

Breadcrumbs Productions actor Tanner Efinger operates an Ebenezer Scrooge puppet in "A Christmas Carol: Retold" on Friday at the 1890 House museum in Cortland. Rooms throughout the museum became stages for the performance.

Joe McKinley/staff photographer

# Audience joins in Participation key to 'Christmas Carol'

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Judith Pribula and Kristiana Kaleb stood inside the 1890 House in Cortland and wondered what the show would be like. They didn't yet realize they were part of the cast. "Hopefully the ghosts don't come too hard," said Kaleb, of Summit, New Jersey.

"I don't know what to expect," said Pribula, of Cortland. Ghosts, of course, and maybe some Victorian carols — the show Friday and Saturday was "A Christmas Carol: Retold," based on the Charles Dickens classic, "A Christmas Carol."

The doorbell rang, and the audience welcomed Mr. Fezziwig, and Tom Cratchit, and a world and story timeless in the telling.

The cast — besides the audience — included two actors, a flute player and a puppeteer controlling Ebenezer Scrooge.

The scenes played out in rooms of the 19th Century mansion. The puppet of Scrooge slept in the master bedroom while carols are sung from the first floor. The third-



Breadcrumbs Productions artistic director of "A Christmas Carol: Retold," Tanner Efinger, seated, poses Friday for a photo with cast members, from left, Lana Stafford, Peter Fekete and Maya Dwyer at the 1890 House.

floor ballroom hosted Mr. Fezziwig's party, with audience members dancing jigs. The Cratchit family's Christmas dinner filled the dining room and Scrooge's funeral spilled into the adjacent library.

The play by Breadcrumbs Productions of Syracuse is touring Central New York, filling 19th Century mansions in Geneva, Syracuse, Caugh-

cast members. Multiple scenes took place simultaneously, and the audience could pick which to watch, and take part in.

"In one show during the Cratchit dinner scene, the audience sang along," Efinger said, with the Cratchit family singing "O Holy Night." "The audience can experience it in different ways."

The performers didn't need to focus much on the narrative because "A Christmas Carol" is such a well-known story, he said.

"If an audience member misses Marley or the ghosts, they still know what's happening," Efinger said. "It's refreshing to be able to see it in that way."

"We were going into it with open minds," said Sophia Kristof of Homer, who attended with her mother, Katie Kristof, and friend Grace Jacobi. She and Jacobi played a scene with actress Maya Dwyer, who handed them their lines in the Gold Room on the first floor.

"The puppeteer was really good," Jacobi said. "The girl has a nice voice."

than had an hour of a... of snow, said Michael Murphy, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Kinghamton. Tonight, a clipper storm system moves in bringing with it 1 to 3 inches of snow by Tuesday morning. "The real storm moves in tonight," he said.

The clipper system is weak, fast-moving low pressure system, Murphy said. The system will continue through Tuesday with an additional 1 to 3 inches.

Lake effect snow follows the clipper late Tuesday and into Wednesday. All together, expect from 6 to 10 inches from today until the end of the day Wednesday, Murphy said.

Along with the lake effect snow late Tuesday, an arctic system is expected to move in bringing cold air with it. "It then stays cold into Thursday and Friday," Murphy said.

Tuesday's low will be 12 to 15 degrees followed by a low near the single-digits Wednesday, according to the weather service.

While things will turn cold later in the week, Murphy said the weather service doesn't expect ice.

## Take precautions

- AAA has a few winter driving tips:
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly.
  - Drive slowly and give time to maneuver properly.
  - Don't stop if you can avoid it.
  - Don't stop going up a hill.
  - If a person doesn't need to go out then stay home.

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