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Scene 2

*(As **intro music (cd track 12)** plays and the audience applaud, all the cast sit back down. Back on the side stage Santa sits in his sleigh, Mrs Santa sits back in her rocking chair and knits, while the elves gather round their workbench – see staging suggestions.)*

Elmer ~ Well, I support your decision to strike, Comrade Santa. It says here in the charter that management also have the right, through peaceful protest, to demonstrate against.....

All ~ Oh be quiet, Elmer!

Mrs Santa ~ Look dear, everybody knows you can’t believe everything you see on TV. Most children are wonderfully behaved, and a delight to have around the house.

Santa ~ Not the houses Supernanny visits! It’s like she’s stepping into a war zone sometimes!

Edgar ~ But Boss, we’ve had some lovely letters this year from mums and dads, telling us how good their children have been over the last twelve months, and how much they deserve their Christmas presents.

Santa ~ They’re lying! I’m telling you, children are horrible, and I won’t be visiting any.

(The elves huddle together.)

Edgar ~ What are we going to do? We can’t let all those children down.

Esmée ~ We’ve got to try and make him see that children really are good.

Edna ~ That they’re kind and giving, caring and sharing.

Elsie ~ Yes, then he might change his mind.

Eric ~ And I know just what to do! Mrs Santa, have you got the remote control for the World-Wide-View Satellite Plasma Screen?

Mrs Santa ~ Ooh....erm....yes! I’m sitting on it, dear. I was hiding it from his lordship so he couldn’t watch any more ‘Supernanny’. Here it is.

(Eric fetches the remote control from her. He then takes a letter from inside his tunic.)

Eric ~ This is a letter from a mum and dad telling us what wonderful children they have. Let’s use the World-Wide-View Satellite to zoom in on them at home, and watch them on the big screen. Now, what’s the address? Ah yes.

(He pushes buttons on the handset. Everyone looks towards the main central stage, as if looking at a large screen. Santa, although trying not to, looks interested too.)

Santa ~ I don’t know why you’re bothering. It’ll just be all shouting and tantrums and

Mrs Santa ~ Let’s just watch it, shall we? You never know, you might be pleasantly surprised.

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*(Eric wrestles with the handset, pointing it towards the ‘screen’. We hear the **Tuning-in** sound effect (**cd track 13**). Eric tuts in frustration until the sound stops.)*

Eric ~ There! Everybody, may I introduce to you.....the Wiseman family!

(The action moves to the main central stage, set up as a family living room – see staging suggestions. Dad enters and lies on a settee reading a newspaper. Two children, Sally and Dan, enter and sit on beanbags. They start playing with handheld computer games, eg gameboys. A grandmother and grandfather enter and sit in armchairs to watch TV.)

Grandma ~ Ahhh, Heartbeat. I love this programme. It reminds me of being a young woman. Ahhh. *(She sings the theme tune.)*

Grandpa ~ Look at that old Triumph motorcycle. You don’t see workmanship like that anymore. *(noticing the children)* Sally, Daniel, what’s that you’re doing down there?

Sally ~ We’re playing ‘Zombie Doom’ Grandpa. I’m giving Dan a real thrashing! He’ll be pulp in less than ten seconds!

Santa ~ *(from the other stage)* See! What did I tell you? Horrible little.....

Mrs Santa ~ Shhhh! Just watch.

Grandma ~ Zombie Doom? Eurgh! It sounds a bit gruesome and scary!

Dan ~ Well, it’s not quite Heartbeat, Grandma, if that’s what you mean, but we enjoy it.

Grandpa ~ You wouldn’t catch me with one of those things. I don’t like these new-fangled computer games at the best of times, let alone when you’re ripping each other to bits with them. Give me a good old-fashioned crossword any day.

Mum ~ *(from off-stage)* Will you please come help me with the dishes, love? I’m up to my eyeballs in here!

Dad ~ Yeah. I’m coming.

(Dad carries on reading the paper. Mum enters looking a little worn out, and a little annoyed. She throws a pair of yellow rubber gloves at dad.)

Mum ~ Look, you promised you’d help me today. The sinks piled high with dishes and I’ve got the Christmas cake to decorate and then all the vacuuming to do.

Dad ~ Yes, yes. I heard you. Just give me five minutes. I’ve only just got in from a hard day myself. I can’t believe they made me go in on Christmas Eve.

Grandma ~ *(to mum)* A cup of cocoa would be nice, love. I always like a cup of cocoa when I’m watching Heartbeat.

Grandpa ~ And for me, love, if it’s not too much trouble. Two sugars in mine.

Mum ~ Ooooooh!

(Mum exits. The children look at each other, put down their games and go after her. They return, each holding one of her arms. Dan moves Dad’s legs off the settee and the children sit Mum down next to him. Sally puts a bean bag under her feet.)

Mum ~ Children! This is very nice of you, but I’ve not got time to sit down.

Dan ~ Right every one, listen to us. Dad, give me those rubber gloves. You’ve done lots of overtime this week just to pay for our lovely Christmas, so you just read your paper.

Sally ~ Grandma and Grandpa, you relax and watch Heartbeat. We’ll bring you your cocoa. Do you want a biscuit too?

Grandma and Grandpa ~ Ooh! Yes please.

Sally ~ And Mum. You’re going to sit there and not move until bedtime. You’ve been at it non-stop and you look tired out. This is your Christmas too and you deserve some time off.

Dan ~ So we’ll take care of the washing up and the vacuuming. We’ll even decorate the cake – it’ll be fun! And remember all of you, especially you Mum, don’t move!

Sally ~ That’s an order!

(The children exit.)

Dad ~ They’re a couple of crackers, aren’t they.

Mum ~ Indeed they are – a couple of Christmas crackers!

(Grandpa picks up the gameboys, examining them with confusion, yet interest.)

Grandpa ~ Fancy a game of Zombie Doom, while we wait for our cocoa?

Grandma ~ Go on then!

*(To **intro music (cd track 14)** the old couple play and the whole cast stands to sing the next song. The ‘domestic jobbers’ take a prominent position in front of the stage, armed with dusters, brooms, rubber gloves, aprons etc. Fade the intro music when all are ready.)*

Song 3 – **Pitching In, Helping Out** *(cd track 15, lyrics p21)*
(whole cast)

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