The Unexpectedly Epic Christmas Play

By Brent Holland

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DEDICATION

For Edwin "Keith" Ludlum. (June 27th, 1967 to September 28th, 2025) A wonderful father, husband, and provider.

STORY OF THE PLAY

When a high school performance of “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” goes south and several main characters walk out mid-performance, it is up to Nick to save the day. In the original script Nick only has two lines, and he hasn't paid much attention during rehearsals to know the entire plot, but if he doesn't at least try, his girlfriend will fail the class and get kicked off the lacrosse team. On stage with a mission to rescue her and the Christmas play, Nick and several of his classmates set out on a fun and sometimes confusing tale of teamwork, self-sacrifice, and a lot of improvisation!

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

This show premiered at Laney High School in December of 2025 under the direction of the playwright. The Original Cast included:

NICK: Nathan Daniel
BEN: Thomas “T.J.” Wentz
KRISTEN: Cami Garay
JOEY: Christian Hudson
MAX: Keegan Batten
HALEY: Marlow Shepard
CHARLIE: Clarke Campbell
SKYLAR: Lyla Dorschied
CAMERON: Maxton Pridgen
BLAKE: Edie Zeldin
HARPER: Jaqueline Stallo
REMY: Taylor Boughton
RIVER: Zach Pearson
ALEX: Cassidy Snowden
DANNY: David Van Slyke

Cover art by Katelynn Nguyen.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 m, 4 w, 8 flexible)

NICK: (M) Plays the role of the Christmas Tree. Forced to save Christmas.
BEN: (M) Plays the role of Santa Claus. A practical joker who is seldom serious.
KRISTEN: (W) A woman scorned. Plays Mrs. Claus and is quite unhappy.
JOEY: (M) Rudolph. He was caught cheating on his girlfriend.
MAX: (Flexible) Frosty the snowman. Ben's best friend who is equally unserious.
HALEY: (W) Cheated with Joey behind Kristen's back. Plays the role of Vixen in the play.
CHARLIE: (Flexible) Plays Donner in the play.
SKYLAR: (Flexible) Plays Dasher in the play.
CAMERON: (Flexible) Plays Comet in the play. His Grandpa flew in to see him.
BLAKE: (W) Plays Cupid in the play. Is proudly Jewish.
HARPER: (Flexible) Is supposed to play Blitzen in the play. Shows up late.
REMY: (W) Plays Dancer in the play. Is Nick's girlfriend and she is desperate to pass theatre arts.
RIVER: (Flexible) Plays Prancer in the play.
ALEX: (Flexible) The stage manager.
DANNY: (Flexible) Plays the Christmas Gooch. A character actor who fully immerses himself in his role.

SET

The stage is comprised of four flats. One side is painted to look like the set, while the other is plain and will face the audience when the audience is supposed to know what is going on backstage.

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(AT RISE: We are in the middle of cheesy, colorful high school Christmas production. This scene, which is supposed to be the introduction to the play, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, has started. On stage are JOEY, BEN, KRISTEN, MAX and NICK who are playing Rudolph, Santa, Mrs. Claus, Frosty, and a Christmas Tree. Each is dressed appropriately.)

BEN: *(Picking up the scene.)* But that's just part of it, Frosty!
MAX: I know! It's such a great story!
BEN: Ho, ho, ho! I honestly thought we were going to have to cancel Christmas that year!

(There is a pause.)

MAX: Uh… It's such a great story, isn't it, Mrs. Claus?

(KRISTEN has been shooting laser beams through JOEY. Joey is very uncomfortable)

KRISTEN: What?
MAX: I said… It's such a great story!
KRISTEN: *(This isn't her line.)* Yeah. It's great. Right.

(Another pause.)

BEN: OK then! So, uh… let's get started. Well, boys and girls, we have to go back in time a few years and guess what? *(HE waits for an answer.)* It was Christmas time, just like it is now!

(A pause. Eventually MAX elbows JOEY.)

JOEY: *(With little to no enthusiasm.)* Um, yeah. It was Christmas. Christmas is the best. It's my favorite season.

(THEY all look at HIM.)

JOEY: *(Cont'd.)* What? Am I supposed to do something else?
KRISTEN: *(With venom.)* I think you've done enough.
BEN: What?
MAX: *(Covering.)* Christmas is my favorite season too!
BEN: That's right!

(There is a long pause as the ACTORS all look at each other.)

KRISTEN: How long has it been going on?
JOEY: I'm sorry. I'm really sorry.
KRISTEN: Answer the question! How long has it been going on?
JOEY: It's not what you think it is. I mean, it was uh… *(A beat passes.)* OK, it's pretty much exactly what you think it is.
KRISTEN: Why?
JOEY: Uh, can we discuss this later?
BEN: Yes. Ho, ho, ho. That would be good. We're here, in front of ALL of these fine people to talk about saving Christmas! Right, Edna?
KRISTEN: I'm not doing this. *(SHE exits.)*
BEN: Or maybe not.
MAX: I guess Mrs. Claus is so excited that she just can't wait to go.

(JOEY exits but BEN and MAX don't notice.)

BEN: Mrs. Claus sure does love this story.
MAX: That's right, boys and girls. I'm sure you have figured it out by now. Tonight, we're going to tell the story of…

(HE points to where Joey was as he was going to say, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer!" but Rudolph is gone. Standing there, as he has been the entire time is NICK, playing the role of the Christmas Tree.)

NICK: He left.

(MAX and BEN look defeated. Then Ben starts laughing.)

MAX: It's not funny.

(BEN laughs harder. After a moment, MAX gives up trying to talk to Ben.)

MAX: *(Cont'd. Looks around and sees NICK.)* What's up, Christmas tree?
NICK: Sup.
MAX: You got anything to say?
NICK: I have like two lines, man. I'm good.
MAX: Right. Well, boys and girls. This is the story of how Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer saved Christmas. You want to add anything, Santa?
BEN: I got nothing.

(MAX looks at NICK who shakes him off.)

MAX: I guess this would be a sweet time for a blackout so we can get to the next scene. Right, Brayden _____ *(Or name of your light operator)*?

(BLACKOUT. SFX: Sleigh bells sound which is the cue for the flats to be turned from the colorful Christmas side to the plain white "backstage" side. The next scene is meant to be what is going on behind the scenes. When the LIGHTS rise, the scene on the other side is still going on. HALEY, CHARLIE, CAMERON, BLAKE, SKYLAR, REMY and RIVER are all dressed as reindeer and waiting to go on.)

CHARLIE: *(Listening.)* They're definitely off script.
SKYLAR: *(Trying to see.)* What's going on out there?
BEN: *(From the "stage" side.)* Yes. Ho, ho, ho. That would be good. We're here, in front of ALL of these fine people to talk about saving Christmas!
KRISTEN: *(From the "stage" side.)* I'm not doing this.
SKYLAR: Where's she going?
CAMERON: *(Looking at HALEY.)* That's not good.
HALEY: It's probably nothing. Maybe…

End of Freeview

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