

Dickens Christmas Carol: A Traveling Travesty in Two Tumultuous Acts
ACT1 Theater 2019

Directed by: Jim Nelson

First-Round Auditions: Monday Sept. 16th OR Tuesday Sept. 17th 7 – 9 PM (time slots)

Callbacks Thurs. Sept. 19th 7 – 9 PM

To sign up for an Audition Date/Time, use this URL: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0845A4A82FA4FE3-dickens>

Other forms:

* [Audition Form](#)

* [Participation Agreement](#)

* [Photo/Video Release Form](#)

What is ACT1 Theater?

ACT1 is an all-volunteer, non-Equity, no-fee community theater with a focus on quality entertainment. Now in our 24th year, we're proud to bring you musical and non-musical theatrical productions; you'll find us in performance in several major productions each year. Among our many full-length shows have been *Fiddler on the Roof*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Boys Next Door*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor® Dreamcoat*, *Guys and Dolls*, and many others. In 2018, ACT1 Theater formed a Partnership with the City of Alpharetta, and performed two shows of scenes, sonnets and soliloquys from the Bard; this year will feature ACT1's first full-length Shakespeare production at Wills Park. ACT1 is the proud recipient of several Metropolitan Atlanta Theater awards, and many nominations. We are a community outreach of Alpharetta Presbyterian Church, and provide entertainment to the community without religious bias.

In addition to using many experienced theater folks, one of the objectives of our work is to provide a venue for those who have never been involved with theater before. We enjoy seeing new folks discover a love of theater – whether that's performing on the stage; building sets; making costumes; or working as a stage hand, lighting technician or sound technician. We also welcome the contributions of those who keep our day-to-day operations going, like marketing or admin support. As new cast and crew members "learn the ropes" and become seasoned pros, they may decide to try their hand at stage managing or directing. All of our cast, crew, and management are volunteers. No matter what role you choose, this will be the most fun that you have had in a long time! The actors, staff and crew always form bonds that make this more than a hobby – it's family.

What will auditions be like?

Upon your arrival we'll have you sign in, and fill out forms if not filled out previously. You can save time by downloading the forms website and bringing them in completed. Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your appointment time if you need to fill out forms. Don't worry if you've never auditioned before – experience is not required. If you have a headshot, bring it along. If not, we'll take a picture during your sign in for recognition purposes. Please note that there are required volunteer hours to assist with areas supporting this production or ACT1 operations; that's the spirit of community theater! If you are under 18 years old, a parent must read and sign forms as well.

First Round auditions are completed by individual audition time slots. Auditioners are expected to have prepared a 1 minute comedic monologue. You will also do some cold readings from the script with staff readers.

Among the things we'll be looking for are:

- Voice quality – Can you project, so that you'll be heard from the back of the auditorium?
- Energy – can we hear the interest and excitement in your voice?
- Facial Expression – Does it match the words you're reading?
- Character – Can you "be" the person you're reading?
- Willingness – Can you follow instructions and give it your best shot?

After the first-round auditions, callback calls will be made by the morning of Sept 18th. If you don't hear from us, thanks but we were not able to use you this time. Callbacks will be held on Thursday, Sept. 19th from 7 – 9 PM. Everyone who has been called back should plan to be there for the entire session, though the entire time may not be needed. You may be asked to read lines from various characters with other actors so we get a feel for your acting range and ability to play off of other actors.

How will you pick the cast?

Many things go into putting a cast together. Of course, your performance at the audition is important, but so are other things that are not in your control. The script dictates, to a large extent, who will be cast. As an example, characters playing members of a family should look like they could be family. So casting is a process of finding good actors of an appropriate age who fit in combination with the other actors. No parts are pre-cast, and everyone who gets a part will have auditioned at one of the two initially scheduled times, unless special arrangements are made in advance.

When will I know if I'm cast?

If we are able to cast you, we will call you no later than Saturday, Sept. 20th. Remember, if you aren't cast that doesn't mean you did a poor job, and please – come back to audition for another show! If you are cast, the first read-thru will be 10 AM on Saturday, Sept. 28th.

What am I committing to?

By coming to auditions you're not committing to anything. Come try us out and see what you think. However, you will be asked to list any conflicts between your personal calendar and the rehearsal and performance schedule; a large number of conflicts may affect your chances of being cast. If we offer you a part, and you accept, then you are making a commitment to attend every rehearsal possible. That means you can't miss a rehearsal unless it's absolutely necessary and you've discussed your situation with the Stage Manager in advance. **No absences are allowed during the last two weeks of rehearsals or any performance.** Even if you have your part perfected and don't feel you need to be there, remember that your fellow actors are dependent on you being where you're supposed to be. If someone has a line to deliver to you and you're not there, it makes it very difficult to stay in character and keep the scene running smoothly. A major factor in a production not getting to a polished, professional level is a cast that is erratic in attendance. OK, enough preaching – just want you to understand the importance of being at rehearsals.

Tell me about this play!

From the author of the popular *Faith County* and *An Evening of Culture - Faith County II* comes a completely different adaptation of the holiday classic, *A Christmas Carol*. From the bonny shores of England comes the Styckes-Up-on-Thump Repertory Theatre Company, a stuffy old travelling troupe embarking on their fifteenth annual farewell tour of the Dickens' tale. The company includes Sir Selsdon Piddock, the consummate actor, in the role of Ebenezer Scrooge, with Mrs. Bettina Salisbury, Dame Rowena Middleton-Lewis, Mrs. Cordelia ffoliet-ffolkes ffortescue Woods, Teddy Shub and Elyot Crummels in multiple supporting roles. Sweet Cynthia Imbry, the general understudy, suddenly finds herself thrust onstage to perform a role she's ill-prepared for! Bettina, the company diva, pretends to be ill, certain the production will be cancelled. However, much to her shock and rage, the show does go on without her! Roles are shuffled at the last

minute and poor Cynthia finds herself center stage. The play begins but mid-way through the theatre doors open and in rushes Bettina, determined to reclaim her roles. Mayhem ensues as this professional company scrambles to keep the show going and everything that could possibly go wrong does, to hilarious, ridiculous results!

What are the roles available?

4 Males

3 Females

Additional visible stage hands, number to be determined

What about rehearsals?

Our schedule calls for 3 rehearsals a week, for 11 weeks, followed by 3 weekends of performances. Rehearsals are normally on Monday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm and Sundays at 2:00 PM. We take very seriously your commitment and your time. The schedule will be laid out in advance, and only rarely deviated from. The very first rehearsal will be a “read-through” and will include the entire cast. It’s just what it sounds like – we’ll all sit around and read the script. It’s the time to meet your fellow actors, learn about policies and procedures, hear the Director’s vision for the show, get measured by the costume department, begin to assimilate your character, work on any tricky pronunciation, etc. We’ll give you your copy of the script, the schedule, and any other material you’ll need.

After that, the next set of rehearsals will be broken down, scene by scene, and we’ll do the “blocking”. Blocking is the term used for any stage movement – crossing from one side to the other, sitting down, standing up – all the stuff that supports your lines. Bring a pencil and make notes in your script as you work. Once we’re through these “working” rehearsals, we’re now about 4 weeks in, and it’s time to combine them, and run the full act, and later the full show, fine-tuning as we go. There may be additional or extended rehearsals the week before opening, also known as “Tech Week,” if the show needs intensive work prior to opening; please leave your schedule flexible this week.

When are Performances?

Currently, there are plans for 9 performances of this show June 7th – June 23rd. Here’s the performance schedule:

- Dec. 6 - 8 pm
- Dec. 7 - 8 pm
- Dec. 8 - 2 pm
- Dec. 13 - 8 pm
- Dec. 14 - 8 pm
- Dec. 15 - 2 pm
- Dec. 20 - 8 pm
- Dec. 21 - 8 pm
- Dec. 22 - 2 pm
- Dec. 22 post-production – Set Strike & Cast Party

Tickets prices haven’t been announced, but you can have all your fans book tickets at www.act1theater.com or call the box office at 770-663-8989 to make their reservations. Each cast member will get two tickets free for opening weekend. In addition, cast members may buy more tickets at a discount, for family and friends.

What about....?

For any other questions, please email Managing Director, Melody Cookson at melody.l.cookson@gmail.com.