

# Booster Cushion Theatre

Bringing books to life for children

## An Outline of "A Christmas Carol"

Booster Cushion's version of "A Christmas Carol" runs for about 45mins, depending on audience participation.

The performance is usually presented end on with the audience sitting on the floor. When younger children are involved, we like them to be seated to one side of the audience on benches.

The show starts with one performer on stage; welcoming the audience in and helping them find their "seats". He is in tatty Victorian costume, as a result of having spent 100 years walking to the show.

Once the audience is in he rings a town criers bell and announces the show from his scroll. On the stage are two suitcases and a large book on a chair.

The actor sets the scene of the Victorian streets. Cobble stones, horse and carriages, small cramped housing, cold, squalor, rubbish, rats and manure.

The book is then opened. As he reads, the actor changes into Marley and then Scrooge, as if controlled by the book.

We then meet Crachit, from the audience; Scrooge's hard done by employee. Crachit introduces us to the Accounts Book. The children then help by adding up, 1+1, 2+2, 4+4.....512+512 etc.

Scrooge tells us how to use the accounts to keep all your money in order. If people don't pay up, then Scrooge takes all their belongings and sends them to prison.

Scrooge chains up the shop and turns into Marley. Marley's ghost then tells of the three ghosts to come at each ring of the bell (1a.m, 2a.m, 3a.m. in original story).

### **Ghost 1 - Christmas Past.**

A newspaper Hawker, reading out the headlines of Scrooges life. We meet Fezziwig, Scrooges first employer and Belle, Scrooges one and only love.

### **Ghost 2 - Christmas Present.**

A postman delivering presents to Scrooge and Tiny Tim. Tim, Fezziwig and Belle are picked from the audience.

### **Ghost 3 - Christmas Future.**

The traditional black hooded ghost who presents Scrooge's tombstone.

Scrooge awakes a changed person. He gives Crachit a present and everyone is wished a Merry Christmas.