

A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens Adaptation by Gwen Christie

Character list

1. Eliza Scrooge - sister to Ebenezer : Oestara
2. Bob Cratchit / John -lines w Belle pre-recorded / Poor at fire -no lines : Maks
3. Ghost past/ Martha Cratchit/poor at fire shadow-no lines /Old Joe shadow-recorded : Annabelle
4. CLARA(Fezziwig's) -no lines /Ghost Present/Charwoman Keiryn
5. Belle in shadow w voices pre-recorded / Dancer at Fezziwig's- no lines/ Janet Hvoices ollywell: Grace
6. TIM / Young Eliza- at Fezziwigs as well / Poor at fire-no lines : Mackayla
7. Marley/ Fezziwig Shadow- no lines/ Ghost Future : Levi
8. FRED / Child Eliza shadow : Vienna
9. Man of Business/ Fez Guest- no lines / Mrs. Cratchit/ Shadow M OB w lines : Julia
10. Peter Cratchit /Fez Guest- no lines / Hollywell Guest 2/ Man of business 2 shadow -recorded: Lauren
11. TECH & DESIGN-Emily

R recording SH Shadow VR Voice recorded sing when Scrooge walking home *	Story begins	Count House	Home-Marley	Ghost Past UR PAST	School Past	Fezwigs Dance	Heart freeze	Recorded shadow could have been	Ghost PRESENT Crachit House	Fred's house	POOR at FIRE	Ghost Future	Bus talk Elizas death	Old Joe- Char	Tim gone	Tomb Stone	I am Changed	End
	1	2	3	4	4a	4b	4c	4d	5a	5b	5c	6	6a	6b	6c	6d	7	8
Recorded Narration Grace	X	X	X														X	
OESTARA Eliza Scrooge	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	sing
MAKS Bob Cratchit		B	sing*						B						B			sing
JOHN + voice recorded						J	J	JVR										
Poor											Poor							
Boy End voice back stage																		Boy
ANNABELLE Ghost PAST				GP	GP	GP	GP	GP										
Martha Cratchit									M						M			sing
Poor											Poor							
OLD JOE IN SHADOW														OJ SH R				
KEIRYN Clara at Fezziwigs			sing*			CL												
Ghost PRESENT									G PR	G PR	G PR							
CHARWOMAN														CHAR				sing
GRACE Belle-(John's wife)			sing*			Bel		Bel-RV										
JANET Hollywell									JH									
Poor & seller @ old joe											Poor			SEL				sing
MACKAYLA TIM									Tim									sing
Young Eliza						YE	YE											
Poor											Poor							
seller @ OJ- no lines			sing*											SEL				
LEVI Beatrice Marley			Marley															sing
Fezziwig shadow -no lines						Fez												
Ghost Future												G F	GF	GF	GF	GF		
VIENNA Fred Hollywell		F								F								sing
Child Eliz					Ch-SH													
Poor											Poor							
Seller @ old Joe- no lines											Poor			SEL				
JULIA Man of Business 1		MOB 1											MOB 1					
Mrs. Cratchit									MC						MC			sing
Hollywell Guest 1 & Fez Guest						Fez Guest				G 1								
LAUREN Peter Cratchit									Pete						Pete			sing
Hollywell Guest 2 & Fez Guest			sing*			Fez Guest				G 2								
Man of Business 2 Shadow Recording														MOB 2-SH				

Start memorizing lines. At least 2-3 a day. The more lines , The more you do each day.
 Should be off book (all lines memorized) by November 28
 Line call until December 5 our Dress Rehearsal
 ANYTHING with your voice RECORDED does not need to be memorized- does need to be familiarized so you understand the intent of the dialogue. Old Joe and Man O bus 2 will be other people's voice

PRE SHOW SOUND CD ON WHILE AUDIENCE COMING IN

SND Q 1 30 secs for travel

<Scene 1-The story begins>

Narrator as voice: (*While the Christmas carol in background*)

Old Marley was as dead as a door-nail. This must be distinctly understood or nothing wonderful can come of the story I am going to relate. So, remember, Old Marley was as dead as a door nail. The registrar of her burial was signed by Mistress Eliza Scrooge. And Eliza's name was as good as any on the London exchange. Despite her being a woman, anything she chose to put her hand to was a success.. Oh! But she was a tight-fisted, hand at the grind - stone Scrooge! A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster. She carried her own low temperature always about with her. On that Christmas Eve -Mistress Scrooge was in her counting-house. It was cold bleak biting weather. The door of Scrooge's counting-house office was always open that she might keep her eye upon her brother's clerk. You see Eliza Scrooge and Beatrice Marley took over Ebenezer's business when he died. People were not only shocked, but quite outraged that women would take over such a business. But both Marley & Scrooge were ruthless in their dealings and made a fortune together. The aforementioned clerk tried to warm himself at the single candle on his desk; in which effort, not being a man of strong imagination, he failed.

SND Q 2 11-50 sec

<Scene 2-In the counting house>

Door opens and in walks a happy looking young man.

FRED: A merry Christmas, Aunt Eliza! Good day to you! Good day to you Bob!

SCROOGE: Bah! Humbug!

FRED: Christmas a humbug, Aunt! You don't mean that, I am sure.

SCROOGE: I do! Merry Christmas! What reason have you to be merry? You're poor enough.

FRED: Come, then. What right have you to be dismal? You're rich enough.

SCROOGE: Bah! Humbug.

FRED: Come now. Surely you don't mean that.

SCROOGE: I do. What is Christmas but a time for buying things; a time for finding yourself a year older. Every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips, should be buried with a stake of holly through his heart. He should!"

FRED: Aunt Eliza that is unkind!

SCROOGE: Nephew! Keep Christmas in your own way, and let me keep it in mine. Much good keeping Christmas has ever done you!

FRED: There are many things from which I might have derived good, by which I have not profited, Christmas among the rest. I have always thought of Christmas time as a time when men

and women seem to think of other people with generosity. And therefore, aunt, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it *has* done me good, and *will* do me good; and I say, God bless it! (*The clerk Bob Cratchit applauds*)

SCROOGE: Let me hear another sound from *you*, and you'll keep your Christmas by losing your situation.

FRED: Don't be angry, Aunt Eliza. Come! Dine with us tomorrow. Janet and I would be glad to have you.

SCROOGE: Janet...your wife I'm told she brought very little to the marriage.

FRED: I love her. And she loves me.

SCROOGE: Love! Bah! Good afternoon!

FRED: I am sorry, with all my heart, to find you so resolute. We have never had any quarrel, that I know of. And so I'll keep my Christmas humour to the last. A Merry Christmas, Aunt Eiza! And A Happy New Year to you.

SCROOGE: Bah! Good Day to you.
(*Fred stops at the outer door to bestow the greetings of the season on the clerk*)

FRED: How is that fine family of yours Bob Cratchit? Tim is doing well?

CRATCHIT: Very good, sir.

FRED : Good. A merry Christmas to you.

CRATCHIT: Same to you, sir.

FRED: Thank you. (*Fred leaves and a fellow come in and goes into Scrooges office.*)

MAN OF BUSINESS: Mistress Scrooge at this festive season it is desirable that we should make some slight provision for the Poor and Destitute, who suffer greatly at the present time. Many thousands are in want of common necessities; hundreds of thousands are in want of common comforts, sir.

SCROOGE: Are there no prisons?

MAN OF BUSINESS: Plenty of prisons.

SCROOGE: And the Union workhouses? Are they still in operation?

MAN OF BUSINESS : They are. Still, I wish I could say they were not.

SCROOGE: The Treadmill and the Poor Law are in full vigour, then?

MAN OF BUSINESS: Both very busy, mistress.

SCROOGE: Oh! I was afraid, from what you said at first, that something had occurred to stop them in their useful course. I'm very glad to hear it.

MAN OF BUSINESS: In view of the season a few of us are endeavouring to raise a fund to buy the Poor some meat and drink and means of warmth. We choose this time, because it is a time, of all others, when Want is keenly felt, and Abundance rejoices. Your brother could be very generous. What shall I put you down for?

SCROOGE: Nothing!

MAN OF BUSINESS: AH...You wish to be anonymous?

SCROOGE: I wish to be left alone,. Since you ask me what I wish sir, that is my answer. My brother was a wastrel. I don't make merry myself at Christmas and I can't afford to make idle people merry. I help to support the establishments I have mentioned through taxes-- they cost enough; and those who are badly off must go there.

MAN OF BUSINESS: Many can't go there; and many would rather die.

SCROOGE: If they would rather die, they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population.

MAN OF BUSINESS: But but...

SCROOGE: It is not my business. It's enough for people to understand their own business, and not to interfere with other people's. Mine occupies me constantly. Good afternoon, sir!

MAN OF BUSINESS: I say. I've never had this much trouble before. (*Cratchit shrugs as the man of business leaves.*)

(*Scrooge continues to work for a minute-until clock tower strikes 6*)

SND Q 3 *clock strikes 6*

SCROOGE: (*gets up from chair puts coins in a bag takes bag with her*) You'll want all day to-morrow, I suppose?

CRATCHET: If quite convenient, Mistress Scrooge.

SCROOGE: It's not convenient, and it's not fair. If I was to stop half-a-crown for it, you'd think yourself ill-used, I'll be bound? And yet, you don't think me ill-used, when I pay a day's wages for no work

CRATCHET: It's only once a year.

SCROOGE: A poor excuse for picking my pocket every twenty-fifth of December! But I suppose you must have the whole day. Be here all the earlier next morning.

CRATCHET: Of course Mistress Scrooge. And a Merry Christmas to you. (*Scrooge and Bob exit*)

SND Q 4 *Scene change music and horse and buggy sounds then narration*

SCENE CHANGE: /**Keiryn** -move window /**Lauren** add stove -make sure bowl and spoon on top/**Grace** move chair & Coat Rack- put pj's and cap in coat rack **Mackayla**-remove Bob's chair & Desk to SL.

NARRATION: The fog and darkness have thickened. People run about with flaring torches, offering their services to go before horses in carriages, and conduct them on their way. (*possible sound effects of town, carriages horse and such*) People are rushing about preparing for home celebrations. As Scrooge walks home towards her building the streets grow quieter and more forbidding. Her building is dark and threatening. Nobody lives in it but Scrooge.

<Scene 3-Scrooge meets Marley>

Part of SND Q 4a as Scrooge gets to her house 5-7 sec ‘SCRROOOOGE’
(need 5 secs silence before Q continues)

SCROOGE:(*whispers*)Marley? (*Scrooge shakes her head*) Bah!

SND CUE 4b 12-14 sec ‘CHAINS’

NARRATION:As Scrooge walks through her house, she finds nobody under the table, and nobody under the chair. There is a small fire in the grate; a spoon and bowl are ready with a little gruel. As she goes to put on her nightgown she checks for any unusual circumstances and suddenly, she sees a ghostly white shape in the darkness on the opposite side of the room. She grabs for it and realizes it's only her dressing-gown, hung up in a suspicious attitude against the wall. Quite satisfied, she puts on her dressing-gown, and night-cap. Having changed, Scrooge sits down before the fire to take her gruel. As she sits in the chair, she hears a faint bell. As she looks around for the cause, the ringing begins in earnest. For the next twenty seconds, the ringing is quite loud.

SND CUE 4c 12-14 sec ‘BELLS then chains’

All at once, the bells cease. Scrooge relaxes, but only for a moment: a clanking noise comes from deep down below, as if some person were dragging heavy chain over the casks in the wine-merchant's cellar. The sound suddenly stops, then comes loudly up the stairs.

SCROOGE: It's humbug still! I won't believe it. (*ghost will take off white scarf around head*)
(*LX bright as Marley's Ghost comes on*) (*Loudly*) What do you want with me?

MARLEY : Much!

SCROOGE: Who are you?

MARLEY: Ask me who I was.

SCROOGE: A bit particular for a ghost. Who were you then?

MARLEY: In life I was your partner, Beatrice Marley. (*Scrooge shakes her head rubs her eyes*) You don't believe in me.

SCROOGE: I don't.

MARLEY: Why do you doubt your senses?

SCROOGE : Because a little thing affects them. A slight disorder of the stomach makes them cheat. You may be an undigested bit of beef, a crumb of cheese, a fragment of an underdone potato. Humbug, I tell you; humbug! (*Ghosts freaks out*)

MARLEY: Woman of the worldly mind! Do you believe in me or not? (*yell*)

SCROOGE: I do. I must. Why do you come to me?

MARLEY: It is required of every being that the spirit within them should walk among their fellow-humans. And if that spirit goes not forth in life, it is condemned to do so after death. It is doomed to wander through the world -- and witness what it cannot share. (*Marley freaks out with a cry and shaking chain,*)

SCROOGE: You are chained. Tell me why?

MARLEY: I wear the chain I forged in life. I made it link by link, and yard by yard. Do you know the weight and length of the strong coil you bear yourself? It was as full as heavy and as long as this, seven Christmas Eves ago. You have laboured on it, since. It is a ponderous chain!

SCROOGE: I see no chain.

MARLEY: Mine were invisible until the moment of death; As yours shall be. As part of my penance, I have been sent here to warn you. And to offer you a hope and chance of escaping my fate. You will be haunted ... by Three Spirits.

SCROOGE: I -- I think I'd rather not.

MARLEY: Without their visits, you cannot hope to shun the path I tread. Expect the first tonight, when the bell tolls One. Expect the second on the stroke of two and the third more material shall appear in her own good time. Look to see me no more; and look that, for your own sake, you remember what has passed between us.

SND Q 5 7 sec as Marley leaves chains echo off

SCROOGE: BAH... (*Lays down and then sits up*) Something I ate.

NARRATION: Now, of course, the Ghost had warned Mistress Scrooge that a spirit would visit her when the bell tolled one .. So she resolved to lie awake until the hour was past. Naturally, she did not want to be caught sleeping, so she sat up in her chair. Soon however Scrooge's head was nodding as the clock strikes one.

SND Q 5a 13-15 sec Church bell strikes ONE. (Add silence for 7-8 sec for line)

SCROOGE: One. What was it Beatrice said? Hmmm Just a dream.

<Scene 4 School Room >

SND Q 5b 8 sec as ghost stands Bells going off-tinkling. (*Scrooge sees Ghost*)

SCROOGE: Are you the Spirit, whose coming was foretold to me?

GHOST PAST: I am the Ghost of Christmas Past.

SCROOGE: Long past?

GHOST PAST: No. Your past.

SCROOGE: Perhaps you would do me the favour of placing upon your head that cap which you hold there in your hand.

GHOST PAST: I bring the light of truth. Would you use this cap to put it out?

SCROOGE: I beg your pardon. I had no intention of offending. Er, what business brings you here?

GHOST PAST: It is for your welfare that I appear!

SCROOGE PAST: Well, I can think of no grater welfare, than a night of uninterrupted sleep.

GHOST PAST: Be careful Eliza Scrooge. I speak of your reclamation.

SCROOGE: My Reclamation then. Let's get on with it.

GHOST PAST: Come. We shall be invisible and silent as the grave. You will now see yourself Eliza.>>>>> **SCENE CHANGE: Maks & Vienna -bench behind white curtain w book**

SND Q 6 30 sec transition set change to past –Child Eliza Scrooge as Figure at desk or on bench-shadow.

< 4a Home town visit >

GHOST PAST: Do you know where you are?

SCROOGE: Good Heaven! I was bred in this place. I was a youngster here! The air is so clean not like the city.

GHOST PAST: Your school.

SCROOGE: I remember.

GHOST PAST: And it is Christmas Day.

SCROOGE: There is a small girl in there. A neglected child.

GHOST PAST: The child is deserted by her friends and family.

SCROOGE: Her mother is dead; her father holds her a grudge.

GHOST PAST: Why does her father hold her a grudge?

SCROOGE: His wife died in childbirth, hers.

GHOST PAST: Weep for the child if the tears will come.

JOHN: Eliza Scrooge I release you from our engagement. With a full heart, for the love of who you once were. May you be happy in the life you have chosen! (*Abruptly, he rises and leaves her.*)

SCROOGE: I almost went after him.

GHOST PAST: Almost carries no weight; especially in matters of the heart. And you did have a heart ... didn't you Eliza. Come hear what you have missed.

< 4d Hear What could have been >

SND Q 10 w John's voice, children and a female

JOHN: All right now take your packages upstairs I think cook has a feast ready for you. (*children exit noisily*) PAUSE SND Q

SCROOGE: John...And those are his children. Ah what a brood. Fancy they might have been mine.

GHOST PAST: The same thought occurred to me

SND Q 11 John's voice, children and a female
IN SHADOW

JOHN: *I saw an old friend of mine this afternoon.*

BELLE: *Who was it?*

JOHN: *You will never guess!*

BELLE: *How can I? I don't I know. Eliza Scrooge.*

JOHN: *Indeed Scrooge it was. I passed her office window; and as it was not shut up, and she had a candle inside, I could scarcely help seeing her. Her partner lies upon the point of death, I hear; and there sat Eliza Scrooge alone. Quite alone in the world, I do believe. Poor Eliza. Poor wretched woman.*

SCROOGE: Spare me your pity.

GHOST PAST: I told you Eliza these were shadows of the things that have been. That they are what they are. It is your past, do not blame me!

SCROOGE: No more! I don't wish to see it. Show me no more! Remove me from this place Spirit! Conduct me home. Haunt me no longer!

SCENE CHANGE: (John & Belle) Remove Bench

SND Q 12 Scene change & Scrooge to chair 25 sec

Runs to his bedroom from where ever they had been.)

SND Q 12a 14-15 sec *Church clock, strikes two.)*

<Scene 5 Present>.

SCROOGE: Well Beatrice. You did say two did you not. Hmmff. Mistaken is death as you were in life old girl.

GHOST PRESENT: Eliza Scrooooooge? Eliza Scrooge. Come and know me better! I am the Ghost of Christmas Present. Look Upon me! You have never seen the like of me before eh?

SCROOGE: Never

GHOST PRESENT: Have you never walked forth with my elder brothers and sisters born in these later years?

SCROOGE: I don't think I have. I am afraid I have not. Have you had many brothers and sisters, Spirit?

GHOST PRESENT: Over eighteen hundred.

SCROOGE: A tremendous family to provide for! (*Pause as ghost gets up*) Spirit, conduct me where you will.

GHOST PRESENT: Come with me. Take hold of my robe Eliza Scrooge!

SND Q 13 sounds of commerce on streets 10-20 sec.

SCROOGE: There's a lot of buying isn't there?

GHOST PRESENT: Oh Eliza is that all you can see. Follow me and I'll show you to what good use, these wares can be put.

< 5a Cratchits House>

SND Q 14 to Cratchits 25-27 sec

GHOST PRESENT: Do you know this house?

SCROOGE: I can't say I do

GHOST PRESENT: It is the house of Bob Cratchit.

SCROOGE: He does very well on 15 bob a week

MRS CRATCHIT: I wonder what's keeping your father. Now leave some of that for the rest of us Peter.

MARTHA: He and Tim often stop to talk to the minister.

MRS CRATCHIT: Your late Bob Cratchit. And your quite like an icicle Tim. (*Cratchit hands his scarf and hat to Mrs. Cratchit*)

CRATCHIT: Go with your brother and sister Tim. Where is Peter?

MRS.CRATCHIT: He's stirring the pudding and probably tasting more than he stirs. (*They continue a conversation in mime.*)

MARTHA: Did you enjoy church Tim?

TIM: Yes, Father stayed and talked to the minister for quite some time. I counted 43 pigeons in the square.

Peter: I saw Mr. Hollywell. He was carrying a wreath and singing as he walked down the street.

MARTHA: He's always singing.

TIM: He sings loudly in church too.

MARTHA: Every so often I see his wife tapping his arm and smiling up at him. She's very pretty.

PETER: Did you sing in church Tim?

TIM: I always try to sing but sometimes when I look at the windows I get thoughtful and imagine being a knight or a king and what I'd do to help people.

MARTHA: You really are the kindest person I know Timmy.

PETER: Aye that you are Tim Cratchit.

TIM: Tim if you please Martha. I'm a growing boy. Mr. Hollywell said I was taller than last year. Whatever will I do when you get a proper position with some big business Peter?

MARTHA: I guess you shall be stuck with me Tim Cratchit (tickles him).

TIM: (*Tim stops laughing suddenly*) Martha. What's it like to die?

MARTHA: Why would you ask Tim?

TIM: Well, I heard someone talking about dying being painful.

MARTHA: Oh Tim that is perhaps something you should discuss with father.

TIM: I tried Martha. He got all quiet like he does sometimes, and then said that death was not for us to understand.

PETER: I think perhaps father does not want to worry you Tim.

TIM: I'm not worried Peter. I will get better and then I can help you and father.

MARTHA: I'm sure you will become very strong and very handsome indeed. Now shall we read a story. (*Now they do a conversation in mime as if Martha is reading -we need it to show how precious Peter and Martha treat Tim.*)

MRS. CRATCHIT: And how did Tim behave in church?

CRATCHIT: As good as gold, and better. He told me, coming home, that he hoped the people saw him, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see. (a long pause) It seems to me that Tim is growing stronger and heartier every day, isn't he?

MRS. CRATCHIT: (quietly) Yes, dear. He is.

CRATCHIT: (*Talking to Mrs. Cratchit*) I have some good news. This morning at church I met a fine gentleman, Fred Hollywell by name. He's the nephew of our own Mistress Scrooge. He remembered that I have a son coming of working age and he told me he had a position starting at 3 shillings and 6 pence a week. He may start work on Monday next.

SCROOGE: To start a boy at 3 and 6 pence a week. Tsk tsk. Typical of my nephew. It's no wonder he's never been able to put by a penny.

GHOST PRESENT: Perhaps he's put by more than money.

SCROOGE: Fred. Hmmff. He's doing this to spite me you know. Employing the son of my employee at an exorbitant wage.Spirit ... tell me if Tim will live.

GHOST PRESENT: I see a vacant seat in the corner, and a crutch without an owner, carefully preserved. If these shadows remain unaltered by the Future, the child will die.

SCROOGE: Oh, no, kind Spirit! Say he will be spared.

GHOST PRESENT: If these shadows remain unaltered by the Future, none other of my brothers will find him here. What then? (*repeating what Scrooge said earlier*) "If he be like to die, he had better do it, and decrease the surplus population."

SCROOGE: You use my own words against me.

GHOST PRESENT: Yes. So perhaps in the future you will hold your tongue until you have discovered what the surplus population is and where it is.>>>

LIVE SND Q The family singing as they set the table.

Here we come a-wassailing
Among the leaves so green;
Here we come a-wand'ring
So fair to be seen.

Love and joy come to you,
And to you your wassail too;
And God bless you and send you
a Happy New Year
And God send you a Happy New Year.

CRATCHIT: Now I would like to propose a toast to Ms Eliza Scrooge. (*Bob Cratchit holds glass making a toast.*) I give you Mistress Scrooge, the Founder of the Feast!

MRS. CRATCHIT: The Founder of the Feast indeed! I wish I had her here. I'd give her a piece of my mind to feast upon, and I hope she'd have a good appetite for it.

CRATCHIT: (gently chiding) My dear, the children; Christmas Day.

MRS. CRATCHIT: It should be Christmas Day, when one would drink the health of such an odious, stingy, hard, unfeeling woman as Mistress Scrooge. You know she is, Robert! Nobody knows it better than you do, poor fellow!

CRATCHIT: Have some charity dear. It's Christmas Day.

MRS. CRATCHIT: Very well! I'll drink her health for your sake and the Day's sake, but not for hers. Long life to her. A merry Christmas and a happy new year! She'll be very merry and very happy, I have no doubt!

ALL: Mistress Scrooge (*said without any enthusiasm*)

TIM: And God bless us Everyone!

SCROOGE: He's made a point Bob Cratchit has. Without me there would be no feast. No goose at all. My head for business has furnished him employment.

GHOST PRESENT: Is that all you've learned by observing this family on Christmas Day. We have some time left take my robe. >>>>>>>> **SCENE CHANGE: 1st Tim & Peter exit Grace as Janet & Annabelle table & Food Vienna as Fred & Maks set Benches**

< 5b-Hollywell House >

SND Q 15 45 sec transition to Hollywell

SCROOGE: SO where are we now.

GHOST PRESENT: Just a street. Any street. We'll go in here. It might amuse you.

SCROOGE: I'm in no mood to be amused. >>>>>>>> (Fred laughs)

SCROOGE: Fred? (*She turns toward the laugh, and LX up on Fred's home*)

FRED: I just keep thinking about what she said. Humbug. She said that Christmas was a humbug, as I live! She believed it too!

JANET: More shame for her, Fred!

FRED: She's a comical old woman, and not so pleasant as she might be. However, her offences carry their own punishment, and I have nothing to say against her.

GUEST 1: It is said that she is very rich and inherited all of Marley's fortune as well.

FRED: What of it? Her wealth is of no use to her. She doesn't do any good with it. She doesn't even make herself comfortable with it.

SCROOGE: I don't squander it if that's what you mean by comfortable.

JANET: You are always courteous and kind to her and yet she is rude and says the most frightful things. I have no patience with her.

GUEST 2: Nor I. I saw her in the bank and she looked very miserable. Had her nose in the air the whole time she was there.

FRED: Oh, well I am sorry for her

SCROOGE: Sorry... sorry for me.

FRED: I couldn't be angry with her if I tried. Who suffers by her ill whims? Herself, always. Here, she takes it into her head to dislike us, and she won't come and dine with us.

GUEST 1: Indeed, I think she loses a very good dinner and the company of good people.

JANET: But do go on, Fred. (*to the guests*) He never finishes what he begins to say. He is such a ridiculous fellow!

FRED: I was only going to say, that the consequence of her taking a dislike to us, and not making merry with us, is, that she loses some pleasant moments. I mean to give her the same chance every year, whether she likes it or not, for I pity her.

JANET: And every year she'll say....

ALL: BAH HUMBUG!

JANET: Come my dear we must see to our guests and perhaps play a game. (*Everyone cheers and they re-arrange the chairs for a game.*)

SCROOGE: All this noise... I can't here myself think.

GHOST PRESENT: They seem to be happy.

SCROOGE: Free food and drink would be an occasion for pleasure for most people.

GHOST PRESENT: Happy in each other's company I mean

JANET: Now then...we shall have a game.

FRED: Come now what shall it be?

GUEST 1: Simili

FRED: Does Everyone Know the rules? You shall have 5 seconds to answer. If you do not answer you stand behind your chair. Last one sitting shall win the prize.

JANET: All right dear don't go on so.

FRED: Right. (goes to Guest 2) Quick as...

ALL : 1,2, 3....

SCROOGE: A wink you idiot.

GHOST PRESENT: Eliza shhh.

SCROOGE: What? You said they could neither see nor hear us.

GHOST PRESENT: That is quite true. Oh yes sorry. Even I forget the rules now and again. I don't come back very often.

SCROOGE: SHHH! I'm trying to listen to the game.

FRED: Modest as...

GUEST 1 : Modest as a maiden

FRED: Well I was thinking of Modest as a violet. But I will accept your answer. Janet. Tight as...

SCROOGE: Tight as a drum. Anyone knows that.

JANET: Tight as...

FRED: Tight as...

JANET: Tight as..... Tight as your Aunt Scrooges purse strings.

FRED: No you're quite wrong and your time is up and you must stand behind your chair. Tight as a drum that's what I was thinking of.

SCROOGE: Good for you Fred. Boy's got a head on his shoulders. And as for the laughter at my expense, spirit I'm inclined to overlook it in view of the general gaiety of the evening.

GHOST PRESENT: It is now time to leave this pleasant scene. We have one more visit to make before my time is done. Take hold of my robe.

FRED: Sly as...

GUEST 1: A fox

FRED: Red as...

SND Q 18 enter future 5-6 sec

<Scene 6 The Future>

SCROOGE: (to himself) The last of the spirits. Am I in the presence of the Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come?

FUTURE: *POINTS TO SCROOGE* I am here for you *EBENEZER SCROOGE*. (This line is not spoken out loud- more by implication)

(SND Q 19 5-7 sec as ghost points)

SCROOGE: You are about to show me shadows of the things that have not happened, but will happen in the time before us. Is that so, Spirit?

SND Q 20 2-4 sec *The Phantom nods its head.*

SCROOGE: Ghost of the Future! I fear you more than any spectre I have seen. But as I know your purpose is to do me good, I am prepared to bear you company, and do it with a thankful heart. Will you not speak to me? *(It gives him no reply)*

SND Q 21 4-5 sec *ghost points.*

SCROOGE: Very well. Lead on! *(Scrooge follows)*

<6a Business Associates> *SHADOW*

SCROOGE: Yes, I know these people. Business associates.

MAN OF BUSINESS: No, I don't know much about it, either way. I only know she's dead.

SND Q 22 *Recorded MAN 2 OF BUSINESS: When did she die? (Pause SND)

MAN OF BUSINESS: Last night, I believe.

***Recorded MAN 2 OF BUSINESS:** Why, what was the matter with her? I thought she'd never die. (Leave 3 second silence SND)

MAN OF BUSINESS: Who knows.

***Recorded MAN 2 OF BUSINESS:** What has she done with her money? (Pause SND)

MAN OF BUSINESS: I haven't heard. Left it to the Company, perhaps. She hasn't left it to me. That's all I know. (Everyone laughs.)

***Recorded MAN 2 OF BUSINESS:** It's likely to be a very cheap funeral, for upon my life I don't know of anybody to go to it. Suppose we make up a party and volunteer?

MAN OF BUSINESS: I don't mind going if a lunch is provided. (*All Laugh in agreement*)

SCROOGE: I can't help but notice that I see no likeness of myself here....Not that I'm surprised, you understand. You see, I've been revolving in my mind a, er, change of life. And I should like to think... that is, I rather hope... that my not being here is the result of my having carried out some, ah, resolutions regarding -- (*Scrooge suddenly notices that the Phantom has moved on down the street and he hurriedly follows it.*)>>>>>>>

< 6b Old Joe buys >

SND Q 23 *Recorded OLD JOE: That's your account. I wouldn't give another sixpence, if I was to be boiled for not doing it. Who's next? (Pause SND)

CHARWOMAN: (to all) Let the charwoman to be the next! (to Old Joe) Look here, old Joe, here's a chance!

Recorded OLD JOE: You couldn't have met in a better place. Come into the parlour. (Pause SND)

CHARWOMAN: Every person has a right to take care of themselves. Who's the worse for the loss of a few things like these? Not the dead, I suppose.

***Recorded OLD JOE:** No, indeed! she always looked after herself best. (Pause SND)

CHARWOMAN: If she wanted to keep 'em after she was dead, why wasn't she natural in her lifetime? If she had been, she'd have had somebody to look after her when she was struck with Death, instead of lying gasping out her last there, alone by herself.

***Recorded OLD JOE:** It's the truest word that ever was spoke. It's a judgment on her. (Pause SND)

CHARWOMAN: (*turns to Old Joe*) Open that bundle, and let me know the value of it. Speak out plain.

SCROOGE: This is disgusting. I can't look at this. Why do you show me this? Haven't you anything better to show me?

***Recorded OLD JOE:** I always give too much to the ladies. It's a weakness of mine, and that's the way I ruin myself. (Pause SND)

CHARWOMAN: Undo my bundle, Joe. Don't drop that wax upon the blanket, now.

Recorded OLD JOE: Her blanket? (Pause SND)

CHARWOMAN: Whose else's do you think? She isn't likely to take cold without 'em, I dare say.

***Recorded OLD JOE:** I hope she didn't die of anything catching? Eh?(Pause SND)

CHARWOMAN: Don't you be afraid of that. I ain't so fond of her company that I'd loiter about for such things, if she did. Ah! It's the best she had. Ha, ha! She frightened every one away from when she was alive, to profit us when she was dead! Ha, ha, ha!

SND Q 24 20 sec *to sad Cratchit*

SCROOGE: Spirit, If there is any person in the town, who feels emotion caused by this person's death, show them to me, Spirit, I beseech you!

FUTURE: *You have brought this on yourself. Look and feel Eliza Scrooge.* Ghost points and this line is not spoken but implied >>>>>>>

SND Q 25 15sec *Tim dead.*< 6c Tim is gone >

MARTHA: *(reads aloud)* . . . And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them. Shall I stop reading now mother?

MRS CRATCHIT: No, no It's the colour, it hurts my eyes. They're better now. The candle-light makes my eyes weak; and I wouldn't for the world show weak eyes to your father when he comes home. It must be near his time.

MARTHA: Past it rather. *(closes the book)* But I think he's walked a little slower than he used to, these few last evenings, mother. Shall I get you some tea?

MRS. CRATCHIT: Thank you dear but I will wait a little longer for your father. I have known him walk with -- I have known him to walk with Tim, very fast indeed."

PETER: And so have I.

MRS. CRATCHIT: Ah there's your father.

MARTHA: Don't mind it, father. Don't be so grieved.

MRS CRATCHIT: You went to-day, then, Robert?

CRATCHIT: Yes, my dear. I wish you could have gone. It would have done you good to see how green a place it is. I promised him that I would walk there every Sunday. My child. My beautiful child! I am sure we shall none of us forget poor Tim -- shall we?

MARTHA: Oh father.

PETER: We won't forget. We will never forget him.

MARTHA: We will always remember.

<6d Tombstone >

SND Q 26 15-17 sec *music sad moves into threat (The Phantom points towards the headstone.)*

SCROOGE: Before I draw nearer to that stone to which you point, answer me one question. Are these the shadows of the things that Will be, or are they shadows of things that May be, only?

FUTURE: *Still the Phantom points downward to the grave)*

SCROOGE: If the courses of these shadows be departed from, the ends will change. Say it is thus with what you show me! *Scrooge falls to her knees when she sees her name on gravestone.)* No, Spirit!! Spirit! Hear me! I am not the person I was. I will not be the person I would have been but for this intervention. Why show me this, if I am past all hope? Good Spirit. Assure me that I may change these shadows you have shown me, by an altered life! *(talking to himself)* I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach. *(turns back to spirit as saying next line and discovers spirit is gone)* Oh, tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone!

SND Q 27 8-10 sec screech lightening

SND Q 28 20-24 sec back home transition

<Scene 7 A changed person>

SCROOGE: Oh Beatrice! Heaven, and Christmas Time be praised for this! I say it on my knees, on my knees! I am changed. I don't know what day of the month it is! I don't know how long I've been among the Spirits. I don't know anything. I don't know what to do! I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel,.

SND Q 29 CHURCH BELLS

SCROOGE: I don't even know what day it is. Heh there boy. What is today?

BOY: Eh?

SCROOGE: What's to-day, my fine fellow?

BOY: To-day? Why, Christmas Day.

SCROOGE: *(to herself)* It's Christmas Day! I haven't missed it. The Spirits have done it all in one night. They can do anything they like. Of course they can. *(to the boy)* Hallo, my fine fellow!

BOY: Yes Mistress.

SCROOGE: Do you know the Poulterer's, in the next street at the corner?

BOY: I should hope I did.

SCROOGE: *(to herself)* An intelligent boy! A remarkable boy! *(to the boy)*

Do you know whether they've sold the prize Turkey that was hanging up there? Not the little prize Turkey; the big one?

BOY: What, you mean the one as big as me?

SCROOGE: (*to herself*) What a delightful boy! It's a pleasure to talk to him.
(*to the boy*) Yes, my young lad!

BOY: It's hanging there now.

SCROOGE: Is it? Go and buy it.

BOY: Ha

SCROOGE: No, no, do not leave. I am in earnest. Come back with the man to bring the turkey, and I'll give you a shilling. Come back with him in less than five minutes, and I'll give you half-a-crown! I'll send it to Bob Cratchit's! He shan't know who sends it. It's as big as Tim. I'll need to pay a visit to that young nephew of mine. He will be so surprised. I need to bring a gift for that beautiful wife of his. I feel as giddy as a school girl.

<Scene 8 Epilogue >

Narrator: And Eliza Scrooge was better than her word. She did everything she said she would, and much more. Tim did not die. And Eliza was like a second mother to him. She became as good a friend, as good a teacher, and as good a person as any could hope to know. It was always said of Eliza Scrooge that if anyone knew how to keep Christmas well, it was her. If only that could truly be said of all of us. Merry Christmas.

Entire cast picks a Christmas song to sing as their curtain call before bowing at end of song.

SND Q 30 curtain call 50-60 sec