"Bah Humbug!"

"A Christmas Carol" comes back to Eastern

By SCOTT MURPHY
Staff writer

Students will again bring to life the character of Ebenezer Scrooge this weekend as they present Charles Dickens' classic tale, "A Christmas Carol."

The play has been a familiar fixture in Eastern's holiday celebration since its first performance in 1976.

Theater Arts Business Manager J. Sain said the play is now a holiday standard at Eastern.

"The play is a tradition because the basic idea of 'A Christmas Carol' does not change, and at the same time we can always present a slightly different version of the production each year," Sain said.

Sain said the reason for different versions each year is because the play has a different director each year.

"Different directors have their own unique ideas on how the play should be presented," Sain said.

"Seeing the play is a wonderful way to get into the holiday spirit and celebrate the holiday season," said the play's current director, Jean K. Wolski.

Sain also said people should come out and see the play to help them get into the holiday spirit.

"The play will provide students a way to get into the spirit of the holiday season as well as providing them with a bar alternative," Sain said.

Performers in the play are excited about the presentation because of the hard work that was put into the practices, said Shawn Connors, a freshman theater arts major.

Connors, who is playing Peter Cratchit in the play, credits the success of the practices to the dedication of the cast members.

"Every cast member wants to be here and that makes the practices run smoothly," Connors said.

"The plays I participated in high school - no one wanted to be there and everybody was goofing off all the time and that created chaos in practice."

Stage fright has not been a problem for Connors.

"I do get a little nervous right before the plays, but nothing to cause me to worry," Connors said.

Christopher Gray, a junior theater arts major, is playing the Ghost of Christmas Present, and auditioned for the play out of curiosity.

"I wanted to see what it would be like," Gray said.

"A Christmas Carol" will be performed at 7 p.m. tonight through Dec. 9 and at 2 p.m. Dec. 3 on the mainstage of the Doullna Fine Arts Center. Tickets are available at the University Theater Ticket Office in the Fine Arts Building. Admission is $8 for adults, $6 for senior citizens and $3.50 for children, faculty and students with an Eastern ID.

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