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- Perform a musical up to 5 times in one academic year, to a public audience, within your school.*
 - Reproduce song lyrics on paper or for display on interactive whiteboards or similar screens.
 - Photocopy the script and score for the cast to learn lines, and musicians to play the songs.
- * **If you are performing outside of your school premises, for example in a local theatre, please contact us as further conditions apply. For more information, visit www.edgyproductions.com/licences**
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Audio and Video Recordings

If you wish to make an audio or video recording of the performance of any of our musicals, you will need an additional **recording and duplication licence** from Edgy Productions. This will also allow you to make and sell copies of your recordings if you wish to do so. We no longer request that you pay a commission to us on the money you raise from the sale of recordings.

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You are not permitted to share any of our copyrighted material, either in printed form, on disc or in digital file format, with anyone who is not a pupil or teacher within your school or organisation. We will take immediate action should an incident of illegal file-sharing be reported or discovered.

You can, of course, phone or email us for advice – we are more than happy to discuss all your licensing needs.

Tel: 01858 288081
Email: info@edgyproductions.com

PERFORMANCE LICENCE APPLICATION FORM

For any performance of any part of '**Santa's On Strike**' to an audience other than staff and children (eg. to parents), a valid performance licence from Edgy Productions must be held. Please note, your PRS, MCPS, CCLI or similar local authority-issued licence does not cover you for this. **Unless you purchased an instant performance licence and/or a recording & duplication licence when you bought this production pack, please ensure you complete and return this form at least 28 days before your first performance:**

- by post – Edgy Productions, 8 Roman Way, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7PQ
- by FAX – 0845 833 33 49
- by email – info@edgyproductions.com

The performance licence will permit the holder to do the following:

- Perform a musical up to 5 times in one academic year, to a public audience, within your school.*
- Reproduce song lyrics on paper or for display on interactive whiteboards or similar screens.
- Photocopy the script and score for the cast to learn lines, and musicians to play the songs.

Contact name:

Name of school / organisation:

Address:

..... **Postcode:**

Tel: **email:**

Number of performances: **Performances Dates: from** **to**

By ticking, select one of the performance licence options below:

Standard Performance Licence ☐ **£30.00** (including VAT)
(no admission charged and no tickets sold)

or

Performance Licence with charges ☐ **£36.00** (including VAT)
(admission **is** charged and/or tickets **are** sold)

☐ * Tick if you are performing outside your school premises, for example in a local theatre, as further conditions apply – see www.edgyproductions.com/licences

If you are recording any performance, and/or selling copies of the recording, you will **also** need a recording and duplication licence.

Recording and Duplication Licence ☐ **£30.00** (including VAT)

By ticking, select one of the payment options below:

☐ I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Edgy Productions Ltd

☐ Please send me an invoice for £..... (payment terms 30 days)

**Writers rely on payments from public performances for their livelihoods.
Please ensure they receive their dues.**



Plot Summary

It's Christmas Eve at the North Pole, and frantic preparations are under way to get Santa ready for his annual 'evening out' (**song – 'Ready For Christmas Day'**). However, all is not as it should be. We hear from the elves, Eric, Elsie, Edgar, Edna, Esmée and Elmer, that Santa has gone on strike! Mrs Santa thinks this may be a passing problem due to his age, but Santa claims he has good reason for refusing to deliver presents to the children of the world. He has been watching repeats of 'Supernanny' on TV and can't believe the behaviour he has witnessed (**song – 'Santa's On Strike'**). He thinks children no longer deserve a visit from him on Christmas Eve, and he won't be convinced otherwise.

Desperate to save Christmas, the Elves, Mrs Santa and Rudolf plead with him to change his mind, but Santa digs his heels in! Then the elves hit on a plan which might convince him that children are not like those he's seen on TV, but that they can be really kind and giving, caring and sharing. Using the World-Wide-View-Satellite-Plasma-Screen-and-handset they tune in to the Wiseman family who are preparing for Christmas. They, and the audience, witness the comically frantic time families can have leading up to the big day, and see the children more than doing their bit to ease the pressure. (**song – 'Pitching In, Helping Out'**)

Next we tune into the Shepherd family. Despite being settled into a Christmas Eve game of cards (which Dad is a little too eager to win!) the children are keen to make sure all the animals – pets, birds and even Santa's reindeer – are comfortable, catered-for and well looked-after. (**song – 'Puppies Are Not Just For Christmas'**)

The Elves then show Santa the King family. We see how the children are happy to sacrifice a cosy Christmas Eve watching DVDs in order to join others, outside in the cold, carol singing to raise money for the old folks' home. They also enjoy dragging their protesting parents outside for a sing-along too! (**song – 'Lots Of Fa-la-la'**)

In a short optional scene Santa is shown that children haven't forgotten the true meaning of Christmas. We tune in to a nativity tableau, where, dressed as the traditional characters, a group of children perform a traditional Christmas song (**'Silent Night'**)

If all this hasn't yet softened Santa's heart, then the final visit to the Starr family is bound to make him see that children can embrace the true spirit of Christmas. The Starr children feel sorry for their old neighbour, Mr Lewis, and take him round some Christmas cake (and a bottle of Dad's wine!), with the intention of keeping him company for a short while. Moved by his loneliness they go the whole hog and invite him to their house for Christmas! (**song – 'Give A Little Time'**)

Quite predictably this does the trick, and as Santa sobs into his beard he instructs the elves to load up the sleigh. In a rousing finale he admits that children are still worthy of a wonderful Christmas, and he will do his utmost to see they get it! (**song – 'Blast Off!'**)

For those who may have forgotten, this is a sensitive and witty reminder (and celebration) of all that is still good about Christmas.....and children!

CHARACTERS

Note – if you have a smaller cast, because most characters only appear in one scene, multiple parts can be played by a single child. Alternatively, for extra-large cast numbers, many speaking parts have enough lines to be divided between any extra characters you want to create.

(32 Speaking parts in order of appearance)

Eric

Elsie

Edgar

Edna

Esmée

Elmer

Santa’s loyal Elf helpers, intent on giving every good boy and girl a Christmas to remember!

Mrs Santa – *the patient and long-suffering wife of.....*

Santa – *not so much ‘Ho! Ho! Ho!’ as ‘No! No! No!’*

Rudolf – *desperate for a Christmas Eve gallop.*

The Wiseman Family; Dan, Sally, Grandma, Grandpa, Mum, Dad
– *so much to do, so little time!*

The Shepherd Family; Hannah, Jack, Mum, Dad
– *dedicated to their pets!*

The King Family; Tim, Katie, Miss Evans, Sam, Mum, Dad
– *up for a sing song*

The Starr Family; Abi, Rob, Grandma, Grandpa, Mum, Dad, Mr Lewis
– *eager to start dinner*

Note about ‘family’ characters

- Names of children can be changed to those of the actors playing them.
- For a smaller cast, with slight changes to the script the same family can be depicted in all four scenes.
- If you want to portray less traditional family set ups, the script can again be adapted to allow for this. Characters can easily be added or omitted to suit your requirements.

(Ensemble Characters, if you have the numbers, for featured songs and choreography)

Extra Elves and Reindeer – *centre stage for the songs ‘Ready For Christmas Day’, ‘Santa’s On Strike’ and ‘It’s Blast Off For Santa’s Sleigh!’*

Domestic ‘Jobbers’ – *centre stage for the song ‘Pitching In, Helping Out’*

Animal Lovers – *centre stage for the song ‘Puppies Are Not Just For Christmas’*

Carol Singers – *centre stage for the song ‘Lots Of Fa-La-La’*

Nativity Characters – *for optional scene 5.*

Scene 1

*(To **intro music (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 – see **staging suggestions/ scenery & furniture**. 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. The rest of the cast 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 *(track 1 & 10, lyrics p19)* *(Mrs Santa, Elves and Reindeer supported by whole cast)*

*(To **intro music (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, oh dear! It's a disaster. Six o'clock on Christmas Eve and this happens! Elsie! Elsie!

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

Elsie For goodness' sake Eric, what is it now? We're having our tea break. You should know that you never come between a girl and her tea break!

Eric Oh Elsie, it's a disaster.....

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

Elsie What? No! Surely not! 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? Can't it wait? They've just started the Reindeer Grand National on the telly and you know I've got a bet on! 5-1 on Frosty Feet.

Elsie Oh Edgar, you'll never guess what's happened.....

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

Edgar He can't do that! It's Christmas Eve! Edna! Edna!

(Edna the elf comes through the doorway yawning.)

Edna Thanks a lot, Edgar! I was having forty winks. I was having a lovely dream about relaxing on a deserted iceberg, the freezing waters lapping at my toes, watching the seals gracefully swimming by.....

Edgar Edna! This is just terrible.....

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

Edna No! Surely not! Not on Christmas Eve! Esmée! Esmée!

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

Esmée What? I’m trying to eat a penguin back here! *(The elves gasp!)* No, not a real penguin! It’s a biscuit! And anyway, I’ve told you before, penguins live at the South Pole and we’re at the North Pole. If I wanted to eat a real penguin I’d have to travel a pretty long way to do it!

Edna Esmée, listen!

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

Esmée Never! It’s Christmas Eve! Elmer! Elmer!

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

Elmer Now look ’ere! It clearly states in the Elf Workers’ Charter that ‘elves shall be granted a ten minute break every three hours’ – it’s here in subsection 3.6. This better be important or I’ll be straight on the blower to the union!

Esmée Elmer, it **is** important.

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

Elmer That can’t be right. He’s the boss. He’s management. Are you sure? I’ll have to consult the charter to make sure.

Eric Elmer, it’s true.....

All elves SANTA’S ON STRIKE!

(Mrs Santa enters through the doorway, carrying her knitting.)

Elsie Mrs Santa, you must know what’s going on? Why’s the boss gone on strike?

(Mrs Santa sighs and sits in her rocking chair. She starts knitting.)

Mrs Santa Oh, I don’t know my dear. He’s in one of his funny moods. He’s getting old you know. Men start acting strangely when they’re getting old! They’re all the same, always trying to be centre of attention!

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

Santa I heard that! It’s got nothing to do with getting old or trying to be centre of attention. It’s children, modern children! They’re horrible! Why should I work hard to deliver Christmas presents to them? They don’t deserve any.

Mrs Santa But you love all children, dear. You’re Santa Claus!

Edna That’s right, Boss. Santa Claus is every child’s best friend.

Santa Not anymore! I’ve been watching re-runs of ‘Supernanny’ and I couldn’t believe my eyes! Screaming, whining, bad-mannered little blighters, the lot of them. I tell you, no child is getting presents this year! I’M 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 *(track 2 & 12, lyrics p20)* *(Santa, supported by whole cast)*

(As intro music (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, 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 a delight to have around the house.

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

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.

Santa They're lying! I'm telling you, children are horrible, and I won't be visiting any of them this year!

(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 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. Right, what address do I need to enter.....

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

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

Mrs Santa Let's just watch it, shall we? You might be pleasantly surprised.

*(Eric points the remote control at the main stage, the 'screen', tapping more keys. We hear the **Tuning-in** sound effect (**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. 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, but we enjoy it.

Grandpa 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 him.)

Mum You promised you'd help me today. The sink's 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 work 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 *(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.)

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 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 (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 *(track 3 & 16, lyrics p21)* *(Whole cast)*

*(As **intro music (track 17)** plays again, the cast sits down and, if possible, all the furniture on the ‘living room’ stage is slightly rearranged to represent another family’s house. If this is unmanageable perhaps a different picture could be hung on the back wall, or different throws could be put over the furniture and different stockings on the fireplace etc. For best effect make all of these changes. **Note. If you only have a small cast the family need not be a different one. Change the script accordingly to show that we will again be watching the Wiseman family, and leave the furniture.** When any rearranging has been done fade the music.)*

Scene 3

Esmée There you go, Boss. What lovely children. Surely they deserve a visit from you tonight, don't they?

Santa Hmmm.....well, maybe those two weren't so bad, but I'm not harnessing the reindeer and heading out into the cold night for just two children.

Rudolf Oh, thanks a lot! Because you're in a bad mood the reindeer get no exercise. It's so unfair! Old Prancer here, his joints are seizing up, and poor Blitzen is worried she's getting fat. You've got to take us out!

Elmer You tell 'em Rudolf! Rights for Reindeer! Don't worry my four-legged comrade, we'll fight the.....

All Oh be quiet, Elmer!

Rudolf But he's got a point. You can't keep us cooped up in here all night! We've been looking forward to a gallop out.

Santa Well of course I'm going to let you out for a gallop. You just won't be pulling the sleigh. You should be thanking me, not complaining!

Mrs Santa Don't worry, Rudolf. My husband might be a grumpy so-and-so, but he does care about his reindeer. I know he wouldn't let you go without your exercise. Be patient.

Elsie Oooh! That gives me an idea. Eric, give me the remote control. Hey, everyone, look at the screen again. *(She takes a letter from inside her tunic and reads.)* Now, what was the address?

*(Elsie taps the buttons on the handset, pointing it at the 'screen'. We hear the **Tuning-in** sound effect again (**track 18**). Elsie tuts in frustration until the sound stops.)*

Elsie There! Everybody, this is the house of the Shepherd family!

(The action moves again to the 'living room' stage. Mum, Dad and two children, Jack and Hannah, are kneeling round the coffee table, wearing dressing gowns and playing cards.)

Dad Ha! What a hand! I'll just throw away that four of clubs. I reckon I'm going to win my first ever game of Rummy. Come on, Hannah, your turn.

Hannah Actually Dad, can we wait a minute. There's something I really need to do first. I won't be long. *(She puts down her cards and gets up.)* And Dad, no peeking while I'm gone! I know what you're like!

(She exits. Jack puts his cards down and stands up.)

Jack Thinking about it, I really need to pop out too. Dad, don't touch my cards either. *(exiting)* Mum, keep an eye on him.

Dad Where have they gone?

Mum I don't know, but I guarantee it's not to brush their teeth!

Dad Well I hope they hurry back. I've got a great hand. What have they've got?

(As Dad is about to sneak a look at their cards, the children return and kneel down.)

Mum Where have you two been? Not raiding the mince-pie tin I hope!

Hannah No. I was just a bit worried about Floss. It's cold out there so I went to put some more hay in her hutch. She's fine now, although I still don't know why she's not allowed to sleep in my room.

Jack And I went to fill the bird feeders with nuts. We might forget tomorrow with all the Christmas Day excitement, and I don't want them to go hungry. I'm sure that robin who visits every morning is losing weight.

Mum That's really thoughtful of you both. I'm sure Floss and the birds really appreciate it.

Dad Yes, yes. You're both very kind children, but we're in the middle of a game – a game which I could win! So, come on Hannah, it's your.....

Hannah Ooh! Forgot something!

Jack Back in a minute! No peeking, Dad!

(The children put their cards down and rush out again.)

Dad What now? Am I ever going to get to win a game of cards?

Hannah and Jack *(from off-stage)* Mum! Have we got any carrots?

Mum *(shouting back)* In the middle cupboard, near the cereal.

Dad Carrots? Surely they can't be hungry! The amount of food they get through during a day, and now they want carrots!

(The children come back in and place a carrot each by the fireplace.)

Jack There. Carrots for Santa's reindeer.

Hannah They'll be working really hard tonight. They'll need to keep their energy levels up, and they'll need to see in the dark.

Dad Well that's lovely. Now can we please get on? Hannah, it's your turn.

*(As Hannah is about to play we hear a **dog barking (track 19)**. The children look up.)*

Dad It's only Bob. Just ignore him. Right Hannah, play your card.

Hannah Dad! We can't ignore him.

Jack Don't be so mean, Dad. *You* bought him for us last Christmas. He's part of the family now.

Hannah Mum, can we take him for a walk. I think he wants to go out. Please can we take him?

Dad But what about our game? I only need two more cards to win!

Mum Well, it's a bit late for you to go out on your own with him.

Jack Please Mum!

Mum Ok, how about I go with you? Once round the park though, that's all. Come on, get dressed. You know what, I'm so proud of you two for the way you care for your animals.

(Mum, Jack and Hannah exit, leaving Dad in shock.)

Dad I don't believe it! This can't be happening!

(He collects the cards up, shuffles them, and then shouts after his wife and children...)

Well, will somebody at least come back and tell me how to play Patience!

(To intro music (track 20) Dad deals himself some cards and the cast stands to sing the next song. The 'animal lovers' take a prominent position in front of the stage, holding an assortment of cuddly toy pets. Fade the intro music when all are ready.)

Song Puppies Are Not Just For Christmas

(Whole cast)

(track 4 & 21, lyrics p22)

(As intro music (track 22) plays again, the cast sits down. The furniture is rearranged to represent another family's house, unless it's the same family as scenes 2 & 3, then the music is faded.)

Scene 4

Mrs Santa There you see, they were lovely, caring children. Come on, how about it. Get the sleigh loaded up and go and spread a little Christmas joy.

Santa No! It's too cold out there, and I'm not catching a chill for anybody, especially children!

Elmer That's right comrade. For health and safety reasons you must not be exposed to temperatures which may have an adverse.....

All Oh be quiet, Elmer!

Edgar But you'll be warm enough. You've got that big red coat, your thick beard, and you've got a good layer of *(patting his tummy)*erm insulation!

Rudolf If we go quickly we won't notice the cold. Come on! Let's try and beat our 'round-the-world' record! We shaved 25 seconds off our time last year!

(Santa shakes his head, and points to the writing on his placard.)

Edna Oh for pity's sake! Give me that remote control *(She takes the handset from Elsie, and a letter from inside her tunic. She reads.)* Ok, what was the address?

*(She taps the handset, pointing it towards the ‘screen’. We hear the **Tuning-in** sound effect again (**track 23**). She tuts in frustration until the sound stops.)*

Edna There! Everybody, this is the house of the King family!

(The action moves again to the ‘living room’ stage. Mum, Dad and two children, Tim and Katie, enter carrying duvets. They sit down and wrap themselves in the blankets.)

Mum Brrrrrr! This is the chilliest Christmas Eve I can remember. It’s blowing a gale out there!

Dad You couldn’t get me outside tonight for all the money in the world!

Katie It’s great sitting here, wrapped up in duvets, watching Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang!

Tim Yeah. I can’t think of anywhere else I’d rather be. This is perfect.

*(A group of carol singers gather in front of the stage. A **doorbell (track 24)** rings and the two children hurry to the front of the stage, and peer out as if looking out of a window.)*

Mum Who’s that out there, ringing the doorbell on such a cold night?

Dad Are they mad? Why aren’t they at home all tucked up like us?

Katie It’s Miss Evans, our teacher, and lots of parents and children. They’ve come carol singing! Cool!

Mum Your teacher! Well don’t leave her outside! Invite her in, or she’ll think we haven’t taught you any manners!

(Katie mimes the opening of a door, and Miss Evans and a child, Sam, enter the room. Mum and Dad stand up, a little embarrassed.)

Dad Good evening Miss Evans. Hello Sam. How nice of you to pop round.

Miss Evans Hello everyone, and merry Christmas. We thought you might like to join us this evening in a rousing rendition of some old favourites. Lots of mums, dads and children are braving the cold to bring a little festive cheer to the neighbourhood.

Sam *(shaking a collection tin)* And we’re raising money for Sunnydale Retirement Home. We’ve got loads already. Listen!

Tim Oh, can we? Please Mum, please Dad. It’ll be fun!

Dad You’re joking! It’s bitter out there!

Katie But Great Auntie June’s in Sunnydale. Just think, we’ll be raising money to help her be more comfortable.

Mum But I don’t think I can remember the words to any carols.

Sam It doesn’t matter. Just hum along, or join in with the Fa-la-la bits!

Miss Evans Yes, just as long as you’re there with us, that’s the important thing.

Dad What about Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang? The child catcher’s just about....

Katie and Tim Dad!

Dad Ok, Ok! Come on then! Let’s get dressed. I tell you, it’s a good job I’ve got my thermals on!

*(To **intro music (track 25)** the family put on coats and hats etc, then join the singers in a prominent position in front of the stage. Fade the intro music when all are ready.)*

Song Lots Of Fa-La-La *(track 5 & 26, lyrics p23)* *(Carol singers, supported by whole cast)*

*(As **intro music (track 27)** plays again, the cast sits down.)*

NB – the next scene is an optional nativity scene. Whether you choose to include this or miss it out, the storyline will not be affected. It would be best to present the nativity tableau on the floor in front of the main stage to avoid having to remove the living room furniture.

Scene 5

Mrs Santa That icy mood of yours must be thawing out a little by now!

Elsie What do you say, Boss? You’ve still got time if you leave now.

Edgar Shall I harness the reindeer?

Santa No!

Esmée Why not!

Santa Well, it’s not just children’s behaviour that bothers me. They’ve forgotten what the real meaning of Christmas is too. It’s not about me popping down their chimneys with presents. There’s a lot more to it than that.

Edna Hmmm. I think I can help you there, Boss.

*(She taps the handset, pointing it towards the ‘screen’. We hear the **Tuning-in** sound effect again (**track 28**). She tuts in frustration until the sound stops.)*

Edna There you are. These are the youngsters of *(insert your school name)* in their local church on Christmas Eve. They’ve not forgotten what Christmas is really about.

(The traditional Nativity characters enter and form a tableau in front of the stage.)

Song Silent Night *(track 6 & 29, lyrics p24)* *(Whole cast)*

*(As **intro music (track 30)** plays again, the Nativity characters exit.)*

Scene 6

*(The furniture is rearranged to represent another family's house, unless it's the same family as scenes 2, 3 & 4. A **separate rocking-chair and stool are placed together in front of the stage**. The intro music is faded. The action once again moves to the Grotto. Santa is asleep.)*

Eric So Boss, you must believe us now. Surely you can see that there **are** good children out there who deserve their presents.

(Santa snores.)

Mrs Santa I don't believe it! The lazy so and so wasn't even watching! Oi!
(shaking Santa) Wake up you big lump!

Elmer I think you'll find that all workers, including management, are entitled to a sleep break.

All Oh be quiet, Elmer!

Santa *(waking)* Eh? What? Where am I?

Mrs Santa About this far away from a snowball in the mush, unless you start paying attention!

Elsie This is getting serious! Time's pushing on. Unless he leaves soon he'll never make it in time for Christmas morning! What are we going to do?

Esmée Right, I've got a letter here that can't fail. These children are angels according to their parents! Edna, Give me that remote control. Fingers crossed everyone.

*(She taps the handset, pointing it towards the 'screen'. We hear the **Tuning-in** sound effect again (**track 31**). She tuts in frustration until the sound stops.)*

Esmée Ok! Everybody pay attention, especially you Boss! To really prove that children are kind, giving, caring and sharing, I give you the Starr family!

(The action moves again to the 'living room' stage. Mum, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa and two children, Rob and Abi, enter wearing dressing gowns. They sit down)

Grandma I'm so happy you invited us to stay for Christmas. I've really been looking forward to it.

Grandpa Me too. It seems ages since we were all together. I can't remember the last time I was this excited on Christmas Eve.

Dad Well, just as long as you're not up at 4.30 in the morning, clambering downstairs with the children to see what Santa's brought you!

Mum Well I don't mind if that's what you want to do! It's just nice having you here, and the children have missed you.

Dad You know, all this makes me feel really sorry for old Mr Lewis next door.

Grandma Why's that dear?

Dad Well, his family hardly ever visit or invite him to stay.

(Rob and Abi look at each other.)

Mum I'm sure he's going to be on his own for Christmas Day. If I get time tomorrow I think I'll pop round and make sure he's OK.

(Unnoticed, the children sneak off the stage.)

Grandpa Oh, how sad. I'd hate it if I never saw my wonderful grandchildren. You two are so.....Robert? Abigail? Where are the children?

(The action freezes. Rob and Abi, who are carrying a covered plate and a carrier bag, are led along the front of the stage by old Mr Lewis.)

Mr Lewis Well this is a nice surprise. Come in, come in. I'm afraid I've only got one spare seat. I don't get many visitors you see.

(He sits in his rocking chair, Abi sits on the stool and Rob stands next to her.)

Rob We've brought you a piece of Christmas cake, Mr Lewis.

Abi And here's a bottle of wine. Dad's got loads so he won't miss it!

Mr Lewis Oh! How lovely! Thank you very much. They're the first presents I've had and you're the first people to come and see me. How exciting!

Rob What about your grandchildren, Mr Lewis? Aren't you seeing them for Christmas?

Mr Lewis Oh, they're very busy. Their mum and dad have taken them skiing for the holidays. I bet they're having a lovely time. They go every year you know, so now they're really good skiers! I'm so proud of them.

Abi So you're all alone for Christmas, Mr Lewis? Is nobody coming to visit you?

Mr Lewis Oh, I'll be fine. I've got the TV so I can watch the Queen, and with my cake and wine I can have my own party! I'm quite looking forward to it! What about you two? Are you expecting a visit from Santa?

Rob Well, we hope so! We've tried very hard to be good this year. But I'll tell you who else we're expecting a visit from.

Mr Lewis Who?

Rob You, Mr Lewis!

Mr Lewis Me?

Abi Yes, you. You're coming to join us for Christmas dinner. We've decided. Mum and Dad were just saying how they'd like to see you, and we've got plenty of food that will only go to waste. We need an extra mouth to feed!

Rob And Grandma and Grandpa will enjoy having someone else to talk to about old things! You know, like how turkey used to taste like turkey, and how you were happy with a few nuts and an orange in your stocking!

Mr Lewis Well if you're sure? That would be super. Oh thank you. What kind children you are. I tell you what, Santa will definitely be paying you a visit. I can feel it in my bones!

Abi Let's hope so! See you tomorrow Mr Lewis. Come on Rob, we'd better go and tell Mum to lay an extra place at the table!

(To the opening bars of the next song everyone stands.)

Song Give A Little Time *(track 7 & 32, lyrics p25)* *(Whole cast)*

(As intro music (track 33) plays again, the cast sits down.)

Scene 7

(Everyone in the grotto dabs their eyes with a hanky. Mrs Santa dabs the reindeers' eyes!)

Mrs Santa *(sniffing)* Oh you silly old fool! How can you think children don't deserve Christmas presents? Did you see those two? Hasn't that convinced you?

(Santa blows his nose loudly, but says nothing.)

All Well?

Santa Well what?

All Did you see it?

Santa Yes.

All And?

Santa And what?

All What do you think?

Santa Well....I'm wondering.....

All Yes?

Santa I'm wondering.....*(standing and throwing down his placard)*.....what on earth are we still doing here? Look at the time! Come on you lot, load up the sleigh! WE'VE GOT PRESENTS TO DELIVER!

All Hurray!

(As intro music (track 34) quietly plays the elves frantically load up sacks with the boxes and put them into the sleigh. Mrs Santa leads Rudolf and the reindeer to the front of the sleigh, where they chomp at the bit and scrape their hooves in anticipation. When the sleigh is loaded, all stand round it. Fade the music.)

Rudolf *(speaking in an airline pilot's voice)* This is it then team! Concentrate please. No slip-ups. Conditions are favourable so I want a good clean take-off.

Reindeer Aye, aye!

Eric So, quick march!

Elsie We haven't got a second to spare!

Edgar Look sharp!

Edna We've got to get him up in the air!

Esmée Jump to it!

Elmer Chocks away!

All IT'S BLAST OFF FOR SANTA'S SLEIGH! HURRAY

Santa HO! HO! HO! MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

(As the opening bars to the last song are heard, the whole cast stands to sing.)

Song Blast Off! *(track 8 & 35, lyrics p26)*
(Whole cast)

THE END



Ready For Christmas Day

- Verse 1** It's a busy time for the North Pole Crew.
We work hard but there's so much to do!
Well, all these Christmas present lists need reading,
There are toys to make, the reindeer still need feeding!
The clock's tick-tocking and there's just no way
That we'll ever be ready for Christmas day!
- Verse 2** Mrs Santa's spent a whole month sitting
In the corner doing nowt but knitting!
'Cause we've been sent a hundred thousand letters
And they're all asking for woollen Christmas sweaters!
(Mrs Santa holds up a typically tasteless Christmas jumper!)
The clock's tick-tocking and there's just no way
That we'll ever be ready for Christmas day!
- Verse 3** We're all feeling so rushed off our feet.
We've got deadlines we can't hope to meet!
There's no-one here who really can remember
Such a busy 24th day of December!
The clock's tick-tocking and there's just no way
That we'll ever be ready for Christmas day!

Santa's On Strike

Verse 1

(Santa)

Well I've been watching my TV
So astonished at what I see!
Bad manners, lies and cheek,
The awful way that children speak!
'Please' and 'thank you' are never said!
It's got my goat! I'm seeing red!
So everybody, on yer bike!
'Cause this Christmas time.....I'M ON STRIKE!

(Santa parades round holding his 'I'm On Strike' placard.)

Verse 2

(All)

Well having read the daily news,
Poor old Santa's got the blues!
Another front page headline says,
"Horrid Little Tearaways!"
All you naughty girls and boys
Can just forget about new toys.
Every single little tyke,
Take a running jump.....HE'S ON STRIKE!

Verse 3

(Santa)

My festive cheer is wearing thin,
So tonight I'm staying in.
No more flying through the skies,
I'll just sit and eat mince pies!

(All)

Is there nothing we can say
To stop you spoiling Christmas Day?
We'll do anything you like,
Just change your mind.....

(Santa)

NO! I'M ON STRIKE!

(All)

HE'S ON STRIKE!

Pitching In, Helping Out

Chorus *Shoulder to shoulder with everyone,
Working together to get things done.
Well that's what Christmas is all about,
Pitching in and helping out!*

Verse 1 When the sink's full of pots and pans
And you've got a little time on your hands,
Grab a cloth, roll up your sleeves,
Give that Fairy Liquid a real good squeeze!
Now your mum has become
Relaxed – it's one less job to do.
And your dad is so glad
As he gives the rubber gloves to you!

Chorus *Shoulder to shoulder.....*

Verse 2 When your guests are nearly here
And there's still a great big mess to clear,
On your feet, don't lounge about,
Go and get the vacuum cleaner out!
Plug it in and begin
To bring a sparkle to the place.
As you zoom round the room
Mum's got a huge smile on her face!

Chorus *Shoulder to shoulder.....*

Verse 3 Too soon after Christmas day
Decorations need putting away.
Although it's not much fun,
It's one of those jobs that must be done.
But don't get too upset
As you take down each paper chain.
Never fear, in a year
You'll put them all back up again!

Chorus *Shoulder to shoulder.....*

Repeat *Well that's what Christmas is all about,
Pitching in and helping out!*

Puppies Are Not Just For Christmas

Chorus *Puppies are not just for Christmas,
We'd like to make it quite clear!
Rabbits and cats, guinea pigs, even rats
Need love every day of the year.*

Verse 1 With cute twitchy noses
Adorable eyes,
A pet as a present
Is a lovely surprise.
But be warned, from the minute they're born
They leave little presents all over your lawn!
Yes, some might howl all through the night,
And one or two like to give postmen a bite, but....

Chorus *Puppies are not just for Christmas.....*

Verse 2 They'll jump up to greet you,
They'll sleep on your bed
They'll give you a paw when
They want to be fed.
But they grow so big, don't you know,
They leave little puddles all over your home.
Though they woof and chew all your stuff,
You can't walk away when the going gets tough, 'cause....

Chorus *Puppies are not just for Christmas.....*

Repeat Chorus

Repeat *Need love every day of the year.*

Lots Of Fa-La-La

Verse 1 It's been a grotty day,
There's drizzle on the way,
An icy wind has chilled us to the core.
But still we've come out here
To bring you Christmas cheer,
Singing carols outside your front door.
We've got lots of.....

Chorus *Fa la la la, fa la la la,
Fa la la la, fa la la la,
Fa la la la, fa la la la,
Fa la la la la!*

Verse 2 We've sung 'The First Noël'
Which didn't go so well,
'Cause it's a song we haven't really heard.
And we will have to pass
On 'Good King Wenceslas',
We don't understand a single word!
So we'll just sing

Chorus *Fa la la la, fa la la la,*

Verse 3 So when we shake our tin
Please put some money in,
And we will send it where it's needed most.
Then we will go next door
And sing a little more,
Like a neighbourhood heavenly host!
We've got lots of.....

Chorus *Fa la la la, fa la la la,*

Repeat Chorus

Silent Night

Verse1 Silent night, holy night.
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Verse2 Silent night, holy night.
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar.
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.

Verse 3 Silent night, holy night.
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.

Give A Little Time

Verse 1 A warm and happy Christmas time
Doesn't reach every home.
We're sorry to say on this special day
Many will spend it alone, so....

Chorus *Give a little time,
Give a little sunshine.
Give it to somebody who
Would love to spend a little time with you.*

Verse 2 As you sit with family and friends,
Feeling the joy they bring,
Someone somewhere is wishing that their
Phone or doorbell would ring, so....

Chorus *Give a little time.....*

Verse 3 Opening our Christmas presents
Is such a lot of fun,
But what would be the best Christmas treat
That you could give someone? Well....

Chorus *Give a little time.....*

Repeat Chorus

Blast Off!

Chorus *Quick march! Haven't got a second to spare!
Look sharp! Got to get him up in the air.
Jump to it! Chocks away!
It's blast off for Santa's sleigh!*

Verse 1 Ho! Ho! Ho! We said Ho! Ho! Ho!
We need to clear some snow, 'cause here we go!
Come on Reindeer, take the strain,
Christmas is back on again!
We said Ho! Ho! Ho! Here we go!

Chorus *Quick march....*

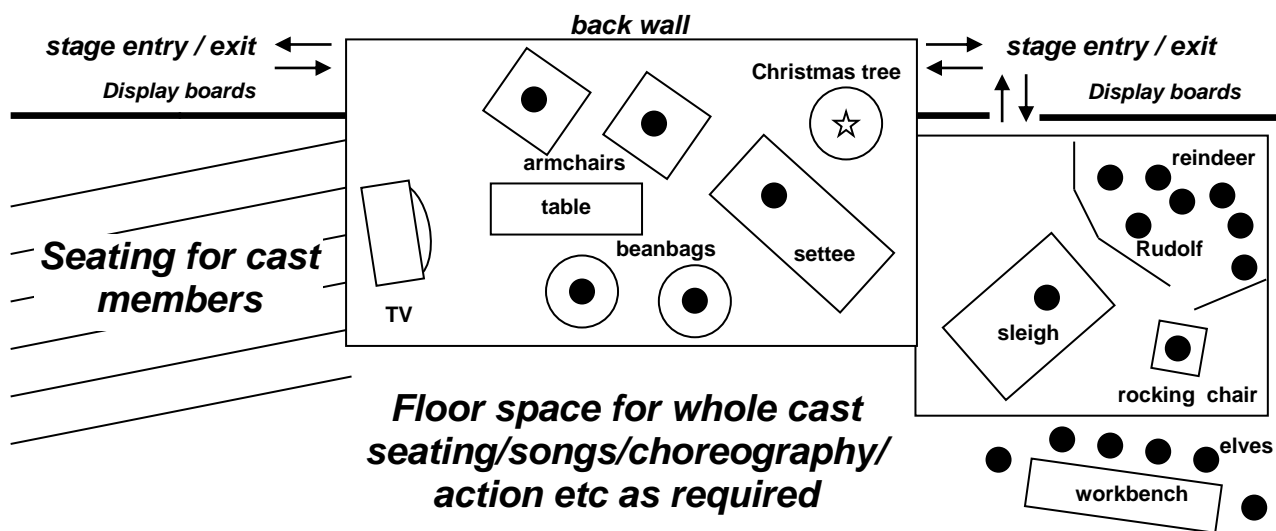
Verse 2 Hey! Hey! Hey! We said Hey! Hey! Hey!
It's nearly Christmas Day, so on your way!
There's a real long night ahead
For our hero dressed in red!
We said Hey! Hey! Hey! On your way!

Chorus *Quick march....*

Repeat Chorus

STAGING AND PRODUCTION SUGGESTIONS

We suggest a staging layout similar to this, which will allow the entire cast to be on view all the time, and to be heard during all the songs. Actors and groups seated to the side will be able to move easily into and out of prominent positions for their featured songs, dialogue or choreography. For the entrance and exit of individual characters, space can be made behind display boards either side of the main stage, with a 'doorway' coming into the grotto.



Audience

- **Scenery and furniture** – On the back wall of the central stage create a display which depicts a living room decorated for Christmas. A picture of a window with drawn curtains and a fireplace with real stockings pinned to it will create a cosy feel. Stand a Christmas tree in the corner to add to the effect. For the armchairs you can simply put throws over school chairs, and for the settee put a larger throw over three or four chairs lined up. Two beanbags, a coffee table and a TV are also needed. If you have a small cast and the same family is being depicted in each scene, the furniture will not be moved. If you are depicting four different families then you could move the furniture during the intro music between scenes, or change the throws and the picture to give the impression of different living rooms. For the penultimate scene, a stool and another armchair are needed in front of this stage for Mr Lewis's living room. For the 'North Pole Grotto' create the impression of a workshop, with a doorway at the back for entrance by the elves and Santa. Show a window through which snow can be seen, and have a work bench strewn with lots of DIY tools and gift boxes in various stages of wrapping. More boxes should be scattered around the floor to give the impression of chaos. In the centre should be the sleigh. You'll need to create its ornate sides and front out of large pieces of card or boxes, and attach them to one or two chairs depending on how wide you want it. Mrs Santa will need a rocking chair next to the sleigh on which to do her knitting. Create a 'pen' for the reindeer with rounders posts as vertical poles and garden canes placed horizontally.

- **Costumes** – For each of the family scenes all the clothes are things that the children already wear or could bring in from home. Pyjamas, dressing gowns, coats and normal casual garments are all that is required. A bit of tailoring or borrowing from parents may be required for those playing adults. Santa should be portrayed in his traditional red suit and beard, with Mrs Santa either wearing red too, or perhaps a ‘homely’ costume including an apron, big slippers and a headscarf. The elves, like Santa, may need a bit of work. Colourful tunics/tabards, tights, pointed cloth hats and shoes, aprons etc are a good start, but feel free to experiment. The reindeer should wear brown and have the obligatory ‘antlers-on-an-aliceband’ headpiece. Rudolf will of course need a red nose.
- **Props** – As already mentioned, the Grotto will need DIY tools on the workbench. For safety reasons use the oversized plastic variety contained in children’s toy tool kits, not the real thing! Make an over-the-top remote control for the plasma satellite screen – lots of dials, buttons, antennae etc. Mrs Santa will need knitting needles, wool and a typically garish Christmas sweater. The elves need scrunched-up letters in their pockets or under their tunics. The Wiseman children should have gameboys or similar. The scene also requires cups and a pair of yellow rubber gloves. A wine bottle and piece of cake on a plate are needed for the penultimate scene. Those playing carol singers will need song sheets and perhaps lanterns. The ‘extras’ who are centre stage for the ‘Puppies...’ song will need an assortment of cuddly toy animals, while those centre stage for ‘Pitching in...’ will need various dusters, cloths, tins of polish, brooms, vacuum cleaner etc!
- **Use of Space** – The whole cast will probably want to be involved in the performance of most, if not all, of the songs. A space on the floor in front of the main stage could be used to accommodate extra bodies. In this space, for some songs, the cast could perform dance routines or act out the lyrical content. A seating area for resting performers to one side of the stage lets them enjoy the performance as part of the audience, allows easy movement on and off the stage, and of course eliminates the need for back-stage supervision.
- **Audience seating** – Finally, we suggest the audience be seated at tables (cabaret style), and encouraged to bring drinks and nibbles of their choice. A relaxed party atmosphere will really make the evening go with a swing, and give parents, staff and children something to remember for a long time. Please email, phone or write to us if you have any production queries at all, and we’ll be more than happy to help.

We wish you a very merry Christmas at school, and hope this musical helps your festive celebrations go with a swing!