



*A loving heart is the
truest wisdom.*

—
CHARLES DICKENS



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Directed by Cody Cutler
December 18th and 19th @ 7pm, North Auditorium

One of my all-time favorite Christmas traditions is to read *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. You'd be hard pressed to find another book that so perfectly encapsulates the spirit of the holiday. The true meaning of Christmas, why we celebrate, and the importance of doing good for the sake of doing good is delivered to the heart in a powerful dose; all with Dickens trademark wit and wisdom.

This year as I was preparing to direct *A Christmas Carol*, something in the Book of Mormon caught my attention. In Mosiah 27:8, Mormon calls Alma the younger “a very wicked and idolatrous man.” It was odd for me to have that line in particular stand out, but I wrote it down nonetheless. As my study of the Book of Mormon progressed, I came to understand just why that line was so important. The same man that was described as wicked and idolatrous in Mosiah 27:8 went on to become, just a few pages later, one of the most righteous and powerful prophets in scripture. The message I received was simple yet profound: “wicked and idolatrous men can change.”

The story of *A Christmas Carol* has many meanings and takeaways: do good for the sake of doing good, hold fast to family and friends, and remember what is most important in life. Beyond that, however, one message stands out above the rest: Men can change. Women can change. We *all* can change. Thanks to the Atonement of Jesus Christ, none of us is beyond saving grace. We can pivot, we can repent, we can change, and we can *become*. It is never too late.

So, as you watch Jake's wonderful performance tonight (and it is wonderful) I invite you to consider your relationship with Jesus Christ, who you want to be, and what power He can give you to get there. Because I know that if Ebenezer Scrooge can go from “a squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner” to “a man who knew how to keep Christmas well” than nothing is out of reach for any of us.

Please enjoy the show!

And a Merry Christmas!

— Cody Cutler, *Director*



Charles Dickens participated in many theatrical readings during his lifetime, both in England and in America. His readings included his works *David Copperfield*, *Doctor Marigold*, *The Pickwick Papers*, and perhaps his most popular piece, *A Christmas Carol*. During his reading of *A Christmas Carol*, Dicken's “tone shifted and took on the roles of his characters and his readings became performances.” He performed this work well over 100 times if sources hold true, delighting and inspiring the crowds that came to hear. One performance in New York, to the surprise of Dickens, had over two thousand spectators, many having to settle for the “standing room only” area. This production tonight is in remembrance of Dicken's style and legacy, and hopes to achieve the inspiration his work can bring to all of us.

Source: scholarworks.gsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1115&context=communication_theses

CAST

Charles Dickens et al.Jacob Earnest

TECH CREW

Sound and light operators.....Ryan Holmstead and Scott Holmstead
Videographer and stagehand.....Johnny Lam

Act I

10-minute Intermission

Act II

A special thanks to Jay Clark, Charity Ehlers,
Tammy Morse, Joanne Perry, Rachael Schiel,
Mattie Smith, Velma Rippstein, and Blaine Hunsaker.

Script abridged and adapted by Derek Grant and published
by MD Jones Books.

Playbill art and design by Laci Gibbs (*Lady Lace Creative*).