

A snowy street scene at night, likely from a theatrical production. The street is covered in snow, and buildings line the sides. A street lamp on the left is lit, casting a warm glow. The overall atmosphere is cold and festive.

Wyong Musical
Theatre Company
Proudly Presents

MAGIC  TREE HOUSE[®]
COLLECTION

A
Ghost Tale for
Mr. Dickens



MAGIC  TREE HOUSE
COLLECTION

A Ghost Tale for Mr. Dickens JR.

- ▶ Director : Nilzen Lumsden
- ▶ Vocal Director : Russell Hull
- ▶ Choreographer : Kate Pareaux
- ▶ Assistant Directors: Chris Stewart
Jane Sackman
- ▶ Production Manager: Peter Lumsden
- ▶ Assistant Production Manager: Lisa Power
- ▶ Stage Manager: Gretel Skinner
- ▶ Assistant Stage Manager: Grace Sackman

The Story

Magic Tree House: A Ghost Tale for Mr. Dickens JR. is an adaptation of Mary Pope Osborne's award-winning fantasy adventure books from the Magic Tree House book series. Jack and Annie's tree house takes them to Victorian London in this holiday-themed story, where they learn the importance of charity and kindness through their friendship with legendary author, Charles Dickens.

The magic tree house whisks Jack and Annie back in time to the foggy streets of Victorian London, where they meet the famous, well-off author, Charles Dickens, who has a severe case of writer's block. Jack and Annie also witness the hardships faced by the poor, and their efforts to help only land them in prison. Mr. Dickens rescues Jack and Annie, and they, in turn, help him escape the sad memories that haunt him. In the process, they inspire Mr. Dickens to write one of the greatest holiday stories of all time.

Our Cast





Jack

Jack is a young boy. He is bookish, careful and thoughtful, but he is NOT a nerd! Jack has tremendous curiosity about the world around him and loves to take notes about his observations. Jack tends to be very cautious in new situations, and his adventures in the Magic Tree House help him develop his confidence. He has a good (and protective) relationship with his younger sister, Annie, though her more impetuous nature often gets on his nerves. This is a big role and requires a strong singer and actor.

Gender: Male

A painting of a busy 19th-century street scene. The street is filled with people in period clothing, horse-drawn carriages, and buildings with many windows. The scene is set in a city with a prominent church spire in the background. The overall atmosphere is one of a bustling, historical urban environment.

Annie

Annie is Jack' s younger sister and, in many ways, his opposite in terms of personality. She is a risk taker who often follows her heart instead of her head. She sometimes teases Jack about his careful attitude toward life and often encourages him to be more adventurous. She loves animals of any kind and has a very loving heart.

Gender: Female

Mr. Dickens

Mr. Dickens is a man in his prime and has a flair for the dramatic, both in writing and speech. His public persona is that of a charismatic celebrity, but privately he is deeply depressed by the suffering he sees all around him in Victorian England, particularly the suffering of children. This leading part requires a mature male performer with strong singing and acting skills (and a changed voice).

Gender: Male

Merlin

Merlin is a wise old magician who joyfully introduces the play to the audience and sends Jack and Annie on their mission to help Mr. Dickens.

This role requires a strong actor, singing is not as important.

Gender: Male



Morgan Le Fay

Morgan Le Fay is an ageless librarian enchantress. Merlin and Morgan are dear old friends and are playful with one another. This would be good role for a strong actor who may not be an experienced singer.

Gender: Female

Carolers

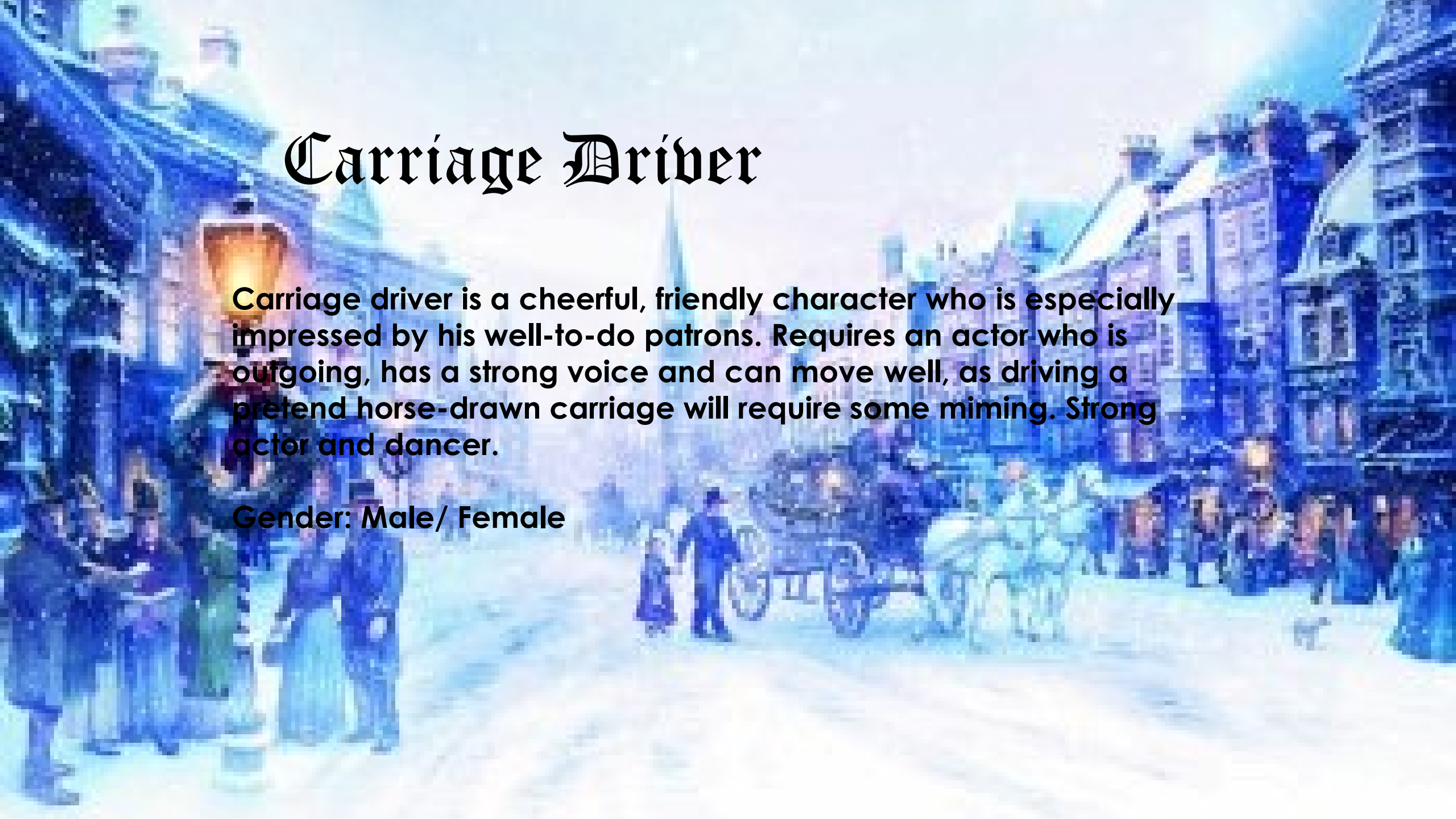
The Carolers, including Caroler #1, Caroler #2, Caroler #3 and Young Caroler. Good strong vocals and stage presence is essential.



Carriage Driver

Carriage driver is a cheerful, friendly character who is especially impressed by his well-to-do patrons. Requires an actor who is outgoing, has a strong voice and can move well, as driving a pretend horse-drawn carriage will require some miming. Strong actor and dancer.

Gender: Male/ Female



Emma and Olive

A painting of a busy 19th-century London street scene. The street is filled with people in period clothing, horse-drawn carriages, and buildings with many windows. The scene is set in a hazy, atmospheric environment, possibly during a fog or rain. The color palette is dominated by muted blues, greys, and browns, with some warmer tones from the street lamps and buildings.

Emma and Olive are orphans who must resort to petty thievery to survive on the streets of London. Olive targets Jack and Annie when she notices their expensive-looking bag, and Emma follows her lead in a plot to steal it. Good acting, singing and dancing.

Gender: Female

The background of the slide is a detailed painting of a historical street scene, possibly from the 18th or 19th century. It shows a wide street with a horse-drawn carriage in the center, several pedestrians in period clothing, and multi-story buildings with windows and balconies. The scene is rendered in a classic, somewhat somber color palette.

Harry and Colin

Harry and Colin are young chimney sweeps who agree to trade places with Jack and Annie for a day. These comedic characters sing a duet and need to be able to change a few items of clothing (jackets and hats) during their song. These two actors need to get along, dance, sing, comedic timing and act.

Gender: Male/female

Mrs. Tibbs



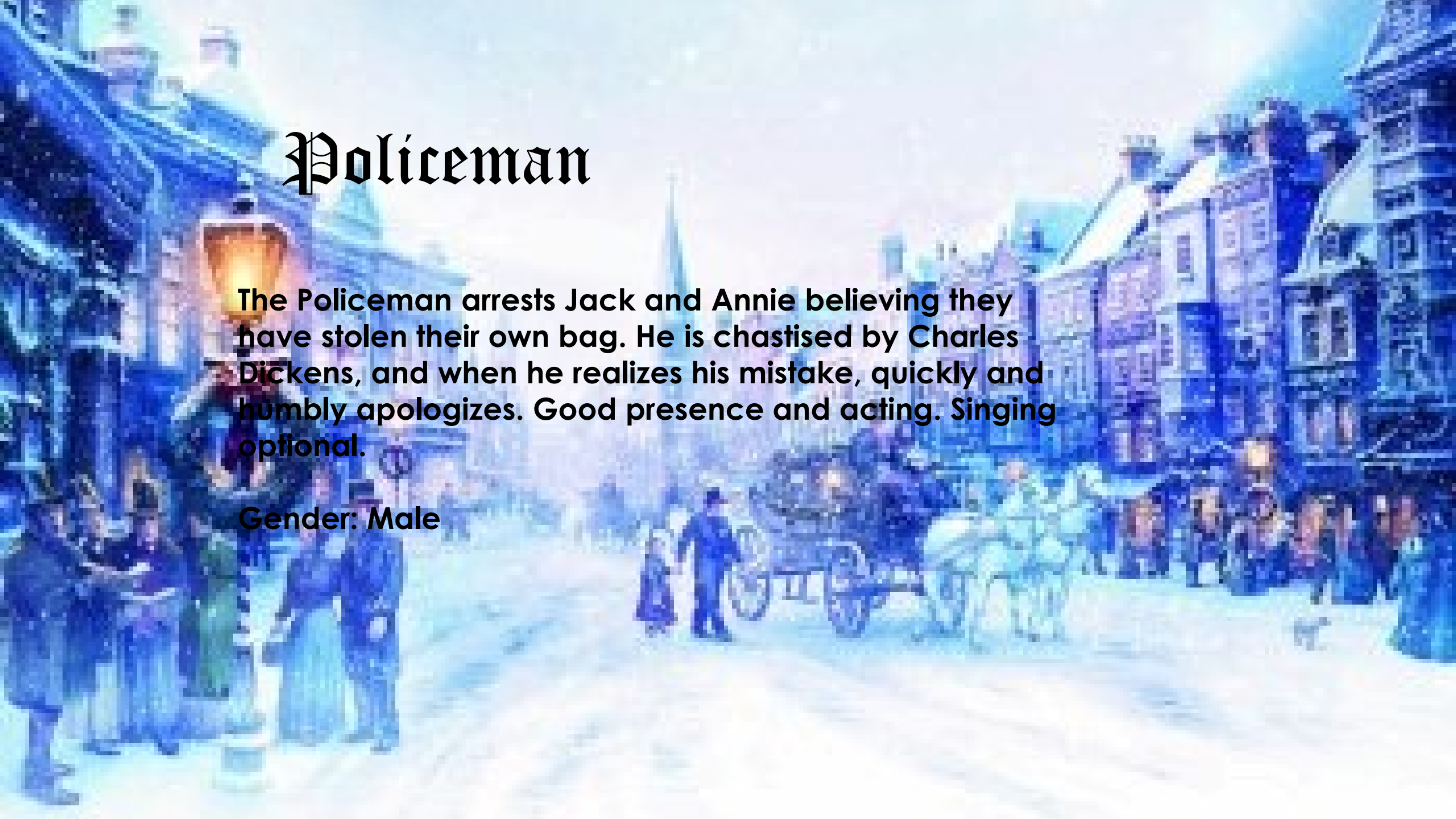
Mrs. Tibbs is the peculiar and proud housekeeper of the Dickens estate. Strong actor with stage presence and comedic timing.

Gender: Female

Policeman

The Policeman arrests Jack and Annie believing they have stolen their own bag. He is chastised by Charles Dickens, and when he realizes his mistake, quickly and humbly apologizes. Good presence and acting. Singing optional.

Gender: Male





Mr. Pinch

Mr. Pinch is the mean and miserly owner of the Purple Peacock Inn who refuses to give food scraps to a hungry Tiny Tim and his mother. He is the prototype for Dickens' s Scrooge. While the song " Bah! Humbug!"is meant to be comical, the actor playing Pinch doesn't need to be comedic; instead, he should be confident enough to play a shameless misanthrope without needing to wink at the audience. Both a strong actor and performer.

Gender: Male

Mrs. Pinch

A painting of a busy 19th-century street scene. The street is filled with people in period clothing, horse-drawn carriages, and tall buildings. The scene is set in a city with a prominent church spire in the background. The overall atmosphere is one of a bustling, historical urban environment.

Mrs. Pinch is nothing like her ill-tempered husband; she is warm, hardworking and high-spirited. This role requires a good actor/singer who has a strong, energetic, mature presence.

Gender: Female

A detailed painting of a busy 19th-century street scene. The street is filled with people in period clothing, horse-drawn carriages, and various buildings. The scene is set in a town with a church spire visible in the background. The overall atmosphere is one of a bustling, historical setting.

Francois The Chef

Francois The Chef is the chef at Pinch's Purple Peacock Inn. He is proud and passionate and highly sensitive to criticism. — This is a small, fun role that does not require any singing.

Gender: Male

A painting of a snowy Victorian street scene. In the foreground, a man in a dark coat and hat carries a small child on his back. The child is wrapped in a white blanket. The street is covered in snow, and buildings with lit windows line the background. A street lamp is visible on the left. The overall atmosphere is cold and quiet.

Tiny Tim/Young Dickens

Tiny Tim is a poor and sickly child who will not survive without the charity of others. Though his body is weak, his spirit is robust, and though his family is impoverished, he is rich in love and is remarkably cheerful and good-natured.

Young Dickens is Charles as a small boy who is conjured by the White Ghost to remind Mr. Dickens of his love of reading, his passion for stories and the importance of The Arabian Nights in igniting his imagination as a boy.

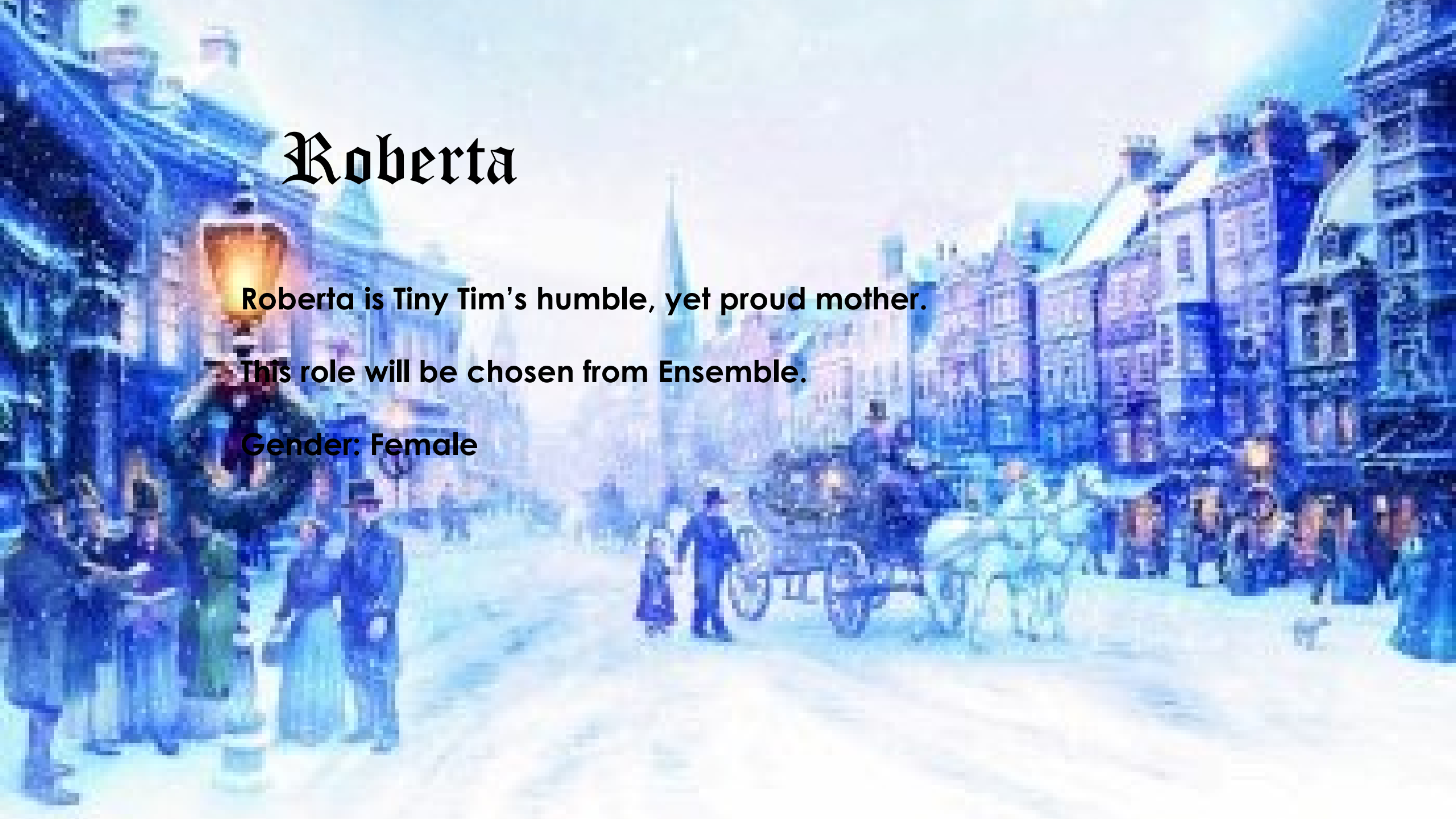
Gender: Male/Female

Roberta

Roberta is Tiny Tim's humble, yet proud mother.

This role will be chosen from Ensemble.

Gender: Female



Ghosts

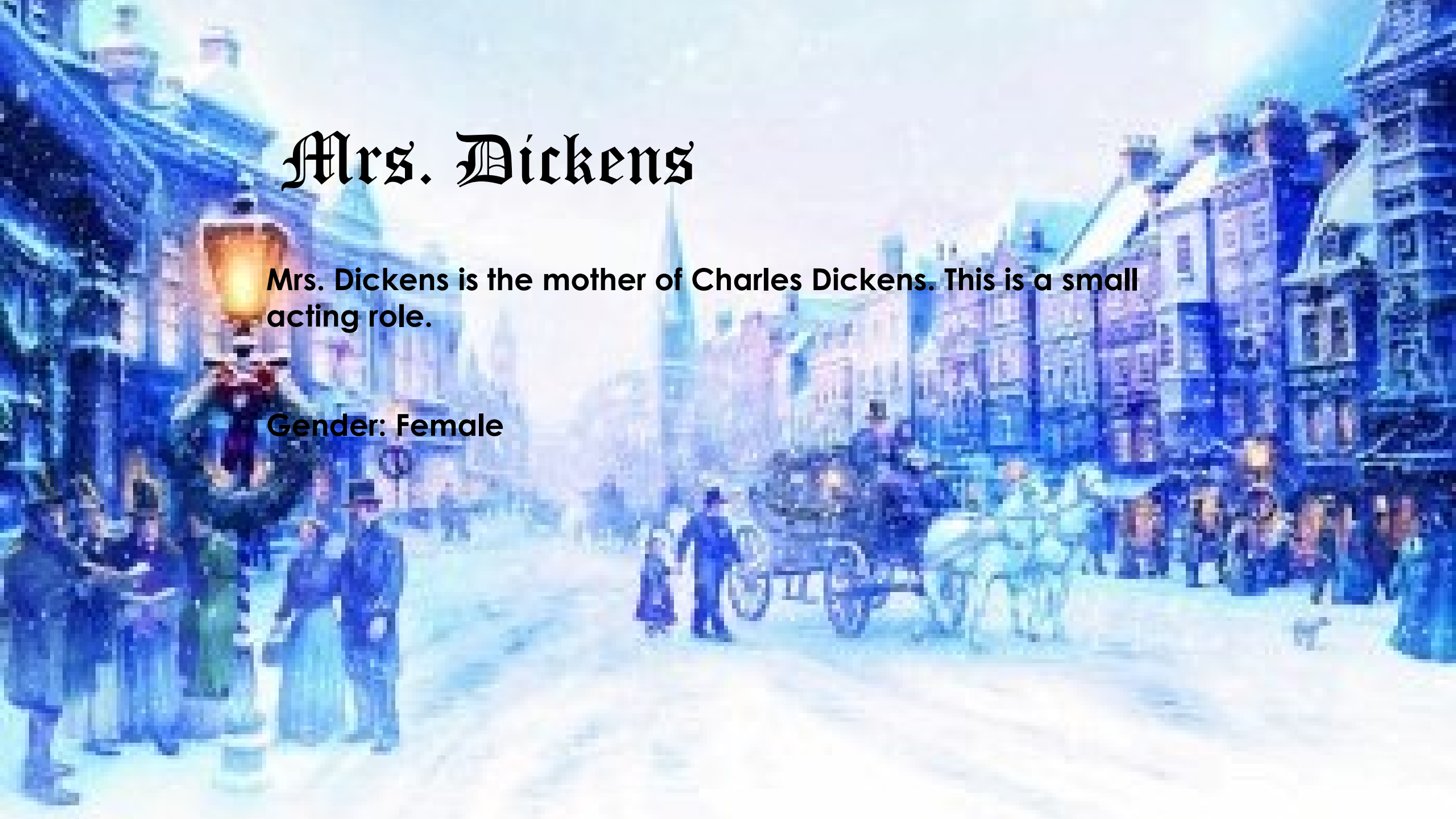
The White Ghost, Green Ghost and Black Ghost are conjured by Jack and Annie's magic violin in order to convince Mr. Dickens to keep writing by showing him meaningful scenes from his past, present and future. All three can be played by girls. Although the Black Ghost doesn't speak or sing, the actor needs to have a strong stage presence and must be able to stay focused and in character through the lengthy 'Come Three Ghosts' segment.

Gender: Both

Mrs. Dickens

Mrs. Dickens is the mother of Charles Dickens. This is a small acting role.

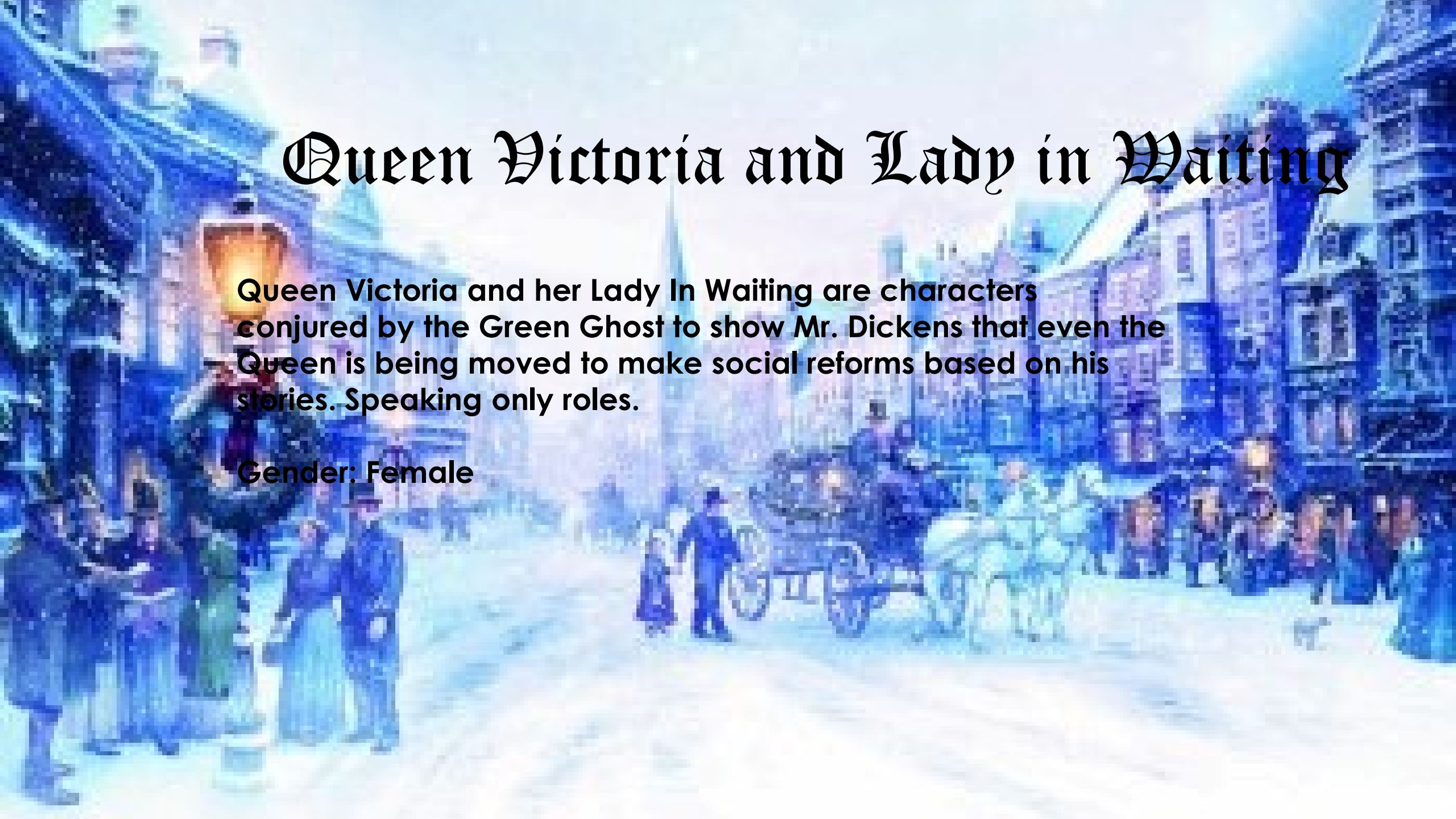
Gender: Female



Queen Victoria and Lady in Waiting

Queen Victoria and her Lady In Waiting are characters conjured by the Green Ghost to show Mr. Dickens that even the Queen is being moved to make social reforms based on his stories. Speaking only roles.

Gender: Female



Mary Dickens

Mary Dickens is the grown daughter of Charles Dickens. She has a fairly large monologue at her father's gravesite, so requires a strong, confident actor with good memorization skills.

Gender: Female



Show Dates

Friday 7th December	7:30pm
Saturday 8th December	1:00pm
Saturday 8th December	7:30pm
Sunday 9th December	1:00pm
Tuesday 11th December	7:30pm
Wednesday 12th December	7:30pm
Friday 14th December	7:30pm
Saturday 15th December	1:00pm
Saturday 15th December	7:30pm
Sunday 16th December	1:00pm

Fees

Adult Membership	\$30
Junior Membership	\$20
Food Contribution	\$25
Show Fee	\$35
Costume Fee	\$25

Fees are due 21 days from first rehearsal.

Auditions

Saturday 8th September

- 9am-10am Ensemble Dance (all cast)
- 10am-11am Featured Dance

Arrive 30min before start time

- 12.30pm -2pm Ensemble Singing (all cast)
- 2.30-5pm Jack, Annie, Merlin, Morgan, Harry, Colin, Emma & Olive auditions - please arrive 30min before your scheduled time to register and be given dialogue.

Please bring water and lunch- no food will be provided

Auditions

Sunday 9th September

- **9.00am-2pm individual principal auditions - please arrive 30min before your scheduled time to register and be given dialogue.**

Call backs – if required on Monday 10th September at 7pm.

Please bring water and lunch- no food will be provided

Rehearsals

- ▶ **Wednesday 6:00pm to 9:00pm as per schedule**
- ▶ **Sunday 12:30 to 5:00pm ALL cast**
- ▶ **First rehearsal Sunday 16th September**
- ▶ **Three strike policy will be enforced in this show due to cast size. So please note any availability issues on your audition form.**
- ▶ **All cast to bring water bottles**



Notes:

- ❖ Cast age 8 to 17 years on opening night.
- ❖ If you have a call back for a role that doesn't have a song you will just be asked to do dialogue.
- ❖ All known absences must be on the audition form. Due to the small cast size in each show please carefully consider your commitment to attendance. Cast will be expected to attend and participate in all scheduled rehearsals.
- ❖ Cast are required to bring water bottles to every rehearsal.
- ❖ If a rehearsal is running late- advice will be posted on the facebook page.



Questions

juniors@wmtc.com.au