

ACT ONE

house 1/2
"THANK"

L2

The audience enters the theatre to discover the curtainless set -

The one set piece on stage left stage is a huge tower that represents (A) A totem pole Christmas tree that stands in an abandoned lot, (B) A wood stove and a snaky chimney that is the center of MARK and ROGER's loft apartment, and (C) The steeple of a church in ACT TWO. There is a wooden platform loft area on stage right with a railing around it, under which sits "The Band" of five musicians. It has an escape staircase on the upstage side. There is a black, waist high rail fence downstage and stage left of them.

Onstage, once the house is open, CREW and BAND MEMBERS could and should move about informally, in preparation for the play.

The Lower East Side. CHRISTMAS EVE. AN INDUSTRIAL LOFT.

ROGER enters from up left with an electric guitar and crosses to a guitar amp sitting on a chair at center. HE casually plugs in and sets levels, then crosses downstage and sits on the table.

After a few beats, led by MARK, the COMPANY enters from all directions and fills the stage. MARK sets up a small tripod and a 16mm movie camera down center, aimed upstage. HE addresses the audience.

MARK

We begin on Christmas Eve, with me, Mark, and my roommate, Roger. We live in an industrial loft on the corner of 11th Street and Avenue B. It's the top floor of what was once a music publishing factory. Old rock and roll posters hang on the walls. They have Roger's picture advertising gigs at CBGB'S and the Pyramid Club. We have an illegal wood burning stove; it's exhaust pipe crawls up to a skylight. All of our electrical appliances are plugged into one thick extension cord which snakes its way out a window. Outside, a small tent city has sprung up in the lot next to our building. Inside, it's freezing because we have no heat.

(HE turns the camera to ROGER)

Smile!

#1 - Tune Up A

DECEMBER TWENTY FOURTH. NINE PM.

EASTERN STANDARD TIME

FROM HERE ON IN

I SHOOT WITHOUT A SCRIPT

SEE IF ANYTHING COMES OF IT

INSTEAD OF MY OLD SHIT

FIRST SHOT - ROGER

RENT

Director: Brad Dell

(MIMI)

AT BREAKING THE RULES ONCE I LEARN THE GAMES
 GET UP - LIFE'S TOO QUICK
 I KNOW SOMEPLACE SICK
 WHERE THIS CHICK'LL DANCE IN THE FLAMES

WE DON'T NEED ANY MONEY
 I ALWAYS GET IN FOR FREE
 YOU CAN GET IN TOO
 IF YOU GET IN WITH ME

LET'S GO OUT TONIGHT
 I HAVE TO GO OUT TONIGHT
 YOU WANNA PLAY?
 LET'S RUN AWAY
 WE WON'T BE BACK
 BEFORE IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY
 TAKE ME OUT TONIGHT (MEOW)

DOWN
POLE L109
5+10
Clubs & Doug

WHEN I GET A WINK FROM THE DOORMAN
 DO YOU KNOW HOW LUCKY YOU'LL BE?
 THAT YOU'RE ON LINE WITH THE FELINE OF AVENUE B

LET'S GO OUT TONIGHT
 I HAVE TO GO OUT TONIGHT
 YOU WANNA PROWL
 BE MY NIGHT OWL?
 WELL TAKE MY HAND WE'RE GONNA HOWL
 OUT TONIGHT

When @
Bottom of Lake L110

IN THE EVENING I'VE GOT TO ROAM
 CAN'T SLEEP IN THE CITY OF NEON AND CHROME
 FEELS TOO DAMN MUCH LIKE HOME
 WHEN THE SPANISH BABIES CRY

SO LET'S FIND A BAR
 SO DARK WE FORGET WHO WE ARE
 WHERE ALL THE SCARS OF THE
 NEVERS AND MAYBES DIE

Stairs L111

RENT

Director: Brad Dell

MIMI

I was in a tunnel. Heading for this warm, white light ...

MAUREEN

Oh my God!

MIMI

And I swear Angel was there—and she looked GOOD! And she said, "Turn around girlfriend—and listen to that boy's song ..."

COLLINS

She's drenched

MAUREEN

HER FEVER'S BREAKING

MARK

△ THERE IS NO FUTURE—THERE IS NO PAST

ROGER

THANK GOD THIS MOMENT'S NOT THE LAST

MIMI & ROGER

△ THERE'S ONLY US

THERE'S ONLY THIS

FORGET REGRET OR LIFE IS YOURS TO MISS

ALL

NO OTHER ROAD NO OTHER WAY

NO DAY BUT TODAY △

(As the finale grows, the entire COMPANY makes their way onto the stage.)

WOMEN

I CAN'T CONTROL
MY DESTINY
I TRUST MY SOUL
MY ONLY GOAL
IS JUST TO BE

MEN

WILL I LOSE MY DIGNITY
WILL SOMEONE CARE
WILL I WAKE TOMORROW
FROM THIS NIGHTMARE

(Mark's film resumes along with two more films projecting on the back wall, "Scenes from RENT ...")

People in
Aisles

RENT

Director: Brad Dell

1ST ROUSTABOUT

old up and tied down. She's been sitting over by the Dairy Pavilion all night.

CHIEF OF POLICE

I get home safe now.

MARGY

Thank you.

(He exits as the ROUSTABOUTS pack the banner into a crate.)

2ND ROUSTABOUT

It about does it.

1ST ROUSTABOUT

Next stop - 1947.

(They exit.)

MARGY

It, it's not like you didn't warn me. You said anytime you wanted to, you wouldn't be around.

175.44 spots 1, 2

BEFORE I LOOKED
D I GOT HOOKED.

LAYED WITH FIRE AND BURNED -
THAT'S HOW I LEARNED.

JUST ADMIT I OWE A LOT TO YOU -
FROM NOW ON I WILL KNOW WHAT NOT TO DO.

175.5

THE NEXT TIME IT HAPPENS
I'LL BE WISE ENOUGH TO KNOW
NOT TO TRUST MY EYESIGHT
WHEN MY EYES BEGIN TO GLOW

175.6

THE NEXT TIME I'M IN LOVE
WITH ANYONE LIKE YOU,
MY HEART WILL SING NO LOVE SONG
UNTIL I KNOW THE WORDS ARE TRUE

175.7

THE NEXT TIME IT HAPPENS" -
THAT A FOOLISH THING TO SAY!
WHO EXPECTS A MIRACLE
TO HAPPEN EVERY DAY?
IT ISN'T IN THE CARDS
AS FAR AS I CAN SEE
THAT A THING SO BEAUTIFUL AND WONDERFUL
COULD HAPPEN MORE THAN ONCE TO ME.

175.8

THE NEXT TIME I'M IN LOVE

State Fair

Director: Jim Wood

WAYNE

(Crossing to her.)
I promise not to tell if you don't.

MARGY

(Playfully holding up her little finger.)
Pinkie swear?
(WAYNE hooks his pinkie with hers, then continues on his way.)

WAYNE

(Turning back.)
Want me to wait with ya?

MARGY

That's okay - you go ahead.
(WAYNE starts off.)
Wayne -
(He turns back to her.)
Thanks.
(WAYNE exits.)

MARGY

△ MAYBE WE'RE OUT FOR LAUGHS, A GIRL AND A BOY,
KIDDING ACROSS A TABLE FOR TWO,
BUT HAVEN'T YOU GOT A HUNCH THAT THIS IS THE REAL McCOY
AND ALL THE THINGS WE TELL EACH OTHER...
ARE TRUE?
(The music segues directly into:)

Music 21: THAT'S THE WAY IT HAPPENS

(A spotlight picks up EMILY at the microphone on the 'stage' of The Starlight
Dance Meadow. She wears a distinctly sexy gown.)

EMILY

THAT'S THE WAY IT HAPPENS,
THAT'S THE WAY IT HAPPENS...
(The music continues as the scene shifts to reveal:)

Scene 3: The Starlight Dance Meadow - immediately following

EMCEE (OFFSTAGE)

Before we bid a fond farewell to the Fair of '46, please welcome back Emily Anden and
The Fairtones.

EMILY

△ YOU'RE A GIRL FROM CHICAGO ON THE ROAD WITH A SHOW,
NOT A SOLD IN NEW HAVEN YOU CAN SAY YOU KNOW.

State Fair

Director: Jim Wood

56

Narrator #1: And even dogs when they saw him would run into doorways.

Scrooge: (just before he exits, he looks behind him at the narrators and those who have just passed him.) BAH! (He exits.)

Narrator #1: Now, once upon a time, seven years later to the day on which Marley died

Narrator #2: It was again Christmas Eve.

Narrator #4: A time of great joy.

Narrator #2: AND great kindness.

Narrator #3: A time to think of all those whom we love,

Narrator #1: and those whom no one loves!

Narrator #2: But even though hearts were warm, it was cold outside.

Narrator #3: bleak, biting weather and foggy (the fog can be seen.)

Narrator #2: So foggy that it came pouring in at every keyhole.

(The Narrators move to the stairs)

Narrator #1: And even though it was Christmas Eve, Scrooge was busy working in his office. (In the inner below Scrooge's office is revealed. It contains two desks, chairs, and little stove by each desk. Scrooge and Bob Cratchit are hard at work.)

Narrator #2: And Scrooge was working on Christmas Eve, so was his faithful clerk, Bob Cratchit.

Narrator #3: Now, it was cold inside Scrooge's office too.

Narrator #4: He always kept it very cold; and even though it was Christmas Eve, he hadn't warmed it one bit.

Narrator #1: The cold is cheap, and Scrooge liked that!

Narrator #4: So Scrooge had a very small fire next to his desk, but his clerk, Bob Cratchit had such a very

Narrator #3: very

Narrator #2: VERY

Key	
STANDBY	
DRY ICE	
SCENE CHANGE	
SOUND	
LIGHTS	

3

A Christmas Carol

Director: Jane Cox

L 335, 340, 345
F 3
S 19
SC R.S
GRADE

S

Bob Cratchit: You would be surer of it, my dear, if you could see and speak to him. And he even said that he would get Peter a better situation.

Mrs. Cratchit: Only hear that, Peter.

Belinda: And then Peter will be keeping company with some one, setting up for himself!

Peter: Get along with you!

Bob Cratchit: It is likely that will happen one of these days; though there's plenty of time for that, my dear. 3356 ever and whenever we part from one another, I am sure we shall none of us forget poor Tiny Tim? or this first parting that there was among us?

All: Never, Father!

Bob Cratchit: And I know, my dears, that when we recollect how patient and how mild he was; although he was a little, little child, we shall not quarrel easily among ourselves and forget poor Tiny Tim. 36

All: Never, Father! 3406 Cratchit kisses him, as the children embrace them. The family moves into the darkness. 26 194 X US 45 S

Scrooge: Tiny Tim, thy essence was from God. (The Spirit moves away from him.) Spectrum, something informs me that our parting moment is at hand. So tell me, what man was it who died? (The country drop comes in and the spirit points to a spot downstage. It is a graveyard and one tombstone can be seen through the fog.) 3456

Scrooge: Before I draw nearer to that stone to which you point, answer me one question. Are these the shadows of the things that will be, or are they shadows of the things that may be? (The spirit still points to the graveyard.) Men's actions do foreshadow certain ends, but if those actions be changed, surely the ends can be changed. Say it is thus with what you show me. Surely the ends can be changed. They can be changed. Say it is thus with me. (Scrooge moves toward the stone. As it stands erect, he reads the name upon it: EBENEZER SCROOGE.)

Scrooge: (He is kneeling before the stone) No, Spirit, no, oh no, Spirit. (He clutches the spirit's robe) But I am not the man I was. I am not the man I was. Why show me this, if I am past all hope. I will change these shadows you have shown me, I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. Oh tell me that I may wipe away the writing on this stone. I will honour Christmas in my heart. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. I will honour Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year. I will honour Christmas in my heart. I will keep it all the year. I will keep it all the year. My bed curtains are still here. My things are here. I am here! The shadows of the things that would have been may be changed. They WILL be. I know they will! I don't know what to do. I am as light as a feather; I am as happy as an angel; I am merry as a school boy. A Merry

43

Key

STANDBY

DRY ICE

SCENE CHANGE

SOUND

LIGHTS

A Christmas Carol

Director: Jane Cox