

Birmingham Children's Theatre and Theatre UAB

present

Charles Dickens'

A Christmas Carol



Civic Center Theatre

December 3, 4, 5, 1981, 7:30 P.M.

December 5, 1981, 2:00 P.M.

BOB PENNY (Ebenezer Scrooge) has been performing in Birmingham since he came to teach at UAB in 1969. He has appeared in plays by, among others, Shakespeare, Beckett, Pinter, Strindberg, Brecht, and Williams. Twice nominated for the Obelisk Award for the best performance by an actor, he was seen last year in **Our Town** and **You Can't Take It With You**.

JEAN PIERCE (Mrs. Dilber) has appeared in numerous Town and Gown productions. She has worked with BCT both as a board member and as an actress.

JOE PRETLOW (Fiddler) is 14 years old and has been a member of the Alabama Youth Symphony for 3 years. He has also appeared with the UAB Symphony and the All State Orchestra. Last summer Joe studied at the Eastman School of Music and is presently a student of Ms. Weinert.

CHARLES REESE (Mr. Fezziwig) is a senior drama major at Samford University. He has portrayed such roles as Arnolphe in **School for Wives**, van Helsing in **Dracula**, and Terya in **Fiddler on the Roof**. Last spring Charles staged Samford's **Blythe Spirit**.

JAY RYE (Young Ebenezer) is a 7th grade student at Mountain Brook Elementary School. Jay has appeared in the BCT's product of **Winnie the Pooh**, and has been in numerous television commercials. Jay is the son of Jim and Cathy Rye, and the brother of SuSu.

MARNIE SUTTON (Martha Cratchit) is currently attending Briarwood Christian High School. She is 14 years old and a veteran of 5 productions of **Nutcracker**.

MELISSA SUTTON (Caroling Boy) is 8 years old and attends Briarwood Christian School. This is her first public appearance in theatre.

ROBIN SUTTON (Fan Scrooge) attends Briarwood Christian School and is 12 years old. This is her third public appearance in theatre, having danced in the '79 and '80 productions of **Nutcracker**.

LINDA TIDWELL (Pound Note) is a mother of 2 and currently working on a degree in Theatre. She is sponsor and director for Wallace State Community College Drama Company.

NIAMH TUOHY (Belinda Cratchit) is in the fifth grade. Nine and a half years of age, she has performed in **Oliver**, **Nutcracker**, and **Mirabell's Magical Moment**.

SUZANNE WHISENANT (Fred's Sister 2) is a theatre major at UAB. She has played several roles there, the latest being Joanne in the student production of **Vanities**. In addition to her theatre, she has a paralegal degree. However, she hopes to pursue the stage.

DAVID WILBORN (Ghost of Christmas Past), a native of Birmingham, has appeared in various roles off- and off-off Broadway and in television commercials. For BCT and UAB he has appeared as Nutribird, and in **Alice in Wonderland** and **Our Town**. He is currently teaching as an Artist-in-Residence in the Talladega County School System.

CARLA WOOD (Laundress) is a poet and a student of literature at UAB, where she is extending her love for literature to live theatre.

MAGGIE KATE WOOD (Want), daughter of Carla Wood, is making her stage debut in **A Christmas Carol**. She is five years old and attends St. Joseph's Kindergarten.

Choral Group

TURNER MILLS is a freshman at UAB. She participates in the Music Department as a member of the University Chorus and the After Six Singers.

SYLVIA ROSS is a junior student at UAB majoring in Spanish and Business. She is a member of University Chorus and plans a career as a bilingual employee in either a bank or an international trade center.

LYNDA STANSELL is a sophomore student at UAB majoring in ballet and physical education and minoring in classical piano. She is a member of University Chorus.

Production Staff

MARION JEFFERY (Assistant to Mr. Sutherland) is a senior at Theatre UAB. She appeared as Emily in the BCT-UAB production of **Our Town** last spring.

JUANITA KAYLOR (Master Scenic Artist) is a renowned scenic artist with 17 years experience. She has worked for Atlanta's Alliance Theatre, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, and the Kennedy Center, as well as the Spoleto Opera Center, under Beni Montesor.

PATRICIA MARTIN (Assistant Stage Manager) is presently a sophomore at UAB. A Theatre student, she recently designed the setting for **Vanities** and has designed numerous sets for the Jewish Community Center Players.

DEBBIE PHIPPEN (Stage Manager) is a transfer student from the Univeristy of Alabama. She is currently a theatre major at UAB and most recently appeared as Kathy in **Vanities**.

HELEN ROBBINS (Costume Shop Supervisor) has sewn for 15 years. For the Burda Pattern Company (a German Corporation) she constructed clothing which was modeled in California, New York, and along the East Coast. She has made the UAB cheerleading suits for the past two seasons.

ROBERT ST. JOHN (Master of Special Effects, Assistant Lighting Designer) designed the lights for UAB's **Vanities** and served as master electrician for their **Belle of Amherst**. Last summer he served a technical internship at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

Theatre UAB and Birmingham Children’s Theatre

present

A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens

Adapted by Martin L. Platt

Directed by Steven Sutherland

This production of **A Christmas Carol** is adapted from Charles Dickens’ story by Martin L. Platt, who for the past ten years has been the Artistic Director of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Anniston and as such needs no introduction to our audiences!

Director of Music..... Howard Irving
Director of Choreography..... Stevan Grebel
Scenery, Lighting & Costume Design..... Barbara and Eric Olson

Cast

Ebenezer Scrooge..... Bob Penny
Marley's Ghost..... Maurice Hunt
Cratchit..... Capers John Doss
Mrs. Cratchit..... Lynn Arthur
Belinda Cratchit..... Niamh Tuohy
Martha Cratchit..... Marnie Sutton
Peter/Schoolboy..... Jay Rye
Tiny Tim..... Gavin Pate
Fred..... Thomas Harrell
Mrs. Fred..... Cheryl Anne Millsap
Fred’s Party..... Donna Edwards, Stacey Keenan,
Suzanne Whisenant, Ken Lagle
Fezziwig..... Charles Reese
Mrs. Fezziwig..... Deborah Fleischmann

Fiddler..... Joe Pretlow
Fezziwig Party:..... Donna Edwards, Stacey Keenan,
Cheryl Anne Millsap, Linda Tidwell,
Suzanne Whisenant, Mark Ledford, Ken Lagle
Ghost of Christmas Past..... David Wilborn
Ghost of Christmas Present..... Laura McEarl
Ghost of Christmas Future..... Mike Hargrove
Belle..... Connie Norton
Young Scrooge..... Judd McCluney
Dick Wilkins/Round..... Mark Ledford
Lean/Snuffbox..... Steve Chrisenberry
Pound Note..... Linda Tidwell
Joe..... Ken McCoy
Mrs. Dilber..... Jean Pierce
Laundress..... Carla Wood
Fan/Want/Butcher’s Boy..... Robin Sutton
Caroling Boy/Ignorance..... Melissa Sutton
Want..... Maggie-Kate Wood
Fred’s Maid..... Stacey Keenan
Choral Group..... Turner Mills, Sylvia Ross,
Linda Stansell

Acknowledgements

BCT and UAB wish to thank the state and local news media for their unstinting help in publicizing this production. Our special thanks to WBHM and, in particular, Lissa LeGrand for her invaluable help and assistance with the sound effects.

Sincere appreciation is expressed to the following for assistance in the preparation and promotion of this production: Mrs. T. D. Russell and the American Red Cross; Bryding Adams and the Arlington Historic House and Gardens; The Studio Arena Theatre, Buffalo, N.Y.; Hancock Fabrics; Impressions by Jerri; Patty Wheeler; Mrs. C. A. Olson; Mrs. Donald F. Edwards; Landscape Services; Women’s Committee of BCT; and Mountain Brook Junior High School; and Terry Pickett.

Funded in part by UAB Student Activity Fees.

Production Staff

Assistant to Mr. Sutherland..... Marion Jeffery
Stage Manager..... Debbie Phippen
Assistant Stage Manager..... Patricia Martin
Master Scenic Artist..... Juanita Kaylor
Technical Directors..... Frank Clark, Doug Deville
Master of Special Effects,
Assistant Lighting Designer..... Robert St. John
Properties Master..... Donna Edwards
Costume Shop Supervisor..... Helen Robbins
Head Make-Up Artist/Design..... Paul Mitchell Lackey
Costume Crew..... Wilhelmina Bibb, Capers Doss,
Debbie Fleishmann, Sabrina Gary,
Sal Griffis, Margie Huey,
Charles Reese, Jeff Todhunter
Scenery Crew..... Frank Clark, Doug Deville,
Marion Jeffery, Ken McCoy, Patricia Martin,
and members of the UAB Stagecraft Class

Administrative Staff

Birmingham Children’s Theatre
Managing Director..... James W. Rye, Jr.
Assistant to the Managing Director..... Leesa Lewis
Secretary..... Martha Ayres
Bookkeeper..... Violet Sayre

Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center Staff

E. A. Jones..... Executive Director
E. J. Ricco..... Assistant Executive Director
Bert Brosowsky..... Assistant Director
Phoebe Howell..... Booking Manager
Harold Gaston..... Stage Manager
Laura Murphree..... Executive Secretary
Betty Jones..... Box Office Manager
B. N. Collins..... Chief Engineer

Biographies

STEVEN SUTHERLAND (Director) is a professional actor with 21 years experience of stage, TV, films and radio. Trained at the Old Vic School in his native England, he appeared this past summer as Oberon in **A Midsummer Night's Dream** at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. He is currently a visiting Assistant Professor of Drama at UAB. His many credits include taking over the lead from Tom Courtenay in **Otherwise Engaged**, directed by Harold Pinter on Broadway in 1977, the British National Theatre production of **Bedroom Farce** (Broadway 1979), **The Saint** TV series (with Roger Moore) and the movie **McGuire Go Home** with Dirk Bogarde.

HOWARD IRVING (Director of Music) is an Assistant Professor of Music at UAB. Dr. Irving joined the UAB Music Department this fall after teaching at Bethel College in McKenzie, Tennessee. He appeared recently in the Southern Regional Opera Company’s production of Bizet’s **Carmen**.

STEVAN GREBEL (Director of Choreography) Associate Professor and Director, Ballet UAB; received his early training with Bolshoi and Kirov Ballet. He has appeared with the Bolshoi Ballet Company in Moscow as guest artist; and as a principal dancer with the National Ballet Company.

ERIC OLSON (Scenic Designer) is an award winning designer who has logged over 17,500 hours in the theatre. An associate Professor for Theatre UAB, he has written numerous scholarly and feature articles with his wife, Barbara.

BARBARA OLSON (Costume Designer) is a member of the faculty of Theatre UAB. Teaming with her husband Eric, she has designed over 75 productions in educational and professional theatre.

LYNN ARTHUR (Mrs. Cratchit) received her BA in Theatre at UAB last year and is currently teaching creative dramatics for BCT. She was Consuela in **El Grande de Coca Cola** at Birmingham Festival Theatre last spring, and has also served on their Board of Directors.

STEVE CHRISENBERRY (Lean, Snuff Box) is a graduate of the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Although a music major, he is currently touring as an actor in **Treasure Island** with the BCT.

CAPERS JOHN DOSS (Bob Cratchit) has been performing with BCT for the past year and a half. Last year he was seen as the White Rabbit in **Alice in Wonderland** and as Howie Newsome in **Our Town**.

DONNA EDWARDS (Fred’s Sister) is a theatre major at UAB, minoring in dance. She has appeared in **Slave with Two Faces** and **Bye Bye, Birdie**, and served as props master for this production.

DEBORAH FLEISCHMAN (Mrs. Fezziwig) is an Artist in Education for the State of Alabama as well as an Obelisk winning Costume Designer with BCT. A fine character actress, Miss Fleischman was last seen as Mrs. Gibbs in the UAB-BCT co-production of **Our Town**.

MIKE HARGROVE (Ghost of Christmas Future) is currently attending the Alabama School of Fine Arts. He has appeared in numerous shows there and at Birmingham Festival Theatre.

THOMAS HARRELL (Fred) has just completed his first quarter as a theatre major at UAB. He has worked extensively with community theatre in Huntsville, AL., and plans to pursue acting professionally.

MAURICE HUNT (Marley’s Ghost) is a veteran of Broadway, motion pictures and TV on all major networks. Mr. Hunt is now appearing in his third year with BCT. In 1979 he starred at Town and Gown in Dylan Thomas’ **Under Milkwood**, and last year as the Stage Manager in the BCT-UAB production of **Our Town**. His most recent TV appearance was with Muhammd Ali in **Freedom Road**. He was also in **Roots**, **Lincoln Conspiracy** and **Return to Macon County**.

STACEY KEENAN (Fred’s Maid) is in her junior year at UAB. This is her first production at the school. She has also been involved in productions of Birmingham Festival Theatre.

KEN LAGLE (Topper, Newspaper) is a senior Theatre major at UAB. He was recently stage manager for the UAB production of **Vanities**.

MARK LEFORD (Dick Wilkins) is a freshman at UAB majoring in Theatre. He is also a portrait artist and hopes to one day work as a movie actor.

JUDD McCLUNEY (Young Scrooge) is a sophomore at UAB majoring in Public Relations. Last year he appeared in Gadsden Civic Theatre's productions of **Arsenic and Old Lace** and **Camelot**.

KEN MCCOY (Joe) is a senior theatre major at UAB. Last year he appeared in the BCT-UAB production of **Our Town** and recently directed **Vanities** at Theatre UAB.

LAURA McEARL (Ghost of Christmas Present) is an eleventh grade student at the Alabama School of Fine Arts. Her acting debut was as Mary in the UAB student production of **Vanities**. She plans a career in either dance or theatre.

CHERYL-ANNE MILLSAP (Mrs. Fred) is a theatre minor at UAB. She was most recently seen as Jackie in Noël Coward’s **Hay Fever** at Birmingham Festival Theatre.

CONNIE NORTON (Belle) is a theatre major at UAB. She has appeared in performances at the Jewish Community Center, BCT, and Summerfest as well as Theatre UAB. She was the first recipient of UAB’s John Nixon Scholarship.

GAVIN PATE (Tiny Tim) is making his theatre dubut as Tiny Tim. A second grade student at Epic School, his favorite sports include soccer, baseball and swimming.