

Our Holiday Show!

A One Act Play & Holiday Concert Combined

By Melissa Pilgrim

Our Holiday Show!
Pilgrim Publishing & Productions, New Hampshire
United States of America

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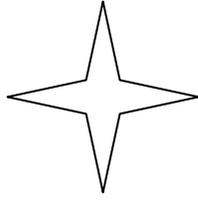
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Information concerning the royalty/performance right fees to produce *Our Holiday Show!* can be found on the author's, Melissa Pilgrim, website at www.YourWritingMuse.com.

Public domain materials included in this play include: portions of the poem *A Visit from St. Nickolas* by Clement Clarke Moore and three songs (*Up on the Housetop*, written and composed by Benjamin Hanby, *Jingle Bells*, written and composed by James Pierpoint, *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* [with new lyrics by Melissa Pilgrim], an English Folk Song written in England during the 16th Century).

Please note: the author does not provide sound effect recordings or recorded instrumental music for the show's production.



For my parents, who always made sure I had wonderful holiday memories all through the year, with love and appreciation.

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CAST LIST

NOTE:

This play offers a flexible cast size with a minimum of 10 characters and then up to as many non-speaking characters as desired can be added to the CHORUS to accommodate your group/class size (characters will sing at the end only as part of the full cast). There are 10 speaking roles: 5 females, 4 males, and 1—the lead—for either female or male.

10 SPEAKING ROLES:

Mother & Mrs. Claus (same actress)
Child 1 & Elf (same actress)
Child 2 & Elf (same actor)
Easter Bunny (female)
April Fool (female or male)
Cupid (female)
Santa (male)
Uncle Sam (male)
Halloween Witch (female)
Old Man Time (male)

CHORUS (NON-SPEAKING ROLES):

If desired, as many characters as needed can be added to the CHORUS to accommodate your group/class size. No extra characters can be added to the CHORUS if desired as well. Examples of characters that can be added are ones representing all other holidays including: Hanukkah, Kwanza, Rudolph, 8 other Reindeer, more Elves, a Leprechaun, a Groundhog, Pilgrims & Indians, Ghosts & Monsters, or any other holiday characters/people you'd like to have represented from holidays throughout the year.

SETTING

Time:

Any Day in December, Present Day

Place:

Scene 1 (In Front of Curtain): *Living Room of a Family's Home*

Scene 2 (Behind Curtain): *A Function Room of Santa's Castle, North Pole*

Scene 3 (Behind Curtain): *Holiday Concert (In same Function Room as Scene 2)*

Our Holiday Show!

Scene 1

A small chair sits DR in front of a closed curtain of a proscenium stage. A Mother and her two young children, Child 1 (6-years-old, female) and Child 2 (4-years-old, male), enter DR. They all get settled in with Mother sitting on the chair as her two children sit in front of her, already dressed in their pajamas for bed. Child 1 holds a book entitled *A Visit from St. Nickolas* By Clement Clarke Moore.

Lights come up on them on stage as CHILD 1 says (excitedly): Mommy, Mommy! Read us this story Grammy sent us!

Child 1 hands Mother the book.

CHILD 2 (excited): Yeah Mommy, please read it to us!

MOTHER: Okay, okay, now just settle down then... (opens book, reads)... "'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse..."

(Mother makes a "shhh—" sound with her finger to her lips to stress how quiet they were).

CHILD 1: Mom! You can't hear mice anyway!

CHILD 2: And what are they stirring?

CHILD 1: Nothing, mice don't even use spoons.

CHILD 2: Then why—

MOTHER: THIS mouse is unusually loud AND he stirs his hot chocolate with a very small spoon made special, just for mice... okay? Now, settle down and *listen* please... (reads)... "The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, in hopes that St. Nickolas soon would be there—"

CHILD 2: Who's St. Nickolas?

MOTHER: Santa Claus.

CHILD 1: Then why don't they just say Santa Claus? Why St. Nickolas?

CHILD 2: Yeah—don't they know kids don't know who St. Nickolas is?

MOTHER: Because if they said 'Santa Claus' it wouldn't rhyme—this is a *poem*, so they're trying to make the words *rhyme* like in the Mother Goose stories we read—now, be quiet and just listen so I can finish the first page! (reads)... "The children were nestled all snug in their beds—"

CHILD 2: No we're not, we're here with you!

MOTHER: That's it. (closes book) Story's over and it's off to bed for you two just like the story says!

CHILD 1: But Mom—you said you'd read us a story!

CHILD 2: Yeah!

MOTHER: I *tried* to!

CHILD 1: Well, we really didn't want that one tonight... tell us another one.

CHILD 2: Yeah, one with all *kinds* of holiday people in it!

CHILD 1: Yeah—like Cupid and the April Fool *and* Santa Claus!

CHILD 2: Yeah—oh, and the Easter Bunny!

CHILD 1: Yeah!

MOTHER: And you'd both *really* listen to a story like that—without interrupting and asking all kinds of questions?

CHILD 2: Yes!

CHILD 1: We promise to be really, *really* quiet!

CHILD 2 (nodding): Just like mice!

MOTHER: Okay then, I think I know just the story you want to hear... Now go upstairs to your room... I'll tell it to you once you're both snug in your beds.

The children run off stage right, excited.

MOTHER (stands up, picking up the chair with her as she shakes her head and exits stage right, mumbling): And it's still *how* many days 'till Christmas?

Lights fade from DR as we hear the three characters off stage setting up for their "bedtime story" as they run in place and then stop.

MOTHER (off stage): Okay, all settled in?

CHILDREN (off stage, together): Yes, Mommy!

MOTHER: (off stage): Okay, now, once upon a time...

Scene 2

Curtain opens. The lights slowly come up, showing the full stage.

The setting is a community-styled function room decorated for a holiday party at Santa's castle in the North Pole. Santa's Throne is CR. On the wall (or on a self-standing chalkboard) UC is an official-looking and big "World's Daily Calendar" that displays all 12 months with the days written out by numbers under each month's name. Holidays throughout the year (see prop sheet for full list) are indicated by the Holiday's Typical Icon Symbol/Picture covering up the date. A big Red Arrow with "Today's Date" written on it points to today's (meaning the show's) actual date in December with a "Holiday Party" Icon Picture over it. A long table decorated with a holiday tablecloth and bowls for treats is positioned diagonally along UL.

Hear an ALARM CLOCK RING off stage. Lights shine fully on stage as the alarm stops.
Beat.

Easter Bunny enters DL excitedly with a full basket of plastic eggs (which are all unknowingly glued shut), talking non-stop.

EASTER BUNNY (excited): It's Easter! YIPPEE! Here comes the Easter Bunny kids, right down Easter Lane! (She hops/runs around the stage hiding eggs, then skips down into the audience and gives one to a kid in the front row. She then goes towards the back exit, giving out a couple of eggs along the way as she continues talking happily...) I've got an egg for all you kids and maybe even a toy or two! Happy Easter, Happy Easter! It's such a wonderful holiday! Look around kids and see what you find—because the Easter Bunny came this WARM SPRING DAY!

On the last word the Easter Bunny hops out the exit doorway in the back of the house happily.
Beat.

Hear LAUGHTER off stage.

April Fool enters DL, laughing hysterically at him/herself until he/she gains control and is CS.

APRIL FOOL (to audience): That dumb rabbit! She thinks it's Easter morning! Ha-ha-ha! I wonder if it has something to do with the fact that *I* set her alarm to go off *early* this year? (Points to the spring date of Easter on the big World's Daily Calendar a long ways off and then at today's date in December...) Ha-ha! That's one of my best jokes EVER!

April Fool goes DC and looks out at the kid in the front row of the audience with the egg.

APRIL FOOL (to kid): Oh yeah, and be *very* careful with that egg when you try to open it—in fact, I bet you can't because it's *glued* shut! (Laughs loudly) HA-HA-HA!

A rubber foam-pointed arrow suddenly comes from off stage, hitting April Fool in the back.

APRIL FOOL (jumps): OUCH!

Cupid enters CR, looking mad as she goes up to April Fool.

CUPID: Exactly! That's *exactly* what everyone I hit with these *real* rubber arrows say to the person beside them. Not, "Oh, I think it's love at first sight!" or "Wow! Where have *you* been all my life?" but "OUCH!" And you don't even want to *know* how many innocent victims have been slapped back instead of kissed!

APRIL FOOL: Ah, come on! Switching your magic love arrows for these real rubber ones was a great gag!

April Fool laughs as he/she picks up the arrow and tries to put it back into Cupid's arrow bag, but Cupid stops him/her.

CUPID: You wouldn't think so if your one chance of finding true love was ruined because of some stupid gag! There are *millions* of people to match up and I don't have time to keep

rescheduling their encounters—sometimes rescheduling is even *impossible* and that means on *my* special holiday people are sad instead of happy and in love like they should be!

Cupid folds her arms and turns away from April Fool angrily.

April Fool pretends to look sad as he/she turns away and quickly takes out a piece of paper and tape from his/her own “Gag Bag” sack. He/she places the tape on the paper, hiding what he/she is doing from both Cupid and the audience as he/she talks.

APRIL FOOL: You’re right flying woman. It was a *terrible* trick and I promise I won’t do it *ever* again. Okay? Are we friends again now? Afterall... it is the ‘forgiving’ season...

He/she puts his/her hand on Cupid’s back between Cupid’s wings, rubbing it like a friend comforting another friend—but he/she is really just sealing the paper onto Cupid’s back securely.

CUPID (reluctantly): Well... okay, since it *is* that kind of season... but I’ll hold you to that promise, Fool!

April Fool removes his/her hand from Cupid’s back and holds up crossed fingers behind his/her back as he/she speaks (which both Cupid and the audience don’t see).

APRIL FOOL: Go ahead, you can trust me! Afterall, I know you’re no fool!

Cupid turns to exit CR, turning her back completely towards the audience with a “KICK ME”

Sign in full view between her wings as she leaves the stage. (She’s unaware of the Sign.) April Fool tries hard to hold in his/her laughter until Cupid is gone. Once she is, April Fool bursts out laughing as he/she holds his/her arm straight up into the air, showing everyone in the audience his/her crossed fingers.

APRIL FOOL (proudly): But I am!

April Fool falls to the floor CS, laughing hysterically.

Santa enters CL. He walks over and looks down at April Fool, who’s still laughing so hard he/she doesn’t even notice Santa...

END OF SAMPLE PAGES