The Ghostlight Theatre Company’s

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

By L. Don Swartz

Adapted from the novel by Charles Dickens

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A Christmas Carol

DEDICATION

The Ghostlight Theatre Company’s
A Christmas Carol is dedicated to Jesse Swartz.
A little brother I’ve always looked up to.

THE GHOSTLIGHT THEATRE COMPANY’S
“A CHRISTMAS CAROL”
was first presented by the Ghostlight Theatre Company at the Riviera Theatre in North Tonawanda, New York, on December 13, 1990. The production was directed by L. Don Swartz; the set design by Daniel W. Sonnen; costume design by Debby Koszelak; lighting and special effects design by Jesse Swartz and assistant director was Bruce Bonczyk.

The original cast, in order of appearance, was as follows:

The Voice - Bruce Bonczyk
Jacob Marley - Thomas J. Testa
Christmas Past/Ruth - Sheila Bonczyk
Christmas Present/ Charity Two/Fan - Joann V. Mis
The Phantom of The Future - Paul Koszelak
Fred/Youngman Scrooge/ First Business - John Daniel W. Sonnen
Ebenezer Scrooge - L. Don Swartz
Bob Cratchit/Second Business - Jesse Swartz
Charity One/Belle/Mrs. Cratchit - Debby Koszelak
Young Caroler/Little Boy Scrooge/Want - Michael Zendano
Boy Scrooge/Dick Wilkins/Topper - Scott Lesinski
Little Fan/Ignorance - Jennifer Wilkins
Mr. Fezziwig/Old Joe - Lawrence Swartz Sr.
Mrs. Fezziwig/Mrs. Dilber - Gloria Bonczyk
Fiddler/Belle’s Husband/3rd Business/Turkeyman - Bob Tomasini
Peter Cratchit - Joshua Hodgson
Belinda Cratchit - Tara Lynn Rotolo
Martha Cratchit - Rachel Bonczyk
Tiny Tim Cratchit - Jacob Hodgson
Nancy/Caroline - Laura Goldinger
Turkey Boy - Matthew Long
Carolers - Bernadette Brick, Debbie Buttino, Sandra Craft, Jill Henry, Shana Karch, Julie Senko
CHARACTERS
(17m, 11w, 7 boys, 1 girl, 2 teen boys, 2 teen girls.)

(Extras as carolers, party guests and townspeople. Some roles may be played by either males or females. Many parts may be doubled.)

The Voice  Jacob Marley
Ghost of Christmas Past  Ghost of Christmas Present
Phantom of the Future  Scrooge’s nephew Fred
Ebenezer Scrooge  Bob Cratchit
Charity One  Charity Two
A young caroler  Little Boy Scrooge
Boy Scrooge  Little Fan
Fan  Youngman Scrooge
Mr. Fezziwig  Mrs. Fezziwig
Dick Wilkins  A Fiddler
Belle, Scrooge’s lost love  Belle’s husband
Mrs. Cratchit  Peter Cratchit
Belinda Cratchit  Martha Cratchit
Tiny Tim Cratchit  Fred’s wife, Ruth
Nancy, Fred’s cousin  Topper, Fred’s friend
Ignorance  Want
First Business  Second Business
Third Business  Mrs. Dilber
Old Joe  Caroline
John  Turkey Boy
Turkey Man
Carolers, Fezziwig party guests, dinner carriers

SETTING: In and around the City of London and Another World.

THE TIME OF THE PLAY: Christmas time, 1843.
SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I
Prologue: Another World.
Scene 1: Scrooge & Marley's office.
Scene 2: Scrooge's house.
Scene 3: Scrooge's bedroom.
Scene 4: Scrooge's past; an open field, a school house, and a warehouse.

ACT II
Scene 1: Scrooge's house and on the street in front of it.
Scene 2: Cratchit's house.
Scene 3: Fred's house.
Scene 4: Scrooge's Future; a street corner, a hideout, and a graveyard.
Scene 5: Scrooge's house and the street in front of it.
Scene 6: Scrooge and Marley's office.
Epilogue: Another World.

SUGGESTED SONGS FOR THE CAROLERS

ACT I
IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR
THE WASSAIL SONG
GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN
WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING
I SAW THREE SHIPS
DECK THE HALLS

ACT II
THE FIRST NOEL
JOY TO THE WORLD
SILENT NIGHT
GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN
CAROL OF THE BELLS
O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL
I SAW THREE SHIPS
WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS © 1990 by L Don Swartz

*Please see additional notes at end of script.
A Christmas Carol

ACT I
Prologue

(Another world. AT RISE: THE CAROLERS appear in the murky darkness and sing.)

THE CAROLERS: (Sing.) “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”
   It came upon a midnight clear,
   That glorious song of old,
   From angels bending near the Earth
   To touch their harps of gold!
   Peace on the Earth,
   Good-will to men
   From Heaven’s all gracious King!
   The world in solemn stillness lays
   To hear the angels sing!

(THE CAROLERS disappear. A ghostly figure, bound in chains, emerges from out of the swirling shadows into a pool of light. The figure, we discover, is JACOB MARLEY. Searching into the source of light, he patiently awaits acknowledgement. Finally we hear a voice coming from deep within the light.)

THE VOICE: Next.
MARLEY: I beg your pardon?
THE VOICE: Next. Who’s next?
MARLEY: I guess that would be me.
THE VOICE: Who’s me?
MARLEY: Jacob Marley, sir.
THE VOICE: Very well Jacob Marley - what is your petition?
MARLEY: I wish to return to Earth to warn a friend of mine about what awaits him if he doesn’t change his ways.
THE VOICE: Why do you want to do this?
MARLEY: I do not want my friend to suffer as I do.
THE VOICE: You suffer?
MARLEY: Yes, sir.
THE VOICE: How do you suffer?
MARLEY: These chains, sir. They are very heavy. Because of their weight, it will be a long time before I reach the Land of Peace.

THE VOICE: Who's fault is that, Mr. Jacob Marley?

MARLEY: Only mine.

THE VOICE: That is correct. You wish to return to Earth to warn a friend of yours?

MARLEY: Yes, sir. I was told that you were the one I should speak to.

THE VOICE: You were?

MARLEY: Yes, sir. I've been waiting in line for a very long time.

THE VOICE: This is a busy time of year for us.

MARLEY: Yes, sir, I understand.

THE VOICE: You still have not answered my question. Why do you want to warn this friend of yours?

MARLEY: But, sir, I've already told you I want him to avoid the path that I have taken.

THE VOICE: Do you wish this path on any human being?

MARLEY: No, sir - not upon a single soul.

THE VOICE: Then why is this one man so important?

MARLEY: Because in the whole wide world he only had me to befriend him.

THE VOICE: I see.

MARLEY: Yes, sir. And although others have sought to befriend him, he will have none of it.

THE VOICE: What is your friend's name?

MARLEY: Ebenezer Scrooge.

(Suddenly a chorus of hideous SCREAMS fills the air. Also, thunder, lightning, rain, wind.)

THE VOICE: (In a commanding tone.) Be still, my children. Be still! (The VOICES die down.) You must never utter that name while you are here.

MARLEY: I'm sorry, sir. It sounds like you know of him.

THE VOICE: I should say we know of him! If I allow you to return to Earth - to appear before him - what do you expect in return for this charitable deed?
MARLEY: Nothing, sir. I seek only his redemption. I realize that it is too late for me.

THE VOICE: Very well then. I shall send you back to Earth, but not alone. Knowing who you are dealing with, I shall send a small but powerful army to accompany you.

MARLEY: Thank you, sir. You are most gracious.

THE VOICE: Let me see... First we'll need to remind him of where he’s been: SHADOWS THAT FADE AND SHADOWS THAT LAST, THE KEEPER OF SHADOWS... THE GHOST OF THE PAST!!!

(There is the SOUND of many delicate wind chimes clinking together and the GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST appears in a pool of light.)

THE VOICE: (Cont’d.) Next, we'll have to make him see where he is: I CALL ON THE POWER OF THE STAR OF THE NORTH, THE SPIRIT OF THE PRESENT MUST NOW COME FORTH!!

(In a flurry of sleigh BELLS the festive GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT appears.)

THE VOICE: (Cont’d.) Finally, we'll need to show him where he’s headed: OUT OF THE DARKEST NIGHT COMES THE DEEPEST FEAR THE PHANTOM OF THE FUTURE SHALL NOW APPEAR!!!

(In a blast of SMOKE, THUNDER and swirling in a current of a chilling blizzard wind, the PHANTOM OF THE FUTURE materializes.)

THE VOICE: (Cont’d.) And now Jacob Marley - you have all the help that is available to you.

MARLEY: Thank you, sir. I shall do my best.

THE VOICE: You must not fail. You have only twelve hours to turn this covetous old sinner into a Yuletide saint.

MARLEY: If I fail?
End of Freeview

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