

DEAR SANTA

A Comedy in Two Acts

By Rob Frankel

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Dear Santa

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DEDICATION

This play is dedicated to Zachary Carter and Elizabeth Glasser, the two newest joys in the Frankel family.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Dear Santa is composed of a number of short scenes that range from the hilarious to the touching. Many views of Santa are seen -- from the point of view of the child that alphabetizes her Christmas list and sends it out in August as well as children at various stages of belief -- and disbelief! Santa and his helpers shed light on many of the mysteries surrounding him including why you don't always get the gift you ask for, how Santa delivers all those gifts in one night, how he finds children spending Christmas away from home and how his power transcends the boundaries of race, gender and religion. Of course, sometimes being Santa isn't all that great -- your helpers fight over which one is best and occasionally you get arrested for shoplifting by those of little faith. But in the end, it is the faith of the many that sustains Santa just as it has for the past thousand years.

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ACT I

SHARLENE I
EXPLAINING SANTA
THE LOOKOUT I
THE ULTIMATE ROLE
MONOLOGUE
ON SANTA
'T WAS THE NIGHT
SHARLENE II
SANTA SAM

ACT II

AFTER-HOURS SANTAS
THE LOOKOUT II
CHRISTMAS BABY
THE POLICE LINEUP
MONOLOGUE II
IT HAPPENS TO PARENTS, TOO
THE LOOKOUT III
CHRISTMAS AROUND the WORLD

FLEXIBLE CASTING

This play should run with at least 4 females and 5 males. A chart is included at the end of this book showing how this is possible. The costume changes would be fairly numerous, however, so an ideal cast size would be 6-8 males and 6-8 females. Sex and age is also variable with a few changes. Don't be afraid to have your wonderful leading man, or your sixty-year-old Santa-type tackle a seven-year-old boy writing a letter to Santa. The results can be magical!

PRODUCTION NOTES

Keep the play moving. Simplicity is the key to all this. This can mean splitting your stage, so that while one scene is beginning, the next is being set. Some flexibility in lighting will help. The scene sequence given here should allow you adequate time to both set the next scene and allow your actors to change costumes.

Simple costumes work best for this production. Simple articles of clothing such as t-shirts and jackets, or accessories such as hats, glasses, pipes can be used to suggest each of the characters. You have the choice of having one person (and therefore, one costume) playing all Santa roles throughout. However, it would be best to have more variety with your Santas. In that case, having two to four Santa costumes available works best.

The sets should be kept as simple as possible - a couple of cots or beds, many chairs of different kinds, and a large flat that can be used for scenes like "Police Lineup" work well.

As for sound, feel free to fill scene changes with as much holiday music as you want.

Scenes may be removed or the order changed as warranted by your production schedule except for the last scene which includes caroling. It's a chance to get that audience involved and leave them singing!

NOTE: See back of playbook for additional production notes.

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ACT I
Scene 1

SHARLENE I

SHARLENE . . . A young girl who plans ahead.

SETTING: Child's desk with chair.

(AT RISE: YOUNG GIRL sits at desk writing Santa.)

SHARLENE: *(Talking as SHE writes)* Dear Santa, it's me, Sharlene Ann Betterson. I sat on your lap last year at K-Mart, remember? This year I've been very, very good! *(Stops, thinks, erases, then writes)* This year I've been very, very, very good! Except for that thing with Andy's hamster and that wasn't my fault!

So you and your elves can plan, here is my list of the things I want. Don't worry - it's only August 17, so you have lots of time! *(Reaches into top drawer, takes out folded list, unfolds it, and begins to copy it to the letter)* I want a arcade video game, a archery set, a ant-eater - I saw them in our science class, they're cool! And a...*(Reads closely, then writes)*...Ast-tin Martin. I don't know what that is, but my big brother says everybody should have one. Well, that's all the 'A' things I want. Now the Bs. Aren't you glad I learned the alphabet?! I want a Barbie, a baking set, a bowling game, a baseball...

(LIGHTS fade to black)

End of Scene 1

Scene 2

EXPLAINING SANTA

FATHER 1 His child still believes in Santa.

FATHER 2 His child beginning to doubt.

MOTHER Her child fully disbelieves.

SETTING: Empty stage with three chairs DSR, DSC, and DSL.

(AT RISE: TWO FATHERS and a MOTHER enter from SR strolling casually and humming a Christmas tune. At CS, they suddenly stop, as if being called by one of their children who is DS.)

ALL: Hi, honey, what'cha doing? *(Pause, listening to questions)*
A question about...what?

(THEY listen to the question, grimace with a deep sigh, and each comes down to take one of the chairs, with the Mother in the middle chair. They do not acknowledge each other.)

ALL: So you have a question about Santa Claus? Well...

DAD #1: ...of course you've been a good little girl -- and Santa knows just what you want for Christmas!

DAD #2: ...of course Santa Claus exists -- how else do you explain the cookies and milk being gone in the morning!

MOM: ...of course he doesn't exist -- but you breathe one word of this to your brother, and you'll find out if kids can really fly!

(THEY ALL sigh, simultaneously. Then they listen to the next question and respond.)

DAD #2: Well now, who else could eat those cookies? Mom's on a diet, and I sure don't like chocolate chip cookies. *(Satisfied, begins to stand, then gets next comment)* Jerry the gerbil could climb out of his cage, eat the cookies and milk, and then get back in his cage before you wake up? Let's try this again... *(Sits)*

End of Freeview

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