Now, being prepared for almost anything, he was not by any means prepared for nothing; and consequently, when the bell struck One, and no shape appeared, he was taken with a violent fit of trembling. Five minutes, ten minutes, a quarter of an hour went by, yet nothing came. At last, however, he began to think—as you or I would have thought at first; for it is always the person not in the predicament who knows what ought to have been done in it, and would unquestionably have done it too—at last, I say, he began to realize that the source and secret of this ghostly visit might be in the adjoining room, This idea taking full possession of his mind, he got up softly, and shuffled in his slippers to see tings for himself…

 Scrooge sits up in bed as Narrator departs USL

9. LIGHTS: FADE UP TO 1/2. THE FIRE IS LOW.

10. MUSIC: [MUS-11] SPIRIT #2. UP, PLAY THRU.

(CLOCK CHIME SONG/SILENCE/SPIRIT 2 THEME)

2. SOUND: [SFX-15] CLOCK CHIME (1X).

4. LIGHTS: FADE UP

*Scrooge moves to USC looks around and sees no one, but does see The abundant Christmas décor and foods spread throughout the room.*

5. SECOND SPIRIT: Come. Ebenezer Scrooge! Come! *(laughs)*

6. LIGHTS: FULL AND MAGICALLY GREEN. THE FIRE NOW ROARS.

8. SECOND SPIRIT: *(laughs)* Come! Come and know me better, man. I am the

Ghost of Christmas Present! You’ve never seen the like of me before!

SCROOGE: Never!

9. SCROOGE: Spirit, conduct me where you will. I went forth last night on

compulsion and learnt a lesson which is working now. Tonight, if you have aught to teach me, let me profit by it.

10. SECOND SPIRIT: (LAUGHS) Very well! Touch... my... robe!

**SCENE 12**

***EXT. LONDON STREETS - NOON***

*SETTING:*

*The street scene set on STAGE RIGHT. Small tables are set up to sell foods and gifts. The*

*bedroom--in darkness-- is undergoing setting for the Cratchit home;*

*AT RISE:*

*A happy crowd of shoppers and sellers bustles around the street. SCROOGE and the*

*SECOND SPIRIT walk amongst them--unseen. The NARRATOR steps DOWNSTAGE and*

*addresses the audience directly.*

**NARRATOR** moving into the street scene, picking up an apple or muffin as he walks through the scene speaking.

*Scrooge and the spirit walk DS… as they do, A street scene unfolds at the foot of the stage with street vendors proferring flowers, fruits, candles, and people are bustling about carrying packages…. “Merry Christmas” is heard and offered often. Scrooge and spirit watch…. Spirit sprinkles seasoning in some street persons items….*

**NARRATOR speaks:** They stood in the city streets on Christmas morning. There an air of cheerfulness abroad that the clearest summer air and brightest summer sun might have endeavoured to diffuse in vain.

For, the people were jovial and full of glee; calling out to one another—laughing heartily. The poulterers' shops were still half open, and the fruiterers' were radiant in their glory. There were ruddy, brown-faced, broad-girthed Spanish onions, shining in the fatness of their growth like Spanish Friars, and winking from their shelves in wanton slyness at the girls as they went by, and glanced demurely at the hung-up mistletoe.

*Spirit sprinkles “seasoning” on some of the food baskets as people pass…*

SCROOGE "Is there a peculiar flavour in what you sprinkle from your torch?"

SPIRIT 2: "There is. My own."

SCROOGE: Would it apply to any kind of dinner on this day?"

SPIRIT 2: To any kindly given. To a poor one most."

SCROOGE: Why to a poor one most?" asked Scrooge.

SPIRIT: Because it needs it most."

SCROOGE: Spirit, I wonder you, of all the beings in the many worlds about us, should desire to cramp these people's opportunities of innocent enjoyment.

SPIRIT: I!

SCROOGE: You would deprive them of their means of dining every seventh day, often the only day on which they can be said to dine at all, wouldn't you?

SPIRIT "I!"

SCROOGE: "You seek to close these places on the Seventh Day," "And it comes to the same thing."

SPIRIT: "*I* seek!

SCROOGE "Forgive me if I am wrong. It has been done in your name, or at least in that of a heavenly spirit," said Scrooge.

SPIRITL There are some upon this earth,who lay claim to know us, and who do their deeds of passion, pride, ill-will, hatred, envy, bigotry, and selfishness in our name, who are as strange to us, and all our kith and kin, as if they had never lived. Remember that."