



CHRISTMAS FILMS

Scrooged

Bill Murray's Frank Cross is a modern-day Scrooge. An unpleasant TV executive, he pushes his team to the limit when he plans a live production of *A Christmas Carol* on Christmas Eve, expecting them to forego any celebration so they can achieve his aims. The spirit of his unpopular mentor visits him before a trio of ghosts appear over the course of one night. But will they be enough to put Frank on the right path? One of the most underrated Christmas films, *Scrooged* has gradually built up a cult following and now ranks as a Christmas favourite.

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Every child has seen *Mickey's Christmas Carol*, if he/she has not actually listened to an audio tape of some notable reading the original, and in this respect *Scrooged* is unlikely to disappoint: the plot, of course, is fireproof and the filmmakers' tone spot on. The longsuffering Bob has become a black secretary, better paid than Scrooge's clerk, one imagines, though no less indispensable and no less intimidated. Claire (Karen Allen), open, freckle-faced and trusting, is an equally willing doormat; as is James Cross (played by the star's own brother) who year after year suffers with stomach-turning forbearance Frank's slights. The syrup, including, of course, Claire's philanthropic work at the derelicts' hostel, is spooned on with gusto; and only occasionally – for example, when father Cross the butcher slings a parcel of veal on his son's lap as a Christmas present – is one reminded that the writers are something more than pasticheurs.

The live Christmas special has the improbable Buddy Hackett as Scrooge, John Houseman in a burgundy dressing-gown, and a female Tiny Tim who back-flips rather than hobbles on set; the script calls for a mouse with miniature reindeer antlers, a difficulty which Frank suggests be solved with a stapler. A former long-hair now a captain of television, Frank Cross is played as a vivid, but appropriately two-dimensional Dickensian cypher, obsessed with the faintly sadistic pleasure of making heaps of money from the abhorrent sentimentality of Scrooge.

As a seasonal entertainment for children to whom *Nightmare on Elm Street* is mother's milk (and indeed for the rest of us), *Scrooged* carefully treads a delicate line. The Ghost of Christmas Future opens his shroud and hobgoblins leer behind his rib cage; Christmas Present, on the other hand, a piping fairy with an ever-ready pair of fists, speaks of an older tradition brought not quite up to date. Richard Donner has on the whole wisely avoided a cruel or even sarcastic mockery of the easily mocked sentimentality. Like *Old Brown*, after all, the Spirit of Christmas will tolerate only so much tomfoolery.

John Pym, *Monthly Film Bulletin*, December 1988

SCROOGED

Director: Richard Donner
Production Companies: Paramount Pictures Corporation, Mirage Enterprises
Executive Producer: Steve Roth
Producers: Richard Donner, Art Linson
Co-producer/unit production manager: Ray Hartwick
Associate Producer: Jennie Lew Tugend
Production Associate: Peter Frankfurt
Unit Production Manager (NY): Roger Paradiso
Production Co-ordinator (NY): Ellen M. Hillers
Production Office Co-ordinator: Shari Leibowitz
Location Manager: Lynn Kuwahara
2nd Unit Director: Mic Rodgers
Assistant Directors: Chris Soldo, James Skotchdopole, Gabriela Vázquez, Adele Simmons, Thomas Burns
Casting: David Rubin
Celebrity Look-alike Casting: Ron Smith's Celebrity Look-Alikes
Screenplay: Mitch Glazer, Michael O'Donoghue
Original Story: Charles Dickens
Director of Photography: Michael Chapman
Additional photography (NY): Peter Norman
Camera Operator: Michael Genne
Camera operator (NY): Tom Priestley Jr
Steadicam Operator: Stephen St. John
Steadicam operator (NY): Ted Churchill
Video co-ordinator: Scott Nimerfro
Special Visual Effects: Dream Quest Images
Special Visual Effects Supervisor: Eric Brevig
Model Shop Supervisor: David Goldberg
Network Computer Animation: Jim Dixon, PDI
Motion-control Photography: Mike Shea
Editors: Fredric Steinkamp, William Steinkamp
Production Designer: J. Michael Riva
Art Director: Virginia L. Randolph
Art Director (NY): Thomas C. Warren
Set Designers: William James Teegarden, Nancy Patton, Dianne Wager
Set Decorator: Linda Descenna
Set Decorator (NY): John Alan Hicks
Production Illustrator: Ed Verreaux, Tom Southwell
Scenic Artist: Ron Strang
Costume Designer: Wayne Finkelman
Costume Supervisor: Jennifer L. Parsons
Supervising Make-up Artist: Bari Dreiband-Burman
Make-up: Robert Norin
Makeup (NY): Edward Jackson Jr
Special Make-up Effects: Tom Burman, Bari Dreiband-Burman
Title Design: Anthony Goldschmidt
Optical Supervisor: Jeff Matakovich
Opticals: Pacific Title
Rotoscope Supervisor: James Valentine
Music: Danny Elfman
Music Director: Shirley Walker
Orchestrations: Steve Bartek
Additional Orchestrations: Steven Scott Smalley
Music Supervisor: David Anderle, Jimmy Iovine
Music Editor: Robert Badami
Music Recording: Robert Fernandez
Music Recording (NY): Al Mian
Choreography ("Solid Gold"): Lester Wilson
Choreography (ballet): Julian Hessel
Sound Recording: Willie Burton
Sound Re-recording: Les Fresholtz, Vern Poore, Dick Alexander
Supervising Sound Editors: Robert Henderson, Alan Robert Murray
Sound Editors: Teri E. Dorman, D. Michael Horton, Joseph A. Ippolito, Virginia Cook-McGowan, Walter Newman, Marshall Winn
Electronic Sound Effects: John Paul Fasal
Supervising ADR editor: Jay Engel
ADR Editor: Denise Whiting
Foley Artist: John Roesch, Alicia Stevenson
Foley Recordist: Greg Orloff
Foley: Taj Soundworks
Stunt Co-ordinator: Mic Rodgers
Dolby Consultant: Thom Ehle
Research co-ordinator: Mark Snovell

Cast

Bill Murray (*Francis Xavier Cross*)
Karen Allen (*Claire Phillips*)
John Forsythe (*Lew Hayward*)
John Glover (*Brice Cummings*)
Bob Goldthwait (*Eliot Loudermilk*)
David Johansen (*Ghost of Christmas Past*)
Carol Kane (*Ghost of Christmas Present*)
Robert Mitchum (*Preston Rhinelander*)
Nicholas Phillips (*Calvin Cooley*)
Michael J. Pollard (*Herman*)
Alfre Woodard (*Grace Cooley*)
Mabel King (*Gramma*)
John Murray (*James Cross*)
Jamie Farr (*Jacob Marley*)
Robert Goulet (*himself*)
Buddy Hackett (*Scrooge*)
John Houseman (*himself*)
Lee Majors (*himself*)
Pat McCormick (*TV Ghost of Christmas Present*)
Brian Doyle Murray (*Earl Cross*)
Mary Lou Retton (*herself*)
Al "Red Dog" Weber (*Santa Claus*)
Jean Speegle Howard (*Mrs Claus*)
June Chandler (*June Cleaver*)
Michael Eidam (*Wally Cleaver*)
Mary Ellen Trainor (*Ted*)
Bruce Jarchow (*Wayne*)
Sanford Jensen, Jeffrey Joseph, Dick Blasucci (*executives*)
Peter Bromilow (*archbishop*)
Bill Marcus, Cal Gibson (*IBC guards*)
Damon Hines (*Steven Cooley*)
Tamika McCollum (*Shasta Cooley*)
Koren McCollum (*Randee Cooley*)
Reina King (*Lanell Cooley*)
Paul Tuerpé (*stage manager*)
Lester Wilson (*choreographer*)
Ronald Strang (*art director*)
Kate Mcgregor-stewart (*woman censor*)
Jack Mcgee, Bill Hart (*carpenter's*)
Kathy Kinney (*IBC nurse*)
Ralph Gervais (*mouse wrangler*)
Alvin Hammer (*foreman*)
Tony Steedman (*head waiter*)
Lisa Mende (*Doris Cross*)
Ryan Todd (*Frank as a child*)
Rebeca Arthur (*Tina*)
Selma Archerd (*Mrs. Claus at party*)
Jay Byron (*2nd man at party*)
Harvey Fisher (*party guest*)
C. Ransom Walrod (*party animal*)
James R. Miller (*security guard at party*)
Jennie Lew Tugend (*Foo-Ling*)
Joel Murray, Mitch Glazer, Susan Isaacs, Lauri Kempson (*guests*)
Chaz Conner Jr. (*TV Ghost of Christmas Future*)
Miro Polo (*Mary Lou's coach*)
Ralph Bruneau (*nephew*)
Maria Riva (*Mrs. Rhinelander*)
James Kindelon (*butler*)
Raphael Harris (*older Calvin*)
Wayne Finkelman (*orderly*)
Susan Barnes (*harpy*)
Lynne Randall (*harpy*)
Gilles Savard (*waiter*)
Michael O'Donoghue (*priest*)
David MCGarvin (*announcer*)
Tom Doak (*videotape director*)
Sam Drummy (*cameraman on crane*)
Winfred Tennison (*Marvin*)
Stephen Kahan (*technician*)
Norm Wilson, Henry V. Brown, Jeanine Jackson, Amy Hill (*technicians*)
Miles Davis, Larry Carlton, David Sanborn, Paul Shaffer (*street musicians*)
The Caroling Company (*carol singers*)
The Solid Gold Dancers (*Scroogettes*)

USA 1988
101 mins

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