

A script from



“The Christmas Movie”

A Christmas Play

by

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SYNOPSIS

Christmas is the time of year when hearts are open to "feel-good" themes like peace and charity. Movies love to cash in on these themes and the patrons who gladly pay the ticket price! This play is the re-telling of some popular classic Christmas movies, how the message of Christ is inescapable and how God's "screenplay" will not be outdone.

TIME

Approximately 35-40 minutes

CAST

One: 40's-50's; acts mostly as the narrator.

Two: Late teens- late 20's; gets carried away with things that are awesome; kind of a dude.

Three: 30's-40's

Four: Late teens-late 20's

Five: 30's-40's

Six: 40's-50's

COSTUMING

Think colorful and quirky. The actors are storytellers, so give them flair as if they are performing for children. They will change hats and coats to portray different characters, but all changes should be made to be very quick.

Scene Two

Scrooge- nightcap and either an old dressing gown or robe

Bob Cratchit- pageboy cap; coat (optional)

Marley- chains (not too heavy);

Tiny Tim- pageboy cap; gloves with no fingers; small crutch

Christmas Past- cloak or cape

Christmas Present- cloak or cape (can be the same from Christmas Past) with wreath around head

Christmas Future- long black hooded cloak so that the face cannot be seen

Scene Three

George Bailey- jacket; fedora; blanket for after jumping in the water

Clarence- coat; fedora; blanket for after jumping in the water

SET DESIGN

Since this is a "storytelling" piece and moves quickly from story to story, there is no need for a set. Use a couple of stools and some wooden crates to create levels and give your actors something to sit on while they are in a scene or simply listening to the story. These are easily moved around to create Scrooge's bedroom or the Cratchit's and Bailey's home.

There are scenes in Scene Two and Scene Three that take place in a graveyard. You can either mime the tombstone or make one out of Styrofoam. Simply cut the tombstone shape out, spray paint it gray and use a black marker to spell out R.I.P on the front. Have an actor hold it up on the floor while the scene is going on. The actor holding it should keep his head down to indicate he is not part of the scene.

Since there is no set and the stage will be mostly free of set pieces, get creative with the use of the stage. Be sure to use the whole space.

If you want to have a backdrop, you might have a canvas with images of a movie camera, marquee or other symbols of the cinema to keep with the theme.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The cast of this play should all work as one voice. The dialogue is written so that everyone is a storyteller and each player will pick up where the other left off.

There is a difference between saying your lines really fast, pacing and energy.

Saying lines really fast- This is when you simply say your lines really fast. There usually isn't a lot of thought put behind what you are saying and many times it will seem as if you are just trying get through it.

Pacing- This is the rhythm of the dialogue. Like music, dialogue within a script has beats and a flow. Sometimes it's slower during a more meaningful scene or sometimes it's faster during an exciting scene. It doesn't always mean that you say your lines really fast.

Energy- Always have energy! When you are not speaking it does not mean that you are out of the scene! Listen when others are speaking and keep your body posture in a position that shows you are actively participating in the scene. Lean forward. Sit up straight. Keep your eyebrows raised. There is nothing that kills a scene faster than when someone in the background "checks out". ***This play takes a lot of energy.***

The whole cast should stay on the stage throughout the play. While they are not in a scene, they should sit to the side, kneel, or stand and be engaged by what's going on.

During the "Scrooge" and "It's a Wonderful Life" scenes, watch the movies to be able to create a caricature of the characters. During the Scrooge scene, all the characters should have a British accent as much as you can. During Wonderful Life, try to use that 1940's movie dialect or imitate Jimmy Stewart as much as possible. We're not dialect experts and your audience won't expect that, but try to imitate the tone and feel of the movies as much as possible.

Add music! Have a pianist to play softly at the end of the play and then in to "Joy to the World" or "We Wish You A Merry Christmas". There are some suggestions in the play of places where you might add music.

Have fun! Work together as a cast and really keep the pacing up! The scenes are meant to move quickly, so keep the time between the scene changes to a minimum. Have as little downtime as possible. But give the actors time to process during the more emotional moments. This will take a lot of rehearsing and some creative blocking to keep it moving.

Scene One

- One:** It's a tradition in homes across America beginning somewhere after Halloween and right before Christmas.
- Six:** Families gather around their televisions with their popcorn and hot chocolate.
- Four:** Grown men are reduced to tears.
- Three:** Women declare *(in a high-pitched voice)* "that's the sweetest thing I've ever seen".
- Two:** It's the Christmas movie.
- One:** Hollywood figured out decades ago that no matter what age you are
- Five:** Or religion
- Six:** Or tolerance for mush,
- Four:** Everybody loves a Christmas movie.
- One:** Some Christmas movies have become film classics and have earned a place in the most beloved movies of all time. But what does a great movie start with?

Actors raise their hands as if in a classroom and they know the answer and with enthusiasm...

- Three:** Money!
- Five:** Movie stars!
- Two:** *(All in one breath)* Studio executives who are so overblown with self-importance that they can't see beyond the bottom line and what their earnings will be worldwide!

One: Okay...well...there's...*that*. But more importantly, the one thing that a great blockbuster really needs, the thing that all great writers and directors are drawn to...

Six: A story.

Three: A story!

Two: A great story is where it all begins!

Scene 2

One: Consider the story of a man who had it all.

Four: Who *thought* he had it all.

Six: Well, actually he had little.

Three: Oh he had money! He had a lot of money.

Six: But that was about all he had.

Four: He had a spirit visit him!

Two: He had an employee who had nothing.

Three: Oh the employee had everything!

Five: But he had no money. (*Beat*) He had the most important thing.

One: And there begins a classic telling

Five: The beloved story

Four: The cautionary tale

All: "A Christmas Carol".

Five: This was a really long movie. How are we going to fit it into 5 minutes?

One: I have faith in us. Ready? Once, back in the olden days

Two: The days of yore!

Four: The time of yesteryear!

One: Lived an old man. He was a very old and lonely man. And his name was-

- Two:** Scrooge McDuck!
- One:** What?
- Two:** Scrooge McDuck.
- One:** No it's just Scrooge. Ebenezer Scrooge. You know, George C. Scott...
- Two:** Oh, sorry. I grew up with the Mickey Mouse version.
- One:** Fine. Okay, where was I-(*retracing his steps; under his breath*) lonely old man, his name was Ebenezer Scrooge. Ah yes! (*With flair*)Ebenezer Scrooge!

All characters, except for the narrators, take on a British accent.

- Three:** No, Bob Cratchit! That's absurd! Why should I give you a whole day off?!
- Two:** (*Also, with a British accent*) Because sir, tomorrow is Christmas.
- Three:** Christmas? Humbug!

Cratchit looks at him with sad, over exaggerated, "puppy dog" eyes and sticks out his bottom lip.

- Three:** Oh alright! Take tomorrow off! But come in really early the next day!
- Two:** (*Impressed and surprised at how easy that was*) Really?
- Three:** Well, we only have a few minutes for this story so better to get on with it, eh?
- Two:** Oh, right. Thank you, Mr. Scrooge! God bless you! And Merry Christmas!
- One:** So, Mr. Scrooge closes up shop and heads home. As Mr. Scrooge settles in for the night, he begins to hear noises in his house.
- Four:** Things that go "bump" in the night.

All the Actors begin to make ghostly noises and walk around Scrooge as if they were spirits trying to scare him.

- Three:** What? What is this? Who's there?

Marley, Actor Five, is behind him and taps him on the shoulder. Scrooge turns around and screams.

- Five:** Hello!

- Three:** *(Frightened)* Marley! My old business partner! How is it you're here? Unless...unless you're a ghost!
- Five:** I am a ghost.
- Three:** *(Yelps and then whispers)* I see dead people.
- Five:** And I've come to give you a warning, Ebenezer. You will be visited this night by three ghosts- The Ghost of Christmas Past, the Ghost of Christmas Present, and the Ghost of Christmas Future.
- Three:** But I'm afraid of ghosts. I don't want to be visited by them. Why is this happening?
- Five:** Because, Ebbie, you're a mean old man and nobody likes you. And I don't want you to end up like me. Suffering for an eternity! *(He echoes "eternity...eternity...eternity..." dramatically)*
- Three:** But...but...Marley! You were a good man! A good business man!
- Five:** Maybe so, but my business should have been mankind.
- Three:** No! No, you're just a figment of my imagination! Something I ate! That burrito I had from lunch at Taco Heaven!
- Five:** Oh I assure you, it's real.
- Three:** No! Go away from me spirit! *(He covers his face with his arms and Marley fades into the rest of the Actors)*
- One:** So, the spirit disappears and Scrooge, believing he has suffered a terrible hallucination from some suspicious food, falls asleep in his bed only to be awakened later that night.
- Six:** Scrooooooge! Scrooooooge!
- Three:** What? What? Who's there?!
- Six:** Scrooge, it is I, the Ghost of Christmas Past!
- Three:** No!
- Six:** Yes!
- Three:** No! Not possible! If I can't see you you're not there!
- Six:** What are you, 4? Open your eyes and let's get on with it.

Three: What do you want with me, Spirit?

Six: Open your eyes!

Three: Where...where are we?

All Actors are off to the sides or upstage. Actor Two is sitting on the edge of the stage. He is a young boy. You might give him a ball cap cocked to the side to indicate that he is a child.

Six: We are in the past...in your past, Ebenezer. This is your-

Three: My boyhood home, yes. I remember it well. That child...

Ebenezer sits next to him to Actor Two.

Six: ...is you, Ebenezer. Abandoned...all alone.

Three: Yes...I remember. His mother is dead and his father is angry with him. His mother died in childbirth, so his father sent him away to this school.

Six: Yes, Ebenezer. Your childhood wasn't all that great.

Actor Two moves to the side with the rest of the Actors.

Three: But I grew up into a young man. I met a young woman. Her name was Belle. That means "beautiful."

Actor Five stands next to Ebenezer. She is smiling and "flirting" with Ebenezer.

Six: Yes, we know. You fell in love with Belle and she loved you back.

Three: It was the happiest time in my life. I wanted to marry her. But I needed to make my fortune.

Six: And while you were off making your fortune...Belle got bored.

"Belle" folds her arms with a pout on her face. Actor One has put on a hat to become another character. He is standing on her other side. She notices him and gives him a flirty wave. He looks surprised and then pleased and they skip off together.

Six: So much for love.

Three: But I became rich.

Six: *(Flatly and sarcastically)* Congratulations.

Three: What happened to Belle?

Six: She married and had a whole lot of children.

Belle and Actor One are standing together as man and wife and look incredulous at the "children" remark.

Three: Egads!

Six: But she's blissfully happy... (*ominously*) unlike you. (*Pause*) And so ends the "Past" portion of this haunting. Now I must leave you.

Four: And now it's my turn! I am the Ghost of Christmas Present! Let's go see what everyone's doing right now!

Three: Oh Spirit, I'm quite tired. (*He starts to lay down, but is quickly jerked awake by Actor Four*) I think I'd like to take a small nap-

Four: No nap. On your feet. You can sleep when you're dead! Which will be soon enough!

Three: What was that?

Four: Never mind. Cecil, the Ghost of Christmas Future, will tell you all about it.

Three: His name is Cecil?

Four: (*Moving on*) We are at the home of your employee, Bob Cratchit. And this is his son, Tiny Tim.

Actor Five becomes Tiny Tim; she is on her knees and has a "crutch" under her arm. The players become the Cratchit family and stand behind her as if posing for a family portrait.

Five: God bless us everyone!

Four: Tim is very sick and not likely to live much longer.

Five: Father, will there be any supper for Christmas?

Two: Oh yes, Tim! The finest goose you ever seen!

Three: But that's not much of a goose.

Four: (*Sarcastically*) Curious, since you pay him so well!

Five: Father, will there be Christmas presents?

- Two:** We have each other. That's all the Christmas we need. *(Raising a pretend glass)* Here's a toast to Mr. Scrooge!
- Six:** Mr. Scrooge? That old miser? I'd like to give him a punch in the-
- Five:** *(Interrupting)* God bless us everyone!
- Two:** Now, now dearest. We musn't speak ill of Mr. Scrooge. It is Christmas after all. To Mr. Scrooge!
- All:** *(The Cratchit family)* To Mr. Scrooge!
- Five:** God bless us every-
- Six:** We get it Tim!
- Three:** Oh, Spirit, I can't watch anymore! This is too painful! That poor child!
- Four:** But don't you see, Scrooge? You're all part of this. This is your doing!
- Three:** Haunt me no more, Spirit! Haunt me no more! Please! I can't watch anymore! *(He continues to babble until the next ghost is in place to the left of him.)*

Actor Four fades into the background. **Scrooge** is downstage center. The **Actors** fade into the back or off to the side, kneeling or sitting as they watch the next scene. A stool or box is placed to the left of **Scrooge** and **Actor One** slowly steps up on the box. He is wearing a long black hooded cloak. Another idea is to have **Christmas Future** in the audience with a spotlight and to have eerie music playing under this scene.

Three: Spirit of Christmas Future?

Christmas Future nods once.

Three: Please, I can take no more. I've learned my lesson. Please let me go home. What is it you want to show me? Please move on so I can end this nightmare!

The Ghost of Christmas Future points to a tombstone that is placed to **Scrooge's** right side. He sees it and falls to his knees.

Three: No! No, it can't be! Nooo!!

Scrooge stands to his feet. He is wailing his arms and legs as if he is falling. *Optional- have someone standing on the floor in front of the stage with a small box fan holding it up in front of **Scrooge** to create the illusion that he is falling.

*Two players hold a blanket on either end of **Scrooge** while he is standing. **Scrooge** puts his arms over the blanket being held up in front of him. Another actor is behind him holding a pillow up to his head. The illusion is that **Scrooge** is lying in bed, but he is actually standing up. It's as if we're looking down on him.*

***Scrooge** is now in his bed having a bad nightmare.*

Three: No! Spirit! Let me go! I don't want to die! I don't want to die! I don't want to end up like Marley! I don't want to miss Christmas! I don't want to miss the season finale of 24! *(Or whatever popular show you want to add)* No...wait! I'm awake!

One: Scrooge was so excited that his visits from ghosts were over! He ran to the window and said-

Three: You there! Boy! What day is it?

Player Two can be in the audience.

Two: Why, it's Christmas Day, sir! Duh!

Three: Yes, indeed it is! Run to the store and buy the prize turkey in the window! And Merry Christmas!!

One: So Ebenezer Scrooge bought the turkey in the window. He had it delivered to the Cratchit's house and not only did he provide them with enough food for a feast, he also doubled Bob's salary and made sure Tiny Tim would live.

Five: God bless us everyone!

Six: What a gift to be given!

Four: A second chance.

Slowing down a bit.

Three: A chance to change...to make things different.

Six: Just like new fallen snow that makes everything new and clean, our Heavenly Father grants us the chance to empty our lives of the bitterness and regret.

Two: Redemption.

Three: Grace.

- Five:** Mercy.
- One:** Themes that are widely accepted over the Christmas season, whether you're a church-going believer or not. People are searching for a second chance.
- Two:** A do-over.
- Six:** I wish I'd been better with my money.
- Four:** I wish I hadn't said that to my mom.
- Three:** I wish my marriage wasn't suffering.
- Five:** I wish my child would come back home.
- One:** But thankfully, we serve the God who gives second chances.
- Six:** We serve a God who specializes in grace.

Scene Three

- One:** Consider the story of a man.
- Four:** A man who had everything.
- Three:** He had a family who loved him.
- Two:** He had a nice house.
- Five:** He had a good job.
- One:** He was well-respected within the town.
- Four:** He made it possible, through his Building and Loan business, for people to have a home.
- Three:** A roof over their head.
- Five:** Because George loved his community.
- Four:** He had a spirit who visited him!
- Six:** No, not a spirit. An angel.
- One:** He had...a wonderful life.

Two becomes George Bailey and One quickly sits on a stool/chair and becomes Mr. Potter.

- Two:** I'm telling you Mr. Potter, you'll not get the best of me!
- One:** Now George, calm down. I'm not trying to get the best of anybody. Clearly your Building and Loans can't pay up on the money you owe people, so I'm here to help. Come work for me and then everything will be alright. I can give you the money you need to keep you out of jail.
- Two:** Never! I'll never work for you Potter! You're an evil old man who just wants to own this town.
- One:** *(Addressing the audience)* George Bailey was the sort of man that everyone loved. He was the town's hero. He saved his brother from an icy death when they were just boys.
- Six:** He stayed home with his parents until his younger brother could come home from the war, giving up his dreams to travel.
- Five:** He kept the town together and united during a stock market crash. He was a man who seemed to have it all together.
- Three:** But George found himself in a situation where all hope seemed lost.
- Four:** In fact, everything seemed lost.
- Five:** Crazy Uncle Billy lost a stack of money that was supposed to keep things afloat.
- One:** But sometimes, even the best of men have their breaking points and need to be reminded about the most important things in life.

To read the rest of this script and perform it, download the full version at SkitGuys.com!

ENDING:

Three: Yeah, we can't use the name or title because of copyrighting.

Two: Why is it bad to say Charlie Br-

All: Shhhh!!!

Everyone, except **Actor One** and **Four**, attacks **Two** to get him to keep his mouth shut. Throughout the next lines, **Three**, **Five** and **Six** are trying to hold down **Two** as **Two** tries to get free.

One: *(Looking on as they hold him down)* Good. Just hold him there for a second. *(To Actor Four)* Hey kid, come here. *(He pulls her aside and smiles to the audience a little embarrassed and then goes into a "private" conversation)* I'd really like to know where you're going with this. *(Actor Four whispers in his ear; Actor One turns back to the audience; he smiles like he's just got it and he's ashamed he didn't realize where this was going; and then very proudly)* Consider the story of a boy.

Three: *(Still kind of skeptical and sitting on Two)* A boy who loved his dog.

Two relents and **Three**, **Five** and **Six** join **Four** and **One**.

Four: He wanted to be happy at Christmas, but just couldn't seem to get in the spirit. So Lu- *(she starts to say "Lucy" but remembers not to use specific names)*...particular girl, who masqueraded as a therapist and was known to pull footballs out from under would-be kickers, put him in charge of the Christmas pageant to see if that might lift his spirits.

Two: That's where everything went wrong. The round-headed kid couldn't get everyone to focus on the pageant.

Five: That other kid that played the piano wouldn't stop playing.

Three: Kids wouldn't stop dancing.

Six: It was a big 'ole mess.

Four: After rescuing a tiny Christmas tree to put in the Christmas pageant to get the ball rolling and being made fun of by everyone else because of said Christmas tree, our favorite blockhead gave up and realized he would never know the true meaning of Christmas.

One: But then, a wise kid with a blanket-

Two: -all the smart and cool people carried blankies. *(Everyone glares at him)* Just sayin'!

One: A wise kid with a blanket, reminded everyone of what Christmas was all about.

If one of your actors is a really strong singer, you can insert "Hark, the Herald! Angels Sing!" a capella here. As the singer sings, everyone else listens. If you have a spotlight,

put it on the singer. Don't sing it too fast, but sing with feeling. Use it as a moment of worship.

Scene Five

- Four:** Christmas is about receiving.
- One:** For in this way, God loved the world.
- Six:** He gave His one and only Son
- Three:** So that everyone who believes in Him will not perish
- Five:** But have everlasting life.
- Four:** Christmas is about receiving the gift that God has given us. Eternal life through Jesus.
- One:** Maybe your life isn't Hollywood. No one's is. But I contend that God has outdone anything that Frank Capra or Steven Spielberg has ever put on a silver screen. His plan is so much bigger for your life than Hollywood could ever dream of! His story...His plan...begins with a baby...

*Sound effect of a baby's cry. **Actor Two** becomes Joseph and **Actor Four** becomes Mary. **Mary** is holding a baby. The rest of the cast stands around **Mary** and **Joseph** to see the baby. They become the "wisemen" and "shepherds".*

- Six:** A man
- Three:** And a woman
- Four:** Chosen by God to deliver a very special gift to all mankind.
- Five:** And talk about special effects! I mean, come on! A giant bright star that led people to the baby?!

*The manger scene tableaux is broken and everyone starts to get excited here about all the cool things Jesus did, but **Actor One** is trying to make his point.*

- Two:** Right? And what about later when he grows up and he's all like "I'm walkin' on water, y'all!" And then he's going around healing people and casting out demons...*(he's gotten carried away)*and he's all like "Demon, come out!" Oh! And then that one time when all those people were hungry and he takes the fish...
- One:** Yes. Jesus did all that. But before he grew up, he was born to a simple carpenter.

Two: And then he grew up and put all those Pharisees in their place! He was all like, "Hey, if you're without sin cast the first stone!" Remember that? That was awesome.

One: Well...yes...he did that too-

Two: Oh! And then he was out in the desert and the devil goes "Hey, if you're the son of God you could totally take over everything!" And Jesus goes, "I so could! But I'm not gonna, cause that's not the plan, loser!"

One: Yes, you're right there, too. But the point is-

Two: *(Completely in his own little world; he is way off track)* Yeah! And then there was this one time when he found this robot in the desert with a message from the princess. And she was like "You're my only hope!" And then he got in the space ship and blew up that big shining star! And he was all like "Pew! Pew! Pew!" *(He makes laser gun sounds; Star Wars reference)*. And then he's on the bridge with his staff and the big demon is looking down on him and he's all like "You shall not pass!" *(Lord of the Rings reference)* And he falls into the pit and they're all "Noooo! You're not my father!"

Everyone is stunned. They're unsure how to respond so they just stand and stare at him. Pause for laughter here and let it ride if your audience is laughing.

One: The point is-

Two: *(A little more quietly)* And that elf got out his bow and arrow-

One: *(Snapping a little)* Alright, that's enough out of you.

Two: I'm sorry.

One: The point is that God...in His infinite wisdom...had a plan.

Five: A screenplay?

If you have a keyboardist or a pianist, they can play softly through the end of the play.

One: Well...okay. A screenplay for your life. God is the master storyteller and has written the story of your life. We all like to think that in our story, we're the disheartened bank manager who saves the day and wins the hearts of his friends and family. Or the dramatically rich miser who has a classic change of heart. And yes, even the hero who saves the princess. *(He looks at Actor Two)*

- Three:** But most likely what you will find is that your story is like the story God told about himself.
- Six:** A simple child. From a simple birth. With humble beginnings. In a small backwoods town. Just eeking out enough from a simple life until...it was time.
- Four:** Time to help the helpless.
- Two:** Time to heal the sick.
- Five:** Time to feed the hungry.
- Three:** Time to be the light.
- Four:** Time to share...HIS story.
- One:** As you celebrate the greatest story ever told this Christmas season, remember that your story
- Six:** ...the one that God has crafted just for you...
- One:** ...isn't finished. For the One who began a good work in you will perfect it till the day of Christ Jesus.
- Five:** God bless us everyone!

Everyone sings "Joy to the World". Afterwards you might also include "We Wish You a Merry Christmas".