

Children's auditions for Lakota West Theatre's
A Christmas Carol
A Guide for Parents

The Basic Facts

What: Children's auditions for Lakota West Theatre's production of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*

When: Monday, September 10 4:30-7:00, **Appointment required—no drop-ins, please**

Where: Lakota West Theatre, 8940 Union Centre Boulevard

Open to whom: Children grades 3-8 who live in the Lakota School District

What do I need to do: You need to very thoroughly read all the information in this packet. It will answer most of your questions as well as guide you and your child through the audition process.

Questions and Procedures

What roles are available?

Boys' Roles:

Boy (who delivers a turkey to Scrooge)—Since this part has the most lines and needs to command a British accent, we recommend grades 6-8 for this part

Tiny Tim—He has to be small, so we recommend grades 3-4

Boy Scrooge (no lines)—Grades 3-8

Ignorance (no lines)—He has to be small, so we recommend grades 3-5

Girls' Roles:

Fan—recommend grades 6-8

Belinda Cratchit—grades 3-8

Want (no lines)—She has to be small, so we recommend grades 3-5

Either Gender:

Two more Cratchit children—grades 3-8

Belle's grandchildren—grades 3-8

Various town's children (number to be determined at auditions)

***We tried to give you an idea of what grades would be appropriate for certain roles. However, since size and maturity varies greatly, we would not prohibit any child from trying for a role. For example, if a 5th grade girl demonstrates that she could handle Fan, we would most definitely consider her. Or if a child happens to be small for his/her age, then s/he could take on a younger role. Also, some of the Cratchit casting as well as the casting for Boy Scrooge will rely somewhat on the high school casting, which will occur right before children's auditions. For example, Belinda Cratchit has to look younger than whomever we cast as Martha Cratchit.*

****We would like to stress that even the non-speaking roles will afford the children a strong presence in the play.****

What does my child need to do to prepare for auditions?

1. If your child wishes to audition for Fan, Boy, or Belinda: Boys read for “Boy” in Scene A; Girls read for Fan in Scene B (even if you are auditioning for Belinda, read for Fan in Scene B). These scenes need not be memorized; in fact, we don’t recommend compounding the stress of an audition with the pressure to memorize. However, we do recommend your child rehearse several times to be familiar with the scene so they can read expressively.
2. If your child wishes to audition for any other part: Please have them prepare the male or female (whichever is applicable) in scene C.
3. Your child may want to prepare more than one scene.
4. **OPTIONAL**: If your child has singing experience, s/he may sing one of the attached songs (“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” for boys auditioning for Boy; “Lo How a Rose E’er Blooming” for Fan; or “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” for an easier song). An accompanist will be provided. Again, this is not necessary to the audition process, and if the child does not sing, it will not hurt his/her chances of being cast.

What do I need to do for auditions?

1. Email Paula Dolloff at pooladoll@yahoo.com to schedule a 30-minute audition slot. The audition times are 4:30-6:30. When you email, include all of the following:
 - ✓ If there is a certain time that you need, please specify. If you are flexible and are willing to allow us to assign you a time, let us know that as well.
 - ✓ In your email, please include your child’s name, your first and last name, the grade of your child, the school your child attends (for informational purposes only), email address, and phone number(s) for us to contact you.
 - ✓ If you have no access to email, you may call Paula Dolloff at 682-4115, ext. 10431, but our preference is for you to email if at all possible. If you call, please include the above information on the recording.
 - ✓ If possible, please indicate which part your child will audition for and whether or not s/he will sing at auditions (which, remember, is optional). If your child has no specific part in mind, you may indicate that as well.
 - ✓ Audition sign-ups start August 5, 2007. Sign-ups close September 9, the day before auditions. We will notify you within 24 hours of receiving your request as to when your audition time is. If you send your email before August 5, we will honor it, but you also run the risk of having your email overlooked. If you send your email after September 9, Paula—who will be working the day of Sept. 10—may not see it and your request will not be received in time.
 - ✓ If you do not receive a follow up to your email within two days, at that time you are encouraged to call. As we all know, sometimes emails don’t arrive when they are sent.
 - ✓ If your child cannot make auditions on September 10, but still wants to auditions, please contact Paula Dolloff at 682-4115, ext. 10431.
2. Please study the tentative rehearsal schedule and come to auditions with all conflicts written down. If your child has just a couple of conflicts, that should not discourage your child from auditioning. We may be able to work around a few conflicts. However, if it looks as if your child cannot make most rehearsals, you may want to rethink auditioning.
3. Please look at the performance dates. If your child cannot make a performance, we regret that we will not be able to cast him/her. Note that there is a performance during the school day (Tuesday November 13 8 am-10:30 am). Your child will need to be there. In years past, teachers and administrators from the other Lakota buildings have been very supportive of children being allowed to miss school for this performance. Even so, it is best to check with your individual school to see if they are on board.
4. Prepare your child for the audition (see below “What is it like to audition?”). Help them to be enthusiastic but also help them to set realistic expectations. In the past, we have had as many 40-60 audition for West shows that have used children. We have no way of knowing how many will audition for *Christmas Carol*, but we do know that we can’t cast everyone—on the flipside, we do need a lot children, so we hope everyone who wants to be on stage will give it a try!
5. Please fill out the audition form in advance and provide us with a current picture of your child. The photo will not be returned.

What is it like to audition for *Christmas Carol*?

1. Each 30-minute audition slot has between 15-20 children. Each child will have the chance to read at least once. When reading auditions are complete, we will have children sing who want to (remember singing auditions are optional).
2. The auditions will be viewed by Ms. Paula Dolloff, the director of *Christmas Carol* and Mrs. Kim Tanis, artistic director of Lakota West Theatre. Additionally, there will be three high school cast members to read with the students as well as our student musical director.
3. The auditions are closed. Only the people listed in #2 will be permitted to view auditions. Having parents sit in on auditions can create stress for children auditioning.
4. At the same time, we ask that all children be accompanied by an adult at auditions. Please do not drop your child off at auditions and pick them up later. We cannot guarantee their safety if they are left alone to wait. If you have a student in the West Theatre program, they may accompany your child in your place. Please understand that your child's well being is of paramount concern for us.
5. **We will post the children's cast list on our website no later than noon on September 11.**

What is it like to be in a West Show?

1. West Theatre has earned a reputation among the community for providing outstanding theatre. The excellence of our productions is a result of a lot of rehearsal time and a serious commitment by all involved.
2. On the flip side, being involved in a show at West Theatre can be a very rewarding experience and may lead to a life-long love of theatre. For example, Jessica Burley, who portrayed Anne Frank last fall, appeared in *The Sound of Music* as a 7th grader.
3. All children who appear in *A Christmas Carol* must pay a participation fee of \$75. However, as an alternative, the child can sell \$100 in family or corporate patrons instead of paying the fee. We will explain this program in detail at the parent meeting (see #4).
4. Our theatre program also thrives upon the support and tireless efforts of our parents through a Booster program called "The Drama Mamas and Papas" (a/k/a DMP). Our first DMP meeting will be 7pm on Tuesday September 18; this will also be a required for parents of the *Christmas Carol* cast. At this meeting we will explain the sponsorship program as well as all the different ways you can help support Lakota West Theatre.
5. During rehearsals and performances, the children will be assigned to certain high school students who will help to supervise them and will be a "buddy" to them to answer all questions. The director, as well as the adults on staff, supervise all students and children in a broad sense, but it is important for you to understand that your child will be directly supervised by a high school student. Having said that, we will choose responsible students for such supervision responsibilities, and—not that we're at all biased—we believe that some of the most outstanding young people in the community are the students of Lakota West Theatre.

If you have any questions that are not answered by this packet, please call Paula Dolloff at 682-4115, ext. 10431. But I do ask that you make sure you have read the entire packet prior to calling.

Thanks and we wish your child the best of luck at auditions!

Tentative children's rehearsal schedule for *Christmas Carol*

Note: This schedule is subject to change, but this will give you an idea of the amount of rehearsing that will take place. Please come to auditions with your conflicts written down.

9/19 4:30-6 Fan and Boy Scrooge
9/24 4:30-6 All children except Cratchit children
9/25 4:30-6 Cratchit children
9/26 4:30-6 Cratchit children, Ignorance and Want
9/27 4:30-6 Cratchit children
10/1 4:30-6 Boy
10/2 4:30-6 All children
10/3 4:30-6 Cratchit children
10/8 4:30-6 All children except Cratchits
10/9 4:30-6 All children
10/11 4:30-7 All children
10/17 4:30-6 All children except Cratchits
10/18 4:30-6 All Children
10/23 4:30-7 All children
10/24 4:30-7 All children
10/26 2:30-5:30 All Children
10/29 4:30-7 All children
10/30 4:30-7 All children
11/1 4:30-7 All children
11/4 2-6 All children
11/5 4:30-7 All children
11/6 4:30-7 All children
11/7 4:30-7 All children
11/8 4:30-7 All children
11/9 6:30pm Call, 8:00pm Show
11/10 6:30pm Call, 8:00pm Show
11/13 7am call, 8:15am show
11/15 5:30pm call, 7pm show
11/16 6:30pm, 8pm show
11/17 6:30pm, 8pm show

SCENE A

A Christmas Carol

~~in the Past, the Present and the Future! The Spirits of all of them shall strive within me! (He falls to his knees) Oh, Jacob Marley, Heaven and Christmas Time be praised for this! (He lifts his hands in prayer) I say it on my knees, old Jacob! On my knees. (He struggles to his feet and starts to dress) I don't know what to do! (He is laughing and crying, scattering his clothes) I am as light as a feather. I am as happy as an angel. I am as larky as a schoolboy! (He finds his long johns, puts his finger through the hole in them, throws them into a corner and gets out a new pair. All this time he's getting dressed under his night-gown, like a modest bather, and getting extremely tied up by the process) I'm as giddy ... as a drunken man. As jolly as a Jack-Tar. Merry as a gig... Happy as a man wedding the asparagus. Jolly as a jumping bean... Laughing like a drain. Dancing like a dervish. A Merry Christmas all round! A Happy New Year to all the world! (He looks round him again) It's all here! Look at it. All here... The salsaparan for my little bit of grief. Old Jacob Marley came through here. And the Ghost of Christmas Present sat in there... (He scratches his head) I don't know what day of the month it is. I don't know how long I've been among the spirits. Don't know anything. I'm quite a baby. Never mind. Don't care. Best thing to be, no doubt, a baby! Quite the best! (He goes to the window) And here's the window where I saw the wandering spirits. It's all true! It all happened. Ha! Ha! Ha! (He opens the window)~~

~~There is a loud peal of church bells. We see the street lit with bright winter sunshine~~

~~No more fog! No mist! Clear. Bright. Jovial. Shining. Cold. Cold. Piping for the blood to dance to. Golden sunlight. Heavenly sky. Sweet fresh air. Merry bells. Oh, glorious! Glorious!~~

~~People fill the street~~

~~A Boy in Sunday clothes loiters under Scrooge's window~~

~~(Calling to the boy) **Stunt** Scrooge! Hallo. Here! What's today?~~

~~Boy Eh?~~

~~Scrooge What's today, my fine fellow, my lad?~~

~~Boy Today? Why, it's Christmas Day.~~

~~Scrooge (turning away from the window to himself) It's Christmas Day! Haven't I missed it! The Spirits have done all their work in one night. Of~~

course. They can do anything they like, of course they can! (He puts his head out of the window) Hallo again, my fine fellow!

Boy (a little wearily) Hallo.

Scrooge Do you know the Poulterers in the next street but one?

Boy I should hope I did.

Scrooge An intelligent boy! A remarkable boy! A boy of enormous brain!

A boy to breed from! Do you happen to know, hopeful sir, whether they've sold the Prize Turkey that was hanging up there? Not the little Prize Turkey. I mean the big Prize Turkey!

Boy What, the one as big as me?

Scrooge What a delightful boy. It's a pleasure to talk to him! Yes, my buck.

Boy It hangs there at this very moment.

Scrooge Does it indeed! Then nip round and buy it, will you? For Mr Scrooge.

Boy Are you serious?

Scrooge Deadly serious! I do assure you. And, oh, excellent boy! Go and buy it, and tell 'em to bring it here, that I may give them directions where to take it. Come back with the man and I'll give you a shilling!

The Boy hesitates

Come back in less than five minutes and I'll give you half-a-crown.

Boy I'm off like a shot!

The Boy dashes off

End

Scrooge looks after him. He then finds hot water left by his door, pours it into a bowl and starts to shave, trembling with excitement

~~Scrooge I'll send it to Bob Cratchit. Cratchit: Two. Scrooge's Passage, Camden Town. I believe that's it. Yes! That's it. He shall know who sends it. (He laughs) Careless! Nearly had my nose off then. Last person he'll think made him such a present is old skin-flint, Scrooge. He'll think a magnificent bird dropped out his family from the sky! Why it's a fowl twice the size of Tiny Tim. Grimalkin in the pantomime never thought up such a joke as my sending a prize turkey anonymous to Bob Cratchit! I hope it bastes well and they serves it up with sauce! (He wipes the tallow off his face and appears smiling at his front door. As he does so he notices the door knocker) Dear old door knocker! I scarcely~~

Scene B

Act I, Scene 9

Fan, Young Scrooge 27

Fan, Scrooge's younger sister, runs into the classroom and embraces him

Fan Dear brother.

Young Scrooge Fan... Why are you here?

Fan To bring you home, home, home!

Young Scrooge Home, little Fan? That's not possible.

Fan Yes, it is. Home for good and all. Home forever and forever. Our father has grown much kinder and now home's changed. Home's like heaven. He spoke gently to me when I was going to bed. So I dared ask him if you might come home. And he said "Yes". My dear brother. "Yes, you may". So I've been sent in a coach to bring you.

Young Scrooge *(looking at her with admiration)* You're quite a woman, now. Little Fan.

Fan And you're to be a man—and never come back here again.

Scene C

Girl → Belinda *(calling after her)* Suppose it breaks up when you turn it out.

Boy → Peter *(calling after her)* Suppose someone climbed over the back wall and stole it!

Young Cratchits *(together)* Horrorroo!

Mrs Cratchit comes back with the flaming pudding—rather small

Girl → Martha There it is, safe and sound!

Mrs Cratchit *(putting it down and serving it out)* I had a moment of uncertainty—about the quantity of flour!

Bob Cratchit Never you fear. It's a wonderful pudding. If I may speak without exaggeration, Mrs Cratchit, I must regard this pudding as the single greatest achievement of our married life! Now. *(He looks round the table)* Merry Christmas to us all. God bless us.

The family repeat "God bless us". Then we hear Tiny Tim's voice in a moment of silence

Boy → Tiny Tim God bless us everyone.

Fade out the Lights

Boys auditioning for "Boy"

GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN ¹

19th Century English Carol
Arranged by Phillip Keveren

Steadily
N.C.

Em

1

5

f

God *p*

1

D

1 2

C

1

rest ye mer - ry, in gen - tle - men, Let noth - ing you dis -
Beth - le - hem, in Jew - ry, This bless - ed Babe was

5

B

Em

D

1 2

may, Re - mem - ber with Christ our Sav - ior was
born, And laid with - in a man - ier, Up -

5

5

5

C

1

2

Am

born on this Christ - mas day, To save us all from
on this bless - ed morn; That which His Moth - er

mp

5

1

G B7 Em A7 D

Sa - tan's pow'r, When we were gone take a - stray; }
 Mar - y, Did noth - ing take in scorn, } *mf*

1 2 1 3 1 1

G B7 Em D G

tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy, O

poco rit. *f* *a tempo*

1 3 2 3

1/5 1/5 5 3

STOP

1. B7 Em 2. B7

tid - ings of com - fort and joy. In com - fort and,

p

1 1

Em Em6

com - fort and, com - fort and joy.

p *f* *pp*

5 4 1

1 1/5

Girls auditioning for "Fan"

LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING ¹

15th Century German Carol
Translated by THEODORE BAKER
Music from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang*
Arranged by Phillip Keveren

Delicately

N.C. 4 F C 2 1

Lo, *mp* how a rose e'er bloom - ing it, From ten - der The Rose I

1

Dm7 2 G7 C N.C.

stem have hath in sprung! Of With Jes - se's lin - eage Mar - y we be -

F 5 C Dm7 G7

com hold - ing it, As The men - of old have gin Moth - er

C Bm C D G N.C. 4

sung. kind. It To *mf* came, show a God's love - et a - bright, right. A She

F C 2 1

mid bore the to cold men of a win Sav - ior, When When half half

Dm7 2 G7 1. C N.C. 4 2. C

spent spent was was the the night. I night.

F 5 C Dm7 G7 C

p *pp*

For either boys or girls

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

1

Traditional English Folksong

Start **Brightly**

We wish you a mer - ry Christ - mas, We wish you a mer - ry

mf

4
With pedal

Christ - mas, We wish you a mer - ry Christ - mas, and a hap - py New

Year. Good tid - ings we bring to you and your

5

**Attach
photo
here**

A Christmas Carol
Children's Audition Form

Name _____

Height _____

School _____

Grade _____

Home Phone _____

Parent Cell Phone _____

Work Number _____

Parent Email _____

Are you auditioning to sing in the show? _____

List previous roles:

Please list schedule conflicts between now and November 19. Show dates are November 9, 10, 15, 16 and 17; set strike is November 18. Inschool performance date is November 13.