

Magic moments in 'Scrooge'

SHIPLAKE COLLEGE's Tithe Barn Theatre was packed to capacity for all five performances of a musical version of "Scrooge" last week.

From the moment Charles Dickens, played by John Russell, walked on stage to give his narrative introduction, one had the feeling of drifting back in time to the grim days of 19th century London.

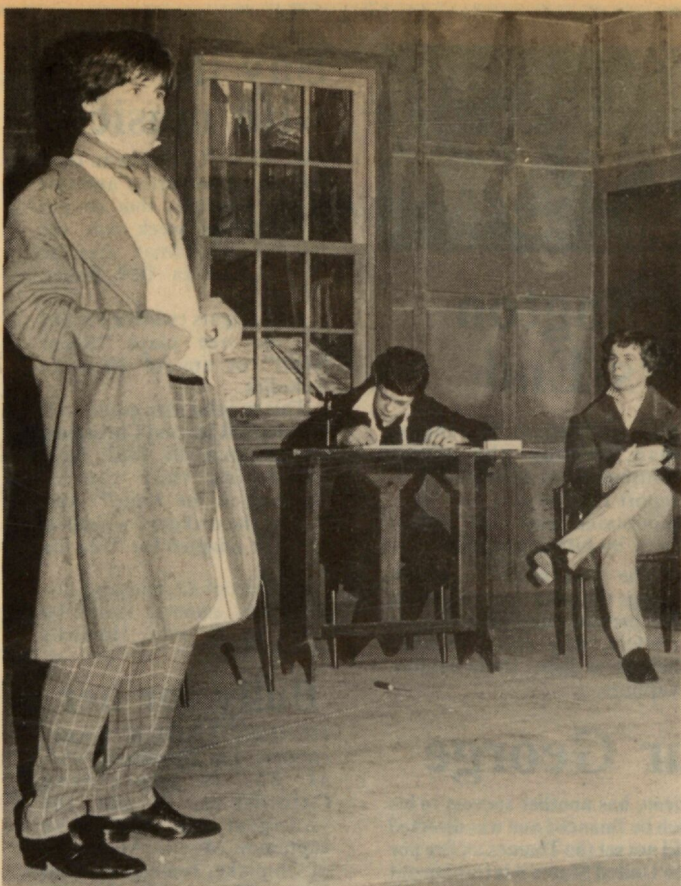
The cast, which included boys, staff and friends of the college, gave an enthusiastic and often very humorous performance. Indeed, it was clear that they were enjoying acting in the play as much as the audience enjoyed watching the production.

Jerome Dodd's convincing portrayal of Ebenezer Scrooge, helped by an authentically sneering make-up, had just the right amount of menace. John Keith, as Bob Cratchit, and James Whishaw as Scrooge's nephew, Fred, both gave heart warming performances. As for Tom Walker's haunting portrayal as the ghost of Jacob Marley, one was surprised that Scrooge did not repent his ways long before the arrival of the ghosts of Christmases past, present and future.

There were many magical moments during the evening. The singing and orchestral accompaniment was of a high standard and evoked the period atmosphere which, with the scenery and lighting effects, made the entire performance a delight to watch.

Much of the credit must go to the producer/director Andrew Barclay who managed to bring to all who watched the play an early feeling of Christmas spirit.

SK



Alasdair Hodge, Jerome Dodd, James Trigg in a scene from "Scrooge."



Tithe Barn Theatre 1981

Cast

Tithe Barn Theatre Project

The renovation and conversion of the Tithe Barn is being financed by profits from the annual College Summer Ball. A great deal of work has been carried out over the past months, including the construction of the stage and lighting control box in use for this production. Future plans include central heating, the digging of a 'well' in the floor to accommodate banked seating, and the hanging of a false ceiling to improve the sound and retain the heat.

These are only plans at the moment, but as you can see we already have a fully functional theatre, lecture room, cinema, audio-visual centre and chapel.

AFB

There will be a collection at the end of the performance to help defray expenses.

Cast (in order of appearance)

Charles Dickens	John Russell
Ebenezer Scrooge	Jerome Dodd
Bob Crachit	John Keith
Fred (Scrooge's nephew)	James Whishaw
1st Portly Gentleman	James Trigg
2nd Portly Gentleman	Alasdair Hodge
The Ghost of Jacob Marley	Tom Walker
The Ghost of Christmas Past	Marc de Bruin
Daniel	Tim Pemberton
Farmer Greenrow	Jason Cleaver
Mrs Greenrow	Matthew Palmer
Scrooge as a boy	Edward Balfour
Mr. Fezziwig	Paul Rowberry
Mrs. Fezziwig	Liz Cooke
Dick Wilkins	Julian Butler
The Ghost of Christmas Present	Mark Hayter
1st Cockney	Peter Mills
2nd Cockney	Rupert Finch Hatton
Tiny Tim	Sean Russell
Agnes	Angie Hopkins
The Ghost of Christmas yet to come	Tom Walker
Mrs Crachit	Mary Russell
1st Business Man	Sebastian Duncan
2nd Business Man	Alexander Wilson
3rd Business Man	Andreas Carleton-Smith
Lad	Benham Irvanipour
The Crachit Family	Robert Lowein
	David Bailey
	Andrew Eden
	James Wilcox
Mrs. Colby	Sally Wagner
Mrs. Dilber	Elizabeth Meiklejohn
Sem	Anna Narborough

Costumes
Lighting

Sound
Make-up
Set

Stage Manager

The Orchestra

Violin
Clarinet
'Cello
Flute
Horn
Bass
Drums
Piano

Produced and Directed by Andrew Barclay

Liz Cooke
Tony Kayll
Sean Briggs
Alasdair Large
Richard Castle
Catherine Whishaw
Peter Hose
James Johnson
David Hopkins
Peter Severn
Graham Sylvester

Malcolm Woodcock
Patricia Noble
David Dale
Bruce St.Clair
Alistair Teale
Julian Fisher
James Whiteman
Andrew Barclay

My sincere thanks must go to everyone who has put in so much time on this production. The set, the costumes and the lighting have all been done out of school hours, and I am especially grateful to those outside the College who have so willingly given up their free time to help us.

Behind the scenes, our stage manager and his team have carried out a difficult job in very cramped conditions and in total darkness. The cast and the orchestra have all worked extremely hard over the recent weeks and have put up with abuse from the producer on numerous occasions, and I thank them for their tolerance and good humour.

To them all I say - thank you.

Andrew Barclay