

# AUDITION INFORMATION



## A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Adapted by Patrick Barlow  
Directed by Brian Davis

Audition Dates: Oct 10 & 11, 2021  
Performance Dates: Dec 10-19, 2021

## WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for a Theatre Tallahassee production!

If you've auditioned for us before, welcome back!

If this is your first time auditioning at Theatre Tallahassee, we're thrilled to have you! We've been around now for 70 years, and we wouldn't have lasted so long without new people, new talent, and new voices.

Whether you're a veteran performer who just moved to town or you've never been on stage before but really want to try, we'd like to encourage you to audition for shows at Theatre Tallahassee.

We're aware that auditioning can be an overwhelming experience, even if you've done it a hundred times before. We've put this information booklet together for you to help you learn a little more about the play, the characters you will be reading for, and to give you some idea of what to expect during auditions.

Please read over the character list and director's comments, and pay attention to any specific audition requirements for this show. Then review any script sides provided. You will also need to fill out and submit an audition form.

Break a leg!

## MAINSTAGE SEASON

This production is part of our Mainstage Season of shows. Theatre Tallahassee's Mainstage auditorium seats up to 271 audience members a night. Shows run for three weekends, with opening night on a Thursday, and the following weekends running Friday through Sunday. The second Saturday is a double show day, with both a matinee and evening performance. Additional shows may be added depending on ticket sales, or benefit performances.

## ABOUT OUR AUDITIONS

**Theatre Tallahassee auditions are open, and we want to encourage diversity** – we try our best to discourage directors from pre-casting roles. And unless specified in the character list, most roles are open to all races and ethnicities.

**Know what you're auditioning for.** Do a little research on the play and characters. Audition sides are included in this packet, as well as a character breakdown to give you some idea of which roles you'd like to audition for.

**Audition requirements and formats may vary from show to show.** Some directors prefer “closed” auditions where actors wait in a separate room until called. Some like to have every actor in the room. Some prefer monologues, or cold readings, or need you to sing. This audition packet should give you an idea of what you can expect.

**We know that it can be disappointing not to get a part.** We always have more people audition than we have roles for, and there are many factors that directors have to weigh when casting. We encourage you to audition often. Just because you weren't right for one role, doesn't mean that you won't be perfect for another.

We look forward to seeing you on stage. Break a leg!

## COVID CHANGES

At this time, Theatre Tallahassee is operating with limited seating capacity to allow for some social distancing in our audiences. Audience members are required to wear a mask while in the building. We are also following the current CDC guidelines for COVID safety as much as we are able.

Theatre Tallahassee requires all actors, crew, and staff to be fully vaccinated at least 14 days prior to the first in-person rehearsal. Other precautions such as temperature checks, and mask-wearing plus testing are possible, pending the environment at the time that rehearsal commences.

A reminder: as a non-profit, community theatre, we are unable to provide payment for actors, and we understand that the risks of an unmasked performance at this time may be too high for some volunteer actors, despite all the precautions we will be taking to minimize that risk. Please consider this before auditioning.



## THE PLAY

It's the classic tale of Christmas with a fresh and clever twist. 5 actors playing all the parts and even sometimes the scenery. This re-imagining brings exciting new life into the story that we all know.

Patrick Barlow, writer of the Broadway and West End hit *The 39 Steps*, has retold Charles Dickens' holiday classic, *A Christmas Carol*. This thrilling adaptation uses only five actors to bring some of Dickens' most beloved characters to life. From Scrooge and Tiny Tim to Bob Cratchit and Mrs. Fezziwig, Barlow's *A Christmas Carol* uses nothing more than some simple props, fresh physicality, and the power of imagination to convey this timeless story of redemption. Witness Ebenezer Scrooge's transformation from a stingy miser to a man who generously celebrates the spirit of the season all year long, in this highly theatrical adaptation.

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

### BRIAN DAVIS

Brian Davis is the Artistic Director of Theatre Tallahassee, most recently he directed *Leading Ladies* (June 2019), *A Christmas Carol* (December 2018, 2019). Prior to that directing credits include *Constellations*, *Private Lives*, *White Christmas* 2014/2015, *One Man, Two Guvnors*, and *Fox on the Fairway*.



## IMPORTANT DATES

Actors must be able to commit to all performance dates & tech/dress rehearsals.

Actors must also be able to do virtual rehearsals via Zoom or similar app, and be willing and able to wear masks for in-person rehearsals, and take COVID tests as required.

### ○ AUDITIONS

Sun, Oct 10 at 7pm

Mon, Oct 11 at 7pm

Please see next page for Audition info

**Tues, Oct 12**

Call backs, by director invitation only

### ■ REHEARSAL PERIOD

Rehearsals are currently scheduled Mon-Fri (7pm-9:30pm). Final schedule may vary.

Second week of rehearsal (Oct 25-29) will be given to cast to work on script memorization.

No rehearsals Oct 28-29, Nov 5, 12, 25, 26, or Dec 3.

### ■ TECH WEEK/DRESS NOV 29 - DEC 9

Tech runs & dress rehearsals.

### ○ PERFORMANCES\*

DEC 10-12

DEC 17-19

\*There is a possibility of added show dates on Dec 9 & 16.

Fri, Sat shows at 8pm. Sun matinees at 2pm. Call times are usually 1.5 hours before curtain.

## OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
						4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



## CHARACTERS

All roles except Scrooge will be cast in multiple (up to a dozen) roles in the show. Scrooge is the only character who does not change.

All additional roles will be asked to perform a variety of ages and European accents, using quick costume changes and physicality to represent each unique role.

**NOTE:** The three male actors (One, Three, & Five) are returning from the 2019 Production of this show.

### ACTOR THREE (F)

- Mrs Lack - cockney - 40
- Lavinia Bentham - standard - 35
- Mrs Grimes - Northern English - 60
- Fanny - standard - 18
- Isabella - Sweet spoken Irish - 18-28
- Spirit of Christmas Present - cockney/Music Hall/Scottish/German/ various
- Frederick's Housemaid - cockney - 30
- Various narrators, carol singers, debtors, spirits, skaters, ghostly helpers etc.

### ACTOR FOUR (F)

- Hermione Bentham - standard - 35
- Spirit of Christmas Past - standard
- Constance - standard - 30
- Mrs. Cratchit - cockney - 40
- Scrooge's mother - standard - 40
- Various narrators, carol singers, debtors, spirits, skaters, ghostly helpers etc.



## AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

Auditions will consist of readings from the sides provided in this audition packet. Sides should NOT be memorized.

Aside from the role of Scrooge, each actor in this show will need to be able to play multiple characters of various ages and accents (Mostly British: Cockney, standard, Received Pronunciation, Irish, Scottish). Ability to do character acting, accents and improv will be very helpful with this show and audition process.

If you need special accommodations for auditions (i.e. uncomfortable with in-person auditions due to Covid, unable to attend audition dates, disability accommodations, etc. ), please contact the director, Brian Davis, at [brian@theatretallahassee.org](mailto:brian@theatretallahassee.org)

### Download and fill out an Audition Form ahead of time:

[Audition Form \(Word Format\)](#)

[Audition Form \(PDF Format\)](#)

Forms can also be accessed by visiting [TheatreTallahassee.org/Auditions](http://TheatreTallahassee.org/Auditions)



**SIDE 1**  
**Scrooge**  
**Ghost/Past**

**SCROOGE.** Cratchit! The money Cratchit!! The box Cratchit! Unlock the box Cratchit! CRATCHIIIIIT!

*(ACTOR 2 does not reply.)*

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST.** He cannot hear thee sir. He is beyond this realm sir.

*(The GHOST guides SCROOGE away.)*

We need to journey a while longer sir, before we can unlock the box sir.

**SCROOGE.** What!!? What journey? Journey where sir?

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST.** Madam.

**SCROOGE.** Madam!!

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST.** To another Christmas Mr. Scrooge. A merry Christmas sir.

**SCROOGE.** Merry Christmas!! Merry! Spirit!! Do you know nothing about me!!?

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST.** I'm learning, sir.

**SCROOGE.** Christmas is not merry! It can never be merry! It is anathema to me spirit! I loathe, hate and detest Christmas!

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST.** So we understand, sir.

**SCROOGE.** Good !!

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST.** Still it must be undergone. If we are to find the grail sir.

**SCROOGE.** The what?

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST.** Grail sir. Holy Grail.





**SIDE 2**  
**Scrooge**  
**Ghost/Present**

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** Now where was we darlin'? Ah yes! Sorry I'm late dear. Still better late than never that's what I say! Gor blimey! You look a bit peaky! Got out of bed the wrong side darlin'?

**SCROOGE.** I haven't been to bed.

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** Oh no! That's right. So you ain't darlin'! You must be EX-HAUSTED! Betcha feel like a lovely long sleep!

**SCROOGE.** Well actually I –

*(The SCRATCH BAND burst into: JOY TO THE WORLD. Jollier, faster, louder.)*

**SCROOGE.** AGGGGGHHHHH!

*(The SCRATCH BAND cuts.)*

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** Anyway - *(Mrs. Doubtfire Scottish)* - what about all that then? Oooo Mr. Scrooooooge!! All them 'Christmases Past' darlin'? Spooky I'd say! *(Cockney again)* Still all long gone and forgotten now, thank goodness. *(Wicked Witch of the West. Peers at him.)* Or are they? *(witchy cackle.)* Anyway – *(Cockney)* – my turn now. Guess who I am darlin'?

**SCROOGE.** I've absolutely no –

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** The Spirit of Christmas Present dear! Of course! Ready darlin'?

**SCROOGE.** No I am not! In fact I should like to make it quite clear –

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** *(Bronx accent)* Cut the gab, nightcap man, or you'll be swimmin' wid da fishies!

**SCROOGE.** What!!!?

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** *(Cockney)* You do what I say now, darlin'!

**SCROOGE.** Absolutely not! I most –

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** *(mimicking earlier SCROOGE)* Did you not hear me sir? I think thine ears are sealed, sir! *(She boxes his ears.)*

**SCROOGE.** Ow!!! *(She takes his hand. Becomes a Russian fortune-teller.)*

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** O Scrooge, Scrooge, come with mee on a dark and dangerous journey to thine present Scrooge, so we can see how all them things thou didst in 'the then' has led to all them things thou doest in 'the now'. Or 'the present'. So to speak. Geddit?



**SIDE 3**  
**Scrooge**  
**Ghost/Present**

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** Oh look dear! The snowy rooftops of old London town.

**SCROOGE.** *(eyes tight shut)* Agggghhh!

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** Like a Christmas card ain't it darlin'? *(hoity toity)* Get many cards this year dear? Hardly deluged I should imagine! *(laughs loudly)* Ha ha ha ha! Ho ho ho ho! *(calls to the audience, tossing glitter)* Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas everyone!

*(If the audience wave back, SCROOGE doesn't see. His eyes are firmly shut as he clings on. They bounce into an air pocket.)*

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** Whoops!

**SCROOGE.** *(clinging on)* Spirit!!!

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** Always a bit bumpy over Kentish Town. *(gasps)* But LOOK dadin '! Wait! Is it!? Yes! No! It IS! No! Is it?

*(SCROOGE can bear it no more. Peeks one eye.)*

**SCROOGE.** What!? What!??

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** Is that not your nephew's house dear?

**SCROOGE.** Nephew? Frederick? Which is Frederick's house?

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** The one with the lovely warm glow in the window dear. And the lovely twinklin' tree with all the presents under it. That one there dear.

*(SCROOGE gazes intrigued. He tries to see where she's looking.)*

No not that one there dear, this one 'ere dear. Ah! But then of course you would not know it darlin'. Never havin' been there. There again you have no wish to go there do you darlin' ? Invitin' you to Christmas once a year! A blessed nuisance if ever there was one, ain't it dear?

**SCROOGE.** It's intolerable!

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** Don't look at it dear.

**SCROOGE.** I won't!

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** Oh well alright then! Just this once! If you insist. Just a tiny glimpse! Seein' as it's Christmas!



## SIDE 4

Scrooge  
Frederick  
Constance  
Ghost/Present

**CONSTANCE.** Your turn now.

**FREDERICK.** My turn. *(He thinks.)*

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** Who can that lovely lady be sir?

**SCROOGE.** No idea.

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** Course you do dear. That's Frederick's wife silly! Constance. But then you've never met her of course have you dear? My mistake dear. Sorry dear.

**FREDERICK** Right. Got one.

**CONSTANCE.** Is he ... a man?

**FREDERICK** He is a man.

**CONSTANCE.** A young man?

**FREDERICK** I wouldn't say a young man.

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** What on earth can they be talking about darlin'?

**SCROOGE.** They' re playing a game.

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** What? A Christmas parlour game dear? Sorry – *(mimics SCROOGE)* – pathetic paltry Christmas parlour game dear?

**SCROOGE.** Who Am I?

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** *(looks at him)* Sorry dear?

**SCROOGE.** The name of the game is Who Am I? Something like that. I forget now.

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** Right.

**CONSTANCE.** A nice man?

**FREDERICK.** No. I wouldn 't say – a nice man .

**CONSTANCE.** A nasty man then?

**FREDERICK.** You could say nasty.

**CONSTANCE.** How nasty? Really nasty?

**FREDERICK** Really nasty!

**CONSTANCE.** Really really nasty?

**FREDERICK** Really really nasty!

**SCROOGE.** Who sir who!!!???

**CONSTANCE.** Got it!

**FREDERICK.** Who then?

**SCROOGE.** Who? Who!!?

**CONSTANCE.** Uncle Scrooge of course!

**FREDERICK** Uncle Scrooge! Uncle Scrooge!

**SCROOGE.** Me?

Sides do NOT need to  
be memorized.



## SIDE 5

### Scrooge Ghost/Present

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** Kennington Common dear.

**SCROOGE.** Kennington Common!?? Kennington - (*GASPS again*) There's thousands! Thousands and thousands of - (*nearly falls*) Agggh! Look at them all! WHO ARE THEY!?

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** Just the homeless, that's all it is darlin'. Them as 'as nothin' sir. No work, no homes, just 'emselves sir. From all over Britain they've come. To seek the rights that is theirs sir.

**SCROOGE.** (*shouts down at the crowd*) Layabouts! Criminals! Vagabonds! Who do they think they are?

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** The People is who they are dear. Not layabouts or criminals or vagabonds. Or wastrels as Parliament and the newspapers would have us believe. But orderly and sober and peaceable sir. Singin' at the city gates. 'Ti! they're heard darlin'.

**SCROOGE.** (*covering his ears*) Well I can't hear them! They should listen to the people governing, that's what the 'People' should do!

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** I'd say their faith in the people governin' – i.e. the Government – is on the whole infinitesimal sir. Whilst their faith in the people bein' governed – i.e. themselves – i.e. the People sir – is on the whole illimitable sir.

**SCROOGE.** The People!?! The People!?! This is about me isn't it? This journey you've forced me on! Not about 'The People'! About me.!

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.** Quite right darlin'! My mistake. Sorry! All about you darlin'.



## SIDE 6

### Young Scrooge Isabella

**YOUNG SCROOGE.** What time have I for Christmas! I have to work! I have my customers to see to! My books to be balanced! I do it for us Belle!

**ISABELLA.** We were one beating heart, Ebenezer. One. And full of joy. But now we are two and full of misery. How often and how keenly I have thought of this through the lonely hours of night I will not say to you. It is enough that I have thought of it and do think of it, and now — release you.

**YOUNG SCROOGE.** Release me?! YOu cannot release me!

**ISABELLA.** So leave your counting and your ledgers and your figures and your books and your MONEY! And come with me. For ever. With nothing! Just us!

*(Young Scrooge stares at her. An agony of indecision.)*

You cannot, can you?

*(Still YOUNG SCROOGE says nothing. SCROOGE watches spellbound.)*

Ebenezer?

*(Still nothing.)*

It is said if a man follows not the true calling of his soul, his soul will turn black and bad. It will wither and die. I hope you are following your soul's true calling Ebenezer. And that your soul doth thrive. May you be happy in the life you choose sir.

*(ISABELLA turns and leaves. Both SCROOGES watch her go.)*



**SIDE 7**  
**Scrooge**  
**Ghost/Past**

(SCROOGE freezes. He scrabbles for his candle, fumbles to light it, holds it out, peers into the darkness. A face [GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST] appears behind him. Pale, immobile, unsmiling. SCROOGE turns. The face remains behind him. He turns back. The face is in front of him. The face is androgynous. Very quiet and still. SCROOGE shrieks.)

**SCROOGE.** Who are you!!?

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST.** I am the Ghost of Christmas Past.

**SCROOGE.** Christmas what?

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST.** Past.

**SCROOGE.** Christmas past! What is that to me?

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST.** 'Tis the key to thee sir.

**SCROOGE.** I have all the keys I need thank you.

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST.** Not all sir. Come sir.

**SCROOGE.** Certainly not!

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST.** But you called me, sir!

**SCROOGE.** No I didn't!

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST.** (*mimics*) O ghosty ghosty ghosty!!!??? (*The GHOST SNAPS his hand on SCROOGE's wrist. SCROOGE screams.*)

**SCROOGE.** Ow! What are you doing!? Let go this moment!

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST.** 'Tis time sir.

**SCROOGE.** Time? Time to what?

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST.** To journey to thy past sir.

**SCROOGE.** Past!? There is nothing in my past! It's - it's past!

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST.** Then there's nothing to be afraid of is there sir?

**SCROOGE.** I am not afraid! Not a bit of it!

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST.** Then why art thou trembling sir?

**SCROOGE.** (*trembling*) I am not trembling. It is uncommonly cold suddenly as it happens and I am — I am — I am — (*The back wall of the set lights up. SCROOGE gasps, shielding his eyes from the dazzling light.*) Agggh! What is this — this LIGHT?

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST.** 'Tis thy light Mr. Scrooge.

**SCROOGE.** My light! I don't have a light!

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST.** Oh yes you do sir. It has been darkened long enough. And now must shine as it should.

**SCROOGE.** I have no wish to shine thank you!

**GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST.** Come along sir.



## SIDE 8

### Cratchit Scrooge Scrooge's Mother

**CRATCHIT.** Doesn't that bring hope to the whole rolling world sir? That a Scrooge can love stories? That a Scrooge can have a heart? Even though he doesn't know it? Doesn't it, Tiny Tim? My dear one. *(He looks up.)* What shall we read? *(He turns the pages.)* I know. How about – your favourite?

**SCROOGE.** *(whispers)* Ali Baba.

**CRATCHIT.** Ali Baba. And the Cave of Treasures. And so I will Tiny Tim. But we always like reading this bit first don't we? *(SCROOGE stretches his hand and opens the book simultaneously with CRATCHIT. Very tenderly, they reveal the title page.)* *(reads)* 'This book is for you my sweet darling boy. A book of treasures to guide your life. And if I – *(SCROOGE'S MOTHER appears from the shadows.)*

**SCROOGE'S MOTHER.** – cannot remain with thee as the doctors tell me I must not, then know how very dearly I would do if I could, and how very nearly did I see this one Christmas with you – your first ever Christmas – that I know now I will not. How many many Christmases would I spend with you if I could. Just one more hour of life with you would be the dearest gift, no earthly riches could compare. But since I cannot, know that I will look over you and will love you always as I always did from the first sweet breath you drew. And do so now and always will forever. And forever. With my eternal blessing. Your mother. Seventeen hundred and seventy-seven. Christmas. *(SCROOGE is overcome with emotion. Real tears fall. The GHOST watches.)*

## CREDITS

# **Charles Dickens' A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

A new adaptation by Patrick Barlow

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French

Director: Brian Davis

## THE THEATRE

Theatre Tallahassee  
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