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PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION BEFORE PLANNING YOUR PERFORMANCE

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You are free to use any of our material for all classroom teaching purposes and for performances within school to only pupils and staff. However, if our musicals are to be performed to an audience other than pupils and staff from your school (eg. parents or other people from the wider community) then a performance licence must be obtained directly from Edgy Productions.

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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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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, to stream live performances and upload recordings to social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube. 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.

PERFORMANCE LICENCE APPLICATION FORM

For any performance of any part of ‘What Christmas Means To Me’ 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 email – info@edgyproductions.com
- by post – please check www.edgyproductions.com for address details

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 ☐ **£36.00** (including VAT)
(no admission charged and no tickets sold)

or

Performance Licence with charges ☐ **£42.00** (including VAT)
(admission is charged and/or tickets are sold)

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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 ☐ **£36.00** (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

Whatever your experiences of the festive season may be, this musical contains elements of Christmas that every child and adult will recognise. With songs and scenes that will make you laugh out loud, and others that will allow you to reflect on the deeper meaning behind all the sparkle and fun, ‘What Christmas Means To Me’ is a joyful yet moving celebration of what is most certainly everyone’s favourite time of year!

The show begins with a resounding, whole-cast sing-a-long of the opening number – **‘What Does Christmas Mean To You?’** after which we find ourselves in the familiar surroundings of a classroom! Although it’s the last few days of the school term, and the children think they should be taking it easy, the teacher still wants her class to produce one more piece of writing, entitled ‘What Christmas Means To Me’. With the children’s discussion of their ideas providing the continuity, we become witness to some truly entertaining seasonal delights!

We all know what it’s like, trying to do some last-minute Christmas shopping, and the characters in our first scene sum up the experience beautifully, providing us with lots to laugh at! **Song – ‘I’d Rather Stay At Home’**

What would Christmas be without a festive song from an ageing pop star? Join daytime talk-show host, June Chandler, as she interviews the legendary ‘Sir’ Rich Clifford, who at eighty years old has come out of retirement to make his fans go weak at the knees! Then sit back in a comfy chair and enjoy his not-quite-energetic performance, accompanied by his famous backing singers, the Bellafonté Sisters.

Song – ‘The Christmas Number One’

How many children can resist the urge to get up at 3 o’clock on Christmas morning to see what presents Santa has left under the tree? Certainly not the child in this scene, which isn’t surprising when the present in question is a shiny new games console! Mum and Dad’s numerous attempts throughout the day to drag their youngster away from the TV screen are futile! And what about poor Grandma and Grandpa, who just want to sit on the settee and watch the Queen? **Song – ‘X-Box, Playstation or Wii’**

Christmas crackers – don’t you just love them? Well, nobody loves them quite as much as the children in the next scene. Even when their relentless pursuit of ‘bangs’, paper hats and corny jokes threaten to ruin Christmas dinner, they still can’t help themselves! And who can blame them! **song – ‘Let’s Pull Another Cracker’**

Next we are reminded of the reason *why* we celebrate Christmas – the Nativity. A traditional tableau is presented to a short narration of the bible story and a gentle, meaningful song, **‘A Night To Remember’**

So, with lots to think about, the class conclude that Christmas can mean different things to different people, and our hopes for the ‘big day’ may not necessarily be the same as everyone else’s. However, it is unanimously agreed that what really makes Christmas special is what many of us take for granted, the chance to spend some precious time with the people we love. **Song – ‘Just Being Together’** After all, where’s the fun in pulling a cracker on your own?

CHARACTERS

30 speaking/singing parts in order of appearance.

(This number can be reduced or increased to suit your cast size – see p24)

Teacher – *still ‘cracking the whip’ even though it’s the end of term*

6 Children – *expecting to take it easy....how wrong they are*

Checkout assistant – *working on Christmas Eve*

5 Shoppers – *frazzled and fed-up*

June Chandler – *a genteel daytime talk-show host*

Rich Clifford – *doddering old pop-star*

The 3 Bellafonté Sisters – *be-bop backing singers*

Early-rising child – *eager to unwrap those pressies*

Mum and Dad – *all they want’s a good night’s sleep*

Grandma and Grandpa – *fed and watered and ready to watch the Queen*

2 Cracker-pulling kids – *addicted to paper crowns and bad jokes*

4 Diners (adults) – *not averse to the odd cracker themselves*

Nativity narrator – *this part could be divided between 2, 3 or 4*

Ensemble Characters – *for featured songs and choreography*

More shoppers

Rich Clifford fans

Traditional Nativity characters

Carol singers

**For a
character
line-count
& costume
suggestions,
see p25**



Scene 1

(As **intro music** plays (**track 8**) the cast members enter and take their places for the opening song – see staging suggestions.)

Song What Does Christmas Mean To You?

Track 1 - vocal demo
Track 9 - backing track
Lyrics p16



(As **intro music** plays again (**track 10**) the cast members sit. A smaller stage to one side is set up to represent a Christmas classroom – see staging suggestions/ scenery. Six children sit at tables, while a teacher stands.)

Teacher Children, as you know, we’ve only a few days left until school finishes for the Christmas holidays.

Children Yessssssss!

Teacher Now, I know you’re excited, but we do still have work to do.

Children Noooooooooo!

Teacher I’m afraid so. Today we’ll be doing some writing with the following title – ‘What Christmas Means To Me’. So, let’s discuss some ideas. Who’d like to start things off?

Child 1 (*raising a hand*) Well, what’s there to discuss? It’s easy – Christmas means presents! Loads and loads of presents!

Child 2 (*raising a hand*) And loads and loads of food!

Child 3 (*raising a hand*) And loads and loads of cool stuff to watch on the telly!

Child 4 (*raising a hand*) And loads and loads of kisses under the mistletoe!

All Eurgh!

Child 5 (*raising a hand*) It means getting all excited on Christmas Eve, watching the clock and wishing it would go faster!

Child 6 (*raising a hand*) You’re all wrong! It means getting dragged round town doing last minute Christmas shopping! I said to Mum, “Don’t worry, I’m sure Santa’s got it covered.” Does she listen? No. Christmas Eve will be a mad race round the shops watching her get more and more worked up! I can’t wait…….



(The action moves to the main stage. Three shoppers, holding baskets, stand in a queue at a checkout – see staging suggestions/scenery. A checkout assistant sits at a till, struggling to scan one of the items of Shopper 1, who has a child with her.)

Assistant (*calling for help and holding up a large bag of Haribo sweets*) Can I get a price check on an item? (*to Shopper 1*) Sorry for the delay, Madam.

Shopper 1 *(surprised)* Hang on a minute, I don’t remember.....*(to child)* Ooh, you little...! How many times have I told you about taking things off shelves and putting them in mummy’s basket when she’s not looking?! Well, okay, seeing as it’s Christmas, you can have them.

Shopper 2 *(impatiently to Shopper 3)* I’ve got a shopping list as long as my arm to get through before the end of today. I’ve still no turkey for Christmas dinner tomorrow. They’re all sold out here, so I need to get to ASDA before it closes, but it looks like I’ll be stuck in this queue ’til New Year!

Shopper 3 I’ve still got Christmas presents to buy! Oh, why do I never learn? It’s the same every year. I always leave it until the last minute! I should be more like my sister – she does all her Christmas shopping in the January sales!

(A man, Shopper 4, enters carrying a basket. He speaks into a mobile phone.)

Shopper 4 Hello...it’s me...Yes I know this is the sixth time in ten minutes, but I can’t find it...Yes I’ve looked everywhere...I don’t want to ask, everyone seems so busy...Yes, I know it’s for your mother, but couldn’t we just give her a box of chocolates? They’ve got a wide selection here...But I’ve told you, I can’t find it...Yes, near the deli counter, I’ve looked there...What?...Which shop?! Well, why didn’t you say? Right! I’ll pay for this stuff then I’ll go there...No, I won’t forget the sprouts. Where are they again? *(holding the phone away from his ear and wincing in pain)*...No need to shout...What was that? Sorry, dear, *(pretending)* it’s a bad signal...I’ll have to go. Bye! *(closing his phone and joining the queue)* Phew!

(Shopper 5 enters, looking quite relaxed, and joins the end of the queue.)

Assistant *(still holding up the sweets and calling out)* Still waiting for a price check!

Shopper 1 *(to Shopper 5)* I hope you’re not in a hurry? This is taking forever!

Shopper 5 No, not at all. I’ve just finished off some last-minute present-buying. Everything on the list ticked off – a stress-free Christmas shopping trip!

Shopper 2 How do you manage that? You can’t have many people to buy for.

Shopper 5 Actually, I have a very large family and a wide circle of friends.

Shopper 3 So what’s your secret?

Shopper 5 Socks! *(taking a handful of different pairs of socks from her/his basket)*

Shoppers 1, 2, 3 & 4 Socks?

Shopper 5 The best present in the world! I buy socks for everyone. Thermal socks for my parents, football socks for my nephew, Barbie socks for my god-daughter, woollen bootees for the baby, ski socks for my brother and his wife, a 3-pack of black socks for my cousin who works in the bank....it’s easy. I’m in and out of the shop in no time.

Shopper 3 Well, I’d never have thought of that. What a great idea.

Shopper 4 *(speaking into phone)* Hello, it's me again. Listen, how about we get your mother some socks? They've got lots here to choose from and....*(holding the phone away from his ear and wincing in pain)*....Okay, okay, no socks! *(closing his phone)*

Assistant *(still holding up the sweets and calling out)* Still waiting for a price check!

*(The shoppers impatiently tut. We hear a **store announcement - track 11**)*

Announcement Ladies and gentlemen, the store will close in ten minutes. Please would you proceed to checkout. Thank you, and merry Christmas!

(Suddenly, lots more shoppers rush on and all jostle for position in the queue. Shoppers 1, 2, 3, & 4 look annoyed.)

Shopper 2 This is ridiculous! Nobody can move! Do you know what they should do...and I can't believe nobody's thought of this...to stop all this chaos, why can't they just move Christmas to a time when the shops aren't so busy!

Song I'd Rather Stay At Home

*Track 2 - vocal demo
Track 12 - backing track
Lyrics p17*

*(To **intro music (track 13)** all exit. The stage is set up for the next scene.)*



Scene 2

Teacher I'd like to think some of us are a little more organised than that when it comes to Christmas shopping. Ok, what else does Christmas mean to you?

Child 1 The music!

Teacher Ah yes, Christmas carols.

Child 1 Well, actually, I was thinking more about the pop charts. All those bands bringing songs out, trying to get the Christmas number one spot!

Child 2 My Gran's favourite is....oh, what's his name....Rich Clifford. Apparently he used to always release a song at Christmas, every year without fail.

Child 3 Well, my *Great* Gran loves Rich Clifford! She always talks about having a crush on him when she was at school!

Child 1 Is he that old? No wonder he doesn't release songs anymore.

Child 2 Hang on, didn't I hear that he was making a comeback this Christmas....?



(The action moves to the main stage. Fans of Rich Clifford sit in a row at the back of the stage, wearing 'I ♥ Rich Clifford' tee-shirts. At the front are two chairs, positioned as if for an interview. Talk-show host, June Chandler enters to applause from the fans!)

- June** A big warm welcome to the Soothing Session, a lunchtime chat-show for all you ladies of a certain age relaxing at home, with me, June Chandler. Hello too, to those ladies joining us in the studio, who are especially excited to be here today – I can’t think why! *(squeals from the fans)* So without further ado, please give some gentle applause for my special guest.....Mr Rich Clifford!
- (The fans go wild as Rich makes a ‘wobbly’ entrance, holding a walking stick. He and June shake hands and sit opposite each other. June has a clip-board to read her questions from.)*
- June** It’s good to have you on the Soothing Session, Rich. Ooh, I’m sorry, that should be ‘Sir’ Rich! *(squeals from the fans)*
- Rich** Thank you, June. Yes, I was lucky enough to recently be knighted for my services to entertainment. I’m very proud.
- June** Quite right too. Eighty years old and sixty years-worth of hits behind you! That’s some going, Rich! *(squeals from the fans)*
- Rich** Well, I’m not as young as I used to be, June, but it seems that my fans are eager to hear a new song from me, so I’ve decided to come out of retirement, just for them. *(flashing a smile at the fans)*
- June** And you’re here today to perform your new Christmas single. I’ve had a sneak preview and I must say, viewers, the song’s a belter! A sure-fire hit!
- Rich** Well, I’m hoping it will be the Christmas number one, June. That’s if my fans buy it? Or download it...or stream it....whatever they do these days. *(flashing another smile at the fans who squeal even more)*
- June** Well, what would Christmas be without a number one from Sir Rich Clifford? It’s as traditional as plum pudding and brandy butter! And you have your famous backing singers here too, the Bellafonté Sisters. *(Three elderly backing singers enter and take their positions.)* Hello girls!
- Bellafonté Sisters** Hi, June.
- Rich** They’ve been with me for fifty years. They’re great girls, and I know my fans love them too. *(The fans mutter disapprovingly, jealous of the singers.)*
- June** Hmm, yes. Anyway, Rich, it’s been an absolute pleasure talking to you again, but I think we’d all love to hear the new single, *(the fans squeal)* so if you’d like to join the girls.....*(Rich hobbles over to a microphone. The Bellafontés stand to one side)* So, ladies and maybe one or two gentlemen, I’m delighted to introduce to you, singing what I’m sure will be his twenty-fourth Christmas number one, SIR... RICH... CLIFFORD! *(The fans go wild!)*

Song The Christmas Number One

Track 3 - vocal demo
Track 14 - backing track
Lyrics p18

(To intro music (track 15) all exit. The stage is set up for the next scene.)



Scene 3

Teacher You know, I must admit, I do like a bit of Rich Clifford. He’s an institution. Right, what else does Christmas mean?

Child 4 Getting up at 4am to unwrap my new Wii!

Child 5 Well, I chose the new X-Box for my Christmas present.

Child 6 I can’t wait for my PlayStation! I’ll be on it solidly from Christmas morning until I get bored, which will probably be next Christmas when they’ll bring out the new version and I can start all over again!



(The action moves again to the main stage, where we see a sofa, a TV and Christmas tree surrounded by presents – see staging suggestions/scenery. It is dark, and a child in pyjamas and dressing gown cautiously tiptoes on. S/he stops in her/his tracks as we hear annoyed parents’ voices from off-stage.)

Mum IT’S 2 O’CLOCK IN THE MORNING! GO BACK TO BED!

(The child sighs, turns and exits. S/he then re-enters after a few seconds.)

Dad *(from off-stage)* IT’S 3 O’CLOCK IN THE MORNING! GO BACK TO BED!

(Again, the child sighs, turns and exits. S/he then re-enters after a few seconds.)

Mum & Dad *(from off-stage)* IT’S 4 O’CLOCK IN THE MORNING! GO BACK TO BED!

(The child sighs and turns to exit, to be met by mum and dad in dressing gowns!)

Dad What’s going on?

Child I just can’t wait to open my present and start playing with it!

Mum *(yawning)* But we always open our presents together after breakfast. Come on, get yourself to bed.

Child Oh please, please, please, please, please, please, please, please!

Dad *(sighing)* Look, I’m too tired to argue, so you just do what you want. I’m off back to bed. *(The parents exit)*

Child Yessssssssss!

(The child searches under the tree and finds the present. S/he eagerly unwraps the games console, wires it up to the TV (this part is mimed), then sits on the sofa enthusiastically pressing on the handset. The lights come up. Mum and Dad, now dressed, enter and stand behind the sofa.)

Mum Breakfast’s ready, dear. Are you coming to the table? *(the child ignores her)*
Ahem! Captain Alien-Blaster, will you be joining us earthlings for breakfast?

Child Eh? Errr....*(concentrating on the game)*.....yeah....just got to complete this level then.....oooh....fire!....Yes! Got him!

Dad Come on, let's leave him/her to it.

(They exit, then re-enter with two grandparents.)

Mum Hey, Super Mario, Grandma and Grandpa are here. Say hello.

Child *(not even turning round)* Errr....yeah....Hi....Oh! Now I've lost a life!

Grandpa Sounds serious! Are you OK?

Grandma S/he looks busy. Come on.

(They exit, then Mum re-enters.)

Mum Excuse me, Sonic the Hedgehog, any chance of seeing your face at lunch?
I'm about to dish-up.

(The child just grunts, and Mum exits shaking her head. After a few seconds the parents and grandparents enter wearing party hats.)

Grandpa *(to mum)* That was a super meal, love. I might just sit down for a nap.

Grandma Yes, and maybe we could watch the Queen. She's on in a minute.

Dad Come on, Tomb-raider, turn that off now. We'd like to watch the TV.

Child Okay, but let me just finish this level.....

(The adults stand behind the sofa watching the game over the child's shoulders. As the child continues playing they become more and more interested. They move round and edge themselves onto the sofa, eyes glued to the screen! They gasp at the action of the game, looking more and more captivated!)

Child *(finishing the game and putting down the handset)* There, finished! Now, what side is the Queen on? BBC1 or BBC2?

All 4 adults *(as grandma thrusts the handset back into the child's hand)* Never mind the Queen!
PUT THAT GAME BACK ON!

Song X-Box, Playstation Or Wii

Track 4 - vocal demo
Track 16 - backing track
Lyrics p19

(To intro music (track 17) all exit. The stage is set up for the next scene.)



Scene 4

Teacher

Well, I for one would never miss my Christmas dinner to play video games. It's the best part of Christmas for me. Mmmm, my mouth's watering just thinking about it!

Child 2

I'm a big fan of Christmas dinner too. I just don't understand why people insist on ruining it by serving Brussel sprouts! What's all that about?

Child 1

I agree. In fact, if we're discussing what Christmas means, then to me it's the challenge of filling my pockets with sprouts without being seen, then being told how good I am for clearing my plate and getting rewarded with extra pudding!

Child 3

I must admit, Christmas dinner is one of the highlights in my house, but it's got nothing to do with the food.....



(The action moves to the main stage, where a Christmas dinner table is set for six people – see staging suggestions/scenery. As well as cutlery, crockery, dishes of food and the usual decorations, there is a cracker in each place. A boy and girl dash on and sit next to each other. They look around expectantly.)

Girl

Are they coming, or what?

Boy

I hope so, I can't wait! Do you think we should start without them?

Girl

Well, it's not considered good manners, but.....go on then!

(They pick up the cracker from the boy's place, check that nobody is looking, then pull it. The boy excitedly puts on the hat and picks up the token gift.)

Boy

Cool, look at this! And listen, *(reading the joke)* "What did the snowman eat at MacDonald's? Ice burgers with chilli sauce!" Ha ha! Okay, quick, let's do yours.

(They look around to check nobody is looking, then pull another cracker. The girl excitedly puts on the hat and picks up the token gift.)

Girl

Brilliant! Just what I wanted!...*(reading the joke)*... "Why do reindeer have fur coats? Because they'd look silly in plastic macs!" Ha ha!

(The two children look at the table, then at each other. They smile slyly.)

Boy

Shall we?

Girl

Do you think we should? *(they look over their shoulders)*....Come on then!

(They frantically dash round the table pulling the remaining four crackers. They are surveying the mess they've made as four adults, parents and grandparents, enter and look at the table in shock.)

Adult 1

What the...? Look at this mess! We haven't even started eating yet!

Adult 2

Have you seen what they've done? They've pulled every single cracker!

Adult 3 But those crackers were for all of us! It's bad enough you pulled yours before we all sat down, but to pull everyone's....!

Boy But we couldn't help it! We don't know what came over us! We're not responsible for our actions!

Girl They're just so lovely to hold! And the sound they make when you pull them! And the hats are so colourful. And you get a present inside! And the jokes! Oh, the jokes are so funny!

Adult 4 Well look, there's no real harm done. Come on everyone, sit down. I've got another box of crackers in the cupboard. I'll go and fetch it.

(As s/he exits, all sit. S/he re-enters with a box of crackers, sits down and gives one to each of the adults. The box, still containing some crackers, is put on the floor.)

Adult 4 There! Well, we might as well pull ours seeing as the children have made a start already.

(The adults pull their crackers and put on hats, as the children watch longingly.)

Adult 1 Ha ha! Hey, listen, *(reading the joke)* "What sneaks round the Christmas table looking for clues? A mince spy!"

Adult 2 Well what about this one, *(reading the joke)* "How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas? Deep and crisp and even!"

Adult 3 Yes, yes, very funny! But please, can we eat? I'm starving!

(The adults tuck in while the children whisper secretively. The lights fade then come back up to show the passage of time. The adults are full up!)

Adult 3 That was absolutely delicious. I couldn't eat another mouthful.

Adult 4 Well you can all go and put the film on while I quickly do the dishes.

Boy Errr...don't worry about the dishes. We'll do them. You go and relax.

Adult 4 Oh! Well if you're sure, that would be wonderful. Thanks you two!

Girl It's our pleasure! After all, you did the cooking!

*(The adults exit. The children watch to make sure they're out of the way then pick the box of crackers from the floor. As **intro music** plays (**track 18**) they frantically pull all the crackers, examining the gifts and laughing at the jokes. After a few moments they are joined on stage by the adults for the next song. Fade the intro music when ready)*

Song Let's Pull Another Cracker

Track 5 - vocal demo
Track 19 - backing track
Lyrics p20

*(To **intro music** (**track 20**) all exit. The stage is set up for the next scene.)*



Scene 5

Teacher You know, with all this talk of crackers and presents and food, I think we’ve forgotten to mention the reason why we have Christmas in the first place.

Child 4 Oh yeah! The story of Jesus!

Teacher Exactly, and for many people it’s that story which makes Christmas so special.

Child 5 Well, we go to church for a service to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Child 6 So do we. It’s cool! We sing carols and some children get to act out the Nativity. I’m taking part this year – I can’t wait.....



(The action moves to the main stage, where a narrator (though this part could be taken by 3 or 4 children) stands to one side. She/he/they read/s from a script as there are too many lines to learn. As the nativity story is told the characters enter to mime or act out the narration, assembling centrally to form a traditional tableau at the end.)

Note – you may want to extend this scene and introduce dialogue for the nativity characters or change the narration to one with which you are more comfortable, or the children more familiar. This is just a guide or suggestion as to how you can include this aspect of Christmas in the production. Some schools will have very firm ideas of how they wish or don’t wish to portray it, so please feel free to improvise or re-write it to suit your requirements.

Narrator

A long time ago, in a place called Nazareth, there lived a young woman called Mary, who was to be married to a carpenter called Joseph. One day she was visited by God’s angel, Gabriel. Though frightened, she calmly listened as the angel told her she had been chosen to do something very special. She would be having a baby, God’s baby, whom she should call Jesus. He would grow up to create a new kingdom on earth, one of love, and He would teach people how to live better lives.

Now, in those days the land was ruled by a powerful emperor, who ordered that all people must travel to their place of birth to be registered for a new tax. Mary, who would soon be having her baby, and Joseph had to travel far from Nazareth to a town called Bethlehem. Mary rode on a donkey, as Joseph walked beside her on the long dusty road. When they eventually reached Bethlehem, the town was crowded with visitors. They searched hard but Mary and Joseph could not find anywhere that had enough room for them to stay the night. Tired, and with the baby soon to be born, they finally knocked on the door of an inn.



The inn-keeper took pity on Mary and Joseph and, although he had no room to spare inside, he offered them the stable. Though home to oxen and horses, it was warm and comfortable and that night Mary gave birth to her baby, whom she called Jesus as the angel had told her to do. She wrapped him up and laid him in a manger of hay. As she did so, a bright star lit up the sky above the stable, shining down on the new baby king.

Now, up on the hills above Bethlehem were some shepherds, who were watching over their flocks. Suddenly a host of God’s angels appeared before them. The shepherds were

very afraid, but the angels told them that they brought wonderful news: a new king was born tonight in Bethlehem, and the shepherds should hurry to the stable lit by a star, to worship the baby and bring him gifts. This the shepherds did. They quietly knelt by Jesus and prayed, then offered him the gift of a new lamb.

Some months before, in an eastern land, three wise men had been watching the skies and had seen a new star shining brighter than the rest. They knew that this star was a sign that a special baby was to be born and that they must follow it as it moved westwards through the sky. For many weeks they travelled over deserts and mountain passes, until the star led them to the stable where the baby Jesus lay. Like the shepherds, they knelt in worship and offered gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. As all gathered round the manger, they knew that this night was the beginning of something wonderful – truly a night to remember.

(Carol singers join the nativity characters, standing either side of the stage.)

Song **A Night To Remember**

Track 6 - vocal demo
Track 21 - backing track
Lyrics p21



(Everyone remains on stage and sits down.)

Scene 6

- Teacher** So there we have it! What Christmas means is lots of different things to lots of different people. Now, I'm sure that's given us plenty of ideas for our writing, so if you'd like to get your books out we'll.....
- Child 1** But wait, Miss! Isn't there something we've forgotten?
- Teacher** Well, I'm not sure. We've considered shopping, music, presents, dinner, crackers, the nativity.....what else is there?
- Child 2** Probably the most important thing we could ask for at Christmas.....
- Child 3** The thing which a lot of us take for granted.....
- Child 4** But if we were without it then Christmas wouldn't mean anything.....
- Child 5** And all the presents in the world couldn't make up for not having it....
- Teacher** Now you've got me confused! What is it you're talking about?
- Child 6** Well, let's see if we can make it a little clearer.....

Song **Just Being Together**

Track 7 - vocal demo
Track 22 - backing track
Lyrics p22



Scene 7

Teacher Well I must say, I never knew you lot were so thoughtful.

Child 1 There is a little bit more to us kids than toys, tears and tantrums you know!

Teacher You can say that again! And do you know what, we'll forget that writing! It's enough you came up with such wonderful ideas in the first place. Come on everyone, it's the last week of term.... LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

Everyone MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Reprise **What Does Christmas Mean To You?**

Track 1 - vocal demo
Track 23 - backing track
Lyrics p16

THE END

What Does Christmas Mean To You?

Verse 1 For some it's all the family dropping by,
For others it's a freshly-baked mince pie.
For some it's hearing champagne corks go pop,
For others it's a great excuse to shop!
So very many different things
The festive season brings,
And these are but a few.
But we were all just wondering,
What does Christmas mean to you?

Verse 2 For some it's roasted turkey on a plate,
For others it's a tree to decorate.
For some it's kissing under mistletoe,
For others it's the chance of seeing snow.
Well, everybody gathered here
Has got their own idea,
And here are one or two.
But we were all just wondering,
What does Christmas mean to you?

Verse 3 For some it's sending lots of Christmas cards,
For others it's a time to play charades.
For some it's angels, shepherds and wise men,
And that amazing tale from Bethlehem.
So very many different things
The festive season brings,
And these are but a few.
But we were all just wondering,
What does Christmas mean to you?
Yes, we were all just wondering,
What does Christmas mean to you?
What does Christmas mean to you?



I'd Rather Stay At Home

Verse 1 I've been busy writing
My Christmas shopping list.
It's such a long'un, I've only gone and
Sprained my bloomin' wrist!
At last it's finished,
I can put my pencil down,
But guess what's coming next, oh yes,
That dreaded trip to town.....

Chorus *People rushing, crowding, pushing!
Will it ever stop?
Lots of huffing and a'puffing,
I'm about to drop,
As I dash to spend my cash
In yet another shop!
Christmas shopping?
I think I'd rather stay at home!*

Verse 2 I have no idea
What to buy for Auntie May.
Whatever I get her – a scarf or a sweater –
She'll sell it on Ebay!
I dread to think of how much
Money I will spend
On pointless stuff. It's quite enough
To drive me round the bend....

Chorus *People rushing.... x2*



The Christmas Number One

Verse 1

(All)

With Christmas getting closer,
This ageing pop star
Will go and get his hair done,
And dust off his guitar!
He'll throw some chords together
And bang out a song,
And hope it sells enough to be
The Christmas number one!

Chorus

*Sparkling teeth and sparkling suit,
Eighty years old but he's still kinda cute!
Loved by the grannies and one or two mums,
He'll be top of the pops
When Christmas comes!*

Verse 2

(Rich)

It really doesn't matter
What I sing about -
Mistletoe or tinsel,
Or the humble Brussel sprout!
They'll log-on in their thousands
To download my song,
And you can safely bet I'll be
The Christmas number one!

Chorus

Sparkling teeth....

Verse 3

Ooh la la, ooh la la, ooh la la, ooh la la.
Ooh la la, ooh la la, ooh la la, ooh la la.
Ooh la la, ooh la la, ooh la la, ooh la la.
Ooooooh, ooooooh, la la la la la la.

Chorus

Sparkling teeth....x2

Ooh la la, ooh la la, ooh la la, ooh la la.
Ooh la la, ooh la la, ooooooh



X-Box, Playstation Or Wii

Verse 1 I've been feeling kinda bored,
And that gets me down.
Got no games to entertain
My friends when they come round.
But all that is gonna change
When Christmas comes -
I'll get something cool
To occupy my twiddling thumbs!

Chorus *I can't wait for Christmas,
'Cause Christmas is gonna be
When I get my X-Box,
Playstation or Wii!
I'll be like a limpet
Stuck to that settee,
Playing on my X-Box,
Playstation or Wii!*

Verse 2 I don't need no bike to ride,
Or no ball and bat!
I want rocket launchers
And some aliens to splat!
I'll be saving planet earth
From certain doom,
And I'll do it from the comfort
Of my living room!

Chorus *I can't wait for Christmas....*

Bridge Yes there's a chance I'll get square eyes,
And I don't care 'bout getting fresh air!
I've got the best excuse to stay inside!

Chorus *I can't wait for Christmas....*



Let's Pull Another Cracker

Verse 1 I don't really care for Christmas pudding,
And turkey I can do without.
There's only one thing on the table
I can really get worked up about....

Chorus *Let's pull another cracker,
I want to hear it pop!
I'm going c...c...cracker-crazy,
And I don't think I can stop
Pulling crackers! All I wanna do
Is pull another cracker with you!*

Verse 2 As I watch the family fill their faces,
I find it unbelievable
How anyone can think of eating,
When we've still got crackers left to pull!

Chorus *Let's pull another cracker....*

Middle You get a little plastic trinket,
A coloured tissue-paper crown,
A silly joke to make you laugh out loud,
And best of all that cracker sound...1..2..3..4...(BANG!)

Verse 3 I can think of nothing as exciting,
No part of Christmas I like more,
Than two friends pulling on a cracker –
It's just like a festive tug-of-war!

Chorus *Let's pull another cracker....*

Repeat *Pull another cracker with you!
Pull another cracker with you!*



A Night To Remember

Verse 1 It's a night to remember,
A star lights up the skies,
And they all come together
To worship where He lies.
Joy fills up the hearts
Of the wealthy, meek and wise.
It's a night to remember,
A star lights up the skies.

Verse 2 It's a night to remember,
A night when the world is one.
And we all stand together
And know that we all belong.
Light fills up our hearts,
And shadows are long gone.
It's a night to remember,
A night when the world is one.

Repeat Light fills up our hearts,
And shadows are long gone.
It's a night to remember,
A night when the world is one.
A night when the world is one.



Just Being Together

Verse 1 So, Christmas – what’s it all about?
What does it mean? Have we worked it out?
The tinsel and glitz? The films on TV?
The crackers we pull, or the gifts round the tree?
This is what I believe....

Chorus *Just being together,
Just having you near,
Is all that really matters
At this time of year.
Just laughing together,
Just being close by,
No, nothing can beat that feeling
At Christmas time.*

Verse 2 So, Christmas – what’s it got in store?
How many treats are you waiting for?
It’s sad but it’s true,
We sometimes forget
It’s about what you give
And not what you get.
This is what I believe....

Chorus Just being together....

Instrumental – *during which a some of the children find their families in the audience and give them a cuddle!*

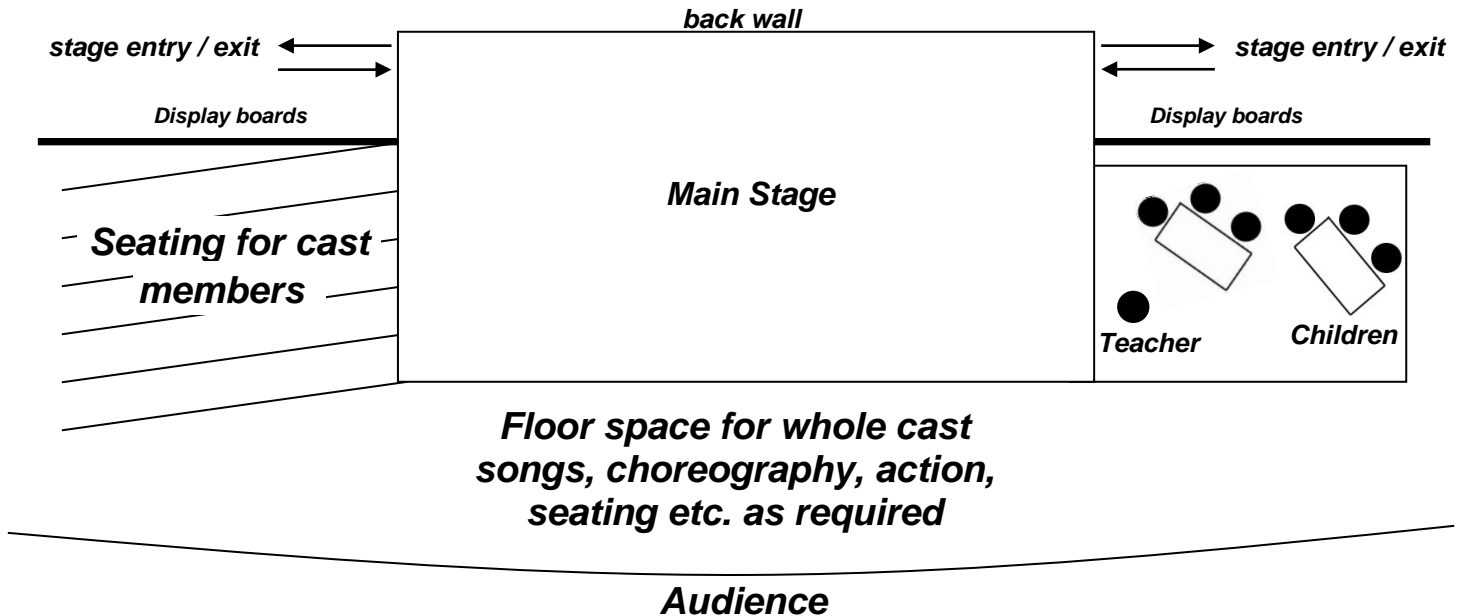
There’s nothing so good,
And nothing compares
To being around
Somebody who cares.
This is what I believe....

Chorus *Just being together....*



STAGING AND PRODUCTION SUGGESTIONS

‘What Christmas Means to Me’ has been written to be adaptable to most school hall set-ups, whether you have a stage or not. Below is just one representation of a possible staging layout.



- **Scenery**

We suggest using our digital backdrops (see website for details) which can be projected onto the wall behind the stage or onto your hall's whiteboard if you have one. Alternatively, if making your own backdrop/s, the back wall could display large iconic images of Christmas – a huge cracker, a Christmas tree, Santa, a nativity scene etc, perhaps done as collages. Large letters across the top could spell out “What Christmas Means To Me”. Display boards, behind the smaller stage to the side, should be decorated to depict a festive classroom – lots of paper chains and mounted artwork with a Christmas theme.

- **Furniture**

The children in the classroom can sit three to a table. Use infants' class tables and chairs to maximize the space available. A regular school table can be used for the checkout in scene 1 (simply put a toy till on it), and for the dining table in scene 4 (covered with a tablecloth). For the sofa in scene 3 simply drape a throw over 3 school chairs and add a couple of cushions. An imitation Christmas tree and the school's portable TV are all that is required to complete the furniture for this scene. Where chairs are needed (scenes 2 and 4) schools chairs will do fine.

- **Props**

Scene 1: Shopping baskets for shoppers filled with supermarket items. A large packet of Haribo sweets. A selection of pairs of socks. A mobile phone.

Scene 2: A walking stick. A guitar. A microphone on a stand.

Scene 3: A games console (an old one) boxed and wrapped. A selection of other wrapped gifts.

Scene 4: Lots of cheap/value Christmas crackers. Crockery, cutlery decorations and model/toy food for the dinner table.

Scene 5: A doll wrapped in a white blanket. A Manger. 3 wise men's gifts. A toy lamb.

- **Costume**

For individual character suggestions, **see p25**.

- **Reducing the cast size**

Apart from the Teacher and class children who feature at the beginning of each scene, all of the other characters only appear in a single scene. This allows for the ‘doubling-up’ of parts played by your cast, thus reducing the number you need to fulfil all the main roles.

Below is a workable solution if you are short on numbers, allowing you to perform with as few as **25** children. Of course, there are other combinations of speaking parts you could implement – the following is just a suggestion:

| Speaking part | Also playing part/s |
|----------------------------|--|
| Checkout Asst. (sc.1) | Early-rising child (sc.3) |
| Shopper 1 (sc.1) | Mum (sc.3) and Nativity narrator (sc.5) |
| Shopper 2 (sc.1) | Dad (sc.3) and Joseph (sc.5) |
| Shopper 3 (sc.1) | Grandma (sc.3) and Mary (sc.5) |
| Shopper 4 (sc.1) | Grandpa (sc.3) and Innkeeper (sc.5) |
| Shopper 5 (sc.1) | Mum (sc.3) and Gabriel (sc.5) |
| June Chandler (sc.2) | Cracker-pulling girl (sc.4) and Shepherd (sc.5) |
| Rich Clifford (sc.2) | Cracker-pulling boy (sc.4) and Shepherd (sc.5) |
| Bellafonté Sister 1 (sc.2) | Adult 1 (sc.4) and Wise man (sc.5) |
| Bellafonté Sister 2 (sc.2) | Adult 2 (sc.4) and Wise man (sc.5) |
| Bellafonté Sister 3 (sc.2) | Adult 3 (sc.4) and Wise man (sc.5) |

Numbers can be reduced further by all non-speaking characters in scene 1 (more shoppers) taking on the roles of Rich Clifford fans (scene 2) and carol singers (scene 5). This will require quick costume changes between scenes.

- **Increasing the cast size**

For this production, you can have unlimited numbers of non-speaking characters in the scenes where they appear. They could also feature prominently in the performance of the song associated with their particular scene:

| Non-speaking part | Appearing in scene/s |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| More Shoppers | 1 |
| Rich Clifford fans | 2 |
| More Nativity Characters | 5 |
| Carol Singers | 5 |

- **Use of Space**

The whole cast will probably want to be involved in the performance of most 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 could be allocated to one side of the stage. This lets them enjoy the performance as part of the audience, allows easy movement on and off the stage and eliminates the need for back-stage supervision.

Please get in touch if you have any further questions about staging this musical – we’re always happy to help!

A ‘line’ is defined here as each time a character speaks, usually between 1 and 5 actual lines of text.

| Speaking Character | No. of Lines | In which scenes | Costume Suggestions |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|---|
| Teacher | 14 | All | Shirt/blouse, jacket, trousers/skirt – teacher outfit |
| Child 1 | 7 | All | School uniform |
| Child 2 | 5 | All | School uniform |
| Child 3 | 4 | All | School uniform |
| Child 4 | 4 | All | School uniform |
| Child 5 | 4 | All | School uniform |
| Child 6 | 4 | All | School uniform |
| Checkout Assistant | 3 | Sc. 1 | Tabard – borrow from a lunchtime supervisor |
| Shopper 1 | 2 | Sc. 1 | Coat, hat, scarf etc |
| Shopper 2 | 3 | Sc. 1 | Variation on Shopper #1 |
| Shopper 3 | 3 | Sc. 1 | Variation on Shopper #1 |
| Shopper 4 | 2 | Sc. 1 | Variation on Shopper #1 |
| Shopper 5 | 4 | Sc. 1 | Variation on Shopper #1 |
| June Chandler | 6 | Sc. 2 | Floral/pastel dress or trouser suit and too much makeup |
| Rich Clifford | 4 | Sc. 2 | Quiffed hair and shiny-showbiz suit |
| Bellafonté Sister 1 | 1 | Sc. 2 | Short dress and (if possible) beehive wig |
| Bellafonté Sister 2 | 1 | Sc. 2 | Matching Sister #1 |
| Bellafonté Sister 3 | 1 | Sc. 2 | Matching Sister #2 |
| Early-rising Child | 7 | Sc. 3 | Pyjamas and dressing gown |
| Mum | 6 | Sc. 3 | Casual clothes under dressing gown for quick change |
| Dad | 6 | Sc. 3 | Casual clothes under dressing gown for quick change |
| Grandma | 2 | Sc. 3 | Cardigan/shawl over blouse/shirt & tie |
| Grandpa | 2 | Sc. 3 | Cardigan/shawl over blouse/shirt & tie |
| Cracker-pulling Boy | 5 | Sc. 4 | Casual kids’ clothes with Christmas jumper |
| Cracker-pulling Girl | 6 | Sc. 4 | Casual kids’ clothes with Christmas jumper |
| Adult 1 | 2 | Sc. 4 | Casual adults’ clothes with Christmas jumper |
| Adult 2 | 2 | Sc. 4 | Casual adults’ clothes with Christmas jumper |
| Adult 3 | 3 | Sc. 4 | Casual adults’ clothes with Christmas jumper |
| Adult 4 | 4 | Sc. 4 | Casual adults’ clothes with Christmas jumper |
| Nativity Narrator | 1 long passage | Sc. 5 | Nativity angel costume or school uniform |

| Non-Speaking Character | In which scenes | Costume Suggestions |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| More Shoppers | Sc. 1 | Coats, hats and scarves |
| Rich Clifford Fans | Sc. 2 | ‘I ♥ Rich Clifford’ tee shirts |
| Traditional Nativity Characters | Sc. 5 | Gowns, tunics, headdresses, wings, animal masks etc |
| Carol Singers | Sc. 5 | Coats, hats and scarves |