

# SCROOGE - PREVIEW

## Scene Two – Scrooge’s Office

(Stools, high desks etc – could all be on wheels for easy movement on and off and set up as the song finishes – CRATCHIT is at work at one – there is a practical door somewhere. SCROOGE is outside his office where a group of CAROL SINGERS have remained from the song)

SINGERS God rest ye merry gentlemen let nothing you dismay. Remember Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas.....

SCROOGE Humbug!

**(The SINGERS rush away. SCROOGE addresses the audience)**

SCROOGE You can pack up all your boos and howls! If you don’t we’ll cancel the interval! So if you want to see this show to the end, then you’ll shut up and sit tight! Welcome to my offices where I make loads and loads of money. I make so much money I don’t know what to do with it all! Isn’t it fun? Did you know I even made some money from a little kiddie who splashed mud on my trousers – he only had a penny on him, but I had that. Serves him right! If you look after the pennies, the pounds will look after themselves and I look after hundreds and thousands of pennies.

This is where my partner, Jacob Marley, and I set up business. Seven years ago tonight Marley died and so this is all my business. All my money  
HAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!!!

Now, let me make sure my clerk Bob Cratchit is working his fingers to the bone!

**(SCROOGE enters his office)**

SCROOGE Well Cratchit, are you working your fingers to the bone? Are all the pennies accounted for?

BOB Yes Mr Scrooge

SCROOGE Are all the I’s dotted?

BOB Yes Mr Scrooge

SCROOGE Are all the T’s crossed?

BOB Yes Mr Scrooge

SCROOGE And you say all these pennies are counted? (He looks at large piles of coins on table.)

BOB Yes Mr Scrooge - all in neat piles Mr Scrooge

SCROOGE **(He pushes over all the piles into one big mound again)** Well double check them will you!

BOB Yes Mr Scrooge!

**(AUDIENCE Boos)**

SCROOGE Oh and you lot can watch out as well – don't forget you won't get out of here today without paying for it!!! Don't feel sorry for him, at least he has a job - at the moment!

**(FRED Enters)**

FRED Uncle Ebenezer

SCROOGE And what do you want with me Nephew?

FRED I have come to wish you all the greetings for the season in this festive yuletide upon this very moment of the messiah's natal advent!

SCROOGE And what on earth is that meant to mean?

FRED I haven't the faintest idea!

SCROOGE Well be off with you, I have work to do!

FRED Oh Uncle. You'll come to Christmas Dinner with us won't you?

SCROOGE Oh no I won't!

FRED Oh yes you will

SCROOGE Oh no I won't

FRED Oh yes you will

SCROOGE Oh no I won't. On no I won't. I WON'T!

FRED Booooo **(He encourages the audience to join in)**

SCROOGE BAH HUMBUG!

FRED No thank you, I prefer sherbet lemons!

SCROOGE No, I mean this Christmas lark, it's all a humbug.

FRED Oh no it isn't!

SCROOGE Oh yes it is!

FRED Oh no it isn't!

SCROOGE Look we've done that gag already. Can't we get on with the plot?

FRED What plot?

SCROOGE Well I think there's one somewhere – it'll probably have Charles Dickens turning in his grave though!

FRED You can't call Christmas a humbug Uncle. It's a jolly time for happy thoughts and lots of lovely presents and tons of food!

BOB Oh yes Fred – it's a wonderful time.

SCROOGE That's enough out of you Cratchit – get on with your work or you'll find yourself, **(shouting)** UNEMPLOYED!!

BOB Yes Mr Scrooge. Sorry Mr Scrooge!  
**(there is a knock at the door)**

SCROOGE Who is it?  
**(Enter MISS TIX and MISS SCALEY – they are dressed in something outlandish – they wear fancy dress throughout the show – they carry charity collection tins)**

TIX My name is Miss Tix

SCALEY My name is Miss Scaley

SCROOGE How very unfortunate.

TIX Do we have the pleasure of addressing Mr Marley or Mr Scrooge?

SCROOGE Mr Marley has been dead these seven years.

SCALEY Well, then Mr Scrooge. At this festive time of the year, many people find that they want to do something to help the poor and needy.

TIX More and more people are in need of want and so we like to do our bit for them at Christmas. You see we are charity fundraisers and we wondered whether you would like to sponsor us.

SCALEY Yes, we are going to have our heads shaved.

TIX You can sponsor us for a penny a hair of £20 to have the lot taken off!

SCALEY What can we put you down for?

SCROOGE Nothing

TIX You wish to remain anonymous

SCROOGE I wish to be left alone!

SCALEY Maybe the head shave doesn't appeal to you.

TIX Miss Scaley here is also going to sit in a bath full of custard. That's going to be a five pounds per minute. How would you like to fill in the sponsor form right now Sir?

SCROOGE Are there no street corners for these poor people to beg on? No workhouses? Prisons? Rocks to break?

SCALEY Sadly yes!

TIX Woe and alack a day!

SCROOGE What? Let them fend for themselves –it's their fault they are poor!

FRED Oh Boooooo **(encourages the audience again)**

SCROOGE Get out of my office, the both of you!

FRED You can put me down for a fiver for the custard bath!

TIX Thank you Sir.

SCALEY We'll try to come up with some more ideas which might appeal Sir.

TIX Maybe we could eat 100 bananas dressed as a monkey

SCALEY Or we could see how many sprouts we could eat.

TIX Do you like sprouts?

SCALEY Hate them.

TIX I will sponsor you on that! Good bye sir!

**(Exit MISS TIX & MISS SCALEY)**

FRED Well look Uncle, maybe you'll consider coming to have Christmas dinner with me and my girlfriend.

SCROOGE A girlfriend? A female? What on earth are you doing with her?

FRED Well I love her and we are going to get married!

SCROOGE Pah!

FRED Pah?

SCROOGE Pah!

FRED What does that mean?

SCROOGE No idea!

FRED I see – well, what do you say? Will you come to dinner?

SCROOGE You've got as much chance of seeing me come round to your Christmas dinner as you have of seeing the mice on this office floor break into a display of line- dancing!

**(A group of small people dressed as mice appear and perform an impromptu line-dance. It's short and to the point. They exit quickly. Enter DOTTIE and JONNY with cleaning equipment – mop and bucket etc)**

JONNY Hello boys and girls? What have I got?

AUDIENCE You've got the sprouts!

JONNY No it's just the way my trousers hang!

DOTTIE You be quiet! Oh hello Mr Scrooge. Hello Fred, Mr Scrooge's good looking nephew

SCROOGE And what are you doing here Madam?

DOTTIE Well it's nearly seven Mr Scrooge. I thought I would give you a quick run round with a damp rag!

SCROOGE I beg your pardon?

DOTTIE Your office Mr Scrooge – you don't want to go off on your Christmas break with a dusty office?

FRED I don't think Uncle Ebenezer is planning a break Mrs Dilber.

DOTTIE           What? Not going to enjoy smoked salmon, scrambled egg and croissants washed down with some nicely chilled Bucks Fizz for breakfast followed up by some sherry at 11 and maybe a crafty mince pie, then when while the bird is on watch Bing Crosby in White Christmas... oh I love that film

FRED             Oh so do I

BOB              Oh so do I

JONNY            Oh so do I

**(The four break into a chorus of White Christmas)**

SCROOGE        Will you shut up!!!

DOTTIE           Oh you are such a spoilsport, a really miserable old ba....

FRED             Better be going now. My bird needs a good stuffing and I am the man for the job! Good bye Mrs Dilber, Jonny, Bob. Merry Christmas.

DOTTIE/BOB/JONNY   Merry Christmas

FRED             Merry Christmas Uncle

SCROOGE        Bah Humbug

**(FRED exits)**

SCROOGE        And I suppose you want the whole day off tomorrow?

BOB              Well if it's quite convenient

SCROOGE        Well of course it's not convenient.

BOB              But its only once a year Mr Scrooge

SCROOGE        A poor excuse for picking a man's pocket every 25th December

DOTTIE           Oh go on Mr Scrooge – you really mustn't be so mean. The poor man has got a wife and kids!

BOB              It's ok Mrs Dilber, we will survive. We have but little food for our festive day. We will eat the dust off the floor, lick the condensation from the windows and tuck into the mildew from the walls! I might manage to get all the children a twig to enjoy as their present! But I might not be able to get enough presents, so Tiny Tim might have to go without!

DOTTIE           Oh ladies and gentleman, boys and girls, we can't let Bob Cratchit have such a terrible Christmas can we? Can we? **(business with AUDIENCE)** No, of course we can't. Mr Scrooge, you can't deny Bob permission to have Christmas Day with his family can you?

SCROOGE        I certainly can!

BOB              Oh but Mr Scrooge, the children will miss their Christmas with their Dad

DOTTIE           Surely your heart is not that cold!

BOB It can't be as freezing cold as this office is now, surely.

SCROOGE It might be, and don't call me Shirley. Well you and that rabble out there had better say please!

BOB OK Mr Scrooge. **(to AUDIENCE)** Come on everyone say please for me, after three.  
One Two Three

AUDIENCE Please

SCROOGE What?

BOB One more time everyone, one, two, three.

AUDIENCE Please

SCROOGE Pretty please

BOB One two three, Pretty Please

AUDIENCE Pretty Please

SCROOGE Bah – well you had better go then – and here's your pay – but be all the earlier on what you call Boxing Day.

BOB Thank you Mr Scrooge. Merry Christmas Mr Scrooge and to you Dame Dottie  
**(BOB leaves)**

DOTTIE Oh Mr Scrooge you are all heart!

SCROOGE All the thanks I get! Bah! You know I work all night. I work all day, to pay the bills I have to pay

DOTTIE Oh ain't it sad!

SCROOGE And still there never seems to be a single penny left for left for me.

JONNY That's too bad!

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