

# A CHRISTMAS CHAOS

TEN MINUTE PLAY

By Michael Wehrli

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## **A CHRISTMAS CHAOS – TEN MINUTE PLAY**

**By Michael Wehrli**

*A SATIRE OF CHARLES DICKENS'*

*A CHRISTMAS CAROL IN TEN MINUTES*

**SYNOPSIS:** An intrepid band of hearty actors bravely attempt to present *A Christmas Carol* in ten minutes! Imagine Jacob Marley with a tiny chain, Belle played by a man and a Christmas Future that won't stop talking! All the actors play multiple roles including one who plays both Bob and Mrs. Cratchit (at the same time)! Wild and hilarious, this play manages to satirize the classic story and theatrical backstage mayhem at the same time.

### **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(CAST OF SIX: TWO MEN, TWO WOMEN, TWO EITHER GENDER)*

**ACTOR 1, SCROOGE (M)**..... Considers himself a professional actor. He is appalled when others don't take the craft seriously. Strong willed.

**ACTOR 2, FRED,  
CHRISTMAS FUTURE (M/F)** ..... Suffers from stage fright. Shy and nervous.

**ACTOR 3, BOB CRATCHIT, FAN, BELLE, BOB  
AND MRS., BUSINESSMAN 2 (M)** ..... Strong actor that loves a challenge. Able to ad-lib well and roll with whatever is presented to him. Has a tendency to go overboard with his characters.

**ACTOR 4, CHARITY PERSON,**

**CHRISTMAS PAST, CHRISTMAS PRESENT,**

**BUSINESSMAN 1 (F)**..... Comedic actress. Loves to ad-lib or find humor in everything. Frequently amuses herself.

**ACTOR 5, MARLEY, YOUNG SCROOGE,**

**TINY TIM, BOY (F)**..... Serious about her craft, but tends to lose herself in the roles she plays.

**ACTOR 6, STAGE MANAGER,**

**PETER (M/F)** ..... Tough, no-nonsense type. Doing their best to keep things on track.

**PERFORMANCE HISTORY**

Dates: December 7-22, 2001

Venue: The Corner Theatre (DeSoto, Texas)

Company: New Moon Productions

**ORIGINAL YOUTH CAST (TEN MINUTE VERSION)**

**CAST**

Kellie Hobbs

Jon Mark Howeth

Cody Miller

Katie Sheppard

**SCENE**

A theatre or auditorium. The stage starts off bare with only a few chairs.

**TIME**

The present.

**SET/TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

The play should look as if it was thrown together very hastily. Every costume piece and prop should look as if the theatre company pulled from what they already had in stock or could quickly find. Lighting should be simple and without any fancy cues.

**PRODUCTION NOTES**

The best way to bring out the full comedy of the play is for the actors to play it honestly. Each character, in their own way, should be trying to do their best to make the show work – even though their choices vary from odd to outright ridiculous. The stage directions written in to the script should be followed closely, as the movement of the show is an integral part of the overall comedic effects. Though the look of the show is chaotic, the actors should be very carefully choreographed; especially for the scene changes. The playwright encourages each production to use the actual names of the actors.

**SETTING:**

*A theatre or auditorium.*

**AT RISE:**

*The stage is bare except for a few chairs. All the actors are there and they directly address the audience to begin the show.*

**ACTOR 1:** Ladies and gentlemen—

**ACTOR 3:** Boys and girls—

**ACTOR 4:** Ummm...uncles and aunts...

*ACTOR 6 nudges ACTOR 2.*

**ACTOR 2:** *(Very nervous.)* Umm...uh...uh...

**ACTOR 6:** Never mind.

**ACTOR 5:** My friends, tonight for your delight and amazement—

**ACTOR 1:** Pleasure and edification—

**ACTOR 4:** Edifi—who skin?

*ACTORS 1 and 6 give ACTOR 4 a glare.*

**ACTOR 2:** Tonight, we are presenting *A Christmas Carol* by—

**ACTOR 4:** *(Sings.)* "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas. Just like the one—"

*ACTOR 6 clamps hand over their mouth.*

**ACTOR 1:** He meant the Charles Dickens' story.

**ACTOR 3:** You know, Scrooge, Bob Cratchit and such.

**ACTOR 4:** Oh, we're doing that too?

**ACTOR 6:** Hush. But we're pressed for time, so we are presenting this classic story—

**ACTOR 5:** —With all the characters you've come to know and love—

**ACTOR 1:** —Using only a few chairs, some borrowed costumes, *(Indicates the audience)* and your imagination—

**ACTOR 3:** In only ten minutes.

**ACTOR 2:** *(Still nervous.)* So many people...

**ACTOR 4:** Please, sit back, relax, and enjoy our version of *A Christmas Carol*.

**ACTOR 4:** *(Sings.)* "Where the tree tops glisten and—"

*ACTOR 6 bumps ACTOR 4 and glares at her.*

**ACTOR 1:** By Charles Dickens.

**ACTOR 6:** Places everyone.

*EVERYONE scrambles around to set up the "Office." The ACTORS themselves should do all of the scene changes. ACTORS 1 and 3 change into their costumes. ACTORS 2 and 6 are talking to each other upstage. ACTOR 6 is trying to help ACTOR 2 calm down. After the "Office" is set up, we hear:*

**ACTOR 2:** \_\_\_\_\_, *(Name of actor playing ACTOR 6.)* I can't do it! All those eyes, focused on me. Looking and watching. Looking and watching! *(ACTOR 6 starts pushing ACTOR 2 off stage.)* Looking and watching! Looking and watching! *(ACTOR 2 exits. By the time ACTOR 1 and 3 are at their desks, ACTOR 6 runs back on, gets composed, and starts to narrate.)*

**ACTOR 6/NARRATOR:** Marley was dead to—

**ACTOR 2/FRED:** *(Walks back on, half in costume.)* Looking and watching! Looking and watch—

*ACTOR 6 pushes ACTOR 2 off stage.*

**ACTOR 6/NARRATOR:** Ahem. Right. Marley was dead to begin with. Dead as a doornail even. *(Runs to exit.)*

**ACTOR 3/BOB CRATCHIT:** *(Indicating an unlit candle.)* Can I, sir?

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** No! Bah, humbug! *(Pause. ACTOR 6 shoves on ACTOR 2 as Fred. Pause. ACTOR 2 looks terrified towards the audience. ACTOR 1 is annoyed.)*

**ACTOR 3/BOB CRATCHIT:** *(Whispering, trying to stay in character.)*

Come on \_\_\_\_\_, *(Name of ACTOR 2.)* you can do it.

**ACTOR 6:** *(Prompting, with a script.)* Merry Christmas, Uncle!

**ACTOR 2/FRED:** Mm...Mmerr...Mmm...

**ACTOR 6:** Don't be nervous.

**ACTOR 3/BOB CRATCHIT:** Yeah! Just imagine all those people in the audience are in their underwear—

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Stop trying to help! Uh, bah humbug!

**ACTOR 6:** *(Prompting, with a script.)* Merry Christmas, Uncle!

**ACTOR 2/FRED:** Underwear? Underwear! *(Snaps out of their nervousness.)* That's great. Hey, look at that guy in the third row? And how about that girl in the— *(ACTOR 6 bonks ACTOR 2 on the head with the script then exits.)* Ow! All right, all right... *(Gets into character.)* Merry Christmas, Uncle!

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Hmm? Oh! Uh. Bah, humbug!

**ACTOR 2/FRED:** Christmas a humbug, Uncle?

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** You keep Christmas in your own way and let me keep it in mine!

**ACTOR 2/FRED:** But you don't keep it. Christmas time is a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time. Etcetera, etcetera, blah, blah, blah. Fred does a long speech. He's all smiles and warmth. He invites Scrooge to dinner... *(ACTOR 6 pops in, scowls at ACTOR 2.)* Um, Christmas has done me good and will do me good; and I say God Bless it!

**ACTOR 3/BOB CRATCHIT:** God bless Christmas!

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Quiet! Bah, humbug!

**ACTOR 2/FRED:** Very well, Uncle. Toodiloo! *(Exits.)*

*ACTOR 4 enters as the Charity person. She quickly realizes she still has a script in her hand and tries to hide it behind back.*

**ACTOR 4/CHARITY:** *(Poorly trying to do an accent.)* It is more than desirable that we should make some slight provision for the poor and...poor and... *(Sneaks a peek at the script.)*

**ACTOR 3/BOB CRATCHIT:** Destitute.

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Hush! Bah, humbug!

**ACTOR 4/CHARITY:** ...the poor and destitute, who suffer greatly at the present time.

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Put me down for nothing.

**ACTOR 4/CHARITY:** You wish to remain anon...anony...anon...  
(Keeps attempting to say "anonymous".)

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** (Eventually cuts her off.) I wish to be left alone! Bah, humbug!

**ACTOR 4/CHARITY:** Hrumph! Good day, sir! (Exits.)

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Bah, humbug! (Under his breath.) We've got to find something else for me to say.

**ACTOR 3/BOB CRATCHIT:** (Bringing ACTOR 1 his hat.) Would it be quite convenient, sir if I—

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** No! Bah, humbug!—

**ACTOR 3/BOB CRATCHIT:** (To audience.) It does get old, doesn't it?

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** —Oh, I suppose you can have the entire day tomorrow. But be here all the earlier the next morning.

**ACTOR 3/BOB CRATCHIT:** Thank you sir! And merry Christmas, sir!

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Bah—

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE and ACTOR 3/BOB CRATCHIT:** HUMBUG!

*MUSIC. EVERYONE scrambles around to arrange the chairs as a bed and help ACTOR 1 change into a dressing gown and cap. Ad-libbing. ACTOR 1 finally sits on the bed. EVERYONE makes bell noises from off stage. Soon, ACTOR 5 as Marley enters. She wears a white sheet with two eye holes and a bowler hat. She also carries a very small chain which she pretends is very heavy.*

**ACTOR 5/MARLEY:** Scrooooooge! Scrooooooge! Scrooooooge!!! (Tries to get onto the bed and falls over. ACTOR 6 runs on to help her to her feet. ACTOR 1 is disgusted.) Scrooooooge!!!

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Oh, Jacob Marley. Why do you walk the earth and why do you bother me.

**ACTOR 5/MARLEY:** Your welfare. Booooooooooooooooooooo!!!!!!  
Ahhhhhhhhhh!!!!!!

*ACTOR 6 rushes on again and bonks her on the head with her script.*

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Why do you wear that— *(Tries to see the very small chain, finally does.)* Good grief. Why do you wear that chain?

**ACTOR 5/MARLEY:** I wear the chain I forged in life! Aaaaaahhhhhh!  
*(She drops it. During the below, she is trying to find it.)* Uh-oh....  
Uh, listen \_\_\_\_\_ *(Name of actor playing ACTOR 1.)*

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Ebenezer!

**ACTOR 5/MARLEY:** Ebenezer. *(Still looking for the chain.)* You shall be haunted by three spirits. Check your e-mail for the days and times. *(Laughs at her own joke. ACTOR 1 is not pleased. ACTOR 5 goes back to looking.)* Expect the first tomorrow when the bell tolls one. *(ACTOR 1 finally hands him the chain.)* Oh, thanks! *(Starts backing off stage.)* Boooooooooooo!!!  
Rememmmember! Remmmmember! Remmmmember! *(When she gets off stage we hear a huge crash and a yell. Then she calls from off stage.)* I'm all right.

**ACTOR 6:** *(Pokes head in, looking at watch.)* We're running a little slow guys. We need to pick up the pace! *(ACTOR 4 rushes on as CHRISTMAS PAST and starts pacing.)* What are you doing?!

**ACTOR 4/PAST:** I'm picking up the pace!

**ACTOR 6:** Get on with it!

*Exits.*

**ACTOR 4/PAST:** Right!

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Who are you?

**ACTOR 4/PAST:** *(Little girl ghost voice.)* I am the Ghost of Christmas Past. Looooooooook!

*We hear ACTORS 3 and 5 off stage. ACTOR 3 is Belle and is unhappy about being in a girl's costume. ACTOR 5 is Young Scrooge. Scrooge.*

**ACTOR 3:** *(Off stage.)* I am not doing this—

**ACTOR 5:** *(Off stage.)* Yes you are.

**ACTOR 3:** *(Off stage.)* Please no!

**ACTOR 5:** *(Off stage.)* Do it! *(They enter.)*

**ACTOR 3/BELLE:** *(Scowls. Starts off with his own voice, ACTOR 5 gestures. Then does his Belle voice.)* I release you from our engagement Ebenezer. You may have pain in this *(Stamps ACTOR 5'S foot.)* a very brief pain *(Stamps other foot.)* but you will dismiss the recollection of it, as an unprofitable dream. *(ACTOR 5 grabs 3.)* May you be happy in the life you have chosen. *(Runs off.)*

**ACTOR 5/YOUNG SCROOGE:** *(Very dramatic.)* Beeeellllllllle! *(Exits limping.)*

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** No more! Show me no more. *(Pause.)*

**ACTOR 4/PAST:** All right. *(Exits.)*

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** *(Trying to cover.)* I...really feel I've learned something. Oh, bah, humbug!

*MUSIC. EVERYONE rushes on for the scene change. ACTOR 6 gets a chair so ACTOR 4 can stand on it. ACTOR 4 gets on the chair then drapes her cloak over it to make her look tall. ACTOR 4 holds a large horn-of-plenty with a small flashlight in it. She shines it on ACTOR 1 who pretends it's really bright.*

**ACTOR 4/PRESENT:** Neat effect, ain't it?

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Oh brother.

**ACTOR 4/PRESENT:** Come in and know me better man!

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** You must be the Ghost of Christmas Present.

**ACTOR 4/PRESENT:** Present and accounted for! *(Laughs at her own joke. ACTOR 6 rushes on and threatens with the prompt-script. ACTOR 4 makes a face at ACTOR 6 then continues.)* Touch my robe. *(ACTOR 1 does. ACTOR 3 comes on dressed as*

*both Bob and Mrs. Cratchit. The costume has a suit on one side and a dress on the other. Soon, ACTOR 6 enters as Peter along with ACTOR 5 as Tiny Tim.)*

**ACTOR 3/BOB AND MRS.:** *(As Mrs. Cratchit.)* And how did little Tim behave today in church? *(As Bob Cratchit.)* As good as gold, and better.

**ACTOR 5/TINY TIM:** *(Hobbling over to her with a tiny crutch.)* God bless us every one! *(During the below dialogue, ACTOR 3 tries to pick up ACTOR 5, struggles, and can't do it. Finally, he just pats 5 on the head.)*

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Tell me if Tiny Tim will live.

**ACTOR 4/PRESENT:** If these shadows remain unaltered by the future, the child will die.

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** What a pity.

**ACTOR 3/BOB AND MRS.:** *(As Bob.)* Now a toast to Mr. Scrooge. *(Pantomimes raising a glass.) (As Mrs.)* Ooohhh noooo! *(As Bob.)* The Founder of the Feast. *(As Mrs.)* Founder of the feast indeed! *(As Bob.)* My dear, the children, Christmas day. *(As Mrs.)* He's odious, stingy, hard, unfeeling— *(As Bob.)* My dear— *(As Mrs.)* No Bob! *(As Bob.)* Yes dear! *(As Mrs.)* No dear! *(As Bob.)* Yes! *(As Mrs.)* No! *(As Bob.)* Yes! *(As Mrs.)* No! *(As Bob.)* Yes! *(As Mrs.)* No!

**ACTOR 6/PETER:** Daddy, mommy! *(Shakes ACTOR 3 vigorously.)*

**ACTOR 3/BOB and MRS.:** Thanks, son! *(They all pantomime raising their glasses.)* Long life to Mr. Scrooge. *(They both laugh largely as they exit.)*

**ACTOR 4/PRESENT:** My life upon this globe is very brief. Hark the time... *(Slight pause.)* Hark the time! *(A bell chiming 12 is heard off stage.)* The time is drawing near.

*ACTOR 4 starts doing an elaborate death scene. When she's on the floor, ACTOR 6 comes out and drags him off-stage.*

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Goodness gracious....

*ACTOR 2 enters as Ghost of Christmas Future. S/he wears a black sheet and cannot see where s/he is going. ACTOR 1 eventually stops her/him right before s/he is about to step off the stage into the audience.*

**ACTOR 2/FUTURE:** What are you doing!?

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** You almost—Oh never mind. *(As Scrooge.)*

*I am in the presence of the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come.*

**ACTOR 2/FUTURE:** *(Ghostly.)* Yeeeeesssss!!!!

**ACTOR 6:** *(Pokes head out.)* You're not supposed to say anything!

**ACTOR 2/FUTURE:** Then how do I—

**ACTOR 6:** Just nod and point!

**ACTOR 2/FUTURE:** Right. Nod and point.

*ACTOR 2 awkwardly nods and points. ACTORS 3 and 4 come out as two Businessmen. They wear very large fake beards.*

**ACTOR 4/BUSINESSMAN 1:** When did Mr. Scroo – when did he die?

**ACTOR 3/BUSINESSMAN 2:** Eben – he died last night, I believe.

**ACTOR 4/BUSINESSMAN 1:** I don't mind going to the funeral of...  
Mr. X, if a lunch is provided.

*Both laugh hugely as they exit.*

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Spirit, I see. The case of this mysterious Mr. X might be my own. But please, let me see some tenderness connected with a death!

**ACTOR 2/FUTURE:** All right.

**ACTOR 6:** \_\_\_\_\_! *(Shouts ACTOR 2's name.)*

**ACTOR 2/FUTURE:** Just nod and point. *(Nods and points.)*

*ACTOR 3 as Bob/Mrs. enters and stands with the Bob side facing the audience. ACTOR 6 as Peter enters as well but quickly realizes s/he has forgotten to put on her/his Peter costume, but now it's too late.*

**ACTOR 6/PETER:** It's all right, Mother.

*ACTOR 3 turns around to be Mrs.*

**ACTOR 3/BOB AND MRS.:** Who the heck are you?!

**ACTOR 6/PETER:** Your son, Peter!

**ACTOR 3/BOB AND MRS.:** Oh. Oh yeah. *(Starts to cry loudly. As Mrs.)* I have known your father to walk with Tiny Tim upon his shoulder very fast indeed.

**ACTOR 6/PETER:** So have I, Mother. So have I. *(ACTOR 3 starts bawling again. ACTOR 6 shakes him.)* Oh Mother, don't let Father see you—

*ACTOR 3 calms down.*

**ACTOR 3/BOB AND MRS.:** *(Runs out and re-enters as Bob.)* Hello my dears. *(As Mrs., a little weepy.)* Hello, Bob. *(As Bob.)* I wish you could have gone with me to the graveyard. *(As Mrs.)* How was it? *(As Bob.)* It's ever so green. *(As Mrs.)* Oh my child, my little child.

**ACTOR 6/PETER:** Here we go again...

**ACTOR 3/BOB AND MRS.:** *(As Bob. The below should be played very honestly and sincerely.)* My dears, I am sure that none of us shall forget poor Tiny Tim, shall we?

**ACTOR 6/PETER:** Never, Father.

**ACTOR 3/BOB AND MRS.:** And when we recollect how patient and mild he was, we shall not quarrel easily among ourselves, and forget poor Tiny Tim in doing it.

**ACTOR 6/PETER:** No, never, Father.

*ACTOR 1 starts bawling. All are shocked for a moment, then ACTOR 2 and 3 go over to comfort him, ad-libbing. ACTOR 6 looks mortified.*

**ACTOR 1:** *(Eventually he composes himself.)* That part gets me every time. I'm all right now. Thank you.

**ACTOR 3:** No sweat, dude. You're the best.

*ACTOR 6 loudly clears their throat. ACTORS 1 and 3 stop and look at the audience, then ACTORS 3 and 6 scramble off stage. ACTOR 2 moves to another part of the stage, running into things as ACTOR 1 tries to guide them. Eventually, ACTOR 6 brings out a gravestone then exits. ACTOR 2 nods and points—but in the wrong direction. ACTOR 1 corrects him to point at the gravestone. ACTOR 1 goes to over the gravestone and falls to his knees.*

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Spirit...Ow. (*Reacting to falling on knees.*)

Spirit, are these the shadows of the things that will be or are they shadows of the things that may be, only? (*ACTOR 2 shrugs their shoulders. . ACTOR 1 looks back at the gravestone and rubs it to reveal the words Ebenezer Scrooge. It should be misspelled.*) Ebenezer Scrooge! Ebenezer Scr— Wait a minute. It's misspelled! Good grief, will you look at this! \_\_\_\_\_, (*Name of ACTOR 6.*) come here! We're at the dramatic high point of the story and you give me this!?

**ACTOR 6:** (*Rushes on. Trying not to let the audience hear.*) What's wrong?!

**ACTOR 1:** It's E-B-E-N-E-Z-E-R, you dolt! Can't you even—

**ACTOR 6:** Just deal with it. We're near the end!

**ACTOR 1:** Great. Just great. The things I have to put up with...

**ACTOR 6:** \_\_\_\_\_ (*Name of ACTOR 2.*) do the nod and point thing again! (*Exits.*)

*ACTOR 2/FUTURE does a huge sweeping gesture that makes him/her fall over. They scramble to get back up, then nods and points again. Once again they are pointing in the wrong direction. ACTOR 1 moves their arm in the correct direction.*

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Give me strength. (*He summons up all his talents and delivers the below speech brilliantly.*) Spirit, hear me. I'm a changed man! I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, Present, and the Future,

and I will not shut out the lessons that they teach. Oh tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone!

*ACTOR 1 grabs ACTOR 2's sheet, it comes off in ACTOR 1's hand. ACTOR 2 looks mortified for a moment. Then EVERYONE comes on and quickly restore ACTOR 1'S bed. All are complimenting ACTOR 1 on the great speech he made and his acting skills. ACTOR 1 breaks character here and there as he hears the compliments. When the bed is set up, ACTOR 1 gets on his knees and holds onto the black material.*

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** I am here! The shadows of the things that would have been may be dispelled. I am as happy as an angel!  
(*ACTOR 5 enters skipping on as the Boy.*) Oh girl!

**ACTOR 5/BOY:** Boy!

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Boy. What day is it?

**ACTOR 5/BOY:** Today? Why it's Christmas day.

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Then I haven't missed it. My boy, go and buy that prize turkey—

**ACTOR 5/BOY:** (*Overlapping.*) —What, the one as big as me?—

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** —And tell them to bring it here—

**ACTOR 5/BOY:** (*Overlapping, said to the audience.*) —I had to slip that in.—

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** —That I may give them directions where to take it. Come back with the man and in less than five minutes, and I'll give you half a crown.

**ACTOR 5/BOY:** Blimey! (*Exits.*)

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** (*Quickly dressing.*) I'll send it to Bob Cratchit's. He shan't know who sent it. It's twice the size of Tiny Tim.

*ACTOR 1 walks to another part of the stage. ACTOR 2 as Fred is pushed out and immediately becomes nervous again.*

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Hello Fred. (*Pause.*) Hello Fred!!! (*Slaps ACTOR 2 on the back and 2 slightly snaps out of it.*)

**ACTOR 2/FRED:** Why, bless my soul! (*Gets nervous again.*)

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Fred, all those things I said to you yesterday...Well, that was all humbug.

**ACTOR 2/FRED:** Why, bless my soul!

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Right. I'd like to come to dinner, if you'll still have me, Fred?

**ACTOR 2/FRED:** Why, bless my soul!

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Fred?!

**ACTOR 2/FRED:** Why, bless my soul!

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Fred?!!! (*Shakes ACTOR 2. ACTOR 2 slightly comes out of it.*)

**ACTOR 2/FRED:** It's a mercy I'm not fainting with delight! Come this way! (*They exit.*)

*MUSIC. EVERYONE comes out to set up the desks for the office. When they are done, ACTOR 6 does the narration. ACTOR 1 pretends to do paperwork.*

**ACTOR 6/NARRATOR:** That evening's party was full of wonderful happiness. The next day Scrooge arose early to be at the office first, to catch Bob Cratchit coming in late.

*ACTOR 3 as Bob and Mrs. comes rushing on with the Mrs. side showing. ACTOR 6 pokes her head out.*

**ACTOR 6:** \_\_\_\_\_ . (*Whispers ACTOR 3's name.*)

*ACTOR 6 gestures for ACTOR 3 to turn around but he doesn't see ACTOR 6.*

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Cratchit, what do you— (*Looks up and sees ACTOR 3's costume. Stops.*)

**ACTOR 3/BOB AND MRS.:** (*Whispers.*) What? (*ACTOR 1 indicates for ACTOR 3 to turn around. ACTOR 3 is still clueless. ACTOR 6 rushes on, turns ACTOR 3 around so that the Bob side is seen. ACTOR 1 starts again.*)

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** MISTER Cratchit, what do you mean by coming here at this time of day?

**ACTOR 3/BOB AND MRS.:** It's only once a year sir. It shall not be repeated. I was making rather merry yesterday, sir. *(Hiccoughs.)*

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** Indeed! My friend, I am not going to stand this sort of thing any longer. And therefore... therefore... I am about to raise your salary!

**ACTOR 3/BOB AND MRS.:** Mr. Scrooge, are you quite yourself, sir?

**ACTOR 1/SCROOGE:** No, thank heaven I am not. Merry Christmas, Bob! *(Hugs him during below so tightly that ACTOR 3 is having trouble breathing.)* I'll raise your salary and endeavor to assist your struggling family, and get you the best doctors to help your Tiny Tim. *(Releases ACTOR 3.)*

**ACTOR 3/BOB AND MRS.:** *(Gasping for air.)* Thank you ever so much sir!

*Uses an inhaler. They both freeze. EVERYONE comes out onto the stage.*

**ACTOR 4:** Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all, and infinitely more.

**ACTOR 5:** To Tiny Tim, who did not die, he was a second father.

**ACTOR 3:** He became as good a man as the good old city knew.

**ACTOR 2:** And it was always said of him that he knew how to keep Christmas well.

**ACTOR 6:** May that be truly said of us and all of us.

**ACTOR 1:** And so as Tiny Tim observed—

**ALL:** God bless us, every one! *(ALL bow.)*

**THE END**