

**Main Characters:**  
(not to be doubled)

1. GHOST — black woman
2. EBENEZER SCROOGE
3. BOB CRATCHIT
4. MRS. BOB CRATCHIT
5. TINY TIM — played by young, boyish adult (can also play a Fezziwig daughter)

**Ensemble:**

6. LITTLE NELL — female (can also play Mrs. Fezziwig, the Beadle's Wife)
7. GENTLEMAN 1 — male (can also play Mr. Fezziwig, the Beadle, Act Two Bartender)
8. GENTLEMAN 2 — male (can also play Edvar, George Bailey, Voice of Tess, Serena)
9. GHOST OF JACOB MARLEY — male (can also play Clarence, Act One Bartender)
10. THE NICE MRS. CRATCHIT — female (can also play Hedvig, Lovely Irish Voice)

**Children:**

11. YOUNG EBENEZER — boy, age 8 through 13, can also play Cratchit Child 2
12. YOUNG JACOB MARLEY — girl, age 8 through 13, can also play Cratchit Child 1, and the child Zuzu (you can have four separate children play the roles above if you wish — three boys for Ebenezer, Jacob, and Child 2; and one girl for Child 1 and Zuzu)

Young Ebenezer, Young Jacob Marley

## MRS. BOB CRATCHIT'S WILD CHRISTMAS BINGE

### ACT ONE

#### Scene 1

*Christmastime. Dickens look, 1840s. A street in London. Two young boys, dressed in coats, hats-and-scarves stand next to one another. One boy is singing.*

Jacob BOY 1. *(Singing sweetly.)*

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING,  
GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING

Ebenezer BOY 2. *(Irritated, negative.)* Bah humbug! Bah humbug!

Jacob BOY 1.

PEACE ON EARTH, AND MERCY MILD

Ebenezer BOY 2. Phooey! Christmas stinks! Kaplooeey!

Jacob BOY 1.

GOD AND SINNER RECONCILED

Ebenezer BOY 2. Bah humbug! Get me a good hamburger!

Jacob BOY 1. *(Continues with the song softly. Enter the Ghost — a striking, theatrical black woman. She addresses the audience.)*

GHOST. Even as a child, young Ebenezer displayed a pronounced antipathy toward Christmas. *(To Boy 2.)* Merry Christmas, Ebenezer. YOUNG EBENEZER. Bah humbug! Give me some Christmas pudding. I want to put bugs in your hair! Bah humbug!

GHOST. *(To audience.)* In later centuries, we would probably identify Ebenezer's repeated saying of "Bah humbug" as a kind of seasonal Tourette's Syndrome. However, in 1843, when our story is set, we hadn't a clue what it meant — except he was a nasty little child.

## YOUNG EBENEZER + YOUNG JACOB CONT.

YOUNG EBENEZER. Bah humbug! I hate Christmas!  
GHOST. *(To audience.)* Hello. I am the Ghost of Christmas Past, Present and Yet To Come, including all media yet to be invented. If you get me on DVD you can click on Special Features, and see twenty-seven other hairdo choices I have. But we're in a live theatre presently, so you'll just have to accept my hair as it is.  
YOUNG EBENEZER. I want to put bugs in your hair!  
GHOST. Children are so difficult, aren't they? You should see them backstage. I'm so glad I'm a ghost and I don't have any children.  
BOY 1. I like Christmas carols, but my friend Ebenezer is slowly convincing me to hate Christmas.  
GHOST. This is young Jacob Marley. And he and Ebenezer will grow up to run a business together.  
YOUNG EBENEZER. I want to be very wealthy.  
YOUNG JACOB. Me too!  
GHOST. Oh you kids. I'd like to take a strap to you. But all you politically correct types don't like that. A good spanking never hurt a child, unless it got out of control and killed him, in which case it did. But I don't want to kill these children, I just want to make them behave. *(Screams at the children.)* BEHAVE!!! AND HAVE A BETTER ATTITUDE ABOUT CHRISTMAS!  
YOUNG EBENEZER. I hate Christmas. Bah humbug.  
GHOST. You have Tourette's Syndrome. You need to learn to be seen and not heard. *(To audience.)* And now meet Ebenezer Scrooge, grown up. *(Enter old Ebenezer Scrooge. He is sour, grumpy, cranky.)* Hello there, Mr. Scrooge. Merry Christmas to you.  
EBENEZER SCROOGE. Bah humbug! I'd like to put bugs in your hair!  
GHOST. Really, how strange. What kind of bugs?  
EBENEZER SCROOGE. Oh awful crawling kinds. Beetles. Spiders.  
GHOST. Uh huh. Mr. Scrooge, I'd like you to meet your inner child.  
EBENEZER SCROOGE. What?  
GHOST. *(To Young Ebenezer.)* Say hello to your grown-up self, Ebenezer.  
YOUNG EBENEZER. I hate you! *(Kicks him.)*  
EBENEZER SCROOGE. And I hate you, you little creep! *(Big Ebenezer and Young Ebenezer struggle with one another. Young Jacob looks on, passively.)*  
GHOST. *(To audience.)* What unpleasant people. I wonder if I'll be able to make them appreciate the true meaning of Christmas

before the end of the evening? What do you think? How many of you don't care? Never mind, I don't want to know. I have a job to do, and I've got to do it. Okay, you two, break it up.  
EBENEZER SCROOGE. You should be sent to the workhouse!  
YOUNG EBENEZER. You should be sent to a nursing home!  
GHOST. Isn't it sad? Isn't it poignant and ironic how much Mr. Scrooge's younger and older selves hate each other? *(To Young Ebenezer and Old Ebenezer.)* You're dealing with self-hatred, you two, and you don't even know it!  
YOUNG JACOB. Why don't I have any lines?  
GHOST. Why does the sun come up in the morning?  
YOUNG JACOB. I don't know.  
GHOST. Well, that's why you don't have any lines. Okay, enough of this scene. Let's move on to the next one. Ready, Mr. Scrooge?  
EBENEZER SCROOGE. ~~Shut up, I don't know you. I don't think there even are Negro people in 1840s London.~~  
GHOST. I stand outside of time.  
EBENEZER SCROOGE. ~~Well good for you. I haven't time for this, I'm on my way to work.~~  
GHOST. Merry Christmas.  
EBENEZER SCROOGE. Bah! Humbug!  
YOUNG EBENEZER. Bah! Humbug! *(Scrooge exits, followed by Young Ebenezer and Young Jacob.)*  
GHOST. Luckily, you know, most people aren't like Mr. Scrooge here. They love Christmas as I do, and as I hope you do too. *(Music begins. The ghost looks around the stage in pleasant wonderment. Sings.)*

LONDON IS A BUZZ  
LONDON IS A GLOW  
PEOPLE MILL ABOUT IN GROUPS  
THEY WANDER TO AND FRO

*(London townspeople start to come in and gather. They mill about in groups, they wander. They point at things in the set. A wandering person/may be selling toys. The children point at them. They're all very happy and interested in Christmas.)*

THEY COME ONSTAGE  
FROM LEFT AND RIGHT  
FROM UPSTAGE, DOWNSTAGE TOO

THEY COME TO TOWN  
THEY POINT AT THINGS