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The Direction of A Christmas Carol

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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 Ouachita Children's Theatre production 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 tableaux 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!"



The SIGNAL

Tuesday, December 8, 1970

Arkadelphia, Ark.

Number 10

In children's theater

'Carol' opens tomorrow

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 Dublin, Butch Reeves, Cheryl Palmer, Margie Royster, Bob Belchant, Linda Selph, Jim Kelly.

Jim Pruitt, Jimmy Cope, Becky Russell, Debbie Strickland, Lareen McCoy, Beverly Bentley, Nora Risher, Sidney Emmons, Kathy Haygood, Jimmy Riddle, Holly Hicks, Doug Kellner, Debbie Yelldel, Sett Talbert, Susan Moss, Peggy Hellen, and Will Pavey.

A chorus and singers will also

LeElla says. "I enjoy working with children's theater more than any other kind of production."

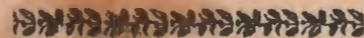
Assistant director Jane Thomas comments, "We hope to promote Christmas spirit with

"...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.



"...because of the great response last year..."

be featured in the production. The director wanted a large cast to give a chance to "Mr. Everyday Student."

"This is a real opportunity to introduce those who aren't drama majors to the theater"



Scrooge (Tom Roberts) is given a terrifying glimpse of Christmases 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



Tiny Tim

THE OUACHITA UNIVERSITY
CHILDREN'S THEATRE

presents

DICKEN'S

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

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

Produced By Arrangement with The Children's Theatre Press