

STAGE COACH PLAYERS PROUDLY PRESENTS



# A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens

Adapted with new material and directed by Amanda Smothers

December 12, 13, 14 7:30 pm  
14, 15 2:00 pm

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# A Christmas Carol

## SETTING

The play is set in various spaces within and without a contemporary family's home. Dickens's classic story is framed around a contemporary family "transported" into the tale by reading it on Christmas Eve.

## TIME

<u>Contemporary Christmas Eve</u>	2013
<u>Christmas Present</u>	1843
<u>Christmas Past</u>	1788 (Scrooge's Younger Schooldays) 1794 (Scrooge's Older Schooldays) 1799 (Fezziwig's Party) 1801 (Belle and Scrooge) 1811 (Belle's Marriage and Children)
<u>Christmas Future</u>	1844

## ACT 1

Scene 1: Contemporary Family Home

Scene 2: Scrooge's Counting House

Scene 3: Scrooge's Home

Scene 4: Scrooge's Bedchamber

Scene 5: Boarding School

Scene 6: Fezziwig's Business

Scene 7: Park

Scene 8: Street

*15 Minute Intermission*

## ACT 2

Scene 1: Scrooge's Bedchamber

Scene 2: Cratchit Home

Scene 3: Street

Scene 4: Fred's Home

Scene 5: Want and Ignorance

## ACT 3

Scene 1: Christmas Future, Street

Scene 2: Old Joe's Beetling Shop

Scene 3: Home of the Mortgagers

Scene 4: Cratchit Home

Scene 5: Graveyard

Scene 6: Scrooge's Bedchamber

Scene 7: Street

Scene 8: Fred's Home

Scene 9: Scrooge's Counting House

Scene 10: Contemporary Family Home



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# Company

(Alphabetical)

Clara Biletzky . . . . . Fan Scrooge, Fred's Party guest, Family A  
Denny Boynton . . . . . Ebenezer Scrooge  
Gwynneth Boynton . . . . . Lizzy Cratchit, Elizabeth Woolf  
Maria Boynton. . . . . Jane, Mrs Cratchit  
Nicole Calcagno . . . . . Mrs Fezziwig, Fred's Maid & Couple A  
Abby Cooper . . . . . Augusta Fezziwig, Miss Martha Cratchit  
Alivia Cooper. . . . . Schoolgirl, Belle's daughter, Fred's Party guest  
Lauren Duffin . . . . . Peter Cratchit, Fredericka Fezziwig  
Alexis Gillum . . . . . Want, Schoolgirl  
Cameron Harms . . . . . Topper, John, Family A  
Rachel Hartness . . . . . Schoolgirl, Belle's daughter, Fred's Party guest  
Galen Hughes. . . . . Grace, Phantom, Harriet Dedlock, Family A  
Michael Jaros . . . . . Timmy, Tiny Tim Cratchit  
Dominic Johnson . . . . . Teen/Young Ebenezer, Mr Martin, Family C  
Stewart Ogilvie. . . . . Mr Toodle, Businessman #3, Phantom  
Isaiah Panke . . . . . Ghost of Christmas Past, Payton, Paul Cratchit  
Hayden Perkins . . . . . Fred, George, Phantom  
Alyssa Price . . . . . Anne, Emma Smith, Street Urchin  
Norm Read . . . . . Jacob Marley, Businessman #4  
Jason Reed . . . . . Mr Fezziwig, Businessman #1, Family B  
Alyssa Rigney . . . . . Olivia, Belinda Cratchit  
Nathaniel Robinson. . . . . Boy Ebenezer, Ignorance  
Taylor Roose . . . . . Guppy, Beggar #1, Phantom  
Janis Schnurr-Trebe . . . . . Schoolgirl, Fred's Party guest, Family B  
Aaron Schryver . . . . . Mr Grimwig, Townsperson #2, Phantom, Pickpocket  
Shawn Skau . . . . . Robert, Bob Cratchit  
Nick Slicer . . . . . Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, Mr Nubbles,  
Fiddler, Couple A  
Keely Smith. . . . . Mary, Caroline, Family C  
Nathan Stringer . . . . . Schoolboy, Belle's son, Fred's Party guest  
Daisy Torian. . . . . Schoolgirl, Belle's daughter, Fred's Party guest  
Roxanne Torian . . . . . Georgiana Fezziwig, Jenny, Couple B [Brother/Sister]  
Zaven Torian . . . . . Dick Wilkins, Weevle, Couple B [Brother/Sister]  
Vince Virtue . . . . . Old Joe, Beggar #2, Businessman #2  
Constance Wedel. . . . . Edwina ("Turkey Girl")  
Rebecca Whittenhall . . . . . Belle, Mrs Trotter, Townsperson #1, Family B  
Kara Wilkins . . . . . Ghost of Christmas Present, Mrs Dilber, Phantom

# Production Crew

Director ..... Amanda Smothers  
 Stage Manager ..... John McCue  
 Producers ..... Jim Doherty, Greg Anderson  
 Choreographer ..... Amanda Smothers  
 Costume Designer ..... Amanda Smothers  
 Set Design ..... Brian Maxfield  
 Set Construction ..... Denny Boynton, Cameron Harms, George Jaros,  
 Brian Maxfield, Dave Pearson, Norm Reed  
 Master Painter ..... Roberta Maxfield  
 Set Painting ..... Denny Boynton, George Jaros, Roberta Maxfield,  
 Alyssa Price, Rhiannon Watterson  
 Lighting Design ..... Bridget Johnson  
 Light Board Operator ..... Will Biletzky  
 Lighting Assistant ..... Mark Hunyard  
 Running Crew ..... Mandy Paschen, Summer McFalls  
 Sound Design ..... Amanda Smothers  
 Sound Cues ..... Tom Grady  
 Sound Board Operator ..... Daniel Oliver  
 Properties ..... Mandy Paschen  
 Hair/Makeup Design and Workshop Instructor ..... Keely Smith  
 Photographer ..... Heather Vanden Berg  
 Poster Design ..... Wendy Tritt



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# Greenroom

**Greg Anderson** (Producer) Last seen on stage in *Company*. This is Greg's 22nd year with SCP.

**Clara Biletzky** (Fan, Party Guest, Townsperson) Clara is in sixth grade at Sycamore Middle School. This is her third *Christmas Carol*. In her free time she enjoys choir, reading and competitive dance.

**Denny Boynton** (Scrooge) Denny is very pleased to be playing the role many said he was born to play: Ebenezer Scrooge. Denny is returning to Stage Coach after an eleven year hiatus initiated by an unexpected move to St. Louis. Prior to that, he was in *The Return of the Pink Panther*, and most recently in *The Robin Hood Caper* this past spring. He works as a software architect for Microsoft and, outside of Stage Coach, enjoys writing, reading, playing music, volunteering with the Rover Rescue dog fostering program and spending time with his extremely patient wife, Maria, and his three awesome daughters, Zoe, Josephine, and Gwynneth.

**Gwynneth Boynton** (Lizzie Cratchit) Gwynneth is eleven years old and loves soccer and One Direction more than anything. This is her first time on stage. She lives with her parents (both in the show) and two older sisters. She hopes to be in many more productions.

**Maria Lyn Percy Boynton** (Jane, Mrs. Cratchit) This is Maria's first time on stage. Her husband, Denny, and her daughter, Gwynneth, are also in the production. Maria is a freelance writer, graphic designer, and is shopping her first manuscript to an agent. Her family fosters dogs through Rover Rescue and she runs [iheartscamore.com](http://iheartscamore.com).

**Nicole Calcagno** (Mrs. Fezziwig Fred's Maid) She has a B.A. in Communications and works at a Radio Station. She has a long history of Choir/Theater from childhood through high school. She was in her first show at 6 years old! After high school, she didn't do much theater until 2012 when she was cast in a show in Springfield, Illinois. She is ecstatic to be back in the world of theater. She was in the *Harry Nile*, *Case of the Dueling Divas* radio show with Stage Coach. This is her second, and hopefully the start of many more shows with this esteemed group. She would like to thank her family and friends for encouraging her to keep trying and always go for what you want.

**Abby Cooper** (Martha Cratchit, Augusta Fezziwig) Abby Cooper attends school at Hiawatha Junior High. She has been acting since she was in third grade and aspires to make acting her career. Abby has been in several productions with Stage Coach theater and just loves all the friendships she has made. The actors and directors are amazingly talented and friendly. Abby wants to thank the director and John the stage manager for making this a fun experience.

**Alivia Cooper** (School Girl, Belle's Daughter, Party Guest) Alivia is in 3rd grade at Hiawatha elementary. This is Alivia's second time acting with Stage Coach. Her first appearance was in *Shrek The Musical*. Alivia says "she's hooked". Acting is fun and exciting. She wants to thank her Mom and Dad for their support and for the rides.

**Jim Doherty** (Producer) Jim is continuing to be involved behind the scenes. After several memorable roles, Jim is enjoying using his talents to help promote SCP. Thank you to all who contribute to make our shows come to life.

**Lauren Duffin** (Fredericka Fezziwig, Peter Cratchet) Lauren has enjoyed playing both a Fezziwig daughter and a Cratchit son in this year's production of *A Christmas Carol*. This is her fifth *Christmas Carol* and seventh show with SCP. Lauren has had lots of fun working on this show. She would like to thank her parents for driving her to rehearsal while juggling the hectic schedules of her and her sister. Enjoy the show!

**Alexis Gillum** (Want, Townsperson, and Schoolgirl) This is Lexi's first play and she is very excited to be a part of it. She is 7 and in the second grade. She enjoys singing, dancing, and doing anything girly. She hopes to be a part of future Stage Coach plays and is looking forward to her "big debut".

**Cameron Harms** (Topper, John, Townsperson) Cameron is excited to be making his Stage Coach debut. He is grateful to have this opportunity and would like to thank his friends and family for their support.

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**Rachael Hartness** (Schoolgirl, Belle's Daughter, Party Guest) This is Rachael's 3rd year being a part of the cast for *Christmas Carol* and is so excited to be apart of it. She is a very enthusiastic 4th grader at Cortland Elementary School. Hockey and football are her favorite sports to participate in and she also enjoys spending time with her family and friends, especially her best friend Kyla. Thank you to all who have helped make this dream possible and hope everyone has a Merry Christmas!!!

**Galen Hughes** (Grace/Ensemble) is excited to be doing her second and certainly not last Stagecoach Players production. She is currently a senior at GKHS and would like to thank her parents for keeping her dinner warm on late rehearsal nights, and the entire cast and Amanda for this wonderful experience. Enjoy the show!

**Michael Jaros** (Timmy, Tiny Tim) Michael is very excited to be playing Timmy/Tiny Tim Cratchet in his first ever performance. Mike is a first grader who is interested in reading, building robots, science, and playing piano when he's not busy at rehearsals.

**Bridget Johnson** (Light Designer) Bridget is a senior at Sycamore High School. This is her eighth SCP show and her fifth working the technical side of the show. She hopes you enjoy the show.

**Dominic Johnson** (Young Scrooge, Mr. Martin) This is Dominic's first *Christmas Carol* with SCP, but he is no stranger to the stage. He has been seen as Peter in *Company* and a pig in *Shrek*. He would like to thank all of the wonderful folks involved with this celebration of the Christmas spirit. Dominic would also like to thank Charles Dickens, whose stories helped increase Dominic's interest in reading. Enjoy the show.

**Brian Maxfield** (Set Designer and Master Carpenter) Now that Brian is retired from UPS, he has been working on theater sets. He has been the master builder for Steel Beam theater and for SCP productions. Brian has been involved with SCP on and off for as long as his wife, Roberta, had been involved.

**Roberta Maxfield** (Head Scene Painter) Roberta is very excited to be painting another *Christmas Carol* set. Her work backstage, as well as on stage has been seen at SCP for many years. She and her husband, Brian, have built and painted may sets at SCP and Steel Beam. Thanks to Amanda for getting us involved.

*Break a Leg!*



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**John McCue** (Stage Manager) John's first show with Stage Coach players was in 1971. Since then he has appeared in almost 70 shows of all types. John has also designed sets, built sets, and worked back stage in many productions. John prefers musicals, but just can't resist playing the bad guy in more serious productions. John is a retired State of Illinois Child Abuse Investigations Supervisor.

**Stewart Ogilvie** (Mr. Toodle, Phantom) Stewart holds a degree in Theatre from Northern Illinois University. He has studied and worked at Victory Gardens Theatre - Chicago, Second City - Chicago among many other venues. This is his 3<sup>rd</sup> *A Christmas Carol* at Stagecoach. He taught theatre and directed for 14 years in the public schools. He has since gotten back to performing and directing on the educational, community and professional level. His son convinced him to go back to performing and directing as well as teaching. - "I haven't seen you in a show for years and you love it, why don't you get back to it" so he recently dove into the water again and is renewing/reworking his craft, a life long project of love. Stewart has appeared in more than 50 plays and 10 films plus various commercials and voice overs during his career.

**Isaiah Panke** (Ghost of Christmas Past, Payton, Paul) Isaiah attends Huntley Middle School in DeKalb. He is active in choir and madrigals. This is his third *Christmas Carol*. He has previously been seen in *The Wizard of Oz*, *Pinocchio*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Aladdin*.

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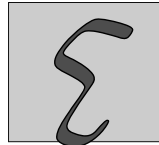
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**Mandy Paschen** (Props Manager) Mandy has handled props and backstage work in over ten shows at SCP. She has loved every minute of it. Some of her favorites include *Annie*, *Shrek*, *Wait Until Dark*, and *And Then There Were None*. She was the Ghost of Christmas Past two years ago. She lives with her cat and teaches toddlers to 3 year olds. She thanks you for attending the show and wishes you a Merry Christmas.

**Hayden Perkins** (Fred, George, Phantom, Party Guest) Hayden has been involved with theater since he was a wee lad. His first show with SCP was *A Christmas Carol* several years ago. He is an active member of the Kishwaukee College Forensics Team.

**Alyssa Price** (Anne, Party Guest) Alyssa is brand new to acting and the Stagecoach Players. She enjoys hanging out with her friends and listening to music. She is in 8th grade at Sycamore Middle School.

**Norm Read** (Marley's Ghost, Businessman #4) Norm has appeared in many SCP productions over the years, most recently as Henry II in *The Lion in Winter*. He has also worked backstage as costumer, stage manager, director, and on the Board, and received the 2006 SCOTY Award. Norm would like to thank his lovely wife, Winifred Halsey, for her patience and support.

**Jason Reed** (Mr. Fezziwig, Party Guest, Townsperson) Jason is thrilled to be a part of his first performance with Stagecoach. After getting a B.A. in Theatre Performance from Butler University, he continued to perform onstage and doing voiceover work in Syracuse, NY, before settling in DeKalb. Jason wants to thank his wife, Alecia, for her unwavering support in anything that gets him out of the house.

**Alyssa Rigney** (Olivia and Belinda Crachit) Alyssa is in 6th grade at Huntley Middle School. She is a part of student council and choir. She has a brother and a sister and a parakeet and beta fish! Alyssa loves to dance and dances competitively for NIDC. Her favorite color is blue and she enjoys hanging out with her friends!

**Nathaniel Robinson** (Boy Ebenezer, Ignorance) Nathaniel is thrilled to appear in his second Stage Coach production, having previously been in *Shrek the musical*. Nathaniel has enjoyed several seasons of CCT. When asked what he enjoys most about the theater, Nathaniel states onions- it's all about the layers.

**Taylor Roose** (Guppy, Beggar, Phantom) This is Taylor's 3rd show with SCP, having appeared in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Shrek*. This is his first non-musical role. He is very excited for this opportunity and would like to thank his friends for all there support.

*Enjoy the holiday classic!*

Jerry & Annette Johns

**Janis Schnurr-Trebe** (School Girl, Party Guest, Townsperson) Janis is a Sycamore second grader. Introduced to the theater and Stage Coach Players at last year's performance of *A Christmas Carol*, this is her first time on stage and she is happy to be a part of the production.

**Aaron Schryver** (Glenwill, Phantom, Begger) Aaron has been in every *Christmas Carol* Production the SCP has produced. He works at First Student in DeKalb and lives in Sycamore.

**Shawn Skau** (Bob Cratchet) Shawn is making his seventh appearance in a SCP production and is excited to be playing Blob Cratchet once again. He was last seen as Harry McMichael in *Not Now Darling* last year. He hopes everyone has a happy and safe holiday season.

**Nick Slicer** (Mr. Nubbles/The Fiddler/Ghost of Christmas Yet-to-Come) Nick is making his Stage Coach debut with *A Christmas Carol*. Though this is the first time onstage in some time, Nick has worked with theatre in the past serving as a director, writer, technical director, and set designer. Nick is the co-host for the popular movie/entertainment podcast, *The Culture Cast with Zack and Nick* and currently works as a counselor for NIU's CHANCE Program.

**Keely Smith** has been involved with SCP productions since 2008, volunteering her services behind the curtain in hair, makeup, and wigs for many shows. This will be only her third production performing on the stage at SCP. Keely would like to our director Amanda for all her hard work not only directing, but also writing this play. Keely would also like to thank her wonderful boyfriend Bryan for all his support.



## GOD BLESS THEM, EVERYONE!

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**Amanda Smothers** (Director) is thrilled to be directing her first show! She has performed in numerous Stage Coach Players productions, most recently as Fiona in *Shrek*. Her previous technical training and experience includes Assistant Directing *The Robin Hood Caper* (SCP), both professional and volunteer costume design and construction, choreography, set construction, set painting, and sound and light board operation. Amanda earned her B.A. in Theatre from Marquette University ('04), and has been performing on stage for twenty years. When she is not on stage (or backstage), Amanda is a PhD English candidate at NIU and teaches college composition.

**Nathan Stringer** (School Boy, Party Guest, Belle's son) Nathan is a 5th grader who is interested in drawing, soccer, pizza, legos, and playing violin. This is his first time being part of a Stage Coach production.

**Daisy Torian** (Schoolgirl, Belle's Daughter, Party Guest) Daisy is excited to be in *A Christmas Carol* for the second year in a row. She hopes to have a long career with SCP and looks forward to getting started on *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in 2014. Daisy would like to thank her amazing mother who has led her into this crazy world of the stage.

**Roxanne Torian** (Jenny, Geogianna, Townsperson) This is Roxanne's second *Christmas Carol* and she is thrilled to be in the show. Roxanne started in Theater in fifth grade and has been in thirteen shows. She was recently a maid in *Annie*, Cha-Cha in *Grease*, and Humpty Dumpty in *Shrek*. She can not wait to do more shows in the future.

**Zaven Torian** (Dick Wilkins, Weeve, townsperson) Zaven decided that after seeing other family members having a great time on stage that he would give it a try. He attends Sycamore High School and is busy with many clubs and Jazz Band. He would like to thank all of his family and friends for giving him a push to try something new.

**Vince Virtue** (Businessman #2, Beggar, Old Joe) This is Vince's fifth *Christmas Carol*. He enjoys working with the cast and crew. He would like to thank the director for allowing him to be part of this amazing show. Enjoy the show.

**Constance Wedel** (Edwina, Urchin, Caroler) has been in *A Christmas Carol* before as well as *Pinocchio*, *Cinderella* and *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. She enjoys sports and loves basketball.

**Rebecca Whittenhall** (Belle, Mrs. Trotter) Rebecca is a senior at Genoa-Kingston High School, she plans on attending college for Musical Theatre next fall... hopefully at Columbia College Chicago! She would like to thank her mother for all the support she's given, Galen for being an amazing friend through everything, and thank stagecoach for letting her on the stage once again! Enjoy the show!!

**Kara Wilkins** (Ghost of Christmas Present, Mrs. Dilber, Phantom) is excited to be back on stage in her 5th show with SCP. Kara has also worked with CCT, Bartlett Community Theater, Steel Beam and directs the Retro ReACTionaries.

# Director's Notes

After performing as Belle in last year's *A Christmas Carol*, a beloved adaptation which has been produced at SCP for many years, I was inspired to write a new adaptation and hopefully offer a fresh perspective. I wanted to breathe new life into our annual production of Dickens's classic novella while bringing new material and a unique vision to the table. And so, I wrote the play and submitted it for consideration. I was thrilled when I was asked to direct my adaptation this year at Stage Coach Players!

My background as a PhD student in nineteenth-century British literature has helped me present a script representative of Dickens's famous story (and add some period-accurate details, such as the Fezziwig dance, which is based on the Scotch Reel and Quadrille), and my theatre degree and extensive theatrical experience aided in adapting the novella for the stage. My vision for the show which sets it apart from other adaptations is the framing of a modern American family's Christmas Eve around Dickens's story. This allowed me to have a more substantial and elaborate fixed set that acts as the modern family's home. Dickens's story is envisioned within the imaginations of the modern family members as they read the tale on Christmas Eve. Thus, all of the "Scrooge scenes" take place in different areas of the modern family home, and the actors playing the family also portray the Cratchits. Another important aspect of this adaptation is the double-, triple-, and quadruple-casting, which I established to cut down on casting needs (although, there are still about 37 cast members!) and to give my actors a chance to stretch their acting muscles by playing numerous (and sometimes very different kinds of) characters.

I hope that my new take on the story proves successful and enjoyable to you, our audience! My cast and crew have done an amazing job bringing my vision to life, and I would be remiss not to thank them profusely for their hard work and dedication. Thank you all for being absolutely marvelous!

## Special Thanks

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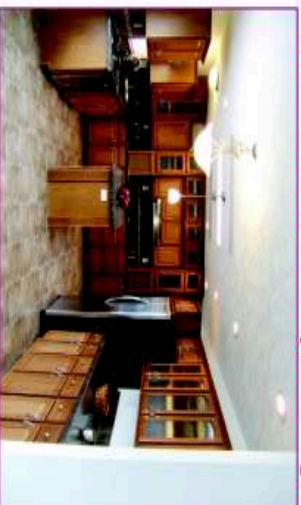
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