

Searching for a little miracle

Playhouse seeks a new Tiny Tim for 'Scrooge'

By Molly Gilmore for The Olympian
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What does it take to play Tiny Tim? The answer is in the name: You have to be tiny.

"Size would be a big thing," said Troy Arnold Fisher, who's looking for a Tim for Capital Playhouse's production of "Scrooge," a musical with performances Nov. 28 through Dec. 21.

"Tiny Tim is lame, and he's sick," the director said. "It has to be a kid who has that Dickens look. He comes from a really poor family. It could be a short, skinny kid or a taller skinny kid."

Of course, that's not the only qualification to play the Christmastime inspiration, for which the company is holding an open-call audition Saturday. Also required is a lovely soprano voice. "He has a beautiful solo called 'The Beautiful Day,'" Fisher said.



This is the playhouse's fourth time doing "Scrooge." Past Tims have been found through less formal means, but Fisher decided an open-call audition would be fun.

"When I was a little kid, I went to a citywide search for a production of 'Oliver' at a college," Fisher said. "There were about 150 little boys there auditioning. I didn't get cast, but it is a great memory, so I thought we would try that this year to open the field up to anyone in town.

"I'm hoping, of course, that I'll find that perfect kid who has that sparkle in his eye and has a pathos that is just right."

Gordon Shaughnessy, 13, played Tim two years ago in the last playhouse production of "Scrooge." Gordon knew Fisher from working with him during the playhouse's Kids at Play program and taking voice classes with him.

"It was a blast," said Gordon, now in eighth grade at Jefferson Middle School in Olympia. "I felt really professional. I was with all these people who were way bigger than me, and they respected me. Everybody was really cool, and it was really fun."

There aren't many big-time roles locally for younger actors. Gordon continues to act with Kids at Play in the summers, and his next role will be in "The Music Man" at school.

So how small does Tim have to be? Fisher couldn't specify, but he'll know it when he sees it - or when Harrison Fry, the actor playing Bob Cratchit, feels it.

"He has to be short and light enough to be carried on Bob's shoulder," Fisher said. "I'm going to have Harrison Fry here so he can actually lift Tim onto his shoulder. And he's a pretty tall guy."

So is size a factor in casting Bob Cratchit as well?

"It did enter my mind when I was casting him."