

Tiny Tim's Christmas Carol

By
Matthew Thompson

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STORY OF THE PLAY

A father tells his young daughter a story of Ebenezer Scrooge on his terrifying and exhilarating journey to discover the true meaning of Christmas. But we do not realize until the end that the characters in this adaptation are more real than ever before. The covetous old miser who finds his heart turns out to be the little girl's Great-Uncle Scrooge, and her father is Tiny Tim, an even kinder, more insightful soul as an adult than he was as a child. This unique adaptation, infused with popular Christmas carols, is sure to make your audience feel alive with holiday spirit.

Premiere Performances

Tiny Tim's Christmas Carol was originally produced by San Diego Playwrights Collective. The show opened November 17, 2012. It was directed by Franklin Landotron.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(All characters are listed here for the purpose of a large cast. Smaller casts can double nearly all of the characters with the exception of Ebenezer Scrooge.)

NARRATOR...A kindly father.
REBECCA...His young daughter.
EBENEZER SCROOGE
BOB CRATCHIT
NEPHEW FRED
CHARITY WORKER #1
CHARITY WORKER #2
MRS. DILBER
MARLEY'S GHOST
GHOST of CHRISTMAS PAST...A young boy.
VERY YOUNG SCROOGE
YOUNG SCROOGE
FAN
FEZZIWIG
GHOST of CHRISTMAS PRESENT
MRS. CRATCHIT
PETER CRATCHIT
MARTHA CRATCHIT
BELINDA CRATCHIT
TINY TIM
TOPPER
JOHN
ELIZABETH
GHOST of CHRISTMAS FUTURE
BELLE
BUSINESS MEN #1, #2, and #3
ENSEMBLE #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, and #6
BOY ON THE STREET

MUSIC can be used wherever appropriate, especially for scene changes. Some carols are suggested within the text.

SETTINGS: 1870s, London, England. Much of the action, however, takes place in the early 1840s.

The counting house of Scrooge and Marley has a small potbellied stove CS. The entrance door is USR. Two counting stools and desks are present. SL is Scrooge's desk, a bit ornate and closer to the stove. A solitary and considerably shorter candle burns on Bob Cratchit's desk SL which is situated quite far from the warm stove.

The Narrator and Rebecca have a special area offset from the counting house. Off to the side is a pile of many oversized books by Charles Dickens. On top is a copy of "A Christmas Carol."

Scrooge's door knocker can be achieved by making the door out of nylon or polyester and having the actor playing Marley press his face against the material. It appears as though the fabric of the door is stretching.

Scrooge's bedroom is upstage with a four-poster bed, chair and side table. A large transparent drape covers the doors that open to the balcony. The lights of a fireplace DS illuminate the room.

The school room has an old school bench sitting center stage.

The old warehouse may look very similar to Scrooge's accounting office.

The Cratchit home has a front door, a dinner table with two long benches sitting CS, and a fireplace on one wall.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: The SOUND of wind is heard. We are in the counting house of Scrooge and Marley. The NARRATOR and REBECCA enter hand in hand, dressed in Victorian English attire. They cross down into a special area offset from the counting house. In their time it is Christmas Day, 1871. They have just come from a funeral, but they are not too sad.)

REBECCA: Father?

NARRATOR: Yes, Rebecca?

REBECCA: I think that Christmas is the best time of the whole year!

NARRATOR: And why is that?

REBECCA: Because it is just the most satisfying! The sense of giving. It's like when Mommy and you give me presents and we go ice skating and when you just hold me in your arms, Daddy. And everyone is so grateful.

NARRATOR: You know, not everyone was always so grateful.

REBECCA: Mr. Scrooge was. He was the kindest, most wonderful man I ever met, besides you, of course.

NARRATOR: Well, it may shock you to learn that Mr. Scrooge was not always like that.

REBECCA: Everyone liked him.

NARRATOR: Yes, but it couldn't have been more ironic than for Mr. Scrooge to pass away on this very special day.

REBECCA: What does ironic mean?

NARRATOR: It means a coincidence.

REBECCA: Oh. *(REBECCA sits in thought for a moment.)*

NARRATOR: Are you feeling all right, my dear?

REBECCA: I was just thinking. Why did he have to die?

NARRATOR: We all pass on, my dear. But it's how we live our lives that define us both here and afterwards.

REBECCA: Then what do we have here, while we still live?

NARRATOR: Glorious beauty.

REBECCA: Am I beautiful?

NARRATOR: *(Smiling and holding HER in his arms.)* Yes, you are, my love.

REBECCA: I think I'm beautiful.

NARRATOR: The world is growing faster and faster. And sometimes it makes life too easy I think.

REBECCA: Easy in what way?

NARRATOR: It's easy for us to forget what things were like, when life was... just a little slower.

REBECCA: Tell me a story. When life was...just a little slower.

NARRATOR: Alright. Let's do that. You pick the story.

REBECCA: Um.... That one. *(SHE points to a book entitled "A Christmas Carol.")*

NARRATOR: Are you sure?

REBECCA: Yes.

NARRATOR: Good choice.

(HE holds the book for a moment and looks to REBECCA who smiles. As he opens the book the LIGHTS change and there are FXs of a thunderstorm. We are in the counting office of Scrooge and Marley. Full LIGHTS up as SCROOGE and CRATCHIT are at their desks.)

REBECCA: Where are we, Father?

NARRATOR: We are in the old counting house of Mr. Jacob Marley and Ebenezer Scrooge. In wealth, the two men were equal, but in life the two men were very different.

REBECCA: Is that the Mr. Marley fellow you have told me about?

NARRATOR: Yes.

REBECCA: Tell the story, Father.

NARRATOR: There are books of which the backs and covers are by far the best parts. But this is a story of the meat of man and aspiring apparitions. So...let us begin.

(We hear the SFX of a ticking clock. FX: Smoke fills the stage as lightning and thunder flash and boom. During the storm, the ENSEMBLE enter with umbrellas humming "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen." They hum this slowly twice.)

End of Freeview

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