

Scene 1

(To intro music (CD track 9) the whole cast enters for the opening song.)

The performance area is divided into two distinct sections. One section, a slightly smaller stage to the right of a larger main stage, is decorated to represent Santa's North Pole grotto.

*The centrepiece of this section is an ornate sleigh, currently empty and unoccupied. Mrs Santa sits next to it in a rocking chair, knitting. The reindeer stand behind her and behind the sleigh in a 'penned-off' section and the elves gather around a workbench on the floor in front of this stage – **see staging suggestions scenery & furniture/costumes**. The rest of the cast members stand on and in front of the main stage which is decorated as a family living room at Christmas – again see **staging suggestions/scenery & furniture**. When all are in position, fade the intro music and begin the opening song.)*

Song Ready For Christmas Day *(CD track 1 & 10, lyrics p16)*

(Mrs Santa, Elves and Reindeer supported by whole cast)

(To intro music (cd track 11) Mrs Santa and all the elves exit behind the 'Grotto' stage.

Only Rudolf and the other reindeer remain in position, looking impatient. The rest of the cast sits in the off-stage seating area. Fade the intro music when all are settled. Eric the elf enters the Grotto through the doorway, and paces around looking very anxious.)

Eric Oh dear, oh dear! It's a disaster! Elsie! Elsie!

(Elsie the elf comes through the doorway holding a cup of tea.)

Elsie For goodness' sake Eric, we're having our tea break! What is it?

(Eric whispers into Elsie's ear. She reacts with a shocked gasp.)

Elsie But it's Christmas Eve! Edgar! Edgar!

(Edgar the elf comes through the doorway holding a copy of the Racing Post.)

Edgar What is it Elsie? I'm missing the Reindeer Grand National on the TV!

(Elsie whispers into Edgar's ear. He reacts with a shocked gasp.)

Edgar But it's Christmas Eve! Edna! Edna!

(Edna the elf comes through the doorway yawning.)

Edna Thanks a lot, Edgar! I was having forty winks. What's up?

(Edgar whispers into Edna's ear. She reacts with a shocked gasp.)

Edna But it's Christmas Eve! Esmée! Esmée!

(Esmée the elf comes through the doorway eating a chocolate biscuit.)

Esmée I'm trying to eat a penguin back here! *(The elves gasp!)* No, not a real penguin! They live at the south pole! It's a biscuit! So Esmée, what's wrong?

(Edna whispers into Esmée's ear. Esmée reacts with a shocked gasp.)

Esmée But it's Christmas Eve! Elmer! Elmer!

(Elmer the elf comes through the doorway reading a manual.)

Elmer It clearly states in this union handbook that elves shall have a ten minute break every three hours, uninterrupted! This better be important or I’m calling them!

(Esmée whispers into Elmer’s ear. Elmer looks confused.)

Elmer But he’s the boss! And it’s Christmas Eve! Surely not!

All elves IT’S TRUE – SANTA’S ON STRIKE!

(Mrs Santa enters through the doorway, sits on her rocking chair and starts knitting.)

Mrs Santa I don’t know what’s wrong with him. Men do start acting strangely when they’re getting old!

(Santa enters with a placard reading “Santa’s On Strike!” He sits in his sleigh.)

Santa It’s got nothing to do with getting old. It’s modern children! They’re horrible! They certainly don’t deserve Christmas presents!

Mrs Santa But you’re Santa Claus!

Edna You’re every child’s best friend.

Santa Not anymore! I’ve been watching re-runs of ‘Supernanny’ and I couldn’t believe my eyes! Every house is full of horrible little blighters! I tell you, I am definitely.....ON STRIKE!

(The whole cast stands to sing. If you have any extra elves and reindeer they can take a prominent position in front of the stage.)

Song Santa's On Strike *(CD track 2 & 12, lyrics p17)* *(Santa, supported by whole cast)*

(As intro music (cd track 13) plays the cast sits down. Santa sits in his sleigh, Mrs Santa sits in her rocking chair and knits, while the elves gather round their workbench.)

Scene 2

Elmer Well, I support your decision to strike, even though you’re ‘management’. You have the right, through peaceful protest, to.....

All Oh be quiet, Elmer!

Mrs Santa Look, everybody knows you can’t believe everything you see on TV.

Edgar And we’ve had some lovely letters this year from mums and dads, telling us how good their children are.

Santa They’re lying. Children are horrible!

(The elves huddle together.)

Esmée How do we show him that children really are good?

Elsie And that they're kind and giving, caring and sharing?

Eric I've got it! Now, where's the remote control for the World-Wide-View Satellite Plasma Screen?

Mrs Santa Oh, I'm sitting on it, dear! I'm hiding it so his lordship can't watch any more TV. Here.

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

Eric This letter's from a mum and dad telling us what wonderful children they have. We'll use the World-Wide-View Satellite to zoom in on them at home and watch them on the big screen. Right, what address do I need to enter.....

(He reads the letter closely then begins tapping the keys on the remote control.)

Santa Ha! It'll just be all shouting and tantrums.

Mrs Santa Let's just watch it, shall we?

*(Eric points the remote control at the main stage, the 'screen', tapping more keys. We hear the **Tuning-in** sound effect (cd track 14). 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. A grandmother and grandfather enter and sit in armchairs to watch TV.)

Grandma Ahhh, Heartbeat. I love this programme. *(She sings the theme tune.)*

Grandpa Me too. *(noticing the children)* Sally, Daniel, what are you doing?

Dan We're playing 'Zombie Doom' Grandpa.

Sally I'm giving Dan a real thrashing!

Santa *(from the other stage)* What did I tell you?

Mrs Santa Shhhh!

Grandma Zombie Doom? It sounds a bit gruesome!

Grandpa Give me a good old-fashioned crossword any day.

Mum *(from off-stage)* Will you please help me with the dishes, love?

Dad 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 him.)

Mum Oi! The sink’s piled high with dishes, there’s the Christmas cake to decorate and then all the vacuuming to do.

Dad Just give me five minutes. I’ve only just got in from a hard day myself.

Grandma (to mum) A cup of cocoa would be nice, love

Grandpa And for me, if it’s not too much trouble.

Mum (exasperated) 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.)

Dan Right! Dad, give me those 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, we’ll bring you your cocoa. And Mum, you sit there and don’t move until bedtime. 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!

Sally You all relax. 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 game consoles, 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 15) 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 Pitching In, Helping Out *(CD track 3 & 16, lyrics p18)*

(Whole cast)

.....*continued*.....