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General Guidelines

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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.

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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.

File Sharing

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 'How Christmas Came To Be' to an audience other than staff and children (eg. if you perform 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 a 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)

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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

The audience is warmly welcomed by our five hosts, each of them either a famous Christmas character, or someone from a period in history which had an influence on our modern-day Christmas. Through them, and the scenes and songs they introduce, we get a fascinating and thoroughly entertaining insight into how Christmas developed through the ages into the festival we know and love today. **(song – *A Time To Celebrate*)**

Firstly, we are taken back to ancient Rome during the festival of 'Saturnalia', when the winter solstice was celebrated in quite an unusual way. An old grandfather, Senilius, is bewildered by the bizarre antics of his family who enthusiastically embrace the festival's practice of social-role reversal! This could explain why the household slave, Lavatoria, is wearing expensive clothes and is refusing to do as she's told! **(song – *Saturnalia*)**

Next, we join the Norsemen of northern Europe during their festival of Yule. As Olaf prepares to light the Yule log and tap open his barrels of home-brewed ale, can he escape the advances of his wife, Astrid, who is stalking him round their homestead with a sprig of mistletoe? **(song – *Banish The Winter Blues*)**

We then learn how, once Christianity became widespread in the 4th century, the Festival of the Nativity was introduced and December 25th became the official date to celebrate the birth of Jesus. While the feasting, the giving of gifts and other customs carried on from the existing winter festivals, the reason for doing these things had now changed forever – Christmas had arrived! As a Nativity tableau is presented, the audience is entertained with a rousing bit of gospel music! **(song – *Hallelujah!*)**

After hearing how things developed through the middle ages and Tudor times, the mid-17th century is our next stop, as we encounter the Puritan ban on all things Christmassy! As three soldiers try to enforce this ban by confiscating food, drink and presents from festive revellers, not all goes according to plan and one lucky individual finds a way to keep the party going! **(song – *No More Christmas*)**

In so many ways the Victorian age saw Christmas becoming more like the festival we recognise today. In our next scene, as an excited Prince Albert brings home the first Christmas tree, Queen Victoria is definitely 'not amused' at having to sweep up pine needles from the palace floor! **(song – *The Victorians*)**

Our final destination is the North Pole, where we meet the biggest icon of our modern Christmas. After learning how the early persona of Santa Claus developed over the centuries, we meet him right in the middle of an image crisis! With some expert professional help, this crisis is averted and he settles on a look (and a catchphrase) that will forever capture the imagination of children everywhere! **(song – *Ho! Ho! Ho!*)**

And now, with Santa's use of the internet allowing children to track his progress around the globe on Christmas Eve, our journey is brought bang up to date. As our hosts wish us well for the festive season, we are reminded that one message above any other should be kept at the heart of Christmas – goodwill to one and all!
(song – *Roll On Christmas Day*)

CHARACTERS

For larger schools, extra speaking characters can be added to scenes and the existing lines shared out between them, or new lines created. For smaller schools, as most characters only appear in one scene, multiple parts (including ensemble characters) can be played by a single actor.

37 speaking parts in order of appearance

Hosts:

Rudolph – a red-nosed reindeer

Gabriel – a well-known angel

Charles Dickens – a prominent Victorian

Erika Winterbörn – a pagan Norsewoman

Festivius Maximus – a Roman citizen

Celebrating the Roman festival of Saturnalia:

Senilius – a doddering grandfather

Tipsius – his merry son, husband to...

Violentia – a mother and part-time female gladiator

Bratius & Moodica – their son and daughter

Lavatoria – a slave

Celebrating the festival of Yule:

Olaf – a Norseman

Astrid – his mistletoe-carrying wife

3 Cows – aware of their impending doom

The nativity tableau:

Mary

Joseph

A Donkey

An Angel

A Shepherd

A Wise Man

Suffering a Puritan Christmas:

3 Soldiers – on a mission to stop celebrations

4 Revellers – on a mission to celebrate

Enjoying a Victorian Christmas:

Prince Albert – proud of his tree

3 Children – excited by his tree

Queen Victoria – 'not amused' by his tree

Making preparations at the North Pole:

Santa – having an image crisis

Mrs Santa – his supportive wife

Wok Ho – fashion advisor to the stars

(Ensemble characters for featured songs and scenes)

Poor and wealthy Romans

Female Gladiators

Norsemen and women

Traditional Nativity characters

Puritans and Revellers

Victorians

A team of Reindeer

Santa's Elves

Scene 1

*(As the **intro music** plays (**track 9**) the cast enters. All sit on and around the main stage. The five 'hosts', each a character associated with Christmas or winter festivals through the ages, stand centre-stage to address the audience. Their lines throughout can be read – they have quite a few!)*

All SEASON'S GREETINGS, ONE AND ALL!

Rudolph But we still have a few days left at school! *(The whole cast groans!)*

Gabriel So how about we cram in a bit more learning! *(The whole cast groans again!)* It's okay! We're going to be learning about.....Christmas!

Charles Dickens Yes, Christmas! A decorated tree, turkey, crackers, mince pies, Great Granny drinking sherry.....that kind of stuff!

Erika Winterbörn Well, we're here to take you on a journey through history, to show you how the Christmas we know and love came to be!

Festivius Maximus But first, let us introduce ourselves. My name is Festivius Maximus, a Roman citizen. You're going to find out how our customs and festivals were an early influence on Christmas.

Erika W. And I'm Erika Winterbörn, a pagan Norsewoman. Our people had some strange winter customs that are still a part of Christmas today! We'll share these with you later.

Gabriel I'm Gabriel, the angel, and I was part of the story which gave Christmas its name. More about that in a while.

Charles D. I'm Charles Dickens, the 19th century writer. You're going to learn how the Victorians (and my stories) helped shape the modern Christmas.

Rudolph And of course I'm Rudolph, a friend to Santa Claus. You'll be hearing about his rise to Christmas super-stardom in a bit!

Gabriel But before all that, let's have a song! *(to the cast)* Everyone, on your feet!

Song A Time To Celebrate

(tracks 1 & 10, lyrics p19)

(The whole cast)

(All then sit to the side and in front of the stage, apart from the five hosts who stand centrally.)

Festivius M. Right, let's crack on and travel back to ancient Rome. During the week before the winter solstice, around December 25th, we celebrated the festival of Saturnalia. Hmmm, December 25th.....sound familiar?

Erika W. Saturnalia was a week of feasting and drinking in honour of Saturn, the god of Agriculture.

Gabriel A time for having fun and exchanging gifts, Saturnalia was a big influence on the Christmas we know today.

Charles D. Saturnalia was also a time for 'social role-reversal'. For example, slaves would become masters of a household and the masters would become slaves for a whole week!

Rudolph

Women would take part in gladiator fights and wealthy citizens would dress in rags and give money to the poor! Everything went kind of topsy-turvy during Saturnalia and we reckon it might have looked a little something like this.....

If using
our digital
backdrops,
select
'backdrop 2'

*(To the sound of a **harp (track 11)** the five hosts exit. Leaning on a walking stick, a doddering Roman grandfather, Senilius, enters and sits on a stool centre stage. He wears a traditional toga. His son, Tipsius, excitedly enters, dressed in rags and carrying a goblet.)*

Tipsius Happy Saturnalia, Father!

Senilius *(straining to hear)* Speak up Tipsius. You know I'm deaf.

Tipsius *(loudly)* I said happy Saturnalia!

Senilius Saturnalia? What's Saturnalia?

Tipsius Our festival to celebrate the solstice, remember? *(shouting)* Bratius! Moodica!

(Bratius and Moodica enter. They are also dressed in rags. Moodica carries a parcel.)

Tipsius Children, give your grandfather his gift.

Bratius *(handing Senilius the parcel and speaking loudly)* Happy Saturnalia, Grandfather. This is from all of us.

(Senilius unwraps the gift, which is an ear-trumpet. He looks at it with confusion.)

Moodica *(speaking loudly)* It's an ear-trumpet, Grandfather, so you can hear everyone without them having to shout!

Senilius *(holding it to his ear)* Well, say something then.

Tipsius, Bratius & Moodica HAPPY SATURNALIA!

Senilius *(jumping in shock!)* No need to yell! So, why are you dressed in rags?

(Senilius keeps the ear trumpet to his ear for the whole of the following dialogue.)

Bratius Because it's Saturnalia! Everything gets turned upside down!

Moodica We're wealthy, so we dress like we're poor. It's great fun!

Senilius And is your mother joining in too? Where is she?

(Dressed in armour, their mother, Violentia, enters, jabbing at the air with a sword.)

Violentia Oh, I tell you what, I can't wait for my gladiator fight this afternoon! I've been in training for ages!

Tipsius And, Violentia my dear, we'll all be at the Colosseum to cheer you on!

Senilius Why are women taking part in gladiator fights?

T, B, M & V BECAUSE IT'S SATURNALIA!

Senilius Saturnalia – pfff! Where's our slave by the way? I need a cushion for this stool. Lavatoria! LAVATORIA!

(Lavatoria enters, dressed in fine robes and jewellery.)

Lavatoria Don't shout at me, Senilius! And why is my lunch not ready?

Senilius How dare you! You're a slave! Err, why are you dressed up in those fine clothes? Get changed immediately!

Violentia Senilius, you can't talk to Lavatoria like that. She is *not* your slave, you're *hers*!

Senilius Don't be ridiculous! Me, a slave? To her? Why?

T, B, M, V & L BECAUSE IT'S SATURNALIA!

(The five crowd behind the stool, loudly explaining different aspects of Saturnalia to the confused Senilius. He stands up and walks to the front of the stage, the five following behind and still talking loudly. He then removes the ear-trumpet from his ear and we immediately can't hear his family's voices, though they carry on mouthing words as if they're still talking to him.)

Senilius *(to the audience)* Ah, peace and quiet. You know, I think I prefer being deaf! And as for Saturnalia....well, I guess there are some things that I'm just too old to understand!

*(As the **intro music** plays (track 12), the family gathers at the front of the stage for the next song. They are joined by more female gladiators, poor Romans and wealthy Romans. Fade the music when all are ready to sing.)*

Song Saturnalia *(tracks 2 & 13, lyrics p20)*
(The Roman family, supported by the whole cast)

*(As the **intro music** then plays (track 14), all sit and the stage is prepared for the next scene. When ready, the five hosts return and stand centrally.)*

If using
our digital
backdrops,
select
'backdrop 1'

Scene 2

Festivius M. You see, learning can be fun! So, let's move things along here, shall we? Erika, over to you.

Erika W. Thanks Festivius. Well, in the early centuries AD, we pagans from northern Europe would also feast and drink a lot to mark the solstice. We called our celebration 'Yule'.

Gabriel In Scandinavia, they would burn a huge Yule log throughout the celebrations, which would last for twelve days. Hmm, twelve days of Yule and a log – more things you might recognise!

Charles D. The cattle were slaughtered and the meat provided lots to feast upon during Yule and for the rest of the winter. Barrels of ale were opened and the toast 'Skål!' was shouted at every opportunity!

Rudolph Mistletoe was hung up in dedication to Frigga, their goddess of love. We all know what goes on under mistletoe these days, and it was the same back then!

Erika W. We reckon it might have looked a little something like this.....

If using
our digital
backdrops,
select
'backdrop 3'

*(To the sound of a **harp (track 15)** the five hosts exit. Three cows enter – **see staging suggestions/costumes** – and stand to one side of the stage. Olaf enters, carrying a large log which he places on top of a small pile of twigs centre-stage. The cows watch him.)*

Olaf Right, let's get this Yule log lit!

(Just as he bends down, off-stage we hear the raucous voice of his wife, Astrid!)

Astrid Olaf! Oh, Olaf! Where are you?

Olaf *(jumping up)* Oh no! My wife, Astrid! I need to hide!

(He hides behind the cows. Astrid enters, scouring the stage, holding up a sprig of mistletoe!)

Astrid Olaf! I've got mistletoe! Olaf! OLAF!

(Astrid exits in search of her husband. Olaf then emerges from behind the cows.)

Olaf Phew! That was a close call! Right, I'd better go and crack open those barrels of my famous home-brewed ale!

(He exits in the opposite direction to Astrid. She returns, still holding up the mistletoe, but looking a bit more annoyed.)

Astrid Olaf! OLAF! *(to the audience)* A kiss once a year is hardly asking too much, is it? OLAF!

(She exits in the opposite direction to Olaf. The cows watch her go and hang their heads.)

Cow 1 Oh no! A log, barrels of ale and mistletoe? *(gulping nervously)* It can mean only one thing! Yule is here!

Cow 2 Lots of drinking and feasting. And what will they be feasting on? Us!

Cow 3 Well my friends, it appears our numbers are finally up! Happy Yule!

*(As some famous **mournful music** plays (track 16) the cows shake hands with each other and, if you think it appropriate, each pretends to light up a large cigar – the last act of a condemned cow! As the music fades, Olaf then enters with a barrel which he places by the fire.)*

Olaf Ale sorted! Right....the meat!

(He approaches the cows, takes hold of the ropes round their necks and leads them to the front of the stage. Astrid, unseen by Olaf tiptoes on with the mistletoe held up. She then grabs him from behind and he drops the cows' ropes!)

Astrid Gotcha! Give us a kiss!

(As Astrid tries to kiss Olaf, he keeps her at arm's length and a comical struggle follows. During this, the cows nudge each other and nimbly tiptoe off stage, making their escape! Astrid finally manages to plant a kiss on Olaf's cheek then releases him! Olaf grimaces and wipes his cheek!)

Olaf Astrid! Please! If you really want to put your energy into something, you can help with the cows.

(Both turn to where the cows should be!)

Olaf Great! We've got no meat for our feast! What are we going to do now?

Astrid *(holding up the mistletoe)* Oh, I'm sure we can think of something!

*(As the **intro music** plays (track 17), Olaf bolts off stage with Astrid in hot pursuit! Other Norsemen and women, plus the cows, enter and stand centre-stage. Olaf and Astrid then return, holding hands. Fade the music when ready to sing the next song.)*

Song Banish The Winter Blues

(tracks 3 & 18, lyrics p21)

(The Norse people, supported by the whole cast)

*(As the **intro music** then plays (track 19), all sit and the stage is prepared for the next scene. When ready, the five hosts return and stand centrally.)*

If using
our digital
backdrops,
select
'backdrop 1'

Scene 3

Erika W. So, we're learning that the old festivals had a big influence on modern celebrations, with lots of features we still see today.

Gabriel But things really took a turn when, in the 4th century AD, under Constantine, Christianity became the religion of the Roman Empire.

Charles D. Now, the bible never mentioned a date for the birth of Jesus, so no holiday or festival could be organised to celebrate it.

Festivius M. Pope Julius 1st declared that it should be celebrated on December 25th, to tie in with Saturnalia. The Romans could still have a merry time during the solstice, but the reasons for celebration had changed.

Rudolph And so the 'Festival of the Nativity' was introduced. The story of the birth of God's son in a stable in Bethlehem would now and forever be at the heart of winter festivities.

Gabriel It's a story we love to tell again and again, especially at school, and it looks a little something like this.....

If using
our digital
backdrops,
select
'backdrop 4'

*(To the **harp (track 20)** the other hosts exit - Gabriel remains. The Nativity characters enter and form a traditional tableau, with Gabriel standing behind Mary and the manger.)*

- Mary** God chose me to have His baby. Although I was frightened, I was honoured to be part of His plan.
- Joseph** My support of Mary shows how we all trust in God's will and how we are thankful for the gift He gave to the world.
- Angel** Our presence throughout the Nativity story reminds us that, at Christmas, Heaven and Earth are as one.
- Donkey** The lowly stable where Jesus was born reminds us that He would be a peaceful man.
- Shepherd** We humble shepherds symbolise the love that He would show to all people, whether rich or poor.
- Wise Man** And we three wise men brought gifts for Jesus, which showed how Christmas would become a time for giving and sharing.
- Gabriel** This scene here on stage was to become the true picture of Christmas. It would inspire great art and fabulous music which we still see and hear to this day. So, let's celebrate in song the true meaning of Christmas!

Song **Hallelujah!** *(tracks 4 & 21, lyrics p22)*
(The Nativity characters, supported by the whole cast)

*(As the **intro music** then plays (**track 22**), all sit and the stage is cleared ready for the next scene. When ready, the five hosts return and stand centrally.)*

If using
our digital
backdrops,
select
'backdrop 1'

Scene 4

- Rudolph** So, by the 8th century, people were celebrating the birth of Jesus and really cutting loose for a few days each winter!
- Festivius M.** During the middle ages things got really raucous, with Mardis Gras-type celebrations occurring. A beggar would be crowned 'Lord of Misrule' and was allowed to demand money from rich people!
- Charles D.** Then, in the Tudor and Stuart courts, the lavish feasting included goose, swan, peacock and meat-filled mince pies shaped like a crib.
- Erika W.** But with the English civil war in the mid-17th century, when Oliver Cromwell came to power, things certainly changed!
- Gabriel** Under Cromwell and the Puritans, who had very strict religious rules, Christmas would no longer be a holiday or a time for fun.
- Rudolph** Soldiers would confiscate food they suspected was being prepared in celebration! Alcohol was banned, as was the decorating of homes and, unless it fell on a Sunday, December 25th was a day for working and business as usual.

Festivius M.

If using
our digital
backdrops,
select
'backdrop 5'

Puritans believed that avoiding pleasurable pastimes would gain you a place in heaven. So, for a while at least, it was curtains for Christmas. We reckon it might have looked a little something like this.....

*(To the sound of a **harp (track 23)** the five hosts exit. Three Cromwellian soldiers enter carrying pikes (spears) and stand centre-stage.)*

Soldier 1 So, this is fun...not! I used to really enjoy Christmas!

Soldier 2 Shhh! We've got a job to do!

Soldier 3 That's right. We have to stop anyone who looks like they might be celebrating Christmas and seize any food, drink or parcels.

Soldier 1 Why?

Soldier 2 To save their souls of course, so they'll go to heaven.

(A reveller enters carrying a parcel.)

Reveller 1 *(singing)* We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish....*(seeing the soldiers)* Oh! Errr. Yes, I'm just on my way to...to...to church. Yes, to church!

Soldier 2 With a parcel? As if! Hand it over.

Reveller 1 *(angrily handing over the parcel)* Oh take it then, you joyless so and so.

(Soldier 2 puts the parcel on the floor and shouts after the exiting reveller.)

Soldier 2 Oi! Less of the attitude, or we'll be locking you up!

Soldier 1 This all does seem pretty mean!

Soldier 3 It sounds like you want to go back to the old ways.

Soldier 1 When Christmas was fun? *(sarcastically)* Why would I want to do that?

(Two more revellers enter carrying shopping baskets of food. They see the soldiers and freeze!)
Soldier 3 What's all this then? Planning a get-together are we?

Reveller 2 No, no, no! This is just our normal weekly shop, honest!

Reveller 3 We have teenagers and you know how they can eat! This is for them!

Soldier 3 Yeah, yeah. Just leave it all down here and scram!

(They drop their shopping and exit.)

Soldier 1 Was that really necessary?

Soldier 2 I'm beginning to wonder whether your heart is really in this job! We must come down hard on those who break the rules!

(A rather 'merry' reveller enters, drinking from a tankard and staggering slightly!)

Reveller 4 (singing) We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Chri....
(seeing the soldiers) Ah, hello my fine fellows! Season's greetings to you!

Soldier 3 Someone doesn't seem to understand the rules! A night in jail should help. Come on!

(Soldier 3 takes the tankard and puts it down, then with Soldier 2 escorts the reveller off-stage. Soldier 1 is left alone! He checks to see the others have gone, then gathers up all the items.)

Soldier 1 Well, waste not want not, eh! (exiting whilst singing) We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas.....!

(As the **intro music** then plays (**track 24**), the soldiers and revellers return. They are joined by other Puritans, soldiers and revellers. Fade the music when ready to sing the next song.)

Song No More Christmas

(tracks 5 & 25, lyrics p23)

(Soldiers, Revellers and Puritans, supported by the whole cast)

(As the **intro music** then plays (**track 26**), all sit and the stage is prepared for the next scene. When ready, the five hosts return and stand centrally.)

If using
our digital
backdrops,
select
'backdrop 1'

Scene 5

Festivius M. Thankfully, for those who missed Christmas, it would return with the 'Restoration', when in 1660 Charles the 2nd became king.

Rudolph Christmas again became a public holiday and a time to celebrate!

Erika W. But it was during the Victorian age that it started to become more like the Christmas we recognise today. Mr Dickens, over to you....

Charles D. During the 19th century, my stories, such as 'Oliver Twist', made everyone think about caring for children. Then, with my novel 'A Christmas Carol', I told how the poor needed help and support, especially at Christmas time.

Gabriel The image of a family together, with children at the centre of things, really captured the nation's imagination during Victorian times.

Rudolph Crackers, Christmas cards, carol singers, fruit-filled mince pies, and the all-important turkey dinner, but only for wealthier families, became popular and are still a feature of Christmas today.

Charles D. And when Victoria married Albert, he brought something from Germany that has stayed with us ever since – the Christmas tree! We reckon it might have looked a little something like this.....

If using
our digital
backdrops,
select
'backdrop 6'

*(To the sound of a **harp (track 27)** the five hosts exit. Prince Albert excitedly enters, carrying an undecorated Christmas tree – this should be a green artificial one on a stand. He places it centre stage, then fetches a box of decorations.)*

Albert Children! Come und zee vat I haf here!

(Three children enter and look at the tree.)

Child 1 But what is it, Papa?

Albert It ist ein Christmas tree - festive und jolly! Ve haf zem in Germany!

Child 2 But Papa, it's a bit plain!

Albert *(pointing to the box)* Vich is vy I haf lots of pretty zings ve can put on it!

(The children excitedly rummage through the box!)

Child 3 And do we just put all these on the tree wherever we like?

Albert Of course! *(picking up the angel decoration)* But not zis angel. Zis goes on top of ze tree!

(They quickly dress the tree with baubles and tinsel! The children then squabble over the angel!)

Albert Children! Do not squabble. Ve vill put ze angel on ze tree together.

(They hold the angel and place it on the tree together, then stand back to admire it.)

Child 1 Oh Papa, it's beautiful!

Child 2 It really does make our palace feel cosy and warm for Christmas!

Child 3 I think Mama is going to love it too!

(We hear Victoria's voice from off-stage.)

Victoria Albert! Albert! Where are you?

Albert In here, mein pumpernickel! Kom und see vat ve haf done!

(Victoria enters carrying a dustpan and brush. She does not look happy!)

Victoria Albert! There are green spiky things all over the floor! It has taken me ages to sweep them up! What have you been doing?!

Albert Ah, mein strudel! Zey are pine needles from our beautiful new Christmas tree! Tell me, vat do you think?

Victoria *(mimicking him)* I'll tell you 'vat' I think. The rest of the royal family will be here for Christmas dinner in ten minutes and I'm clearing up your mess! Albert....we are not amused!

*(As the **intro music** then plays (track 28), the family are joined by more Victorians. Fade the music when ready to sing the next song.)*

Song **The Victorians** *(tracks 6 & 29, lyrics p24)*

(The Victorians, supported by the whole cast)

*(As the **intro music** then plays (track 30), all sit and the stage is prepared for the next scene. When ready, the five hosts return and stand centrally.)*

If using
our digital
backdrops,
select
'backdrop 1'

Scene 6

Charles D.

So, finally it's time to think about someone who is the very image of the modern-day Christmas. Rudolph, over to you.

Rudolph

Well, what can I say about my boss? Father Christmas, Santa Claus, Papa Noël, Saint Nick....he's had lots of names over the centuries.

Festivius M.

You mean he's that old?!

Rudolph

Indeed he is! Saint Nicholas was a 4th century bishop from Turkey who was known for giving gifts to the poor.

Erica W.

One story tells of him dropping coins down the chimney of a poor family. These coins landed in the daughter's stockings that were hanging by the fire to dry.

Gabriel.

As the years passed, children were told that their presents would be delivered by Father Christmas, who would come down their chimneys and leave gifts in their stockings on Christmas Eve.

Festivius M.

In 1823, the poem 'Twas The Night Before Christmas' by Clement Clarke Moore, with a famous illustration by Thomas Nast, really set in stone Santa's image as a jolly, plump man spreading festive happiness!

Rudolph

And since then, through stories, songs, films and TV adverts, he is now the face of our modern Christmas. And just to give you a chuckle, we reckon his image today may have come about like this.....

If using
our digital
backdrops,
select
'backdrop 7'

*(To the sound of a **harp (track 31)** the five hosts exit. A bearded Santa, dressed only in underpants and vest, sits in a rocking-chair centre stage. He looks fed up! Mrs Santa enters and hands him a cup of tea.)*

Mrs Santa

Now tell me, what's the matter?

Santa

I'm having an image crisis! For centuries now I've just been seen as a kind old man in green bishop's robes. I need to jazz things up a bit.

Mrs Santa

I agree, which is why I've invited someone along to help. *(beckoning off-stage)* Okay, he'll see you now.

*(As the **fashion theme tune** plays (track 32), the flamboyant fashion stylist, Wok Ho, makes a big entrance. A parody of Gok Wan, he should adopt his famous mannerisms!)*

Wok Ho I am Wok Ho, stylist to the stars, here to make you look fab...u...lous!

Mrs Santa Mr Ho is going to give you a makeover!

Santa That's exactly what I need!

Wok Ho So, for a long time now you've been wearing green. Well, green is so last year, so we're going to go for.....yellow! *(He clicks his fingers.)*

(An elf enters with a yellow outfit on a hanger. Santa stands and Wok Ho holds it up against him.)

Wok Ho *(to Mrs Santa)* What do think, girlfriend?

Mrs Santa Won't he look like a daffodil in that, Mr Ho?

Wok Ho Okay, not everyone can carry off yellow. How about....*(clicking)*

(Another elf enters carrying a pink outfit on a hanger. Wok Ho holds it up against Santa.)

Santa I'm up for a radical change of image....but pink?!

Wok Ho So, let's think....what colour really says 'jolly'? I wonder....*(clicking)*

(A third elf enters carrying a red outfit on a hanger. Wok Ho holds it up against Santa.)

Mrs Santa Oh my dear, how handsome you'll look! Put it on!

(Santa puts the suit on. Wok Ho puts a belt round his waist)

Wok Ho We'll just add this belt...and there we are! Don't you look the part!

(Everyone gasps in admiration! The reindeer enter with tinsel on their antlers.)

Wok Ho And look, we've added a bit of sparkle to your team of reindeer too!

(Santa proudly parades around to the applause of all. He then stops....)

Santa I look the part, that's for sure, but, I need something else....a catchphrase! Any suggestions, Mr Ho?

(Wok Ho is staring at Santa, so transfixed at his transformation that he doesn't hear him.)

Mrs Santa Mr Ho? A catchphrase for Santa? What do you think? Mr Ho? Mr Ho?

(Wok Ho is still oblivious to the question, as he admires Santa's new look!)

Santa Mr HO....Mr HO....MR HO! Have you any sug....hang on! I've got it! Ho! Ho! Ho! That will be my catchphrase! What do you all think?

All HO! HO! HO! PERFECT!

Song **Ho! Ho! Ho!** *(tracks 7 & 33, lyrics p25)*
(Santa's entourage, supported by the whole cast)

*(As the **intro music** then plays (**track 34**), the whole cast gathers on and around the stage with the five hosts at the centre. Fade the music when all are in position.)*

If using
our digital
backdrops,
select
'backdrop 1'

Scene 7

Rudolph

And today we can track Santa's journey round the world online, as he delivers our presents! That's Christmas brought bang up to date!

Festivius M.

So, our presentation hasn't been too boring for you, we hope?

All

NO!

Gabriel

And you've all learned something you didn't know before? And you've all had fun and been entertained?

All

YES!

Charles D.

Then our job here is done! As you leave us, we wish you everything that you wish for yourselves this festive season.

Erika W.

May peace, love and goodwill fill your homes and your hearts. And hey, don't forget to have fun too!

All

MERRY CHRISTMAS, ONE AND ALL!

If using
our digital
backdrops,
select
'backdrop 8'

Song

Roll On Christmas Day

(tracks 8 & 35, lyrics p26)

(The whole cast)

THE END