE

No, No. I should like to be able to say a word or two to my clerk just now. That's all.

GHOST 1

My time grows short. Come!

CURTAIN OPENS

LIGHTS – normal

SLIDE - Park

Belle Scene

(BELLE upon a bench, YOUNG SCROOGE enters from SL an even longer chain and his oppression in tow)

YOUNG SCROOGE

Belle! What's the matter?

BELLE

I thought you might not come; I know how busy you are.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Well, the time of year and the nature of my business. It's important now that I use my time and opportunities wisely.

BELLE

Another idol has displaced me.

YOUNG SCROOGE

What Idol has displaced you?

BELLE

A golden one.

YOUNG SCROOGE

(the oppression, pulls on his chain).

My own experiences have shown there is nothing worse than poverty; and the world condemns me for the pursuit of wealth!

BELLE

You fear the world too much, all your other hopes have merged into the hope of being beyond the reach of poverty and judgement.

I have seen your nobler aspirations, mercy and compassion, fall away, until the master-passions, *(pointing almost as if she can see the oppressions being present)* Greed and Apathy, engross you.

Is it not true?

YOUNG SCROOGE

Even **if** I have grown so much wiser, what then? I am **not** changed towards you. ----- Am I?

BELLE

You **are** changed. When it was made, you were another man.

Our contract is an old one. It was made when we were both poor and content to be so, until, we could improve our worldly fortune by patience and love.

YOUNG SCROOGE

I was a boy,

BELLE

Your own heart tells you that you are no longer now what you once were.

YOUNG SCROOGE

Have I ever sought release?

BELLE

In words. No. Never.

YOUNG SCROOGE

In what, then?

BELLE

In a changed nature;

in an altered spirit;

In everything that made me love you.

(pause)

If there had been no understanding between us, would you seek me out and try to win me now?
A dowerless girl with nothing but myself to bring to a marriage.

(long pause)

You have no answer?

YOUNG SCROOGE

(the oppressions pull on him and he struggles a bit) You think I would not then?

BELLE

Oh Ebenezer, what a safe and terrible answer. So characteristic of the careful man.

(YOUNG SCROOGE about to speak but the oppressions pull again)

(pause)

Ebenezer I release you. You are a free man. I let you go with a full heart, may you be happy in the life you have chosen

(runs off stage SR, crying)

(the oppressions pull on Scrooge to keep him from following)

CURTAIN CLOSES

LIGHTS – front

SLIDE - BLACK

SCROOGE

I so wanted to go after her. *(a tear in his voice)*

GHOST 1

Yes, your own habits and self-adopted oppressions were already strong then, they are much stronger now.

SCROOGE

Spirit! show me no more! Conduct me home. Why do you delight to torture me?

GHOST 1

One shadow more!

SCROOGE

No more! No more. I don't wish to see it. Show me no more!

CURTAIN OPENS

LIGHTS – normal

SLIDE – belle_married

Belle and Children Scene

(Belle enters from SR with kids in tow and Husband trailing behind. There is a bench in the middle)

BELLE

Alright, off to bed, all of you.

CHILD 1

Oh, do we have to mommy?

BELLE

Yes, it's well past your bedtime.

CHILD 2

But we're not tired.

CHILD 1

No, we're not.

CHILD 3

Can't we have a story?

BELLE

You've already had three.

CHILD 2

Just one more –please.

BELLE

More stories tomorrow my dears.

CHILD 2 &CHILD 3

Awww.

HUSBAND

Now off to bed all of you. Your mother and I will be up shortly to kiss you goodnight.

CHILD 2

But, I'm hungry.

CHILD 1

Me too.

BELLE

Hungry? After all the tarts you had for dessert, how can you be hungry?

CHILD 3

Can't we please have another story?

CHILD 4

I can tell them a story mother.

BELLE

Will you my dear?

CHILD 4

Oh, yes...you and father rest and I can get the little ones to bed.

BELLE

Thank you my dear. Now you hear that. Your (brother/sister) is going to tell you a story.

CHILD 1

Yay!

CHILD 3

Another story!

CHILD 4

What story do you want to hear?

CHILD 2

Good King Wenceslas

CHILD 3

Yes, tell us that story.

CHILD 4

But you already heard father tell you that story.

CHILD 3

We want to hear it again.

CHILD 2

Again, and again, and again.

CHILD 4

Alright, but I'm not sure I can tell it as well as father does. Come on now.

(Child 4 herds the other children out SL)

BELLE

(Laughing) Oh my, what a day!

HUSBAND

Belle, I saw an old friend of yours this afternoon.

BELLE

Who was it?

HUSBAND

Guess!

BELLE

How can I? Tut, I don't know? *(Pause, then with question)* Mr. Scrooge?

HUSBAND

Mr. Scrooge it was. I passed his office window; and as it was not closed up, he had a candle inside, and I could scarcely help seeing him.

I hear, that His partner lies upon the point of death;

So there in his office Mr. Scrooge sat alone. Quite alone in the world, I do believe.

CURTAIN CLOSES, but not overlapping so that GHOST 1 will be able to slip through it later)

LIGHTS – front

SLIDE – BLANK

SOUND – midnight (softly in the background)

Christmas Past Finale Scene

SCROOGE

Spirit! *(in a broken voice)* remove me from this place. Why have you tortured me so? Why have you shown me all of this?

GHOST 1

As I told you before. For your reclamation. Take heed! These were shadows of the things that have been, that they are what they are, you can not blame me!

SCROOGE

But why do you show me things I can **not** change?

GHOST 1

To show you the circle. The start of it all. What was, and what might have been

LIGHTS – very bright

SCROOGE

(the clock strikes 12) Remove me! I cannot bear it!

(starts to push GHOST 1)

Leave me! Take me back. Haunt me no longer!

LIGHTS – slow fade to black

(GHOST 1 is pushed through curtains and disappears. Pitch black. He continues to speak)

Leave me!, Leave me!, Please, Leave me! I can take no more.

(Scrooge backs through the curtain, and it closes)

INTERMISSION

SLIDE – switch to Cast BIO

INTERMISSION

Act III.

SOUND – 2 o'clock

CURTAIN OPENS

SLIDE – BIG BEN (Same slide as before intermission, start slide show from here)

LIGHTS – Heavy lights SL, and less on SR

Christmas Present Opening Scene

(door in center separating Scrooge and GHOST 2)

(Scrooge is upon his bed. Clock strikes 2, his oppressions stand idly nearby, holding his chains still)

GHOST 2

(GHOST 2 sitting in a throne stage left, typical green robe, white fur lined, surrounded by food, x-mas tree, very bright lights)

Ebenezer Scrooge, Come In!

(Scrooge rises, spirits in tow. Rattles the door knob)

Come in, come in! and know me better, man!

LIGHTS – more lights SR **CENTER DOOR MOVES**

(Scrooge opens the door. the presence of the Christmas present, forces the oppressions to remove the chains and then run and cower. Scrooge goes through the door)

I am the Ghost of Christmas Present, Look upon me!

(Scrooge reverently looks).

You have never seen the likes of me before!?

SCROOGE

Never,

GHOST 2

Have you never walked forth with the younger members of my family, my elder brothers born in these later years, for I am very young?

SCROOGE

I don't think I have; I am afraid I have not. Have you had many brothers, Spirit?

GHOST 2

More than eighteen hundred, *(jovial laugh)*

SCROOGE

A tremendous family to provide for!

(GHOST 2 stands).

Spirit conduct me where you will. I went forth last night on compulsion, and I learnt a lesson which is working now. To-night, if you have ought to teach me, let me profit by it.

GHOST 2

Touch my robe!

(Scrooge grabs his robe. They walk upstage.)

SLIDE - *dirty_london*

LIGHTS - *normal*

walls are closed up

Street Fight Scene

(Shop keepers come through the doors and sweep and clean)

(Town's people carrying packages enter from SR in pairs)

(a seller with broom accidentally trips a passerby, and they drop packages a brawl is about to erupt)

(GHOST 2 walks over and sprinkles some glitter onto the crowd)

(the crowd suddenly stops arguing, saying that it's a shame to argue on Christmas Day, all party's layout many apologies. It was my fault, No, No, it was mine, etc...)

(WALL CLOSES)

SCROOGE

Is there a peculiar flavor in what you sprinkle from your torch?

GHOST 2

There is. *(pause)* My own.

SCROOGE

Would it apply to any kind of dinner on this day?

GHOST 2

To any kindly given. To a poor one most.

SCROOGE

Why to a poor one most?

GHOST 2

Because it needs it most.

SCROOGE

Spirit, I wonder.

GHOST 2

Aye?

SCROOGE

Spirit, why is it that tonight I am not fettered with my own chains? My own spirits?

GHOST 2

Because this day you walk with me, and the joy of Christmas makes all burdens light. It would do you well to remember that!

SCROOGE

I promise that I will.

(pause)

Spirit. Where have you brought me?

GHOST 2

This is the home of Bob Cratchit, the clerk that works for you.

(WALL OPENS. Bob Cratchit's house)

Cratchits Christmas Present Scene

SLIDE – *cratchit_bw*

(Mrs. Cratchit working on Christmas meal, children are setting the table. Mrs. Cratchit has a small oppression assigned to her, BITTERNESS)

MRS. CRATCHIT

What has ever got your precious father then? And your brother, Tiny Tim! And Martha warn't as late last Christmas Day by half-an-hour?

MARTHA

Here I am mother! *(suddenly bursting in)*

PETER AND CHILD

Here's Martha, mother! Hurrah! ... There's *such* a goose, Martha! You should see it. Etc...

MRS. CRATCHIT

Why, bless your heart alive, my dear, how late you are! *(kissing Martha and taking her coat)*

MARTHA

We'd a deal of work to finish up last night, and had to clear away this morning, mother!

MRS. CRATCHIT

Well! Never mind so long as you are come, Sit ye down before the fire, my dear, and warm yourself. Lord bless ye!

YOUNG CHILD

No, wait! There's father coming. Hide, Martha, hide!

(Martha hides, Enters Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim on his shoulders or in his arms with a small crutch)

(bob is now an almost polar opposite of the creature he was in Scrooge's office. He is cheerful, plays with his children, teases them, interacts with them almost as if he is a kid himself)

BOB

(Bob looks around and counts the family, 1,2,3, etc... suddenly blurts) (catches a wink from Mrs Cratchit and a sly pointing where Martha is hiding)

(Playing along) Why, where's our Martha?

MRS. CRATCHIT

Not coming,

BOB

Not coming! Not coming upon Christmas Day!?

MARTHA

(runs into the room, unable to hold her secret any longer) Here I am father! Have no worries on Christmas Day!

BOB

What a cheeky trick you played on me. Oh, I am so glad to see you! *(hugs her)*

MRS. CRATCHIT

And how did little Tim behave?

BOB

As good as gold, and better. Somehow, he gets thoughtful, sitting by himself so much, and thinks the strangest things you ever heard.

(Bob wonders around getting tobacco, working with the kids, getting them to their seats at the table as he speaks)

He told me, coming home, that he hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who 'twas that made lame beggars walk, and blind men see.

(the table is set with a bunch of food)

(all are seated except Mrs. Cratchit and begin to bang their ware upon the table. Yelling)

Feast! Feast! Feast!

(the very tiny goose arrives and is put upon the table)

BOB

(with sincerest flattery) There has never been such a goose.

(the actors pretend to pass food and pretend to eat)

LIGHTS – down

LIGHTS - and up again

MRS. CRATCHIT

It's all gone at last

PETER AND THE CHILDREN

Is there any pudding? ... Yes the pudding, oh my!.. I'll help you mother...

(Mrs Cratchit brings in the pudding)

BOB

Oh, a wonderful pudding! It is the greatest success achieved by mother since first we married.

MRS. CRATCHIT

Now the weight is off me mind, I confess I had had me doubts about the quantity of flour.

ALL

(Lavish praises about the pudding!)

It couldn't be better; ...

how could they think it any the worse..., etc..

(the table is cleared, and all take up a cup of cider to toast)

BOB

A Merry Christmas to us all, my dears. God bless us!

ALL

A Merry Christmas to us all. God bless us!

TINY TIM

(after all the other cheers) God bless us everyone!

LIGHTS – Down back stage

(Cratchit's freeze in place)

SCROOGE

Spirit tell me if Tiny Tim will live.

GHOST 2

I see a vacant seat in the poor chimney-corner, and a crutch without an owner, carefully preserved. If these shadows remain unaltered by the Future, the child will die.

SCROOGE

No, no Oh, no, kind Spirit! say he will be spared.

GHOST 2

If these shadows remain unaltered by the Future, none other of my race will find him here.

What then? If he be like to die, he had better do it, and decrease the surplus population.

(Scrooge hung his head overcome with penitence and grief).

Man, ---if man you be in heart---, forbear your wicked utterances until you have discovered what the surplus is, and where it is.

Will you decide what men shall live; what men shall die?

It may be, that in the sight of Heaven, you are more worthless and less fit to live than millions like this poor man's child.

Oh God! to hear you whine only about this man's child, when thousands more are suffering!

(Scrooge bends/kneels before the rebuke, and trembles)

LIGHTS – normal

(all unfreeze)

BOB

Mr. Scrooge! I'll give you Mr. Scrooge, the Founder of the Feast!

(scrooge suddenly recovers, at (hearing his name called)

MRS. CRATCHIT

(Mrs. Cratchits oppression begins to yank on her chain)

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 he'd have a good appetite for it.

BOB

My dear the children! Christmas Day.

MRS. CRATCHIT

It should be Christmas Day, I am sure, on which one drinks the health of such an odious, stingy, hard, unfeeling man as Mr. Scrooge. You know he is, Robert! Nobody knows it better than you do, my poor dear!

BOB

My dear, ---Christmas Day? *(as to say please)*

MRS. CRATCHIT

I'll drink his health for your sake and the Day's not for his. Long life to him! A merry Christmas and a happy new year! He'll be very merry and very happy; I have no doubt!

BOB

Mr. Scrooge!

CHILDREN

(half-heartedly) To Mr. Scrooge

BOB

Peter, I have spoken with a master of metal-smithing and spoke of your skills. He is willing to start you on as apprentice in the new year. It will bring in, if obtained, a full five-and-sixpence weekly.

ALL

You are brilliant Peter... On how wonderful... I'm so proud of you...

(Peter stands proudly with thoughts of the prospect)

MARTHA

I am only a lowly apprentice at a milliner's and will never bring in so much as that!

You know Peter; you have the make for a Lord!! the lord I work for is much about as tall as you are. *Holds her hand up to measure his height.* See you might one day be a Lord.

ALL

Ha, Ha,Ha

GHOST 2

(Sprinkles more of his dust on them) Now let us be off

(WALL CLOSES)

LIGHTS - front

Tour of England Scene

(upon reaching stage right, GHOST 2 and Scrooge. Looking up at the screens)

SLIDE- coal_mine.. (*Miner is at SR totally sad*)

SCROOGE

What place is this?

GHOST 2

A place where Miners live, who labor in the bowels of the earth, But they still know me. See!

*(Ghost sprinkles dust. Miner goes stage left, and sings 'Silent Night' as he/she goes)
(Scrooge and Ghost 2 follow to the other side of the stage)*

SLIDE – fisher_village

And here a fisher's village

(Another few people come from stage right. Again fairy dust, and they proceed stage left singing 'Oh come all ye faithful'. ...)

You see Ebenezer, these people need Christmas, if only to eek out some joy from a somewhat otherwise miserable life. And what's it to you if they pinch your pocket once a year?

(Scrooge trembles at the rebuke)

WALLS OPENS

LIGHTS – Normal

SLIDE – freds_house

Fred's Christmas Present Scene

(it is Scrooge's nephew Fred's place, decked for a party, with a half dozen guests, including Mr. Topper who has a small oppression of LUST attached to him, each guest and Fred and his wife have a cup in hand)

FRED And WIFE

Ha, ha!Ha, ha, ha!

FRED

He said that Christmas was a humbug, as I live! He believed it too!

WIFE

More shame for him, Fred!

FRED

He's a comical old fellow, darting back and forth as though something pulls him one way and then the other. that's the truth and not so pleasant as he might be. However, his offences carry their own punishment, and I have nothing to say against him.

WIFE

I'm sure he is very rich, Fred. At least you always tell *me* so.

FRED

What of that, my dear! His wealth is of no use to him. He don't do any good with it. He don't make himself comfortable with it. He hasn't the satisfaction of thinking—*(laughing)*—that he is ever going to benefit **US** with it.

WIFE

I have no patience with him,

PARTY

I agree. No Patience.... Frightful man.....

FRED

Oh, I have! I am sorry for him; I couldn't be angry with him if I tried. Who suffers by his ill whims! Himself, always. Here, he takes it into his head to dislike us, and he won't come and dine with us. What's the consequence? He don't lose much of a dinner.

WIFE

Indeed, I think he loses a very good dinner,

PARTY

I agree..... A blessed dinner indeed,..... what a feast.....

FRED

Well! I'm very glad to hear it, because I haven't great faith in these young housekeepers. What do *you* say, Topper?

TOPPER

(his oppression LUST is pushing him a little)

Well I think he loses the greatest in the lack of such fine company. *(flirts with one of the ladies)*. Indeed, indeed it is his loss, not mine. *(goes to the lady and plays with a ribbon on her dress)*

LADY

Mr. Topper!

WIFE

Do go on, Fred, *(to the party members)* You know he never finishes what he begins to say! He is such a ridiculous fellow!

FRED

(laughing at Topper) I was only going to say, that the consequence of his taking a dislike to us, and not making merry with us, is, as I think, that he loses some pleasant moments, which could do him no harm.

I am sure he loses pleasanter companions than he can find in his own thoughts, either in his moldy old office, or his dusty chambers.

I mean to give him the same chance every year, whether he likes it or not, for I pity him. He may rail at Christmas till he dies, but he can't help thinking better of it—I defy him—if he finds me going there, in good temper, year after year, and saying Uncle Scrooge, how are you? If it only puts him in the vein to leave his poor clerk fifty pounds, *that's* something; and I think I shook him yesterday.

LIGHTS – down in back

(actors freeze)

GHOST 2

Young Fred Looks a lot like his mother does he not? *(pointing to a picture of Fan on the wall)*

SCROOGE

Does he? Well I suppose he does a little.

GHOST 2

Why did you not spend more time with him when he was little?

SCROOGE

Fan passed away when Fred was little. I was busy with important business.

GHOST 2

Mankind should be your business!

SCROOGE

can we stay to watch more of the party? I see so little of them *(referring to parties)*

GHOST 2

well you know the remedy for that. But it cannot be done. We must move on presently

LIGHTS - up

PARTY GOER

Let's play a game of Yes and No. You go first Fred!

SCROOGE

Here is a new game, one half hour, Spirit, only one!

FRED

(Fred gives instructions about getting chairs and placing them in a pattern, when done continues)

You know the rules. I will think of something, and you will ask questions and guess. As you guess you go from sitting to standing, and then once all have stood back to sitting, and then finally, one last standing. At that point if none have guessed, I shall be declared the winner

GUESSERS

(as each person answers, they sit down)

an animal? Yes

a live animal? Yes

rather a disagreeable animal? ... Yes

a savage animal? Yes

an animal that growled and grunted sometimes? Yes

that talked sometimes? Yes

a small animal?..... No

a large animal?..... Yes

(as each person answers they stand up)

lives in London? ... Yes,

walks about the streets? ... Yes,

made a show of? No

led by anybody? No,

live in a menagerie? No

killed in a market? No

Sold in the market? ... No

Eaten at Christmas? No

(as each person answers they sit down)

a horse? No

an ass? ... No

a cow? .. No

a bull? ... No

a bear? ... No

an ox?.... No

a pig?... No

FRED

You have one last guess!!

(one last lady is standing)

PARTY GOER

I have found it out! I know what it is, Fred! I know what it is!

FRED

What is it then?

PARTY GOER

It's your Uncle Scrooge!

(Scrooge shows displeasure at this pronouncement)

FRED

Why yes! *(laughs loudly) (all the party goers laugh)*

TOPPER

You have deceived us Fred! Your Uncle Scrooge is most certainly a bear! I cry fault!

(all the party laughs at the joke, glasses of drink are quickly passed around).

FRED

He has given us plenty of merriment, I am sure, and it would be ungrateful not to drink his health. Here is a glass of mulled wine ready to our hand at the moment; and I say, 'Uncle Scrooge!'

ALL

Uncle Scrooge!

FRED

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to the old man, whatever he is! He wouldn't take it from me, but may he have it, nevertheless. ----- Uncle Scrooge! *(raises his glass and drinks)*

ALL

Uncle Scrooge!

LIGHTS – down in back

(actors freeze)

SCROOGE

Thank yee much Fred, Thank yee! I always knew you to be a kind lad

GHOST 2

What is this you say? Not Bah and Humbug?

(Scrooge looks a little chastised)

We must hurry on; my time grows short

Curtain closes *as before, such that they do not overlap,*

SLIDES – BIG BEN

LIGHTS --FRONT

(GHOST 2 stands directly in front of the crack)

Want and Ignorance Scene

SCROOGE

Are spirits' lives so short?

GHOST 2

My life upon this globe, is very brief, it ends to-night.

(two kids slip through the curtain and sit next to GHOST 2's feet)

SCROOGE

To-night!?

GHOST 2

To-night at midnight. Hark! The time is drawing near.

SOUND – midnight *(softly in the background)*

SCROOGE

Forgive me if I am not justified in what I ask, but I see something strange, and not belonging to yourself, protruding from your skirts. Is it a foot or a claw?

GHOST 2

It might be a claw, for the flesh there is upon it, Look here.

(children come away from GHOST 2 robe and kneel at GHOST 2 side, clutching his robe)

Oh, Man! Look here. --- Look, look, down here

SCROOGE

Spirit! are they yours?

GHOST 2

They are Man's,

And they cling to me, appealing from their fathers.

LIGHTS – center on Ghost

This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want.

Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy, for on his brow I see
Doom written, unless the writing be erased'.

Deny it! Slander those who tell it ye!! For in doing it you will doom your race indeed.

SCROOGE

Have they no refuge or resource?

GHOST 2

Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?

SLIDES – BLACK

LIGHTS - black

SOUND – increase the volume on the last chimes

GROUND FOG

(clock strikes twelve, lights go out and GHOST 2 and kids slip behind the curtain)

Act IV.

Gentlemen Scene

(The Spirit in robes appears from stage left,)

LIGHTS – up spooky

(The Spirit slowly, gravely, silently, approaches, and points to go beyond the curtains)

SOUND (strange screechy noises are made when he points)

SCROOGE

Am I in the presence of the Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come?

SOUND (The Spirit, points again, and more screechy noises)

SCROOGE

You are about to show me shadows of the things that have not happened, but will happen in the time before us, Is that so, Spirit?

SOUND (The Spirit, makes a large yes gesture, and more screechy)

SCROOGE

Ghost of the Future! I fear you more than any specter I have seen. But as I know your purpose is to do me good, and as I hope to live to be another man from what I was, I am prepared to bear you company, and do it with a thankful heart. Will you not speak to me?

SOUND (By this time the Spirit is fully stage right and pointing to center stage. The Spirit, points again, and more screechy noises.)

SCROOGE

Lead on! Lead on! The night is waning fast, and it is precious time to me, I know. Lead on, Spirit!

GROUND FOG STOPS

(CURTAIN OPENS)

LIGHTS – normal

SLIDE - 030_stock_exchange

(we see a group of businessmen talking in front of the door and wall, this is what the Spirit was pointing at).

MAN 1

No, I don't know much about it, either way. I only know he's dead.

MAN 2

When did he die?

MAN 1

Last night, I believe.

MAN 3

Why, what was the matter with him? thought he'd never die.

MAN 1

God knows.

MAN 3

What has he done with his money?

MAN 1

I haven't heard, Left it to his company, perhaps. He hasn't left it to *me*. That's all I know.

(all laugh)

MAN 2

It's likely to be a very cheap funeral, for upon my life I don't know of anybody to go to it. Suppose we make up a party and volunteer?

MAN 3

I don't mind going if a lunch is provided, But I must be fed, if I attend.

(all laugh)

MAN 1

Well, I am the most disinterested among you, after all, for I never wear black gloves, and I never eat lunch. But I'll offer to go, if anybody else will. When I come to think of it, I'm not at all sure that I wasn't his most particular friend; for we used to stop and speak whenever we met.

ALL

Agreed, ---- Later, Bye, goodbye!

(the men stroll away in different directions)

Bertram & Applegate Future Scene

(two men come on stage one from SL one from SR)

MR APPELGATE

Have you heard?

MR BERTRAM

Heard what?

MR APPELGATE

Well! Old Stingy has got his own at last, hey?

MR BERTRAM

Yes, so I am told. I was headed over to the executor of the estate now to see if any reconciliation for the poor could be attempted?

MR APPELGATE

Oh, do you think they will be so inclined?

MR BERTRAM

Well, it is Christmas time, perhaps they will be generous!

MR APPELGATE

What he wouldn't give to us in life, we will appropriate by his death! A fair exchange for the old miser.

MR BERTRAM

Yes, indeed. Shall we meet later? half past 3 to discuss the distribution to the poor?

(they leave continuing in the directions they were going)

SLIDE – slums

Pawn Shop Scene

(Mrs. Oliver enters looks around. Mrs. Dilber enters they look at each other, Mr. Tackleton enters, and they all look at each other Old Joe comes through the door.)

MRS. OLIVER

I was here first! Mrs. Dilber shall be after me, and then the undertaker's man can be third.

Aint this something, Joe. All of us meeting here at the same time, and without meaning it.

OLD JOE

You couldn't have met in a better place. Come and sit! Don't be shy, we're all suitable to our calling. We're well matched, to be sure! Ha, ha! Sit! Sit!

(MRS. OLIVER throws her bundle to the floor and plops herself down on a stool with a sigh.)

MRS. OLIVER

What odds then? What odds, Mrs. Dilber? I have no hesitations no qualms at be'in here.

Every person has a right to take care of themselves. 'at miserable ol' miser always did!

MRS. DILBER

That's true, indeed! No man more so. He was such a miserable ol cuss, I have no regrets on what was done.

MRS. OLIVER

Well then, don't stand there staring as if you was afraid, woman;

who's the wiser of our visit here?

We're not going to pick holes in each other's coats, I suppose.

MRS. DILBER

No, No, indeed! But still it would be best if we were not seen together. The tongues would wag, and our positions would be at risk.

MR. TACKLETON

We should hope not. I daresay, our association is "grave" indeed. But as you say, who's the wiser?

MRS. OLIVER

Very well then. Who's the worse for the loss of a few things like these?

(with jest) Not a dead man, I suppose.

MRS. DILBER

No, indeed! 'at stingy ol' man certainly never appreciated the service I provided him. Every Christmas the same, empty pockets, and callous hands was my reward.

MRS. OLIVER

If he wanted to keep 'em after he was dead -- the wicked old screw -- why wasn't he more genial in his lifetime?

Why, If he had been, he'd have had somebody to look after him when he was struck with death...instead of lying, gasping out his last there...all alone...by himself.

MR. TACKLETON

It's the truest word that ever was spoke, Mrs. Oliver. It's a judgment on him. It was the same with 'is partner before 'em. If not for this one's own stinginess same would have happened to the partner before him.

MRS. OLIVER

I wish my bundle was a little heavier; it should have been, if I could have laid my hands on anything else. you can rest assured it would have been,

Now, open that bundle, old Joe, and let me know it's value to ye. Speak out plain. I'm not afraid to be the first, nor afraid for them to see it. We all knew pretty well that we were helping ourselves, before we met here.

It's no sin to see to one's livelihood.

(MR. TACKLETON steps forward, not to be outdone,,kicks Mrs Oliver's bundle aside and drop his bundle, Old Joe starts to rummage through it.)

MR. TACKLETON

What do you think Joe? Is it a good haul? Two others had filtered out the best by the time he got to me. *(glares at the other two)* It seems as if I am always the one that gets to lay these problems to “rest” *(a small laugh)*

OLD JOE

Aha! Mr. Tackleton has been a busy man...Let's see, a seal,..a pencil-case...a pair of sleeve buttons...hm.. *(pauses to count, mumbling some numbers)*.I'll give ye one pound eight—and not another sixpence, even if I was to be boiled for not doing it. Who's next?

MRS. DILBER

(Mrs. Dilber presents her bundle. OLD JOE brings out sheets, towels, a few articles of clothing, some silver.)
Takes you a gander at my bundle Joe! It must be worth something. he surrounded himself with these things, so they must be valuable.

OLD JOE

Aye, quite a stash, Mrs. Dilber! Of course, I always give too much to the ladies. It's a weakness of mine, and that's the way I ruin me self. Ha, ha!

(all laugh).

Three pounds even, Mrs. Dilber.

If you asked me for another penny, and made it an open question, I'd repent of being so liberal and knock off half a crown.

MRS. OLIVER

And now undo my bundle, Joe! I was the first.

OLD JOE

Aye, and what do you call this? Bed-curtains!

MRS. OLIVER

(laughing) Aye! Bed-curtains! Ha, ha!

OLD JOE

You don't mean to say you took 'em down, rings and all, with him a-lying there?

MRS. OLIVER

And why not? He wasn't apt to catch his cold without 'em, I dare say. *(cackles)*

OLD JOE

I hope he didn't die of anything catching. Eh?

MRS. DILBER

Don't you be afraid of that. None of us was so fond of his company that We'd loiter about if he had!

(they laugh) (OLD JOE pulls out a fine silk shirt.)

MRS. OLIVER

Aye! You may look through that shirt till your eyes ache, but you won't find a hole in it, nor a threadbare place. It's the best he had, and a fine one, too.

They'd have wasted it, if it hadn't been for me.

OLD JOE

And what do you call wasting it?

MRS. OLIVER

Why, putting it on him to be buried in, to be sure!

(Laughter. OLD JOE figures sums in his head, then opens a money bag filled with coin, and counts out into her hand.)

OLD JOE

Four pounds, six shillings and two pence—and not a penny more even if I was to marry the Queen!

MRS. DILBER

And this is how it ends. He scared everyone away from him when he was alive, so as to profit **US** when he was dead! Ha, ha, ha! *(cackles, they all laugh together)*

LIGHTS - down

(the group leaves.)

SCROOGE

Spirit! I see, I see. The case of this unhappy man might be my own. My life tends that way, now.

SLIDE – graveyard

Merciful Heaven, what are we doing here!

Tombstone I

(stage right wall is re-opened, and a large tombstone is displayed on it. But we cannot read the inscription, inscription is in UV paint. When we turn on black lights later it will glow)

SOUND (The Spirit points to the wall, and tombstone. (screech noises))

SCROOGE

Spirit, if I am to change, then this terrible ending need not be...I will not die alone and unloved...I am most grateful to you –thank you very much –I have learned my lesson and now I wish to return home.

(noticing the tombstone)

oh, merciful Heaven, what grave is this? Why have you brought me here?

SOUND (The SPIRIT points to the tombstone again screech noise)

SCROOGE

Is this the man whose funeral none will attend?

SOUND (The SPIRIT nods. Screech)

SCROOGE

Do I know this man?

SOUND (The SPIRIT points to the tombstone again, screech)

(but SCROOGE does not approach.)

SCROOGE

Spirit, this is a terrible place. I do not want to stay. Let us leave here now and in leaving it I shall not leave its lesson unlearned, trust me. Let us go!

SOUND (The SPIRIT points to the tombstone but SCROOGE still does not move. screech)

SCROOGE

I understand and I would do it if I could. But I have not the power, Spirit. I have not the power.

SOUND (The SPIRIT looks upon him.)

(Again, the SPIRIT points to the tombstone but SCROOGE still does not move.)

SCROOGE

If there is any person in the town, who feels emotion caused by this man's death, show that person to me, Spirit, I beseech you!

(CURTAIN CLOSES.

LIGHTS up

SLIDE - BLANK

Harrington Future

(in front of the curtain are CAROLINE and MR HARRINGTON, stage left)

CAROLINE

Is it good news? or bad? *(quite agitated)*

MR. HARRINGTON

Bad,

CAROLINE

We are quite ruined? *(about to cry)*

MR. HARRINGTON

No. There is hope yet, Caroline.

CAROLINE

If *he* relents, there is! Nothing is past hope, if such a miracle has happened.

MR. HARRINGTON

He is past relenting, He is dead.

CAROLINE

Then we are indeed saved. *(with glee but stops suddenly to acknowledge her sin).*

Forgive me father. *(supplication to God, and crosses herself)*

MR. HARRINGTON

Last night, I went to see him and ask for a week's delay. I thought he was trying to avoid me, but what the half drunk women told me, must have been true. He was not only very ill, but dying.

CAROLINE

To whom will our debt be transferred?

MR. HARRINGTON

I don't know. But before that time, we shall be ready with the money; and even if we are not, it would be a bad fortune indeed to end up with someone as miserly as he was. We may sleep tonight with light hearts, Caroline!

(they embrace they leave stage left)

(LIGHTS DOWN stage left up stage right

SCROOGE

Let me see some tenderness connected with a death, or that dark chamber, Spirit, which we left will be forever present to me.

(curtain opens, and

LIGHTS – normal

SLIDE – CRATCHIT HOUSE

(we see Cratchit's house. PETER is reading from the bible to the little ones)

Cratchit's Future Scene

PETER

And Jesus sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all. And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms . . . *(all the family is suddenly reminded of Tiny Tim and that he is dead, they gently sob)*

MRS CRATCHIT

(pretending it wasn't Tim she was thinking about) The color hurts my eyes,

They're better now again, it makes them weak by candlelight; and I wouldn't show weak eyes to your father when he comes home, for the world. It must be near his time.

PETER

Past it rather, But I think he has walked a little slower than he used, these last few evenings, mother.

MRS CRATCHIT

I have known him walk with *(cracking her voice and a tear)*—I have known him walk with Tiny Tim upon his shoulder, very fast indeed.

PETER

And so, have I. it was always so.

CHILD

And so, have I

MRS CRATCHIT

But he was very light to carry, and his father loved him so, that it was no trouble no trouble.

(hearing the door rattle)

There is your father at the door!

(the children rise to greet him)

MRS CRATCHIT

You went to visit to-day, then, Robert? It is Sunday.

BOB

Yes, my dear, I wish you could have gone. It would have done you good to see how green a place it is. But you'll see it often. I promised him that I would take you all there on a Sunday.

(breaking up with tears) My little, little child! My little child!

(he breaks down and sobs, and is comforted by his family)

(suddenly recovering)

BOB

I met Mr. Scrooge's nephew, today, I scarcely knew him, saw him but once a year Christmas Eve—he asked me why I was down, on which I told him.

'I am heartily sorry for it, Mr. Cratchit,' he said, 'and heartily sorry for your good wife.'

(with the air of telling a DAD joke)

By the bye, how he ever knew *that* I don't know.

MRS CRATCHIT

Knew what, my dear?

BOB

Why, that you were a good wife,

PETER

Everybody knows that!

BOB

(back to his jovial self and playing with the kids)

Very well observed, my boy! I hope they do.

‘Heartily sorry,’ he said, ‘for your good wife. If I can be of service to you in any way,’ he said, giving me his card, ‘that’s where I live. Pray come to me.’ Now, it wasn’t, for the sake of anything he might be able to do for us, so much as for his kind way, that this was quite delightful. It really seemed as if he had known our Tiny Tim and felt with us.

MRS CRATCHIT

I’m sure he’s a good soul!

BOB

You would be surer of it, my dear, if you saw and spoke to him. I shouldn’t be at all surprised—mark what I say! —if he got Peter a better situation.

MRS CRATCHIT

Only hear that, Peter,

CHILD 1

And then, Peter can be master smith and setting up for himself.

PETER

Get along with you! *(as to say humbly, that will never happen)*

CHILD 1

And then, Peter will have a house of his own, and wife to boot.!

(Peter blushes, and chases the Child a bit)

BOB

It's just as likely as not, ----- one of these days;

though there's plenty of time for that, my dear. But however, and whenever we part from one another, I am sure we shall none of us forget poor Tiny Tim—shall we?

ALL CHILDREN

Never, father!

BOB

And I know,*(breaking up again)* I know, my dears, that when we recollect how patient and how mild he was; although he was a little, little child; we shall not quarrel easily among ourselves, and forget poor Tiny Tim in doing it.

ALL CHILDREN

No, never, father!

BOB

(pulling himself together to be an example to his wife and children) I am very happy; I am very, very happy!

(Mrs. Cratchit embraces him, all children hug and embrace him)

(CURTAIN CLOSES)

LIGHTS – low

SLIDE - graveyard

Tombstone II

SCROOGE

Spirit something informs me that our parting moment is at hand. I know it, but I know not how. Tell me what man that was upon the stone?

SOUND (the spirit moves stage right and turns and points toward the curtain. screech)

SCROOGE

Before I draw nearer to that stone to which you point, answer me one question. Are these the shadows of the things that Will be, or are they shadows of things that May be, only?

SOUND (spirit points and screech)

SCROOGE

Men's courses will foreshadow certain ends, to which, --- if persevered in ---, they must lead but if the courses be departed from, the ends will change. Say it is thus with what you show me!

(spirit points and screech)

SOUND . Lightning, **and thunder**,

LIGHTS – LOW with UV light on

(**CURTAIN OPENS** We see Ebenezer's name on the stone (either by change of stone or by UV light))

SCROOGE

(falls to his knees) Am *I* that man whom the thieves discussed?

SOUND (the spirit points and screech)

SCROOGE

No, Spirit! Oh no, no!

SOUND (the spirit points and screech)

SCROOGE

Spirit! Hear me! I am not the man I was. I will not be the man I must have been but for this intercourse. Why show me this, if I am past all hope!

SOUND (spirit points hand begins to drop a little and screech)

(**CURTAIN CLOSES**)

SLIDE- BLACK

LIGHTS – Front,

SCROOGE

Good Spirit, your nature intercedes for me, and pities me. Assure me that I yet may change these shadows you have shown me, by an altered life!

SOUND (spirit drops his hand and screech)

SCROOGE

I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach. Oh, tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone!

LIGHTS OUT)

Act V.

(CURTAIN OPENS)

Spirit Battle Scene

(continuing to speak in the dark. As the curtains open, he moves to his bed. I would like it to be as dark as possible, may have to use glow tape to guide Scrooge to the bed) (his oppressions quickly move and replace his chains)

SCROOGE

I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future! The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. Oh Jacob Marley! Heaven, and the Christmas Time be praised for this! I say it on my knees, old Jacob; on my knees!

(LIGHTS ON. Scrooge is kneeling in his bed)

SLIDE - London

they are still here, all my things. They are here—I am here—the shadows of the things that would have been, may be dispelled. They will be. I know they will!

SCROOGE

I don't know what to do! *(laughing and crying in the same breath);*

(a battle ensues. Scrooge aware of his oppressions begins a choreographed battle attempting to break free of their bondage)

(Scrooge issues the following words as a mantra over and over until the battle ceases and he is free)

.....

I WILL honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach.

First Time Through. Be gone from me Apathy, may I no longer succumb to your ichor.

Second Time Through. Be gone from me Greed, may I give freely, and without hesitation.

.....

(after the battle is over, the chains are removed from his garments, and the oppressions have fled)

SCROOGE

I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a schoolboy. I am as giddy as a drunken man. A merry Christmas to everybody! A happy New Year to all the world.

I don't know what day of the month it is! I don't know how long I've been among the Spirits. I don't know anything. I'm quite a baby. Never mind. I don't care. I'd rather be a baby.

Hallo! Whoop! Hallo here!

Walls turn and Scrooge exits the door, and the wall is turned sideways.

(A boy enters stage right)

Turkey Scene

SCROOGE

What's to-day!

BOY

Eh?

SCROOGE

What's to-day, my fine fellow?

BOY

To-day! Why, Christmas Day. *(boy continues toward stage left slowly, and a bit apprehensive)*

SCROOGE

It's Christmas Day! 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. Hallo, my fine fellow!

BOY

Hallo!

SCROOGE

Do you know the Poulterer's, in the next street but one, at the corner?

BOY

I should hope so,

SCROOGE

An intelligent boy! A remarkable boy! Do you know whether they've sold the prize Turkey that was hanging up there? —Not the little prize Turkey the big one?

BOY

What, the one as big as me?

SCROOGE

What a delightful boy! It's a pleasure to talk to him. Yes, my buck!

BOY

It's hanging there now,

SCROOGE

Is it? ----- Go and buy it.

BOY

You're Crazy!

SCROOGE

No, no, I am in earnest. Go and buy it, and tell 'em to bring it here, that I may give them the direction where to take it. Come back with the man, and I'll give you a shilling. Come back with him in less than five minutes and I'll give you half-a-crown!

(the boy runs back towards stage right)

SCROOGE

(Scrooge steps into the door to gather his coat and hat, mutter as he looks and gets dressed. Then finally comes out the door)

I'll send it to Bob Cratchit's! He sha'n't know who sends it. It's twice the size of Tiny Tim. No Comedian ever made such a joke as sending it to Bob's will be!

(boy and Poulterer return with very large turkey)

SCROOGE

Here's the Turkey! Hallo! Whoop! How are you! Merry Christmas!

POULTERER

Is ye the one that calls for this 'ere Turkey? This t'an no jest now tis it?

SCROOGE

A Jest? why no sir, Happy Christmas to you sir. Please deliver this Turkey to one Bob Cratchit in Camden Town, and keep it anonymous

POULTERER

All the way to Camden Town on foot, carrying this 'ere large turkey, have ye gone Barmy? Why at'd take the 'ole day!

SCROOGE

Why, it's impossible to carry that to Camden Town, you must have a cab.

(Scrooge hands the boy his money and a large sum to the Poulterer)

POULTERER

Thank yee, Thank yee sir, and a Merry Christmas!! *(they exit stage left)*

(CURTAIN CLOSES.

Reclamation Scene

(In front of curtain Harrington comes from stage left)

SCROOGE

Mr. Harrington?

MR HARRINGTON

Mr. Scrooge? Oh Mr. Scrooge, I'm making every endeavor to get that payment sir, please sir just a few more weeks, I'm am looking for a new position sir, and I think I have one....

SCROOGE

Bill, my good man. Merry Christmas to ye! Bill no worry, why don't we extend that payment due by a few weeks. ----- ah interest free. *(cringes a little as he says it)*

MR HARRINGTON

Mr. Scrooge? Are you all right sir? You don't seem yourself

SCROOGE

Furthermore, please come see me tomorrow, I might be able to help you find a new position

MR HARRINGTON

(uncertain) ah yes Mr. Scrooge. *(exists stage right bewildered)*

(as he starts to go stage left, enters Bertram and Applegate)

SCROOGE

My dear gentlemen, How do you do? I hope you succeeded yesterday. It was very kind of you. A merry Christmas to you, sir!

MR BERTRAM and MR APPLGATE

Mr. Scrooge?

SCROOGE

Yes, that is my name, and I fear it may not be pleasant to you. Allow me to ask your pardon. And will you have the goodness— *(Scrooge whispers in his ear).*

MR BERTRAM

Lord bless me!

MR APPLGATE

My dear Mr. Scrooge, are you serious?

SCROOGE

If you please, Not a farthing less. A great many back-payments are included in it, I assure you. Will you do me that favor?

MR APPLGATE

My dear sir, I don't know what to say to such magnanimous a —

SCROOGE

Don't say anything, please, Come and see me. Will you come and see me?

MR BERTRAM

We will! *(and they begin to exit stage right)*

SCROOGE

Thank'ee, I am much obliged to you. I thank you fifty times. Bless you!

(Scrooge is now full at stage left).

CURTAIN OPENS. *Scrooge crosses to stage right to get to the door)*

Fred's House 2 Scene

SLIDE- Fred's House

(we see Fred's house again, with the wall slightly askew so we can see the door)

SCROOGE

(knocks on the door. A young servant answers [could be same girl as MARTHA])

Is your master at home, my dear?

SERVANT

Yes, sir.

SCROOGE

Where is he, my love?

SERVANT

He's in the dining-room, sir, along with mistress. I'll show you, if you please.

SCROOGE

Thank'ee. He knows me, I'll go in my dear. *(walls are straightened)*

SCROOGE

Fred!

FRED

(Startled) Why bless my soul! who's this?

SCROOGE

It's I. Your uncle Scrooge. I have come to dinner. Will you let me in, Fred?

FRED

(coming to himself)

Let you in! It is a delight to have you uncle. Everyone, this is my Uncle Ebenezer. This is My wife., Mr. Topper, and my wife's sister

(shaking of hands and bows are exchanged)

WIFE

Uncle Scrooge we are delighted that you came. I hope you are staying for dinner.

SCROOGE

And Games? Will there be Games?

WIFE

Why yes, I expect that there will be

SCROOGE

Why yes, I used to enjoy playing Blind Man's Bluff, but am content to watch. But I certainly enjoy a good game of Simile or, *(with a questioning tone)* Yes and No?

CURTAIN CLOSES)

SLIDE – BLANK

LIGHTS - Front

The Final Test

NARRATOR 1

Scrooge had an excellent time and got to know his nephew and wife.

NARRATOR 2

So you are saying he came full circle? Now I get your reference

NARRATOR 1

Scrooge kept the spirit of Christmas all the day long.

NARRATOR 2

Throughout the day, no matter how tired, He uttered a jovial Happy Christmas to passersby

NARRATOR 1

Some of those, who had known him, were quite surprised at his change in demeanor.

NARRATOR 2

But his real test was yet to come

NARRATOR 1

because it is easy for a monk to remain holy when on a mountain top alone. But what would happen when exposed to the avarice and greed of the counting house?

NARRATOR 2

But he was early at the office next morning. Oh, he was certainly eagerly early to be there. If he could only be there first, and catch Bob Cratchit coming late! That was the thing he had set his heart upon.

(CURTAIN OPENS)

LIGHTS – up

SLIDE – speed up clock

SOUND – clock striking 15 min

(Scrooge's countenance drops. A frown begins to appear.)

Nearby we see one of the possessing spirits standing by)

(Bob enters)

SLIDE – office

SCROOGE

Mr. Cratchit! What do you mean by coming here at this time of day?

BOB

I am very sorry, sir, I *am* behind my time.

SCROOGE

You are? Yes. I think you are. Step this way, sir, if you please.

BOB

It's only once a year, sir, It shall not be repeated. I was making rather merry yesterday, sir. There was quite an unexpected large Turkey, and we were so grateful

SCROOGE

Now, I'll tell you what, my friend, I am not going to stand this sort of thing any longer. And therefore, --- *(suddenly remembering the GHOSTS, and his promise to keep Christmas, the possessing spirit is standing close by with a chain ready)* -- and therefore I am about to raise your salary!
(Spirit backs off again, Bob trembles, thinking Scrooge to be crazy).

SCROOGE

A merry Christmas, Bob! A merrier Christmas, Bob, my good fellow, than I have given you, for many a year! I'll raise your salary, and endeavor to assist your struggling family, and we will discuss your affairs this very afternoon, over a Christmas bowl of smoking bishop, Bob! Make up the fires and buy another coalscuttle before you dot another 'i', Bob Cratchit!

(entire cast minus GHOSTS, comes forward onto the stage as the NARRATORS finish up)

Finale

LIGHTS – Down

SLIDE – Christmas tree

NARRATOR 2

Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all, and infinitely more; and to Tiny Tim, who did not die, he was a second father.

NARRATOR 1

He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough, in the good old world.

NARRATOR 2

He had no further intercourse with Spirits, but lived upon the Total Abstinence Principle, ever afterwards; and it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge.

NARRATOR 1

And so, our song of joy ends. Our Christmas Carol. And as Tiny Tim observed,

TINY TIM

God bless Us, Everyone!

-END-

LIGHTS – Down

LIGHTS up Start bows.

Props:

Chains,

Weights with various names on them: Grain Swindle, Belle,



various sizes some 6 inches tall, some 3 inches

Brooms,

Packages,

Feather quill and ink blotter, old fashion looking paper pad

Food for party, small turkey, large turkey, Cratchit pudding, poor man plates and fake eating ware

Poorman glasses/mugs

Middle class Glasses for toasting (10)

Bundles for the thieves, including all stuff in the bundles.

Bed curtains (2 copies, 1 for bed, 1 for thief scene)

Burlap sacks for the kids to use as luggage

Various books for Boy Scrooge to read

Blindfold for Boy Scrooge

Letters from Fan,

Keys

Revision: 2021-11-06

Set Dressing:

Christmas decorations

Christmas Tree

Throne

Clock on wall

Tables

Arm Chair

Bed to hang curtains on

Sign: Scrooge and Marley

8 chairs

1 bench

Tombstone – with Scrooge name in uv paint