The Nick of Time Christmas Show

By
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STORY OF THE PLAY

Meet a theatre troupe whose Christmas spirit sparkles far more than their acting talent! In this two-act collection of comedy scenes, amateur thespians are preparing a Christmas Eve production at the community center, but nothing is working right. Meet Jordan, who demands fresh flowers in his dressing room (the broom closet); Nicky, whose Christmas monologue is "enhanced" with all the wrong sound effects; and Red, who's more than a little worried that Marley's ghost haunts the backstage. Boss, the director, is about to lose his mind! And it doesn't help that Lee and CJ, who were sent out to get a Christmas tree for the stage, haven't returned because they've met a skunk and their truck ended up in a creek. Will this production be ready to open in time? A joyous ending is assured in this show as the closing scene involves the audience in a Christmas carol sing-along.

This show can be performed with a flexible cast of as few as ten or as many as thirty-four performers. Your group may double cast the roles as you wish. All of the characters have non-gender nicknames and thus can be played by either males or females. Only Boss, Red, CJ and Lee are running characters. All other characters may be doubled, tripled or even quadrupled.

Your production group is welcome to adapt the show to your particular needs. You might choose to present all of the scenes or you may wish to leave a few out. It is wise to include certain scenes for the continuity of the show. Act I, Scenes 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 18, and Act II, Scenes 1, 4 and 11, establish and develop the frame of the show. All other scenes are up for grabs.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Act I

Scene 1: "The Audition" *(Boss, Red, Dusty, Stagehand)*
Scene 2: "Romancing the Tree" *(Lee, CJ)*
Scene 3: "Christmas Nerves" *(Boss, Pat, Jem)*
Scene 4: "Sounds of the Season" *(Boss, Nicky, Sparky)*
Scene 5: "Tim" *(Boss, Red, Dusty, Shelly)*
Scene 6: "Christmas Lyrics" *(Dr. Psychobabble, Red)*
Scene 7: "Santa Phobia" *(Kelley, Jordan, Dusty)*
Scene 8: "Losing Faith"
(Boss, Red, Pat, Shelly, Dusty, Stagehand)
Scene 9: "Where's That Tree?" *(Lee, CJ)*
Scene 10: "Gifts" *(Cassidy, Darby)*
Scene 11: "Breaking Up Is Easy" *(Boss, Mickey)*
Scene 12: "Mistletoe" *(Tyler plus off-stage voices)*
Scene 13: "The Prima Donna" *(Red, Jordan)*
Scene 14: "The Christmas-Home Buyer" *(Boss, Jesse, Dale)*
Scene 15: "Lyrics Revisited" *(Professor Prescott)*
Scene 16: "Sleigh Tune-Up" *(Smitty, Rudolph)*
Scene 17: "Elf Training" *(Lindsay, Billy)*
Scene 18: "Boo!" *(Boss, Cast)*

Act II

Scene 1: "Peace on Stage" *(Entire Cast, Boss)*
Scene 2: "Wanna Sing?" *(Holly, Noel, Candy, Merry)*
Scene 3: "Making Plans" *(Pat, Darby, Jordan)*
Scene 4: "Tree Raiders" *(CJ, Lee)*
Scene 5: "Let's Eat" *(Kelley, Tyler, Dale)*
Scene 6: "Christmas Negotiations" *(Mickey, Lindsay)*
Scene 7: "Elf Traffic Control" *(Charlie Elf, Lennie Elf)*
Scene 8: "Going Up" *(Elevator Operator, Jesse, Frosty)*
Scene 9: "Sounds Crazy" *(Nicky, Sparky's voice)*
Scene 10: "Voices Raised on High" *(Jordan, Lindsay, Boss)*
Scene 11: "Oh, Christmas Tree" *(Entire Cast)*

SETTING

Most scenes take place in the community center which is partially decorated for the big Christmas show. As the rehearsals progress, crew members continue to decorate the stage. A couple of scenes take place in other locations. Scenery is minimal and modular. The playwright suggests an arrangement of chairs and benches.

PROPS

Clipboard	Stopwatch
Whistle	Christmas decorations
Red and green kazoo	Extension cord
Script	Sleigh bells
String of Christmas lights	Big, wrapped gift boxes (2)
Box of broken ornaments	Mistletoe
Santa sleigh	Bottled water
Gift-wrapping supplies	Gas can
Recipe books	Notepads and pencils
Calculators	Walkie-talkies (2)
Balloons	Gas tank
Decorated Christmas tree	Chain

***See additional notes at the end of the script.**

ACT I
Scene 1: "The Audition"

(AT RISE: The community center. BOSS stands CS, a clipboard in hand. A stopwatch and whistle hang about his neck. RED and other STAGE CREW MEMBERS work US decorating the stage for tonight's Christmas show. Boss blows the whistle sharply.)

RED: Ouch! *(Grabbing ears.)*
BOSS: Sorry, Red.
RED: That's okay, Boss. You think we're gonna be ready for tonight's big show?
BOSS: We have to be ready.
RED: But, how can we put a show together in one day?
BOSS: I don't know but we're gonna try. Besides, all our tickets have been sold. We've even sold seating on two pickle barrels and the coffee bar.
RED: How about making a seat out of the ice machine?
BOSS: Think about it.
RED: Oh, right! Brrrrrrr.
BOSS: I'm worried about Lee and CJ. They should be here by now with the tree.
RED: They'll make it. We gotta have a Christmas tree.
BOSS: How are the decorations coming, Red?
RED: Not so good. Some of the lights are old and we might have a problem with an electrical short.
BOSS: Be careful.
RED: Boss? I'm a little worried about Marley.
BOSS: Who?
RED: The backstage ghost. You know, every Christmas somebody gets spooked by old Marley.
BOSS: Forget about it. There's no such thing as a Christmas ghost. Have you ever seen it?
RED: No, but I've heard him. Moaning, dragging his chains.
BOSS: Calm down, Red. You're my stage manager and I'm depending on you to keep everything running smoothly. Don't start seeing ghosts.

RED: Okay, Boss. *(RED EXITS.)*
BOSS: *(Calling off.)* Listen up, everybody. Our Christmas pageant begins in less than five hours. Let's have a dress rehearsal!
DUSTY: *(ENTERING.)* Hey, Chief!
BOSS: Okay, Dusty. What's your talent?
DUSTY: I can name Santa's reindeer.
BOSS: The reindeer? That's not a talent. Everybody can name the reindeer.
DUSTY: Oh? Can you?
BOSS: Hmm. Maybe not. All right, go ahead.
DUSTY: I need music.
BOSS: Music ... ?
DUSTY: Background music. To put me in the Christmas spirit.
BOSS: Oh ....
DUSTY: "Jingle Bells."
BOSS: For heaven's sake. *(Shouts offstage.)* Oh, Toppy? Will you please play "Jingle Bells" on your piano?
DUSTY: No, Chief. The piano won't work. It has to be a kazoo.
BOSS: A kazoo?
DUSTY: Yeah. A Christmas kazoo.
BOSS: What on earth is a Christmas kazoo?
DUSTY: It's just a regular kazoo painted red and green.
BOSS: But, where can we find a red and green kazoo?
DUSTY: In my pocket. *(Produces a red and green kazoo.)*
BOSS: But Dusty, you can't name the reindeer and play the kazoo at the same time.
DUSTY: Right. You play "Jingle Bells" and I'll name the reindeer.
BOSS: Does anyone have some Christmas aspirin?
DUSTY: I'm ready now.
BOSS: Fine. Name the reindeer.

(BOSS plays "Jingle Bells" on the kazoo. DUSTY moves CS and, with great gestures, recites the reindeer names silently. His lips move but no words come out. He ends with a deep bow.)

End of Freeview

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