



Cast during one of Coaster Theatre Playhouse's renditions of 'A Christmas Carol' in the 1980s.

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The production will take three formats, said Patrick Lathrop, the theater's executive director. Formats will include a video that cuts from one actor to another, a Zoom recording with a "Brady Bunch" look and an audio recording that can be heard on KMUN 91.9 FM or The Bridge 94.9 FM.

No tickets will be sold but viewers can donate to the theater.

What's next

Instead of running the theater with live performances every weekend, the building will remain closed.

"It's sad. The building is sad. It just misses energy. There's so much uncertainty. It has been really stressful," Lathrop said.

But not everything has stopped. Lathrop directed the show "Don't Fear Shakespeare"

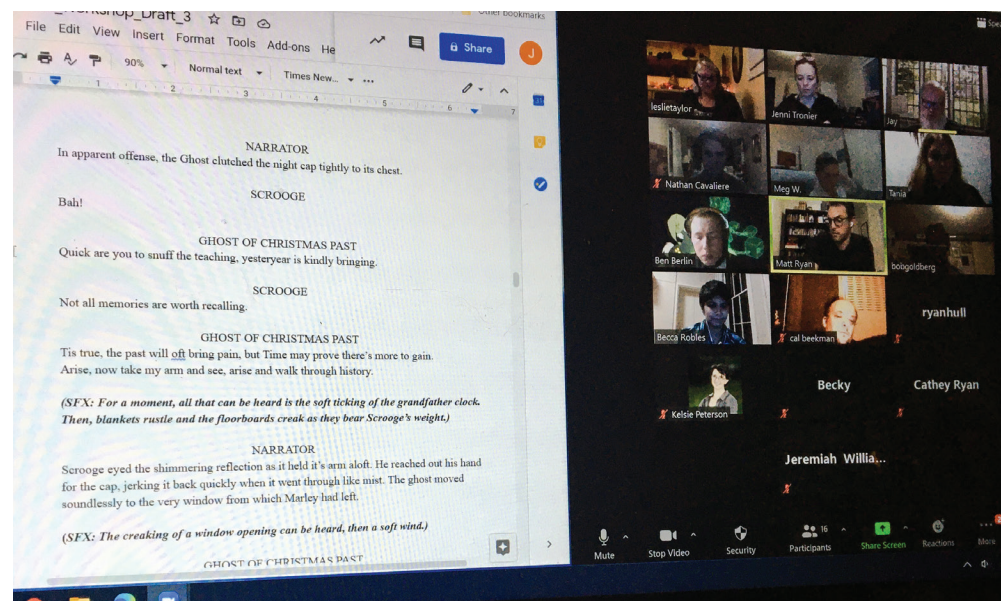
and presented a karaoke evening at City Park last summer. Yet, the theater itself won't reopen until a coronavirus vaccine is available, he said.

Until then, when audiences can feel safe sitting indoors, he said, more electronic performances may be offered, including a live staging of the Dickens piece as a radio show with live sound effects.

"I see it as a piece we can continue to grow and I think the beauty of it is we've learned that we could come up with some original pieces," Lathrop said.

After the theater reopens, Lathrop might also initiate a "streaming season" that coincides with the theater's live season. He would like to continue involving writers and actors from throughout the country.

"I found that really exciting," he said. "That made me realize what the technology can do, which is open us up to a national presence."



Cast gather for the show's third rehearsal.