

Beadle + Wife

Scrooge, hold my arm ... we're going back, back, back ... (Every-
onstage makes a woo-woo sound, the lights go strange and we're
in time.)

Scene 7

Young Ebenezer and Young Jacob stand next to one another
in the first scene. The Ghost and Scrooge watch them. No
else is onstage.

YOUNG JACOB.

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING,
GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING,

YOUNG EBENEZER. Bah! Humbug!

GHOST. Young Ebenezer hated Christmas from an early age.

YOUNG EBENEZER. It's too commercial! And it's icky
goody-goody. I hate it!

GHOST. Poor Ebenezer grew up in an orphanage.

EBENEZER SCROOGE. No, I didn't.

GHOST. Yes, you did. (A man and a woman, the Beadle and
Wife, enter with a big pot and a big ladle. The Beadle holds the
his Wife holds the ladle. The Beadle and his Wife are played by
same actors who played Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig, but they've taken
their red wigs and done a few other minor costume adjustments.)

BEADLE. Come get your porridge, you ungrateful orphan child!

WIFE. So-weeeeee! So-weeeeee! Come along, little piggies! (Zaps him with the zipper.)

Wife ladles porridge into bowls, which Young Ebenezer and Young Jacob
Jacob hold out to her. Ladling it out.) Here's glop for you, and glop
for you. Now, choke on it! (Young Ebenezer and Young Jacob melt
gobbling up their oatmeal.)

GHOST. Isn't it sad? The poor, poor children in this horri-
orphanage.

BEADLE. The children should be very grateful for the food
give them, isn't that so, Mrs. Fezziwig?

WIFE. My name isn't Mrs. Fezziwig.

BEADLE. No, of course, it's not. It's something else. Mrs. Cratchit

WIFE. No, I can't remember what my name is, but it isn't M-

atchit. Oh look, one of the young boys is coming over to us.
(Young Ebenezer walks over to the Beadle and holds out his empty bowl.)
YOUNG EBENEZER. Please, sir ... I want some more.

BEADLE. What???

YOUNG EBENEZER. Please, sir ... I want some ... more!

EBENEZER SCROOGE. None of this rings a bell.

GHOST. Well it's your childhood.

EBENEZER SCROOGE. I don't remember it.

GHOST. Well, you've repressed it.

WIFE. He wants more!! Oliver Twist, you are an ungrateful child!

EBENEZER SCROOGE. You see, she said another name. You've
ken me to some other person's past, you incompetent fool.

GHOST. She didn't say Oliver Twist. She said Ebenezer Scrooge.

EBENEZER SCROOGE. I heard her say Oliver Twist.

WIFE. Ebenezer Scrooge, you are an ungrateful child. I don't know
why I said Oliver Twist. Maybe the other child is Oliver Twist.

YOUNG JACOB. No. I'm Jacob Marley.

WIFE. Jacob Marley ... I don't remember having an orphan by
at name here.

BEADLE. I think you're Mrs. Fezziwig.

WIFE. Well I'm not. You're the Beadle and I'm Mrs. Beadle.

BEADLE. If you say so.

EBENEZER SCROOGE. (To Ghost.) I think you don't know what
quite doing.

GHOST. Look, the point is, you were either an orphan or you
weren't, but you had a tough life, it helped to make you the mean,
mean man you became. Okay? Point made ... let's not get hung up
in whether all the details are exactly right or not. All right?

EBENEZER SCROOGE. I think you're incompetent.

GHOST. Well I think you're mean and stingy and a terrible person.

EBENEZER SCROOGE. Aaaaaaaagggghhh!

GHOST. And now that's the end of my tenure as the Ghost of
Christmas Past. You go back to sleep for a while, and the Ghost of
Christmas Present will show up shortly.

BEADLE. And where do we go?

GHOST. You go to the kitchen, to wash out that disgusting pot.

BEADLE. All right.

WIFE. Let's make the children wash the pot! And scrub the floor too!

YOUNG EBENEZER. I don't want to scrub the floor!

WIFE. Oliver Twist, you're a lazy bum. You'll be fired from your
Job!

First