

A Christmas Carol

**adapted by Jacqui Leppert
from the novella by Charles Dickens
with additional original songs and music
by David Gold, Barry Kearns, and Del de Lorme
13th – 18th December 2021**

As a special Christmas treat, we present Charles Dickens' timeless story of redemption. Everyone knows the tale, and this production presents it in an exciting format with new, original songs and music.

Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol* at a time when Victorian Britain was exploring new festive traditions like Christmas trees, carols, and cards, and it is fair to say that the novella was instrumental in creating the concept of Christmas-time as we know it today.

Medway Little Theatre favourite Ian White (*Veronica's Room*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*) portrays the infamous miser, sharing the stage with a full cast of urchins, carollers, ne'er-do-wells, and of course the ghostly spirits who visit him.

This production features several newcomers to our company, including Si King playing the poverty-stricken but positive Bob Cratchit, as well as plenty of faces familiar to our loyal patrons, welcoming you back to the theatre.

It has been great to rehearse with such a dedicated, talented cast. Using songs and music and even a small quire of young carol singers from our youth section has thrown up challenges I was yet to encounter during a production until now, and I have been blown away by how everyone has risen to the challenge.

Barry Kearns, Director

Good King Wenceslas looked out, on the feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel.
"Hither, page, and stand by me, if thou know'st it, telling.
Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?"
"Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence, by St. Agnes' fountain."

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of Angels,
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God in the Highest.
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way;
Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh, hey,
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way;
Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh!
Dashing through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh,
O'er the fields we go, laughing all the way!
Bells on bobtails ring, making spirits bright,
Oh what fun to ride and sing a sleighing song tonight!
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way;
Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh, hey,
Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way;
Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one – horse – o – pen sleigh!

Coming Next

EDUCATING RITA

17th – 26th March 2021

Rita is a working-class hairdresser hungry to better herself. Frank is the alcoholic university lecturer who finds himself her tutor. Through the course of her tuition, both Rita and Frank learn and grow as people and poets. This touching two-hander, first performed in 1980 and brilliantly filmed in 1983 starring Julie Walters as Rita and Michael Caine as Frank, explores the effects of education on ourselves and our relationships.

Medway Little Theatre Needs You!

Our theatre produces several shows a year and we always welcome new members, whether they are interested in acting, stage managing, set building, working lights and sound, or any of the dozens of other jobs needed to produce live theatre. If you are interested in moving from seat to stage, please ask our front of house team or bar staff for information on how to join, or just turn up at one of our social nights, held every Tuesday evening in between show runs. The next one is Tuesday 4th January.

Posters and programmes by Reed Printers of Rochester

Photography by Neil Thorne @neilthornephotography



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13th - 18th December

Doors 7pm

Show 7.30pm

Tickets £10 www.mlt.org.uk

256 High Street, Rochester

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This production of "A CHRISTMAS CAROL" is presented as a Medway Little Theatre Original