

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*

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**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

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**CHARACTERS**

*(17m, 11w, 7 boys, 1girl, 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.

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**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.***

**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?

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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?

## **End of Freeview**

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