

# The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS

Title: **Scrooged** (1988)



ISBN: 5014437803436

## Information

Release Title: **Scrooged** 25<sup>th</sup> November 1988 United Kingdom

AKA:

Origin: United States

Release Date: United States: 31<sup>st</sup> August 1946

Genres: Dark Comedy, Dark Fantasy, Xmas Holiday, Supernatural, Comedy, Drama, Romance

Disc Nos. – 1

Certification: PG

Duration: 1h 41m (101m)

Region Code:

Region: 2

Product Code:

MPN:

EAN:

UPC:

Languages: English

Filming locations: Toronto, Ontario, Canada (Exterior)

Sound mix: Dolby Stereo

Colour: PAL Colour

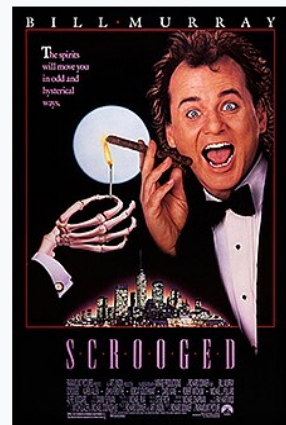
Aspect Ratio: 1.85:1 (35mm) (Eastman 5384)

1 Disc

Library Image



### Scrooged



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Richard Donner
Screenplay by	Mitch Glazer Michael O'Donoghue
Based on	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> by Charles Dickens
Produced by	Richard Donner Art Linson
Starring	Bill Murray Karen Allen John Forsythe Bobcat Goldthwait Carol Kane Robert Mitchum Michael J. Pollard Alfre Woodard
Cinematography	Michael Chapman
Edited by	Fredric Steinkamp William Steinkamp
Music by	Danny Elfman
Production company	Mirage Productions
Distributed by	Paramount Pictures
Release date	November 23, 1988
Running time	100 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$32 million
Box office	\$100.3 million

# Storyline

On December 23, Frank Cross, the ruthless and cynical president of IBC television, is preoccupied with ensuring the success of his extravagant live broadcast of A Christmas Carol scheduled for broadcast on Christmas Eve. He launches a violent, fear-mongering advertisement for the show, and fires meek executive Eliot Loudermilk for questioning its content.

That night, Frank is visited by the ghost of his mentor Lew Heyward, who died an unloved miser and regrets not performing good deeds while alive. Lew warns a terrified Frank that he will soon be visited by three ghosts to help him avoid the same fate. Frank's phone then mysteriously dials Claire Phillips, his ex-girlfriend. Claire visits Frank at his office, but he is too preoccupied with production issues to give her his attention. Meanwhile, Frank's erratic behaviour leads his boss, Preston Rhinelander, to assign Brice Cummings, an ambitious acquaintance, to assist with the production. Frank deduces that Brice wants to replace him.

On Christmas Eve, Frank is visited by the Ghost of Christmas Past, a chain-smoking taxi driver. The Ghost takes Frank back to his childhood Christmas in 1955, where a young Frank finds comfort in television shows to escape the neglect of his father, who dismisses Christmas traditions. Transported to 1968, a young adult Frank works through the IBC office Christmas party but also meets and falls in love with Claire. By 1971, however, his growing selfishness, workaholicism, and disregard for Claire's feelings have driven her away. Returned to the present, Frank visits Claire at the homeless shelter she runs, refusing to believe someone could be genuinely altruistic. When Claire offers to help him, Frank mocks her work and the homeless individuals she assists, including a man named Herman. He advises Claire to prioritize herself over others.

The Ghost of Christmas Present, a violent fairy, takes Frank to the apartment of his loyal assistant, Grace. There, Frank witnesses her struggles to support her large family, including her youngest son, Calvin, who has remained mute since his father's death. Frank is then shown his brother, James, who, despite celebrating Christmas with his loved ones, still misses Frank's presence after years of declined Christmas invitations and impersonal gifts. The Ghost abruptly abandons Frank in a utility space under a sidewalk, with Herman's frozen corpse. Desperate to escape, Frank breaks through a boarded door, finding himself transported to the production set minutes before broadcast. Overwhelmed, Frank retires to his office, while Brice takes over the production.

Having since been left by his wife, who took their child, a despondent and armed Eliot arrives to kill Frank. Frank flees into an elevator, where he is met by the Grim Reaper-like Ghost of Christmas Future. The Ghost transports Frank to a bleak future: Calvin has become catatonic and institutionalized, and Claire, having followed Frank's advice, has abandoned the needy, transforming into a wealthy and ruthless individual like him. Finally, Frank is shown his own cremation ceremony, attended only by James and his wife. In terror, Frank finds himself inside the coffin as it is consumed by flames, only to be jolted back to the elevator, face-to-face with Eliot.

Having experienced a profound transformation, Frank jubilantly rehires Eliot with a pay increase. With Eliot's help, he takes over the production set, locks Brice in the control room, and interrupts the live broadcast to share his newfound appreciation for life and his belief that it is never too late to change. Frank publicly apologizes to Grace, James, and the cast and crew for his past behaviour and delivers a heartfelt plea to Claire. Watching the broadcast, Claire is moved and rushes to the network with help from the Ghost of Christmas Past. As Frank and Claire reunite, Calvin, inspired by Frank's words, speaks for the first time, saying, "God bless us, everyone." Frank leads the crew and audience in singing "Put a Little Love in Your Heart" as the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, Future, Lew, and Herman look on with approval. [Wiki](#)

Francis Xavier Cross is a cynical, mean-spirited television executive, he treats his loyal assistant with contempt. He just sacked a member of staff on Christmas Eve for simply disagreeing with him, and he's alienated himself from his brother who still insists on inviting Frank to Christmas dinner despite him refusing to go every year. However, Frank is forced to learn the true meaning of Christmas when he's visited by three ghosts. [IMDb](#)

**Review:** This is my favourite "adaptation" of A Christmas Carol. It's also my favourite Christmas movie. A lot of people say that Bill Murray's character of Frank Cross is unlikeable. Would you prefer a warm and fuzzy Scrooge for the first half? Then there are those who say that the end is sappy. The ending is what I like the most. And Murray's acting is much better than other Scrooges, who usually overact. Murray manages to be over-the-top with his cruelty while still making his acting believable. Cross is truly Scrooge-like, revelling in

the death of an old woman caused by his commercial because it's free publicity. Another common comment is that Carol Kane steals the scene as the Ghost of Christmas Present. Not true. The chemistry between Murray and Kane ensures that they share the screen perfectly. This is a wonderful movie. I can't understand why anyone would say otherwise. Bobcat Goldthwait puts in a great performance as a disgruntled employee fired on Christmas Eve. The best part is the end. This movie has what has to be the happiest ending in the history of movies. He understands the meaning of Christmas, gets a new lease on life, gets the girl, the little boy talks, and everybody sings a song. Danny Elfman provides the score, doing a brilliant job as always. A beautiful movie all around. A+. IMDb

## Cast

Bill Murray as Frank Cross  
 Karen Allen as Claire Phillips  
 John Forsythe as Lew Hayward  
 John Glover as Brice Cummings  
 Bobcat Goldthwait as Eliot Loudermilk  
 David Johansen as the Ghost of Christmas Past  
 Carol Kane as the Ghost of Christmas Present  
 Robert Mitchum as Preston Rhinelander  
 Nicholas Phillips as Calvin Cooley  
 Michael J. Pollard as Herman  
 Alfre Woodard as Grace Cooley  
 Mabel King as Gramma  
 John Murray as James Cross

## Parents Guide

Certification

Argentina-13original ratingAtpre-rating, Australia-M, Brazil-Livre, Canada-PGManitoba/OntarioANova ScotiaGQuebec Denmark-15, Finland-K-16original ratingK-122014, re-rating, France-Tous publics, Germany-12, Iceland-12, India-UA Ireland-PGoriginal rating122012, re-rating, Italy-T, Japan-G, Malaysia-U, Mexico-18+, Netherlands-AL6, New Zealand-PG, Norway-12Streaming rating15cinema rating, 1988, Peru-14, Poland-7self-applied, Portugal-M/6, Singapore-PG, Spain-A, Sweden-15, United Kingdom-12Blu-ray, special featuresPGoriginal rating, United States-TV-14DLV, TV Rating.PG-13No. 29152TV-PGedited version, United Arab Emirates-PG-13DVD rating, West Germany-12

**Sex & Nudity** –Mild, **Violence & Gore** - Mild , **Profanity** – Moderate, **Alcohol, Drugs & Smoking** – Mild, **Frightening & Intense Scenes** - Moderate

## Soundtracks

In 1989, A&M Records released the soundtrack to Scrooged, which features nine songs. Seven of the songs were released as singles: Put a Little Love in Your Heart (October 1988), "The Love You Take" (December 1988), "The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)" December 1988 "We Three Kings of Orient Are", A Wonderful Life, Sweetest Thing 1988 Christmas Must Be Tonight.

The rendition of "Put a Little Love in Your Heart" by Al Green and Annie Lennox spent 17 weeks in the U.S. music charts, peaking at number 9 on January 14, 1989.

## Track listing<sup>[36]</sup>

No.	Title	Writer(s)	Artist	Length
1.	" <a href="#">Put a Little Love in Your Heart</a> "	<a href="#">Jackie DeShannon</a> , Randy Myers, <a href="#">Jimmy Holiday</a>	<a href="#">Annie Lennox</a> & <a href="#">Al Green</a>	3:48
2.	"A Wonderful Life"	<a href="#">Judson Spence</a> , Monroe Jones	Mark Lennon	4:19
3.	" <a href="#">Sweetest Thing</a> "	<a href="#">U2</a>	New Voices of Freedom featuring Adriane McDonald & George Pendergrass	4:12
4.	" <a href="#">The Love You Take</a> "	<a href="#">Dan Hartman</a>	Dan Hartman & <a href="#">Denise Lopez</a>	4:21
5.	"Get Up 'n' Dance"	L. Mallison, <a href="#">Mohandas Dewese</a> , R. Isaacs	<a href="#">Kool Moe Dee</a>	4:09
6.	" <a href="#">We Three Kings of Orient Are</a> "	<a href="#">John Henry Hopkins Jr.</a>	<a href="#">Miles Davis</a> , <a href="#">Larry Carlton</a> , <a href="#">David Sanborn</a> & <a href="#">Paul Shaffer</a>	4:43

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|----|---|--|-----------------------------------|------|
| 7. | "Christmas Must Be Tonight"   | <a href="#">Robbie Robertson</a>                         | Robbie Robertson                  | 4:51 |
| 8. | " <a href="#">Brown Eyed Girl</a> "   | <a href="#">Van Morrison</a>                             | <a href="#">Buster Poindexter</a> | 3:34 |
| 9. | " <a href="#">The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire)</a> " | <a href="#">Mel Tormé</a> , <a href="#">Robert Wells</a> | <a href="#">Natalie Cole</a>      | 3:53 |

