

# Dark Adventure Radio Theatre

## The Players

Leslie Baldwin	..... Indulgent Mother, Aunt Lillian, The Ghost of Solstice Past
Sean Branney	..... Barnaby Dickens
Kacey Camp	..... Smarmy Child, Aunt Annie, Harriet
Mike Dalager	..... Curtis
Lucas Dixon	..... H. P. Lovecraft
Matt Foyer	..... Dr. Eustace Reid
Andrew Leman	..... NuJuFru Spokesman, Callahan, The Outsider
Jacob Andrew Lyle	..... Providence Boy
Barry Lynch	..... Mason Farley, Nicholas Bosworth
John A. McKenna	..... The Ghost of Solstice Present
Grinnell Morris	..... Doting Dad, Harrison Thurber
Kevin Stidham	..... Richard Upton Pickman/Peters
Josh Thoemke	..... Announcer
Time Winters	..... Jasper, Joe Minot

Carolers..... Sean Branney, Mike Dalager, Andrew Leman & Kevin Stidham

## The Staff

Based on "The Festival", "Pickman's Model" and "The Outsider"  
by H. P. Lovecraft

and "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens

Radio Adaptation by Sean Branney and Andrew Leman

Original Music by Troy Sterling Nies

Audio Engineering by Daniel McMains

Engineering Assistance by Adam Pardee

Cover and Disc Illustrations by Darrell Tutchtan

Prop Inserts by Andrew Leman and Sean Branney

"Astonishing Tales" cover painting by Darrell Tutchtan

Latin translation assistance: Rhett Jenkins / Woodcut: Christian Matzke

Produced by Sean Branney and Andrew Leman

...IN *Orion* **Orion** *Orion*  
PHONOGRAPHIC  
CORPORATION

## But first, a few words from our sponsor....

"Every idiot who goes about with 'Merry Christmas' on his lips, should be boiled with his own pudding, and buried with a stake of holly through his heart."

—Ebenezer Scrooge from  
Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*

"Efficiunt Daemones, ut quae non sunt, sic tamen quasi sint, conspicienda hominibus exhibeant." (*Devils so work that men perceive things which do not exist as if they were real.*)

—Epigraph from  
H. P. Lovecraft's "The Festival"

Our cherished author H.P. Lovecraft often gets a bad rap. He's frequently characterized as a reclusive, friendless shut-in; a morbid, misanthropic, lonely soul fueled only by books he read and stories he would write. There is a smidgen of truth in this characterization, but it really only applies to a rather brief chapter of the man's early life. He underwent a fascinating transformation that began around the time of the death of his mother in 1921. It marked Lovecraft's emergence into the world, his blossoming as a writer and his coming into his own creative powers. By the end of his life he traveled widely, had a great many friends, and singlehandedly created a body of fiction that would secure his place among essential American authors.

As we contemplated further adaptations of his works for this series, we were struck that HPL's own life, in a way, featured a transformation not unlike that of Ebenezer Scrooge. It might not have happened with the aid of spirits during a single long night of ominous dreams,

but Lovecraft changed and grew and was the better for it.

We also knew that we wanted to produce an anthology episode that would permit us to adapt some of the shorter works of Lovecraft into our feature-length *Dark Adventure* format. With the three-part structure of *A Christmas Carol*, we saw an opportunity to weave all these things together.

Lovecraft was very fond of Christmas but, ironically, was not at all fond of the works of Charles Dickens. "I certainly loathe sentimental hypocrites like Dickens," he wrote. "Dickens never drew a real human being in all his career—just a pageant of abstractions, exaggerations & general characters." That's a rather ironic indictment coming from a man whose writing seldom wins praise for the richness of its human characters. But we hope our telling of "A Solstice Carol" might shine an imaginative light on an author and the evolution of his own character. In commingling his works "The Festival", "Pickman's Model" and "The Outsider" with Dickens' iconic tale of spirits past, present, and future, we hope our audience may glean a fresh appreciation for the accomplishments of both authors and the intrinsic power of the solstice season.

We wish you and yours a merry solstice at every time of the year!

—SB & AHL



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