

Entertainment

A Christmas Carol

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Fremont Civic Theatre cast members outdid themselves in their presentation of "A Christmas Carol" Saturday.

"A Christmas Carol," written by Charles Dickens in the late 1800s, is a timeless Christmas tale individuals have seen numerous times.

Warren Babilot, director, took the reader's production one step further than just reading their lines since the cast also performed their roles without props. And Tom Ledbetter's use of lighting added a sense of drama to the set.

The crowd laughed in all the appropriate places and wept with Tiny Tim's mother, played by Jenna Pyle Davis. She played a believable role as she fussed over Christmas dinner and cried after Tiny Tim's death while Scrooge watched the shadows with the Ghost of Christmas Future.

Mark Rudnik portrayal of Bob Cratchit was wonderful. Totally in character as Cratchit, he looks forward to spending time with his family on Christmas — even standing up to Scrooge.

But it was Justin Davis who stole the show in his portrayal of Ebenezer Scrooge. He was absolutely fabulous. The audience roared as he blustered to the gentlewoman that he would not support the poor who wasted all their energy on Christmas.

They could go to the poor house, jail or they

could do their part and just die, he blustered.

As each ghost visited Scrooge, the audience could see his character visibly soften until he became quite giddy at the end. Davis knew all his lines by heart and didn't have to depend on the written word.

Tony Schenk as young Scrooge's first boss, Fezziwig, provided memories of good will and Christmas cheer. Beverly Hurley did a tremendous job in her portrayal of the somber Ghost of Christmas Past. She described the shadows of the past to Scrooge in just the right tone of voice.

Kathy Herrin made quite an entrance with her jolly "Ho, Ho" performance, as did Amy Blevins, who played a superb Ghost of Future, with an eerie touch. Michelle Robert and the chorus helped create the proper atmosphere during each ghost's performance.

August Mergelman also did a great portrayal of Fred, Scrooge's nephew. He endures his uncle's wrath of Scrooge when he invites his uncle to Christmas dinner because he has "a good heart and takes after his mother."

Jerry Hurley role as Marley was a real treat when he trudged into the room carrying his burden of chains to warn Scrooge of his impending future.

Nichole Burnett was believable in her part as Belle, Scrooge's first love.

The cast received a standing ovation from nearly 100 individuals who watched the production in the St. Cloud Hotel.