

From Shanghaied to Scrooged

BY KATHERINE LACAZE

For the 13th year, the Astor Street Opry Company will present its holiday musical melodrama “Scrooged in Astoria,” but this year, the cast is almost entirely comprised of youth actors.

“We had to change so much because of all the kids,” Stephanie Osborn, the musical’s director, said.

When she held auditions for the annual show – which opens on Friday, Dec. 6 and runs through Dec. 22 – she expected around

25 people to attend. Instead, she wound up with a cast of about 40, the majority of whom are under the age of 18.

With that sort of youth representation, Osborn and her team members – assistant director Adam Haase and assistant to the director Lexi Blacksten – had to get creative with their casting. Their efforts resulted in a large “Band of Angels” to provide additional roles and reimagined characters to make them more suitable to be

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From left, Nate Bucholz plays The Big Krooke, the Ghost of Christmas Past, Ryan Takko plays Max Krooke Jr. and Sadie Blacksten plays Holly Berry the Christmas Fairy, the Ghost of Christmas Present.