

WHS Junior
Drama
presents...

A Christmas Carol



'A Christmas Carol' - A Victorian Ghost Story



The Author

Charles Dickens wrote his masterpiece, '*A Christmas Carol*' in 1843. His father was a humble clerk for the Navy, but upon being thrown into debtors' prison, young Charles was sent to work in a factory aged 12 to support the family. As a result, Dickens became very passionate in his writing, determined to depict a true view of the misery of the lives of hundreds of thousands of children in England.

Synopsis

The story explores the life of hard-hearted business man and employer, Ebenezer Scrooge. It begins in his freezing offices on Christmas Eve with his Christmas-loving, under-paid and over-worked clerk, Bob Cratchit. When his nephew, Fred, the only son of his late sister Fan, makes his yearly call to invite Scrooge to Christmas dinner with his friends and wife, Scrooge makes his usual refusal.

As Scrooge is guided by supernatural powers to face the joys and tragedies of his past, the selfish atrocities of his present, and the terrible pathway to his future, he finally realises the time to change and to reach out to his fellow mankind is now...or never.

This morality tale contains the themes of redemption and rebirth and reminds us, even in 2019, of the importance of empathy, goodwill, and generosity toward all humans, especially the economically disadvantaged.

Director's Note

The casting process for this production began back in June with over 50 students auditioning for roles in 'A Christmas Carol'. From the outset, I was determined that this production would offer the audience, above all, an opportunity to enter the Christmas season with a reminder of a true calling to joy and a treasuring of shared humanity in the spirit of this festival. Just as Dickens demonstrates through the journey and epiphany of Scrooge, we too should be reminded that our pasts do not define us, but today we choose to be our selves of tomorrow.



The cast has toiled and committed over the past term, engaging in workshops, one-to-one, small group and full-cast rehearsals. They have supported each other through both line-learning and stage blocking; they have been patient in the face of long arduous rehearsals. For all of their hard work I commend and thank them.

The shared work of co-director, Jenny Thompson, has been invaluable, and her input has been creative and always dependable. I would also particularly like to highlight the commitment and organisation of three outstanding students; Owen McClure and Matthew Taylor in rehearsal support and stage management, and Isaac McIlwrath in technical research and support. Without such mature and devoted WHS students, a school production could never happen.

I trust you will forgive any hiccups in this junior production, and hope that you will leave the show uplifted and ready to embark upon a season of generosity and joy.

Moyra Richardson (English Department)



Cast List (in order of appearance)

Scrooge
Bob Cratchit
Fred
Charity Worker 1
Charity Worker 2
Carol singing Girl
Ghost of Marley
Christmas Past
Christmas Present
Young Ebenezer
Fan
Mr Fezziwig
Mrs Fezziwig
Belle
Elizabeth
Party Guest 1
Party Guest 2
Party Guest 3
Emily Cratchit
Tiny Tim
Martha
Ignorance
Want
Christmas Future
Merchant 1
Merchant 2
Merchant 3
Old Joe
Mary
Delivery Child
Carol Singers

Oliver Heath
Josh Kamalarajah
Katie Hunter
Isobel Lamont
Victoria Shannon
Ellen Parker
Jan Faulkner
Sienna Ferguson
Madison McAfee
Callan Stewart
Niamh Hughes
Evie Noble
Jodie Fletcher
Ellie Rodgers
Gracie Millar
Mehgan Humphries
Ben Young
Rebecca Cardwell
Anna Hedley
Max Kamalarajah
Megan Baxter
Eva Stewart
Emma Watters
Isobel Lamont
Mischa Hollway
Secorra Fell
Ryan Boland
Aneisha Foyle
Caitlin Dunn
Aimee Poole
Georgia Nicholls
Erin Bailey
Grace Hamilton
Aisling Gardiner
Jack Cranston
James Falconer
Ben Parker



Stage Make-up Masterclass



In October we were fortunate to host a Drama student from QUB, Natasha Manchester, as she worked with a group of 10 students in a stage make-up masterclass.



She taught basic skills in contouring, highlighting

and ageing actors for stage lights. She also spent some time in teaching students how to create wounds and other prosthetic effects with latex. Natasha has also supported the rehearsal process by giving extra acting support to students. We wish her very well in her next step of studying for an English and Drama PGCE. She will be an asset to the profession.



Make-Up Team

Manager: Natasha Manchester
Abby Conroy
Izzy Boomer
Sarah Davey
Sophie McMurray
Benjamin Warwick

Ruth Stewart
Erin Bailey
Georgia Nicholls
Molly Thompson
Andrea Moore

Meet the Cast

Oliver Heath: Scrooge

"I am the most senior member of the cast belonging to a number of drama groups including Lisnagarvey Youth Society. I am more familiar with musical theatre but am really excited to take on my first role in a play. I hope I will be able to continue my love of theatre into later life as my ambition is to become a composer and musical director."



Josh Kamalarajah: Bob Cratchit

"I love acting and drama and jumped at the chance of being involved in the classic festive tale of *A Christmas Carol*. Bob represents the virtues of Christmas and is the perfect antidote to miserly Scrooge. Playing Bob is an opportunity to display a wide range of moods from humorous to heartbreaking and I will miss Mr Bob Cratchit when the play is over."

Max Kamalarajah: Tiny Tim

"I once had a starring role as a very sarcastic mirror in *Snow White and the Eight Dwarfs* ...yes, there really was an eighth dwarf! In a way, Tiny Tim is like a mirror as he is fragile and easily shattered but, as mirrors never lie, he also reflects the light and goodness of his kind and honest personality managing to brighten the lives of all. I got to play the good guy!"



Katie Hunter: Nephew Fred

"I auditioned for *A Christmas Carol* because drama is something I am passionate about and have been involved in for a number of years. My character, Scrooge's nephew Fred, is kind-hearted, good-spirited and gregarious making him a fun character to play."

Jan Faulkner: Jacob Marley's Ghost

"I auditioned because I was suddenly and unexpectedly called on the phone by the Ghost of Christmas Future, inviting me to meet her in the Drama department. I have performed in musicals such as *Oliver*, *Annie* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. I like that my character cares about Scrooge's future; he has an angry tone and takes offence easily."



Sienna Ferguson: Ghost of Christmas Past

"I auditioned because I thought it would be a great experience both to be in the play and to make new friends with similar interests to me. I was very excited to get a call back and then find out I had such a big role in the play. The role is perfect for me as the ghost is very mischievous and so am I!"

Madison McAfee: Ghost of Christmas Present

"I decided to audition for *A Christmas Carol* because the teachers were so enthusiastic about it and I wanted to learn more about acting and to challenge myself. My function in the play's storyline as the Ghost of Christmas Present is to act as a challenge to Scrooge and I have really enjoyed this role."



Isobel Lamont: Ghost of Christmas Future (and Charity Worker 1)

"In *A Christmas Carol* I'm very privileged to have two parts, Charity Worker and Ghost of Christmas Future. I decided to audition for our school play because I love acting, I adore being involved in plays and I have experienced a childhood full of shows and acting."

Stage Crew

Owen McClure *Manager*

Matthew Taylor *Assistant
Manager*

Kacie Hull

Grace Sheridan

Max Craney

Odhran Cole

Rhianna Fisher

Aimee Savage

Anna Parker

Claire McRoberts

Programme Support

Heather Gracey

David Finney

Ruth Foster

Taylor Walker

Costume Crew

Rachel Clarke *Manager*

Marie Cherry

Grace Murray

Grace Patterson

Rebekah Coates

Amy Duncan

Technical support

The technical preparations for this production have been considerable. We thank **David Lamont** for his generous and professional support. I, in particular, as a first time director, would like to thank him for all of his advice and willing sharing of experience.

Sourcing of Digital backdrops and sound effects (SFX) along with voice recording and pre-filming fell to the capable hands of Isaac McIlwrath with the support of Eleanor Gracie and Reuben Parks.

The green screen was utilised to insert backdrops behind characters in order to create the trailer and for the voice-recordings we employed the Music Department recording studio.

The Junior Film Club, supervised by Mrs Lucas, also visited rehearsals to photograph our stars and film a few interviews with cast members.

[Interview1](#)

[Interview2](#)

Filming Crew

Shannon Elliott

Emma Kenny

Abi Cleland

Props Design

Thanks in part to a generous gift from the PTA, the school has recently purchased a back stage projector for the use of the Grammar school and the Preparatory Department. This has allowed backstage projection of some sets.

There has, however, been a considerable amount of work involved in prop design. The bed and door were constructed by Steven Calvert from the Technology Department and painted by fantastic Year 12 volunteers.

Marley's chains were constructed by Margaret McPolin from the Art Department, and the signs and small turkey designed and made by Sarah Davey in Year 13. The piece de resistance of props has to be the world's largest turkey... a labour of love involving chicken wire, foam filler, more foam filler, painting and varnishing. This task was undertaken mainly by Sophie McMurray in Year 13, photographed below inside the belly of the beast!

Thank you to all who have assisted on the technical side of the play preparations. Your time and skills are invaluable and gratefully received.

Prop Design Team

Stephen Calvert
Margaret McPolin

Sophie McMurray
Sarah Davey

Helen Black



Musical Team



As ever, many thanks are due to Chelsea Pascoe and David Falconer from the Music Department, for their commitment and creativity; thanks also to the various carol singers and musicians in this evening's performance for sharing their gifts to add a little Christmas cheer!

Publicity and Ticket Sales

Sincere thanks to Gillian Weir and David Cleland.

Front of House Team

Neil Armstrong
Susan Terris
Chris Frazer
Nyesha Wyatt
Donal Wright
Eden Walker
Annabelle Wong
Judah Trimble

Evie Stewart
Charlie Davidson
Eden Corken
Sarah Crookshanks
Lucy Crawford
Erin Cooke
Joel Davidson
Eliza McGonigle

Katie McKeown
Rebecca McCrea
Olivia McMahon
Lucy McCluskey
Mia Mason
Anna McIlroy
Matthew Mullen

[Click to view trailer](#)



We hope that you have been moved by this timeless tale of the meaning of the Christmas season. We'd be delighted if you would support us at the end of the show as we collect for the Salvation Army Appeal to provide Christmas dinner for the elderly and the homeless.

Cast photos

