

# ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE A.C.T. CASTING OFFICE

**Please read this document carefully before completing the enclosed application!**

- All currently enrolled YC students **ages 8–13** are eligible to audition for A.C.T.'s 2017 production of ***A Christmas Carol***. Students must be 13 or under through the end of the performance period. There are approximately 25 roles for students of all types and sizes that may involve speaking, singing, and dancing. In addition to students who are good actors, we are also looking for any students with strong movement backgrounds (dance, gymnastics, etc.) and students who are great singers. Please note these and any other skills that might be useful on your application.
- These roles are unpaid and are considered part of Young Conservatory training at A.C.T. Students cast in our production of ***A Christmas Carol*** will be enrolled in our Professional Performance Seminar and will be automatically transferred into that class from any other Young Conservatory classes they have enrolled in for the Fall term. There is no tuition required for our Professional Performance Seminar for ***A Christmas Carol***.
- Students must be available to attend **every** rehearsal and performance from Tuesday, October 31 to Sunday, December 24. Rehearsals will take place at 30 Grant Avenue through November 22. Rehearsals will be held on weekday afternoons and evenings and on weekend mornings and afternoons. Monday will be the regularly scheduled day off, and Thanksgiving Day also will be a day off. Rehearsals then move to A.C.T.'s Geary Theater. Once rehearsals have moved into the theater, there will be some additional late morning hours on the weekdays as well as regular afternoon and evening hours from November 26 until ***A Christmas Carol*** opens on Friday, December 8. After the show opens, participants perform seven or eight shows per week through December 24. If a student is assigned to understudy another actor in the show, he or she will be required to attend all of the understudy rehearsals. A detailed schedule is included; *please note that this schedule is accurate at the time of this mailing but is subject to change.*
- Auditions for YC students will be held on the afternoon/evening of **September 6**. Each YC student will have an individual audition appointment and should plan on being at the auditions for approximately 30 minutes. Please prepare one minute of memorized text or monologue (preferably from a play, but it's also acceptable to take it from a favorite story) and a short song (1 minute, preferably something you really like to sing, even "Happy Birthday") to be sung unaccompanied.
- Callbacks, if necessary, are scheduled to take place on the afternoon/evening of **September 8**. Callbacks will include movement, singing, and acting. **ALL STUDENTS WHO ATTEND CALLBACKS ARE ASSUMED TO AGREE TO ACCEPT ANY ROLE THAT THEY MAY BE CAST IN.** We hope to finalize the casting for ***A Christmas Carol*** shortly after the callback auditions, but occasionally additional considerations delay our casting decision. However, everyone who is called back will be contacted whether they are cast or not.
- After considering the commitment outlined above and reading over the rehearsal and performance schedule, interested students should fill out the enclosed ***A Christmas Carol*** application and the YC application and return it to the YC by fax (415-834-3210) or regular mail as soon as possible, but no later than **August 31**. You will be emailed after we receive your application to set the time of your audition. Information and materials for auditions can be found at [www.act-sf.org/yc](http://www.act-sf.org/yc) under the Performance Opportunities section.

**YOU MUST BE ENROLLED IN THE YOUNG CONSERVATORY FALL CLASSES TO BE CONSIDERED.**

## **THE *CHRISTMAS CAROL* EXPERIENCE**

The ***Christmas Carol*** experience at American Conservatory Theater is a rare and cherished one because it is our annual opportunity to bring together all of our constituencies on one project. Professional actors, our third-year M.F.A. Program actors, and our Young Conservatory all come together for this event. To help make this experience a personally gratifying one and to support the training of our young actors, each YC actor is assigned a member of the cast (an M.F.A. Program actor) to serve as his/her mentor and to help guide the YC actor through the experience of working on a professional production.

In addition, and in compliance with California State Law, the Young Conservatory employs a performance monitor who supervises the YC actors and is available to assist them with schoolwork throughout the rehearsal and performance process.

A strong relationship exists between the Young Conservatory and schools in the area. Once a child is cast in ***A Christmas Carol*** a letter goes out from the head of the Young Conservatory to the head of each child's school explaining the involvement. To date, every school has been cooperative and supportive of the opportunity.

Parents of cast members have often organized a group to help with transportation, organizing meal breaks and other issues. Parents, however, are not allowed inside the rehearsal studio while rehearsal is going on. A quiet room is made available to students for those times when they are not immediately involved in rehearsal.

Role assignments are not held over from year to year. Each year the casting starts from scratch for the young roles in ***A Christmas Carol***. A year can make a big change in whether a student is suitable for a particular role.

We are so grateful for your interest and look forward to seeing you this year!