

[A Christmas Carol](#) by Gary Owen



Tucked up in his old, decaying house on a cold Christmas Eve, lonely, curmudgeonly Scrooge hears the rattle of chains and strange wailing noises: it's the ghost of his old business partner, Marley, come to warn Scrooge that if he doesn't change his ways, he will suffer a terrible fate. Whilst Scrooge meets the three Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future, he must learn to embrace the true spirit of Christmas before it's too late. Gary Owen's adaptation refreshes the 1843 morality tale of ghosts, poverty, avarice and the redemptive power of compassion for a 21st century audience.

This adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* premiered at Sherman, Cardiff, on 4 December 2009.

Genre:	Drama	Fee:	£56 plus VAT, per performance
Cast:	m 17 f 11	Length:	Two Acts
Set:	London	Scripts:	ISBN 9781408129463 £9.99
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EXTRACT

Marley raises his unhanded arm, and waves at Scrooge. Scrooge looks down and realises he's shaking a detached hand.

Marley The living are surrounded by spirits, Scrooge. They hover around you, watching, listening, learning. Spirits of the dead. Spirits of dream. Spirits of other ages.

Scrooge There are no mysterious beings from other ages, watching us.

Marley (*pointing at the audience*) They sit before you.

Scrooge What humbug!

Marley Can't you see them? Can't you hear them?

Scrooge I see only you, my friend Jacob Marley. I hear – nothing.

Marley (*to the audience*) When I give you the word, I want you to wail like a ghost, or scream like a

spook, or roar like a monster. Now – make some noise!

Scrooge I am a rational man, and this is a rational age.

Marley (*to audience*) Louder!

Scrooge There are no such things as spirits!

Marley (*to the audience*) Louder still! (*To Scrooge*) Do you hear them, Scrooge?

Scrooge Yes, yes, I hear them. So it's true. There are ghosts, and spirits all around. Sir ghost, I beg of you, please don't hurt me, I'm a humble man who tries to lead an honest life...

Marley Scrooge?

Scrooge What?

Marley Can I have my hand back?

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