Visual Story

Relaxed Performance: Tue 29 Dec 2015, 11am
Introduction

This Visual Story is designed for any visitors to the Relaxed Performance of *A Christmas Carol* at the Exeter Northcott Theatre. It contains lots of information and images about the show to help prepare those who may be anxious or curious about their visit. It also provides information about how to get to the Theatre and how to find your way around once you arrive.

General information

Where are we?

The play is being shown at the Exeter Northcott Theatre which is right in the middle of Exeter University’s Streatham Campus. Here is a photo of the outside of the Theatre and a map to show you where we are!

**Full Address:** Exeter Northcott Theatre, Stocker Road, Exeter, Devon, EX4 4QB
Finding your way around

When you arrive for the show you can either enter through the **Main Doors** at the front of the theatre on the ground floor (where the Box Office, Confectionary Desk and Toilets can be found) or through the **Side Door** which takes you straight into the first floor to our bar and restaurant area.

Whichever way you come in you can move between the three floors at the theatre using the **lift** or the **stairs**.

If you have any questions while you’re here please feel free to ask a **Front of House Steward**. It’s their job to help you enjoy your visit and they’d be happy to help.
What else is here?

**Ice Cream and Sweets**

If you would like any sweets, chocolate, ice cream or a programme you can buy them at the **Confectionary Desk** in the foyer on the first floor. This is open before the performance, throughout the interval and after the performance has finished.

**Bar and Restaurant**

Our restaurant, **The View** and its fully licensed **Bar** is also a fantastic place to get a drink before or after the show. You can also book a delicious meal to enjoy here before the performance. You can call our box office on 01392 72 63 63 to reserve a table or alternatively book online.

**Box Office**

If you haven’t had your tickets posted to you already you can pick them up at the **Box Office** on the First Floor. If you have had your tickets posted to you or selected ‘Print at Home’ you will not need to collect anything from the box office.

What should I wear?

There are no guidelines at the Exeter Northcott Theatre so you can wear whatever you like.
Where will the show be?

This is the Auditorium where the performance will be. There are 460 seats and four doors to enter by. It will say on your ticket which door will be nearest your seat and there are Stewards and signs to guide you to the right door.
General Information

How long will the show last?
The show will last for 2 hours including a 15 minute interval between the first and second and half of the show.

What is the show about?
Ebenezer Scrooge is a notoriously bitter old man who is determined not to let Christmas interfere with his miserly routine. But one Christmas Eve, Scrooge receives some unexpected supernatural visitors who are determined to show him the true spirit of Christmas and the error of his ways.

What does the set look like?
Here is a picture of the *A Christmas Carol* set. During the show the middle of the set opens up to reveal Scrooge’s bed. It is also an entrance for some of the ghosts.
Who is in the show?

There are over 10 different characters in the show and most of the actors play more than one part. This guide will help show you some of the most important characters and help you find out who’s who!

**Ebenezer Scrooge**

A bitter old man determined not to let Christmas get in the way of his work. He is then visited by three ghosts. The actor who plays Ebenezer Scrooge is called Derek Frood.

**Bob Cratchit**

Bob works for Scrooge at the counting house. He married to Mrs Cratchit and is Tiny Tim’s father. The actor who plays Bob Cratchit is called Edward Ferrow.

**Mrs Cratchit**

Married to Mr Cratchit and is mother of Tiny Tim and their other children. The actress Katherine Senior plays Mrs Cratchit.

**Tiny Tim**

Mr and Mrs Cratchit’s son who has to walk crutch. Both John Dunlop and Jensen Cole-Irving play Tiny Tim.

**Fred**

Fred is Scrooge’s nephew and absolutely loves Christmas! The actor who plays Fred is called George Jennings.
Jacob Marley
Scrooge’s business partner who has been dead for seven years. He comes back to warn Scrooge of his forthcoming ghostly visits. The actor Edward Ferrow plays Jacob Marley.

Ghost of Christmas Past
The first of the spirits to haunt Scrooge, the Ghost of Christmas Past takes Scrooge back in time to show him some of his past mistakes. The actor Sean Aydon plays the Ghost of Christmas Past.

Young Scrooge
The Ghost of Christmas past shows Scrooge a younger version of himself. The actor George Jennings plays Young Scrooge.

Belle
Belle is Scrooge’s past love to whom he was engaged. Belle however calls off the engagement due to Scrooges obsession with money. The actress Katherine Senior plays Belle.

Fanny
Ebenezer Scrooge’s late younger sister and mother of Fred, Scrooge’s nephew. The actress Katherine Senior plays Fanny.
Dick Wilkins
An apprentice of Mr Fezziwig and Scrooge’s friend. The actor Edward Ferrow plays Dick.

Mr and Mrs Fezziwig
Mr Fezziwig is Scrooge’s former employer. He and his wife Mrs Fezziwig throw a party that Young Scrooge attends. Mrs Fezziwig is played by Katherine Senior and Mr Fezziwig is played by Darren Lake.

The Ghost of Christmas Present
The second of the spirits to visit Scrooge which shows Scrooge present day Christmas celebrations including the Cratchits and his nephew, Fred. The actor Darren Lake plays the Ghost of Christmas Present.

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come
The third ghosts that appears to Scrooge showing him what could happen if he doesn’t change his ways. The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come is a puppet operated by the company.
What happens in the show?

**SPOILER ALERT! This section tells you what happens in the show. Please don’t read or share it with anyone if you don’t want to know!**

The book is divided up in to Five Staves, or chapters, which is how we will explain the story.

**Stave 1 (Chapter 1) – Marley’s Ghost**

Scrooge is working in his office, late, as usual with his clerk Bob Cratchit. His nephew Fred pops in to wish him a Merry Christmas and asks if he would like to come for Christmas supper. Scrooge declines as he does every year. Having shut the office, Scrooge heads home. However, this night he is not alone. The first of his four ghosly visitors makes an appearance. It is Jacob Marley, his old business partner. Jacob explains to him that he must end his wicked ways else he will suffer in the next world. The ghost informs him that he will be visited by a further three ghosts over the next two nights and that this will be his saving grace should he choose to listen to them.

**Stave 2 (Chapter 2) – The First of the Three Spirits**

Scrooge awakes to the first spirit peering over his bed. After the initial shock, Scrooge agrees to follow where the ghost leads him. He finds himself in his old town where he grew up and went to school. He sees himself as a young schoolboy, then older, when he started his apprenticeships with Mr Fezziwig and how this generous man used to throw incredible parties at the office for all the community. He sees his first love, he sees her with future husband and this is too much for him, so he begs the ghost to leave him, which he does after much fighting. The ghost disappears and leaves Scrooge alone again.

**Stave 3 (Chapter 3) – The Second of Three Spirits**

Scrooge awakes again, to find the next ghost waiting to take him to his next trip. This time he is taken to see people in the present. The spirit shows him the Cratchit’s household enjoying their menial Christmas dinner, he visits his nephew’s house and sees him celebrating Christmas with his family and friends with songs and games. The Spirit warns him that if he does not change then Tiny Tim will die and soceity will suffer his loss and the loss of many others like him.
Stave 4 (Chapter 4) – The Last of the Three Spirits

The ghost that Scrooge fears the most unravels before him in a cloak of black. The figure guides him towards the Cratchit’s household once more, but this time it is different and there is someone missing. Scrooge’s fear is multiplied when the spirit introduces him to various folk around London, discussing the death of a well known character but no-one appears to be mourning this fellow. Finally the dark shape takes him to a graveyard and points towards a gravestone with ‘Ebenezer Scrooge’ written on it. Scrooge staggers at the sight and begs forgiveness from the dark form that suddenly disappears before his eyes.

Stave 5 (Chapter 5) – The End of It

Scrooge awakes a different man. He promises to live life for others and begins by buying the biggest turkey on the planet which he sends to Bob Cratchit. He goes to his nephew’s for Christmas dinner and enjoys the finest festive feast. On Boxing Day he arrives at the office to greet Bob Cratchit and give him a much deserved pay rise. The shake hands and Ebenezer Scrooge becomes the kindest and most respected gentleman in the good old city of London.

Thank you for reading this visual story. We hope you enjoy your visit!