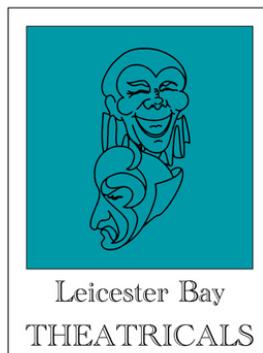


*A Christmas Panto
for Young and Olde!
by Martin R. Collin*



Newport, Maine

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REINDEER GAMES

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THE CAST:

The Director—the master of ceremonies and announcements. Dressed in old nightgown and old hat. Carries a wooden sword and a rubber chicken at his side.

The Room—a loud and joyful knight, dressed in a ragged overcoat, with broom in hand.

5 Vendors—in ragged overcoats, caps, and scarves carrying baskets.

2 Boar's Head Carriers—brave and valiant woodsmen.

The Choir—a ragtag gathering of jovial ragamuffins dressed in pajamas, nightgowns, hats, scarves, and gloves. These singers should be composed of elves, fairies, children, choristers, and ancient citizens.

The Grandmother—in nightgown and cap. Over the river and through the woods.

The Hunter—a brave and valiant woodsman.

The Christmas Bear—a well-loved woodland creature with a heart of gold.

Red Riding Hood—a talkative, brave young woman. She wears a red hood and cape.

The Wolf—the worst of the woodland. Hungry.

Blitzen—a reindeer.

Donner—a reindeer.

Comet—a reindeer.

Cupid—a reindeer.

Dancer—a reindeer.

Dasher—a reindeer.

Vixen—a reindeer.

Prancer—a reindeer.

Father Christmas—a sprightly elf. The spirit of an older Christmas, not a department store.

Rudolph—a reindeer with an unusual red nose.

Clarisse—a female reindeer.

Mrs. Claus-- a sprightly elf. The spirit of an older Christmas, not a department store.

Turkish Knight—a brave warrior from distant lands.

King of Egypt—a royal personage from a distant land.

Beelzebub—a nasty and impish sprite.

Hector—a noble warrior.

The Knight Before Christmas—the herald of the season.

The Fool—a wag, a wit, a prankster, and a creature of magic and great wisdom.

Giant Blunderbore—big and slow, with a heart of gold. Carries a club.

Little Jack—impish prankster and riddle-teller.

Johnny Jack—Family man, carries his wife and family on his back.

The Big Head—a dancing man of romance, a comic character with a very large face and head.

Silent Knight—a brave warrior who says nothing.

Quiet Sign Man—he carries a sign that reads: QUIET!

The Priest—a foolish and saintly man.

Brother Horn—a good and saintly man.

Hobby Horse—part human, part horse, a galloping sign of the season.

Old Woman—old and wise and has years of experience. A romantic.

Old Man—old and wise and has years of experience. A romantic.

King—a pompous young man of royal blood.

Clown—a wise cracking good-natured jester.

Saint George—The Red Cross Knight. Loyal, Brave, True.

The Dragon—a hungry, vile reptilian monster.

Six (6) Sword Dancers--One dancer is designated as Captain. Brave warriors who carry wooden yardsticks (see notes in script) as swords.

The Doctor—the best quack doctor in this play.

Jack Finney—a wise cracking, defiant young doctor in training.

The Horse— (two actors under a blanket with a horse mask.)

Author's Note:

For over twenty years, The Chapel Choir at Saint James School and our youngest students, our eighth graders (we call them the second formers here), have come together at Christmas time to create a festive night of holiday revelry and merry-making on our last night of school before the Christmas holiday break. The cold months of November and December on our campus are filled with weeks of secrets, mystery guests, new characters and roles, buckets of candy, and a holiday tradition that many of our upper school students, seniors, faculty, alums, and Saint James families have come to treasure and cherish over the years. Our version and adaptation of the annual re-telling of the old mummer's play, Saint George and the Dragon, allows our entire campus community to participate in a night of songs and laughter, candy and good fellowship, and take delight in the magic, excitement, and wonder of our youngest students. I have tried to capture here on paper and in ink the spirit and pageantry of this night and to share the great gift our students create at this magical time of the year.

Author's Notes:

- I recommend printing the music/lyrics of all audience participation songs in the program of the show. You will want the audience to be active participants in your production.
- **The Choir.** 10-30 people!
- **The Musicians.** This show can be done with a solo piano/keyboard and pianist or an entire band of holiday music revelers. Any combination of instruments, or even tapes and cds, could work equally as well. I once played the show on a solo guitar. The musicians, however, must create the spirit of audience participation in their lively approach to the gathered crowd, choristers, and cast members.
- **The Songs.** All of the song choices here are only recommendations, most of which are in the public domain. Feel free to choose your selections to complement your performance.
- **Costuming.** This show always looks best in cardboard crowns, bathrobes, wire hanger antlers, mom's old nightgown, homemade beards and whiskers, and old pajamas. There are great opportunities here to create a homespun look with a glue gun and some imagination and a pile of good-hearted volunteers and cast members.
- **The Set.** An interior castle banquet hall, benches and tables, decked out with signs of the Yuletide season. To make set changes more quickly and effective, small props and dressing could be hung, draped, or set over these basic benches and tables.

Reindeer Games: A Christmas Panto for Young and Olde! by Martin R. Collin. Cast size: Minimum Male roles = 8. Minimum Female roles = 5. Minimum total with doubling = 22. Minimum total without doubling = 57 +Chorus. Could be done with a lot of doubling, or even tripling, but is intended as a large-cast piece with gender flexibility. 25-100. The more the merrier! (Suitable for a mixed-age group in Schools, Churches, and Community theatres.)An evening of ragtag holiday merry-making, festivity, revelry, audience participation, happy yuletide songs and dances, and jollification featuring: Elves, Fairies, Children, Choristers, Ancient Citizens, The Christmas Bear, Red Riding Hood and The Wolf, Rudolph and Clarisse, a holiday quiz show, Big-Head Characters, The Giant Blunderbore, the retelling of the old mummies tale, *Saint George and the Dragon*, and Father Christmas himself!

Dedication:

This wonderful evening of yuletide fun comes to life through the great spirit of some mighty special people:

Robert Grab

Susan Gable

Barbara Wischmeier

Drew Lineberger

Melanie Zayas Regan

Sandra Pollock

and

The lower school students of Saint James School in Hagerstown, Maryland.

“Once a sword dancer, always a sword dancer!”

ACT ONE

Scene One -- *The Introduction: Enter THE DIRECTOR (The Master of Ceremonies) welcomes and greets all to this festive event, makes any announcements for the evening, introduces special guests, and then leads the audience, with the help of THE MUSICIANS, in singing:*

SONG: DECK THE HALLS

*Deck the halls with boughs of holly,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Tis the season to be jolly,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Don we now our gay apparel,
Fa la la, la la la, la la la.
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.
See the blazing Yule before us,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Strike the harp and join the chorus.
Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Follow me in merry measure,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.
While I tell of Yuletide treasure,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Fast away the old year passes,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Sing we joyous, all together,
Fa la la la la, la la la la.
Heedless of the wind and weather,
Fa la la la la, la la la la*

Scene Two -- *The Opener. Trumpet Fanfare (The opening line of **Oh Come All Ye Faithful** three times, in a higher key each time. Enter: FIVE (5) VENDORS in ragged overcoats, caps and scarves (enter from all entrances) selling their goods and singing and yelling to the audience:*

VENDOR 1: Chairs to Mend!

VENDOR 2: Fresh Fish--Mackerels, Holy Mackerels!

VENDOR 3: Pencils, Pencils and Pens. Guaranteed to write backwards!

VENDOR 4: Strawberries, blueberries, cherries--Fresh Fruit!

VENDOR 5: Rags and Bottles!

(The Procession. THE ROOM [A loud and joyful knight, dressed in a ragged overcoat, with broom in hand] enters and leads in and conducts by candlelight THE CHOIR of elves, fairies, children, choristers, and ancient citizens who are dressed in pajamas, hats, and scarves and gloves. The ceremonial and traditional boar's head is carried in on a large platter by THE BOAR'S HEAD CARRIERS while THE CHOIR sings its tribute. During the song, THE BOAR'S HEAD CARRIERS display and parade the head before the entire audience.)

SONG: THE BOAR'S HEAD CAROL

THE ROOM, THE CHOIR, THE BOAR'S HEAD CARRIERS, THE MUSICIANS: *(lead the audience in singing)*

*The boar's head in hand bear I,
Bedecked with bay and rosemary;
And I pray you my masters be merry,
Quot estis in convivio (as many as are at the feast)*

[Refrain]

*Caput apri defero, (I bring in the boar's head, giving thanks to the Lord)
Reddens laudes Domino. (repeat)*

*The boar's head as I understand,
Is the bravest dish in all the land
When thus bedecked with a gay garland;
Let us servire cantico (serve it with a song)*

*Our steward hath provided this
In honour of the King of Bliss,
Which on this day to be serv`ed is
In Reginensi Atrio (in Queen's Hall).*

*(The **music** and boar's head procession ends.)*

THE ROOM: Great patrons of these holy days!

Great patrons far and wide!
I am The Room,
We must prepare,
To greet this Christmastide!
Gentlemen!
And noble women!

Pranksters, fools, and clowns!
Let's gather all this starry night,
And sing throughout the town.

Deck my halls with holly boughs,
And sweep the grand boards wide.
Festoon and decorate the hearth!
Let's congregate inside.
Let's wake up gentle voices...

THE CHOIR: *(Noisy cheer.)* Yea!

THE ROOM: Let's laugh and dance a reel!

THE CHOIR: *(Noisy cheer.)* Yea!

THE ROOM: Let's tune our chords!

Put down our swords!

Create this Christmas feel!

SONG: JOY TO THE WORLD

THE ROOM, THE CHOIR, THE MUSICIANS: *(lead the audience in singing)*

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.*

BLACKOUT.

*Holiday scene changing music.
Sound effect: Clock striking 12.
Light: Blue light midnight.*

Scene Three -- The Grandmother, The Hunter, The Christmas Bear. Light [slow fade up under music] a private conversation with THE HUNTER, THE GRANDMOTHER (seated), and THE CHRISTMAS BEAR.)

THE GRANDMOTHER: *(panicked)* She's gone. I tell you. I don't know what to do.

THE HUNTER: Be patient.

THE GRANDMOTHER: Be patient? She's prob-ab-ly wolf stew.

THE CHRISTMAS BEAR: The hunter's right, dear granny.

The hunter's brave and true!

We'll find dear Red

Or else I'm dead!

We'll bring her back for you.

THE HUNTER: We'll bring her home this very night!

There is no time to grieve.

We'll travel by that distant light...

THE CHRISTMAS BEAR: It's almost Christmas Eve!

THE GRANDMOTHER: Gentle bear and woodsman sound,

I put my faith in you.

It's Christmas Eve,

I will not grieve,

T'is more than I can do.

(THE HUNTER and THE CHRISTMAS BEAR hug THE GRANDMOTHER and exit on mission.)

SONG: IN THE BLEAK MID-WINTER

THE GRANDMOTHER:

*In the bleak midwinter, frost wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;*

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*snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.
(Fade down light to BLACKOUT.)*

Scene Four -- Red Riding Hood and The Wolf. In BLACKOUT: One-minute Piano Chase music and/or sleigh bells, and light fades up to reveal: Enter RED RIDING HOOD, frightened, lost, panic, tearful -- pursued by THE WOLF. After pursuit, THE WOLF tackles RED, hovers over her close, and gets in her face. RED screams a blood curdling scream.

THE WOLF: *(Calm & mannerly.)* Would you like to have dinner with me?

We could sit and dine,
Beneath the old Christmas tree.

RED RIDING HOOD: *(Quickly panicked.)* No. Thank you, sir. No, thank you, sir.

I do not think I can.
I'm off to see my grandmother.
I've brought this Christmas ham
(Holds up canned ham).

THE WOLF: You look tasty.

You look tender.
And on the fire beneath the fender,
Nothing finer than your gender,
To render
This poor wolf a meal.
Please consider my appeal?

RED RIDING HOOD: (*Quickly panicked.*) No. Thank you, sir. No, thank you, sir.

I do not think I will.

I'm off to see my grandmother.

She lives behind that hill.

THE WOLF: Why settle for ham?

Just be what you am.

A dinner delightful.

Must you be so spiteful?

RED RIDING HOOD: (*Quickly panicked.*) No. Thank you, sir. No, thank you, sir.

I do not think I'm able.

I'm off to see my grandmother.

She sets a quite fine table.

THE WOLF: So polite,

And so refined,

And mannerly,

So prudent.

Am I but mistaken,

Or are you a lowly student?

RED RIDING HOOD : (*Quickly panicked.*) Why, thank you, sir.

Why, thank you, sir,

*Saint James * (*insert your own school name, town, or theater company here*) is where I am from.

I live on chicken fingers.

I study 'til I'm numb.

I have no cell phone.

Can't call granny...

THE WOLF: Look, you'll be no sinner—

In fact, you'll be a winner.

So, would you like to come to dinner?

*(Sound Effect: **Triumphant Entrance music.**)*

(Enter THE CHRISTMAS BEAR and THE HUNTER and pounce on THE WOLF.)

THE HUNTER: Stand back you cur!

THE CHRISTMAS BEAR: You mangy dog!

THE HUNTER: Your churlish ways are over.

THE CHRISTMAS BEAR: Unhand the girl!

THE HUNTER: Her hands uncurl!

THE CHRISTMAS BEAR: Best run for the Straits of Dover.

(THE WOLF hurriedly exits in a snarling frenzy after a brief battle.)

RED RIDING HOOD: (*To THE HUNTER.*) Why, thank you, sir.

(To THE CHRISTMAS BEAR.)

Why, thank you, sir.

I know not what to say...

THE CHRISTMAS BEAR: You've said enough...

THE HUNTER: These times are tough...

THE CHRISTMAS BEAR and THE HUNTER: We must be on our way.

RED RIDING HOOD: But let us pause,

And say our prayers,

For kindly hunters and Christmas Bears.

Starlight, star bright, first star...

THE CHRISTMAS BEAR: (*Sings/wails.*) Joy to the World...

THE HUNTER: First star I see tonight...

(*A beat.*)

This bear, he ain't no dope!

THE CHRISTMAS BEAR and RED RIDING HOOD: Steer by the stars...

THE HUNTER: And watch out for Mars...

RED RIDING HOOD: An evening of magic!

THE HUNTER: An evening of wonder!

THE CHRISTMAS BEAR: An evening of hope!

SONG: O CHRISTMAS TREE

THE CHRISTMAS BEAR, RED RIDING HOOD, THE HUNTER, THE CHOIR, and THE

MUSICIANS: (*leading the audience in singing*)

*O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
How steadfast are your branches!
Your boughs are green in summer's clime
And through the snows of wintertime.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
How steadfast are your branches!*

*O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
What happiness befalls me when oft
at joyous Christmas-time
Your form inspires my song and rhyme.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
What happiness befalls me.*

*O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
Your boughs can teach a lesson
That constant faith and hope sublime
Lend strength and comfort through all time.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,*

Your boughs can teach a lesson.

(BLACKOUT.)

(Holiday scene changing music.)

Scene Five -- Mrs. Claus in Panic.

Sound effect: Clock striking 12.

Setting: Christmas Eve. The North Pole. FATHER CHRISTMAS's sled is stuck (center stage). Presents and boxes scattered all around. Confusion and panic as MRS. CLAUS and THE CHRISTMAS BEAR are trying to push the sled and gather up the presents. FATHER CHRISTMAS is late and nowhere to be found.

MRS. CLAUS: *(Panic and pacing.)* Ooooooooooh Deeeeeeear! Ooooooooooh myyyyyyyyy!

Come on, Father Christmas,

We've got to get goin'.

The wind is a shiverin',

The snow is a blowin'.

Where is that good elf?

Sweet Bear, do you know?

It's now Christmas Eve,

And this sled *has* to go!

THE CHRISTMAS BEAR: Tut, tut, little mother,

Do not despair!

Father Christmas will come

With good time to spare.

But what have we here?

Good woman at peace!

My favorite reindeer,

Rudolph and Clarisse.

(CLARISSE and RUDOLPH enter.—Reindeer entrance music. CLARISSE and RUDOLPH perform a holiday dance.)

RUDOLPH: Good mother!

CLARISSE: Let us help you.

THE CHRISTMAS BEAR: I told you help would come.

MRS. CLAUS: I know, I know,

You told me so,

But we're still waiting for that bum.

THE CHRISTMAS BEAR: *(Puts his arm around Mrs. Claus.)* Good mother, dry your tears.

That old elf will *never* let us down!

He's come for years and years,

He'll dance from town to town.

Good reindeer, take your places.

RUDOLPH: He'll put us through our paces...

CLARISSE: But we have happy faces...

RUDOLPH: We are off to find Old happy Nick...

MRS. CLAUS: And we better get going pretty darn quick!

(Pack up sled (sled driving music or sleigh bells). MRS. CLAUS and RUDOLPH and CLARISSE drive sled off. THE ROOM, THE CHOIR, and THE MUSICIANS re-enter.)

SONG: JINGLE BELLS

THE ROOM, THE CHOIR, and THE MUSICIANS: *(lead the audience in singing)*

*Dashing through the snow
On a one-horse open sleigh,
Over the fields we go,
Laughing all the way;
Bells on bob-tail ring,
making spirits bright,
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight!*

*[Refrain] Jingle bells, jingle bells,
jingle all the way!
O what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.*

*A day or two ago,
I thought I'd take a ride,
And soon Miss Fanny Bright
Was seated by my side;
The horse was lean and lank;
Misfortune seemed his lot;
He got into a drifted bank,
And we, we got upsot.*

[Refrain]

*A day or two ago,
the story I must tell
I went out on the snow
And on my back I fell;*

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*A gent was riding by
In a one-horse open sleigh,
He laughed as there
I sprawling lie,
But quickly drove away.*

[Refrain]

*Now the ground is white
Go it while you're young,
Take the girls tonight
And sing this sleighing song;
Just get a bob-tailed bay
two-forty as his speed
Hitch him to an open sleigh
And crack! you'll take the lead.*

[Refrain]

*BLACKOUT.
(Holiday scene changing music.)*

Scene Six -- *Beelzebub and Christmas Travelers from Distant Lands. TURKISH KNIGHT [Enters SL] KING OF EGYPT (Enters SR) and give each other a hearty Christmas greeting and manly hug.*

TURKISH KNIGHT: *(Enters SL.) Merry Christmas!*

KING OF EGYPT: *(Enters SR.) Merry Christmas!*

Dear brother,
In this Christmastide,
It is good to see you here...

(Enter BEELZEBUB, interrupting their holiday welcome. TURKISH KNIGHT and KING OF EGYPT are terrified.)

BEELZEBUB: *(Shouting and roaring.)*

In comes I,
The Devil's own,
To chase ye young ones,
From hearth and home.
To curse your Christmas,
To bring disease,
To poison crops,

To murder trees.
I'll take your babies
And raise 'em wrong,
Drink from the gutter,
And murder song.
Slip into your pocket,
Slip into your dreams,
I'll darken your doorway,
Incisor your seams...

TURKISH KNIGHT: Hail Dark One, hold your temper...

KING OF EGYPT: Vile spirit, listen true...

TURKISH KNIGHT: We have no time for evil ways...

KING OF EGYPT: We have no time for you!

TURKISH KNIGHT: It's Christmas Eve, your filthy sprite...

KING OF EGYPT: T'is Christmas drawing nigh...

BEELZEBUB: (*Shouting and roaring.*) Peace gentle fools,
It's time for school,
You'll take this in the eye.

(*BEELZEBUB attacks the TURKISH KNIGHT and a fight ensues. **Fight music.***)

KING OF EGYPT: (*Calls out in panic.*) Oh Hector,

Valiant warrior,
Your haste is needed now.
Bring in your sword,
Bring in your arms,
Remember mighty vows.
You pledged to help us years ago,
Whenever time was tight.
Your word was good,
It's time you stood,
Defend us here this night!

HECTOR: (*entering*) Sire certainly,
Most certainly,
My word is good and true.
Belay your fears,
And dry your tears,
I know what I must do!
This impish knave,
Send to the grave,
And cut his life off short.
I'll run him through,

Spaghetti stew,

And then will make such sport!

*(HECTOR battles BEELZEBUB, saves, and rescues the TURKISH KNIGHT, and then BEELZEBUB takes off in a scared and howling panic. **Victory music.**)*

TURKISH KNIGHT: Mighty Hector!

Your bravery,

Your valor,

Magnificence,

Your might!

Have saved me in the nick of time,

Have saved me on this night.

Your friendship and companionship,

Once again, has proven true,

And by your leave,

This Christmas Eve

You knew just what to do.

KING OF EGYPT: Hector's valor is uproarious.

His skills and mastery rare.

His legend is one of glorious

Deeds and actions fair.

We've travel far,

And travel wide,

Together through the years.

Come join our song

And sing along,

And chase away all fears.

SONG: WE THREE KINGS

TURKISH KNIGHT and KING OF EGYPT and HECTOR, THE MUSICIANS: *(lead the audience in singing)*

*We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder Star.*

*[Chorus] O, star of wonder, star of might,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to the perfect light.*

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*Born a babe on Bethlehem's plain;
Gold we bring to crown Him again;
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.*

[Chorus.]

*Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship Him, God on High.*

[Chorus.]

*Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Seal'd in the stone-cold tomb.*

[Chorus.]

*Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and sacrifice,
Heaven sings, "Hallelujah!"
Halleujah!" Earth replies.*

[Chorus.]

*BLACKOUT.
(Holiday scene changing music.)*

Scene Seven -- Christmas Eve.

Sound effect: Sleigh Bells.

THE KNIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS: *(enters masked, carries a small Christmas tree and sleigh bells)*

December 24th.....December 24th....December 24th... December 24th...

THE FOOL: *(entering, Mystical and magical.)*

The Knight Before Christmas proclaims the hour,
This fool has come to report.

T'is time for merriment and song,
T'is time for pranks and sport.
Mummers, mimes, and thespians,
Great hams and smaller folks,
Great literature,
And mythology,
Old tales,
And small town jokes.
Welcome to the season of miracles,
Of wonder
And surprise,
Of stories great,
And victories,
Of marvels,
And small lies.
The tales of young,
The tales of old,
Saint George
And Dear Saint Nick,
They'll be here soon,
Feel free to swoon,
They'll pick you up right quick.
And if we cause offense this night,
Please pardon us I say.
I'm just a fool,
In love with yule-
Tide revelry, I pray.

THE CHRISTMAS BEAR: Good Fool! Good Fool!

That stranger who passed through?
He called out day,
He called out time,
What was it that he do?
I look for Father Christmas,
And that fellow was not he.
Where is that dear old funny sprite,
That elven spirit free?

THE FOOL: Gentle Bear, do not despair,

I know the season's herald.
We must begin the songs;
We must begin the carols!
Didst thou not hear the bells?

Didst thou not see the tree?
Did he not proclaim, old friend,
What day he was to be?
Do not be ridiculous,
That was the Knight Before Chris-ah-mas!

(Insert triumphant holiday music to underscore the arrival of FATHER CHRISTMAS.)

FATHER CHRISTMAS: *(entering with bag of candy and treats for the audience.)* Jingling bells, and roasting smells,

And peace on earth to all!

Father Christmas comes this very night...

THE FOOL & THE CHRISTMAS BEAR: Let his spirit fill the hall!

FATHER CHRISTMAS: I search the wild world over with charity and good cheer...

THE CHRISTMAS BEAR: With laughter and with wonder...

THE FOOL: But only once a year!

FATHER CHRISTMAS: Now you may think:

I have come to see this bear?

Perhaps this fool?

But no!

I've brought toys

For the girls and boys

And the patrons of this show!

(FATHER CHRISTMAS goes out into the audience with bag and distributes candy and gifts throughout the entire house. Insert triumphant holiday music.)

FATHER CHRISTMAS: *(Back on stage.)* Christmas comes December's end,

And welcome back your dear old friend!

Full tables,

And warm laughter

Great spirits,

And roast pie!

Who likes these holiday treats any better than I?

And now a merry band I've brought

To skip and play and sport,

For sweet delight

On this good night

Our antics won't fall short!

(Escorted by THE CHRISTMAS BEAR and The FOOL, FATHER CHRISTMAS sits in a place of honor. Insert menacing music here. Enter GIANT BLUNDERBORE [with massive club], howling, growling, and raging, with LITTLE JACK on his back.)

GIANT BLUNDERBORE: When Giant Blunderbore enters the hall...

(Throws LITTLE JACK to the floor.)

THE CHOIR: *(Chants.)* Fee, Fi, Fum!

GIANT BLUNDERBORE: Good women scream, and good men start to bawl!

THE CHOIR: (*Chants.*) Fee, Fi, Fum!

GIANT BLUNDERBORE: A roasted human and a bit of plum gravy...

THE CHOIR: (*Chants.*) Fee, Fi, Fum!

GIANT BLUNDERBORE: I've eaten an army and all the ships in the navy!

THE CHOIR: (*Chants.*) Fee, Fi, Fum!

GIANT BLUNDERBORE: A holiday treat this night I will eat...

THE CHOIR: (*Chants.*) Fee, Fi, Fum!

GIANT BLUNDERBORE: I challenge you all as you cringe in your seat!

THE CHOIR: (*Chants.*) Fee, Fi, Fum!

LITTLE JACK: Knock, knock! (*Taps GIANT BLUNDERBORE on the kneecap.*)

GIANT BLUNDERBORE: Who's there?

LITTLE JACK: I like candy!

GIANT BLUNDERBORE: I like candy who?

LITTLE JACK: I like candy, but I don't like you.

(LITTLE JACK hits GIANT BLUNDERBORE in the head with the giant's own club and the giant falls down. BEELZEBUB rushes in, assists the GIANT BLUNDERBORE, and stands the giant up again.)

BEELZEBUB: Well, wasn't that howdy ya dooo?

LITTLE JACK: Knock, knock!

(LITTLE JACK taps GIANT BLUNDERBORE on the kneecap.)

GIANT BLUNDERBORE: Who's there?

LITTLE JACK: Uranium!

GIANT BLUNDERBORE: Uranium who?

LITTLE JACK: Uranium, Uranium, I pop you in the cranium.

(LITTLE JACK hits GIANT BLUNDERBORE in the head with the giant's own club and the giant falls down.)

BEELZEBUB: No use trying to explainium.

(BEELZEBUB drags GIANT BLUNDERBORE by the legs off stage. Enter JOHNNY JACK with broom, traveling bindle, and dolls pinned to the back of his coat.)

JOHNNY JACK: When Johnny Jack brings Christmas back,

He never travels alone.

For on his back,

And with his sack,

He brings his hearth and home.

(Turns his back to the audience and reveals a series of dolls pinned to his coat.)

For this is my good wife,

Her sisters and brothers,

And all of our children are here!

They dance and they shout,

And they wave all about,

At this festive time of the year,
Let me sweep and prepare,
For that good old elf there

(greets Father Christmas),

And let yuletide ring through these halls,
Roast turkey, tomato,
And a nice baked potato,
The holiday season calls!

FATHER CHRISTMAS: Great family,

And friendship,
In good old Johnny Jack.
His family is here;
And all of his kin,
His family is welcomed back.
We will always have room for your spirit and love.
T'is the greatest of gifts,
A gift from above.

*(THE SILENT KNIGHT enters and walks (tiptoes) across the stage in a mysterious manner with finger raised to his lips to silence the audience. He is accompanied by THE QUIET SIGN MAN, a monk who carries a small sign with the word QUIET!! on it. This entrance and exit [from stage left to stage right] is **underscored** with a short selection of the Christmas carol, **Silent Night**.)*

SONG: SILENT NIGHT

COMPANY and THE CHOIR:

*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.
Silent night, holy night!*

*Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar.
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born.
Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.*

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Radiant beams from Thy holy face

With dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.

Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.

*(THE MUSICIANS play holiday **Big Head entrance music**. Enter: The BIG HEAD. He is a dancing man of romance, a comic character with a very large face and head (mask).*

THE BIG HEAD: When Big Head enters,

The women swoon,

FEMALE CHORISTERS: Ooooooooooooooooooh!

THE BIG HEAD: The ladies quiver,

And the young girls croon!

FEMALE CHORISTERS: Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!

THE BIG HEAD: Suitors flee,

And bridegrooms run,

Boyfriends tremble,

And husbands' dumb.

Old bachelors cry,

And menfolk quake,

Whenever I the big stage take.

Good evening ladies and lasses,

And good evening,

How do ye doo?

On Christmas night,

For your delight,

I'll dance a jig for you!

*(The BIG HEAD dances a **jig** accompanied by THE MUSICIANS. Enter: a bent back OLD WOMAN using a cane to make her way to center stage.)*

OLD WOMAN: In comes I this frozen night,

To warn you ladies,

And girls so slight.

These scallywags and ragamuffins,

Beware of their devilish ways!

(Enter: a bent back OLD MAN using a cane to make his way to meet the OLD WOMAN.)

OLD MAN: Hello, my sweet patootie!

Them stars,

A shining ray...

OLD WOMAN: They'll say fine things,

And small gifts bring,

Beware of what they say!

For just behind those twinkling eyes,
And hid deep beneath them smiles,
They'll sing sweet things,
And clip your wings,
And steal you with their guiles!

OLD MAN: Ancient yes,

But I ain't dead yet!
This old man returns,
And on that you can bet!
My grey hair's long,
And my beard hangs low,
Still gotta warm song,
In this time of snow.
I may be old,
But my eyes ring true,
When'ere I see a girl like you.

(The OLD MAN presents the OLD WOMAN with a bouquet of flowers, and the OLD WOMAN attacks the OLD MAN with her cane and knocks him down.)

OLD WOMAN: Go away you coot,

And let me be!
I want no filthy fossil as thee.
I want a lad,
Who's young, rich, and strong,
And not some relic,
From some time long gone!

(OLD WOMAN drags the OLD MAN (or picks him up over her shoulder!) and removes him from center stage. Enter: THE KING, a pompous young man, followed by THE CLOWN, who mocks THE KING at every turn.)

KING: The king welcomes all to this festive hall,

And forward here,
I do advance.

CLOWN: Hold it right there,

My royal friend,
Where did you get those pants?

KING: Sir Clown, don't make me laugh this day,

My garb is fine and true!

CLOWN: Get off your high horse,

Foolish man,
I'll tell you what to do!
You'll sing a song this very night,
A Christmas song from you!

We'll hear it now,
You sober cow,
A song and dance we're needin',
I'll knock you on that little crown,
I'll send you home a bleedin'.

KING: I say *you* sing a song for *me*,
I say, *you* sing and dance!
You got a lot of nerve, you jack,
To criticize my pants!

CLOWN: I love to sing!
I love to dance!
I'll sing you one right now!
Stand back you pompous potentate...

KING: Pray, please begin right now!
(CLOWN sings horrible off tune, slow, off pitch)

CLOWN:
*On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me
A partridge in a pear tree.
On the second day of...*

KING: What is that noise,
You call that song?

CLOWN: I haven't finished...

KING: No, your wrong!
A little child could sing that song!

CLOWN: But, I...

KING: Stop, take a breath,
And let us sing,
A song more suited for a king.

SONG: THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

THE KING, THE CLOWN, THE COMPANY, and THE CHOIR, THE MUSICIANS: *(lead the audience in singing)*

*On the first day of Christmas,
my true love sent to me
A partridge in a pear tree.
On the second day of Christmas,
my true love sent to me
Two turtle doves,
And a partridge in a pear tree.
On the third day of Christmas,*

*my true love sent to me
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves,
And a partridge in a pear tree.
On the fourth day of Christmas,
my true love sent to me
Four calling birds,
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves,
And a partridge in a pear tree.
On the fifth day of Christmas,
my true love sent to me
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds,
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves,
And a partridge in a pear tree.
On the sixth day of Christmas,
my true love sent to me
Six geese a-laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds,
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves,
And a partridge in a pear tree.*

*On the seventh day of Christmas,
my true love sent to me
Seven swans a-swimming,
Six geese a-laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds,
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves,
And a partridge in a pear tree.*

*On the eighth day of Christmas,
my true love sent to me
Eight maids a-milking,
Seven swans a-swimming,
Six geese a-laying,*

*Five golden rings,
Four calling birds,
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves,
And a partridge in a pear tree.*

*On the ninth day of Christmas,
my true love sent to me
Nine ladies dancing,
Eight maids a-milking,
Seven swans a-swimming,
Six geese a-laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds,
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves,
And a partridge in a pear tree.*

*On the tenth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me
Ten lords a-leaping,
Nine ladies dancing,
Eight maids a-milking,
Seven swans a-swimming,
Six geese a-laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds,
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves,
And a partridge in a pear tree.*

*On the eleventh day of Christmas,
my true love sent to me
Eleven pipers piping,
Ten lords a-leaping,
Nine ladies dancing,
Eight maids a-milking,
Seven swans a-swimming,
Six geese a-laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds,
Three French hens,*

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*Two turtle doves,
And a partridge in a pear tree.*

*On the twelfth day of Christmas,
my true love sent to me
Twelve drummers drumming,
Eleven pipers piping,
Ten lords a-leaping,
Nine ladies dancing,
Eight maids a-milking,
Seven swans a-swimming,
Six geese a-laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds,
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves,
And a partridge in a pear tree!*

BLACKOUT.

(Holiday scene changing music and sleigh bells.)

NOTE: There can be in an intermission here, if desired, or you can continue on with the mentioned Scene Change music and sleigh bells. That music can also be used to draw the audience back in if you choose to put an intermission in here.)

17 additional pages make up ACT TWO