

# A CHRISTMAS CAROL

## AT THE OLD VIC


**RELAXED  
PERFORMANCE**  
VISUAL STORY

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# THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

If you've never visited the theatre before, or haven't been for a while, here is some handy information to help you:




**Getting here**

We are two minutes' walk from Waterloo (100m), Waterloo East (200m) and Southwark (200m) stations. The easiest way to get to The Old Vic is via public transport.




**Your ticket**

You will have received your e-ticket when you made your booking. You don't need to print it — just show it on your smartphone and it will be scanned. Keep your ticket with you at all times, as ushers will ask you to show your ticket when entering and re-entering the auditorium. If you lose or delete your e-ticket, our Box Office staff can help.




**Eat and drink**

You can eat and drink in the auditorium but all drinks must be in non-glass cups or bottles. You can also take snacks into the show with you but you can't take hot food.




**Photography and videography**

Photography is allowed in our auditorium before and after the show. We ask that no photography be taken during the show.




**Airplane Mode**

Please switch your phone to Airplane Mode before the show starts so that you can still access your e-ticket as required. We advise that you turn your phone to Airplane Mode (rather than switching it to silent) to make sure everyone's experience is as enjoyable as possible.



**Dress code**

You can wear whatever makes you feel comfortable. There is no dress code and formal dress is not expected.



**Under 16s**

A Christmas Carol is suitable for ages 8+. Children under 16 should be accompanied by an adult. Babes in arms (under 18 months) are permitted at the Relaxed performance.

# WHEN YOU ARRIVE

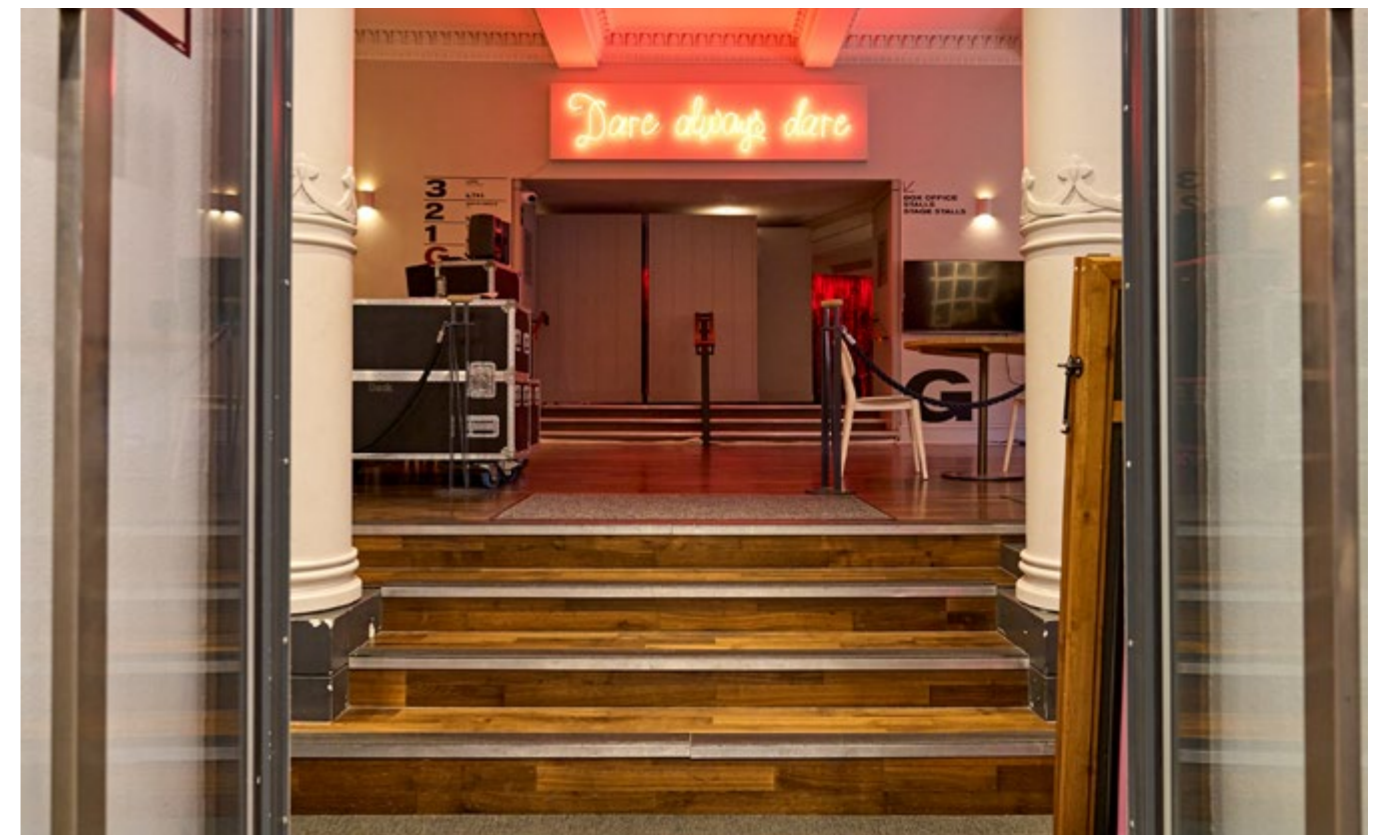
This is what the theatre looks like:



We have two entrances. One is on the road called The Cut which is directly in front of the theatre. There are dropped curbs leading onto this road via the pedestrian crossing. This is what the front entrance looks like:



There are some steps at this entrance:



The other entrance is on Waterloo Road and it is wheelchair accessible with lift access:



There are dropped curbs leading onto this entrance via the pedestrian crossing:



There is lift access to the Box Office, inner foyer and Penny bar and cafe on the basement level:



This is the lift exit:



**This is the foyer:**



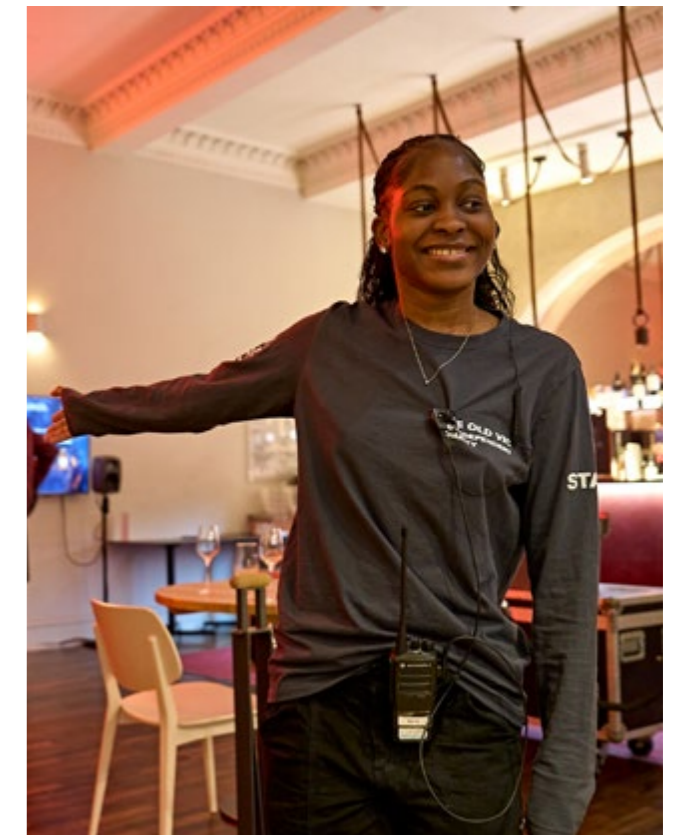
When you arrive, for your security, you may have your bag checked.

The Box Office is in the foyer and can be seen directly in front of you from either entrance. It is wheelchair accessible from the Waterloo Road entrance. We have a cloakroom that you can use if needed, which is on the right as you come through the front entrance.

This is a member of the Security team — they will check your bag when you arrive:



This is a member of the Front of House team — they will check your tickets and show you to your seat:



This is a member of the Box Office team — they can help you if you can't find your e-ticket:



# FOOD AND DRINK

This is the foyer bar:



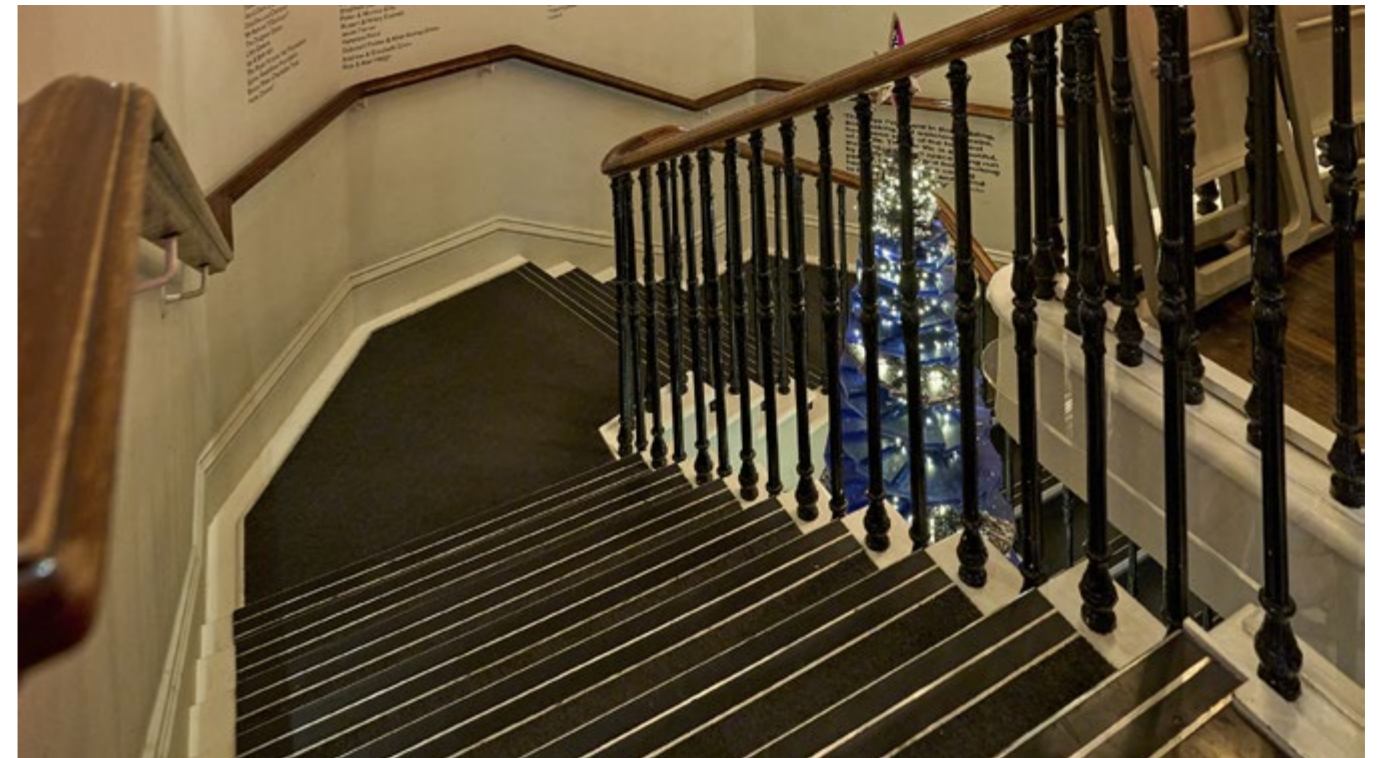
This bar is open from one hour before the performance, serving drinks and snacks. There are four steps to this bar. This is what the steps look like:



This is our basement bar and cafe, Penny:



This bar is open from one hour before the performance, serving drinks and snacks. It is wheelchair accessible. You can reach Penny bar and cafe via the lift or down 19 steps from the foyer. This is what the steps look like:



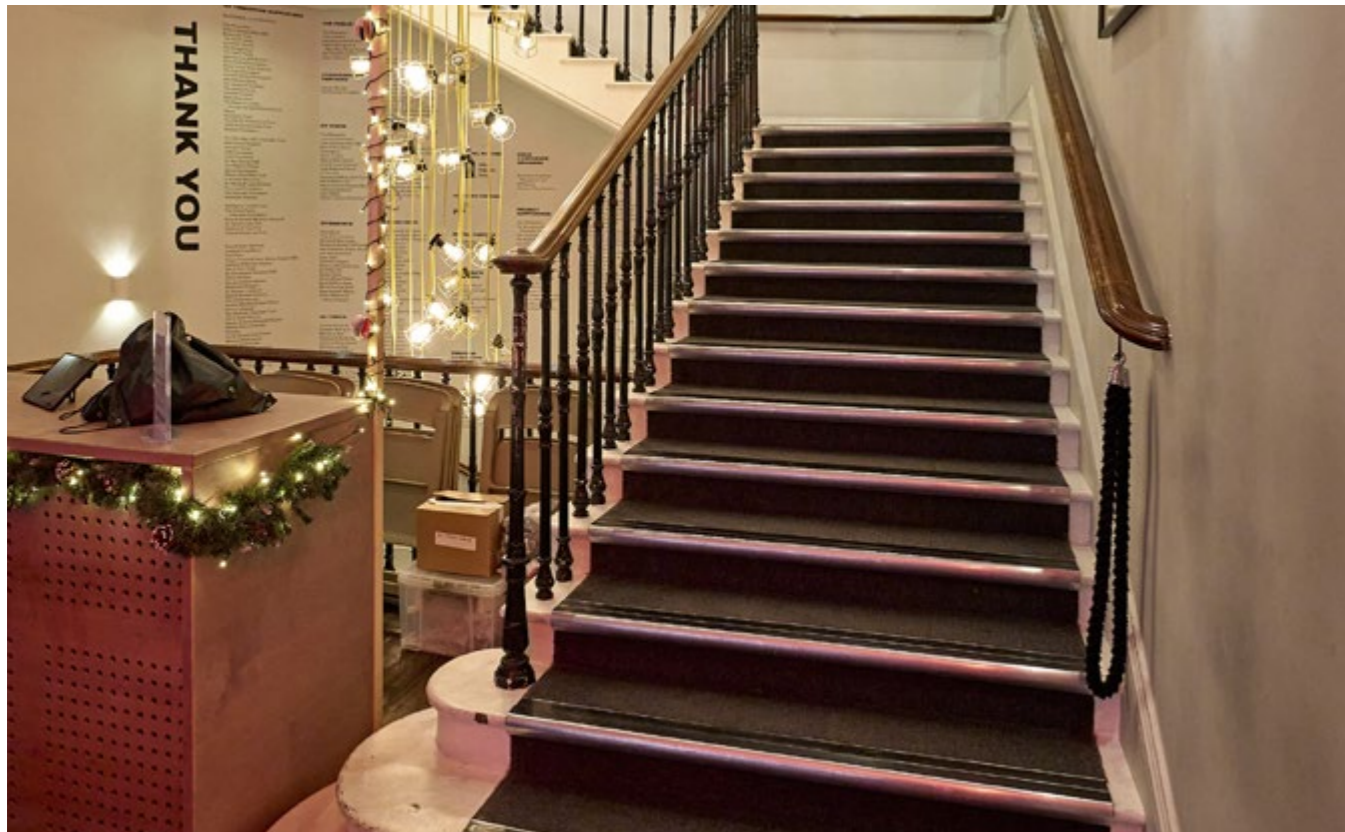
**This is the Dress Circle bar, named The Borthwick, on level two:**



**This is the Baylis Circle bar on level three:**



**There are 29 steps to this bar. This is what the steps look like:**



**There are 49 steps to this bar. This is what the steps look like:**



From an hour before the performance starts until the end of the show, both the Dress and Baylis Circle bars are open. On the day, you can order a pre-show drink (only those over 18 can purchase alcohol).

# TOILETS (BASEMENT)

In all toilet blocks there are hand dryers and paper towels to dry your hands. For Relaxed performances, the hand dryers in all toilets will be turned off.

In the Penny bar and cafe on the basement level there are two toilet blocks, one wheelchair accessible toilet and one gender neutral toilet. Please choose the toilet that feels most appropriate for you. There is lift access to these toilets.



This toilet block contains 11 cubicles only. This includes one baby change cubicle and one accessible cubicle, also known as an ambulant toilet:



This is the second separate toilet block which contains seven urinals and two cubicles, one of which is an accessible toilet, also known as an ambulant toilet:



This is the wheelchair accessible toilet which also includes baby change facilities:



This is the separate gender neutral toilet with an enclosed sink:



# BAYLIS CIRCLE TOILETS (FLOOR THREE)

On the Baylis Circle level on the third floor there are two toilet blocks. Please choose the toilet that feels most appropriate for you. There are steps to these toilets:



This toilet block contains 12 cubicles only. This includes one baby change and one accessible toilet, also known as an ambulant toilet:



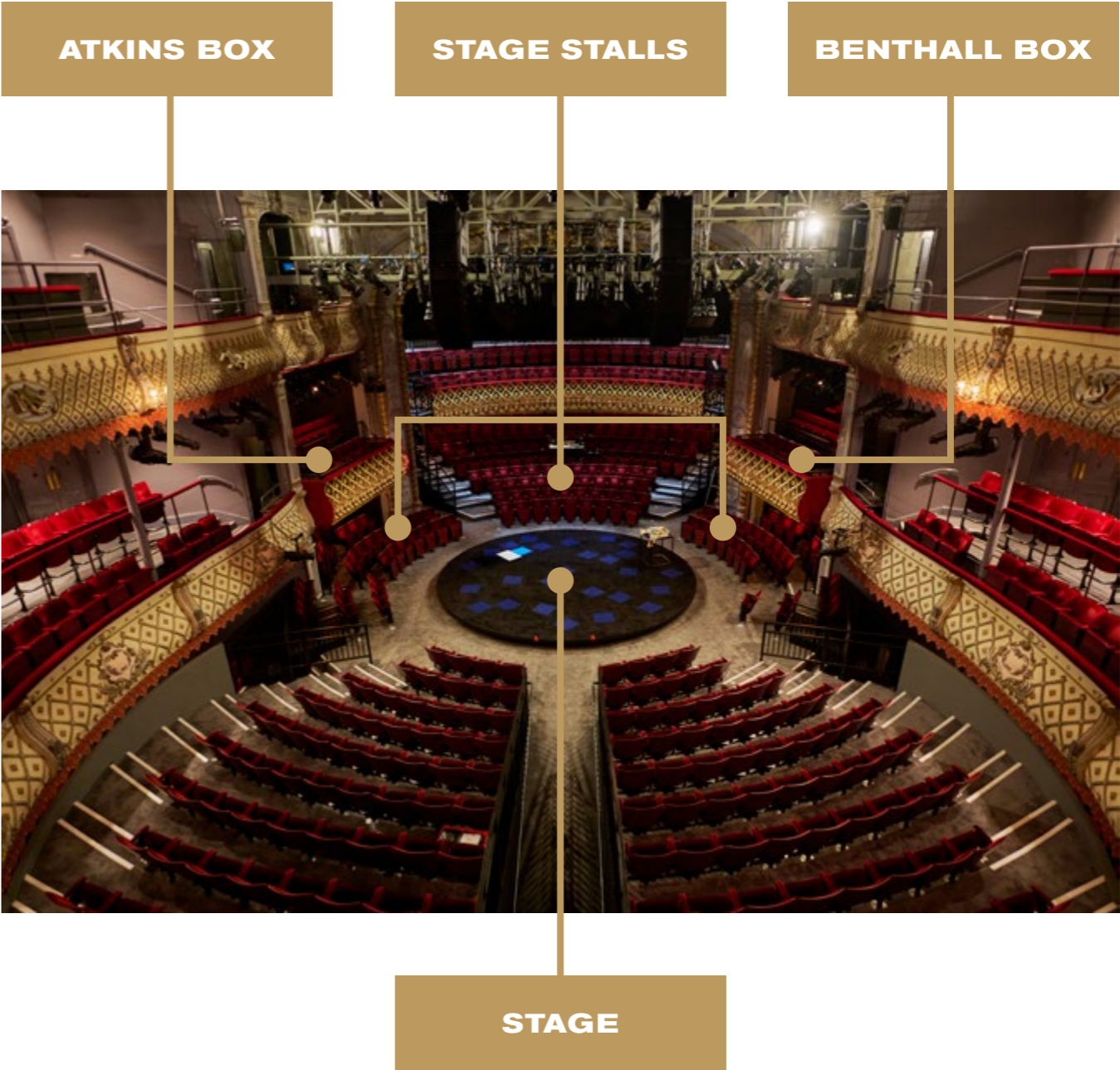
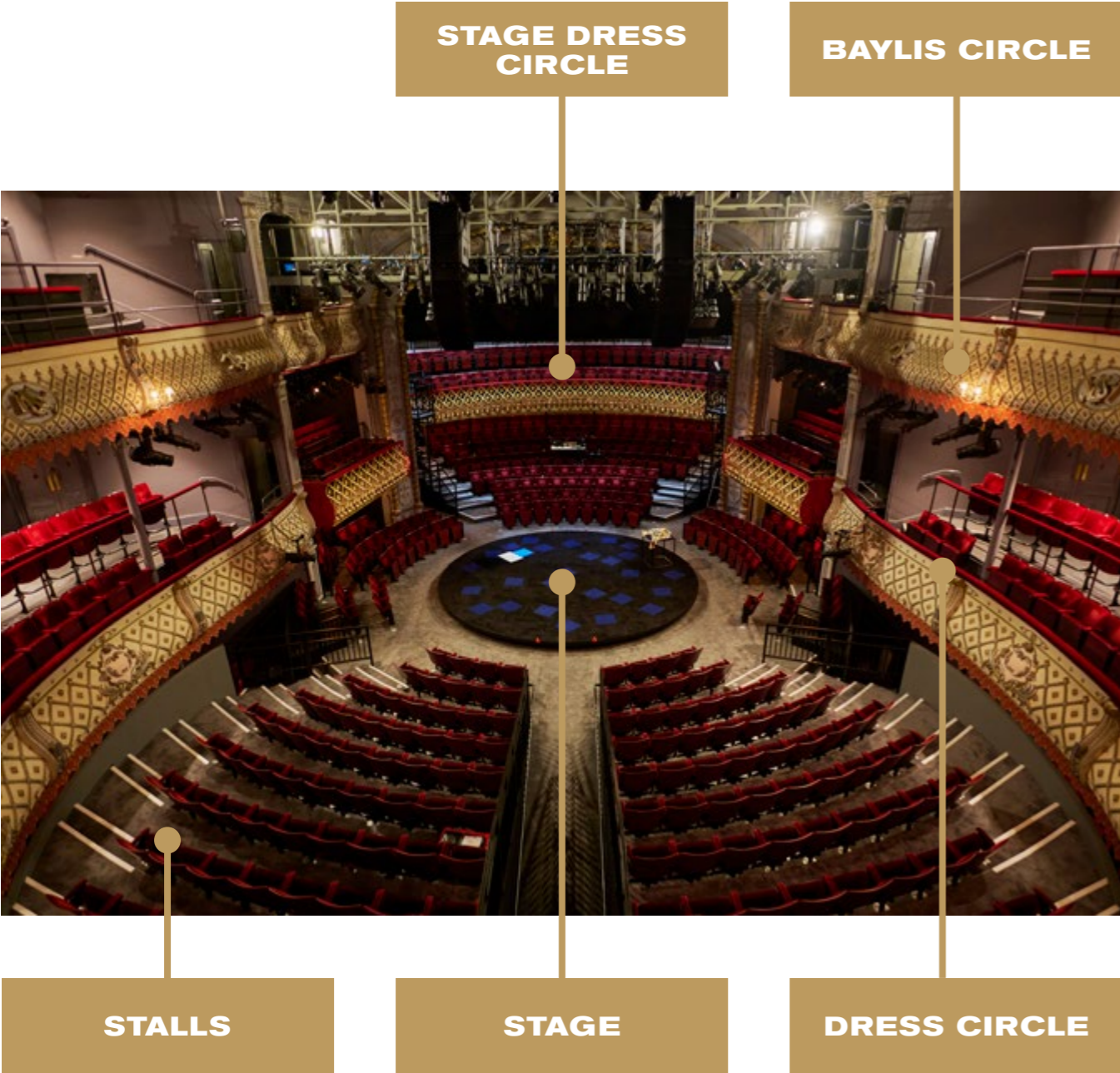
This is the second separate toilet block. This contains a block of eight urinals, with one cubicle that is also a baby change:



# FINDING YOUR SEAT

When you are ready, you can go into the auditorium where the show takes place and find your seats. Your ticket will tell you which section, row and seat you are in. Ushers will be stationed at each entrance to help you find your way. The auditorium will be full of people when the show starts.

The theatre is currently configured In The Round, where the seats are arranged around all sides of the circular stage.



## Stalls Seating

If your seats are allocated in either the Stalls or Stage Stalls, you can enter the auditorium via the doors on the ground floor. You can check your seat number against the signs by each door to find the closest entrance. This is what the left and right entrances to the Stalls look like:



If you require step-free access to the Stalls, you will need to enter the theatre via the Waterloo Road entrance and take the lift up to the Stalls. You can then enter the auditorium through the central doors which lead to an aisle and step-free seating on all sides of the stalls. This is what the wheelchair accessible central aisle looks like:



As the stage is placed in the centre of the Stalls, you may notice the actors walking past you through the aisles to enter the stage.

The nearest toilets from the Stalls are on the Basement level, which have step-free access via the lift.

## Dress circle

If your seats are in the Dress Circle, you will need to enter the auditorium on floor one. There are two entrances to the Dress Circle, with seat numbers listed by each door.

If your seats are in either the Atkins or Benthall box, you will also need to enter through these doors. The door on the left will lead you to the Atkins box and the right to the Benthall box. This is what the Atkins and Benthall boxes look like:

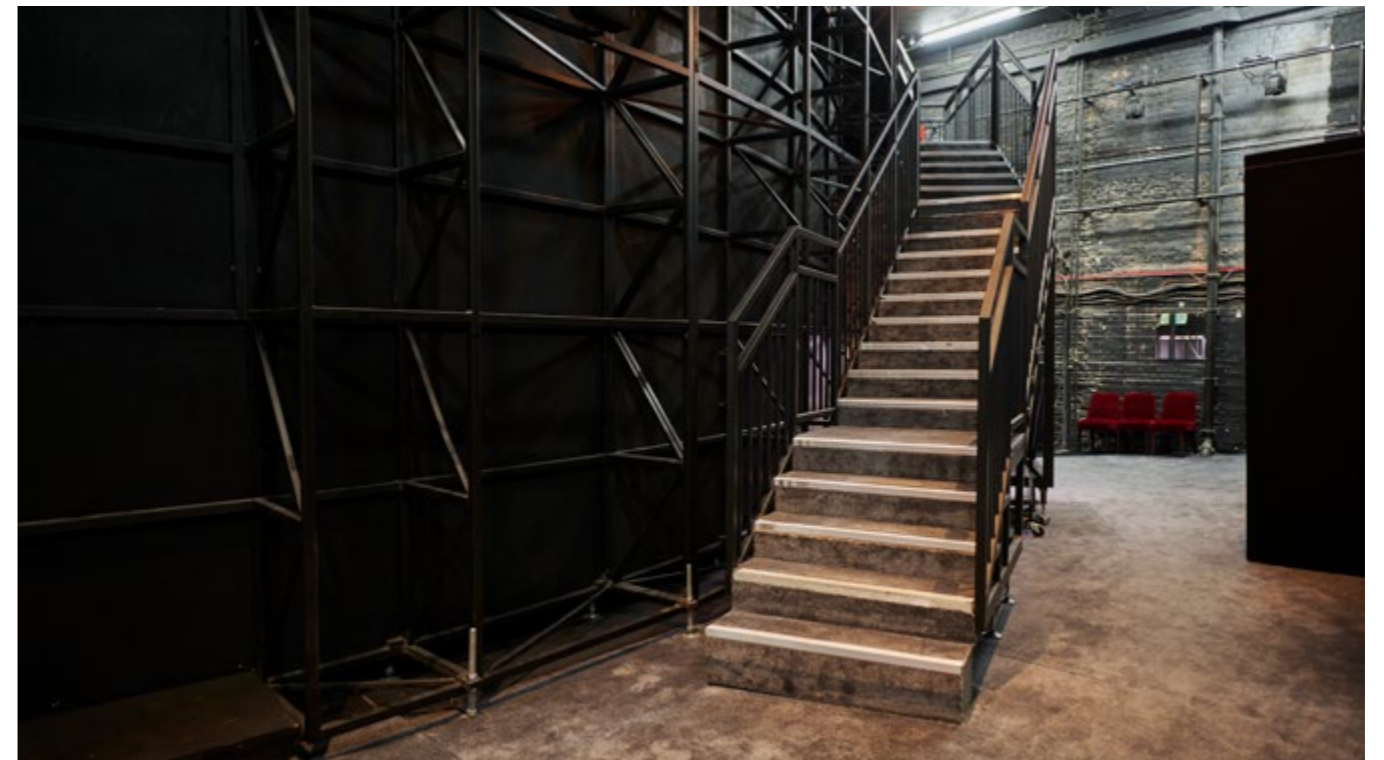


The nearest toilets for those sat in the Dress Circle, Atkins and Benthall boxes are on the Baylis level on floor three.

If your seats are in the Stage Dress Circle, you will need to enter the auditorium via the left and right Stalls entrances on the ground floor. These seats are on the opposite side of the stage as you enter the auditorium. There is sloped flooring which leads around the left and right sides of the stage towards the Stage Dress Circle. You can check your seat number against the signs to find the easiest route. This is what the route towards the Stage Dress Circle looks like:



There is a staircase behind the Stage Dress Circle that leads you to your seats. There are 21 steps leading up to row P, 25 to row Q and 30 to row R in the Stage Dress Circle. This is what the steps look like:



The nearest toilets for those sat in the Stage Dress Circle are on the Basement level.

## Baylis Circle

If your seats are in the Baylis Circle, you will enter the auditorium on floor two. The nearest toilets are on the Baylis level on floor three.

There is bench seating on both sides of the Baylis Circle, which looks like this:



# WHAT IS A RELAXED PERFORMANCE?

Relaxed performances are designed for those who benefit from a more informal theatre environment.

- You can make as much noise as you like during the show
- During the performance you may come and go from the auditorium as you please
- Some lights will be kept on in the auditorium so it doesn't get too dark
- If you'd like a break during the show, there is a chill out area in Penny bar and cafe, where noise will be minimal. There is also a chill out area in our Dress Circle bar but this may have some surrounding noise.

The next half of this pack provides more details on what happens in the production.



# MUSIC & SOUND

There is a lot of music in this show. Parts one and two open with some members of the band on stage playing their instruments. Throughout the performance, the band will be positioned in the Benthall box on the Dress Circle level. The actors sing Christmas carols and play handbells at regular intervals throughout.

You can watch the cast perform *O Holy Night* for a taste of what you can expect. Near the end of the show, the actors will stand in different places in the audience to sing. You might not be able to see all the actors in the audience when they do this.

At times, the actors will raise their voices and shout.

# LIGHTING

The auditorium is filled with dimly lit lanterns hanging from the ceiling. In part two, the Ghost of Christmas Present swings a lantern as she leaves and the lanterns flicker behind her before fading out.

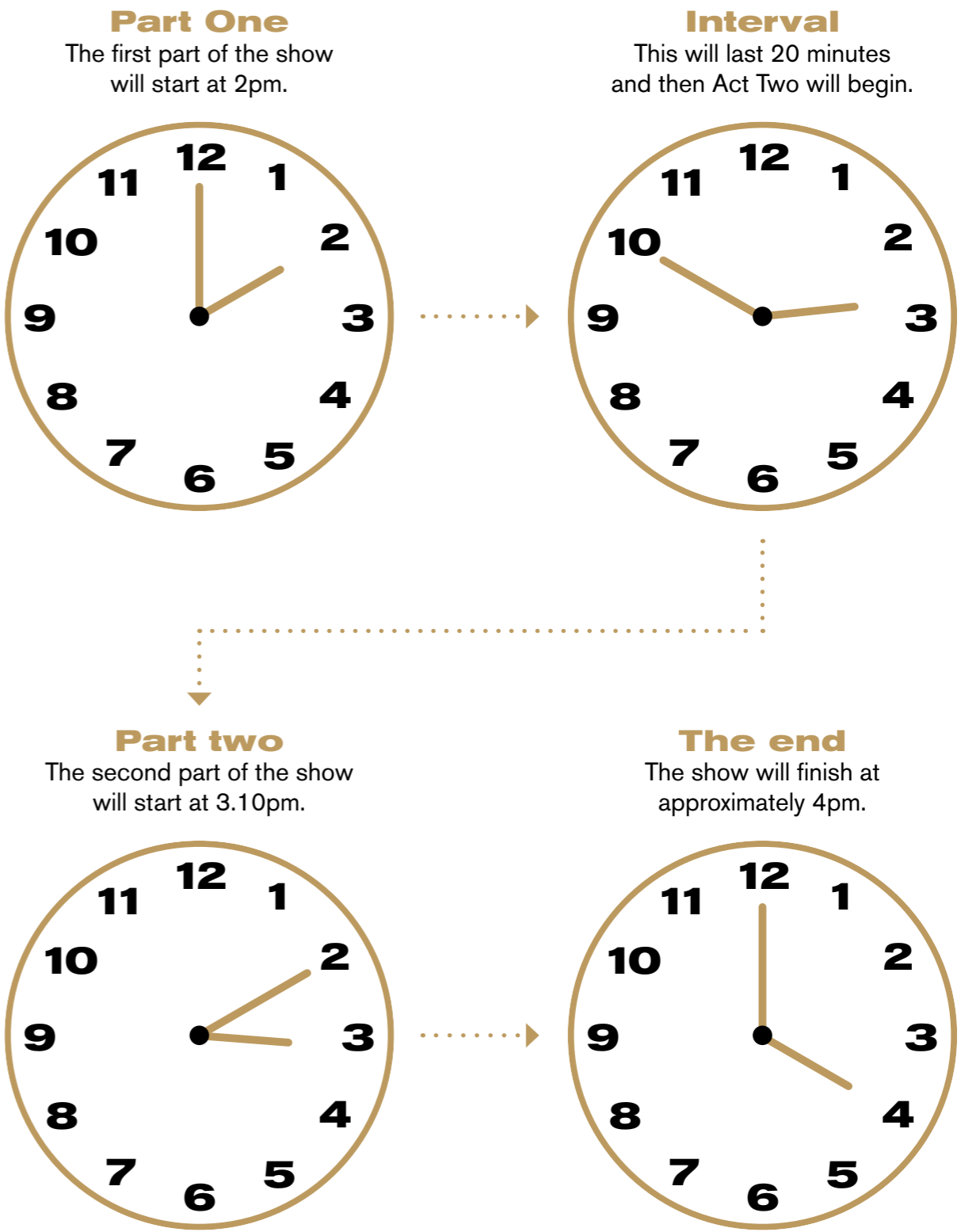
# CHILL OUT AREA

During the show you might feel that you need to take some time out. If you do, that's fine; find an usher and let them know. Ushers will be wearing t-shirts with The Old Vic logo on. They will take you to the chill out space where you can relax and return to the show when you feel ready.



# DURING THE SHOW

The performance starts at 2pm. The first part of the show is about 50 minutes long. There is then a 20 minute break also known as an interval. The second part of the show is about 50 minutes long.



# CHARACTER NAMES



**Ebenezer Scrooge**  
Paul Hilton



**Bob Cratchit**  
Rob Compton



**Swing**  
Jamie Doncaster



**Ferdy/George**  
Geraint Downing



**Fred**  
Matthew Durkan



**Little Fan**  
Lauren Jones



**Swing/Dance Captain**  
Rachel Moran



**Father/Marley**  
Stuart Neal



**Jess**  
Claire O'Leary



**Fezziwig**  
Alastair Parker



**Nicholas/Schoolmaster**  
Nuwan Hugh Perera



**Mrs Cratchit**  
Parisa Shahmir



**Belle**  
Tanisha Spring



**Ghost of Christmas Present/Mrs Fezziwig**  
Kibong Tanji



**Ghost of Christmas Past**  
Annie Wensak

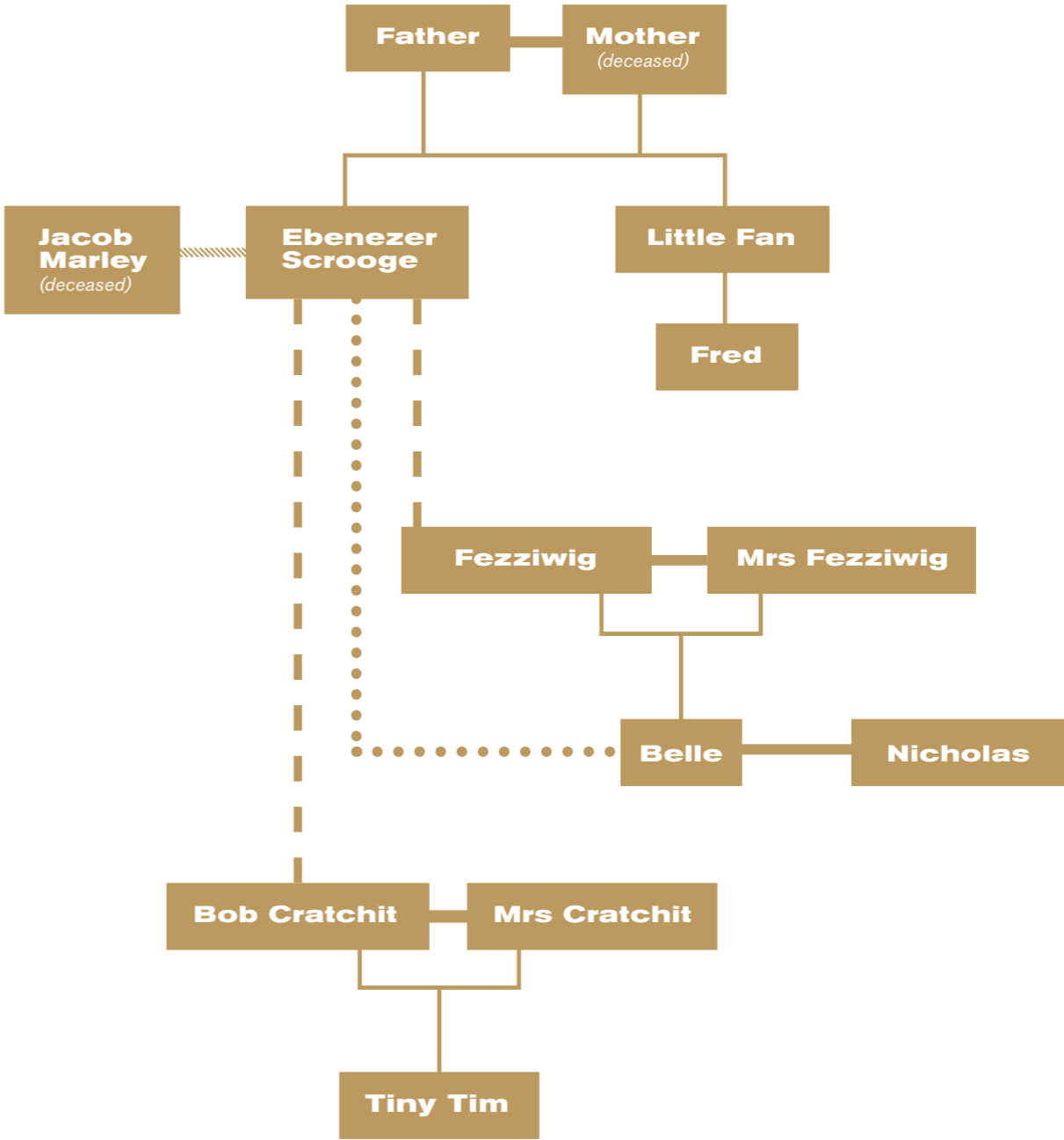


**Young Ebenezer**  
Connor Wood



**Tiny Tim**  
Olive Mac Mahon, Freddie Merritt, Hannah Slater & Vinnie Stone

# CONNECTING THE CHARACTERS



## KEY

— Married

... Scrooge's first love

▨ Scrooge's business partner

- - - Scrooge's first boss

- . - Bob works for Scrooge

# THINGS TO NOTE

## Watch out, spoiler alert!

Below are some elements of the play that you may want to be aware of. If you would like more detail, you can read on for the *A Christmas Carol* story in full.

### The ghosts

Some of the actors play ghosts, or spirits, that talk to Scrooge (they are not scary — they want to help Scrooge). At times, the ghosts appear on stage surrounded by clouds of smoke. This is haze, created with water vapor, rather than real smoke.

### Time travelling

In the story, the ghosts take Scrooge back in time to when he was little and forward in time to when he has died. Sometimes there might be an old Scrooge and a young Scrooge on stage at the same time.

### Tiny Tim

In one of the scenes we see a scenario where Tiny Tim dies because he was waiting in the cold for his father too long. But don't worry, there is a happy ending.

### Food scene

Near the end of the play, Scrooge wants to take a Christmas dinner to the Cratchit's house.

He may need your help to carry the food. All of the food that passes through the audience is fake and not edible. You don't have to join in if you would prefer not to.

### Snow

There are two parts at the end of the play where a lot of fake snow falls on the audience. The snow effect is created using small non-toxic bubbles which will disappear quickly. The auditorium will smell a bit soapy for a short time afterwards.

### Mince pies & satsumas

At the beginning of the show, the actors will hand out mince pies and satsumas to the audience. You do not have to take one if you don't want to. There is signage listing the ingredients.

### Age guidance: 8+

## Get in touch

If you would like any information on exact timings of when these things take place, please let us know at [access@oldvictheatre.com](mailto:access@oldvictheatre.com) or call **0344 871 7628**.

# A CHRISTMAS CAROL STORY

Before the show begins, you will notice the actors walking around the auditorium. They will appear in costume and will be handing out mince pies and satsumas to the audience. You do not have to take one if you don't want to.

## Part One

*A Christmas Carol* is set in 1840s London. The story begins on a cold, bleak Christmas Eve.

As the show starts, some of the band will appear on stage playing their instruments. The cast begin to clap along and dance together as the music gently builds. All the performers are holding handbells, which they ring in time to the music.

We meet **Ebenezer Scrooge** in his office, where he is counting his money. Carol singers can be heard outside, singing ***God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen***. As the singers approach the office, Scrooge shoos them away and slams the door shut. The carol singers are collecting donations for charity and ask whether Scrooge might consider offering them some money. Scrooge is frustrated by this question and asks his employee, **Bob Cratchit**, to keep them away.

Scrooge is visited by his nephew, **Fred**, who wishes to invite his uncle to join him for Christmas dinner. Fred attempts to persuade Scrooge by reminding him of the joys of Christmas. Fred does not manage to change Scrooge's mind, who bluntly declines his offer.

Scrooge finally lets Bob go home for Christmas, but not before Scrooge has sent him on late night errands across the city.

Once alone, Scrooge is startled when he hears the ghost of **Jacob Marley** crying out his name. Marley was Scrooge's business partner who has been dead for seven years. Marley appears with smoke drifting around him and his voice echoes around the room. The ghost tells Scrooge that unless he changes his ways, he will be unhappy and alone. Marley explains that Scrooge will be visited by three spirits and tells him to listen to the warnings that they will give him. Marley is pulled away off the stage by the chains that hang from him. Scrooge refuses to believe what Marley has told him and goes to bed.

The cast sing ***It Came Upon the Midnight Clear***.

The first spirit, the **Ghost of Christmas Past**, arrives at one o'clock in the morning. Just before she arrives, a lantern falls and swings across the auditorium from a rope, but don't worry it won't hit anyone. The Ghost of Christmas Past takes Scrooge back in time to see himself as a young boy, left alone at boarding school over Christmas. The cast sing ***Il est Né***.

Scrooge recognises some of the children who are running around him. The Ghost explains that they cannot see nor hear him unless he lets them. She has chosen a number of key moments from Scrooge's past that she wants him to reflect on.

First, we are taken back to Scrooge's childhood. We meet **Little Fan**, Scrooge's beloved sister,

who arrives to take Scrooge home to their father. We see how poorly Scrooge was treated by his father as a child. **Young Ebenezer** appears, and Scrooge watches his childhood self being hit by his father — but don't worry, they are pretending and no-one is actually hurt. Scrooge is forced to get a job to help the family and works for **Mr Fezziwig** at his funeral parlour. Before meeting him, Scrooge encounters Fezziwig's daughter, **Belle**.

The cast begin to sing ***I Saw Three Ships*** as we are transported forward in time to see Scrooge falling in love with Belle. Scrooge returns home to his family with gifts. His mother is very ill and his father rejects the gifts saying that money would have been better. Little Fan is happy to see her brother and has made him a scarf which he promises to wear forever. The Ghost of Christmas Past leaves Scrooge and he is suddenly back in his own bed.

Next, we are taken to Fezziwig's house at Christmas. The cast gather on stage, singing, clapping and dancing along to ***Wassail! Wassail! All Over the Town***. Scrooge promises Fezziwig that he will love and care for Belle. Scrooge declines Fezziwig's offer to become a partner in his business, as he believes that he will be able to make more money elsewhere. He soon grows apart from Belle, who falls out of love with him.

**The Ghost of Christmas Present** arrives next. The cast sing ***In the Bleak Midwinter*** as she shows Scrooge sick beds, hospitals, jails and the poverty that surrounds him. They finally arrive at the home of his employee Bob Cratchit. Bob is spending Christmas with his wife and son **Tiny Tim**. Even though they are extremely poor, because Scrooge doesn't pay Bob enough money, they live a life of happiness. The family make a toast to Mr Scrooge before having their Christmas dinner.

Scrooge is then taken to the home of his nephew, Fred, who is playing a guessing game with his friends. Fred is describing a horrible thing which can be nasty and cruel. What he is describing turns out to be Scrooge, which make his friends laugh. Fred admits that he loves Scrooge and misses him at Christmas.

The next vision shown by the Ghost of Christmas Present is of Belle, with her husband **Nicholas**. Nicholas reminds her that Fezziwig owed Scrooge a lot of money and he died as a result of being so worried about it. Scrooge doesn't take responsibility for this and won't admit that he is secretly sad that he didn't marry Belle.

Suddenly, Bob Cratchit and **Mrs Cratchit** reappear with Tiny Tim who is very ill. They call for a doctor, but it is too late and he dies. The first part of the play ends with Scrooge saying he doesn't want to change his ways even if he is unhappy. The cast sing ***O Holy Night*** and The Ghost of Christmas Present leaves Scrooge alone on stage.

## Part Two

The second part begins with the cast and musicians on stage, performing ***Ding Dong Merrily*** on handbells. The cast sing ***Coventry Carol*** as Scrooge returns to the stage.

Scrooge does not go back to sleep, instead he sits and waits for the third spirit to arrive. A number of cloaked figures enter the stage through clouds of mist and fog. Scrooge's sister, Little Fan emerges and we discover that she is the Ghost of Christmas Future. This spirit shows Scrooge visions from his future.

She tells him that after Tiny Tim dies, Scrooge fires Bob for poor time management. She also reveals that Scrooge dies alone and that he refused to accept care from Fred after falling ill.

Little Fan shows Scrooge his own funeral, so he can see the love that he turned away. Little Fan reminds him that if he changes now, he could still have a future of love and kindness. Scrooge promises to keep the spirit of Christmas in his heart, always.

When Little Fan leaves, she swings a lantern which hangs above her and exits the stage. The lanterns hanging in the auditorium flicker and eventually all fade out to darkness.

The cast sing ***See Amid the Winter's Snow*** while Scrooge slowly wakes from his bed on Christmas morning. As he rises, the lanterns slowly fade back on and light shines up between the floorboards beneath him.

Scrooge appears to be completely changed in his ways. He welcomes charity collectors into his home and gives them money. Giddy with joy, Scrooge rings a bell as snow falls around him. The cast sing ***Joy to the World*** and snow falls from the ceiling.

Scrooge visits Belle. She tells him that the nasty man he became was not the man she fell in love with. Belle admits that she is happy that Scrooge was part of her story. Despite his rejection, she went on to have a good life and a happy family. She wishes the same happiness for Scrooge.

Scrooge runs to Fred's house and asks to share Christmas with him. However, he suggests that they take the Christmas feast to share with the Cratchit family.

Scrooge asks members of the audience to help him gather and deliver food to the Cratchit's house. You don't have to join in if you would prefer not to.

Large drapes of material are hung from the Baylis Circle to transport food down to the stage. Items of food are also passed around the audience to bring them to the stage. These items are props and not real food. Scrooge asks a volunteer from the audience to help him collect something from the bakery for the feast and guides them off the stage. The volunteers are given a jelly to bring back to Scrooge. Sprouts drift down to the stage on parachutes to add to the feast. A rope is then drawn across the auditorium to bring the turkey down.

Scrooge and Fred arrive at the door of the Cratchit's and ring the bell. Bob is shocked by Scrooge's offer to share his Christmas dinner with the Cratchit family.

Scrooge goes onto become a good friend of the Cratchit family and a second father to Tiny Tim. Despite what the Ghost of Christmas Present showed him, Tiny Tim does not die.

Suddenly, Scrooge finds himself alone, unsure whether what he has just experienced is real or even possible. The ghosts return and surround Scrooge. The ghost of Jacob Marley reminds him that although changing into a better person is not always easy, Scrooge can do it. The ghosts sing ***God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*** and the rest of the cast return to join them. Snow is thrown up in the air as the carol ends.

The band perform ***I Saw Three Ships a Sailing*** as the cast take their bows and the audience clap. The cast then return to the stage for one final bell ringing performance of ***Silent Night***.

# ENJOY THE SHOW



If you have any questions about your visit, please contact  
Danny, our Head of Front of House Operations:

**[danny.krohman@oldvictheatre.com](mailto:danny.krohman@oldvictheatre.com)**

Danny Krohm, Head of Front of House Operations

For more information visit

**[oldvictheatre.com/visit/ov-access](http://oldvictheatre.com/visit/ov-access)**

or call **0344 871 7628**

