



COURTYARD THEATRE

CHIPSTEAD PLAYERS

Audition Notice

Uncle Ebenezer

Director: Ian Brown, Musical Director: Guy Norris, Choreographer: Claire Ali
Production Manager: Anne Thorn

A musical play by Phil Willmott adapted from "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens

Performance Dates:	Wed 10 th – Sun 14 th and Wed 17 th – Sat 20 th January 2024
Company Singing Introduction:	Thursday 29 th June at 7.30pm
Principals Singing Introduction:	Thursday 6 th July at 7.30pm
Readthrough:	Tuesday 11 th July at 7.30pm
Audition Dates:	Sunday 16 th July at 2pm Wednesday 19 th July at 7.30
Rehearsals begin:	Tuesday 5 th September at 7.30

Rehearsals will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, plus Sunday afternoons from 12th November.

Production Manager: **Anne Thorn – anne44lane@yahoo.co.uk – 07798 812719**
(Please email to register your interest in taking part)

I am delighted to announce that we will be performing Uncle Ebenezer by Phil Willmott as our January show in 2024. This is a delightful and moving version of "A Christmas Carol". I saw the original production at Battersea Arts Centre in December 2000 and immediately fell in love with it.

This version is narrated by Scrooge's nephew and cleverly and seamlessly interweaves Christmas carols, famous pieces of classical music and Gilbert and Sullivan songs (all set to new words) with the narrative. Sometimes, the actual carols are sung as well, giving a marvellously Christmassy feel to the piece. There are a huge number of parts for all ages, but many of these can be doubled, trebled or even quadrupled according to our needs. I expect that apart from Scrooge and The Nephew, most people will play a couple of roles and form part of the chorus of ghosts, market traders, party guests etc. A number of puppets are used in the production, so some members of the cast will have the chance to hone their manipulation skills – ooh err!!

I am really looking forward to starting work on this magical piece of theatre and am delighted to be working with the wonderful Guy Norris as Musical Director and the equally wonderful Claire Ali as Choreographer. I previously directed a very successful production of this show with Claire as Choreographer in 2008.

The main characters are as follows:

Ebenezer Scrooge – The character is so famous that little description is needed. We will be looking for a good character actor. Solo singing role.

The Nephew - Playing age, 20s or 30s. Pleasant, affable young man. This is a very large role as the character narrates much of the story. Solo singing role.

Eleanor – The nephew's wife. Of similar age to him. Busy mother of four children.

The Ghost of Christmas Past's Voice – The physical character will be a child-sized puppet, so we are looking for an interesting voice to go with it. Could be male or female. Solo singing role.

Charitable Gentleman – Calls on Scrooge to collect money for the poor. Solo singing role.

Jacob Marley's Voice – Marley's body is another puppet but made up of several parts, so a spooky and threatening voice is required to go with it.

Young Scrooge – About 18. He was a hard working but pleasant chap at this point. Solo singing role.

Mr Fezziwig - 40 plus. Scrooge's kindly former employer.

Mrs Fezziwig - 40 plus. His kind and caring wife.

Belle Fezziwig – About 18. Their granddaughter and young Scrooge's intended. In love with Scrooge but disillusioned when Scrooge is more interested in his work than her. Solo singing role.

Richard Scrooge – About 17. Young Ebenezer's brother. Handsome and charming. Small role.

The Ghost of Christmas Present - This ghost is played by an actor. Imposing! Solo singing role.

Bob Cratchit - Scrooge's loyal clerk. 30-40ish. A very emotional role as Tiny Tim dies in the future scene. Solo singing role.

Sarah Cratchit - Bob's wife. 30-40ish. Working class mother of several children. Solo singing role.

Doll }
Peg } - Three ghoulish women. Small solo singing roles.
Mrs Dibner }

Old Joe – A revolting, sleazy rag and bone man. Small solo singing role.

Tiny Tim - Small and sickly looking and walks with a crutch. In this version, he also portrays the Ghost of Christmas yet to come.

Alec } An engaged couple who wish to marry on Christmas Day.
Laura }

There are many other smaller roles and also roles for children of varying ages.

We look forward to seeing you for the pre-audition sessions in July.

Yours,

Ian Brown