

Your Own Ghosts

Imagine the Ghost of Christmas Future came to visit YOU and showed you your future self.

Close your eyes and picture yourself in your perfect future.



Stephen F. Schmidt and Craig Wallace in *A Christmas Carol* 2018. Photo by Scott Suchman.

Who is with you? _____

Are there new people in your life? _____

Where are you? _____

What is going on in your life and career? _____

Now, think about the holidays this year.

What will you do to be your BEST self?

How about volunteering at one of these great organizations?

- Homeless Children's Playtime Project
- Friends of Homeless Animals
- Meals on Wheels
- Capital Area Food Bank
- Helping neighbors in your community with groceries, snow removal and light errands.

 Tweet us @FordsEdu and let us know how you're giving back this season!

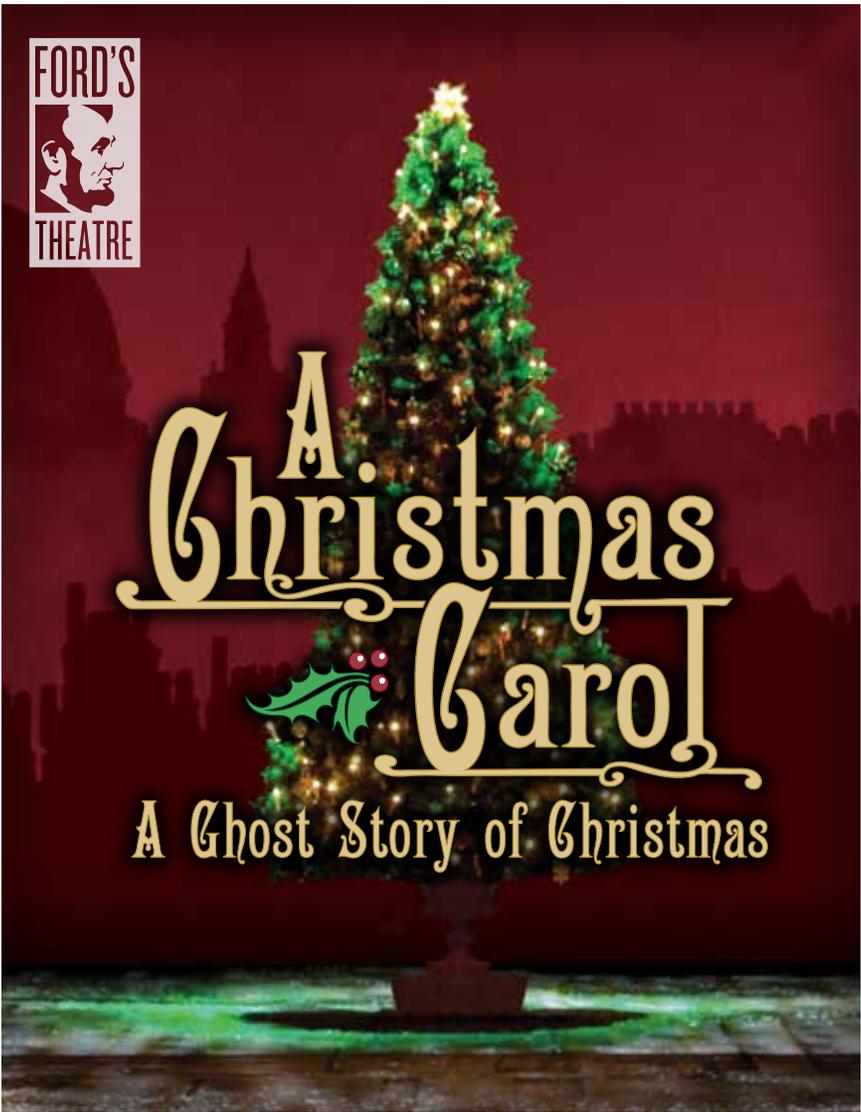
#FordsCarol

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Cover art based on a photo by T. Charles Erickson.

Ford's Theatre Family/Youth

PROGRAM



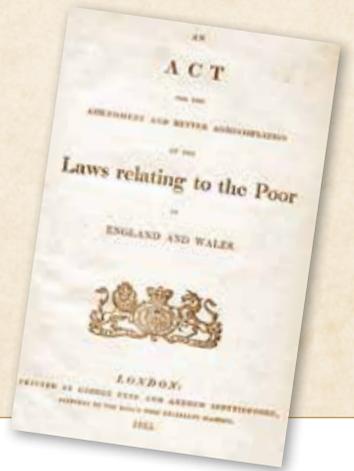
A Christmas Carol

A Ghost Story of Christmas

www.fords.org

Inspiration for *A Christmas Carol*

In 1834, England passed the Poor Law, which prohibited charities from giving money, food or blankets to the poor. Instead, families were put into forced labor. They had to live inside workhouses and were paid and fed very little. Children were separated from their parents and made to work long hours in terrible conditions with meager food rations.



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Words Are Powerful

- How do you think Dickens used his books to comment on his society?
- If you were going to write a book, what would you criticize about your society?

We don't have workhouses now in America because...

Did You Know?

At age 12, Charles Dickens (the author of *A Christmas Carol*) was removed from school by his father and sent to a shoe blacking factory (basically, they made shoe polish there). Dickens loved school and resented this system that took him away from learning. He worked Monday through Saturday, 10 hours a day, for the equivalent of \$12 per week.

How Did Abraham Lincoln Celebrate Christmas?

Christmas Gifts:

Even prior to the war, Christmas presents were simple. Children usually received gifts of hand-made toys, fruits or cakes. During the war, especially in the South, goods were scarce, and children were lucky to receive anything at all.



A White House Christmas:

During the first year of the war, Abraham Lincoln hosted a huge holiday party at the White House. Over the next few years, Abraham Lincoln would spend the holiday visiting wounded soldiers while Mary Lincoln would fundraise for care packages to send to soldiers. Even their young son, Tad, got in to the charitable season and sent gifts to soldiers in the field.



A Battlefield Christmas:

During this usually happy season, soldiers often felt lonely and homesick. To combat these feelings, they decorated trees in front of their camps with whatever spare supplies were available. Women spent their Christmases making clothing and food and tending to wounded soldiers.

Did You Know?

Christmas wasn't a national holiday until 1870. President Ulysses S. Grant recognized it to increase comfort and family bonding after the Civil War.



The first images of the jolly, modern Santa were created by political cartoonist Thomas Nast in the 1860s.