



# Season for Young People

**2020-21**  
PERFORMANCE  
GUIDEBOOK



MARK CABUS | VIRTUAL IN-SCHOOL TOUR  
**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

Presented by  
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# CHARLES DICKENS' *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*

A solo performance adapted by Mark Cabus

## VIRTUAL TOUR PROGRAM INFORMATION



### DEAR TEACHERS,

We are thrilled to be able to share Mark Cabus' *A Christmas Carol* with your school this year. We look forward to when we will tour into schools in-person again, but we are grateful to be able to engage with you virtually during this time.

We know you are facing many new challenges this year, including teaching virtually for some or all of your students. We hope the guidebook and information in this Virtual Tour Program will be useful for you as you plan your lessons.

### YOUR FRIENDS AT TPAC

#### CONTENTS INCLUDED

We have included several activity ideas in this program that can be done virtually or in-person, as well as information on the Cast and Crew for the Video Performance.

*Activity Ideas: Page 1*

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Additionally, we have provided you with an Educator Guidebook that includes information on *A Christmas Carol* and several lessons that can easily be adapted to a virtual setting.

## CHRISTMAS CAROL ACTIVITY IDEAS

- ✓ Create a fun STEM exploration for students based on angles, color and light! Lighting is an integral part of any live performance. Let students explore Mark Kinzer's online lighting labs (<https://scenicandlighting.com/colorlab/>) and create designs for their own production of *A Christmas Carol*. (This is a great introduction into color wheels and color theory too, if you want to extend the learning!)
- ✓ In order to present this performance virtually, the creative team had to adapt the play into a film. Check out ReadWriteThink.org and use their Film unit lesson plans that take you from vocabulary to premiering your own film.
- ✓ Storyboards are an important element of filmmaking, as well as other art forms. Ask students to analyze movie clips and identify some visual cues that help them understand the story as well as to identify close-up versus wide shots and think about how each is useful to visual storytelling. Discuss the importance of shot sequence in conveying meaning. Have students create a storyboard of a passage from a book they are reading and present their storyboards to an audience in the form of a PowerPoint slide show. At the screening of their PowerPoint "movies," the visual storytellers can field questions from the audience regarding their work.
- ✓ Create a character collage based on Scrooge. Take a piece of paper and draw a line down the middle, labeling the left side "Before" and the right side "After." Students should then search magazines and newspapers and cut out images that show Scrooge's personality before his ghostly visits, or his attitude after the transformative experience. Paste the pictures on the appropriate side and share with the class why you think each image belongs on the side where you put it.
- ✓ Carefully review Dickens' descriptions of Marley and the three ghosts. Sketch colorful portraits of each on an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper. Label your sketches and write a paragraph explaining the purpose of each ghost and how it affected Scrooge. Indicate which spirit seemed to affect Scrooge the most and why.
- ✓ In *A Christmas Carol*, Scrooge eventually learns the importance of charity. Ask students to research local charities online. They should choose a cause that is important to them and write a short, persuasive letter to Scrooge, urging him to donate some money and/or time including statistics to describe how his donation would improve the community. \*Letters can also be written to local legislators or organizations and sent out after the assignment!
- ✓ Scrooge buys a huge turkey for the Cratchits' Christmas dinner, to help them celebrate and enjoy the day. Ask students to research what organizations in your community do to help bring cheer to others over the holidays. Students should interview (by email or over the phone) members of community organizations to find out what they do, then make a poster that includes names, phone numbers, an explanation of the opportunities for service, and one paragraph on why it is important for these organizations to serve their communities.
- ✓ Tell the story of *A Christmas Carol* using only tableaux. A tableau is a frozen stage picture that actors create with the positioning and gestures in order to tell a story without movement or sound. In small groups, pick five of the most important moments in the play and create a tableau for each moment. Then present them to the class. (While tableaux present a challenge for virtual learning, it is not impossible! Try asking students to create individual statues, or for multiple students to work together virtually and see how they can use their distance to create a scene!)

# A CHRISTMAS CAROL ONLINE SCAVENGER HUNT

Answer the following questions by visiting various sites on the Internet. Answers should be typed and written in complete sentences.

- The story takes place during the Victorian Era - a period of history from 1837-1901 during the reign of the Queen Victoria. Where is Camden-Town located? Why do you think so many of Dickens' stories take place here?  
<https://www.charlesdickenspage.com/charles-dickens-london-map.html#C>
- Who are the characters in A Christmas Carol?  
<https://www.charlesdickensinfo.com/christmas-carol/characters-from-a-christmas-carol/>
- There are several theories on where Dickens got inspiration for the name and character of Ebenezer Scrooge. Visit this site and review the origins of the name. List one theory for the origin of the name. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ebenezer\\_Scrooge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ebenezer_Scrooge)
- As a young boy, Scrooge was sent to a boarding school. Read about Education during the Victorian Era. Did most children go to boarding schools? How were girls educated differently than boys? <https://victorianchildren.org/victorian-schools/>
- Back in the Victorian era coins were called: pound, guinea, crown, farthing shilling, and pence. Scrooge paid Bob Cratchit "fifteen shilling a week." Visit the following website about Victorian Money. Choose 2-3 different jobs and tell what the salary was for each one. <http://www.victorianlondon.org/finance/money.htm>
- Explore Christmas during the Victorian Era. List 2 things from a Victorian Christmas that are still common during Christmas today. Then describe 1 Parlor Game the Victorians played, and one tradition from the Victorian Christmas you wish was still done.  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/victorianchristmas/activities.shtml>
- During the story, Scrooge is asked to give alms to the poor. First, search for the definition of the term "alms to the poor". Then visit this site and list 3 local sites that utilize donation bins in Tennessee. <https://sos.tn.gov/products/charitable-solicitations-and-gaming/listing-organizations-collection-receptacles-tennessee>
- *A Christmas Carol* has been adapted many times, in various styles. What are 2 adaptations that sound the most interesting to you and why?  
<https://dickens.ucsc.edu/resources/teachers/carol/adaptations.html>
- Search for *A Christmas Carol* book cover images. Find one that you think embodies the story the most and share it, along with the reason it feels the best.

## WRITING ACTIVITY: A MODERN CHRISTMAS CAROL

*This classic tale has been told many times in many ways, in film, on stage, etc. The task today is to modernize the story by completing the following information:*

**Original Title:** A Christmas Carol

**New Title:**

**Original Main Character's Name/Major Characteristic:** Ebenezer Scrooge: ill-tempered miser who "bah humbugs" Christmas and its trappings.

**New Main Character's Name/Major Characteristic:**

**Original Plot:** In the course of one night, Scrooge is haunted by three "spirits," who convince him that his life has been wasted in material pursuit, rather than in love of others.

**New Plot:**

**Ghosts who haunt Scrooge:** Ghost of Christmas Past, Ghost of Christmas Present, Ghost of Christmas Future

**New "Wake-up Calls":**

**Detailed description of main character :**

"Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grind-stone, Scrooge! a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster. The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shriveled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice. A frosty rime was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin. He carried his own low temperature always about with him; he iced his office in the dogdays; and didn't thaw it one degree at Christmas."

**Detailed description of new main character:**

**Original beginning:** "Marley was dead: to begin with. There is no doubt whatever about that. The register of his burial was signed by the clergyman, the clerk, the undertaker, and the chief mourner. Scrooge signed it: and Scrooge's name was good upon `Change, for anything he chose to put his hand to. Old Marley was as dead as a door-nail."

**Your story's beginning:**

**Minor Characters who try to convince Scrooge of the joy of the holiday season:**

Fred, Scrooge's nephew

Bob Cratchit (Scrooge's clerk-office assistant)

Tiny Tim Cratchit (disabled son of Bob Cratchit)

Jacob Marley (Scrooge's business partner who has been dead seven years and comes back as a ghost to warn Scrooge of the urgent need to reform)

**Your Minor Characters:****Places where Scrooge is taken by ghosts:**

Past: *His childhood boarding school and shop where he apprenticed as a teenager; Scrooge "relives" his fiancé breaking up with him, citing his love of money as more important than his love for her.*

Present: *The Cratchit house - Scrooge watches as the materially poor (but, spiritually rich) family eat its Christmas dinner. He realizes that unfortunate Tiny Tim will be dead before long-unless he receives medical attention, which is too costly for the family; His nephew's home - Fred and his family and friends gaily dance and laugh, gently mocking Scrooge.*

Future: *Gravesite - Scrooge observes fellow business associates discussing the death of someone; He finally realizes the "someone" is himself; Scrooge then observes some poor hagglers pawning his own goods, including his bed curtains; When Scrooge asks to see if his death has made anyone sad, he is shown some poor tenants who owed Scrooge money. They are relieved that their debt will be carried by someone other than Scrooge, as anyone would be more generous than he; Cratchit House - The Cratchit family weeps for dead Tiny Tim; Gravesite - Scrooge is led to his own gravesite and pushed into it.*

**Places where your main character is taken to learn his or her lesson about life:**

**The Original Denouement:** Scrooge wakes up in his own bed, thrilled to be alive and ready to reform. He gleefully calls to others, "what day is it?" Delighted to hear it is Christmas, he promptly orders a large Christmas goose for the Cratchit family, gives sums of money to charity, worships in church and visits his nephew and family. Later, he pretends to scold Bob Cratchit for being late to work, but instead, "claps him on the back" and raises his salary.

"Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all, and infinitely more; and to Tiny Tim, who did not die, he was a second father. He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough, in the good old world. Some people laughed to see the alteration in him, but he let them laugh, and little heeded them; for he was wise enough to know that nothing ever happened on this globe, for good, at which some people did not have their fill of laughter in the outset; and knowing that such as these would be blind anyway, he thought it quite as well that they should wrinkle up their eyes in grins, as have the malady in less attractive forms. His own heart laughed: and that was quite enough for him."

**Your Denouement:**

## MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM!

**Mark Cabus (Writer, Producer, Director, Actor)** – A show business professional of 49 years, Mark Cabus is a skilled actor, director, and writer classically trained in England, New York, and Washington, D.C. While having performed all over the world, he is recognized in the Southeast for his work with the Alliance Theatre, Georgia Shakespeare, Theatrical Outfit, Actors Express, Horizon Theatre, the Clarence Brown Company, Nashville Repertory Theatre, Nashville Shakespeare Festival, and his own theatre, Naked Stages. Twice, The Tennessean and Nashville Scene honored Cabus as Best Actor and Director. His film and television credits include the Oscar-nominated *Selma*, Nicholas Sparks' *The Longest Ride*, *True Detective* (HBO), *The Resident* (FOX), and *TURN: Washington's Spies* (AMC). An educator of merit, Cabus currently serves on the faculty of Belmont University, Vanderbilt University, and Emory University. He has taught under the auspices of the Brooklyn Arts Council, the Digital Arts and Cinema Technology School of Cobble Hill, the Georgia Shakespeare Summer Conservatory, the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts, and the Nashville Film Institute. He served as a guest lecturer and teaching artist at the University of the South, the Alliance Theatre, and with Tennessee Performing Arts Center. As a Director of Education, he spearheaded programs at Atlanta's Theatrical Outfit and Nashville's Green Room Projects. He is recognized as both a Tennessee Arts Commission/Ingram Industries Individual Artist and a Tennessee Williams Fellow. Over 21 years, more than 28,000 people have thrilled to his critically-acclaimed and publicly-celebrated original solo performance of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* – a longtime holiday favorite.

**Clarke Gallivan (Film Producer/Director)** – Clarke Gallivan is a Nashville-based producer with more than 30 years of diverse experience. From 2000 to 2016, she served as president of the successful, long-running film production company, RuckusFilm leading the company through two decades of robust growth – developing a roster of creative talent and overseeing multiple production teams throughout the U.S. and abroad. She had a hand in creating award-winning content for artists and brands like Dolly Parton, Little Big Town, Johnny Cash, Alan Jackson, Dierks Bentley, FedEx, Wrangler, Applebee's, and Mountain Dew. Gallivan's feature film producing credits include *Existo* (with Jim Varney and Bruce Arntson), *The Second Chance* (with Michael W. Smith), *Billy The Early Years* (with Armie Hammer and Martin Landau), *Blue Like Jazz* (with Marshall Allman, Claire Holt and Eric Lange), *Reel Love* (with LeAnn Rimes and Burt Reynolds), *The Identical* (with Ray Liotta, Ashley Judd and Seth Green), and *Roll With It* (with Chonda Pierce, McKaley Miller and Judith Hoag). Gallivan and her partner, Coke Sams, now run RightBrain/LeftBrain Entertainment.

**Coke Sams (Film Producer/Director)** – A member of the Writers Guild of America and the Directors Guild of America, Coke Sams is a screenwriter, director, producer, and full-time filmmaker for more than 40 years. A graduate of Vanderbilt University, Sams is a co-founder and partner of the long-running, Nashville-based film production company, RuckusFilm. He has worked with Walt Disney Pictures, Touchstone Pictures, Paramount Pictures, HBO, Showtime, Imagine Entertainment, Castle Rock Entertainment, CBS Television, Syfy Channel, and more. Currently, he is a partner with Clarke Gallivan in RightBrain/LeftBrain Entertainment, which was formed to create, develop, and produce revolutionary content for the 21st Century.

**Mike Reid (Score Composer)** has enjoyed a distinguished career in music and sports that began with a successful collegiate and professional football career before retiring from the Cincinnati Bengals in 1980. Receiving his degree in music from Penn State University, Reid then pursued songwriting in Music City scoring his first number one County hit song with “Inside” by Ronnie Milsap. Since then, Reid has composed more than 30 Top 10 Country and Pop hits with 21 records hitting number one on the charts. Receiving the ASCAP “Songwriter of the Year” award, he won a GRAMMY for the song “Stranger in My House” and has had his songs recorded by a variety of Pop, Broadway, Blues and Country greats such as Bonnie Raitt and Prince (“I Can’t Make You Love Me”), Willie Nelson, Bette Midler, Etta James, Trisha Yearwood and many more. Receiving much acclaim for his dance and piano trio compositions Reid received The Governor’s Award for the Arts in Tennessee for his work on “Quilts,” a modern dance piece and for commissioned pieces for The Kandinsky Trio of Roanoke, Virginia which includes “The Cantankerous Blacksmith,” “Eye of the Blackbird” and most recently a setting of the Billy Collins poem “The Night House.” Reid has collaborated with librettist Sarah Schlesinger on several projects including “Different Fields,” a one-act opera commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera Guild and Memphis Opera that premiered at The New Victory Theatre on Broadway and a musical, “The Ballad of Little Jo,” which received a Richards Rodgers Foundation Award. Reid divides his time between Nashville and New York City.

**Dona Spangler (Film Line Producer)** – Dona Spangler is a Line Producer and Production Manager for film and television based in Nashville. She graduated from the University of Kentucky and Queen Mary’s College at University of London with a degree and advanced studies in English & Comparative Language. Prior to moving into film and television, she was Managing Director of a successful Los Angeles music publishing company and a Director of Repertoire at ASCAP where she co-produced ASCAP LA Pop Awards. Additionally, Spangler spent several years in artist management and marketing, coordinating Farm Aid IV and other benefit concerts in Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, and Nashville. In 1998, she moved into film and video, producing more than 75 music videos for artists including Taylor Swift, Leann Rimes, Steven Tyler, Loretta Lynn, and Jack White. In 2001, she expanded into feature films, beginning with *The Last Castle*. As of 2020, she has worked in production on 24 films including *42* (Chadwick Boseman, Harrison Ford), *Boulevard* (Robin Williams), and *Stoker* (Nicole Kidman). She continues to work in various roles as a freelance production person in film and music.



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