

May your heart be light

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By Maria Gregoriou

TIS the time of year when the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future are to visit us, when the nutcracker will come alive under the Christmas tree, and when a little girl creates dreams from the flame of a match.

An original performance inspired by this little girl's story will unfold on Friday and Saturday at the **Limassol Theatre Arts School** (LTAS).

The performance, which takes its lead from Hans Christian Andersen's tale The Little Match Girl, will include a whole lot of singing and dancing by the students, which is what LTAS is famous for.

The stage will warm your heart and soul with the story of a young girl on a cold New Year's Eve who is trying to sell matches in the street. Shivering from the cold and not getting any response from the passers-by, she still won't go home because she is afraid that her father will beat her for not selling her matches.

To get warm she lights the matches and in their glow she sees several visions including a Christmas tree and a holiday feast. She looks up from the flames and sees a shooting star that reminds her of her dead grandmother, who used to tell her that when a star falls from the sky it means that someone is dying and going to heaven.

The next match brings a vision of her grandmother to her and she lights match after match to keep the vision alive. The matches run out and the child dies. Her grandmother carries her soul to heaven and the next day, New Year's day, passers-by see her dead body and feel pity for her.

The story, along with dance and song, will surely make your Christmas complete.

The Little Match Girl

An original performance inspired by the Hans Christian Anderson tale. December 12-14. **Limassol Theater Arts School**. 3pm and 6.30pm. €5. In English. Tel: 99-784927 or 99-324123

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