



Photo by T. Charles Erickson.

Going to see *A Christmas Carol*

Ford's Theatre: Sensory-Friendly Performance Pre-Visit Story

Ford's Theatre



Photo of Ford's Theatre ©Maxwell MacKenzie.

I am going to Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C.,
to see a play called *A Christmas Carol*.

A Christmas Carol



Photo of the cast by Carol Rosegg.

The play *A Christmas Carol* is based on the novel by Charles Dickens. The play tells a story with actors talking, singing and dancing on the stage.

In the play, the people are acting out a story about a man named Ebenezer Scrooge, who is transformed from being a selfish and unkind person to a very loving and selfless person.

Stage



Photo by Carolina Dulcey.

The things on stage (called “the set”) represent the city of London. The actors will bring on different objects, props and costumes that indicate changes in location and characters.

Characters



Photo of Tom Story by Carol Rosegg.



Photo of Bueka Uwemedimo and Tom Story by Carol Rosegg.

Each actor pretends to be many different people in order to tell the story. They are the people of London, friends and family, adults and children. In this production, some of the adult actors are playing children.

Each time an actor changes character, they will put on or take off a costume piece, change their voice or change the way they move.

These changes help me identify which character the actor is pretending to be.

Music



Photo of Bueka Uwemedimo, Awa Sal Secka, Kristen Garaffo and Chris Stinson by Carol Rosegg.

There will be recorded music playing throughout the show. Sometimes the music will be louder and other times it might be playing softly in the background.

The actors will sing Christmas carols throughout the performance.

Lights



Photo of Yesenia Iglesias, Jonathan Atkinson, Rayanne Gonzales, Stephen F. Schmidt and Craig Wallace by Carol Rosegg.

The show has many colorful lights that move across the stage.

Sometimes there are spotlights that move around on stage.

Sometimes there will be flashes of light and sounds of thunder.

A Ghost Story of Christmas



Photo of Stephen F. Schmidt and Craig Wallace by Carol Rosegg.

In order for Scrooge to learn his lesson, he must be visited by ghosts.

Sometimes the ghosts are also called spirits.

Some of the spirits look scary and others look friendly. The spirits are not real. They are actors playing pretend and helping to tell the story.

Past, Present and Future

The story of *A Christmas Carol* is set in the 1850s, but it doesn't all take place in the 1850s. Scrooge visits his past, present and future with the help of three ghosts. When Scrooge is with the ghosts, none of the other characters can see or hear him.



Photo of Craig Wallace and Justine "Icy" Moral by Carol Rosegg.

When he visits the past, he is seeing things he remembers when he was young. They've already happened to him so he cannot change them.



Photo of Craig Wallace and Rayanne Gonzales by Carol Rosegg.

When Scrooge visits the present, he sees people and events happening at the same time in different places in the city. Even though the characters cannot see or hear him, the Spirit of Christmas Present does a little magic to help Scrooge connect with the people he visits.



Photo of Joe Mallon by Carol Rosegg.

When Scrooge visits the future, he is seeing things that could happen based on all the choices he's made in his life. The future has not happened yet; it can be changed.

Redemption



Photo of Craig Wallace, Emily Zickler and Maria Egler by Carol Rosegg.

At the beginning of the story, Scrooge is mean and selfish. But the three Christmas spirits teach him the importance of love and kindness.

Scrooge is changed at the end of the story.

He keeps Christmas in his heart all year long and not just on Christmas Day.

Scrooge helps Tiny Tim and the Cratchit family.

He shares love and kindness with everyone around him.

GOING TO SEE A *CHRISTMAS CAROL* – CREDITS

All stage photos are from the Ford's Theatre production of *A Christmas Carol*.

The pre-visit materials were developed by:

Ford's Theatre Access Committee

Designer: Carolina Dulcey

Ford's Theatre would like to extend special thanks to Roger Ideishi and Diane Nutting for their support, expertise and assistance.

Ford's Theatre accessibility programs are supported by:

