

## Tekst 3

### Theatre

#### A Christmas Carol

Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh

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- 1 With its hardworking cast, outbreaks of yuletide song and lineup of larger-than-life characters, this staging of the Dickens classic is as rich as a plum pudding. With its drive to race through the story, enthusiasm for the author's poor-but-honest sentiments and its general eagerness to please, it can also be as sickly sweet.
- 2 As portraits go of Victorian illness, poverty and exploitation, Andrew Panton's production is on the chirpy side. There is a suggestion it might not turn out to be so in the chainmail curtain that sweeps around Alex Lowde's set, glittering like the iciest of nights and preparing us for the cruel chains that bind Jacob Marley to the dark recesses of hell. Panton uses it to project wintry silhouettes and spooky animations, not least the outline of Christmas yet to come, the most chilling of Scrooge's ghostly visitations.
- 3 4, it's a production disinclined to dwell on the dark side. Using the admired adaptation by Neil Duffield, it subjects Christopher Fairbank's Scrooge (suitably cantankerous and chastised) to the minimum of supernatural torment before exposing him to the good, honest values of community, friendship and plentiful carol-singing. He has reason to learn his lesson, but he gets off lightly.
- 4 The actors tear into it with gusto. They're forever picking up instruments, swapping characters and pushing around the furniture for seamless transitions between scenes. They make bright, brisk work of the play and their heart is clearly in the right place, but the most memorable part of the evening comes after the tale is told. With Dickens dispatched, the ensemble joins in a stunning medley of carols spliced together by musical director Claire McKenzie as snow floats down on the auditorium.



#### Mark Fisher

*Until 4 January. Box office:  
0131-248 4848.*

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- 1p 4 Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 3?
- A Consequently
  - B For all that
  - C In addition
  - D In brief
- 1p 5 Which of the following reflects Mark Fisher's point of view on this production of *A Christmas Carol*?
- A In spite of an outstanding cast, the performance does not quite live up to expectations.
  - B The moral injunction in Dickens's classic to love others is taken rather lightly.
  - C The talented cast makes up for a lack of chemistry between individual performers.
  - D Unaffected by the demanding task of playing multiple parts, the actors deliver a vivacious performance.