

SKROOGE



KNEEHIGH  
T · H · E · A · T · R · E

A WINTER GHOST STORY

"It is extremely doubtful if New Year's Eve in the old days was celebrated with the same frantic enthusiasm as we do today. It appears to complete the Christmas festivities, while not so long ago Twelfth Night was the important date. When I was a lad my first experience of *theatre* came at this time from the last of the gallant *Geese Dancers*. It was colourful and a little frightening but, as most of the participants were of stalwart Methodist background, there was little real mischief and no malice. These *disguised* characters, masked and robbed, with faces hidden or blackened, came knocking on the door from Christmas to Twelfth Night."

“ (Dickens) ... began to make plans for another journey – this time to Cornwall ... He wanted to visit the *“very dreariest and most desolate portion of the sea-coast”* and, in addition, he wanted to go down one of the tin mines there ... The party went on a week’s trip which would take them through Liskeard, Bodmin, Truro and Land’s End. The tin mines were to appear ... when Dickens came to write *A Christmas Carol* in the following year ...

Side by side with Crime, Disease, and Misery in England, Ignorance is always brooding, and is always certain to be found. It was out of this vision of the world that Dickens now found his new subject; and within a few weeks he had created *A Christmas Carol*, the wonderful story of redemption ... This was the book he had been wanting to write all along; and so this powerful Christmas tale, which has achieved a kind of immortality, was born out of the very conditions of the time ...

(Dickens) ... saw before him always the twin phantoms of Ignorance and Want. He saw what others also saw: "*Many of them retire for the night, if they retire at all, under the dry arches of bridges and viaducts; under porticoes, sheds and carts; to outhouses; in sawpits; on staircases ...*"



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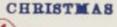
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Christmas Candle *Russian Traditional*  
While Shepherds Watched  
*Cornish, Tune: Lyngham*  
Cold Winter is Come *English 1891*

Cossack David Bacon, Arabic Words  
Zamungaza African



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## The Spirit of Christmas Past

## December

|         |                               |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| 2-4     | Newquay Treviglas School      |
| 5       | Octagon Theatre, Okehampton   |
| 8 & 9   | Launceston College            |
| 10-12   | Princess Pavilion, Falmouth   |
| 16 & 17 | The Barn, Dartington          |
| 18 & 19 | St. Donats Arts Centre, Wales |
| 22 & 23 | The Acorn, Penzance           |

## January

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 5-16    | The Drum, Theatre Royal,<br>Plymouth    |
| 20-23   | City Hall, Truro                        |
| 27      | Horrabridge Community Hall,<br>W.Devon. |
| 28      | Thomas Hardy School,<br>Dorchester      |
| 29 & 30 | Weymouth College, Dorset                |

## February

|         |                                    |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| 3-6     | The Plough, Torrington             |
| 9 & 10  | Calstock Village Hall              |
| 11 & 12 | St. Austell Vith Form College      |
| 13      | Lostwithiel Community Centre       |
| 17 & 18 | Heywood High School,<br>Cinderford |
| 19 & 20 | Merlin Theatre, Frome              |
| 23 & 24 | David Hall, South Petherton        |
| 25      | Looe Sports Hall                   |
| 26      | Callington School                  |

## March

1 Mullion School  
3 Tysul Hall, Llandysul, Dyfed  
4 Theatre Mwldan, Cardigan, Dyfed  
6 • The Acorn, Penzance



Supported by  
West Wales Arts



*Grateful Thanks*  
for their help in the m

for their help in the mounting of this production: John Voogd, Dave Mynne, Jo King, Alan Clements, Malletts of Truro, House of Flowers, Tony Davies, Tim Hubbard, Alan Monks, Phil Jukes, Sean Hooper, Romer Robins for delectable catering, Tim & Candy, Chris, Leanne, Jill & David, Ali Firih, Trudy Stallard & Ted for mice catching, The Acorn in Penzance, The National Trust, L.A. Davies for literary consultation, Hancock & Lawrence, Melanie Aylett, Don Hill, Dave Hunter, Plymouth Theatre Royal, Jeffery Florists, John Miller & Michael Truscott, Tony & Janet Stefan, Andrew Nott, Richard Ternouth, Safeways Plc for Christmas puddings ... and last but by no means least, all our families for their constant and invaluable support.

# The Players

The stage being thrown open to its fullest extent for your delectation

BRILLIANTLY ILLUMINATED

**MISTER MICHAEL SHEPHERD**

*will be giving you*

**EBENEZER SCROOGE**

**MISS SUSAN HILL**

*will be giving you a*

**Philanthropist, Belle, Martha Cratchit, Lily, Mrs Barnicoat, & Needy Chorus.**

**MISS NICOLA ROSEWARNE**

*will be giving you*

**Mrs Fred, Fan, Mrs Fezziwig, Mrs Cratchit, Mrs Price-Jones & Needy Chorus.**

**MISTER TRISTAN STURROCK**

*will be giving you*

**Bob Cratchit, the Spirit of Christmas Past, Topper, a Businessman & Needy Chorus.**

**MISTER GILES GULLIVER KING**

*will be giving you*

**Fred, young Scrooge, Tim Cratchit, Turkey-boy, Businessman & Needy Chorus.**

**MISTER ALLAN DRAKE**

*will be giving you a*

**Philanthropist, Fezziwig, Belle's husband, Peter Cratchit, Mr Bumble,  
a Businessman, & Needy Chorus.**

**MISTER JAMES CAREY**

*will be giving you*

**Jacob Marley, the Spirit of Christmas Present, a Businessman, Old Joe & Needy Chorus.**

**Directed & designed by Mister William Mitchell. Design, masks, puppet & prop construction by Mistress Alice King.**

**Prop & mask construction by Miss Anna-Maria Murphy. Set construction by Mister Adam Hebb.**

**Costume by Mister Sean Donohoe and Mistress Maggie Hutton. Musical Direction by Mister James Carey.**

**Technicals by Mister Allan Drake. Production Assistance by Miss Lucy Davies.**

**Administration by Mistress Amanda Harris. Script Consultation by Mister Nick Darke. Poster by Miss Susan Hill.**

**Programme designed by Mister Anthony Crosby. Daguerrotypes by Mister Steven Tanner. Kneehigh Fashions by Mr. David Mynne.**

**From the pen of our theatre correspondent,** news of other company members: **MISTER WILL COLEMAN** is delighting young and old in his solo storytelling entertainment *Revels on the Gump*. **MISS BEC APPLEBEE** has joined the troupe of Bedlam Theatre presenting that tragic love story, *Tristan and Isolde* to Cornish audiences. **MISTER DAVID MYNNE** is pursuing sun and fortune in the further corners of the Arabian Peninsula.

**MISS MARY WOODVINE** may be seen on the moving lantern slide box in a thrilling episode of *Casualty*.

**MR. CHARLIE BARNECUTT** has recently received much acclaim for his performance in *Good Companions*.

The pre-rehearsal tranning for the company was provided by **Green Ginger** to whom the company offer great thanks for their invaluable work.

## BIOGRAPHIES

### Miss Susan Hill

The *Duchess of Cornish Dialect*, will be remembered by our winter audiences for her startling portrayal of the moustachioed Salathiel Trenannigan in last year's *Ting Tang Mine*. She has a prodigious appetite for mince pies and all things Christmassy, and, in receipt of a glass of port, may be prevailed upon to give a most touching rendition of the temperance ballad "*Father's A Drunkard and Mother is Dead*".

### Miss Nicola Rosewarne

Is most sincerely delighted to be engaged in dramatic display with this positively splendid combination of artistes. Having been most enchantingly and delicately enticed into a temporary absence from her boon companion and the social whirl of the city, she will endeavour to perform with her customary unbounded eclat.

### Mister Tristan Sturrock

The great physician of comic interludes, tonight will don his most expletive costume to convey his role.

### Mr Giles Gulliver King

Ensuing this haymaking's curvilinear motion of the British Isles, Mister King is entente cordiale with that roisterous exaltation: *Kneehigh*. During tonight's dramatisation Mister King will warble, gesticulate, pang and pout, and entreats the playgoer to plunge into the pond of theatricality.

### Mister James Carey Esquire

The admired musical director, whom the company has the pleasure to announce their success in engaging, will tonight, with spirit gum and make-up stick, endeavour to deliver his most perilous personification to date. Rotivating crotchets and Cratchites, he will conduct a colossal cacophony of Christmas carols.



**CLOCKWORK BEETLE.**  
When wound up, crawls along the floor, and sings its wings. Price, 1/- by post, 3d extra.

### Mister Michael Shepherd

He who is by turns incomparable and inconsequential, treads the boards yet again to delight and dismay with his array of tortured grimaces and polemical physicalities in a characterisation of flinty meanness.

### Mister Allan Drake

The great illuminary, will be astounding audiences and dignitaries with his terrifying tactical technicals and arousing palpitations of pleasure with his pulsating pyrotechnicals. He will also be playing the tuba, an instrument of the potato family.

### Mister William Mitchell

The producer and visualiser, after much practice and refinement with terpsicore and polyphonal syncopations of Mister dickens' original text, is proud to present the company in their latest festive phantasmagoria for your delectation and approbation.

### Mister Adam Hebb *of the City of Plymouth*

Sophisticate, cosmopolitan, sensualist. Acknowledged wizard of wood and welder, formidable ferrous engineer, has in his customary fashion constructed a cornucopia of intoxication and hilarity for your scenic delectation.

### Mistress Alice King

Her performing chisel proudly presents an unbelievable conflagration of theatrical properties, puppets and amazing animation. Her fingers have flown and her mind has raced in a maelstrom of creative ingenuity, featuring a dazzling array of mind-boggling illusion.



Latest novelty **CLOCKWORK DOG.** jumps along tilting balladore and shuttlescock. Price, 10 6.

### Miss Anna-Maria Murphy

Mistress of lithographic contortion and rubber visages, will not be playing the pionoforte in this entertainment. She can be seen on the Eve of Tom Bawcock wearing a fish illumination.

### Mister Sean Donohoe *of Tregajorran*

He has offered high-class, bespoke tailoring and couture for the last three of Kneehigh's grande tours, in which he has provided them with their distinguished appearance incorporating ease and quality with excessive durability. He will avail himself to families of the highest rank and to those of limited means with equal enthusiasm for any of your sartorial needs.

### Miss Lucy Davies

*Introducing the youthful shabash-wallah*

Now but two and twenty years old. She will neither sing nor perform, but has assisted in the procuring of this moral and interesting entertainment, for which she happily assumed recumbent postures to be immortalised in latex for your service and delight.

### Mistress Maggie Hutton

Has been merrily machining the furbelows and folderolls and now invites you to peek under the petticoats to admire a glimpse of the ladies' excuse-mes and the gentlemen's unmentionables.

### Mistress Amanda Harris

Deep in her counting house, she bends her quill to pecuniary procurements to keep our travelling players in financial fecundity, that you, dear playgoer, may be merry and pleasantly diverted.



**MECHANICAL CROCODILE.** when wound up crawls along floor, opening and shutting its mouth. Price, 1/- by post 3d extra.

"Business? Mankind was my business!"

*A Christmas Carol* **Charles Dickens**

# The Company

Cornwall's Kneehigh Theatre was formed in 1980 to provide exciting live theatre for children and their families. This aim still remains but the company now embarks on a wider programme: innovative visual theatre in both indoor and outdoor venues, a commitment to new writing, theatre work in schools, community arts events, design and technology and residential courses at the Barn in Gorran Haven.

This work is done by a pool of practitioners all living in Cornwall. The pool consists of a multi-talented group of performers, musicians, artists, teachers, technicians, directors and administrators which means that the company can offer a wide range of professional skills and resources.

Kneehigh Theatre is a member of the South West Theatre Consortium; a creative collaboration of six major theatre companies in the South West which has ensured that decreasing resources are used to their full potential. The Consortium is also an effective working model of co-operation between diverse companies: Kneehigh Theatre, Plymouth Theatre Royal, Northcott Theatre, Orchard Theatre, Rent-a-Role and Theatre Alibi.

Kneehigh is also a member of the Cornwall Theatre Umbrella.

## Other Company pursuits

**December 6th**

Tree Dressing Day at Kings Wood.

**December 12th**

An Extraordinary Lantern Exhibition in  
Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro.  
Running throughout December.

**December 23rd**

Hot Fish Lantern Procession,  
Tom Bawcock's Eve, Mousehole.

**March 1993**

Recycling, Sculpture Project.

**April 19th-22nd**

Theatre Skills Course at the Barn  
with Mike Shepherd.

**Summer 1993**

Windfall touring June to September.

**And lots more to be confirmed!**

Information on all events and any aspect of our work from the Kneehigh Office, 11 Castle Street, Truro, TR1 3AF. Tel: (0872) 223159.

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