



CHRISTMAS FILMS

Scrooge

Scrooge

Directed by: Brian Desmond-Hurst

©: Renown Film Productions Ltd.

Production Company:

Renown Pictures Corporation

Produced by: Brian Desmond-Hurst

Production Manager: Stanley Couzins

First Assistant Director: Denis O'Dell

Casting Director: Maude Spector

Adaptation and Screenplay by: Noel Langley

Adapted from A Christmas Carol by:

Charles Dickens

Director of Photography: C. Pennington-Richards

Camera Operator: C. Cooney

Film Editor: Clive Donner

Art Director: Ralph Brinton

Mechanical Victorian Dolls Loaned by:

Mr M. Steiner

Mechanical Toys Loaned by: Bracher and Partner

Costume Designer: Doris Lee

Costumes for Mr Sim/Mr Hordern/Miss Edwardes

Designed by: Constance Da Pinna

Make-up Artist: Eric Carter

Hairstylist: Betty Lee

Musical Score by: Richard Addinsell

Conducted by: Muir Mathieson

Sound Recordist: W.H. Lindop

Studio: Nettlefold Studios (Walton-on-Thames)

uncredited

Associate Producer: Stanley Haynes

Continuity: Margaret Ryan

Focus Puller: Gerry Turpin

Clapper Loader: Tom Friswell

Stills: Richard Cantouris

Assistant Editor: Anne Barker

Set Dresser: Freda Pearson

Draughtsmen: T. Hopewell Ash, Edward Marshall

Sketch Artist: Patricia Neville

Property Buyer: Chris Chapman

Construction Manager: Wallis Smith

Assistant Costume Designer: Phyllis Dalton

Wardrobe Master: W. Walsh

Assistant Make-up: Aldo Manganaro

Assistant Hairdresser: June Robinson

Sound Camera Operator: Charles Earl

Boom Operator: Fred Ryan

Dubbing Editor: Leonard Trumm

Publicity Director: Hugh Findlay

Cast:

Alastair Sim (*Ebenezer Scrooge*)

Kathleen Harrison (*Mrs Dilber*)

Mervyn Johns (*Bob Cratchit*)

Hermione Baddeley (*Mrs Cratchit*)

Michael Hordern (*Jacob Marley*)

George Cole (*Scrooge as a young man*)

John Charlesworth (*Peter Cratchit*)

Francis De Wolff (*the spirit of the present*)

Rona Anderson (*Alice, Scrooge's sweetheart*)

Carol Marsh (*Fan, Scrooge's sister*)

Brian Worth (*Fred, Scrooge's nephew*)

Miles Malleon (*Old Joe*)

Ernest Thesiger (*undertaker*)

Glyn Dearman (*Tiny Tim Cratchit*)

Michael Dolan (*the spirit of the past*)

Olga Edwardes (*Fred's wife*)

Roddy Hughes (*Mr Fezziwig*)

Hattie Jacques (*Mrs Fezziwig*)

Eleanor Summerfield (*Miss Flora*)

Louise Hampton (*laundress*)

C. Konarski (*the spirit of the future*)

Eliot Makeham (*Snedrig*)

Peter Bull (*first business man*)

Douglas Muir (*second business man*)

One of the best-known adaptations of Charles Dickens' Christmas classic, Brian Desmond Hurst's 1951 film stars Alastair Sim as the notorious curmudgeon Ebenezer Scrooge, visited by the ghosts of Christmas past.

Although the film is stolen by Sim, for whom it would be become his most famous role, he's supported by a fine cast of British talent including Michael Hordern, Kathleen Harrison, Patrick Macnee and George Cole as Scrooge in his younger days. While the film may lack the cinematic flair of David Lean's famous adaptations from a few years earlier (*Oliver Twist*, *Great Expectations*), Sim's delicious characterisation ensures a lively and memorable adaptation that will remain a mainstay of Christmas viewing for generations to come.

bfi.org.uk

Although there will always be dispute over which is Alastair Sim's finest screen performance, there's little doubt as to which is the best known. His 1951 characterisation of Charles Dickens' notorious curmudgeon Ebenezer Scrooge is not only generally regarded as definitive, but is also the only one of his films to achieve wide circulation in America, where it became a Christmas television perennial to rival *The Wizard of Oz*. There, it was known by the title of Dickens' original story *A Christmas Carol*, but in Britain it was named after the lead character.

And rightly so, because despite the stellar cast and a middle section where he is temporarily usurped by George Cole playing his younger self, this is Sim's film through and through. Clearly relishing the chance to play Scrooge as both villain and reformed hero, he takes an almost indecent delight in mocking the trappings of Christmas at every opportunity, shooing away carol singers and refusing to contribute to a fund for the poor. But after he's learned his lesson, he becomes almost childishly gleeful, dancing a little jig as he realises that he might actually enjoy living as a reformed character.

He's given ample support by an impressive supporting cast: Mervyn Johns and Hermione Baddeley as the downtrodden Cratchits, Michael Hordern as Scrooge's deceased partner Jacob Marley, Patrick Macnee as young Marley, Kathleen Harrison as Scrooge's Cockney housemaid, and a scene-stealing Ernest Thesiger as an over-eager undertaker. But the film's true voice of authority comes from Rona Anderson as Scrooge's fiancée Alice: in a crucial central scene, she bitterly rebukes him for favouring material wealth over love of his fellow man.

Noel Howlett (*first collector*)
Fred Johnson (*second collector*)
Henry Hewitt (*Rosebed*)
Hugh Dempster (*Groper*)
Maire O'Neill (*Alice's patient*)
Richard Pearson (*Mr Tupper*)
Patrick Macnee (*young Marley*)
Clifford Mollison (*Mr Wilkins*)
Jack Warner (*Mr Jorkins*)
David Hannaford
UK 1951©
87 mins
Digital

CHRISTMAS FILMS

Tangerine

Fri 8 Dec 21:00; Fri 15 Dec 20:40; Fri 22 Dec 18:10

Tokyo Godfathers (Tokyo goddofazazu)

Sat 9 Dec 20:45; Thu 14 Dec 18:30 BFI IMAX (+ intro by Ghibliothèque podcast creators Michael Leader and Jake Cunningham); Wed 20 Dec 18:15; Sat 23 Dec 21:00

Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas

Sun 10 Dec 13:30; Wed 13 Dec 20:45 BFI IMAX

The Polar Express 3D

Sat 16 Dec 10:00; Sun 17 Dec 10:00; Sun 24 Dec 11:30 (all BFI IMAX)

Miracle on 34th Street

Sat 16 Dec 12:40; Sat 23 Dec 15:30

Die Hard

Sat 16 Dec 20:45 BFI IMAX

Carol

Thu 21 Dec 20:40; Sat 30 Dec 17:20

The Bishop's Wife

Fri 22 Dec 14:40; Sat 23 Dec 18:20

The Muppet Christmas Carol

Sat 23 Dec 12:00

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Casting aside, Brian Desmond-Hurst's production is competent rather than inspired, with little of the cinematic brio that David Lean brought to his Dickens films a few years earlier. But the Victorian London setting is effectively staged, alternating between a picture-postcard white Christmas to an altogether harsher impression, as homeless women clutch their children to their ragged bosoms. Not only does this implicitly rebuke Scrooge for his callousness, it reminds us of the reforming zeal underpinning Dickens' own work.

Michael Brooke, BFI Screenonline, screenonline.org.uk

CINEMA UNBOUND: THE CREATIVE WORLDS OF POWELL + PRESSBURGER

The Love Test + Something Always Happens

Sun 3 Dec 15:30; Tue 19 Dec 20:20

Wanted for Murder + intro by Simon McCallum, BFI curator

Mon 4 Dec 20:40

Projecting the Archive: The End of the River +

intro by film scholar Dr Kulraj Phullar

Tue 5 Dec 18:20

The Phantom Light

Wed 6 Dec 20:30; Sun 17 Dec 12:30

Peeping Tom

Thu 7 Dec 20:45 (+ intro); Sat 9 Dec 15:00 (+ Doesn't Exist magazine launch and panel discussion hosted by Victor Fraga); Fri 15 Dec 20:50; Mon 18 Dec 20:45; Thu 21 Dec 18:00; Sat 23 Dec 18:00; Fri 29 Dec 18:15

The Red Shoes

From Fri 8 Dec

The Red Shoes in the Spotlight

Fri 8 Dec 18:00

Bluebeard's Castle (Herzog Blaubarts Burg)

Fri 8 Dec 20:40; Fri 15 Dec 18:10 (+ intro by writer Lillian Crawford); Sat 23 Dec 13:30

Crown v. Stevens + Behind the Mask (aka The Man Behind the Mask)

Sat 9 Dec 12:40; Sat 23 Dec 15:00

The Tales of Hoffmann

Sat 9 Dec 17:30; Tue 12 Dec 20:20 (+ intro by Andrew Moor, Manchester Metropolitan University); Sat 16 Dec 14:45; Sat 30 Dec 17:30

Honeymoon (Luna de miel)

Sun 10 Dec 13:25; Thu 28 Dec 20:40

The Small Back Room

Sun 10 Dec 18:30; Sat 16 Dec 20:45; Fri 22 Dec 18:20; Wed 27 Dec 20:30; Sat 30 Dec 15:00

Queering Powell + Pressburger

Tue 12 Dec 18:00

Experimenta: Michelle Williams Gamaker and

Powell + Pressburger + Michelle Williams

Gamaker in conversation with Dr Kulraj Phullar

Wed 13 Dec 18:05

Oh... Rosalinda!!

Wed 13 Dec 20:45

They're a Weird Mob

Sat 16 Dec 17:45; Fri 29 Dec 20:40

Espionage: Never Turn Your Back on a Friend / A Free Agent + intro

Sun 17 Dec 15:15

Library Talk: The Glass Pearls

Tue 19 Dec 19:30 BFI Reuben Library

Lazybones + Her Last Affaire

Wed 20 Dec 17:50

Age of Consent

Fri 22 Dec 20:45; Wed 27 Dec 18:15

A Matter of Life and Death

Sat 23 Dec 15:00 BFI IMAX

Black Narcissus

Sat 30 Dec 14:30 BFI IMAX

BIG SCREEN CLASSICS

After Life (Wandafuru Raifu)

Sun 3 Dec 12:45; Tue 12 Dec 17:15; Wed 27 Dec 14:40; Sat 30 Dec 20:20

My Night with Maud (Ma Nuit chez Maud)

Mon 4 Dec 18:15; Thu 14 Dec 20:50; Thu 28 Dec 18:15

Five Easy Pieces

Tue 5 Dec 14:30; Sat 9 Dec 20:55; Tue 19 Dec 18:15; Fri 29 Dec 18:20

White Material

Wed 6 Dec 18:10 (+ intro by film curator Abiba Coulibaly); Fri 29 Dec 20:45

Boyz n the Hood

Thu 7 Dec 20:35; Sat 16 Dec 18:15; Sat 23 Dec 20:40

Meet Me in St Louis

Fri 8 Dec 18:10 (+ intro by writer Richard Dyer); Wed 20 Dec 14:30; Thu 21 Dec 18:10; Sat 23 Dec 11:50

The Passenger

Sun 10 Dec 15:45; Wed 27 Dec 17:50

It's a Wonderful Life

Wed 13 Dec 18:10; Sat 16 Dec 20:25; Mon 18 Dec 20:25; Wed 20 Dec 18:10; Fri 22 Dec 14:30, 20:25; Sat 23 Dec 18:10

The Umbrellas of Cherbourg (Les Parapluies de Cherbourg)

Wed 13 Dec 18:20 (+ intro by Geoff Andrew, Programmer-at-Large); Sun 17 Dec 18:45; Wed 20 Dec 20:55

The Shop around the Corner

Fri 15 Dec 18:20; Mon 18 Dec 14:30; Thu 21 Dec 20:45; Sat 30 Dec 12:20

Remember the Night

Sun 17 Dec 12:15; Tue 19 Dec 20:40

Fanny and Alexander (Fanny och Alexander)

Sat 23 Dec 14:20; Fri 29 Dec 13:30; Sat 30 Dec 13:00