

# A Christmas Carol Online Sensory Friendly Guide

Our sensory friendly series aims to help people of all abilities watch theater comfortably and get the most fulfilling experience out of our shows. The *A Christmas Carol Online* video is not modified in any way but we have created a list to let viewers know when an intense moment is about to happen, giving you a chance to prepare accordingly.

These accommodations make it possible for people with autism spectrum disorders, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, sensory sensitivities, or young children to view the show without worry because of unexpected triggers.

For our in-person shows, we also provide a social story to help patrons get to know the theater and what to expect before stepping foot into the building. For more info, visit our sensory friendly website at [www.trinityrep.com/box-office/accessibility/](http://www.trinityrep.com/box-office/accessibility/) or email [jbutterfield@trinityrep.com](mailto:jbutterfield@trinityrep.com)

**Before you see the show:** This list contains moments in the video that may be either visually or audibly jarring for some audience members. The list is not comprehensive, but may help you prepare for abrupt or transitional moments in the video.

**Beware of spoilers ahead.**

## GENERAL NOTES:

- Jacob Marley (played by actor Stephen Thorne) is very spooky this year. See pictures (page 2) of him getting into costume, including colored contact lenses.
- The entire movie includes layered sound effects and music. Often actors speak over background noises.
- Feel free to adjust the volume, mute or pause and take a break any time.

## STAVE ONE

- When the Spirit of Christmas appears, computerized beeping sound effects are heard.
- After Scrooge says, "or nothing wonderful can come of the story we are going to relate," a phone rings.
- After Nephew Fred says, "...and a Happy New Year," Scrooge hangs up and his phone rings again.
- After Scrooge says, "I don't make merry myself at Christmas," he starts to shout.
- The Spirit of Christmas asks viewers if they have their bells, pots and pans ready. If these are too loud for you or your companions, do not use them!
- When Scrooge gets to the front doors of the theater under the Trinity Rep sign, Jacob Marley's voice says, "Ebenezer," and then you see him across the street and on the parking garage.

- When Scrooge enters the building after he says, "Humbug," Jacob Marley appears on the TV screens and there is loud static.
- After the narrator says, "for nobody lived in it but Scrooge," there is static and wind, followed by Jacob Marley's loud whispers.
- After "It's humbug still, I won't believe it," bells clanging, wind, gasping, and static overlap as Jacob Marley appears on the TV screens. The sound effects continue throughout the scene.
- When Scrooge says, "It's humbug, I tell you, humbug!" Jacob Marley bares his teeth and the sounds intensify.
- When Marley says, "why did I walk through crowds of fellow beings with my eyes turned down," the sound and echoes get louder.
- After Marley says, "Remember what has passed between us," the Spirit of Christmas bangs a pot with a spoon and the sound intensifies, until the computerized sounds come back.

## STAVE TWO

- The Spirit of Christmas rings a bell and the Ghost of Christmas Past appears on the TVs with the background sound of wind and music, which continues through the whole section.
- After the Ghost of Christmas Past says, "Come closer," Scrooge is sucked into the TV and screams as she puts him into her storybook.
- After the Fezziwig scene, the Spirit of Christmas leads us in a toast and a dance break. Whoever holds an orange must dance and then pass it to another person. You can do these activities at home or just watch our actors.
- When Scrooge says, "Take me back, leave me" the Ghost of Christmas Past shouts over him and the sound of wind intensifies.

## STAVE THREE

- The Spirit of Christmas tells the viewers they can blow bubbles to call the Ghost of Christmas Present.
- Bubble sounds and static underscore this whole section.
- After the Ghost of Christmas Present says, "Wonderful! Let us go," there are three beeps.
- When Lucy says, "You have a good heart," there are two beeps and static.
- When the Ghost of Christmas Present says, "...than millions like this poor man's child," there is a high-pitched tone and some beeps.
- After the narrator says, "he left his blessing," a clock strikes and static plays
- The Ghost of Christmas Present reveals two children called Ignorance and Want and the TV's blink off and on quickly.
- After Scrooge says, "Have they no refuge or resource?" the children start to shout, static and a high-pitched tone overlap ending in screams of "Help me!"

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## STAVE FOUR

- Many of the scenes in this section take place in a graveyard with wind, echoes, and eerie music throughout.
- After Scrooge says, "My life tends that way now," there is a scene with a body under a sheet and fluorescent lights blink rapidly. This scene is shown a few times.
- When Scrooge says, "Tell me that I may change these shadows with an altered life," he shouts and is covered with a wooden board.

## STAVE FIVE

- When Scrooge says, "I don't know anything," he shouts in delight.
- After Scrooge says, "...and a Happy New Year to all the world," the music gets louder and he shouts in celebration.

*Actor Stephen Thorne transforms himself into the Ghost of Jacob Marley*

