**TIME PERIOD:** 1925, 1867, 1878  **PLACE:** East Haddam & Hartford, CT

**CAST OF CHARACTERS:** in order of appearance

- **William Gillette**
- **Scrooge**
- **Bob Cratchit**
- **Martha Cratchit**
- **Kathy Cratchit**
- **Tiny Tim**
- **Harry**
- **Sikorski**
- **Wadsworth**
- **J.P. Morgan**
- **Benedict Arnold**
- **Young Scrooge**
- **Jen**
- **William Goodspeed**
- **Isabel**
- **Young J.P. Morgan**
- **P.T. Barnum**
- **Helen**
- **Demon**
- **Mark Twain**
- **Tiffy**
PROLOGUE: On the Stage of the Goodspeed Opera House—December, 1925
Connecticut actor and playwright William Gillette readies himself for his turn in the role of “Scrooge.” His troupe of thespians joins him, donning their costumes, as they prepare to perform a more modern version of the Dickens classic A Christmas Carol – A Connecticut Christmas Carol!

SCENE 1: The Morning of Christmas Eve, 1925—East Haddam, Connecticut
Martha Cratchit assembles her family for their day in the city. As they leave the house and make their way through the bustling town square so, too, does Bob’s boss, Mr. Ebeneezer Scrooge. As he passes, he answers each street vendor’s holiday greeting with a “Bah, humbug!” or an admonishment for late payments to his lending office.

Songs: “It’s the Season” & “Out and About”

SCENE 2: Scrooge’s Office—Later that Day
Cratchit asks to leave work early before the stores close; his children are waiting for him so they can buy a Christmas gift for their mother. Scrooge scolds him as a group of carolers approaches the office, led by Scrooge’s nephew Harry. Harry invites Scrooge to Christmas dinner at his home when two philanthropists approach the office collecting alms for the poor. Scrooge refuses to help and storms to the back of his office. Scrooge lets Bob leave and reluctantly agrees to give him the day off for Christmas, but he docks his pay $2 for his early departure.


Watch For: Krampus - a scary demon

SCENE 3: Scrooge’s Front Door / Bedroom
Scrooge arrives home, and as he reaches to open the door, he hears a voice moaning his name: “Scrooo-oo-o-oge...” Scrooge enters the house, but the voice follows him as he settles in for the night. Suddenly, bells start ringing throughout his home, and the spirit of John Pierpont (J.P.) Morgan appears in front of him, wrapped in ticker tape, chains, cash boxes, keys, padlocks, and heavy purses. He tells Scrooge that he will be visited by three more spirits before the night is over and disappears.

Song: “Krampus (Reprise)”

Watch For: A face and hands in the door, a lightning and thunder storm, smoke in the fireplace, loud bells, a ghost, hands reaching behind furniture

SCENE 4: Scrooge’s Bedroom
Scrooge drifts into sleep when his alarm clock rings out and he hears another voice. It belongs to the ghost of Benedict Arnold, the Spirit of Christmas Past. He was sent by J.P. Morgan to find the root of Scrooge’s contempt for mankind.

Watch For: Loud bells and clock sounds

SCENE 5: The Schoolhouse—1867
Benedict Arnold transports Scrooge to a schoolhouse in 1867. The school master has a young Ebeneezer Scrooge over his knee, spanking him with a switch, and the whole class laughs at him. Once the class has gone, his sister Jen tries to comfort Ebeneezer to no avail; Ebeneezer plots his revenge.

Song: “Forgive and Forget”

Watch For: A spanking, cannon sounds

SCENE 6: A Party at Goodspeed’s Opera House—Christmas Eve, 1878
Benedict Arnold shows Scrooge another scene from his past: William H. Goodspeed’s Christmas party in 1878. They see Ebeneezer as a young man with his then-business partner, J.P. Morgan, and his fiancée, Mr. Goodspeed’s niece Isabel. Ebeneezer and Mr. Goodspeed get into an argument about a business deal, Mr. Goodspeed growing frustrated with Ebeneezer’s lack of compassion and grace in his lending deals. Ebeneezer then pushes him over, bringing the entire party and his engagement to Isabel to a halt. Morgan congratulates Ebeneezer on his loyalty to the business over his relationship.

Song: “Stars in the Sky” & “Forgive and Forget”

Watch For: Two loud arguments

SCENE 7: Scrooge’s Bedroom
The church bell chimes again, and the ghost of P.T. Barnum appears in Scrooge’s bedroom. He is the Spirit of Christmas Present. He makes fun of Scrooge for being so mean and nasty.

Song: “Everyone But You”

Watch For: Loud bells and clock sounds
SCENE 1: A Field in East Haddam/The Cratchit Home—Christmas Eve, 1925
P.T. Barnum takes Scrooge to a snowy field outside the Cratchit’s house in East Haddam. Scrooge is shocked to hear Martha say the children will not receive presents this year, but P.T. Barnum reminds him that they barely have enough money to buy food. Tiny Tim moves well despite his crutches, but Barnum enlightens Scrooge to the severity of the situation; though medicine has made strides in the cure for polio, the Cratchits lack the money to pay for such treatments.
**Songs:** “It’s the Season” (Reprise) & “God Bless Us Every One”

SCENE 2: The Hartford Townhouse of Scrooge’s Nephew, Harry
Before returning to Scrooge’s home, Barnum shows him one more scene: a Christmas Eve gathering at his nephew Harry’s house. When Harry proposes a toast to his uncle, Ebeneezer Scrooge, all the guests exclaim that he has not earned well wishes. Harry reminds them that his uncle Scrooge is the only family he has left. The party toasts Scrooge with a wish that they can help him find his way on his life’s journey. Benedict Arnold returns Scrooge to his bed, and while Scrooge is alone he decides to ignore everything he has learned from Benedict Arnold and P.T. Barnum, declaring that J.P. Morgan’s plan to change Scrooge has failed.
**Songs:** “Bless Us” (Reprise) & “It Nearly Worked”

SCENE 3: Scrooge’s Bedroom
Church bells ring out again, and another spirit appears. This time, it is the ghost of Mark Twain, or The Ghost of Christmas Future. Twain tells Scrooge it is time for him to learn from his pain.
**Watch For:** Loud church bells, a large and scary demon figure, a loud clap of thunder

SCENE 4: The Griswold Inn, in the Not-Too-Distant Future
Mark Twain takes Scrooge to the wake of someone near and dear to his heart. Scrooge notes the large number of people in attendance, but he is surprised to discover they are all cheerfully celebrating this person’s death. In fact, they are celebrating Scrooge’s death! As Scrooge and Twain watch the merriment at his expense, Scrooge tries to run away, but the spirit has another destination in store.
**Song:** “Eulogies – Let Us Now Give Thanks”

SCENE 5: The Cemetary
Twain takes Scrooge to the cemetery where Bob, Martha, and Kathy Cratchit stand over a headstone, holding Tiny Tim’s crutches and leg braces. Slowly, Scrooge realizes that he has been too greedy to help those truly in need, even though he had every opportunity to do so.
**Song:** “God Bless Us Every One (Reprise)”

**Watch For:** Smoke

SCENE 6: Scrooge’s Bedroom and the Street/The Cratchits’ Home/Harry’s Home—Christmas Morning
Ebeneezer Scrooge wakes up safe and sound in his own bed, with no spirits to speak of in his home. Relieved and transformed, Scrooge leaps out of bed and opens the window to let in the holiday cheer—it is Christmas morning! He buys the largest turkey in the butcher’s store, which he then brings to the Cratchit home. Upon arrival, he announces to Bob that he will be given a promotion and a raise starting the first of the year, he will forgive their mortgage, and he will help with Tim’s medical treatment. Martha invites him to stay, but Scrooge declines so he can spend the day with his nephew, Harry.
**Song:** “Behold!”

**Watch For:** A voice, actors in front of the stage, a dropped platter

EPILOGUE: On the Stage of the Goodspeed Opera House, 1925
William Gillette and his fellow actors gather around. While no one knows for sure what miracle changed Scrooge for good, he spent the rest of his life doing good for those around him.
**Song:** “Finale”

ACT II
Thespians: actors and actresses.
Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol*: a novel written by Charles Dickens in 1843.
Admonishment: an expression of warning or disapproval.
Philanthropists: people who seek to promote the welfare of others, especially by the generous donation of money to good causes.
Alms for the Poor: money, food, or other donations given to the poor or needy.
J.P. Morgan: an American financier and banker who dominated corporate finance and industrial consolidation in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
Ticker Tape: a long narrow strip of paper on which information such as stock exchange prices is printed by a machine.
Benedict Arnold: a General in the Revolutionary War who fought for the American Continental Army before defecting to the British in 1780.
P.T. Barnum: the founder of the Barnum & Bailey Circus.
Polio: an infectious viral disease, affecting mainly children, that causes loss of muscle function.
Mark Twain: an author and humorist who is best known for writing *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
Eulogies: speeches that praise someone who has died.