

at theREP★

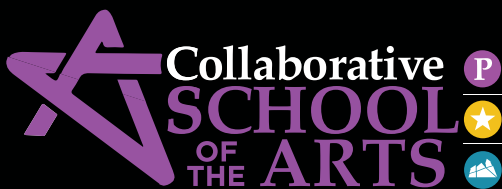
2024-2025 SEASON

A SHERLOCK CAROL

BY MARK SHANAHAN



STUDY
GUIDE



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
collaborativeschoolofthearts.org

OR CONTACT GROUP SALES AT:
(518) 382-3884 x 139

theREP and Collaborative School of the Arts are a part of Proctors Collaborative

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ATTENDING A PERFORMANCE

Being a member of an audience is an important job; live theatre couldn't exist without you! Follow these simple suggestions to have the best theatre experience possible.

BRING WITH YOU...ideas, imagination, an open mind, observation skills and a sense of wonder.

LEAVE BEHIND...cell phones, pen lights, food and drink and anything else that might distract you, the performers or other members of the audience.

THINGS TO DO BEFORE A PERFORMANCE

- Learn about the show you are going to see
- Arrive on time
- Find your seat and visit the restroom.

DURING A PERFORMANCE

PLEASE DO...applaud, laugh, pay attention to big and little details, think about questions that arise for you and stay seated until intermission/end of the show.

PLEASE DON'T...talk, sleep, eat or drink, distract others, use a cell phone or exit the theatre during the performance unless it's an emergency.

CAPITAL REPERTORY THEATRE 2024-2025 SEASON

43RD MAINSTAGE SEASON

"Seared" by Theresa Rebeck

Student Matinee | Oct. 3, 2024

"A Sherlock Carol" by Mark Shanahan

Student Matinee | Dec. 11 and 18, 2024

"The Lehman Trilogy" by Stefano Massini

WORLD PREMIERE

"Rosie is Red And Everybody Is Blue"

by John Spellos

Student Matinee | May 1, 2025

"Once" Book by Enda Walsh, music and lyrics

by Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová

ON-THE-GO! TOURS

"The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" by

Washington Irving, adapted by Maggie Mancinelli-Cahill with Original Music by Justin Friello and Lecco Morris | Oct. 15-Nov. 2, 2024

"A Friend of A Friend: Tales of the

Underground Railroad" by Maggie Mancinelli-Cahill and Jill Rafferty-Weinisch | Jan. 27-Feb. 15, 2025

OTHER

NEXT ACT! NEW PLAY SUMMIT 14

SPRING 2025

SUMMER STAGE YOUNG ACTING

COMPANY PERFORMANCES | SUMMER 2025

For more information visit:

collaborativeschoolofthearts.org or **contact**

group sales at: (518) 382-3884 x 139

groupsales@proctorscollaborative.org

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Dear Educator:

Welcome to Capital Repertory Theatre at 251 North Pearl St.!

We are thrilled that you are attending a student matinee performance of “A Sherlock Carol,” one of theREP’s MainStage productions for the 2024-25 season and hope that you will find this guide to be a useful tool in your classroom!

You have permission to reproduce materials within this guide for use in your classroom. It is designed to introduce the cultural and historical context of the play as well as provide resources and ideas for incorporating the theatre experience into your curriculum. Productions by theREP are likely to generate questions, thoughts and opinions amongst your students.

The arts provide young imaginations with stimulation, points of reference and intellectual resources for the mind and spirit. It is theREP’s goal to make live theatre attendance possible for all students in the Capital Region. Tens of thousands of Capital Region students have attended student matinees and On-The-Go! performances throughout our history, and we hope to continue to grow and serve the needs of the Capital Region education community for decades to come.

Your success stories help us to keep the program funded, so please let us know how you are using theatre in the classroom. We love to receive copies of lesson plans, student work related to our productions and your letters. These are important testimonials to the value of the arts in education.

We look forward to hearing from you!

With deepest gratitude,



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ABOUT US

theREP★

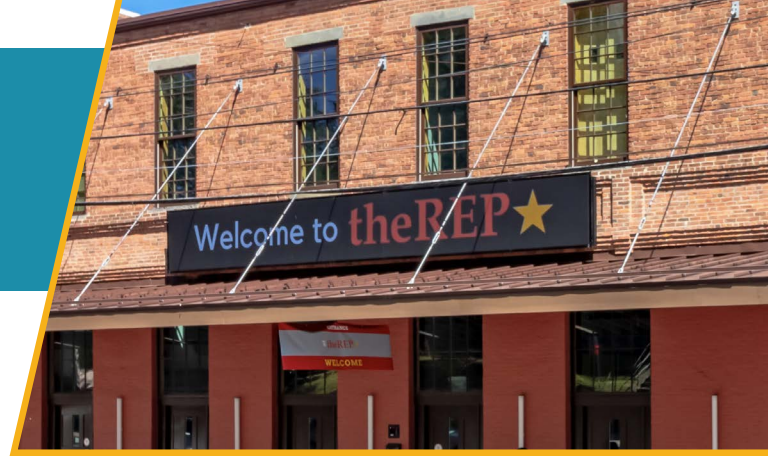
Capital Repertory Theatre is a non-profit professional-producing theatre. In its decades-long history, theREP has produced more than 8,000 performances for the people of the Capital Region.

A member of the League of Resident Theatres, theREP strives to bring quality work that explores the essence of the human condition through the stories of people, events and phenomena that shape our contemporary lives. Theatre, at its best, entertains, cajoles and inspires by engaging the heart and mind through its most powerful ally—the imagination.

There are two basic types of theatre companies: producing and presenting, and theREP is a producing theatre. The theatre hires a director and designers for the set, costumes, lights and sound. The theatre's artistic director and director select appropriate actors for all the roles in the play. Then they come to Albany, where the play is built and rehearsed. The resident staff of the theatre work with visiting artists to put the production together.

In addition to the main theatre space, theREP has a studio theatre that acts as a rehearsal space and secondary venue for performances (such as several Black Theatre Troupe of Upstate NY's recent productions), a costume shop where costumes are constructed and cared for, a prop shop where props are made, offices where the administrative staff works and housing facilities for out-of-town actors. Sets for theREP are constructed in a scene shop in Rotterdam, NY, that is also part of Proctors Collaborative.

In contrast to a producing theatre, presenting theatres, sometimes called “roadhouses,” like Proctors in Schenectady, host shows that have been designed, built and rehearsed elsewhere. Productions that tour are booked into presenting theatres. Shows that are booked into presenting houses will tour regionally, nationally or internationally over an extended period. What you see at theREP, or with our On-The-Go! Tours, are unique to theREP where it was built. No one from anywhere else will see this production just as you see it!



STUDENT MATINEES

10:30 a.m. Performance at theREP

PRICE

\$14 per student

CHAPERONES

For every 15 students, one complimentary adult ticket is provided.

LOCATION

251 North Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12207

RESERVATIONS

Contact group sales at (518) 382-3884 x 139
groupsales@proctorscollaborative.org

SCHOLARSHIPS

Visit collaborativeschoolofthearts.org for more information and applications.

Capital Repertory Theatre is one of the organizations within Proctors Collaborative, which also includes: Proctors, Universal Preservation Hall, the Collaborative School of the Arts, the Collaborative Scene Shop and Schenectady-Saratoga Symphony Orchestra.

ON-THE-GO!

For more information and to book a tour contact: onthego@proctors.org or collaborativeschoolofthearts.org.

ABOUT THE PLAY

“A SHERLOCK CAROL”

A BRIEF SYNOPSIS

Moriarty is dead, to begin with. And Sherlock Holmes is a haunted man. But when grown-up Tiny Tim, now Timothy Cratchit, a popular medic caring for the poor, asks Holmes to investigate the possible murder of his benefactor, Ebenezer Scrooge, the great detective must use his gifts to solve a Dickens of a Christmas mystery!

CHARACTER LIST

In this script there are six actors. One actor plays Scrooge and another Holmes, while all other roles are played by four additional actors.

- **Sherlock Holmes:** The world’s foremost consulting detective, in decline
- **Ebenezer Scrooge:** Formerly a miser, Scrooge transformed into a good man one Christmas, after being haunted by ghosts. Also plays **A Ghostly Voice**.

ACTOR 1

- **Dr. Timothy Cratchit:** Tiny Tim, all grown up. Now, a doctor at St. Bernard’s Hospital for Children.
- **Mr. Topper:** The manager of the Cosmopolitan Hotel. Easily irritated and a bit pompous. A supposed friend of Scrooge’s nephew Fred.
- **Ralph Fezziwig:** A nervous and wiry young man. The black sheep of the proud Fezziwig family. He is engaged to Fannie.
- **Constable Bradstreet:** A seemingly upstanding member of Scotland Yard.

ACTOR 2

- **Emma Wiggins:** A good-spirited and brave 13-year-old girl, she is a former Baker Street Irregular.
- **Fan Gardner:** Scrooge’s granddaughter. A refined young woman, she works backstage at the theatre in the Cosmopolitan Hotel. Engaged to Ralph Fezziwig.

- **Inspector Lestrade:** Blustery, an easily confounded member of Scotland Yard. He has grudging respect for Holmes.
- **Mrs. Windigate:** A Scottish tavern keeper and member of the Goose Club. Giggly, a whirlwind.

ACTOR 3

- **Dr. Watson:** Sherlock’s best and most loyal friend.
- **Mrs. Dibler:** Mr. Scrooge’s housekeeper of over 30 years. An emotional creature with a connection to the spiritual realm.
- **Henry Burke:** An Irish candle maker, an old friend of Mr. Scrooge.
- **Old Joe Brackenridge:** The owner of Old Joe’s bar in Covent Garden. Gruff, a born salesman.

ACTOR 4

- **Caroler:** A cheerful person in the street.
- **Woman in restaurant:** A London lady.
- **The Countess of Morcar:** American. An old love of Holmes’ who also goes by another name, Irene Adler.
- **Martha Cratchit:** Tough and a bit lower class than her brother. She is as smart and observant as any detective she might happen to meet.
- **Mary Morstan:** Watson’s elegant and brave wife.
- **Abigail Fezziwig:** Runs a business fattening geese for the market. She is no nonsense and direct – a proud member of the hardworking Fezziwig family.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT: MARK SHANAHAN

Mark Shanahan is the author of the Off-Broadway comedy “The Ding Dong,” “A Merry Little Christmas Carol” and is the creator/author of original radio drama for White Heron Theatre and NPR’s “Ghost Light Series.” He is an Edgar Award nominee for his adaptation of “The Chronology Protection Case,” and co-writer of the short screenplay “Kill Me” (Adirondack FilmFest). His directing work has been seen extensively at The Alley Theatre, Westport Country Playhouse, Irish Rep, White Heron, Florida Rep, George Street, Virginia Stage, Penguin Rep, The Fulton, Arkansas Rep, Theatre Squared, Hudson Stage and many more. As an actor, he appeared on Broadway in “The 39 Steps,” “Philadelphia” and “Here I Come!”; Off-Broadway in “Tryst,” “The Shaughran,” “Small World,” “Checkers,” “As Bees in Honey Drown” and others and has performed on numerous regional stages. Mark is the curator of the Script-In-Hand and Radio Theatre Series for The Westport Country Playhouse and a faculty member at Fordham University and JWS, teaching courses on Hitchcock, film adaptation and playwriting. A graduate of Brown University (BA) and Fordham (MA).



Pictured: Mark Shanahan
www.mark-shanahan.net

LITERARY CONTEXT

A Synopsis of “A Christmas Carol”

The story of “A Christmas Carol” is very well known and tells the tale of a miserly old man, Ebenezer Scrooge, who is visited by the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future. They have been sent to provide him with a new perspective on life, in the hopes of turning him from his miserly ways to contribute in a positive way to his family, friends and society at large, before it’s too late. Ultimately, these encounters teach Scrooge the importance of love, generosity, kindness and the Christmas spirit.

It’s Christmas Eve and Scrooge is home eating a midnight snack when out of the dark recesses of his room he is visited by the ghost of his former business partner, Jacob Marley. Marley, wearing and rattling the many chains he forged in life, is there to warn Scrooge that his heartless and selfish ways will lead him to suffer in the afterlife. Scrooge might have time to change if he heeds the advice he’s about to receive. Marley continues to tell Scrooge that he will be visited by three ghosts that very night, the first is set to arrive as the bell tolls 1 a.m. Scrooge is frightened, at first, but ultimately believes it all to be a hallucination due his late-night snack (a bit of undigested beef) and once Marley is gone, Scrooge turns in for the night.

Through the ghosts, the audience learns of Ebenezer’s past, when he seemed to have a heart and a rather charitable nature; who he is now and how he has become the old miser that he is; as well as providing him with a look at what his future will hold if he doesn’t change his ways. In the telling of Scrooge’s story, the audience meets his bookkeeper/clerk, Bob Cratchit, and learns how Scrooge’s ways directly impact Bob and his family; as well as Scrooge’s closest living relative, a nephew named Fred, who holds out hope that his uncle will change his ugly ways.

- **The Ghost of Christmas Past** is the first spirit to arrive and shows Scrooge scenes of Christmases from when he was a young boy, scenes which begin to soften his heart as he remembers what it felt like to be a child, begin a career, have good friends and even fall in love; these feelings begin to make Scrooge regret his lack of generosity and the chance for true happiness and kinship in life that his greed has cost him.
- **The Ghost of Christmas Present** is the next to arrive and shows Scrooge the way others are celebrating the season with true Christmas spirit, even if they have limited means. This is especially true of the Cratchit family and his nephew Fred. The Ghost of Christmas Present forces Scrooge to witness society’s treatment of the poor by introducing him to spirits Ignorance and Want.
- **The Ghost of Christmas Future**, or **Christmas Yet to Come**, is a silent and mysterious one who resembles the character of death. This ghost shows Scrooge what the future holds if he doesn’t change course, including the death of Tiny Tim as well as his own death. Tiny Tim is Bob Cratchit’s child who is sick because Scrooge doesn’t pay Bob well enough to get him the care he needs. Through this spirit, Scrooge sees that no one will mourn or miss him when he dies and what the untimely death of Tiny Tim will do to his family, a situation he could have easily helped. Terrified, Scrooge begs the ghost to tell him that the future is not written in stone, that it can be changed if he were to live differently, with kindness and generosity and love. Before the ghost can answer, Scrooge awakes, finding himself back in his room.

As Ebenezer fully awakens, he discovers that it is Christmas day, and the spirits worked their magic in less than one full night. He’s filled with joy and gratitude at being given a chance to change his ways and live a more meaningful life. He dresses, goes out and greets folks with joy, reconnects with his nephew Fred, becomes a benefactor to the Cratchits and a generous, well-loved man in society for the rest of his days, always keeping the spirit of Christmas in his ear.

LITERARY CONTEXT

A SYNOPSIS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

“The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes” is a collection of 12 unrelated short stories that feature the famous detective and his loyal friend and assistant, Dr. John Watson. The novel is narrated by Watson (each story from Watson’s journals), is set in the late 19th century in London, England and follows Holmes and Watson as they solve a series of complex and intriguing cases using, first and foremost, Holmes’ keen powers of observation and deduction.

Holmes can also be found in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s novel, “The Hound of the Baskervilles” which was serialized in The Strand Magazine in 1901-02; in the novel “A Study in Scarlet” which was originally published in Beeton’s Christmas Annual magazine in 1887; and other Doyle stories.

Characters from the world of Sherlock Holmes who show up in “A Sherlock Carol”

Professor James Moriarty is the fictional criminal mastermind, created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, to be a formidable enemy of Sherlock Holmes. The character of Moriarty was obsessed with Holmes because he thought Holmes was the only one who could match his own skill and intellect. Ultimately, each character was the other’s undoing.

As described by Doyle, Moriarty was extremely tall and thin, his forehead domed out in a white curve, and his two eyes were deeply sunken in his head. He was clean-shaven, pale and ascetic-looking, retaining something of the professor in his features.

His shoulders were rounded from much study, and his face protrudes forward and was forever slowly oscillating from side to side in a curiously reptilian fashion. He was the greatest schemer of all time and the controlling brain of the underworld.

Detective Inspector G. Lestrade is a fictional Inspector of Scotland Yard whom Holmes considers a bit of a bumbling copper and who needs the help of Sherlock to solve the mystery afoot.

As described by Doyle, Lestrade was a lean, ferret-like man, furtive and sly-looking. A well-known detective. He was devoid of reason, but he was as tenacious as a bulldog once he understood what he had to do, and indeed it was just this tenacity which has brought him to the top at Scotland Yard.

Holmes considered Lestrade (or any member of the Yard) to be out of his depth when investigating a crime but was always there to do the actual arresting of a criminal when Holmes was giving his summation of the crime(s).



The stories within “The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes:”

- “A Scandal in Bohemia”
- “The Red-Headed League”
- “A Case of Identity”
- “The Boscombe Valley Mystery”
- “The Five Orange Pips”
- “The Man with the Twisted Lip”
- “The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle”
- “The Adventure of the Speckled Band”
- “The Adventure of the Engineer’s Thumb”
- “The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor”
- “The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet”
- “The Adventure of Copper Beeches”

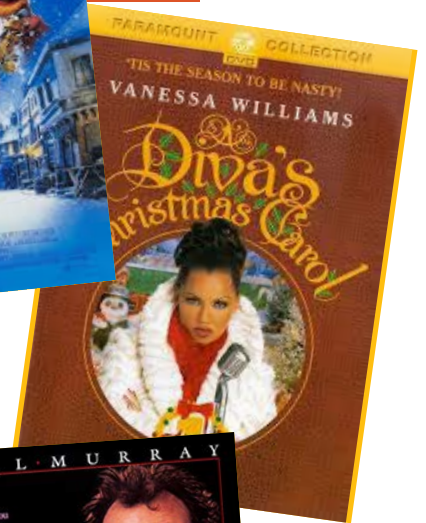
LITERARY CONTEXT ADAPTATIONS

Adaptation is the act of changing something, or one's behavior, to make it suitable for a new purpose or situation.

- A movie, TV drama or stage play that has been adapted from a written work, typically a novel.

Adaptations of "A Christmas Carol"

- "Scrooge," or "Marley's Ghost" (1901 silent film)
- "Mister Magoo's Christmas Carol" (1962 cartoon film)
- "Scrooge" (1970 a musical retelling; film)
- "Mickey's Christmas Carol" (1983 cartoon film)
- "Blackadder's Christmas Carol" (1988 film)
- "Scrooged" (1988 film with Bill Murray)
- "The Muppet Christmas Carol" (1992 film)
- "A Diva's Christmas Carol" (2000 film where Scrooge is a woman)
- "A Christmas Carol" adapted by Patrick Barlow (stage play with five actors playing all parts - theREP did a production of this adaptation in 2013.)
- "A Christmas Carol" adapted by Romulus Linney (stage play)
- "A Christmas Carol" (operetta in Two Acts)
- And so many more!



Adaptations of Sherlock Holmes

- "Sherlock Jr." (1924 movie with Buster Keaton and Kathryn McGuire)
- "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939 film with Basil Rathbone)
- "The Baker Street Boys" (1983 TV series)
- "Sherlock Hound" (1984-85 cartoon TV series where Sherlock is a dog)
- "The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes" (1994 TV miniseries)
- "The Enola Holmes Mysteries" by Nancy Springer (book series between 2006-2023)

Pictured: Scrooged, A Diva's Christmas Carol, A Muppets Christmas Carol, A Christmas Carol REP Production, Enola Book Series, Sherlock Jr.

LITERARY CONTEXT ADAPTATIONS

Adaptations of Sherlock Holmes

- “Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars” (2007 TV movie)
- “Sherlock Holmes” (2009 movie with Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law)
- “Sherlock” (2010-17 TV series with Benedict Cumberbatch)
- “Elementary” (2012-19 TV series with Lucy Liu and Johnny Lee Miller)
- “The Beekeepers Apprentice” by Laurie R. King (book published in 2014)
- “Sherlock Holmes” adapted by William Gillette
- “The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes” adapted by Jon Jory
- Among many, many more!



Vocabulary Words from the Script

- **Adversary:** someone or something that struggles with, opposes or resists; an enemy or opponent
- **Blither blather:** talking foolishly or nonsensically
- **Blunderbuss:** an action or way of doing something regarded as lacking in subtlety and precision
- **Bric a brac:** miscellaneous objects and ornaments of little value
- **Bungler:** a person who habitually does something very badly, or in a careless or stupid way
- **Disjecta membra:** scattered fragments, especially of written work
- **Elementary:** relating to the basic elements of a subject; straight forward and uncomplicated; basic or simple
- **Flapdoodler:** a speaker or writer of nonsense
- **Fusser:** a person who makes frequent complaints usually about little things
- **Ineffable:** too great or extreme to be expressed or described in words; causing so much emotion, especially pleasure, that it cannot be described
- **Luminous:** full of or giving off light
- **Malmsey:** a fortified Madeira wine of the sweetest type
- **Miser:** a person who hoards wealth and spends as little money as possible; a penny-pincher
- **Reclamation:** the process of claiming something back or of reasserting a right
- **Row:** an argument; a serious disagreement or noisy argument – originally the office in a wealthy medieval household responsible for wax and candles, as well as the room in which the candles were kept
- **Tempest:** a violent windstorm, especially one with rain, hail or snow
- **Twaddle:** silly idle talk; drivel; something insignificant or worthless; nonsense
- **Willy nilly:** whether one likes it or not; without direction or planning; haphazardly

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

ABOUT CHARLES DICKENS

Born: Feb. 7, 1812, in Portsmouth, Hampshire, England

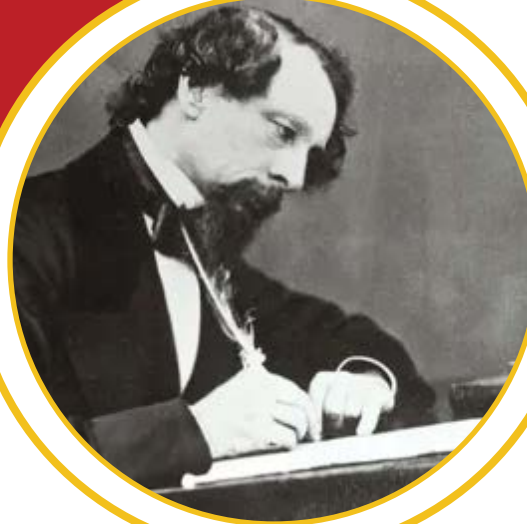
Died: June 9, 1870, Gad's Hill, Kent, England

An English novelist generally considered the greatest of the Victorian era, Dickens penned beloved classics such as “A Christmas Carol,” “David Copperfield,” “A Tale of Two Cities,” “Great Expectations,” “Nicholas Nickleby” and “Oliver Twist.”

Dickens was a novelist who enjoyed a wider popularity during his lifetime than any previous author because so much of his writing appealed to both the uneducated and the educated, to the poor of England as well as to the Queen. Add in the new technologies of the time and his fame spread globally, and his popularity has never ceased.

The British author, journalist, editor, illustrator and social commentator began publishing his books in monthly serial installments - a lucrative income for one growing out of the abject poverty he survived as a child. His writing provided a stark portrait of the poor and the working class in the Victorian era and helped to bring about social change. He is remembered as one of the most important and influential writers of the 19th century and those who would pay homage to him can visit his grave in Poet's Corner at Westminster Abbey, in London.

- **1812:** Charles was born to John Dickens, a naval clerk (who dreamed of striking it rich) and Elizabeth Barrow (who aspired to be a teacher and school director). The second of eight children, Charles was a sickly child, prone to spasms which prevented him from playing sports, and so he filled his time by becoming an avid reader.
- **1824:** When Charles was 12 years old his father was sent to prison for debt and Charles lived with a sympathetic family-friend named Elizabeth Roylance (she was the inspiration for Mrs. Pipchin in his 1847 novel “Dombey and Son”). Following his father's imprisonment, and because he was the eldest son, Charles was forced to leave school to work at a boot-blackening factory, bringing his earnings (six shillings a week) home to his family. The strenuous working conditions heavily influenced his future writing as well as his views on the treatment of the poor and working class of the time. After a while, he was able to return to school when his father received a family inheritance and used it to pay off his debts. The school's sadistic headmaster was the inspiration for Mr. Creakle in his semi-autobiographical novel, “David Copperfield.”
- **1827:** At 15, he was forced to leave his education again and made to work as an office boy; bringing home his pay to contribute to his family's income once more. However, it turned out that this job would become the starting point for his writing career. Within the year, Dickens began freelance reporting at the law courts of London and a few years later he was reporting for two major papers in London.

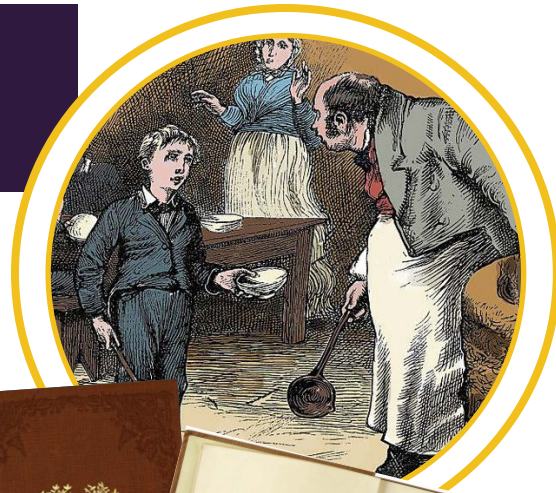


HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- **1833:** Under the pseudonym of Boz, Dickens began submitting sketches to various magazines and newspapers. His first published story was “A Dinner at Poplar Walk,” which ran in London’s Monthly Magazine. In 1836, his clippings were published in his first book, “Sketches by Boz.” Later he would edit the magazines, Household Worlds and All the Year Round, founding the latter, and would promote and publish more of his works in both (i.e.: “Oliver Twist” and “A Tale of Two Cities”).
- **1836:** Dickens married Catherine Hogarth, daughter of George Hogarth, the editor of the Evening Chronicle. Despite separating in 1858, the couple had 10 children. Their separation took place after the devastating losses of their infant daughter Dora and Dickens’ father. At this time his novels began to express a darkened world view with complicated and thematically grim plots and complex characters.
- **1842:** During a five-month lecture tour of the United States with his wife Catherine, Dickens spoke of his opposition to slavery and expressed his support for additional reform. He was annoyed with what he viewed as Americans’ gregariousness and crude habits – as he expressed in “American Notes for General Circulation.” The sarcastic travelogue, which he penned upon his return to England, criticized American culture and materialism. His lectures were so widely attended that ticket scalpers gathered.
- **1843:** On Dec. 19, Dickens published “A Christmas Carol,” one of his most timeless and beloved works, selling more than 6,000 copies upon publication.

Between 1836 and 1870, Dickens would write a total of 15 novels; his first, “The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club,” and his last, “The Mystery of Edwin Drood,” which went unfinished due to his death.

Dickens’ books were originally published in monthly serial installments that sold for one shilling each. The affordable price meant that all could read the stories. Once complete, the stories were published again in novel form.



ABOUT SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

Born: May 22, 1859, Edinburgh, Scotland

Died: July 7, 1930, Crowborough, Sussex, England

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is best known for his creation of one of the most vivid and enduring detective characters in classic literature, Sherlock Holmes.

Arthur Conan Doyle by Herbert Rose Barraud, published by Eglington & Co © National Portrait Gallery, London

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Born into a prosperous Irish Catholic family, to Charles Altamont and Mary Foley Doyle, Arthur was the second of 10 children and the eldest son. Doyle received most of his early education from the Jesuits at Hodder Preparatory School and Stonyhurst College. Determined to become a doctor, he would enroll at Edinburgh University to study medicine where he studied and worked as assistant to Dr. Joseph Bell (an eccentric surgeon and professor at the university). He obtained his BA of Medicine and Master of Surgery qualifications from Edinburgh's Medical School in 1881, and upon completion of his thesis, "An Essay upon the Vasomotor Changes in Tabes Dorsalis," his M.D. in 1885.

Doyle worked as a surgeon on a whaling boat to support himself through school and after earning his medical degree he spent several months working as a ship's doctor on a steamer that travelled between Liverpool, England and West Africa. Later, he settled in Portsmouth on the English south coast and divided his time between medicine and writing.

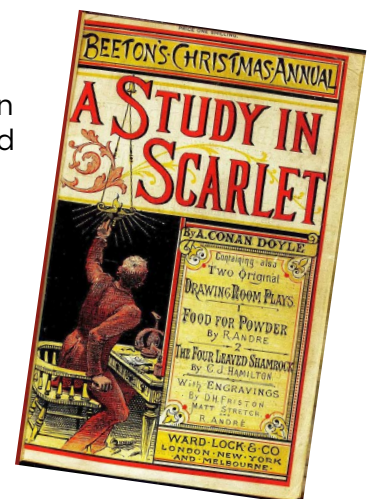
Doyle was a master diagnostician, a skill he gained by watching his mentor, Dr. Bell. Bell had high powers of observation and the ability to figure out a patient's occupation based on seemingly insignificant details like what clothes they wore and their mannerisms. The power of observation and diagnostic deduction became the very characteristics for Doyle's literary detective, Sherlock Holmes.

In 1882, he joined a medical practice in Plymouth, England but he quarreled with his partner and left that practice opening his own in Southsea. He struggled to earn a living as a doctor in his own practice as he failed to attract enough patients. During this period, he began supplementing his income by selling short stories he'd written to magazines. He sold his first short story in 1879.

On August 6, 1885, he married Louisa Hawkins, a wealthy woman whose financial means allowed him to devote even more time to writing. By 1891, he retired from the medical practice altogether and was able to support his family as a full-time writer. During their marriage, Louisa gave him two children, both of whom tragically succumbed to tuberculosis in 1906.

In 1887 Sherlock Holmes made his first appearance in "A Study of Scarlet," published in Beeton's Christmas Annual. Its success encouraged Doyle to write more stories involving Holmes but in 1893 he killed the character off in "The Final Problem," hoping to be able to concentrate on other writings and not be forced to write for one character his whole career. However, public outcry forced him resurrect Holmes allowing him, and readers, to have new adventures.

In total Doyle wrote four novels and 56 short stories featuring the famous detective and his partner, Dr. Watson (originally published between 1887 and 1927). His most beloved Sherlock stories include the novel "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and short stories "The Adventure of the Speckled Band," "The Red-Headed League," "The Man with the Twisted Lip" and "The Five Orange Pips."



Around the turn of the century, Doyle served in the Boer War as a surgeon in South Africa. He also wrote a pamphlet in support of the war which led to his being knighted in 1902.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Doyle's reputation and abilities for crime-solving earned him the status of unofficial consultant to the English police, and Sherlock Holmes stories became required reading for English police detectives in training.

In 1906, a year after the death of his first wife, he married his longtime friend Jean Leckie. They settled down in Crowborough, Sussex and had three children.

When the First World War broke out, Doyle helped organize a local volunteer force, covered the war as a correspondent and would later write a six-volume history of "The British Campaign in France and Flanders." The war also reignited his interest in Spiritualism, a fact that would bring him together with Houdini in 1920 and have him speaking publicly in defense of his belief that one could speak with the dead through a gifted medium.

During WWI, Doyle cleverly relayed information to British POWs in Germany by sending them copies of books in which he made pinpricks under specific words within the text to form messages. In addition to his Sherlock Holmes mysteries, Doyle also penned several works of historical fiction, adventure novels, poetry, plays and various non-fictional works including a pamphlet justifying Britain's involvement in the Boer War, as well as histories of the Boer War and World War One.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle died of a heart attack on July 7, 1930, at his home in Sussex, England.



THE VICTORIAN ERA

The Victorian era is the period in British history between (approximately) 1820-1914, which corresponds roughly to the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901). It is characterized by a class-based society, with a growing number of people able to vote, a growing state and economy and the British Empire's status as the most powerful empire in the world.

At the time, Britain was a powerful and wealthy nation with a rich culture and a stable government controlling a vast empire. Late in the era, Britain began to decline as global political and economic power shifted, particularly to the United States, but the decline was not truly noticeable until after WWII.

Victorian England's society was organized hierarchically. While race, religion, region and occupation were all meaningful factors of identity and status, the main factors were of gender and class. At that time, gender was biologically based and determined almost every aspect of one's potential character.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

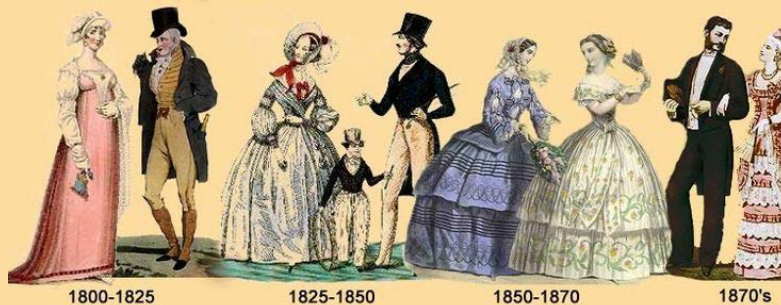
Victorian gender ideology was based on the “**doctrine of separate spheres**” which stated that men and women were different and meant for different things.

MEN

- Considered physically strong
- Were independent
- Belonged in the public sphere
- Meant to be in politics and in paid work

WOMEN

- Considered physically weak
- Were dependent
- Belonged in private
- Meant to run households and bear and raise children
- Naturally more religious and morally finer than men



Working-class families could not live out the doctrine of separate spheres because they could not survive on a single male wage, and those below working-class certainly couldn't, however, the ideology was influential across all classes.

INCOME DURING THE VICTORIAN ERA

Working-class income was typically **under 100 pounds per year**.

Middle-class income was **between 100 and 1000 pounds per year**.

Upper class had an income of **1000+ pounds per year**.

Class, both economic and cultural, encompassed income, occupation, education, family structure, sexual behavior, politics and leisure activities. The upper class had titles, wealth and land- they owned most of the land in Britain! As a result, they controlled local, national and imperial politics. It was a society operated by the upper class, the aristocracy, with many in that class having done nothing but be born into it. Though late in the era, think “Downton Abbey.”

The formal political system in Victorian England was a constitutional monarchy. It was dominated by aristocratic men. The British constitution was – and is – unwritten and consists of a combination of written laws and unwritten conventions. At the national level, government consisted of the monarch and the two houses of Parliament: the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The monarchs during this period were Queen Victoria (1837-1901), preceded by King George IV (1820-30) and King William IV (1830-37); and was followed by King Edward VII (1901-10) and King George V (1910-36).

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

QUEEN VICTORIA

Alexandrina Victoria was born on the May 24, 1819, in Kensington Palace, London, England. She was the last of the house of Hanover and gave her name to an era. The daughter of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Strathearn (the fourth son of King George III) and Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld, Victoria reigned as Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from June 20, 1837, until her death on Jan. 22, 1901. Her reign, 63 years and 216 days, was longer than any of her predecessors and was a period marked by industrial, political, scientific and military change in the United Kingdom as well as a great expansion of the British Empire.



In 1876, the British Parliament voted to grant Queen Victoria an additional title, that of Empress of India.

MAPS OF LONDON



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

THE LONDON FOG

The fog in Victorian London was a serious problem; it was a direct effect of dense and industrialized population. By the time Queen Victoria ascended to the throne in 1837, dense fogs could make travel, be it by foot or horse-drawn carriage, almost impossible. These adverse conditions could last for days.

- Factory chimney emissions as well as coal use for domestic heating and cooking, coupled with the right atmospheric wet and stillness, equals dense fog.
- Sulfurous elements often gave the fog a yellowish tinge like pea soup – consequently, a bad fog was called “a pea-souper.”
- During a severe or long-lasting fog, breathing could become quite difficult for humans and animals alike; causing plants to wither; and homes could find an oily and slightly gritty smut coating the furniture.
- A study done in 1892 concluded that there was an average of 63 foggy days per year, between 1886 and 1890.
- In 1905, a Londoner coined the term “smog” to describe the city’s insidious combination of weather created fog and the coal smoke.



During periods of such gloom, linklighters (street urchins carrying homemade torches) guided folks through the darkness, for a fee of course; sometimes the well-to-do were led into alleys and robbed.

Linklighters lead the way with torches through a London fog, illustrated here in an edition of The Illustrated London News from January 1847. (Photo: Wellcome Images, CC BY)

221B BAKER STREET

In 1887, when Doyle created Sherlock and wrote “A Study In Scarlet,” 221B Baker Street did not exist. Baker Street house numbers only extended into the 100s at that time. Now, however, there is a 221B Baker Street in Marylebone, London, and it is The Sherlock Homes Museum.

► **Check it out:** www.sherlock-holmes.co.uk

COVENT GARDEN

Mentioned in the script, the famous Covent Garden, now a shopping and entertainment hub, is located just north of The Strand in London’s West End. It was London’s foremost flower, fruit and vegetable market for over 300 years. Its open air but covered market is still a huge attraction today.

► **Check it out:** www.coventgarden.london

IDEAS FOR CURRICULUM INTEGRATION

ENGLISH/LITERARY

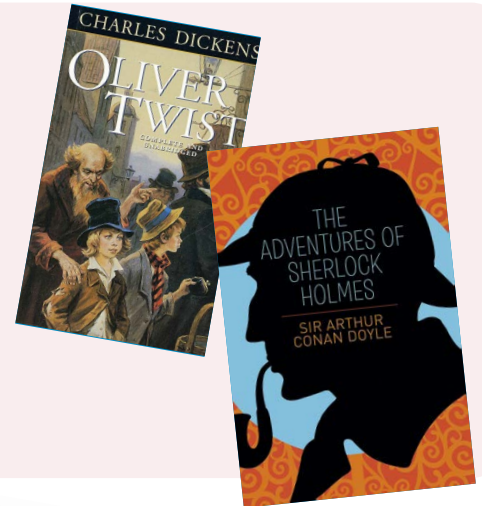
- 1. WRITE! A Review:** Ask students to write a review of the REP's production of "A Sherlock Carol." Things to consider when writing a review:
 - Did any of the characters resonate with you and why?
 - What was the most compelling or intriguing aspect of the production?
 - How did the set, costumes and props add (or take away) from the production?
 - What did you think of the sound/music and stage movement?
 - What did you think of the direction of the piece?
 - What questions arose for you about the production? Was anything unclear or confusing?
 - What did you think of the actors? Did you feel their characters were vibrant, three-dimensional, real people?
 - Can you make any connections between this play and other plays that you have seen? Can you make any connections from the play to your own life?

- 2. READ!** Read works by Charles Dickens.

- "A Christmas Carol"
- "Oliver Twist"
- "Great Expectations"

- 3. READ!** Read works by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

- "A Study In Scarlet" and "The Sign of Four"
- "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Valley of Fear"
- "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"
- "The Best of Sherlock Holmes"



- 4. ADAPT!** Students are asked to adapt "A Christmas Carol" into one of the forms noted:

- Create a three-panel comic strip like Maya Gosling's "Romeo & Juliet" three-panel comic seen here.
- Imagine the story as a children's book. Can you adapt the full written story down to the written words in a child's picture book? (If you draw, can you illustrate it as well?)
- Write a short story chapter or scene for a play. Consider what a first conversation between a grown-up Tiny Tim, who is now a doctor, and Sherlock Holmes might be, knowing that Dr. Cratchit has come to hire Sherlock to solve the murder of his friend, Ebenezer Scrooge. Can you write that chapter of a short story? Or those lines of dialogue of a play?



IDEAS FOR CURRICULUM INTEGRATION

- Dr. Watson wrote down his experiences with Sherlock in a diary, and that is how readers of Holmes stories get the story. Can you write a diary account, as Watson, of Dr. Cratchit's visit to 221B Baker Street with the hope of engaging Sherlock Holmes as detective to solve the murder of Ebenezer Scrooge?

5. READ, ANALYZE & WRITE! Students are asked to read "A Christmas Carol" (or perhaps, watch one of its many adaptations) and answer the following questions:

- What does the Ghost of Christmas Past represent? Where does the ghost take Scrooge and show him, and what does the Ghost of Christmas Past teach Scrooge?
- What does the Ghost of Christmas Present represent? Where does the ghost take Scrooge and show him, and what does the Ghost of Christmas Present teach Scrooge?
- What does the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come represent? Where does the ghost take Scrooge and show him, and what does the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come teach Scrooge?

6. WRITE! Pay It Forward/Random Act of Kindness: **As Scrooge says in "A Sherlock Carol"**
SCROOGE: "... Remember this kindness and offer to help someone else one day. It is never too late to change. May you be happy in the life you choose!"

- Students are asked to pay it forward, to complete a random act a kindness themselves, before the end of the year and then write a paper either on or about it. Things to consider when writing the paper: what was the act kindness they chose to do? Is there a reason behind that specific act of kindness, or did it just pop into their mind one day? How did it make them feel? Will they continue to do random acts of kindness, paying it forward in life, as they grow? Was it a secret/anonymous act of kindness? Has anyone ever done a random act of kindness for them?

6. "A SHERLOCK CAROL" Word Search (Pictured on page 20)

THEATRE/ART

- 1. TALK!** Have a classroom discussion about representation in art. Why is it important for everyone, in every walk of life, to have a voice and be represented in the world of art? How does the world of art, be it performative or visual, help everyone in every walk of life be represented?
- 2. DESIGN!** Design a show poster for a production of "A Sherlock Carol." (Students are encouraged to look up past show posters for the play as inspiration.) Imagery should include:
 - Visual art that evokes the play.
 - Production title and playwright name.
 - Performance venue and dates.
 - How one gets tickets to see the production.
 - Additional elements to consider:
 - Is there a sponsor for the production?
 - Director's name.

IDEAS FOR CURRICULUM INTEGRATION

- 3. COSTUME DESIGN!** After reading the play, students are asked to design the costumes. They should track how many different costumes each character will need and do a story board for each. They should create a collage of found/research images for each of the characters. Students work could then be presented to the class at large.
- Or teachers could assign a costume design for a production of “A Christmas Carol,” perhaps the Patrick Barlow script with only five actors.
- 4. DRAW!** Students are asked to draw, sing Charles Dickens’ descriptions, their version of the Ghost of Christmas Past, Present or Yet to come (or all three). Students could be tasked with reading the story and pulling the description directly from the text; or teachers could use these compiled descriptions.
- **Christmas Past:** Described as an unearthly and strange creature, the Ghost of Christmas Past appears simultaneously like an old man and as a child. Its long hair is white, but it has a smooth face with no wrinkles. It has a look of strength, with long and muscular limbs, and bare, arms and legs.
 - **Christmas Present:** Described as jovial, a manifestation of everyone’s Christmas celebrations, and his power grows with the festivities. He’s also youthful, personifying the here and now, and appears to Scrooge as a majestic giant clad in green robes, with a booming voice.
 - **Christmas Yet to Come:** Described as a silent figure clad in a hooded black robe, almost indistinguishable from the surrounding darkness, and is as mysterious and unknowable as the future itself; the ghost is a solemn phantom, draped and hooded, coming, like a mist along the ground with all but one outstretched hand concealed.

RESOURCES CONSULTED

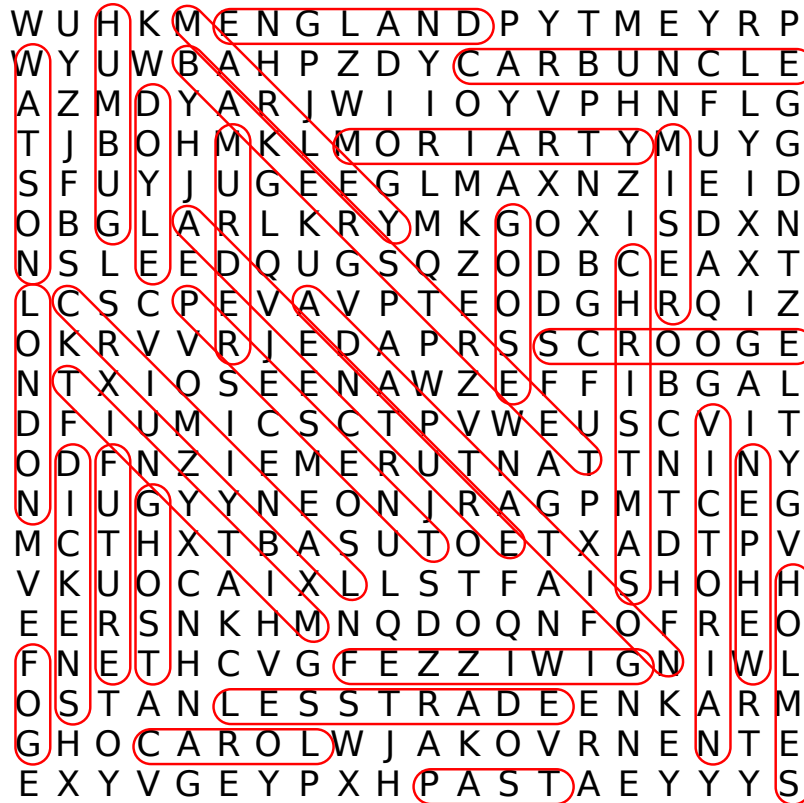
- <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Charles-Dickens-British-novelist>
- <https://www.biography.com/authors-writers/charles-dickens>
- https://www.arthur-conan-doyle.com/index.php/Sir_Arthur_Conan_Doyle:Complete_Works
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- <https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/a-christmas-carol/summary>
- <https://dickens.ucsc.edu/resources/teachers/carol/adaptations.html>
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- <https://www.arthur-conan-doyle.com/index.php/Lestrade>
- https://www.arthur-conan-doyle.com/index.php/James_Moriarty
- https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/books/london-fog-a-study-of-the-great-citys-legendary-atmosphere/2015/11/16/cb4c6c28-8a32-11e5-be39-0034bb576eee_story.html
- <https://www.epa.gov/archive/epa/aboutepa/londons-historic-pea-soupers.html>

IDEAS FOR CURRICULUM INTEGRATION

W U H K M E N G L A N D P Y T M E Y R P
 W Y U W B A H P Z D Y C A R B U N C L E
 A Z M D Y A R J W I I O Y V P H N F L G
 T J B O H M K L M O R I A R T Y M U Y G
 S F U Y J U G E E G L M A X N Z I E I D
 O B G L A R L K R Y M K G O X I S D X N
 N S L E E D Q U G S Q Z O D B C E A X T
 L C S C P E V A V P T E O D G H R Q I Z
 O K R V V R J E D A P R S S C R O O G E
 N T X I O S E E N A W Z E F F I B G A L
 D F I U M I C S C T P V W E U S C V I T
 O D F N Z I E M E R U T N A T T N I N Y
 N I U G Y Y N E O N J R A G P M T C E G
 M C T H X T B A S U T O E T X A D T P V
 V K U O C A I X L L S T F A I S H O H H
 E E R S N K H M N Q D O Q N F O F R E O
 F N E T H C V G F E Z Z I W I G N I W L
 O S T A N L E S S T R A D E E N K A R M
 G H O C A R O L W J A K O V R N E N T E
 E X Y V G E Y P X H P A S T A E Y Y Y S

Baker Street	Adaptation	Christmas	Past
Lesstrade	Carbuncle	Fezziwig	Fog
Moriarty	Adventure	Criminal	
Scrooge	Victorian	Tiny Tim	
Present	Dickens	Watson	
Marley	Holmes	England	
Nephew	Humbug	Miser	
Carol	London	Doyle	
Future	Murder	Ghost	
Goose			

IDEAS FOR CURRICULUM INTEGRATION



Baker Street

Adaptation

Christmas

Past

Lesstrade

Carbuncle

Fezziwig

Fog

Moriarty

Adventure

Criminal

Scrooge

Victorian

Tiny Tim

Present

Dickens

Watson

Marley

Holmes

England

Nephew

Humbug

Miser

Carol

London

Doyle

Future

Murder

Ghost

Goose

OUR MISSION IN ACTION!

Creating an Authentic Link to
the Community We Serve...

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Education and outreach are key components of theREP's mission, "to create an authentic link to the community we serve." Through a wide range of programs, theREP strives "to provide the Capital Region with theatre programming which inspires a greater understanding of the human condition" and helps "to develop future audiences by instilling the notion that theatre is a vital part of the cultural life of all vibrant cities."

PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS

Student Matinees (Classics on Stage) | Performances of most of the theatre's professional productions are scheduled during the school day with dramatically discounted prices for area students to allow for greater accessibility. Each season, at least one play is designated as Classics on Stage, for its direct connections with curriculum.

On-The-Go! in-School Tour (OTG) | Specially adapted professional productions designed to play to students on-site in schools. OTG reaches close to 10,000+ students every year.

Young Playwright Contest | Providing students, ages 13-19, with the opportunity to submit their work to be produced on theREP's stage. In addition, the winning playwrights are given a mentorship - prior to the production of the play - with a theatre professional playwright (and or director).

Summer Stage Young Acting Company | Providing young actors the opportunity to work together, with leading professionals in the field, on a production that will take place on theREP's stage. Company members will hone their acting skills while rehearsing and performing.

CAST (Cultivating Arts & Students Together) | Providing students with the opportunity to volunteer at the theatre and earn community service credits at the same time. Teens get an in-depth learning experience that satisfies their passion while fulfilling their needs.

Artists in Residency Programs | theREP works in conjunction with school educators to bring highly trained teaching artists to work in extended residency within the classroom. Opportunities to embed the theatrical experience into the curriculum are available for teachers and students for every work in our Education Season.

Career Development | theREP is dedicated to helping build the next generation of theatre professionals with programs like the Professional Apprenticeship Program which provides year-long or summer-long paid apprenticeships (as an assistant stage manager and or crew member), and Internship Program that provides college students internships in many disciplines of theatre. These programs are specifically for young people beginning a career in the performing arts and arts education.



DOUGLAS LIEBIG

Pictured:
Taylor Hilt Mitchell,
Conor DeVoe, Adia
Bell and Kyle Garvin

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2025 | SPONSORS

On The Go
SPONSORED BY



Title Sponsor Broadway Camp
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Theater Tech
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CSOA and their transportation for 2024-2025 season
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CSOA
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CAST
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Rock Camp
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