

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 2016 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 25th to Saturday, December 24th. Rehearsals will take place at 30 Grant Avenue through November 18th. 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 the A.C.T. Theater on Geary Street. 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 19th until *A Christmas Carol* opens on Friday, December 2nd. After the show opens, participants perform seven or eight shows per week through December 24th. 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 afternoons/evenings of **September 12 and September 13**. 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 (1-2 minutes, 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 15**. 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 called after we receive your application to set the time of your audition.
- You can also find this information on our website at www.act-sf.org. Go to the Young Conservatory section or our auditions page, then follow the links to the application and information.

**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. students, 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 (usually an M.F.A. student) 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 to help them stay on track with their 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 Craig Slaight, 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 meals, 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!