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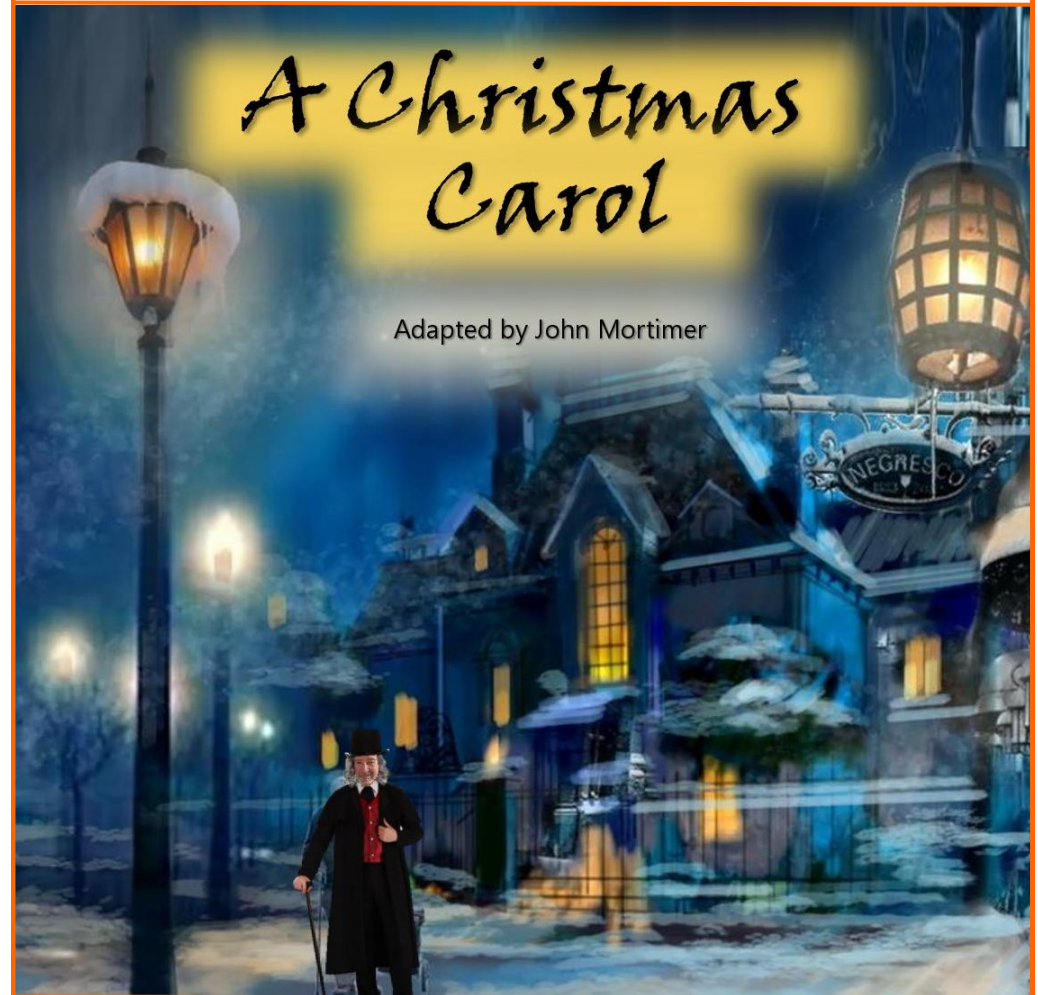
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B.O.D.S!



A Christmas Carol

Adapted by John Mortimer



Directed by Mandyrae Jessey

Sponsored by Penny & Sinclair

16-17th December 2022

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

A Christmas Carol is a play I have always wanted to bring to the stage. It's nearly 180 years old with approximately 135 adaptations and hundreds of different directors adding to each one to make it their own...this one adapted by John Mortimer is one of the more difficult ones, trust me!!

Having a big show just out of Covid and to make the script work for the cast is a huge task and I have been wonderfully supported from a fantastic group of people in BODS but special thanks must go to Jane Arnold, Sue Mellerick, Elizabeth-Rae Large, Kirsty Plant, Chris Hendry, Tony Mellerick, John Drew, Anthony Gofton and the wonderful Jenna Saunders, they have been a joy to work with and amazing in their talents and help.

The cast and crew have worked tirelessly and I have never once heard a complaint about how much they have had to do! Although a huge amount of hard work it's always been fun and we had happy rehearsals.

Even with a minimalist set it takes time and effort to create and is just as hard to build. I have added a few special little extras, see if you can spot them?

I'm so proud of all the new members of BODS who have taken to the stage and some who have never been on stage before who have come straight into a large production, it shows how very special, talented and strong they are. Our Saplings and younger cast show so much promise for the future it's such a privilege to work with all the cast members.

In today's changing world the 'old favourites' in theatre can sometimes exclude some audience who feel the shows are outdated so by adding some modern music and little twists I hope to open this show up to a wider audience...we all hope you like this interpretation and see the transformation of our lovable Scrooge who becomes the man he should always have been by understanding that love and kindness in life will always overcome hatred and greed...let's all look in the mirror and start with who we see!

Thank you to all Bods, friends and family for the amazing support this year and especially to my very long suffering husband Mark Jessey without him I wouldn't be able to do anything!

We are making a collection at each performance for the 'LIFE CENTRE' to support those who may need a little extra help this winter in our own community.

So... IF SCROOGE CAN CHANGE
CAN WE HAVE SOME OF YOURS PLEASE!

Mandyrae Jessey



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France - Boy Walking 2006

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MUSIC

Act One

Mad World.....Mark Jessey
Carry You.....Kirsty Plant
Look Through my Eyes.....Rowan Large
Star Carol.....Kieron Keeble, Elizabeth-Rae Large
& Kate Bull
Jar of Hearts.....Evie Arnold

Act Two

Every Voice that Sings.....Harriet Harper & Children
Carol of the Children.....Cast
Away in a Manger.....Jonty Barham/Henry Bull
My Wish.....Kate Hunter & John Witts
No More Night.....Mark Jessey
We Wish you a Merry Christmas.....Cast

.....
Thank you Milton Coop for the
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.....

B.O.D.S strives to provide a high standard of entertainment to the people of the Wychwoods and beyond involving members of the community of all ages and experiences. This performance is the first, of hopefully many, for B.O.D.S. It was important to the committee to keep membership costs down to make this group accessible to as many people that want to join as possible. However, it costs a lot of money to create a show like this one and money is short. Any donations would be greatly appreciated to help us keep bringing the entertainment. Please sit back and enjoy our Show!

CAST

Narrators.....	Kieron Keeble, Yaz Alani, Teresa O’Hara
Ebenezer Scrooge.....	Mark Jessey
Bob Cratchit.....	John Witts
Fred.....	Chris Bull
Two Posh Ladies.....	Yaz Alani & Laura Pickford
Boy.....	Joseph Bates
Tiny Tim.....	Jonty Barham/Henry Bull
Waiter.....	Alfie Arnold
Jacob Marley’s Ghost.....	John Drew
The Spirit of Christmas Past.....	Kirsty Plant
Child Scrooge.....	Rowan Large
Headmaster.....	John Drew
Young Scrooge.....	William Gofton
Fan.....	Daisy Ball
Fezziwig.....	Chris Bull
Mrs Fezziwig.....	Alison Robinson-Wyatt
Dick Wilkins.....	Oliver Bellars
Fiddler.....	Ian O’Hara
Belle.....	Evie Arnold
Belle’s Daughter.....	Caillah Knight
Grandma Belle.....	Avril Hunter
Belle’s Husband.....	Oliver Bellars
Grandchildren.....	Joshua Hope, Freya Tomlins
The Spirit of Christmas Present.....	Amy Hopkins
Mrs Cratchit.....	Kate Hunter
Peter Cratchit.....	Elliott Large
Belinda Cratchit.....	Hope Duncan
Martha Cratchit.....	Harriet Harper
Fred’s Wife.....	Kate Bull
Miss Rosie (Plump Sister).....	Elizabeth-Rae Large
Topper.....	Kieron Keeble



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 The Spirit of Christmas Yet to Come.....Ollie Ball
 Business Men.....Ian Hunter, John Drew, Ian O'Hara, Peter Robinson-Wyatt
 Exchange Man.....John Drew
 Charwoman.....Sue Mellerick
 Old Joe.....Tony Mellerick
 Mrs Dilber.....Christine Hendry
 Undertaker.....Peter Robinson-Wyatt
 Poulterers Man.....Ray Dibben
 Fred's Maid.....Daisy Ball

PRODUCTION CREW

Director.....Mandyrae Jessey
 Producer/Rehearsal Prompt.....Jane Arnold
 Set design.....Mandyrae Jessey
 Set builders/painters.....Members of BODS
 Stage Manager.....Jane Arnold
 Crew.....Alfie Arnold, Becca Witts, Ray Dibben
 Music.....Kirsty Plant, Mandyrae Jessey
 Sound.....Anthony Gofton
 Lighting.....Tony Mellerick
 Chaperones.....Jo Barham, Fiona Bates, Jenna Saunders
 Costumes.....Jenna Saunders, Mandyrae Jessey,
 Catherine Pickford, Lynn Rasdall, Sue Mellerick
 Props.....Neil Arnold, Tony Mellerick, Mandyrae Jessey, Jane Arnold, Ollie Ball
 Choreography.....Elizabeth-Rae Large
 Publicity.....Mandyrae Jessey
 Advertising.....James Dixon
 Poster & Programme.....Kirsty Plant
 Box Office.....Elizabeth-Rae Large
 Front of House/Bar.....Friends of BODS

FROM THE CAST...



I have been involved with many shows over the years. The part of Scrooge is not an easy one and when you are on stage for a whole performance it's a tough call...but I have really enjoyed the rehearsals and being part of such an inclusive and friendly group. The story of Scrooge resonates in today's world as much and maybe more than nearly 180 years ago when it was first written. With the fun, humour and despair that's in this script I hope you will all enjoy the time, effort and work that's gone into this show from all involved. Keep live entertainment on the stage and let's always look to the future just like Scrooge chose to do! **Mark Jessey**

At 22 I had the opportunity to shadow Shirley Britton who brought Ant and Dec together as a double act. I had aspirations to be a director, but circumstances changed. When I saw the advert for BODS I decided that 30 years on I should talk to Mandy about joining. I recognised that same passion in her, and haven't looked back! I had it in mind to build up my confidence to be in the chorus after a year or so. Mandy had other ideas and a few months in had me playing the part of Mrs Cratchit with a solo for good measure! - I'm feeling the fear but doing it anyway! BODS is like a family. We have our ups and downs, but the support, friendship and camaraderie is like nothing else. I hope you enjoy the show as much as we've enjoyed making it for you and finally, my wish for you is that this life becomes all that you want it to!
Kate Hunter



I'm delighted to be appearing in this ambitious production with such a happy age-inclusive group of talented enthusiastic youngsters alongside more experienced veterans. Personally I'm grateful that three years ago, when I had stopped writing after creating seven pantomimes, Mandy invited me to write a play specially for BODS teenagers. Sadly Covid prevented its performance but during lockdown and beyond I wrote another 12 short plays. BODS can be an inspiration. May "A Christmas Carol" enhance your seasonal pleasures.
John Drew

I've always been interested in learning the art of acting and I needed to push myself out of my comfort zone. So, in the Spring of 2022 I joined BODS. It's been a great experience and I'm enjoying learning new skills, whilst having fun and gaining confidence. I feel very grateful to be a part of the show and will remember this time fondly when I'm collecting my BAFTA... **Amy Hopkins**



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Having taken my two daughters to a Theatre group in 2001, I found myself roped in and 17 years later had played a variety of parts from Abanazer in Aladdin, Fezziwig and the Ghost of Christmas Present in Scrooge to Heir Zeller in the Sound of Music, Mr Bumble in Oliver and the Lion in the Wizard of Oz. Fast forward to October 2022 and whilst having a Coffee at Farm Ed (to be recommended) Kieron mentioned that he was in a production of A Christmas Carol directed by Mandy whom my wife and I had met previously...the rest is history! I am really enjoying playing a couple of cameo parts in this all inclusive B.O.D.S production and marvel at the main actors and how many lines they have had to learn! I am hoping with my Irish background I do justice to the part of the Fiddler! **Ian O'Hara**

I've always been a keen performer, I've worked with Mandy for 8 years now. I started out as a sapling aged 11 and continued from there! I currently study musical theatre at Stratford Upon Avon College and I'm also a singer songwriter. I worked with Mandy on a midsummer night's dream & wrote a song based on the fairy scene & played it on ukulele in the show! I'm now 19 and have found a love for inclusive dance and have started to volunteer with Lizzie choreographing wheelchair routines & meeting new people from across west Oxfordshire I'm very excited to be in A Christmas Carol, Belle is such a beautiful character & I really hope you enjoy the show! **Evie Arnold**



I moved into Milton-under-Wychwood in April 2022. This is my first foray into amateur dramatics in over twenty years— I was an actor, writer and producer of theatre during my time at school and university, but life has got in the way since, and as such it is a pleasure (and only slightly nerve wracking) to return to acting after all this time. I am delighted to be playing the roles of Fezziwig and Scrooge's nephew Fred, making it a family affair by performing alongside my wife and son Henry. Being a part of such a friendly and welcoming drama group has really helped me settle into the village, and I look forward to being active in the community for many years to come. **Chris Bull**

Hi, I play Martha Cratchit, the oldest of the 3 Cratchit children. Martha is a seamstress who goes out to work to help support her family who are very poor.

I'll be 11 in December and I love singing, dancing and performing. I've done several shows with the Saplings and I currently do ballet, tap, jazz and acro with a big dance show every other year. I also play the flute.

This is my first show with adults and I'm really looking forward to it. I think it's a really well written play with lots of varying emotion and I like the fact that there's a mixture of old and modern songs.

Harriet Harper





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B.O.D.S!



BODS was founded and run by Mandy in 2017 As a group for teenagers running successfully for 2.5 years but struggled to continue running effectively through the Covid lockdown period. In early 2022 Mandy decided to re-start and open up the group to adults as well as teenagers. This initially started just with weekly sessions for learning and fun but has now developed into a multi-level, committee-run group with those who attend the weekly sessions and those who want to be involved with the bigger shows such as this one...or you can do both!

We would love to get some new members and everyone is very welcome so please get in contact if this interests you. We also hold social events.

Look out for our next production in April 2023 and a Panto next winter

Contact Chair: Mandyrae Jessey Wychwoodbods@hotmail.com

Or visit our Facebook page 'Branching Out Drama Society'

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The Wychwood Saplings



We are a professionally run youth amateur dramatics group for 6-16 year-olds offering children opportunities in acting, singing, dancing, costumes, make up, set construction/design, lighting and sound.

The children and some of the young adults in this show are members past and present of the Wychwood Saplings. The Saplings leaders are also in the show, plus it's directed by Mandy!



For more information contact:
Mandyrae Jessey: doolallybird@btinternet.com
f "Wychwood Saplings"



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