

THE DUKES PRESENTS

UNWRAP THE MAGIC THIS SEASON

A CHRISTMAS CAROL



EDUCATION PACK

CONTENTS:

Page 1: Contents Page

Page 2: About the Dukes & Show Synopsis

Page 3: Meet the Cast and Creative Team

Page 4: Interview with the Director

Page 5: Interview with Designer

Page 6: Images

Page 7: Interview with Choreographer

Page 8: Design a Christmas Cone

Page 9: Colour in a Festive Scene

Page 10: History of A Christmas Carol

Page 11: Script and Acting activity

Page 12: Interview with a Cast Member

Page 13: Word Search

Page 14: Rehearsal Photos

Page 15: Contact Details

About the Dukes

We are dedicated to a diverse and high quality programme, telling stories that are relevant, fun, heartwarming and electrifying. The Dukes creates a sense of place that challenges, enthralls and excites our audiences, through live performance and great cinema in the heart of Lancaster.

Working with artists and communities, we stimulate opportunities for creative engagement as a creative hub, where people of all ages can discover their own creativity and be part of what makes our place great. The Dukes is a home for artists to create and connect; we reach out beyond our building into communities and new spaces, and through working with our partnerships, put culture and the arts at the heart of the Lancaster City region.

We are committed to:

- Representing our audiences by delivering a professional quality experience for all
- Working with artists to develop their skills, work and practice, and engendering The Dukes as a place of creativity
- Holding inclusivity at the centre of all we do, both on and off stage/screen
- Developing and supporting a creative and dynamic staff team who are able to make things happen

The Dukes is the only producing theatre in the Lancashire area and is the oldest cinema in Lancaster, operating since 1971.

Show Synopsis

Whilst Christmas cheer and goodwill thrive across Victorian England, grumpy Ebenezer Scrooge goes to bed on Christmas Eve with no compassion or love in his heart.

However, that night he is visited by the spirit of his old business partner Jacob Marley and is taken on a mystical journey through yuletides past, present and future – will he be able to see the error of his ways before it's too late?

Unwrap the magic this season with a musical adaptation of Charles Dickens classic tale, featuring toe-tapping music, festive fun and a touch of Christmas magic. This heart-warming and uplifting tale of redemption is the perfect festive treat for the whole family

Meet the cast

A Musical by
Kate Ferguson & Susannah Pearse

Directed by
Ellie Hurt

the Dukes

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

					
GARETH CASSIDY	MIRIAM O'BRIEN	COURTNEY GEORGE	CAMERON MCKENDRICK	CLAIRE REDCLIFFE	KILLIAN MACARDLE
SCROOGE	GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT & MORE	GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST & MORE	FRED TAPPER & MORE	MRS FEZZIWIG & MORE	MR FEZZIWIG & MORE

24TH NOVEMBER - 31ST DECEMBER **UNWRAP THE MAGIC THIS SEASON**

A Musical by
Kate Ferguson & Susannah Pearse

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A CHRISTMAS CAROL

			
DYLAN HAY	NOAH SZCZYPEK	EMMA KENNEDY-ROSE	JACK ASHCROFT-GOULDs
TINY TIM	TINY TIM	TINY TIM	TINY TIM

24TH NOVEMBER - 31ST DECEMBER **UNWRAP THE MAGIC THIS SEASON**

Musical Director and Orchastrator; Rhiannon Hopkins
Designer: Rachel Walton-Daniels
Choreographer: Zak Phillips-Yates

Interview with the Director Ellie Hurt

Can you explain - In a short sentence - what a theatre director on a show like this does?

My job on a show like this is to be the glue that holds everybody together. Right from the beginning I've been involved with all decision making, working closely with and the rest of the creative team to decide how the show is going to sound, look and feel. Together we have created a unique vision for A Christmas Carol and the world it takes place in. Once in the rehearsal room it's been about getting the show on it's feet and working with the actors in the room to tell this iconic story in most exciting and entertaining way.

How would you describe your approach in the rehearsal room?

I'm a very playful and collaborative director as I believe that everybody's brains working in the room together is more powerful than mine alone. I love people coming up with ideas and exploring them as I'll always be open to trying them before saying no. This ultimately means that everyone has creative ownership over the show as it is just as much their show as it is my show.

What can people expect from this show?

Along the way you will meet multiple exciting characters and hear some amazing original music. But for me the most important aspect of from this version of A Christmas Carol audiences can expect lots of humour, laughter and fun whilst keeping the heart of the classic story that makes comments on community and the power of helping one another.

What is the most enjoyable thing about being part of a Dukes Christmas show?

Being in Lancaster! It's my first time working here and the people are amazing, there is a real sense of community and buzz in the city for the show. I feel really privileged to be working in a building that is at the heart of the local community and I've loved getting to know everybody.

If could sum up the show in three words, what would they be?

Magical, Hilarious and Unpredictable!

Interview with the Designer Rachel Walton-Daniels

Can you explain - In a short sentence - what a Designer does on a show like this does?

My job is to work with the director, starting with the script to come up with a concept of how we want the show to look, from there I design the set and the costumes to tie together the overall look of the production.

How would you describe the style for the show?

Ellie and I have been really keen on showing the mechanics of theatre and how everything is put together, this means that a lot of the scene changes happen onstage keeping the show very fluid. And most importantly we wanted to make sure there is plenty of Christmas magic in there too!

What can people expect from this show?

It is a classic A Christmas Carol so everything you know from that original story but done in a fresh and visually exciting way packed songs and dancing. Look out for the entrance of the Ghost of Christmas Future!

What is your favourite design element from the show?

I loved creating a space that can be used for lots of different locations! We travel from the streets of London and then back and forward in time to various places such as Scrooge's old school. It was really exciting for me to create a set that works for all these different locations, showing how quite a simple design can be utilised in a clever way to show all of that!

If could sum up the show in three words, what would they be?

Bonkers, Magical and Fun!

The cast see the designs for the first time...



Interview with Choreographer Zak Phillips-Yates

Can you explain - In a short sentence - what a Choreographer on a show like this does?

On a show like this it's about working alongside the director on what kind of shape the story needs to be in whether that is adding comedy into the choreography or building massive elaborate dance numbers. It's about understanding how the actors move and working with them so that they ultimately look the best they can be onstage.

How would you describe the style you are working in for this show?

It's very different actually! The music has lots of light but also lots of quite dark elements throughout which means the choreography is not just all dancing at an upbeat tempo, it has been a nice change.

What can people expect from this show?

A lot of fun! It's a great story with a lot of comedic elements running through it and all the amazing characters. The multiple portrayals of all different characters from the actors are lovely to watch.

What is your favourite moment of the show?

I'm going to have to just say, Christmas Present! Just wait and see.

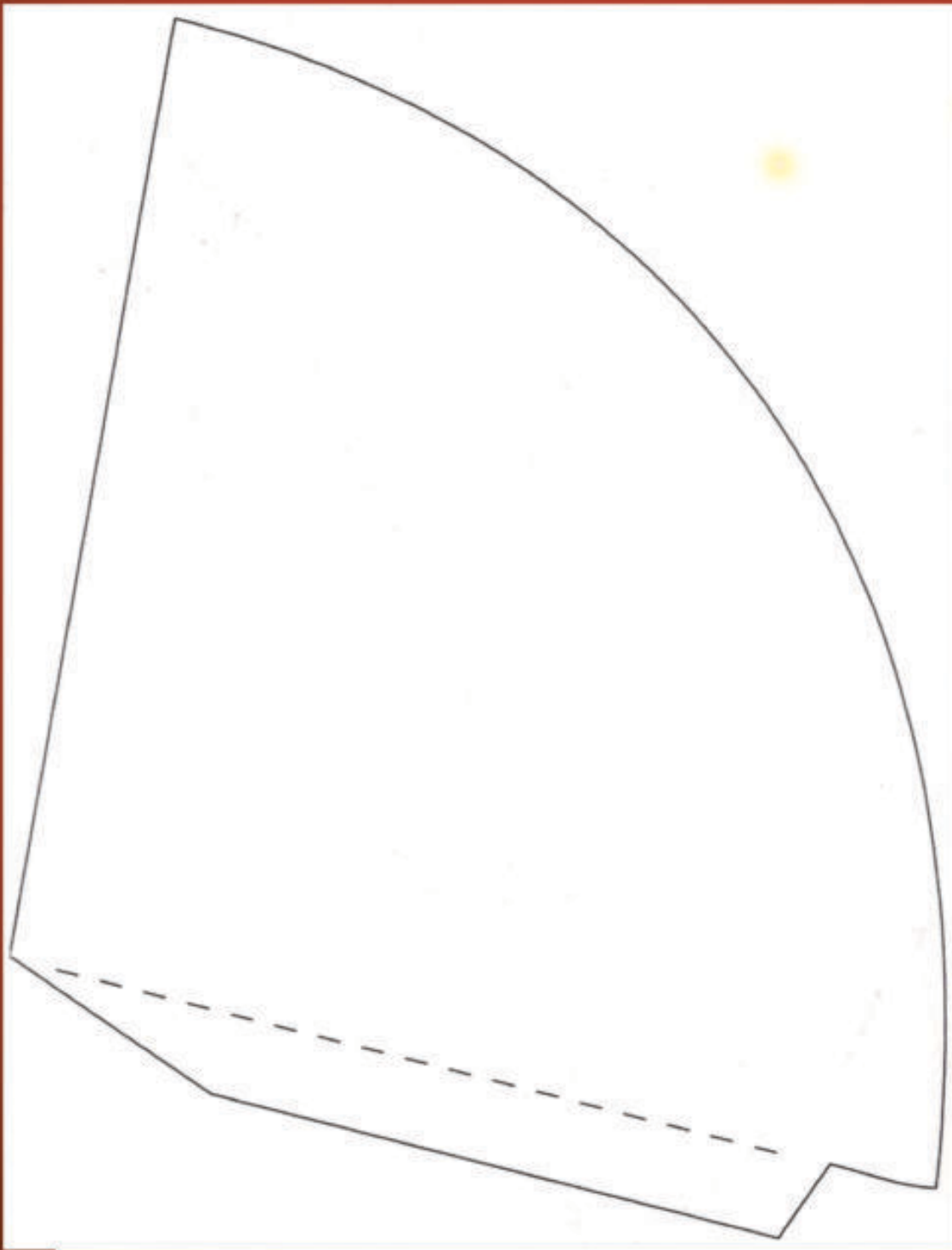
If could sum up the show in three words, what would they be?

Fantastic, Fun and Christmassy!



Design your own Christmas Cone

When visiting the show, you'll see festive Christmas cones designed and created by the team to decorate Christmas trees. Use the template below to design, cut out and create your own



Colour in your own Festive Scene

Put your design skills to work and colour in this festive A Christmas Carol scene!



A History Of Charles Dickens

7 February 1812 – 9 June 1870 (died at 58 years old)

Dickens left school at a very young age and started working in a factory after his father lost all his money and was imprisoned for his debts. He began writing and editing short stories for local newspapers to earn more money. These stories became very popular and Dickens ended up writing 15 novels, 5 novellas (short novels) and hundreds of short stories.

Described by many as a socialist, it is unsurprising that Dickens wrote a story about a money-obsessed mean-spirited man, transforming into a kind-hearted generous person and employer, who develops a true sense of charity and care for those less well-off than himself. He married a young woman named Catherine Thomson Hogarth, who was the editor of the paper he wrote for, and together they had 10 children!

Towards the end of his life, he was involved in a deadly train crash, when all the first-class carriages came off the rails apart from his! This inspired the last of his works including a short ghost story called *The Signalman* and *Our Mutual Friend*. He is now regarded as one of the greatest writers of the Victorian era and his work is still as popular as ever today!

Questions

Have you read any books by Charles Dickens or seen any films, tv shows or theatre productions based on his work? If yes, what did you enjoy them? If no, is there any you'd like to experience?

Why do you think his work is still popular today?

Script & Acting Activity

Part 1: It's your turn to take to the stage! In pairs read through this short piece of script from A Christmas Carol and then answer the three questions below before moving on to the second part!

SCROOGE: Do you know who I am?

TIM: You're evil Mr Scrooge.

CRATCHIT: Tim!

SCROOGE: No, that's fair. Tim, I have brought you a gift. Well, you and Scratchit.

TIM: How do you know the name of my dog?

SCROOGE: Lucky guess. Would you like your gift?

TIM: Is it an evil gift?

Scrooge takes the sausages out of his pocket and hands them over

TIM: Sausages? Those are Scratchit's favourite!

SCROOGE: Then he should have as many as he can eat.

TIM: (Eyes wide at the deliciousness before him) Thank you, Mr Scrooge!

Tim turns back to his brother and sister.

TIM: Sausages!

Questions

How do you think the two characters feel about each-other?

Think about their voices - How do you think the characters would sound?

Think about moving as that character – How do you think the characters would move?

Interview with Cast Member Claire Radcliffe

Can you explain - In a short sentence - what it's like rehearsing for a show like this?

Honestly, it's the best team! We've had to be able to pick up scenes, music and dance - sometimes all at once - which in rehearsals can feel like rubbing your belly whilst tapping your head at the same time. We've had so many laughs and even though there is a lot to do, and we must have that focus and be on it at all times, we've also had so much fun.

Tell us a bit about the Character/s you are playing?

I'm playing a few characters one of them is Mrs Fezziwig who shows that even if you do have money, you can use it for good. She's a character full of joy, optimism, energy and love for her husband. Secondly, I play Mrs Cratchitt, who has quite a lot of children and as a family they have to make do showing the other side of the social spectrum but they are both beautiful souls. Next there's Caroline who worries for Fred as he hangs onto the idea that Scrooge will one day embrace him as a nephew and finally, I play a Christmas Caroller who sings a lot and Rag and Bone woman, who is my favourite, I see her as a bit of a Fagin character!

What can people expect from this show?

It's so funny and has such a beautiful message. You will be laughing your head off then crying and then laughing again!

What is your favourite moment of the show?

All of it! I love the songs and the dance, but I'd have to pick the humour.

If could sum up the show in three words, what would they be?

Lively, Funny and Optimistic!

Christmas Carol Word Search

How many words can you find?

P	R	E	S	E	N	T	G	H	Z	W	A
I	Y	E	Y	H	S	E	D	U	K	E	S
U	T	L	A	V	P	F	M	O	A	P	R
O	I	A	S	C	R	O	O	G	E	I	E
G	M	R	C	F	I	H	B	N	O	C	T
C	G	W	G	O	O	S	E	K	V	F	S
A	U	X	E	T	R	T	B	R	P	Y	A
T	C	R	A	T	C	H	I	T	A	R	C
S	B	C	Y	O	S	C	O	W	S	A	N
O	O	T	H	E	A	T	R	E	T	H	A
H	P	S	H	O	W	D	R	U	J	S	L
G	U	Q	C	A	R	O	L	S	H	K	E

Word bank- tick them off when you've found them!

- Carol
- Cratchit
- Dukes
- Ghost
- Goose
- Lancaster
- Past
- Present
- Scrooge
- Show
- Tim
- Theatre

Rehearsal Photos



UNWRAP THE MAGIC THIS SEASON

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Contact Details

To find out more details about our programmes,
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