

Taunton Brewhouse presents



A MAGICAL JOURNEY
FOR THE WHOLE
FAMILY

A
CHRISTMAS
CAROL

A new adaptation from
PLEASURE DOME
THEATRE COMPANY

Book and Lyrics by
HELENA PAYNE
& CHARLOTTE ELLEN

Music by
KIMON
PALLIKAROPOULOS

Directed by
SCOTT LE CRASS

Visual Story



TAUNTON
BREWHOUSE



Introduction

This visual story will let you know exactly what you can expect to see when you come to watch A Christmas Carol at Taunton Brewhouse.

It will give you:

- An introduction to the company
- An introduction to the characters
- An introduction to the set
- A detailed outline of the story
- A list of moments that may be a little louder or more unexpected than others

Before we get started with telling you all about our production of A Christmas Carol, we would like to say a massive thank you to Jack Offord for all of the wonderful images. Credit for all production and rehearsal images go to Jack Offord.



The Company

There are eight professional performers in the cast of A Christmas Carol. There are also two groups of local young performers. The local young performers swap for each performance so they don't miss too much time off school!



DAVID AHMAD
BOB CRATCHIT



LYDIA BARTON LOVETT
MRS FEZZIWIG



IAN HARRIS
SCROOGE / UNCLE



ZALIKA HENRY
MOTHER



GINA JAMIESON
BELLE



MORGAN VAL BAKER
MARLEY



SASHA WILSON
GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST



JOE WILTSHIRE SMITH
FRED

The Characters

Over the next five pages, we will show you what the performers look like as each of their characters:



Ian plays Ebenezer Scrooge
Some characters call him 'Uncle'

Scrooge can be described as...

Cold Hearted!



Ian in rehearsal



Ian as Scrooge

David plays Bob Cratchit



Bob Cratchet can be described as...

Compassionate!



David in rehearsal



David as Cratchit

Morgan Plays Jacob Marley



Marley can be described as...

Spooky!



Morgan as Marley



Morgan in rehearsal



Lydia plays Mrs Fezzwig

Mrs Fezzwig can be described as...

Warm!



Lydia in rehearsal



Lydia as Mrs Fezzwig



Zalika Plays Mother

Mother can be described as...

Encouraging!



Zalika as Mother



Zalika in rehearsal



Gina plays Belle

Belle can be described as...

Charming!



Gina as Belle



Gina in Rehearsal



Joe plays Fred

Fred can be described as...

Optimistic!



Joe as Fred



Joe in Rehearsal



**Sasha plays
The Ghost of Christmas Past**



*Sasha as The Ghost of
Christmas Past*



Sasha in rehearsal

The Ghost of Christmas Past can be described as...

Gentle but Strange!



The Set

The set has been designed by Lizzie Watts

There is a hidden roll up with the lights, which creates a snow fall on stage! But don't worry this isn't real snow, this is just paper.

This platform is used to make the set feel like a train station! Often the performers stand on it and play beautiful music!



These brick walls are on wheels! They are moved throughout the show to create different rooms!

Each of the rooms are decorated differently, this can show us what time period it is, as well as the status of our characters.



About the Show

The show lasts approximately a total of 100 minutes, including a 20 minute interval.

The show happens in two parts and has one interval.



Once you sit in your seat, the lights will go dark and this means that the performance is about to begin. A voice will then announce the beginning of the show. The first part lasts approximately 45 minutes. The lights will be turned on again at the end of the first part and the voice will let you know that it is the interval.



The interval lasts 20 minutes. This is the perfect time to buy an ice cream, check out our merchandise, get a drink or pop to the toilet.



There will be a bell which sounds towards the end of the interval. This is to let you know that the performance is about to restart. The second part of our show lasts approximately 35 minutes.

The Story

Psst... This part of the visual story includes spoilers! Don't read this part if you want the performance to be a surprise!

We meet MOTHER and DAUGHTER, they are waiting for a train to Taunton to visit their UNCLE, the Daughter begins to read 'A Christmas Carol'.



The first song called 'CHRISTMAS PREPARES' shows everyone preparing for Christmas, everyone is excited and joyful that Christmas is on the way. Apart from one character this is SCROOGE.



Here we are in Scrooge's office, it is very cold and CRATCHIT who works for Scrooge is trying to warm the office up. FRED, Scrooge's nephew knocks on the door, he unsuccessfully tries to spread Christmas cheer to his uncle...



Charity collectors ask Scrooge if he would like to make a donation, he says no. TINY TIM who is the poorly child of Cratchit arrives to take Cratchit home for Christmas, Scrooge bitterly agrees to let Cratchit have the day off



The next song is called COLD AS WINTER, Scrooge sings about how he thinks spreading joy and celebrating Christmas is pointless.



We return to the Train station where the Daughter likens Scrooge to her Great Uncle. The train does not stop at this station, they have to wait for the next one..



Scrooge returns home to see the face of his ghostly colleague MARLEY in his door knocker, Scrooge doesn't believe what he has just seen. The next song DIRGE OF THE GHOSTS is sung.



Marley is in chains because of choices he made while he was still alive, he tells Scrooge that he will be visited by three ghosts, he then sings DIRGE REPRISE which tells a mysterious warning about the night to come..



We are now back at the train station where the train has arrived, the daughter takes the book with her onto the train.



Scrooge is visited by THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST, she sings THE ROADS WE CHOOSE which describes how she is going to take Scrooge to his past to reflect upon the choices he has made..



They first revisit his childhood in Taunton where his sister FAN is trying to convince him to come home for Christmas, Fan sings FAN'S THEME which shows her having a strong spirit of Christmas.



The Ghost of Christmas past takes Scrooge to a scene of an old work party, they sing a song called FEZZIWIG HOE DOWN, Scrooge remembers his old boss and his wife MRS FEZZIWIG fondly, Scrooge meets BELLE, they discuss their dreams and plans for a life together.



We then see the last Christmas they spent together, Scrooge becomes more focused on money whilst Belle wants a simple life, the relationship ends. They sing BROKEN DREAMS.



On the train, the Daughter is feeling saddened by what she has just read, so Mother comforts her. The train gets held up and the mother begins to fret, the daughter then calms her...



The Ghost of Christmas present appears in Scrooge's bedroom, they seem warm and good, the spirit shows Scrooge Christmas morning, in the street they sing CHRISTMAS MORNING, which is a song of Christmas Joy. .



We are taken to Christmas dinner with the Cratchits. We find out that Tiny Tim will die if things don't change. Tiny Tim sings HOME. Despite how Scrooge has treated them and their circumstances, they still toast him.



The ghost of Christmas present shows Scrooge Fred's Christmas party. They also joke about Scrooge, yet they still toast him.. Fred Sings FAN'S THEME. The Ghost of Christmas present disappears.



The daughter begins to feel fear when she reads this story, this time, it is the mothers turn to pass on some words of wisdom, and she asks the daughter to continue....



Scrooge is now visited by the GHOST OF CHRISTMAS YET TO COME, this spirit is ominous and does not speak. It shows Scrooge a funeral, we see that their belongings have been taken to a Rag'n'Bone shop.



In the Cratchit home, they are arranging Tiny Tim's funeral. It is confirmed that the last scene was Scrooge's funeral. Seeing this makes Scrooge want to change the fate of what he has just seen, he vows to honour the spirit of Christmas in his heart..



Scrooge wakes up in his own bed, and he has the determination to make things right. He sings CHRISTMAS HEART. He visits Cratchits home and invites him and his family over for Christmas dinner..



We arrive at Uncles house who is like Scrooge at the beginning of the story. The Daughter begins to read 'A CHRISTMAS CAROL' to him.. The Show finishes with the whole company singing FAN'S THEME.



Moments You Might Want To Know About

Noises

There are lots of loud and potentially sudden noises which happen during A Christmas Carol. The volume will be reduced where possible for our relaxed performances and a limited amount of ear defenders are also available to borrow.

Throughout the show music is played by the actors on stage, sometimes they use their instruments to make spooky noises but don't worry, these are just instruments and the actors on stage are doing this on purpose.

When Scrooge comes home from work, Marley appears at his door, Scrooge then screams, but dont worry, this is all pre-planned and the actors on stage are expecting this to happen.

Sometimes there will be a voice heard or train sound effects on the speakers, this is pre recorded and is used to set the scene.

Scrooge is a very grumpy character, particularly at the beginning of our story. He sometimes shouts, but it is important to remember that he is only acting and is only this grumpy as a part of his character.

Moments You Might Want To Know About

Lighting Changes

There are lots of lighting changes throughout the performance and some moments are darker than others to create the atmosphere of night-time. There is no strobe lighting used, however, there are some slower flashing lights to create the effect of a train station.



Moments You Might Want To Know About

Audience Interaction

There are several moments throughout the performance where the performers speak out towards the audience. Scrooge talks towards the audience to help tell the story.

This is the same with a lot of the songs, which are sung out towards the audience, this is also used as a tool to help with the storytelling.

The actors do not enter the audience's space but at the end of the show Scrooge does ask a member of the audience what day it is, if he asks you, you do not have to answer.



Moments You Might Want To Know About

Haze

Haze is used at various points in the performance. Haze is used to help create atmosphere and catch the beams of light. It is also used in one part of the show to show a ghost, and Scrooge reacts to it. The haze is safe to use and isn't going to hurt you in any way.



Moments You Might Want To Know About

Set and Props

There are various pieces of set that get moved throughout the show, the walls move to reveal new rooms, this shows us where the scene is set and in what time period. They can sometimes make a rumbling sound as they are being moved but don't worry, this is because they are on wheels.

There is a tall platform that stays on stage for the duration of the show, the actors often stand on it, although they may look like they are high up in the air, they are perfectly safe and have been up on the platform lots of times in rehearsal.



Moments You Might Want To Know About

Set and Props

There are lots of puppets in the show, sometimes the actors are inside the puppets and you cannot see their faces. One of them has large hands and big glowing eyes! One of them is completely covered in a large cloak. They have had plenty of training with the puppets and are safe. It is also important to know that these puppets are never going to enter the space in which you are sat and won't get close to you. They are not real and cannot harm you in any way.

There is also a hatch in the stage floor that is used to reveal Scrooge's grave. Scrooge gets into the hatch, but he has been trained and has thoroughly rehearsed where to go underneath this hatch which leads him backstage so he can get ready for the next scene.



Moments You Might Want To Know About

Other Elements

Although this is a family show and suitable for audiences of all ages, please be aware that the story includes themes of grief and loss (with one of these elements being loss of a child), particularly in the middle section of the performance. As well as themes of the supernatural throughout.

On this note, there are three ghosts in the show, although some of them may seem scary, they are just actors in costume or actors using puppets and they are not real.



Moments You Might Want To Know About

Other Elements

Tiny Tim is shown to be very ill in A Christmas Carol, but he isn't in real life, he is completely healthy and is just acting as if he is ill to tell the story.

Sometimes Marley will look as if he is about to attack Scrooge but this is pre-planned and the actors are trained and have rehearsed this in advance. Similarly, in the scene with Marley, his puppet is ripped apart at the end of the song, but this happens on purpose and it is used to show Marley disappearing, no one is actually getting hurt.

Please do not try anything you see in the show at home!



Thank you for visiting us to watch

A CHRISTMAS CAROL



The Lion Inside



The Tiger Who Came To Tea



Ministry of Science



Pinocchio

Here are other performances you could come and see in 2024!