A CHRISTMAS CAROL 2015
TEACHER’S GUIDE
WELCOME TO ELM STREET CULTURAL ARTS VILLAGE!

Thank you for joining us for our production of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, directed by Tom Milley and adapted by Siobhan Brumbelow. This teacher’s guide will provide you with some tools and information to use in the classroom in accordance with the performance your school will be attending.

Here’s a list of what is included in this Teacher’s Guide:
- History of Elm Street
- Student Study Guide
  - Theatre Etiquette
  - Play/Author Background
  - *A Christmas Carol* Quote Match
  - *A Christmas Carol* Time Line Match
  - Recipe for Figgy Pudding
  - Behind the Scenes
  - Q & A Questions
  - Critique Thinking
- Production Credits for *A Christmas Carol*
- *A Christmas Carol* Quote Match Key
- *A Christmas Carol* Time Line Match Key
- GAPS for *A Christmas Carol* (Grades 1-8)

**History of Elm Street**

Elm Street’s mission statement is *to engage the community with relevant art experiences everyday by creating unique ways to enter into art and cultural environments.*

Elm Street began in 2002 with Gay Lora Grooms at our formerly known Towne Lake Arts Center, a smaller facility off of Bells Ferry Road. With the help of Shawn McLeod and Ann Litrel, in 2010, the city of Woodstock invited us to the growing Downtown community and we changed our name to Elm Street Cultural Arts Village, solidifying our new 4-acre property which includes the historical Reeves House and collaborating with visual artists in the community.

This 2015-16 Season, we are producing 20 different shows and events and 5 include opportunities for education field trips. Thank you again for being a part of our ever-growing educational programming!
A CHRISTMAS CAROL 2015 TEACHER’S GUIDE

December 10-24, 2015

Student Study Guide

ELM STREET CULTURAL ARTS VILLAGE
Theatre Etiquette

Theatre is a partnership between the actors on stage and the members of the audience. It is a two-sided communication process. An actor’s goal is to entertain his or her audience. A responsive audience reciprocates the cast’s energy, which in turn encourages the actors to give even more back to that audience. **The better the audience, the better the performance will be!** Each performance is unique—like snowflakes, no two are ever the same. Many young people have never attended a live theatre performance and may have questions as to how they should conduct themselves. Listed below are answers to the most common questions asked by new audience members.

1. **How is a live performance different from a movie?**
   The word: **LIVE.** The action that you see is happening right now, with people just like you. You should treat the performers the way that you would want to be treated if you were on the stage with a lot of people watching you. Wouldn’t you want them to listen and pay attention? To laugh when you were funny and applaud when they like what you were doing? (Also, no gum, drinks, or food are allowed in our theatre!)

2. **Do I have to stay in my seat and be as quiet as possible?**
   Not necessarily. You shouldn’t have personal conversations during the play, but you do not have to be completely quiet. If something funny is happening on stage, then you should laugh. If something scares you, it’s alright to gasp and be frightened.

3. **When should I clap my hands?**
   In a live play, you should applaud whenever the show is especially spectacular or entertaining—remember that applause is the way that you show the actors you like what they are doing! Also, you should applaud when a scene is over, the play is finished, and when the actors take their bow. **Most of all, ENJOY!**

**Background: A Christmas Carol and Charles Dickens**

*A Christmas Carol* was first published in 1843 and has never been out of print. It tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge and his journey from being a crotchety old miser to transforming his ways by being generous, kind, and loving to all of those around him. There are many film and stage adaptations of this classic story and the one you will witness is an original work written by Elm Street’s Siobhan Brumbelow.

Charles Dickens is a well-known author in the Victorian Era, writing about poverty and society. His works include: *Oliver Twist, Great Expectations* and *A Christmas Carol.* Dickens was not the first author to celebrate the Christmas season in literature, but it was he who first broadcasted his vision of the how people receive the holiday.
A Christmas Carol Quote Match

A Christmas Carol was written in Olde English and has been modernized over the years. Try to match Scrooge’s Olde English lines from the story to its modern translation.

| A. “What right have you to be merry? You’re poor enough.” | “Ah! A ghost! Leave me alone!” |
| B. “Dreadful apparition! Why do you trouble me?” | “Please say that I don’t have to die.” |
| C. “Even if I have grown so much wiser, what then. I am not changed towards you.” | “You should be sad because you don’t have any money.” |
| D. “Oh, tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone.” | “Yahoo! Hooray!” |
| E. “Hallo. Whoop. Hallo here.” | “So I’m smart! That doesn’t mean my feelings towards you have changed.” |

A Christmas Carol Time Line

Scrooge travels through time with help from the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, & Future. Put these A Christmas Carol events in order starting with the number one.

___ Scrooge purchases the prize turkey
___ Bob Cratchit toasts to Mr. Scrooge “The Founder of the Feast”
___ Scrooge shoos away a caroling boy
___ Fezziwig’s Party
___ Scrooge’s bed curtains are stolen
___ Eben is visited by Little Fan
___ Scrooge is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Present
FIGGY PUDDING RECIPE

Pudding:
1 1/2 cups chopped dried pitted dates
1/2 cup chopped dried figs
2 cups water
1 teaspoon baking soda
100 grams (3 1/2 ounces or 7 tablespoons) butter, softened
1 cup superfine sugar
2 eggs
2 1/2 cups self-rising flour
75 grams (2 1/2-ounces) dark chocolate, grated
Butter, for coating ramekins
Ice cream or whipped cream, for garnish

Sauce:
2 cups brown sugar
2 cups heavy cream
200 grams (7-ounces or 14 tablespoons) butter
Fresh figs, quartered, for garnish
Vanilla ice cream, optional
Whipped heavy cream, optional

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Add the dates, dried figs and water to a medium saucepan and bring to boil over medium heat. Remove the pan from the heat and stir in the baking soda. Let cool for about 5 minutes, then add to a blender and puree.

Using a hand mixer, cream the butter and sugar in a large bowl. Add the eggs and beat well. Fold in the flour, the pureed date mixture and the chocolate.

Put the mixture into 4 buttered, 1-cup individual ramekins, filling halfway or slightly under. Put in the oven and bake for 20 to 25 minutes.

Prepare the sauce by stirring the sugar, cream and butter in a medium saucepan over low heat. Simmer until the sugar dissolves. Raise the heat and bring to a boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for 5 minutes. Add the butter and stir until incorporated.

Remove the ramekins from the oven and let stand for 10 minutes. May be served in the ramekin or unmolded onto a small serving plate. With paring knife cut a cross in the top of the puddings for the sauce.

Pour the sauce into the cross in the center of each pudding, then pour more sauce over the puddings and allow to soak in slightly. Top with fresh figs and vanilla ice cream or heavily whipped cream. Serve warm.
Behind the Scenes

It takes more than just a cast of characters to put together a production. There are many individuals and volunteers who help behind the scenes in creating a show.

Director - in theatre, the major interpretive figure, the artistic visionary whose job it is to bring to life the playwright’s script.
Stage Manager - normally “calls the show” (i.e., gives commands to execute all cues during performance) and accepts responsibility for maintaining the production. They also assist the director during rehearsals and are essentially the director’s right-hand man.
Set Designer - one responsible for designing and executing the construction of the set
Costume Designer - one responsible for designing and executing the making of the costumes
Props Artisan - one responsible for designing and executing the making of the props
Light/Sound Technician - the person who operates the lighting system or sound system during a performance

Q & A Questions

At the end of the performance, our field trip audiences have the opportunity to ask the cast and crew some questions about the production process. Here are some common theatrical questions to prompt you and your fellow audience after the show.

- How long did you rehearse?
- What was the most difficult thing to learn how to do?
- How many plays have you been in?
- What is your favorite moment in the show?
- What’s the best way to deal with stage fright?
- What are some methods that helped you to learn your lines?

Critique Thinking

Now’s your chance to think like a theatre critic! Answer these questions about the performance and compare them to your experience and vision for A Christmas Carol.

1. What were some of the similarities/differences in reading A Christmas Carol and seeing the play onstage?
2. Did anything become clearer when watching the performance over reading the play? Were there any moments you particularly enjoyed?
3. Was there anything about the performance that you did not like?
4. Would you have rather read or seen A Christmas Carol first?
5. Have you seen A Christmas Carol before? What are some similarities and differences between this performance and the other production?
**A Christmas Carol** by Charles Dickens
Presented by Elm Street Cultural Arts Village | December 10-24

Director…………………………………………………………Tom Milley
Playwright………………………………………………….Siobhan Brumbelow
Stage Manager………………………………………………Emily Williquette
Music & Sound………………………………………Christopher Brazelton
Scenic Lead…………………………………………………..Brad Leak
Costume Lead………………………………………………Cindy Flanders
Props Lead……………………………………………………Sarah Prochaska
Hospitality Manager……………………………………..Andrew Berardi

Setting: Christmas Eve in 19th Century London

**Director of A Christmas Carol| Tom Milley**

Tom Milley is no stranger to community theatre, and has been involved in local theatre for over 20 years. He has directed numerous productions including *Peter Pan* at The Theatre Project in Mableton. You may have seen him in the Elm Street productions such as *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Hello Dolly*. He is happy to be returning to Elm Street and to be directing his first show here.

**Playwright of A Christmas Carol| Siobhan Brumbelow**

Siobhan Brumbelow holds a B.A. in Theatre from Brenau University and has toured northern U.S. and Canada with Missoula Children’s Theatre. She has been involved with the Elm Street Cultural Arts Village (TLAC) since 2002. She has had many responsibilities with this theatre organization including: directing, teaching, choreographing, script writing, visionary team lead, and managing & performing with the iThink Improv Troupe. She now works full-time as the Education Manager with Elm Street.
A Christmas Carol Quote Match - KEY

A Christmas Carol was written in Olde English and has been modernized over the years. Try to match Scrooge’s Olde English lines from the story to its modern translation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Original Olde English</th>
<th>Modern Translation</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>“What right have you to be merry? You’re poor enough.”</td>
<td>“Ah! A ghost! Leave me alone!”</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>“Dreadful apparition! Why do you trouble me?”</td>
<td>“Please say that I don’t have to die.”</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>“Even if I have grown so much wiser, what then. I am not changed towards you.”</td>
<td>“You should be sad because you don’t have any money.”</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>“Oh, tell me I may sponge away the writing on this stone.”</td>
<td>“Yahoo! Hooray!”</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>“Hallo. Whoop. Hallo here.”</td>
<td>“So I’m smart! That doesn’t mean my feelings towards you have changed.”</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Christmas Carol Time Line KEY

Scrooge travels through time with help from the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, & Future. Put these A Christmas Carol events in TIME order starting with the number one.

_7_ Scrooge purchases the prize turkey
_5_ Bob Cratchit toasts to Mr. Scrooge “The Founder of the Feast”
_3_ Scrooge shoos away a caroling boy
_2_ Fezziwig’s Party
_6_ Scrooge’s bed curtains are stolen
_1_ Eben is visited by Little Fan
_4_ Scrooge is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Present
Elm Street Cultural Arts Village

Georgia Performance Standards for School Performances: Grades 1-8

A Christmas Carol: December 2015

Benefits of Performance Standards:
As described in the National Standards for Arts Education, arts education benefits both student and society. The arts cultivate the whole child, gradually building many kinds of literacy while developing intuition, reasoning, imagination, and dexterity into unique forms of expression and communication.

Theatre Arts 1
TAES1.1: Analyzing & constructing meaning from theatrical experiences, dramatic literature, & electronic media
TAES1.8: Examining the roles of theatre as a reflection of past and present civilizations
TAES1.9: Exploring the relevance of theatre to careers
TAES1.10: Engaging actively & appropriately as an audience member in theatre & other media experiences

Theatre Arts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
TAES2.1, TAES3.1, TAES4.1, TAES5.1, TAMS 6.1, TAMS 7.1: Analyzing & constructing meaning from theatrical experiences, dramatic literature, & electronic media
TAES2.8, TAES3.8, TAES4.8, TAES5.8, TAMS 6.8, TAMS 7.8: Examining the roles of theatre as a reflection of past and present civilizations
TAES2.9, TAES3.9, TAES4.9, TAES5.9: Exploring the relevance of theatre to careers
TAES2.10, TAES3.10, TAES4.10, TAES5.10, TAMS6.10, TAMS7.10, TAMS8.10: Critiquing various aspects of theatre & other media using appropriate supporting evidence
TAES2.11, TAES3.11, TAES4.11, TAES5.11, TAMS6.11, TAMS7.11, TAMS8.11: Engaging actively & appropriately as an audience member in theatre & other media experiences

Theatre Arts 6, 7, 8
TAMS6.8, TAMS7.8, TAMS8.8: Examining the roles of theatre as a reflection of past and present civilizations
TAMS6.9, TAMS7.9, TAMS8.9: Exploring the careers and business of theatre

English Language Arts (ELA): Speaking and Listening 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
ELAGSE1SL2: Confirm understanding of written texts read aloud or information presented orally or through media by asking and answering questions about key details and requesting clarification if something is not understood.
ELAGSE1SL3, ELAGSE2SL3, ELAGSE3SL3, ELAGSE4SL3, ELAGSE5SL3: Ask and answer questions in order to seek help, get information, or clarify something that is not understood.

English Language Arts (ELA): Speaking and Listening 6
ELAGSE6SL2: Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.
ELAGSE7SL2, ELAGSE8SL2: Analyze the main ideas and supporting details presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.