1970

The Direction of A Christmas Carol

LeElla Ratcliff

Ouachita Baptist University

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THE DIRECTION OF
A CHRISTMAS CAROL

A Special Study
Presented to
Mr. Dennis Holt Sr.
Ouachita Baptist University

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for
Honors Program

by
LeElla Ratcliff
December 1970
I chose for my special study in Honors for this semester to direct the Guachita Children's Theatre production of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. I decided on this particular play because I felt as though the season (December 9-12) demanded it and because of its infinite opportunities in the area of special effects. I also chose this play because it required a large number of cast members (approximately thirty) and I enjoy working with larger casts more. Try-outs were held October 27 and 28 and I was fortunate enough to have fifty students audition. From these, I selected a "PERFECT" group of people with which to work and never had a moment's regret as to my choice. (They are listed in the newspaper article and program included in this report). Although we were operating on an extremely "tight" rehearsal schedule, everything developed smoothly---with the exception perhaps of the set which, true-to-form, failed to develop at all until I managed to drive every nail myself. But I "got by with a little help from my friends" and the result was a totally satisfying production which I believe I heard being described most often as BEAUTIFUL. The things that enhanced the production most were the scene with the carolers in the aisles, the elevated effect of the ghosts, and the use of tableaus in the flashback scenes. We sported a full house almost every performance, with "standing room" for two performances, a standing ovation for Scrooge at four out of six performances, and a box office intake of around $240.00. All-in-all, I could not have been any prouder and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity of being allowed to work in this capacity. "THANK YOU, Mr. Holt!"
Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," the familiar tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, will be presented by the Children's Theater this Wednesday through Saturday in Verser Drama Center.

"We've added an extra night performance for students because of the great response we received last year when we did 'Peter Pan'," says LeElla Ratcliff, play director.

The production requires a large cast, and participants are: Tom Roberts, Shannon Scott, David Glaze, Sherry Doublin, Butch Reeves, Cheryl Palmer, Margie Royson, Bob Belchant, Linda Selph, Jim Kelly.


A chorus and singers will also be featured in the production. The director wanted a large cast to give a chance to "Mr. Every- day Student."

"This is a real opportunity to introduce those who aren't drama majors to the theater," LeElla says. "I enjoy working with children's theater more than any other kind of production."

Assistant director Jane Thomas comments, "We hope to promote Christmas spirit with "...in keeping with the season..."

this play. Although this is children's theater, students and adults enjoy these productions as much as the children do."

LeElla read up on plays this summer looking for the right one — something comparable to "Peter Pan."

"I chose this one in keeping with the season," she concludes. "With finals coming up, it's the right time to present something light!"

'A Christmas Carol'

Performance dates are as follows:

Wednesday, Dec. 9—8 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 10 — 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 11 — 4 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 12 — 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Scrooge (Tom Roberts) is given a terrifying glimpse of Christmas past, present and future in Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," to be performed by the Children's Theater this Wednesday through Saturday.
GOD BLESS US EVERYONE
presents

A Christmas Carol

by

Martha B. King

DIRECTED BY
LeElla Ratcliff

ASSISTED BY
Jane Thomas
SYNOPSIS

ACT ONE:

Scene 1 — The Cratchit Kitchen
Scene 2 — The City Streets
Scene 3 — Scrooge’s Office

ACT TWO:

Scene 1 — Schoolroom of the Past
Scene 2 — Fezziwig’s Party of the Past
Scene 3 — Cratchit Kitchen of the Present

(INTERMISSION)

ACT THREE:

Scene 1 — A Graveyard of the Future
Scene 2 — Cratchit Kitchen of the Future
Scene 3 — Scrooge’s Office; the Real Present
Scene 4 — The Cratchit Kitchen

CREWS

Technical Director ................................................................. Richard Smith
Stage Manager ................................................................. Richard Smith
Publicity ................................................................. Judy Clowers
House Managers ................................................................. Cherie Faulkner and Bernie Hargis
Set Construction ................................................................. Gene Vestal, Stan Rogers, Bob Belshan, LeElla Ratcliff*, Jane Thomas*
Lighting ................................................................. Andrew James, Richard Smith, Gene Vestal
Sound ................................................................. Stan Rogers, Jane Thomas
Costumes ................................................................. Cast Members, Marsha Bundren
Make-Up ................................................................. Kathy Haygood, Debbie Yeldell, Colleen Ferguson, LeElla Ratcliff, Jane Thomas
Props ................................................................. Cast Members, Cherie Faulkner
Special Effects ................................................................. Marsha Ellis, Ann Mosteller, Poyee Wong
Program Design ................................................................. Judy Clowers

* Member National Collegiate Players
# THE CAST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Actor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Bob Cratchit</td>
<td>David Glaze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Cratchit</td>
<td>Sherry Doublin</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Cratchit Children:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth, Age 7</td>
<td>Linda Selph</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward, Age 8</td>
<td>Bob Belshan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tiny Tim, Age 10</td>
<td>Shannon Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belinda, Age 15</td>
<td>Cheryl Palmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter, Age 17</td>
<td>Butch Reeves</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martha, Age 20</td>
<td>Margie Royston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ebenezer Scrooge</td>
<td>Tom Roberts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collector from Charity</td>
<td>Michael Beaty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fred, Scrooge's Nephew</td>
<td>James Pruitt</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marley’s Ghost</td>
<td>Jim Kelly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ghost of Christmas Past</td>
<td>Jimmy Cope</td>
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<td>Schoolgirls:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgette</td>
<td>Nora Risher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robin</td>
<td>Beverly Bently</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scrooge as a Young Boy</td>
<td>Debbie Strickland</td>
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<td>Fan, his Little Sister</td>
<td>Lauren McCoy</td>
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<td>Mr. Fezziwig</td>
<td>Sid Emmons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Fezziwig</td>
<td>Kathy Haygood</td>
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<td>Scrooge as an Apprentice</td>
<td>Jim Riddle</td>
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<td>Fiddler</td>
<td>Doug Kellner</td>
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<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>Holly Hicks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ghost of Christmas Present</td>
<td>Becky Russell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ghost of Christmas Future</td>
<td>Debbie Yeldell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe</td>
<td>Sett Talbert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charwoman</td>
<td>Susan Moss</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laundress</td>
<td>Peggy Hellen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undertaker’s Man</td>
<td>Will Pavey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Townspeople</td>
<td>Judy Clowers, Anne Coppenger, Debbie Dumas, Tanya Garner, Shirley Grant, Martha Hays, Holly Hicks, Diana Kirk, Bobby Miller, Becky Russell, Jane Thomas</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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