



SCROOGE – THE PANTOMIME
By Paul Smith

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CHARACTER LIST

- MRS DOTTIE DILBER - (Dame) Housekeeper to Scrooge. – (Male 30+)
- JONNY DILBER - (Link man) Mrs Dilber’s mischievous teenage son – (Male 12-18)
- EBENEZER SCROOGE - (Baddie) A miser - the villain who reforms. (Male – 30+)
- FRED - (Principle Boy) Scrooge’s ‘young and attractive’ nephew (Male 18+)
- GLADYS - (Principle Girl) Fred’s attractive young girlfriend (Female 18-30)
- BOB CRATCHIT - Scrooge’s put-upon office clerk (Male 25-40)
- PATSY CRATCHIT - Bob Cratchit’s wife (Female 25-40)
- CHARDONNAY - A Cratchit Child (Female 8-15)
- WAYNE - A Cratchit Child (Male 8-15)
- JORDAN - A Cratchit Child (Male 8-15)
- CINDY - A Cratchit Child (Female 8-15)
- TINY TIM - A Cratchit Child (Male 6-12) – NB This is a very small part
- MR TIX - (Comedy Duo) A charity fundraiser (Male 20-60+)
- MR SCALEY - (Comedy Duo) Another charity fundraiser (Male 20 -60)
- MARLEY’S GHOST - Camp character – (Male – 30 – 60+)
- THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST – Puppet – (Female 20 – 40)
- THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT – Larger than life and jolly (Male 25 – 60+)
- THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS YET TO COME – Non-speaking part
- MRS LUPIN - A local shopkeeper and cook and busybody (Female 25 – 60+)
- MR FEZZIWIG - A jolly businessman (Male 40+) Small part
- MRS FEZZIWIG - Mr Fezziwig’s wife (Female 40+) Small part
- YOUNG SCROOGE - Scrooge as a young man (Male 18-30) Small part
- V YOUNG SCROOGE - Scrooge as a boy (Male 8-12) Small part
- DICK WILKINS - Friend of Young Scrooge (Male 18-30) Small part

MR WEGG	- Londoner & Busybody (Male 20+)
MR BARNACLE	- Londoner & Busybody (Male 20+)
MR GUPPY	- Londoner & Busybody (Male 20+)
MISS TODDLE	- Londoner & Busybody (Female 20+)
MRS POCKET	- Londoner & Busybody (Female 20+)
HERBERT	- Mrs Pocket's cry baby son (Male 8-15)
CAROL SINGERS	- 4 of them (Male & Female – 16+)
LITTLE MICE	- 4+ of them (Male & Female 9+) Good dancers required
'GOOSE' BOY	- young cocky lad (Male 10-15) Small part
'TINY TIM'	- 3 spare Tiny Tim's (Male 20+) Must all be above average height
A TEACHER	- V Young Scrooge's school teacher (Female 30+) Small part
LITTLE DORRIT	- V Young Scrooge's first love (Female 8-12) Small part

Assorted folk of London Town, Ghosts etc

The above listing is a guideline only.

The major parts are in bold. The small parts are generally confined to one scene. Doubling up is a strong possibility.

Suggested Song List

LONDON IS LONDON

SCROOGE – from THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

WE'RE IN THE MONEY

GHOSTBUSTERS

COLD DECEMBER NIGHT

MEMORY

I WISH IT COULD BE CHRISTMAS

IT FEELS LIKE CHRISTMAS – from THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL

WE ARE FAMILY

LET IT GO

SHOOP SHOOP SONG

THRILLER

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

HAPPY (WALKDOWN)

PRE-SET

(Gauze is in – the logo for the show projected onto the gauze as the audience enter. Nothing else in view apart from the stage left set up for Scrooge’s bedroom)

OVERTURE

PROLOGUE

(Enter Dame Dottie Dilber – she is sweeping the auditorium floor.)

DOTTIE Oh my goodness. I only swept this place last night and look at the mess –to say nothing of the stuff all over the floor. Have you lot no homes to go to or are you camped here for the duration? Well if you are going to be here for a bit, would you all please just get up and check there’s no rubbish under your seats. Yes that’s it – go on have a look. All of you. Have you found anything? If you have hold it up and show me. Great. Well make sure you put it in the bin as you go out.

Now, you’re probably wondering what I am doing here. Yes, well the question is mutual, but I’ll tell you about me first, it’ll be a bit quicker.

Well I realise that I’ve taken you a bit by surprise. I don’t usually appear until half way through act one and I always get a big hand on my entrance. I tell you what, I don’t want you to go home disappointed – so we’ll get the friendly members of the band to do me a good build up.

(DOTTIE rushes out of the theatre and then calls through the door – the band do a big build up and she comes running in through the auditorium and goes onto the stage)

Oh thank you, thank you Ladies and Gentlemen Boys and Girls. Welcome. Yes here we are. This is what you were waiting for!

Yes, I am Dame Dottie Dilber and I am this year’s Pantomime Dame! Go on, give us a cheer.

Well now I had better tell you what’s going on! Welcome to you all. The year is 1843 give or take a few decades. This is the story of good and evil, of niceness and wickedness and of love which triumphs forever over everything that is rotten, bad and going off. This is the famous story of Mr Ebenezer Scrooge and one Christmas which he would never forget. I’ll never forget it either – by the way I am the lady who does. I have 10 children – so I am also the lady who did. Alas my children don’t have a father. Oh woe and alack! But enough of that. Let’s get on with the show!

Welcome everyone, to good old London Town!

Scene One – The streets of Dickensian London

(Gauze is raised)

SONG – Big joyful number with a London theme maybe

DOTTIE Well there we are Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls. That's what I call a welcome to London.

MRS LUPIN Yes, this is London, and you're welcome to it.

(Everyone laughs raucously)

MR BARNACLE That's right Mrs Lupin, all the muck and filth everywhere.

DOTTIE That's no way to talk about the audience.

MISS TOODLE Yes Mr Barnacle, rats, mice and vermin crawling all over everything!

DOTTIE That's no way to talk about the Junior Chorus Miss Toodle.

MR WEGG Holes in the roofs and walls falling down everywhere you look.

DOTTIE And that's no way to talk about the theatre Mr Wegg.

MR GUPPY Well it's hard times all round.

MISS TOODLE It's driving me round the Twist Mr Guppy

MR GUPPY Yes we had such great expectations

MR WEGG Our mutual friend is really fed up with life.

MISS TOODLE The one from the old curiosity shop?

MRS LUPIN Oh come on, it's Christmas, Carol.

DOTTIE Yes and you've just run out of Charles Dickens book titles to use in your banter.

(JONNY comes towards DOTTIE)

Well blow me, I am exhausted before we've even started I could do with some punch!

(JONNY biffs DOTTIE)

DOTTIE What on earth did you do that for?

JONNY You said you wanted a punch!

DOTTIE I said I wanted some punch

(JONNY biffs her twice)

DOTTIE Now you've done it again – twice – what's the meaning of it

JONNY It means two times.

DOTTIE Two times?

JONNY Five past six and twenty to eight!

DOTTIE Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls I will have to apologise.

JONNY What for?

DOTTIE For you to begin with! This is my eldest son, Jonny, ladies and gentlemen. Sixteen, with the emphasis on the six! He is the only one of my ten children you will see tonight – cutbacks you see. Dear little Jonny, he can't help it. He hasn't got a Father you see. He left us in the lurch many years ago and I have had to eek out a meagre living. Doing for people!

JONNY Doing what for people?

DOTTIE Cleaning, shopping, scrubbing. Oh yes I am a really good scrubber! No, stop it, don't be naughty, we're still in the first scene! Now, look off you go and stop making a nuisance of yourself – you've got Christmas dinner to prepare.

JONNY I've got the sprouts.

DOTTIE Well I'd go to see the doctor if I were you. Well where are they then?

JONNY I lost them. Sorry Mum.

DOTTIE Well why did you say you had them? You should use that as your catchphrase!

JONNY Really? Oh ok. Do you like sprouts Boys and Girls?

(Audience reaction)

JONNY Well I hate them. I tell you what, every time I come on stage I will say 'Hello Boys and Girls guess what I've got! And you say. You've got the sprouts! That ok? Shall we give it a go! ***(They do so)*** Great. Now guess what our Christmas Day lunch menu is?

Sprout Cocktail for starters, followed by roast sprout and sprout stuffing, boiled sprouts with sprout sauce and sprout gravy and then for dessert is a big boiled sprout and sprout custard!

DOTTIE And don't forget we can wash it all down with sprout wine. Think yourself lucky young man. Some people don't even get that!

JONNY Yes, but the wind doesn't stop until we get to Easter!

(DOTTIE chases him off)

MRS LUPIN Before I go Mrs Dilber.....

DOTTIE Oh hello Mrs Lupin, how are you?

MRS LUPIN Hacking cough, streaming cold, crippling arthritis and excruciating rheumatism – that along with weeping sores up and down my legs – but apart from that I'm fine.

DOTTIE Jolly good!

MRS LUPIN I just thought I would bring you something from my shop for Mr Scrooge.

DOTTIE Oh, what do you have?

MRS LUPIN I've got a red snapper.

DOTTIE I should put some ointment on that.

MRS LUPIN Do you think he would like my sticky buns?

DOTTIE Well, I can only ask! See you soon!

(Enter FRED)

FRED Hello Mrs Dilber

DOTTIE Oh hello Fred, Mr Scrooge's young and easy-on-the-eye nephew, how are you? (to audience) Goodness me it's like **(LOCAL TOWN NAME)** on a Saturday morning here!

FRED I am just on my way to see my Uncle Ebenezer. I want him to meet my girlfriend and spend Christmas with us! There she is? **(he points – GLADYS is being hidden by a group of older, less pretty, ladies who obviously fancy FRED. One of ladies waves back at FRED)**

DOTTIE What? She is your girlfriend?

FRED No, that one there! **(he points again and another lady waves back. This continues a few times – a man may wave back at some point. Eventually GLADYS manages to push forward and wave – but by this time DOTTIE isn't interested).**

DOTTIE Yes, well anyway...

FRED I am hoping my Uncle will want to come for dinner.

DOTTIE You'll be lucky! He's so down on Christmas! Miserable old ble....

FRED Believe it or not he spends every Christmas alone. So I really hope I can persuade him to enjoy himself for once.

MR WEGG Fat chance of that he'll be counting his money on Christmas Day

MRS POCKET Yes, our money! It makes my little Herbert cry. **(to HERBERT)** Go on, cry!

(HERBERT cries uncontrollably)

MRS POCKET Alright Herbert. Point made! **(he shuts up immediately)**

MR GUPPY He makes more money in a week than a premiership footballer Mrs Pocket

MRS LUPIN He doesn't care how many people he upsets!

MR BARNACLE He makes our life a misery Mrs Lupin

MISS TODDLE That's right Mr Barnacle, he's always so grumpy

MR WEGG Exactly Miss Toodle. He makes Lord Sugar look like Mr Happy

MRS POCKET He makes the Chancellor of the Exchequer look generous and he makes my little Herbert cry. **(HERBERT cries uncontrollably)** Yes, that's enough! **(HERBERT stops)**

FRED Oh I know he's all those things – I just wish there was a way of getting him full of Christmas Cheer!

MR BARNACLE Get him drunk

FRED Tried that; he remains stone cold sober however much he drinks .

MISS TODDLE Take him to a Panto!

DOTTIE If you hadn't noticed already we're having enough difficulty getting this lot to laugh!

FRED No, I know it's difficult – he's about as cheery as a Christmas Day episode of Eastenders!

DOTTIE Well you'd better think of something quick – it's Christmas Eve you know and he's on his debt collection rounds and then he'll be on his way back to his office to close up for the night!

MR WEGG He's taken all my last savings cos I couldn't pay up last week. We're going to have a miserable Christmas.

MRS POCKET He took away my little boy's piggy bank to pay the rent. Didn't he Herbert?
(HERBERT cries loudly – and won't stop!)

MRS POCKET Yes alright you've made your point.

MR BARNACLE He took all the sixpences from our Christmas pudding!

DOTTIE Oh for goodness sake; this is a really awful state of affairs! We're going to have to do something and do it soon. Because I think I feel it getting colder.

FRED There's definitely a chill in the air

MRS LUPIN You know what that means! Don't you?

ALL He's coming!!!!!!

SONG – something ominous!

Scene Two – Scrooge’s Office

(Stools, high desks etc – could all be on wheels for easy movement on and off and set up as the song finishes – CRATCHIT is at work at one – there is a practical door somewhere. SCROOGE is outside his office where a group of CAROL SINGERS have remained from the song)

SINGERS God rest ye merry gentlemen let nothing you dismay. Remember Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas.....

SCROOGE Humbug!

(The SINGERS rush away. SCROOGE addresses the audience)

SCROOGE You can pack up all your boos and howls! If you don’t we’ll cancel the interval! So if you want to see this show to the end, then you’ll shut up and sit tight! Welcome to my offices where I make loads and loads of money. I make so much money I don’t know what to do with it all! Isn’t it fun? Did you know I even made some money from a little kiddie who splashed mud on my trousers – he only had a penny on him, but I had that. Serves him right! If you look after the pennies, the pounds will look after themselves and I look after hundreds and thousands of pennies.

This is where my partner, Jacob Marley, and I set up business. Seven years ago tonight Marley died and so this is all my business. All my money
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!!!

Now, let me make sure my clerk Bob Cratchit is working his fingers to the bone!

(SCROOGE enters his office)

SCROOGE Well Cratchit, are you working your fingers to the bone? Are all the pennies accounted for?

BOB Yes Mr Scrooge

SCROOGE Are all the I’s dotted?

BOB Yes Mr Scrooge

SCROOGE Are all the T’s crossed?

BOB Yes Mr Scrooge

SCROOGE And you say all these pennies are counted? *(He looks at large piles of coins on table.)*

BOB Yes Mr Scrooge - all in neat piles Mr Scrooge

SCROOGE *(He pushes over all the piles into one big mound again)* Well double check them will you!

BOB Yes Mr Scrooge!

(AUDIENCE Boos)

SCROOGE Oh and you lot can watch out as well – don't forget you won't get out of here today without paying for it!!! Don't feel sorry for him, at least he has a job - at the moment!

(FRED Enters)

FRED Uncle Ebenezer

SCROOGE And what do you want with me Nephew?

FRED I have come to wish you all the greetings for the season in this festive yuletide upon this very moment of the messiah's natal advent!

SCROOGE And what on earth is that meant to mean?

FRED I haven't the faintest idea!

SCROOGE Well be off with you, I have work to do!

FRED Oh Uncle. You'll come to Christmas Dinner with us won't you?

SCROOGE Oh no I won't!

FRED Oh yes you will

SCROOGE Oh no I won't

FRED Oh yes you will

SCROOGE Oh no I won't. On no I won't. I WON'T!

FRED Booooo **(He encourages the audience to join in)**

SCROOGE BAH HUMBUG!

FRED No thank you, I prefer sherbet lemons!

SCROOGE No, I mean this Christmas lark, it's all a humbug.

FRED Oh no it isn't!

SCROOGE Oh yes it is!

FRED Oh no it isn't!

SCROOGE Look we've done that gag already. Can't we get on with the plot?

FRED What plot?

SCROOGE Well I think there's one somewhere – it'll probably have Charles Dickens turning in his grave though!

FRED You can't call Christmas a humbug Uncle. It's a jolly time for happy thoughts and lots of lovely presents and tons of food!

BOB Oh yes Fred – it's a wonderful time.

SCROOGE That's enough out of you Cratchit – get on with your work or you'll find yourself, **(shouting)** UNEMPLOYED!!

BOB Yes Mr Scrooge. Sorry Mr Scrooge!
(there is a knock at the door)

SCROOGE Who is it?
(Enter MISS TIX and MISS SCALEY – they are dressed in something outlandish – they wear fancy dress throughout the show – they carry charity collection tins)

TIX My name is Miss Tix

SCALEY My name is Miss Scaley

SCROOGE How very unfortunate.

TIX Do we have the pleasure of addressing Mr Marley or Mr Scrooge?

SCROOGE Mr Marley has been dead these seven years.

SCALEY Well, then Mr Scrooge. At this festive time of the year, many people find that they want to do something to help the poor and needy.

TIX More and more people are in need of want and so we like to do our bit for them at Christmas. You see we are charity fundraisers and we wondered whether you would like to sponsor us.

SCALEY Yes, we are going to have our heads shaved.

TIX You can sponsor us for a penny a hair of £20 to have the lot taken off!

SCALEY What can we put you down for?

SCROOGE Nothing

TIX You wish to remain anonymous

SCROOGE I wish to be left alone!

SCALEY Maybe the head shave doesn't appeal to you.

TIX Miss Scaley here is also going to sit in a bath full of custard. That's going to be a five pounds per minute. How would you like to fill in the sponsor form right now Sir?

SCROOGE Are there no street corners for these poor people to beg on? No workhouses? Prisons? Rocks to break?

SCALEY Sadly yes!

TIX Woe and alack a day!

SCROOGE What? Let them fend for themselves –it's their fault they are poor!

FRED Oh Boooooo ***(encourages the audience again)***

SCROOGE Get out of my office, the both of you!

FRED You can put me down for a fiver for the custard bath!

TIX Thank you Sir.

SCALEY We'll try to come up with some more ideas which might appeal Sir.

TIX Maybe we could eat 100 bananas dressed as a monkey

SCALEY Or we could see how many sprouts we could eat.

TIX Do you like sprouts?

SCALEY Hate them.

TIX I will sponsor you on that! Good bye sir!

(Exit MISS TIX & MISS SCALEY)

FRED Well look Uncle, maybe you'll consider coming to have Christmas dinner with me and my girlfriend.

SCROOGE A girlfriend? A female? What on earth are you doing with her?

FRED Well I love her and we are going to get married!

SCROOGE Pah!

FRED Pah?

SCROOGE Pah!

FRED What does that mean?

SCROOGE No idea!

FRED I see – well, what do you say? Will you come to dinner?

SCROOGE You've got as much chance of seeing me come round to your Christmas dinner as you have of seeing the mice on this office floor break into a display of line- dancing!

(A group of small people dressed as mice appear and perform an impromptu line-dance. It's short and to the point. They exit quickly. Enter DOTTIE and JONNY with cleaning equipment – mop and bucket etc)

JONNY Hello boys and girls? What have I got?

AUDIENCE You've got the sprouts!

JONNY No it's just the way my trousers hang!

DOTTIE You be quiet! Oh hello Mr Scrooge. Hello Fred, Mr Scrooge's good looking nephew

SCROOGE And what are you doing here Madam?

DOTTIE Well it's nearly seven Mr Scrooge. I thought I would give you a quick run round with a damp rag!

SCROOGE I beg your pardon?

DOTTIE Your office Mr Scrooge – you don't want to go off on your Christmas break with a dusty office?

FRED I don't think Uncle Ebenezer is planning a break Mrs Dilber.

DOTTIE What? Not going to enjoy smoked salmon, scrambled egg and croissants washed down with some nicely chilled Bucks Fizz for breakfast followed up by some sherry at 11 and maybe a crafty mince pie, then when while the bird is on watch Bing Crosby in White Christmas... oh I love that film

FRED Oh so do I

BOB Oh so do I

JONNY Oh so do I

(The four break into a chorus of White Christmas)

SCROOGE Will you shut up!!!

DOTTIE Oh you are such a spoilsport, a really miserable old ba....

FRED Better be going now. My bird needs a good stuffing and I am the man for the job! Good bye Mrs Dilber, Jonny, Bob. Merry Christmas.

DOTTIE/BOB/JONNY Merry Christmas

FRED Merry Christmas Uncle

SCROOGE Bah Humbug

(FRED exits)

SCROOGE And I suppose you want the whole day off tomorrow?

BOB Well if it's quite convenient

SCROOGE Well of course it's not convenient.

BOB But its only once a year Mr Scrooge

SCROOGE A poor excuse for picking a man's pocket every 25th December

DOTTIE Oh go on Mr Scrooge – you really mustn't be so mean. The poor man has got a wife and kids!

BOB It's ok Mrs Dilber, we will survive. We have but little food for our festive day. We will eat the dust off the floor, lick the condensation from the windows and tuck into the mildew from the walls! I might manage to get all the children a twig to enjoy as their present! But I might not be able to get enough presents, so Tiny Tim might have to go without!

DOTTIE Oh ladies and gentleman, boys and girls, we can't let Bob Cratchit have such a terrible Christmas can we? Can we? *(business with AUDIENCE)* No, of course we can't. Mr Scrooge, you can't deny Bob permission to have Christmas Day with his family can you?

SCROOGE I certainly can!

BOB Oh but Mr Scrooge, the children will miss their Christmas with their Dad

DOTTIE Surely your heart is not that cold!

BOB It can't be as freezing cold as this office is now, surely.

SCROOGE It might be, and don't call me Shirley. Well you and that rabble out there had better say please!

BOB OK Mr Scrooge. **(to AUDIENCE)** Come on everyone say please for me, after three.
One Two Three

AUDIENCE Please

SCROOGE What?

BOB One more time everyone, one, two, three.

AUDIENCE Please

SCROOGE Pretty please

BOB One two three, Pretty Please

AUDIENCE Pretty Please

SCROOGE Bah – well you had better go then – and here's your pay – but be all the earlier on what you call Boxing Day.

BOB Thank you Mr Scrooge. Merry Christmas Mr Scrooge and to you Dame Dottie
(BOB leaves)

DOTTIE Oh Mr Scrooge you are all heart!

SCROOGE All the thanks I get! Bah! You know I work all night. I work all day, to pay the bills I have to pay

DOTTIE Oh ain't it sad!

SCROOGE And still there never seems to be a single penny left for left for me.

JONNY That's too bad!

SONG — Dottie, Scrooge, Jonny & Chorus.

(ALL exit at the end of the song)

SCENE THREE – The Cratchit House

(It's a ramshackled affair with all the furniture created out of things like trunks and crates etc. – everything should lean a bit as if it is all about to fall down. MRS PATSY CRATCHIT is bashing the life out of some food stuff on the table – there are chairs around the table and a little stool set beside by a fire.)

PATSY *(calling out)* Now come on children; Cindy, Wayne, Jordan, Chardonnay, Tim! – your silly billy of a dad will be home soon and we have got to prepare dinner for tomorrow! Let's hope he has remembered everything! Now lay the table all of you.

CINDY Yes Mother

WAYNE Yes Mother

CHARDONNAY Yes Mother

JORDAN Yes Mother

PATSY Where is Tiny Tim?

ALL Tim?

(Enter 'TIM' – he is over 6ft, far too old, maybe bearded and has a crutch and his clothes do not fit)

ALL Ohhhhhh

TIM Hello Mother – sorry I am late

PATSY That's alright Tim – are you sure you are ok.

CINDY You look different Tim

WAYNE You know, slightly, kinda taller than you used to be.

CHARDONNAY Yes, sort of tall for a boy of six.

TIM *(loud whisper)* He's stuck in the traffic – his Dad just texted the stage manager. We've got to carry on as if nothing's the matter!

PATSY *(loud whisper)* Easier said than done. *(normal voice)* Now come on children finish laying the table! Father will be here any second.

(Enter BOB)

BOB Well hello my lovely family. Patsy, Cindy, Wayne, Jordan, Chardonnay and ahhhh..... Tiny Tim.

PATSY Yes that's Tiny Tim, Bob

BOB Indeed.

TIM Hello Father.

BOB You look so pale Tim. You are not eating properly are you? My dear he needs nourishment, he is so thin and small.

PATSY Well a good hearty meal should do the job!

BOB Yes indeed and I have lots of lovely things for us to cook for our Christmas feast! So what do you think I have brought?

CINDY I think you have a huge goose Father.

BOB Maybe Cindy

WAYNE I reckon there's a stonking big pudding in there!

BOB Possibly Wayne

CHARDONNAY What about a ginormous box of crackers for us all!

BOB We'll see Chardonnay.

JORDAN And I am guessing there's an humongous flagon of Christmas wine to keep us all warm.

BOB You never know Jordan.

TIM And a 10 foot high Christmas Tree for us to decorate.

BOB Don't be daft Tim!

PATSY Well don't keep us all in suspenders Bob. Show us!

BOB Well here we are. **(as he takes things out of his big bag he passes it round the table to everyone who look at each in turn)**

BOB Vegetables **(he hands around a carrot)**
 Tree **(he hands around a twig)**
 Cracker **(he pulls out a blower)**
 And the big finale Dinner **(he pulls out a very small Christmas pudding)**

PATSY Right, well that's fun. Not sure what I am going to do with it.
(The children all make sounds of discontent – apart from TIM)

TIM Oh I think it's all wonderful Father

ALL What?

TIM Well we should be thankful for everything we are given in this life.

PATSY Of course Tim. There's lots to be grateful for.

BOB And good old Mr Scrooge has given me all of tomorrow off!

PATSY So I should think so too. He's a miserable old miser altogether.

ALL He's a miserable old miser

PATSY You've got to stand up for yourself more Bob – he walks all over you!

TIM Please Mother – can I leave the table? I want to sit in the warm by the fire!

PATSY Yes of course my little soldier.

BOB Best be careful son, the stool is just a tad small

TIM It's ok Father, Mother, don't mind me. I don't weigh much!

(TIM sits on the stool and it breaks asunder – BOB and PATSY rush to pick him up, but he is too heavy and so all the children come and help as well – eventually they get him up. Lots of business!)

PATSY Oh my goodness me. I am tired out. Children clear the table – I need a drink

WAYNE I think we all do!

(They all leave)

SCENE FOUR - The Street and Scrooge's House

(SCROOGE is trudging through the street making his way to his house – he comes across the Carol Singers. There is a large door on the stage with a large knocker – it is probably on a truck)

SINGERS God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen let nothing you dismay. Remember Christ our Saviour was...

SCROOGE Humbug! So all you people think that Christmas is fun do you? Well if I was the King of England I would cancel Christmas – the thought of that is the only thing that makes me laugh *(which he does)*

(The Singers leave - SCROOGE arrives at the door of his house – and there is a large door with a huge knocker – a face appears – which laughs)

SCROOGE Marley? Jacob Marley?

(The face laughs again)

SCROOGE *(shaking himself in disbelief)* Pah! Always an ugly brute.

(SCROOGE enters his house which revolves to reveal DOTTIE in mid conversation with MRS LUPIN)

DOTTIE And he pulled the pheasant right out of his knapsack and thrust it right into my chest – I tell you I am still picking the feathers out now!

MRS LUPIN Oh I know!

DOTTIE Oh Mr Scrooge, you've caught me up to my elbows in Marigolds. What can I get for you? Mrs Lupin popped round to see if you wanted to try her Tickler.

SCROOGE Her what?

MRS LUPIN It's a cheese from my shop.

SCROOGE You can take your comestibles and be off with you.

MRS LUPIN Oh charming. Goodbye Mrs Dilber!

(Exit MRS LUPIN)

DOTTIE Oh well, there's gratitude, especially as I have been resting my rump for you since last Tuesday week. Well I've made you a pot of cocoa and some biscuits to have with your cheese. But make sure you pick up all those crumbs – you never know what it might lead to.

SCROOGE Be gone!

DOTTIE Yes well don't say I didn't warn you.

(DOTTIE exits)

(SCROOGE puts on his dressing gown and nightcap and then sits down and eats his cheese and drinks the cocoa)

SCROOGE Dreadful woman I don't know why I put up with her. Doesn't even clean the place properly – look at the muck in here!

(Sound of chains and footsteps approaching – loud dramatic music – enter MARLEY'S GHOST. Huge ghost carrying loads of full carrier bags which weigh him down)

MARLEY Oh hello **(he is camp)**

SCROOGE Marley?

MARLEY The same! Yes, here I am oh these bags – this is my punishment you know. Serves me right for never recycling or buying a bag for life!

SCROOGE Aren't you dead?

MARLEY Completely. As a doornail!

SCROOGE What do you want with me?

MARLEY Oh much. Much, much, much, much. You know what you have been don't you?

SCROOGE No, what?

MARLEY You've been a very naughty boy!

SCROOGE I have?

MARLEY You have, you miserable old...

SCROOGE Please tell me what this is all about and leave me alone. What are all those bags?

MARLEY You might well ask. You know I used to hate shopping. Hated it. That's my punishment in hell – now I have to shop all day everyday. It's unbearable. This is today's shop for the devils down below!

SCROOGE Oh I don't believe any of this. I'm dreaming. I would more likely believe seeing the mice in this place dance a tango.

(The mice re-enter and dance an impromptu tango – short and sweet)

SCROOGE Fair enough. Are you real then.

MARLEY Well not real exactly. Didn't I mention that I am a ghost?

(SCROOGE screams)

MARLEY Caught you out there didn't I – you thought a ghost was someone running around with white sheets over their heads!

SCROOGE Yes

MARLEY Oh well I can give you some of them if you like.

(He clicks his fingers and GHOSTS run like wildfire around a screaming SCROOGE)

SCROOGE Take them away!

(The GHOSTS leave)

MARLEY Well this is what you're going to have to suffer unless you start being a nice man!

SCROOGE Humbug!

MARLEY Well you won't be saying that by the end of Act Two I can tell you!

SCROOGE You mean there is even more of this nonsense?

MARLEY Oh yes there is.

SCROOGE Oh no there's not

MARLEY Oh yes there is. So you'd better get used to the idea. Now listen to me you detestable old skeleton, I've got a message here on my iPad which says you're going to get 3 more ghosts coming to see you!

SCROOGE What?

MARLEY Three more ghosts - they are all the good guys in this show so you lot out there must cheer every time you see a ghost! *(whispering)* even the scary one at the end!

SCROOGE Well I am not going to let any of them in, so there!

MARLEY You silly man – we don't need an invitation. We can walk though these walls – well they're not made of much I can tell you! This stage crew – I don't know! Couldn't build a camp fire let alone a magnificent set to wow the audiences across Somerset! Right now I am off – things to do – shopping to collect!

SCROOGE But I don't want you to go!

MARLEY I am sure you don't, but tough terrapin Ebenezer. You'll have to put up with it. Now the first ghost will appear when the clock strikes one (**SFX Clock strikes One**) Not yet! Then the next will come along at two and the final one at three.

SCROOGE How will I know who they are?

MARLEY Darling, you're not going to mistake them for anyone else I don't think. This is a pantomime – there won't be any underacting here I can tell you – not with this lot! Goodness me at any moment we could break into song!

SONG — Marley's Ghost & Ghosts – something ghostly

MARLEY Now I have to dash, got to get back to my life of pain and torment – it's like watching Jeremy Kyle 24/7 – can't bear it. But that's what I have to put up with. You will too Scrooge if you don't want to suffer the same fate. Do as I say and listen to the Ghosts and don't say Humbug anymore. Off I go now, a ghost's work is never done!

(MARLEY'S GHOST leaves)

SCROOGE Humbug!

MARLEY **(off)** I told you about saying that word! Listen to what I have said. Your first visitor will arrive after the next scene!

SCROOGE Well I'll believe it when I see it! (**scary music, thunder and lightning etc**) YIKES!!!!!!

(SCROOGE exits)

SCENE FIVE – THE STREETS OF LONDON

(DOTTIE and JONNY enter – She is loaded down with bags)

DOTTIE Meanwhile in another part of London everyone is preparing for Christmas Day.

JONNY Hello everyone? Guess what have I've got?

AUDIENCE You've got the sprouts!

JONNY Have you got the sprouts Mum?

DOTTIE No, it's just a little indigestion. Now look I've got a stack load left to do. What have you been up to?

JONNY Christmas Shopping

DOTTIE Oh yes, shopping in the **(LOCAL PUB NAME)** eh?

JONNY Well I did pop in for a quick one.

DOTTIE I am sure you did, but did you get my Christmas Present?

JONNIE No B&Q was closed.

DOTTIE How delightful you really are.

(Enter FRED)

FRED Hello Mrs Dilber

DOTTIE Oh hello Fred, Mr Scrooge's young and rather good-looking nephew'

FRED All ready for Christmas?

DOTTIE No, I have so much to do. Luckily I managed to put the greens on last Thursday week.

JONNY So if you were wondering what the smell was.

DOTTIE Oh shut up will you. Or you won't get your hands on my stocking!

JONNY Oh Mum....

DOTTIE Now Fred, what are you up to?

FRED Well I am preparing myself for a big day too.

DOTTIE Yes, well we all are dear.

FRED But I hope it will be an even bigger day for me and my love

DOTTIE You've got a present?

FRED I guess you would like to see it.

DOTTIE Oh yes

FRED It's a ring

DOTTIE Yes dear I know what it is.

JONNY What's it for?

FRED My girlfriend

DOTTIE Very nice dear

JONNY For Christmas?

FRED Well sort of.

DOTTIE Stocking?

JONNY No it's a ring.

DOTTIE No, I meant is it for her stocking?

FRED No, it's for her finger

DOTTIE Oh I see. Does she like rings?

FRED Oh I hope so, especially this one.

JONNY Did it come in a cracker?

(Enter GLADYS)

FRED No! It's for our engagement!

GLADYS Hello Fred. What was that?

FRED ***(hiding the ring)*** My darling. I was just telling Mrs Dilber that I was looking forward to Christmas.

JONNY Yes, he was showing us his ring.

GLADYS I'm sorry?

FRED It doesn't matter. Mrs Dilber, this is my girlfriend.

DOTTIE Hello dear, yes, I have seen you about!

GLADYS I'm Glad.

DOTTIE Yes, so am I!

GLADYS No, I mean, that's me, Glad.

DOTTIE It's Christmas dear, we all are!

GLADYS No, I mean, that's my name!

JONNY Christmas?

FRED What?

JONNY You're called Christmas?

DOTTIE No, that's tomorrow
 GLADYS I'm Glad
 DOTTIE You keep telling us that dear, but we still don't know your name.
 JONNY It's Christmas.
 FRED No, that's tomorrow.
 DOTTIE I know love
 JONNY I'm glad
 GLADYS You're Glad too?
 JONNY Because it's Christmas.
 DOTTIE You're glad that her name is Christmas?
 JONNY No, I'm glad that Christmas is tomorrow.
 DOTTIE **(to GLADYS)** You mean that you've changed your name from Christmas to Tomorrow?
 GLADYS **(shouting)** No, Gladys. My name is Gladys. G L A D Y S – Gladys!
 DOTTIE **(aside)** Well why did she keep telling everyone her name was Christmas? **(aloud)** Well that's lovely dear,
 FRED Well better be off, I have to prepare something.
 JONNY Your ring?
 DOTTIE Oh shut up!
 FRED Goodnight Mrs Dilber. Happy Christmas.
 DOTTIE Goodnight dear, Christmas, Tomorrow.
 GLADYS We know!
(FRED & GLADYS leave)
 DOTTIE Now look, I have one last errand to run.
(A large crowd of people has gathered. The CAROL SINGERS start to sing. TIX & SCALEY are both dressed as Father Christmas and are shaking buckets calling out, variously, 'Save the Workhouse, Help the Donkeys, Support for Reindeers.')
 DOTTIE Coo-ee look at what I have brought for all of you. Some nice fresh muffins for Christmas Eve. Straight from my oven.
 VARIOUS Oh thank you Mrs Dilber
 TIX We love your fresh muffins
 SCALEY Don't mind if we do!
 TIX Especially love them when they are dripping with melting butter Miss Scaley

SCALEY Makes me slather Miss Tix

DOTTIE Well they've all got to go!

(Enter BOB)

DOTTIE Oh hello Mr Cratchit – I thought you went home hours ago.

BOB Oh I did, but we've all just popped out to do a spot of Christmas Carol singing before we get tucked up for the night – we don't want the children to bump into Father Christmas do we?

DOTTIE We certainly don't!

BOB Here they all are.

(The CRATCHIT clan enter including a new – and totally wrong height and shape TINY TIM)

DOTTIE Oh hello Mrs Cratchit, all you young Cratchits. Oh and who's this?

PATSY It's Tiny Tim.

DOTTIE Oh he seems rather different to what he looked like earlier.

PATSY Yes, he's keeping us all on our toes.

DOTTIE Why Tim, haven't you changed since I last saw you?

TIM Well Christmas Dinner will make me bigger still.

PATSY Not too much bigger I hope *(false laugh)*

BOB Come on everyone, let's light those lanterns.

TIX Yes come on all you urchins

SCALEY Sing your hearts out all you scallywags.

DOTTIE Sounds like it might be time for a big song number.

SONG – Company - Christmas style song

SCENE SIX - SCROOGE'S BEDROOM

(SCROOGE is asleep in his bed. A clock strikes 1 o'clock – he awakes suddenly and looks about the room)

SCROOGE Bah Humbug! Marley was all talk!

(Behind the gauze a ghost appears – it's light shining brightly on SCROOGE so he is almost blinded – the ghost is female)

SCROOGE Ohhhh – are you the spirit whose coming was foretold?

GHOST I beg your pardon?

SCROOGE Are you the one I was told about?

GHOST Yes, that's better. Too much flowery language gets you nowhere in this life!

SCROOGE Poor old Charles Dickens then!

GHOST Yes I am. That's me. I am the Ghost of Christmas Past. Come on you lot, give me a cheer! **(AUDIENCE cheers)** That's better. Thank you.

SCROOGE Whose past?

GHOST Your past!

SCROOGE Well what of it, I've done nothing I am ashamed about!

GHOST In that case you won't mind coming along with me and allowing me to show you a few things which may bring back some memories.

SONG – Ghost of Christmas Past

(During the song some force draws SCROOGE from his bed and joins the GHOST as the stage – as the GHOST sings we have a montage of SCROOGE in his younger days - the countryside with children playing – they make their way into a school room – we are in SCROOGE's schooldays and a YOUNG EBENEZER is one of the little boys. In the school room is a teacher.)

(As the music fades the attention focuses on SCROOGE and the GHOST as the action continues)

GHOST Do you remember these scenes?

SCROOGE Well yes, they were my schooldays. That was our teacher – she was so ugly.

GHOST They were the happiest days of your life.

SCROOGE Well hardly. And I only liked Maths – I was always good at counting.

GHOST Counting money!

SCROOGE Yes, I always like counting money.

GHOST Indeed. But you had friends then didn't you.

SCROOGE Some yes, there they are.

GHOST You had a special friend.

SCROOGE Yes, Little Dorrit

GHOST Indeed.

SCROOGE There she is!

TEACHER Come on now children it's off you go back home for Christmas! Ebenezer Scrooge you stay right where you are!

CHILDREN Hooray

(The scene is gradually disbanded as EBENEZER remains behind alone and LITTLE DORRIT comes to see him.)

DORRIT Oh Ebenezer, aren't you going home for Christmas?

EBENEZER No Dorry I am forced to stay here. My Father says that I have not worked hard enough and that I am not allowed to have Christmas this year.

DORRIT Oh Ebby that is so sad.

EBENEZER I know. I will never love Christmas again – it has been taken away from me. ***(he cries)***

DORRIT Ahhh

EBENEZER Oh I think it's sadder than that!

DORRIT ***(encouraging the audience)*** Ahhhhhhhhhhhhh

EBENEZER That's better.

DORRIT But you will miss all the fun and the jolly japes – snowball fights in the ***(LOCAL PARK NAME)*** and hide and seek in ***(LOCAL SHOPPING CENTRE NAME)***

EBENEZER I know – I will be sad and alone.

DORRIT Oh well, can't be helped! See you next term!

EBENEZER Oh don't go Dorry. I have a Christmas present for you.

DORRIT For me?

EBENEZER It's because you have been so kind to me. So special. It's because I love you. ***(he hands her a box tied with ribbon – in it is a necklace – it should be of bold design and colour so it can be recognised easily)***

DORRIT Oh Ebby. A necklace. It is beautiful. I will wear it forever.

EBENEZER Thank you.

(A tender hug)

DORRIT But I must be off now – See you next term. ***(She leaves)***

EBENEZER Good bye

(EBENEZER waves as DORRIT leaves)

EBENEZER I love you!

DORRIT I love you too!

(DORRIT is gone – EBENEZER cries again)

GHOST Ahhhhhhh.

SCROOGE Don't make fun of me Ghost.

GHOST Sorry.

SCROOGE She was so lovely.

GHOST What became of her?

SCROOGE I never knew. She didn't come back to school after that Christmas and disappeared from my life.

GHOST Oh well. That's life! Time to move on.

SCROOGE You're a bit heartless Ghost.

GHOST Sorry, I am a ghost after all.

SCROOGE True. I am pleased we are leaving – I thought this was meant to be light hearted entertainment with fun for all the family. All we've had in the last few minutes is crying, misery, loss, despair and sadness.

GHOST Well it can only get better then can't it?

SCROOGE I really hope so!

(Scene changes into Fezziwig's business – various people at high desks on high stools – the highest of which is MR FEZZIWIG. DICK WILKINS and YOUNG SCROOGE– now in his 20s – are also there. It is an atmosphere of jolliness)

SCROOGE It's old Fezziwig!

GHOST Correct

SCROOGE Yes I worked there with my friend Dick. Look there he is. Good old Dick. Dick. Dick. Dick. Dick. Dick.

GHOST What was his name?

SCROOGE Richard.

FEZZIWIG Yo ho there! Ebenezer! Dick! Y oho my boys! No more work for you tonight. It's Christmas tomorrow. Let's shut up shop before you can say Jack Robinson. Clear the place. Hillio ho Ebenezer! Hilli Ho Dick!

(Enter MRS FEZZIWIG)

MRS F What the Dickens are you talking about?

FEZZIWIG Haven't a clue my dear. It's this wretched script – someone called Dickens apparently!

MRS F Well come on everybody let's get this party started.

FEZZIWIG Ebenezer I am so pleased with all your work.

EBENEZER Thank you Mr Fezziwig.

FEZZIWIG And you Dick – you two are my best workers

DICK Thank you Mr Fezziwig

FEZZIWIG When I retire, this may all be yours!

EBENEZER Well thank you Mr Fezziwig

DICK Yes thank you Mr Fezziwig

FEZZIWIG Now you know what they say. All work and no play...

MRS F Come on Fezziwig – time to cut the rug!

(They start to clear the places – decorations appear etc)

SCROOGE He was always very generous to us – knew how to throw a good bash! I think I will join in the fun! May I?

GHOST For now, but I have to dash shortly. Enjoy the fun while it lasts.

SCROOGE Oh I will.

GHOST But remember you soon left Fezziwig's employment.

SCROOGE And set up on my own

GHOST And refused to help him when the recession and the credit crunch bit.

SCROOGE I wasn't very kind.

GHOST He went out of business

SCROOGE Oh Ghost please don't

GHOST You must not forget.

SCROOGE I won't but please let me enjoy the fun now.

GHOST Don't forget my brother will be here to see you soon. Goodbye.

(GHOST disappears)

FEZZIWIG Come on Mr Musical Director strike up that band and let us all throw some shapes.

MRS F Come on everyone, come and let your hair down.

FEZZIWIG Show them how it's done Mrs F

(The party starts with song and dance – among them taking part is DOTTIE and various other characters we have met in Act One)

SONG — Mr & Mrs Fezziwig & Company – Big Christmas number

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

Entr'acte

Scene One – SCROOGE'S BEDROOM

(The CAROL SINGERS are outside Scrooge's house)

SINGERS God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, Let nothing you.....

SCROOGE HUMBUG!

(Clock strikes two o'clock)

SCROOGE Two o'clock!

(Sound of loud booming laughter)

GHOST *(off)* You can tell the time!

SCROOGE Who's that?

GHOST *(entering)* It's me!

SCROOGE Who are you?

GHOST Take a wild guess! Come on keep up with the plot. I am the Ghost of Christmas Present.

SCROOGE You're the Ghost of Christmas Present?

GHOST Don't try and be funny with me?

SCROOGE Oh, sorry.

GHOST No matter, just don't do it again!

SCROOGE I won't

GHOST Now where were we? Ah yes. I am the Ghost of Christmas Present. Look upon me!

SCROOGE Well I can hardly miss you.

GHOST Oi Button it!

SCROOGE Sorry

GHOST You won't have seen the like of me before.

SCROOGE You're not kidding.

GHOST Now look I am warning you, you're really trying my patience!

SCROOGE I really am truly sorry. Look I think you must be here to teach me a bit of a lesson. So, can we get on with it please?

GHOST Ok, cop a load of this here robe and tag along.

SONG — Ghost of Christmas Present

(During the song the whole place comes alive with Christmas Day celebrations – the CAROL SINGERS are there. TIX and SCALEY are dressed as a Christmas Tree and an angel. The CRATCHIT'S are taking a walk. There are sellers of food and drink. DOTTIE is also to be seen with JONNY. FRED and GLADYS are also there.)

JONNY Hello there boys and girls. What have I got?

AUDIENCE You've got the sprouts!

JONNY Yay!!

DOTTIE You're going to get a good hiding if you don't watch it!

JONNY Can't we go home and open some presents Mum.

DOTTIE Well you could if there were any presents to open!

JONNY What?

DOTTIE But it's not Christmas yet!

JONNY Yes it is. Look around you!

DOTTIE No it's not. *(LX – Snap lighting change as DOTTIE 'steps out' of the action)* Oh dear. Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls. I don't want to spoil your enjoyment, but for the purposes of the plot it isn't Christmas Day – I am sure you are following the fact that we have temporarily stepped forward in time. Unfortunately my dear dim son cannot keep up with it, so do forgive him! *(LX return to previous state)* Jonny if you don't believe me, why don't you ask the lovely boys and girls.

JONNY Ok. All you boys and girls is it Christmas Day?

AUDIENCE No

JONNY Oh yes it is.

AUDIENCE Oh no It isn't

JONNY Oh yes it is

AUDIENCE Oh no it isn't

DOTTIE Correct. Now go on with your chores!

JONNY What chores?

DOTTIE Oh a nice mug of mulled wine will do me if you're asking. Now get on with you!

(JONNY leaves)

DOTTIE Well hello Miss Tix, Miss Scaley. Trying to raise some money even on Christmas Day?

TIX Our work never stops Mrs D. I'm a Christmas tree.

DOTTIE Get away!

SCALEY I'm a fairy.

DOTTIE You don't say.

TIX We're doing a sponsored eating competition.

SCALEY We wondered if you could help us.

DOTTIE Well I haven't any spare cash I am afraid. I am only a poor widow woman.

AUDIENCE Ahhhhhh

DOTTIE Oh get on with you.

TIX No, we just want to get our hands on your puddings.

DOTTIE I beg your pardon

SCALEY Your famous puddings! They are very famous aren't they everyone?

ALL Yes!

DOTTIE Are they?

TIX We've all sunk our teeth into your huge puddings at some time or another.

DOTTIE You have?

SCALEY Oh yes, nothing like Mrs Dilber's Christmas Puds.

DOTTIE Oh I see. Well yes of course you can have some. I am well stocked.

TIX/SCALEY Yes we can see!

DOTTIE Oh you are awful, but I like you. **(Gives them a big push away)**. I'll get some ready for you.

TIX Splendid

SCALEY We will see you later. **(They leave)**

BOB Happy Christmas Mrs Dilber

DOTTIE Oh Bob Happy Christmas to you too! I see you have all the food for your Christmas feast.

BOB Yes, it's wonderful what you can find in the bins around the back of Waitrose. It might all be meagre food, but we will have fun.

DOTTIE Well at least you won't be like the rest of us and put on any weight!

BOB No chance of that.

DOTTIE Well I had better be on my way too and I think we need to get on with the plot. Time for more of horrible Mr Scrooge and his big hairy friend! *(Exit DOTTIE)*

Scene Two – The Street and the Cratchit House

(SCROOGE and GHOST come forward – behind them the CRATCHIT family house is re-created)

SCROOGE Where are you taking me now, oh Big Enormous Ghost?

GHOST Let's go and see what some others do on Christmas Day – see the fun and love it brings about.

SCROOGE Doh!

SINGERS God rest ye Merry Gentlemen, Let nothing you....

SCROOGE Humbug!

GHOST But it isn't humbug is it to so many people.

SCROOGE It's not always fun – like when you can't find the double issue of the Radio Times.

GHOST Or when your X BOX breaks on your first game.

SCROOGE Or when you've eaten up all your chocolate orange.

GHOST Enough of this. Look where we are.

SCROOGE This is the home of my clerk Bob Cratchit.

GHOST Yes, and you're really beastly to him aren't you.

SCROOGE Well, yes, I suppose I am not as nice as I could be!

GHOST Let's see what's going on

(In the house PATSY and the CHILDREN are all preparing food – TINY TIM is yet another person and is getting in the way. His crutch keeps tripping people up.)

PATSY Now you lot come on. Let's make it all festive.

CHARDONNAY But Mum I wanna watch the X Factor

PATSY Well you can't – this is 1840 and the television hasn't been invented yet and Simon Cowell is still a baby.

CHARDONNAY Oh Mummmm.

PATSY Don't you 'Oh Mum' me. Here am I slaving over a pretend sink while you lot are just getting in my way and please Tim watch your crutch!

TINY TIM Sorry Mum.

PATSY Your Father will be back here soon with the Christmas goose

WAYNE Oh it's so exciting

CINDY It's so magical

JORDAN It's so enchanting

TIM It's lovely

WAYNE Let's hide Tim

CINDY Yes it will be fun

JORDAN Father will never see him.

PATSY I'm not so sure.

CHARDONNAY Quick Tim, under this cloth.

WAYNE I can hear Father coming now

CINDY Yes he's walking in our direction

JORDAN Yes he's going to come through the door

ALL CHILDREN NOW!

(Enter BOB)

PATSY Oh welcome home Bob. You're later than we thought you would be.

BOB Sorry dear – leaves on the line at ***(LOCAL RAIL STATION NAME)***. Hello all of you!

PATSY Come on children come and greet your Father.

(They all do so)

BOB But where is Tim? I can't see him anywhere. Can you help me ladies and gentlemen boys and girls?

AUDIENCE He's behind you! ***(etc)***

BOB Oh there you are Tim

(TIM picks up BOB)

TIM Hello Father

BOB Crumbs you are getting strong!

PATSY Did you get the goose Bob?

BOB Yes, look it's the biggest I could find! ***(he pulls out a rubber chicken)***

PATSY Oh! Well it's not going to go very far. But I suppose I'll have see what I can do!

BOB Yes, let's make it the best Christmas ever!!! Let us drink a toast to the founder of our feast!

PATSY Waitrose?

BOB No Mr Scrooge
PATSY What, that miserable old..
BOB Please Patsy, for the children.
TIM Yes please Mother. It is Christmas!
PATSY Oh all right then!
BOB So raise your vessels one and all
PATSY Oh all right then, after all, we are family!
ALL Cheers

SONG — The Cratchits

Scene Three – a London park

(a park bench)

SCROOGE Well they look like they're having fun even with all those children. And that's the smallest Christmas dinner I have ever seen.
GHOST Christmas isn't all about food Ebenezer.
SCROOGE Isn't it?
GHOST It's all about love!
SCROOGE Oh for goodness sake.
GHOST Let's see what's going on over here!

(FRED is with GLADYS on the bench)

FRED Oh Gladys
GLADYS Oh Fred
FRED Oh Gladys
GLADYS Oh Fred
SCROOGE Oh for crying out loud!
GHOST Shhhhhh
FRED It's a wonderful Christmas my love!
GLADYS I'm so glad

FRED I know you are

GLADYS I know you know I am.

FRED Gladys on this festive occasion, would you do me one truly great honour?

GLADYS Oh yes Fred, you know I will do anything for you.

FRED Oh Gladys I knew you would agree. *(he gets down on bended knee)*

GLADYS *(holding out her hand)* Oh my Fred

FRED Oh my Glad. I'm so delighted you don't mind if I invite Uncle Ebenezer for Christmas Dinner!

GLADYS What that miserable old...

FRED Sorry to spring it on you, but I knew you would understand. He will be on his own otherwise

GLADYS He deserves to be! What kindness has he ever shown you?

FRED Well none I suppose.

GLADYS There you are then.

FRED But it's Christmas.

GLADYS Yes. Is that my Christmas present then?

FRED Yes.

GLADYS Oh.

FRED Not really, just joking. This is for you. *(he gets out the ring)*

GLADYS Oh Fred

FRED Oh Glad

GLADYS Oh Fred

FRED Oh Glad

GHOST Oh cripes – even I've had a basin full of them now. Cue for a song.

FRED If only we could get Uncle Scrooge to come for Christmas

GLADYS You must give up with him. He is just a miserly old..

FRED Please help me Gladys

GLADYS No, Fred. You know I love you. But we must get on and I am frozen out here. You must just let it go!

SONG — Fred & Gladys – something romantic

(After the song FRED & GLADYS exit)

SCROOGE It's quite sweet really!

GHOST You're getting soft in your old age. Now look my time is running short. See, my hair is turning grey **(FX?)**

SCROOGE Don't go I am really beginning to enjoy myself.

GHOST Don't forget another ghost will be here before long. Remember what I have said and what you have seen. Goodbye! Remember me!

(the GHOST gradually disappears and the lights fade on the park and on SCROOGE)

Scene Four – The streets of London

(DOTTIE and JONNY enter– she has loads of presents in her hands)

JONNY Hi boys and girls, guess what have I've got?

AUDIENCE You've got the sprouts!

DOTTIE Well that's just it isn't it! You haven't got the sprouts. You cannot have Christmas without sprouts. I keep asking you, but you haven't got them for me!

(to audience) Oh there you all are. I thought I would catch you as I have just finished wrapping all my presents.

JONNY Yes and none of them are for me!

DOTTIE No, but I needed your finger to help me tie all the bows.

JONNY I know – that's all I am good for!

DOTTIE These are for all the poor people.

JONNY Well we're not exactly the Beckham's are we?

DOTTIE Don't be so ungrateful.

JONNY You even wrapped a present for Mr Scrooge! Miserable old...

DOTTIE So you don't think you're being left out, here's a little orange for you to munch on before you go and put your stocking on the chimney. Here. **(she hands him a tiny stocking)**

JONNY What good is that? It's more like a sock.

DOTTIE It's one of my stockings I'll have you know.

JONNY Did it shrink in the mangle?

DOTTIE No, it's always been that size. I had it when I was 6!

JONNY Yes well, you certainly wouldn't get in it now that you are 60.

DOTTIE You insolent boy! They'll be no sugar mouse for you if you're not careful.

JONNY More likely to be a real mouse considering the state of our house!

(Enter MRS LUPIN, MISS TODDLE and MRS POCKET)

MRS TODDLE Oh hello there Mrs Dilber. Just dropping off some pressies.

MRS POCKET Everything ready for Christmas?

DOTTIE Ah Mrs Pocket, I wish I could say it was but I haven't got the sprouts.

MISS TODDLE Can't help you there unfortunately. I put mine on to cook at the start of October.

MRS LUPIN Do you need anything from my Deli for Mr Scrooge?

DOTTIE I am sure I will do Mrs Lupin

MRS LUPIN Has he experienced my spicy pork balls?

DOTTIE I am sure you will know better than me, but I'll ask him all the same. Oh woe is me!

MRS POCKET What's the matter Mrs Dilber?

DOTTIE Oh it's the thought of being alone Mrs Pocket.

JONNY You've got me!

DOTTIE Say no more!

MISS TODDLE Oh you don't have a man do you? Just like me!

DOTTIE Oh I do Miss Toodle. I just don't know if he is interested!

JONNY Oh Mum!

DOTTIE Oh it will lonely this Christmas, without him to hold!

SONG – MRS DILBER, MISS TODDLE, MRS POCKET, MRS LUPIN & JONNY

(MRS LUPIN, MRS POCKET & MISS TODDLE exit)

DOTTIE Goodness me I don't know what came over me. Now children, the next bit of the story might be a little scary. So what I want you all to do is to make sure the adults don't get too frightened. Will you do that for me? Good, you see we don't want Mummy or Daddy or Granny or Grandpa bursting into tears do we?

JONNY I will get scared.

DOTTIE You're scared of your own shadow.

JONNY I'm scared of you.

DOTTIE Me? All 6ft 3 of me with size 11 feet?

JONNY Who wouldn't be scared of that?

DOTTIE Come on with you. It's time for sleep before the big day and the last of the three ghosts!!

Scene Five – Scrooge's Bedroom & the Streets of London & the Cratchit house.

(SCROOGE is in his bed. Doom and gloom music. Clock strikes three. SCROOGE is scared. Two red eyes appear – it is the GHOST OF CHRISTMAS YET TO COME)

SCROOGE Yikes. Are you the last of the three spirits? Don't you talk. Oh alright. Well I think I can honestly say that you have scared the wotsits out of me! And probably half of **(LOCAL TOWN NAME)**.

(Lights come up on the town with people milling. All reading copies of the local newspaper)

MR WEGG Well have you seen the **(LOCAL NEWSPAPER NAME)** Mr Barnacle?

MR BARNACLE Always Mr Wegg – never miss an edition – what's the main headline?

MR WEGG He's no longer with us!

MRS LUPIN What?

MISS TODDLE Yes, Mrs Lupin, it's true – I overheard someone saying the same in the Co-op

MR GUPPY Nonsense. I don't believe it. I'd sooner see a group of mice dancing the jitterbug!

(Enter MICE dancing the jitterbug – quick and to the point)

MRS LUPIN And I was going to see if he wanted to try my toad in the hole!

MRS POCKET No more knocks on the door from him then.

MR WEGG No more red bills!

MISS TODDLE Oh I could kiss everyone!

MRS LUPIN Well he was a miserable old bl....

MR BARNACLE Leading to the question – where shall we celebrate?

MISS TOODLE Everyone down **(LOCAL PUB NAME)!!**
(They all stumble off in an excited dance – our attention goes to the CRATCHIT house)

SCROOGE What are they celebrating spirit? Oh I remember, you don't talk. Well I can't understand what excites them so much.

PATSY Come along children, get ready for dinner. Your Father will be home soon.

CHARDONNAY He is still so sad

WAYNE He is still missing Tiny Tim

PATSY Well of course he is dear – we've all been missing him all evening! But he won't have to mend Tim's chair anymore. Now tidy up. Your Father walks a little slower these days – you'd think he might walk quicker – not having to carry 15stone about. Anyway!

(Enter BOB)

BOB Hello everyone.

PATSY Oh 'ello Bob. Hard day?

BOB Oh yes. Mr Scrooge was his usual taskmaster.

PATSY Oh that miserable decrepit old s....

BOB So Christmas again already.

PATSY Maybe it is and maybe is isn't

BOB What's that supposed to mean?

PATSY Heaven only knows. I am all of a two and eight these days. That's about 14p in new money. While we worry about our Tiny Tim – that miser thinks of nothing but his money.

BOB Oh I miss Tim so much. **(he starts crying)**

PATSY So do I? **(she starts crying)**

CHILDREN So do we. **(they all start crying)**

SCROOGE Oh Spirit I can't stand it much longer. Is this what does happen or what might happen?

PATSY It would just be my our luck if we picked up the Wellington Weekly News and found that he had kicked the bucket.
(BOB hands her the paper and she reads the headline SCROOGE KICKS THE BUCKET)

PATSY Oh my good giddy aunt!
(Scene changes to Scrooge's bed – where DOTTIE and JONNY are going through his things – they both wear Marigold's)

JONNY Why do I have to wear these?

DOTTIE Handling all his old stuff? You don't know where it's been!

JONNY Hey there boys and girls. What have I got?

AUDIENCE You've got the sprouts!

JONNY No I haven't, still, I've got these! **(he holds up his gloved hands)**

DOTTIE Look feel these blankets they're still warm.

JONNY Well I can't feel it through these.

DOTTIE Pack them in the black sacks Jonny. Someone will want them.

JONNY It's all a bit gruesome Mum. What are we going to do with it all?

DOTTIE Oh maybe a car boot. Something like that.

JONNY These things all smell.

DOTTIE Well so do you.

JONNY Very funny. Well it's not me you're selling.

DOTTIE How do you know?

JONNY Well you wouldn't get anything for me.

DOTTIE No, you're probably right. I really am next to an idiot aren't I? Come on let's pack it on the cart and be off. **(They EXIT)**

SCROOGE What is happening Spirit? Oh yes, of course – do you know it's very irritating that you don't talk!

(a graveyard is built. SCROOGE and the GHOST move into it)

SCROOGE Where are you taking me now? This is a terrible place!

(an enormous gravestone with EBENEZER SCROOGE engraved on it comes into view)

SCROOGE What is this? No, it can't be true!

SONG & DANCE — Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come & Zombies

(UV scene - smoke and zombies appear all over the place and engage SCROOGE in a dance of terror. SCROOGE is paraded around by the zombies)

(At the end of which in blackout he returns to his bed and the GHOST and the all disappear.)

Scene Six – Scrooge’s Bedroom

(It’s Christmas morning – DOTTIE enters in night attire)

DOTTIE Oh my I have been tossing and turning all night. I dreamt allsorts I did. I don’t know, Christmas Day morning and I’ve still got to do for Mr Scrooge.

(DOTTIE enters SCROOGE’s room)

DOTTIE Oh Mr Scrooge – time to get up!

SCROOGE *(appearing in his bed)* What’s this? I’m awake Was it all a dream? Did I really see those ghosts? Mrs Dilber is that really you? This is my body isn’t it?

DOTTIE Oh Mr Scrooge!

SCROOGE Mrs Dilber. It is Mrs Dilber isn’t it?

DOTTIE I should certainly hope so. Why whatever has come over you all of a sudden I’ll be bound and no mistake. Jonny come here right away.

(JONNY appears)

JONNY Hey all you out there. What have I got?

AUDIENCE You’ve got the sprouts!

JONNY I still can’t find them. Oh Mum can’t I still not have my presents

DOTTIE That’s a double negative Jonny. So you won’t be getting any no.

JONNY That’s a double negative too!

SCROOGE Who cares? Oh this is something strange and magical! *(he starts to dance about)*

JONNY Crikey – I think he’s flipped his lid!

SCROOGE Not so Jonny. Not so. I think I have finally begun to realise something.

DOTTIE And what’s that?

SCROOGE That life is something to be loved and treasured.

JONNY He **has** flipped his lid!

SCROOGE Not so dear boy *(he grabs DOTTIE and begins to dance with her)*

DOTTIE Oh Mr Scrooge. I think I had better get you your Cheerios and a cuppa tea.

SCROOGE Make it my finest mulled wine and have one each for yourselves. Now be off with the both of you! I have things to do!

DOTTIE Work?

SCROOGE Work? It’s Christmas Day!

(DOTTIE & JONNY leave)

(SCROOGE goes to his window and calls out to a small boy in the street below – the boy could be in the auditorium)

SCROOGE Hey you. Small boy

BOY Get lost you miserable old..

SCROOGE Please! It's ok. I am not going to throw anything. Will you do something for me?

BOY Take a running jump!

SCROOGE Now, now, you marvellous boy. There will be something in it for you.

BOY Oh yes. Like what?

SCROOGE Well I am sure we can sort something out. Now, what day is it today?

BOY Are you trying to be funny?

SCROOGE Well yes, maybe for the first time for years I am! But honestly please.

BOY It's Christmas Day of course.

SCROOGE Well, well you really are a cool dude aren't you? Now I want you to nip along to the butchers in town.

BOY ***(LOCAL BUTCHER'S NAME)?***

SCROOGE That's the one! They have an enormous goose hanging up there. I want you to buy it and bring it to me. Here's fifty quid – keep the change and there'll be another tenner if you're quick! Come back as soon as you can.

BOY Alright mate – don't know what's come over you though! ***(he goes)***

SCROOGE Oh this is wonderful – now I must get ready for Christmas Day!

Scene Seven – The streets of London

(We are back in London town where all sorts of activity is going on. TIX and SCALEY are taking part in their pudding eating competition. Lots of people around DOTTIE and JONNY with presents, FRED and GLADYS, THE CAROL SINGERS and plenty of others.)

TIX Roll up, roll up! To the big charity pudding eating competition.

SCALEY It's all for charity. Line your puddings up Mrs Dilber.

(Two tables of puddings are brought in. Crowds cheering)

DOTTIE Ladies and gentlemen in each my puddings there is a gold coin for charity. All that Miss Tix and Miss Scaley have to do is to get the coins out, but they can't use anything except their mouths. No hands allowed at all!

JONNY Is everyone ready? On your marks. Get set! Go!

(Frantic pudding eating and as TIX and SCALEY find the coins they hand them to DOTTIE or JONNY – there could be a different winner each performance)

JONNY And the winner is..... ***(whoever it might be!)***

(Crowds all cheer. TIX and SCALEY go off and clean up and the tables are removed. The presents are picked up by DOTTIE – they are big cards with wrapping on one side and words or pictures on the other – if pictures are used then the words should be projected.)

DOTTIE Well that was fun wasn't it.

MRS POCKET Well I think it's a disgrace – all that waste of food and my little Herbert is crying his eyes out. Go on Herbert cry!

(HERBERT cries)

DOTTIE Well what will make him stop crying.

MRS POCKET He loves puddings!

DOTTIE Oh he does, does he?

MRS POCKET Yes, I like them too.

JONNY Oh you do, do you?

DOTTIE Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls – shall we?

(Business with puddings in faces etc)

MRS POCKET Well it's a disgrace! My poor little Herbert.

HERBERT ***(can't help laughing at his Mum)*** That's the funniest thing ever – and I love pudding. Thank you Mrs Dilber, thank you Jonny.

MRS POCKET Come away immediately! ***(She leaves with HERBERT)***

JONNY I think we should have a song to celebrate.

DOTTIE Good idea. Why don't we all open one of these presents! Hand them out Jonny.

JONNY I need twelve of you.

DOTTIE Well as there are 12 – let's sing the 12 Days of Christmas – but with rather different words. So you must all join in! So while they are getting ready here are a few notices!

(Someone hands MRS DILBER a list of notices which she reads out – saying hello to different groups in the audience, birthdays etc. Can be omitted if not required)

Well thank you to you all. Now, on with the song. Are you ready everyone?

ALL Yes

DOTTIE Then let's go!

(4 Carol Singers, Mrs Lupin, Mr Wegg, Fred, Gladys, Miss Toodle, Mr Barnacle, Dottie and Jonny all have a card. When the song reaches them they turn the card round to show picture/words)

SONG – 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS – Dottie & Others

First Day – A Chocolate and Pear Tart

Second Day – Two Toffee Donuts

Third Day – Three Fudgey puddings

Fourth Day – Four Custard Tarts

Fifth Day – Five Christmas Puds

Sixth Day – Six Gorgeous Trifles

Seventh – Seven Jammy sponges

Eighth Day – Eight Apple Strudels

Ninth Day – Nine Rhubarb Crumbles

Ten – Strawberry ice Creams

Eleven – Lemon Cheesecakes

Twelve – Sticky Toffee Puddings

(Suggest that they go through it once at ordinary pace and then do it as fast as possible – mustn't go on too long)

DOTTIE Well done everyone!

(Suddenly everyone freezes as SCROOGE enters)

SCROOGE Carry on everyone – it's Christmas!

(Everyone clears up and some leave. The GOOSE BOY enters with the goose.)

BOY Here you are guvnor!

SCROOGE Thank you. You wonderful boy. *(he hands him money)*

BOY Flippin 'eck, stone the crows, me old china, that's bloomin' great that is and no mistake.

SCROOGE Well run along then sonny!

BOY Cheers squire. *(he leaves)*

SCROOGE My dear nephew Fred.

FRED Why Uncle Ebenezer. Happy Christmas to you.

SCROOGE And a happy Christmas to you too.

FRED I am so happy to hear you say that. After all, at this time of year you are usually a completely miserable old...

SCROOGE Be that as it may, I think that I have finally changed dear nephew.

FRED That's wonderful Uncle. Let me introduce you to my wife to be.

GLADYS I'm Glad

SCROOGE Oh so am I dear. So am I! So sorry my dear I didn't quite catch your name.

GLADYS I'm Glad

SCROOGE Well never mind. Anyway, I would love to join you for Christmas dinner if the offer still stands.

FRED Of course it does Uncle. We'd be delighted wouldn't we dear?

GLADYS Oh yes of course Uncle Scrooge

SCROOGE Oh I am so glad.

GLADYS No, that's me.

SCROOGE Not to worry. Well I will see you later, I have a few things to do first!

(As the business continues SCROOGE makes his way over to the CRATCHITS and knocks at the door)

PATSY Oh whoever can that be on this yuletide morning?

(BOB opens the door)

BOB Oh, Mr Scrooge. Happy Christmas Sir. Would you like to come in?

SCROOGE Why are you not at work?

BOB But it's Christmas Day Sir. You said I could take the day off.

SCROOGE I remember saying no such thing

PATSY Who is it Bob?

BOB It's Mr Scrooge dear.

PATSY What that tight fisted old ***(she sees him)*** please come in dear Mr Scrooge.

SCROOGE I have had enough of this. I am not going to stand for your disobedience a moment longer Mr Bob Cratchit.

BOB Oh no! ***(he starts shaking)***

SCROOGE You have taken advantage of me for that last time!

PATSY Mr Scrooge please! ***(she starts shaking)***

SCROOGE And so I have absolutely no choice but to...

CHILDREN Poor Daddy! **(they all start shaking)**

SCROOGE Give you the rest of the week off, several days off in Lieu a pay rise, in line with industry standard. Oh and a £25 M&S voucher for your wife

(Sudden outbreak of celebrations – during which PATSY kisses SCROOGE)

BOB Oh thank you Mr Scrooge.

SCROOGE Oh I realise that I have been a miserable old ‘you know what’ for a long time now and I wish to make it up to you all. By the way, this ridiculously large goose is yours! Heaven knows what you’ll do with it.

PATSY Well it’s a bit better than a rubber chicken!

SCROOGE Oh and here’s a little present for Tiny Tim. **(he has a small hat – or similar for TIM which patently won’t fit him and looks ridiculous)** But I see he has grown a bit since I last saw him.

BOB Oh thank you Mr Scrooge – won’t you join us?

SCROOGE No, thank you all the same. I am going to spend Christmas Day with my family. And to you all – if you owe me any money, you can keep it, it’s my Merry Christmas to you all!

DOTTIE And so our story is nearly at its end. Scrooge joined Fred and his wife to be – I never did catch her name – for Christmas Dinner.

(Cheers and re-joining as we see SCROOGE with the other people. The Carol Singers are quietly singing ‘God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen’ in the background – SCROOGE applauds them)

The Carol Singers were allowed to finish a carol. Miss Tix and Miss Scaley continued their ridiculous fundraising activities.

SCROOGE Miss Tix and Miss Scaley

TIX/SCALEY Yes Mr Scrooge?

SCROOGE Please accept a gift of £100 for your latest charity.

TIX Oh thank you Mr Scrooge.

SCROOGE And I promise to give you £100 every Christmas for a good cause.

SCALEY Why thank you Mr Scrooge.

DOTTIE And the Cratchits..... Oh, the Cratchits.Hang on.

(Suddenly racing down the auditorium is a little boy)

TIM Wait, wait for me! Mum, Dad I am home!

BOB Oh my Tiny Tim!

(TIM runs into the arms of PATSY and BOB)

DOTTIE And Tiny Tim finally made it to the stage, just over two hours late! So, there we are. I suppose I had better make sure that Mr Scrooge's house is all in order.

(SCROOGE comes forward)

SCROOGE Mrs Dilber.

DOTTIE Oh Mr Scrooge. I thought you were on your way to have Christmas Dinner with your nephew and what's her name.

SCROOGE I am dear Mrs Dilber. I am, but I just wanted to say, thank you for all you do for me. And do you know in the years you have been working for me I have never known your first name.

DOTTIE Oh Mr Scrooge – it's Dottie

SCROOGE Dottie. Dottie Dilber. You know I have always thought there was something familiar about you.

DOTTIE Really Mr Scrooge?

SCROOGE Yes. I just can't put my finger on it.

DOTTIE Well I might be able to help you there.

SCROOGE Really have we met before?

DOTTIE Oh yes, Mr Scrooge. Or should I call you Ebby?

SCROOGE What?

DOTTIE Well do you remember this? ***(She pulls out the necklace)***

SCROOGE What? Dorry? My Little Dorrit?

DOTTIE The same. I have always known.

SCROOGE But, but, you've grown so, so, so, wonderful!

DOTTIE I never let on. I always held a torch for you.

SCROOGE Oh Dottie

DOTTIE Oh Ebby

SCROOGE Oh Dottie

(Enter JONNY – he has a big sack)

JONNY Hey everyone! Guess what I've got!

AUDIENCE You've got the sprouts!

JONNY Yes I have – look! ***(he empties the sack of sprouts)***

DOTTIE Stupid boy!

JONNY Errr Mum. Mr Scrooge. They are all waiting for you?

SCROOGE Really?

DOTTIE Jonny – meet my one true and only love.
JONNY Oh crikey!
SCROOGE I just have one thing to say to you my dear.
DOTTIE And what’s that my love?
SCROOGE Thank you very much.
DOTTIE Oh, thank you very much.
SCROOGE That’s the nicest thing that anyone’s ever done for me.

SONG – Scrooge & Company – Big finale

(During the song it starts snowing. There is a break in the song near the end)

TIM GOD BLESS US EVERYONE!

(SONG ENDS)

(WALKDOWN – DOTTIE & SCROOGE and FRED & GLADYS ready for their wedding)

THE END