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"Magical!"



Dickens by Candlelight

A Christmas Carol

Official
Program



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ENTERTAINMENT

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FRENCH

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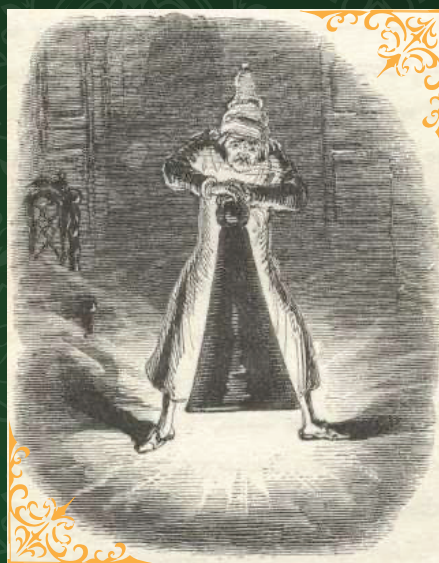
120-122 GRAINGER STREET
NEWCASTLE, NE1 5AF

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A Christmas Carol

"A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens holds an esteemed place in 19th-century literature, its influence shaping the essence of the modern Christmas celebration. Written in 1843, it emerged from Dickens' impassioned vision, etching a lasting impression on Victorian Britain's cultural landscape. The genesis of this timeless tale sprang from Dickens' acute empathy for the plight of the impoverished, sparked by his encounters in the industrial north of England. The story's protagonist, the infamous Ebenezer Scrooge, personifies unchecked avarice and undergoes a transformative journey, symbolizing the heartwarming essence of Christmas.



Original illustration by Charles Leech, 1843

The genesis of the character Ebenezer Scrooge adds a fascinating layer to this story. This miserly character drew inspiration from a real figure, Ebenezer Scroogie, a jovial and kindly Edinburgh merchant who led a life far removed from the persona associated with Scrooge. Scroogie's occupation as a corn dealer was mistakenly read by Dickens as 'mean man' during a twilight visit to the Canongate Kirkyard in Edinburgh. This inadvertent misinterpretation gave birth to the character of Ebenezer Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol," published in 1843. Regrettably, Scroogie's legacy was marred by this association, as he forever bore the ill-deserved reputation of a miser. His gravestone, once visible, has since been lost to time, disappearing in the 1930s.

Dickens' commitment to capturing the spirit of the season was unparalleled. During nocturnal wanderings through London's streets, he meticulously crafted the tale, embodying the redemption of Scrooge and the overarching message of compassion and generosity. The book's rapid creation within weeks, driven by Dickens' fervor to share it by Christmas, underscores his dedication to amplifying the festive spirit.

The
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Cast

Jamie
Brown



Jamie is a theatre-maker from Gateshead who trained at Bretton Hall and has established an extensive body of roles with theatres and companies across the North East and nationally since 2006.

Having recently toured Othello with Elysium Theatre Company, he is delighted to be making his debut for Niltoni Creative.

Acting highlights include originating the roles of Harry Clasper (Hadaway Harry) and John Simpson Kirkpatrick (The Man and The Donkey) for which roles he was named Performing Artist of the Year at the North East Culture Awards.

Elsewhere, he has worked with Warner Brothers, the BBC, and Royal Opera House amongst many others, also gaining acclaim as a Director (Girl in the Machine, Bobby Robson Saved my Life), and is Company Director of 1623 Theatre Company and Theatre Space North East team.

Will
Sutherland



Will trained at Guildford School of Acting, where his work included Antony & Cleopatra, Becky Shaw and Three Winters.

This is Will's second year with Niltoni Entertainment after his standout performance as Ebenezer Scrooge in last year's production of Dickens by Candelight: A Christmas Carol as well as Frankenstein, in this year's Niltoni Entertainment Production of Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus at Newcastle Castle.

Other recent credits include writing and releasing his first audio drama Sero Sed Serio with Elysium Theatre Company, and directing Tides by Joe Dennis.

Louise
Dearden



Louise studied acting at Newcastle College Performance Academy and Northumbria university. Chosen by Erica Whyman OBE to appear in 'Son of Man' at Northern stage, she was then asked to perform in 'An Oak Tree' by award winning playwright Tim Crouch. Since then, she has appeared in such shows as 'The Little Prince' at Northern Stage, 'Letter's home' by Julia Darling for Live Theatre, and 'For the Best' at Washington Arts Centre. Louise has worked extensively for Operating Theatre; a local theatre company that specialise in producing plays highlighting issues in medical care and raising awareness for people with disabilities. Recently Louise starred in 'Offended' for Sky Arts as part of their Shortflix series.

Director



Jake
Murray

Jake Murray is an award-winning theatre Director and AD of Durham-based Elysium Theatre Company with 30 years of experience. Notable productions include Romeo And Juliet at the Royal Exchange, Manchester starring the young Andrew Garfield and an acclaimed production of Tom Murphy's A Whistle In The Dark that transferred from Manchester to the Tricycle Theatre, London. Notable productions for Elysium TC include sell out tours of Shakespeare's Othello and Reiver by Steve Byron and last year's acclaimed 50th Anniversary tour of The Island. His Elysium show, the world premiere of The Moth next spring, tours to 26 venues across the North. He's very excited to be working with Niltoni for the second year.

Writer / Adaptation



Craig
Wilde

Craig Wilde is a versatile creative talent, excelling as an actor, writer, and producer. He is the visionary behind this unique adaptation of A Christmas Carol, inspired by Charles Dickens's ties to Newcastle and the historic Alderman Fenwick's House. Beyond this production, Craig has co-authored the popular Tip Top the Elf children's series and crafted works for stage, film, and TV. His acclaimed adaptation of Frankenstein highlights his storytelling prowess, and his upcoming musical play, Harper Thursday and the Magic Lantern™, will debut in Newcastle in Summer 2025 at the iconic Common Room Library.

Costume Design



Abby
Wilkinson

Working as a costume designer in the North East, constructing bespoke costumes for stage and screen productions, Abby graduated from the Northern school of Art with a bachelor degree in Costume. Previously worked on MacBeth and Midsummer Night's Dream with Elysium Theatre Company and Niltoni Entertainment to create both modern and historical costumes with a unique theme and perspective.



Charles Dickens



Charles John Huffam Dickens born on 7 February 1812, was an English writer and social critic. He created some of the worlds best known fictional characters and is regarded as the greatest novelist of the Victorian era. His works enjoyed unprecedented popularity during his relatively short lifetime, living to be just 58, dying on 9 June 1870. *Oliver Twist*, *Bleak House*, *Little Dorrit*, *Great Expectations*, *The Pickwick Papers*, are just some of his many novels and short stories, many of them featuring ghosts. But arguably his most celebrated and seasonal, is the festive redemption story of *Ebenezer Scrooge*, in the classic *A Christmas Carol*.

Alderman Fenwick's House



Step into history at Alderman Fenwick's House, a remarkable 17th-century Grade I-listed townhouse in the heart of Newcastle upon Tyne. Originally built in 1670, this building has served many purposes, from being a bustling merchant's house to becoming the Queen's Head coaching inn in the 18th century. Restored in 1997, it is celebrated for its rich architectural and cultural heritage, making it a fitting venue for our immersive production of *A Christmas Carol*.

Charles Dickens shared a close connection with Newcastle, visiting frequently and performing public readings of his works in local halls. His ties to the city deepened through his marriage to Catherine Hogarth, whose father who was the Editor of the Chronicle. Dickens was also a guest at the Queens Head coaching inn, with the Great Room then the Bar and salon of the hotel. Hosting *A Christmas Carol* at Alderman Fenwick's House in this spectacularr room where Dickens himself would have dined and, as was typical of him, told his stories to those around; pays homage to Dickens's enduring bond with the region and his legacy of storytelling that resonates across generations.

With its period features and historic charm, this iconic venue perfectly evokes the spirit of Dickens's Victorian England, offering an authentic and atmospheric backdrop for this festive tale.

For more details about Alderman Fenwick's House and its fascinating history, visit resources such as Historic England or the venue's official site.





★★★★★
"a breathtaking one-man tour-de-force"
- The Chronicle

★★★★★
"wonderful...a virtuoso performance"
- The Journal

HADAWAY HARRY

by Ed Waugh

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7-8 FEB - Gosforth Civic Theatre
12 FEB - Little Theatre Gateshead tbc
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15 FEB - Bishop Auckland Town Hall
16 FEB - Gateshead Rowing Club
19 FEB - Hamsterley Hall
20-21 FEB - Customs House, S. Shields
22 FEB - The Maltings, Berwick

Matinees - 6th, 8th, 13th, 21st

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FRANKENSTEIN

OR THE MODERN PROMETHEUS
FRI 24th OCT - SAT 1st NOV
2025

From the producers that brought you Dickens by Candlelight - 'A Christmas Carol'.

Remounted and expanded for 2025 at Newcastle's historic Common Room, this highly acclaimed tale of man and monster will once again electrify audiences. A show to not miss!

12

Not suitable for children under 12

Book Tickets Now!
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I ought to be thy Adam, but I am rather the fallen angel...
-The Creature



<https://www.niltoni.com/event-details/frankenstein-or-the-modern-prometheus>

Back for it's 4th Glorious Year!



"The most festive show in the Toon!"



"Spellbinding!"



"Magical!"



Dickens by Candlelight

A Christmas Carol 2025



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the Bishops**
with
Chris & Dan









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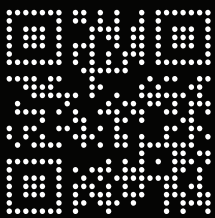
AND THE

MAGIC LANTERN

“Thursday’s child has far to go.” Let the Adventure begin!
- A play with original songs

A magical new theatrical adventure is coming to the historic Common Room in the heart of Newcastle upon Tyne! “Harper Thursday and the Magic Lantern,” Inspired by the timeless works of literary giants such as A.A. Milne, Frank L. Baum, Lewis Carroll, and J.M. Barrie, this enchanting production invites families to embark on a journey filled with wonder and imagination.

Book Now!



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