

FATHER  
CHRISTMAS –  
THE PANTOMIME  
BY  
MARK LLEWELLIN



This script is published by

NODA LTD  
58-60 LINCOLN ROAD  
PETERBOROUGH PE1 2RZ  
Telephone: 01733 865790  
Fax: 01733 319506  
Email: [info@noda.org.uk](mailto:info@noda.org.uk)  
[www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk)

To whom all enquiries regarding purchase of further scripts and current royalty rates should be addressed.

### CONDITIONS

1. A Licence, obtainable only from NODA Ltd, must be acquired for every public or private performance of a NODA script and the appropriate royalty paid : if extra performances are arranged after a Licence has already been issued, it is essential that NODA Ltd be informed immediately and the appropriate royalty paid, whereupon an amended Licence will be issued.
2. The availability of this script does not imply that it is automatically available for private or public performance, and NODA Ltd reserve the right to refuse to issue a Licence to Perform, for whatever reason. Therefore a Licence should always be obtained before any rehearsals start.
3. All NODA scripts are fully protected by copyright acts. Under no circumstances may they be reproduced by photocopying or any other means, either in whole or in part, without the written permission of the publishers
4. The Licence referred to above only relates to live performances of this script. A separate Licence is required for videotaping or sound recording of a NODA script, which will be issued on receipt of the appropriate fee.
5. NODA works must be played in accordance with the script and no alterations, additions or cuts should be made without the prior consent from NODA Ltd. This restriction does not apply to minor changes in dialogue, strictly local or topical gags and, where permitted in the script, musical and dancing numbers.
6. The name of the author shall be stated on all publicity, programmes etc. The programme credits shall state 'Script provided by NODA Ltd, Peterborough PE1 2RZ'

NODA LIMITED is the trading arm of the NATIONAL OPERATIC & DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION, a registered charity devoted to the encouragement of amateur theatre.

This script is licensed for amateur theatre by NODA Ltd to whom all enquiries should be made. [www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk) E-mail: [info@noda.org.uk](mailto:info@noda.org.uk)



# FATHER CHRISTMAS

- The Pantomime

By Mark Llewelin

Characters:

Father Christmas

Reindeer Ruby

The Toy Professor

Reindeer Ronnie

Rudolph

Snaffle

Snatchitt

Dreadful Deirdre

Smithers

Chorus: The elves, toys.

Scenes:

*The action takes place just after Christmas.*

Act One:

1. Prologue.
2. The Stables.
3. A Corridor.
4. The Toy Factory.
5. The Stables.

Act Two:

1. The Toy Factory.
2. A Corridor.
3. The Toy Factory.
4. Father Christmas's Office.
5. The Toy Factory.

# FATHER CHRISTMAS

- The Pantomime

By Mark Llewelin

## ACT ONE:

### 1. PROLOGUE

Live or recorded Christmas music plays until, as the lights dim, there is a shriek in the dark and the music comes to an abrupt halt. We hear footsteps and then the light begins to brighten. In front of a cloth, or the tabs, the figure of Dreadful Deirdre.

DEIRDRE: Where are you? Snatchitt, Snaffle – I want you here now! CLICKS HER FINGERS

SNATCHITT AND SNAFFLE APPEAR, COWERING. SNATCHITT HOLDS A PARTLY OPENED PRESENT BEHIND HIS BACK. THEY BOTH WEAR CHEAP PARTY HATS.

SNATCHITT: You hollered your Dreariness.

DEIRDRE: It is December the 25<sup>th</sup> isn't it?

SNAFFLE: That's right!

DEIRDRE: So, it's Christmas morning then?

SNATCHITT: Oh, we forgot –

BOTH: VERY CHEERY Merry Christmas!!

SNAFFLE BLOWS ON A PARTY HOOTER.

DEIRDRE: We've been forgotten – again!! SHE HOLDS OUT A CHRISTMAS STOCKING, SHE TURNS IT UPSIDE DOWN BUT NOTHING FALLS OUT. IT'S EMPTY.

SNAFFLE: OH DEAR: Oh no, not again.

DEIRDRE: Father Christmas hasn't been. Has he?

SNATCHITT: Um, no -

DEIRDRE: How many letters did I write to the North Pole? Eh, eh?

SNAFFLE: One hundred and sixty three your miseriness.

DEIRDRE: And still – not a sniff of a reindeer. Nothing shoved down my chimney! For another year.

SNATCHITT DROPS HIS GIFT.

DEIRDRE: What's that?

SNATCHITT: What?

DEIRDRE: That!!

SHE PRODS THE GIFT WITH HER SHOE.

SNATCHITT: Oh – that. Oh, nothing – QUIETLY Just a gift. From my aunt. She lives abroad you see. She didn't know it was Christmas. It was just a co-incidence.

SNAFFLE: Yes, she's an explorer.

DEIRDRE: Really?

SNATCHITT: Yes, Aunt Dora – the Explorer.

DEIRDRE: If she didn't know it was Christmas why's it wrapped in Christmas paper?

SNATCHITT: In, in – oh, yes. I see.

SNATCHITT PICKS UP THE GIFT. THE JUMPER INSIDE FALLS OUT.

DEIRDRE: Knitted it herself – SHE HOLDS IT UP – did she?

SNATCHITT: How did you guess?

DEIRDRE: Well, you wouldn't buy one like that, would you?

SHE RIPS A SLEEVE OFF IT.

SNATCHITT: Madam – have you ever thought there might be a reason for all this? A reason why you don't get any presents?

DEIRDRE: I know the reason alright – Father Christmas is a miserable fat fraud! He doesn't deliver Christmas cheer to *all* the children around the world he only delivers to the ones he likes. And he doesn't like – me!!

SNAFFLE: Maybe he delivers to all the *nice* children.....

SNATCHITT: Anyway – the clue's there oh great one, he delivers to *children*. I mean, you may have the figure of a 22 year old, the hair of a 21 year old and the brain of a 6 year old but –

SNAFFLE: Add them together and you're a 49 year old.

DEIRDRE: That's it! If I can't have a proper Christmas then no one shall.

SNAFFLE: What are you going to do?

DEIRDRE: I want you pair of imbeciles to get your sorry carcasses up to the North Pole –

SNAFFLE: But it's cold up there – and you know how I pick up germs and sniffles.

SNATCHITT: Yes, and in Santa Land you're also prone to the Christmas illness.

DEIRDRE: What's that?

BOTH: Tinsel-it is! THEY LAUGH

DEIRDRE: Get packing now, get up there - and finish off Father Christmas once and for all.

BOTH: Finish off Father.... We can't do that!

DEIRDRE: It's him – or you. I've waited 49.....39 years for that fat old man to deliver a gift to me well now, I'm gonna have the biggest gift of all – Santa's head on a plate!!

SNAFFLE AND SNATCHITT COWER AS SHE LAUGHS.

Get packing!



## 2. THE STABLES.

As the curtain opens, the elves are closing the doors on the stables. There are signs on, or over, the doors reading 'Rudolph', 'Dasher' and so on.

NUMBER Elves.
---------------

AT THE END OF THE NUMBER, ENTER RONNIE.

RONNIE: Are all the reindeers safely locked away for another year guys?

ELF 1: And *girls*, Ronnie!

RONNIE: And girls. I just can't get used to having boy and girl elves this year. Sorry!

ELF 2: It's about time we had some equality in the ranks! Thanks!

RONNIE: It's a pleasure. Treasure.

THE GIRL ELVES CHEER.

RONNIE: Now, let's see.

HE PRODUCES A CLIPBOARD AND PEN.

Father Christmas will be wanting to check that everything is cleaned and preened and safely packed away for the summer. Are the reindeer all in their stalls?

ELVES: Yes!

RONNIE: Just to be sure - Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen!

ON EACH NAME THE ELVES SHOUT 'YES!'

Marvellous!

ELF 3: Aren't you forgetting one Ronnie?

RONNIE: Let me see – Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen and ..... My mind's gone blank! I know there's one more but – what's he called?

ELVES: Ask the boys and girls!

RONNIE: Oh! Yes. Well, why not! TO AUDIENCE: Welcome to the North Pole, I am Reindeer Ronnie and it's my job to look after all the reindeer for Father Christmas. And I'm your official guide for your visit here. It's very cold so you must stick together – in fact, it's so

cold you probably *will* stick together. Now, Christmas is done and dusted for another year and the reindeer will be going to sleep for the summer. Well, we all do! Yes, up here it's either night all day long when we never see the sun at all or we get sun all day when we never see the dark. But you see, when it's sunny we have to go to sleep – we hibernate. So, once everything is put away we'll all be going sound asleep. But first I have to swill down the sleigh, rub down the reindeer and tidy the toy factory. And I have to do it all on my own!

ELVES REACT NOSILY TO HIS LIE.

Well, alright – calm down! They help me too! In fact, you can lend a hand if you like – I have accounted for 8 of the reindeer but I can't remember the name of the 9<sup>th</sup>. Any ideas? AUDIENCE SHOUT Randolph? THEY SHOUT AGAIN Oh, that's it – Rudolph! How could I forget! I counted them all out, and I've counted them back in again. So, elves, anyone seen Rudolph?

ELF 1: He's at the electricians.

ELF 2: Having the bulb in his nose changed.

RONNIE: Bright sparks! That's it – Rudolph is being readied for his nap. Right everyone, there's work to be done!

THE ELVES LINE UP FOR THEIR ORDERS. THEY RUN PAST HIM AS HE HANDS EACH ONE A SHEET OF COLOURED PAPER FROM HIS CLIPBOARD – THESE ARE THEIR INSTRUCTIONS. HE CALLS OUT THEIR NAME & JOB AS HE HANDS EACH PAPER OUT.

Rusty, re-fuel the sleigh! Sammy, sluice the stables! Popeye, pick the presents! Rita, sort the ribbons! Goffy, get the gift tags! Blanco, buff the boss' boots! Hilda, those hooves! Colin, those collars! Trudy, touch up the sleigh! – and Fudge, fluff up Santa's fur! And the rest of you – take one of these each! HE HANDS THE OTHER SHEETS OUT DURING THE FOLLOWING NUMBER.

NUMBER Ronnie and the Elves
-----------------------------

THE ELVES RUN OFF IN ALL DIRECTIONS TO CARRY OUT THEIR TASKS. WE HEAR A CAR HORN OFF STAGE.

RONNIE: Oh blimey, I know who that'll be. My mum! You see, when I said that I was in charge of the elves and the reindeer and..... Well, when I said me I actually meant me and my –

ENTER REINDEER RUBY.

- mum!

RUBY: You called??

RONNIE: Hiya mum!

RUBY: IN SHRILL VOICE You called??

RONNIE: Hiya mum!

RUBY: SHRILLER You called??

RONNIE: Hiya!

RUBY: Oh, I can't go any higher – I'll shatter me snowballs! Now then, now then, it doesn't quite look the hive of activity I was hoping for -

RONNIE: You just missed it – I gave all the elves their orders.

RUBY: And what are *you* doing?

RONNIE: Time and motion! Someone's got to be in charge.

RUBY: And that someone is me! Now, get to it!

RONNIE GOES TO EXIT.

Ooh, just a minute. I've got a bone to pick with you!

RONNIE RETURNS.

Do you remember giving me a new carpet for Christmas?

RONNIE: Yes – a new fireside rug for the bestest mum in the Pole.

RUBY: I thought you said it was in mint condition!! It has a hole in the middle.

RONNIE: Yeah, polo mint condition!

RONNIE RUNS OFF.

RUBY: Sometimes I wonder about that boy! TO AUDIENCE: Well, now, let's get a look at you lot. Came on the Polar Express did you? So, who have we got in today then? Any little kiddie-winks? REACTION Oh, lovely! Any terrible teens? REACTION Marvellous! Any mums and dads? REACTION Fantastic! Now then, any wrinkly grannies and granddads? REACTION Brilliant! It comes to us all you know. Let's have a gander. FROM HER HANDBAG SHE PRODUCES A CAMERA. This is in case anything goes missing you see. For security reasons. Now, can we have the lights up! HOUSE LIGHTS ON That's it – ooh my goodness, I was going to ask all the ugly ones

to move down the front but I see you've already done that. LAUGHS TO HERSELF Now, on the count of three I want you all to smile and say cheese. Are you ready? SHE LOOKS THROUGH HER CAMERA AND MOVES BACK I can't seem to get everyone in. You've been stuffing yourselves, haven't you? Can you all shuffle up a bit towards the middle. That's better. MOVES BACK FURTHER You don't half look bonny. This'll be very good on Crimewatch. Now, I'm still not getting the people right on the edges – could the people on the edges please stand up and sit on the laps of the people next to them. Can you do that? PAUSE Ooh, now that's better. But not quite – I tell you what, I'll photograph one half of you and then I'll do the other half. Now then, let's do this side first – that's it POINTS TOWARDS ONE SIDE OF THE AUDITORIUM – now, the lady in the middle – can you either decide which half you're on or close your legs! Thank you. Right, say cheese! TAKES PICTURE OF ONE SIDE Oh, that is a good one. I'll let you all have a look later. Now, this side - cheese! TAKES A PICTURE. Smashing! I shall put that on our gate to keep the kids away from the polar bears. Now please, HOUSE LIGHTS DOWN – can I introduce myself. Ooh, before I do – anyone want to take my picture? STRIKES CHEESEY POSE There we are – my modelling days for Heat Magazine – they stood me in good stead for this job. Yes, I am Reindeer Ruby. I'm not a reindeer you know, no, I just smell like one after all these years in the stables. Ooh, I've mucked out more times that you've had hot dinners, I have!! I'm always working me – WIPES HER BROW. Do we have anyone in who works for the council? Look at that! HOLDS HER HAND UP Sweat! You won't have come across that before. I'm only joking! Yes, and we had a party from Virgin Trains booked in, are you here? NOTHING Points trouble again! No, I look after the reindeer – and I do the cooking – and I help with the presents - and my son Ronnie helps me. Of course, we don't own the reindeer. Oh dear me, no. I bet you know who owns the reindeers, don't you? SHOUTS FROM KIDS That's it – Father Christmas, or Santa Claus – he has two names! But we call him Father Christmas and this is where he lives, yes, this is his house! You won't get to see him though – no, you are the last tour group of the season and I'm afraid that once all the presents are delivered Santa does one last round to check on everyone before he goes to sleep until next year. That's right – he sleeps all through the summer. We all do! Well, it takes it out of us you know, making all the presents and poor Santa and the reindeer having to fly all round the world in one night. I mean, he's no spring chicken – he's 175 next birthday! Yes!

#### MOBILE PHONE RINGS.

Ooh, excuse me – that's my phone. SHE TAKES IT FROM HER BAG AND ANSWERS. Hello, Reindeer Ruby here. To whom do I have the pleasure of pleasuring? Oh, hello Mr Fizzle – ASIDE It's Mr Fizzle, the electrician. Oh yes, oh is he. Right oh, thanks now! PUTS PHONE AWAY. Mr Fizzle has been fitting Rudolph with a new bulb

in his nose. You didn't know that, did you? SHOUTS FROM KIDS  
Who told you? Ronnie! Goodness, you know it all! So, Rudolph is  
on his way over to get ready for bed!

CLIP CLOP OFF STAGE.

Ah, here he is now!

EITHER A PANEL IN THE SET OPENS SO THE HEAD OF RUDOLPH CAN  
APPEAR OR RONNIE LEADS ON A REINDEER (LIKE A PANTO COW).

RONNIE ENTERS.

RONNIE: Mum, all the elves are hard at work!

RUBY: Good. Now Rudy, you've got your new bulb. I shall plug you in  
forthwith and immediately, if not sooner.

RONNIE: You see kids, Rudolph has a shiny nose for a very special reason.

RUBY: Yes, you see, it's very dark when Father Christmas sets out to deliver  
the presents. Very dark indeed and after his, when was it –

RONNIE: After his 135<sup>th</sup> birthday his eyesight started to go and so he needed  
headlights on the sleigh!

RUBY: It looked like that Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

RONNIE: Yes, not good at all. So, we came up with this idea! And Rudi became  
famous!

NUMBER Ruby, Ronnie and Rudolph.
----------------------------------

THE ELVES RUSH IN.

ELF 2: We've finished our work Ronnie!

ELF 3: The sleigh is shining!

ELF 4: The toy factory is ready for next year!

ELF 1: And the reindeer's hooves and collars are the best ever!

RUBY: You've all done very well! I shall treat you all to North Pole Pizza –

ELF 4: North Pole Pizza?

RUBY: Yes, deep pan crisp and even! Rudolph, you'd better bed down for the  
summer with your friends – Ronnie plug his nose into the battery  
charger!

RONNIE EITHER SHUTS THE STABLE DOOR AND EXITS OR TAKES  
RUDOLPH OFF.

RUBY: I shall inform Father Christmas that our work is done! Well done  
elves, well done!

RUBY EXITS.

REPRISE: Elves
----------------

### **3: A CORRIDOR**

IT IS DARK. SNAFFLE AND SNATCHITT, ENTER CARRYING LANTERNS.

SNAFFLE: This is definitely the place.

SNATCHITT: Are you sure? PRODUCES MAP

SNAFFLE: The sign over the door said: Welcome to Father Christmas' House. That could be a clue!

SNATCHITT: I thought it would be a bit brighter than this. All fairy lights and – you know, like the grotto in (LOCAL STORE).

SNAFFLE: What did the book say – after Father Christmas has delivered all the presents he goes to sleep until next October. No wonder the lights are out.

SNATCHITT: You might have a point!

SNAFFLE: Now, give me the map!

SNATCHITT HANDS HIM THE MAP. HE UNFURLS IT, LOOKS PUZZLED, TURNS IT UPSIDE DOWN, SCRATCHES HIS HEAD.

SNAFFLE: I've got it, I've got it!

SNATCHITT: Well don't give it to me.

SNAFFLE: You nincompoop! I know where we are on the map.

SNATCHITT: Where?

SNAFFLE: Here! HIS FINGER GOES THROUGH THE MAP.

SNATCHITT: Where that hole is?

SNAFFLE: Don't get funny with me!

SNATCHITT: This must be Santa's place. I don't know why I still work with you!

SNAFFLE: Now isn't that charming – 17 years we've been together. Through thick and thin.

SNATCHITT: Mainly thick. Out of those 17 years, how many have been good ones, eh?

SNAFFLE: You have to accept that some days you're the pigeon and some days, the statue! No, we work well together – we're a team.

SNATCHITT: Exactly, and if we weren't together – well, we'd only ruin two other people's teams.

SNAFFLE: Exactly! So, onward, onward. Remember what Dreadful Deirdre said – we have to bring back Santa's head on a plate.

SNATCHITT: Don't remind me. What is it we're looking for exactly?

SNAFFLE: The toy factory. I think it might be this way!

SNATCHITT: But you know, it's awfully creepy in here in the dark. You don't think there are any ghosties and ghoulies, do you?

SNAFFLE: In Father Christmas' castle? No, of course not.

SNATCHITT: Only I wouldn't want to be grabbed by the ghosties.

SNAFFLE: Being grabbed by the ghoulies ain't much fun either. No, no, no, the worst you're going to come across in here is an elf and a pile of reindeer poo.

SNATCHITT: I can smell something – do you think that's the elves or the poo?

SNAFFLE: Could be either!

SQUIDGING NOISE.

SNATCHITT: Well, make up your mind – because I've just stood in one of them!  
And Deirdre is waiting for us at the gates.

NUMBER Snaffle and Snatchitt
------------------------------

AS THEY HEAD OFF WE GO INTO:



#### 4. THE TOY FACTORY

THERE'S A PLANK COMING IN FROM EITHER SIDE AT AN ANGLE. THERE ARE BOXES EVERYWHERE, SOME PLAIN CARDBOARD ONES AND OTHERS WRAPPED AS GIFTS. THE TOY PROFESSOR APPEARS CARRYING A SMALL BLACK BOX WHICH HAS AN AERIAL ON TOP.

PROFESSOR: TO AUDIENCE: Ah, you must be the visitors they told me about – welcome, I am the Toy Professor! And this is my toy factory and laboratory. Please don't touch anything. I am getting everything ready for when we start again on next Christmas. And this is the device which will make everything so much easier. This is my latest invention! HE HOLDS THE BLACK BOX UP. It's called the Automated Mechanical Gifts Into Packaging Simplification Unit. I call it the A-M-G-I-P-S-U for short. Much easier to remember! Of course, I can't show you what it does – only Father Christmas is allowed to push the button. Oh yes, dear me, yes. So, this – boys and girls – is where we make magic. This is my Wond-orium! This is where I invent all the new toys each year – and where all your letters to Father Christmas come for processing. Look!

HE PRODUCES A SACK OVER-FLOWING WITH LETTERS.

These arrived this morning – I'm not sure if they're late for last year or early for next year. You see, the world is a wonderful place, full of puzzles, questions, queries and conundrums. Have you ever wondered why, if swimming keeps you fit, whales are so fat? Eh, eh? How do you know when you run out of invisible ink? TO AN AUDIENCE MEMBER Can you tell me sir? Can you? Yes you! Can you tell me why there is only one monopolies commission? I thought not! Or you madam – do you know why in the world – super glue doesn't stick to the inside of the tube? Why don't sheep shrink in the rain? The world is a fascinating place alright!

HE PULLS AT THE FLOWER IN HIS BUTTON HOLE WHICH IS REALLY A SCARF TIED TO ANOTHER AND ANOTHER. HE PULLS THE LONG LINE OF COLOURED SCARVES OUT AND TWIRLS THEM AROUND.

NUMBER Toy Professor
----------------------

DURING THE SONG HE COULD GO TO VARIOUS BOXES AND PRODUCE TRICKS (THINGS ON SPRINGS BURSTING OUT ETC)

PROFESSOR: Life is one long laugh as far as I'm concerned!

ENTER EITHER AN ELF, A PENGUIN (or anything else suitable) CARRYING A RINGING TELEPHONE.

Excuse me, I must take this call – it could be a delivery of whirligigs or a consignment of thingamabobs or a sack of shenanigans. HE PICKS

UP THE RECEIVER Hullo! Toy Professor speaking! There's a delivery? Of what? Toys!!! But I didn't order any toys. We're just about to close up for the summer months. Arriving now??? Well, you'll have to leave it with me. REPLACES RECEIVER. Well now, that is most irregular. Normally the toys arrive in October ready for the Christmas rush but.....oh dear me! HE BLOWS ON THE WHISTLE WHICH HANGS ROUND HIS NECK.

THE ELVES, AND SMITHERS, RUSH ON.

We have an emergency!! There's a delivery of toys on its way right now.

ELF 1: Toys? But....

PROFESSOR: I know Rusty, I know – they were delivered to the South Pole by mistake and now they're headed here. Action stations! HE BLOWS THE WHISTLE.

THE ELVES RUSH ABOUT CHAOTICALLY. SMITHERS TO THE FRONT.

SMITHERS: I have an idea!

PROFESSOR: You do? But Smithers – you've never had an idea in twelve years as my valued assistant. PAUSE This is Smithers boys and girls – say hello Smithers.

SMITHERS: Hello Smithers.

PROFESSOR: No, no – oh, never mind. Smithers, this is your one big chance – what is your idea?

SMITHERS: Why don't we sound the emergency claxon and get the reindeer staff in to help?

PROFESSOR: Sound the claxon? Call for help?

THE ELVES CHEER.

Well? You really think so? You know Smithers – that's a wonderful idea!

THEY ALL STAND THERE DOING NOTHING.

Well! What are you waiting for? Sound the claxon!!

SMITHERS RUSHES OFF THEN A CLAXON SOUNDS.

RONNIE AND RUBY RUSH ON.

RUBY: Where's the fire??

PROFESSOR: We have a delivery of toys. Arriving right now.

RONNIE: But....

PROFESSOR: I know!

RUBY: What will Father Christmas say?

RONNIE: I'll take the elves to the warehouse and start clearing the shelves. Ruby and Ronnie, perhaps you would collect the toys as they get delivered. But remember, break nothing!!

PROFESSOR AND ELVES EXIT.

RUBY: Unload the toys.....Ronnie, have you ever unloaded the toy deliveries before?

RONNIE: No mum, we're normally busy with the reindeer.

CLAXON SOUNDS.

RUBY: Well, I wonder where they deliver them to?

A PARCEL SLIDES DOWN ONE OF THE PLANKS.

(There are two planks, which must be slippery, leaning from the stage floor off into the wings to a height of about 6 feet. There's one either side and the parcels are pushed down them from the wings. It's better to use boxes with something in them to give them some weight.)

RONNIE TURNS JUST IN TIME TO SEE IT. HE RUSHES TOWARDS IT AND CATCHES IT BEFORE IT HITS THE FLOOR.

RONNIE: Well, we know now – you take this one and I'll take the other.

RONNIE ONE SIDE (SIDE A) AND RUBY THE OTHER (SIDE B).

RUBY: Well, LOOKS OFF It's not so bad, is it?

PARCEL DOWN SIDE A. RONNIE CATCHES IT. ANOTHER. HE CATCHES IT. HE STACKS THEM BETWEEN HIM AND RUBY.

RUBY: So far so good!

ANOTHER DOWN SIDE A. HE CATCHES IT. ANOTHER. HE CATCHES IT. QUICKER NOW – ANOTHER. RUBY RUSHES OVER TO HELP HIM. SHE STANDS ON ONE OF THE PARCELS ON THE FLOOR. SHE MISSES THE ONE THAT CAME DOWN THE SLOPE. ONE DOWN RUBY'S SIDE AND RONNIE'S SIDE. RUBY RUSHES BACK AND CATCHES HERS. RONNIE CATCHES HIS.

ANOTHER TWO DOWN BOTH SLOPES. THEY CATCH THEM. A PAUSE AS THEY STACK THEM ON THE FLOOR.

RUBY: Do you think I should go and get help?

RONNIE: Don't go anywhere. I'll go!

RUBY: But you can't leave me!

RONNIE: I won't be long!

RONNIE RUSHES OFF.

SLOW PARCEL DOWN A, SHE CATCHES IT. SLOW PARCEL DOWN B, SHE CATCHES IT. FASTER DOWN A, MISSES. FASTER DOWN B, CATCHES. ONE DOWN EITHER SIDE. MISSES. ANOTHER DOWN BOTH. CATCHES. TWO QUICKLY DOWN SIDE A. CATCHES. STACKS IN THE MIDDLE. TWO DOWN SIDE B. SHE TRAMPLES ON THOSE SHE ALREADY HAS AND MISSES. TWO DOWN SIDE A. TWO DOWN B. SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHICH WAY TO TURN.. THREE DOWN A. SHE LEAPS AND FALLS IN A HEAP. SIX DOWN BOTH SIDES AT ONE, HOPEFULLY ON TOP OF HER. IF YOU CAN, SEND ABOUT SIX DOWN BOTH SIDES. RUBY SOBS. SHE CLIMBS TO HER FEET AS RONNIE AND THE TOY PROFESSOR ENTER.

RUBY: Don't worry – it's all under control!

PROFESSOR: Mrs Reindeer, I've never seen the like!

RUBY: It wasn't my fault, really it wasn't. Tell him our Ronnie –

RONNIE: Well, I....

PROFESSOR: Never mind, never mind – let's just get it all cleared away. Breakages will have to be paid for though!

RUBY: On my wages!

PROFESSOR: Elves! Elves! Curly, Jolly – and Fletcher!

THREE ELVES RUSH ON.

I am sorry – but Mrs Reindeer has had an accident with the automated parcel delivery belt and drive machine.

RONNIE: The what?

PROFESSOR: The A-P-D-B-A-D-M for short Ronnie – that's what I call it. I invented it you know.

RUBY: Well, you should have invented it slower.

THE ELVES TAKE ALL THE PARCELS OFF DURING THE FOLLOWING DIALOGUE.

PROFESSOR: I haven't shown you my latest invention, have I?

RONNIE: What's this one called?

PROFESSOR: GOING OFF AND BRINGING THE BLACK BOX ON This is the A-M-G-I-P-S-U.

RUBY: The A-M-G-I-P-S-U?? What's that when it's at home?

PROFESSOR: It's the.....oh, now let me think, it's the Automatic, yes, that's it, the automatic – um, mechanical.

RONNIE: Mechanical what?

PROFESSOR: G – um? Giving, gone, gift?

RUBY: Let's have a look....

SHE TAKES THE BOX FROM HIM.

PROFESSOR: WANDERING OFF It's the Automatic Mechanical Gifts Into Packing uh –

RUBY: Simplification Unit!

PROFESSOR: How did you know that?

RUBY: It says it right here! On it!

RONNIE: So - it what? Wraps the presents for you?

PROFESSOR: Better than that my boy, better than that. It makes the presents wrap themselves!

RUBY: ASIDE He's crackers! It does what????

PROFESSOR: You'll see in October when Father Christmas puts it into service.

RUBY: Well, why can't we see it now?

THE ELVES ARE NOW OFF.

PROFESSOR: Oh no, no, no, only Father Christmas can press the red button on that box.

RUBY: I could if I wanted to!!

PROFESSOR: Oh no you couldn't!

RUBY: Oh yes I could!

THEY REPEAT WITH THE AUDIENCE JOINING IN A COUPLE OF TIMES.

RUBY: Oh, yes I could – and what's more, I am!

SHE PRESSES THE BUTTON. CLAXON SOUND. NOTHING.

RUBY: Well??

PROFESSOR: You shouldn't have done that!!

A CHORUS MEMBER AS A TOY WALKS ON (could be a doll, toy soldier or something like a Shrek costume) THEY MARCH STRAIGHT PAST AN ASTONISHED RONNIE AND RUBY AND OFF THE OTHER SIDE.

RONNIE: That toy's alive!

PROFESSOR: You see – I said not to push the button. Now, you've gone and woken all the toys up!!

NUMBER Chorus as toys.
------------------------

DURING THE NUMBER THE TOYS (whatever costumes you have) PERFORM A DANCE. RONNIE, RUBY AND THE PROFESSOR WATCH IN AWE. AT THE CONCLUSION, THE TOYS STOP ON STAGE.

RUBY: I never saw such a thing.

RONNIE: That was amazing!

THE PROFESSOR TAKES THE BLACK BOX FROM RUBY.

PROFESSOR: And that is why this magic box must never leave my sight. Now then elves – clear the toys please!

THE THREE ELVES FROM BEFORE RUN ON AND USHER THE TOYS OFF. IN THE MIDDLE OF IT, SNAFFLE AND SNATCHITT ENTER DRESSED AS ELVES. THEY LOOK VERY FUNNY AS THEY ARE TOO BIG AND WEAR DAFT COSTUMES AND STICK ON BEARDS. SNAFFLE CARRIES A FISHING ROD. THE ELVES AND TOYS ARE GONE.

PROFESSOR: Thank you elves – off you go.

SNATCHITT & SNAFFLE LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

SNAFFLE: Does he mean us?

This script is licensed for amateur theatre by NODA Ltd to whom all enquiries should be made. [www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk) E-mail: [info@noda.org.uk](mailto:info@noda.org.uk)

RUBY: Of course he means you. What are your names? I don't think I've seen you two before?

SNAFFLE: We're new round here.

SNATCHITT: Yes, we used to live over the hill but now we live here.

SNAFFLE: That's it – yes, we had no gnomes to go to. Do you get it – no gnomes to go to! LAUGHS

RONNIE: So what are your names?

SNATCHITT: Snatchitt and Snaffle.

SNAFFLE PULLS HIM DOWNSTAGE.

SNAFFLE: Now you've given the game away – they're our real names. We need to invent some elf names.

SNATCHITT: Elf names? Where do we get those?

SNAFFLE: Ah ha! HE PRODUCES A BOOKLET FROM HIS POCKET. Here we are – everything you need to know about being an elf.

SNATCHITT: Where'd you get that?

SNAFFLE: On the National Elf Service.

THEY TURN BACK TO THE GROUP. SNAFFLE LOOKING IN THE BOOK.

SNAFFLE: Our names are – Hermione and Dandelion.

RUBY: Hermione and Dandelion? But they are girl's names.

THEY RIP THE BEARDS OFF AND GO INTO GIRLY MODE.

SNAFFLE: That's right – we are little girls.

THEY SKIP A BIT.

SNATCHITT: Now, if you'll excuse me – we have to go and see to the reindeer.

RONNIE: The reindeer? But that's our job.....

RUBY STOPS HIM.

RUBY: Yes, you go and do that – run along Hermione and Dandelion.

THEY GO TO EXIT.

Oh, by the way, which reindeer are you going to be looking after?

BOTH: Rudolph and Olive!!

RONNIE: Olive?

SNATCHITT: Yes, she's famous.

RUBY: What for?

BOTH: In the Christmas song.

PROFESSOR: What Christmas song?

SNAFFLE: SINGS: Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer had a very shiny nose, and if you ever saw it you would even say it glows. Olive, the other reindeer....

BOTH: Nah, ne, nah, ne, nah, nah!!

THEY STICK THEIR TONGUES OUT AND RUN OFF.

PROFESSOR: My eyesight might not be the greatest but there's something about those two.

RUBY: Yes, I'll follow them and see what they're up to.

RUBY EXITS BUT AS SHE REACHES THE EDGE OF THE STAGE, SHE IS CAUGHT UP IN ALL THE TOYS AND ELVES RETURNING TO THE STAGE. SNAFFLE AND SNATCHITT ARE AMONGST THEM.

RONNIE: What's the matter?

ELF 3: Father Christmas is coming!

ELF 2: The great man himself!

PROFESSOR: This is most irregular.

RUBY: Santa – on his way to the factory floor? When we have guests? SHE POINTS TO THE AUDIENCE.

ELVES: He's coming alright!!

SNATCHITT AND SNAFFLE FIND THEMSELVES DOWNSTAGE.

SNAFFLE: This is our chance.

FANFARE. MAYBE A LIGHTING CHANGE. EVERYONE MOVES TO



CREATE A SPACE FOR THE ENTRANCE OF FATHER CHRISTMAS.

FATHER C: Goodness me, I thought you'd all be ready for the summer recess.

RUBY: We will be sir, just as soon as –

FATHER C: Save it, I've heard it all before. LAUGHS. It doesn't matter how many years we work here, how many seasons we do, I know. You can't help but spend time playing with the toys.

RONNIE: Yes, that's just it sir.

FATHER C: It was a wonderful delivery run again this year. Wonderful. And we delivered millions of presents – one to every *good* boy and girl on the planet. HE YAWNS But now, I'm tired. I'm not getting any younger you know.

RUBY: No, it's your 175<sup>th</sup> birthday this year.

FATHER C: You just had to go telling everyone, didn't you Ruby?

RUBY: You should never lie about your age sir.....

FATHER C: Told them you're going to be 64 in October, did you?

RUBY: Oh sir!!

FATHER C: Thought not. So – I'm getting ready and I shall dream of next year's Christmas run. Let's hope we get snow then – I do love flying through the snow!

NUMBER Father Christmas and Company
-------------------------------------

## 5. THE STABLES

A TABLE HAS BEEN SET UPSTAGE ON WHICH ARE 3 PRESENTS.

SNAFFLE AND SNATCHITT ENTER.

SNAFFLE: This must be the stables – where they keep the reindeer.

SNATCHITT: I have an idea – instead of bumping off Santa why don't we do something to the reindeer? Without the reindeer he can't deliver any presents anyway.

SNAFFLE: That's a good idea – but I couldn't hurt a reindeer. Could you?

SNATCHITT: No. No, I couldn't.

ENTER RUBY.

RUBY: Ah, so this is where you're hiding – Hermione and Dandelion.

THEY SKIP ABOUT A BIT.

SNATCHITT: Yes! We're new here.

RUBY: Well, we need to start your classes. You have to learn all about working here at the North Pole – there are exams to take you know.

BOTH: Exams! GULP

RUBY: Oh yes – let's try a few questions shall we?

THEY MOVE BEHIND THE TABLE SO THAT EACH HAS A PRESENT IN FRONT OF THEM.

We call this Real or No Real.

SNAFFLE: I'm nervous all ready.

RUBY: Ok Hermione – there's a value in that box and if you get the right answer then that's what you're going to win.

SNAFFLE: Ok – and if I don't get it right?

RUBY: We'll see. So, thinking of the Nativity story now – in Italy there is a difference in the story. They have 3 shepherds, 3 kings and –

SNAFFLE: 33 wise guys.

RUBY: That's the real deal – open the box.

SNAFFLE OPENS HIS PRESENT AND INSIDE THE LID IT SAYS 'NUTS'

RUBY: Nuts!

SNAFFLE: There's no need to be rude.

RUBY: No, that's what you've won – for Christmas, some mixed nuts. Right Dandelion –

SNATCHITT: Yes.

RUBY: Your question is – What's white, light and sugary and hangs from trees?

SNATCHITT: I think I know this – a snow drift?

RUBY: No, a meringue-tang.

PHONE RINGS. SHE PRODUCES HER MOBILE PHONE.

It's the boss –

ANSWERS IT.

He says -

SHE PULLS THEIR HATS OFF.

He says you're not elves – and we're not fooled!

CLAXON SOUNDS AND THE TOY PROFESSOR, FATHER CHRISTMAS, RONNIE AND SOME OF THE ELVES RUSH ON.

FATHER C: What's going on Professor? You normally have your finger on the pulse as far as the T-C-P-S-S is concerned. URNS TO AUDIENCE  
The Top Class Polar Security System.

PROFESSOR: LOOKING AT HIS BLACK BOX Yes sir, we have an intruder.

DREADFUL DEIRDRE ENTERS FOLLOWED BY MORE ELVES AND SMITHERS.

DEIRDRE: An intruder? Yes you do!

EVERYONE COWERS.

Recognise me Santa?

FATHER C: No, I don't think we've had the pleasure. HOLDS HIS HAND OUT TO SHAKE.

DEIRDRE: No, we've never met because you've never delivered a present to me!!

FATHER C: Well, there must be an explanation. Every child.....

PROFESSOR: Sir –

HE HAS TAKEN A NOTEPAD FROM HIS POCKET AND SHOWS IT TO FATHER CHRISTMAS.

FATHER C: Ah, now I see. The E-B-M-S has all the details.

PROFESSOR: That's the Electronic Behaviour Monitoring System.

FATHER C: You've never been a *good* girl, have you?

DEIRDRE: Who cares? I should still get those presents – but no, you and your horses with hatstands never even stop at my chimney.

HE GOES TO PUT HIS ARM AROUND HER.

FATHER C: You've written hundreds of letters, I know, but no one gets anything in this world without working for it. And you have to be good in order for Rudolph and me to call. Now, why don't you stay with us the night and then we can teach you how to be good.

PROFESSOR: Yes, what a wonderful idea.

DEIRDRE: Well, I don't know.....

RUBY: We could have a party!

DEIRDRE: I've never had one of those before.

RONNIE: What a great idea.

PROFESSOR: Mind you, a party in here – we'd better tip off Elf and Safety.

RUBY: Yes, come on! For one night only!

NUMBER The Company
--------------------

EVERYONE CONGRATULATES DEIRDRE, SNATCHITT AND SNAFFLE.

DEIRDRE: Enjoying yourselves boys?

SNAFFLE: I prefer partying to doing in Santa any day.

SNATCHITT: Yeah, what a crowd!

DEIRDRE: You don't honestly think I'm turning over a new leaf?

SNAFFLE: Well. I did.

DEIRDRE: Forget it! Smithers!

ENTER SMITHERS.

SNAFFLE: Who's this?

DEIRDRE: My secret weapon – Smithers. During the night I want you to get Father Christmas – once and for all. Then I'll have all the presents I want!! And reindeer burgers for supper.

SHE LAUGHS. SNAFFLE AND SNATCHITT SHAKE AND LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

**CURTAIN.**

**ACT TWO:****1. THE TOY FACTORY**

The factory has been prepared for the party. There are balloons and streamers, a table groaning with food.

ENTER RONNIE CARRYING BOX OF PARTY HATS.

RONNIE: Oh good – you came back. They don't always. Well, what do you think of the old place? Is this a party venue or what? And it's all my own work.

HE PLACES THE PARTY HATS ON THE TABLE AND EXITS WITH THE EMPTY BOX. RUBY ENTERS FROM THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE STAGE CARRYING A BOX FULL OF PARTY BLOWERS.

RUBY: Ooh, you're up and about! Well, what do you think of the factory now it's been party-fied, decorated and transmogerated? Eh? All this – it's all my own work you know. I made all the food – 300 quiches, 254 sausage rolls, 711 fairy cakes and a fartridge in a pear tree. REACTION What? Have you never heard of a fartridge? Oh yes, a very big bird it is – right puts the wind up you! Yes, PUTS BLOWERS ON TABLE while everyone else has been lazing around I've done all this on my todd.

EXITS WITH BOX AS PROFESSOR ON FROM OTHER SIDE. HE CARRIES A BOX OF CHRISTMAS CRACKERS.

PROFESSOR: Ah, there you are. Waiting for the S-S-D-C-P are you? The SSDCP? The Special Super Duper Christmas Party!! Now look at all this – did it all myself you know! Oh yes I did! REACTION Oh yes I did!

RUBY ON JOINING IN THE 'OH NO YOU DIDN'T!'

Oh, alright – you caught me out there!

RUBY: Well that wasn't very nice. You mustn't tell fibs must you boys and girls? REACTION. No, exactly!

PROFESSOR: I've learnt my lesson.

RUBY: Good – you're looking rather handsome today by the way! (SHE'S LYING). No, I did all this on my ownsome - Oh, yes I did! REACTION Oh, yes I diddling did!

RONNIE ENTERS TO JOIN IN WITH THE 'OH NO YOU DIDN'T'.

RUBY: Oh, alright – not quite on my own. Ronnie helped.

RONNIE: Yes, I did. You know, you mustn't tell lies mum.

RUBY: No, I know.

RONNIE: Good. That dress makes you look slim by the way! (HE LIES).

RUBY: Ooh, really??

PROFESSOR: Absolutely, it is very flattering.

RUBY: (LIKES THIS) Oh, Professor! I have been on a diet you know – all you eat is coconut milk and bananas.

PROFESSOR: And you lost weight with that?

RUBY: No, but I can't half climb trees. No, I went to the doctor and asked him how to lose 12 pounds of ugly fat.

RONNIE/

PROFESSOR: Did he offer to chop your head off?

RUBY: No!! He did not!! It's a good job I know you two so well.

PROFESSOR: Yes, we're old friends – eh?

RUBY: Very old. And you know what they say about friendship –

RONNIE: Yes, a friend in need is a pest indeed.

RUBY: That's right – no they do not! Friends are wonderful – especially those who know all about us. And keep it to themselves.

NUMBER Ruby, Ronnie and Toy Professor.
--

ENTER SNATCHITT.

RUBY: Oh good morning sunshine. ASIDE: He looks better dressed as a man. Did you get a good night's sleep?

SNATCHITT: No not really – I can never sleep in a new bed. Can you?

RUBY: Yes, well, I had to – PATS HER HAIR - down the years.

SNATCHITT: Those elves gave me a bunk in the stables.

RUBY: Just what I was thinking about. GIGGLES Oh sorry, a bunk bed.

SNATCHITT: Yes.

PROFESSOR: I'll leave you to it – I've got games to organise for the party.

RONNIE: And I've got the reindeer to feed.

This script is licensed for amateur theatre by NODA Ltd to whom all enquiries should be made. [www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk) E-mail: [info@noda.org.uk](mailto:info@noda.org.uk)

PROFESSOR AND RONNIE EXIT.

RUBY: So, you were snoring with the reindeer.

SNATCHITT: That's just it – they were snoring so much that I couldn't get any sleep.

RUBY: Oh, you should have said – what you need is the magic hat. It can stop all the noise!

SNATCHITT: Really??

RUBY: Yes – it's magic. SHE RUSHES OFF AND RETURNS WITH HAT.  
There you are – the magic hat. It was given to me by an ancient prophet. A wizard of some repute who lived in these parts when I was a girl. His name – Larry Potter. You see, I had to bed down in the byre and I couldn't get a wink of sleep for the snoring of them reindeer so Larry said to me – over a glass of the hard stuff. He used to make his own you know – lethal. We used to say: Be careful when you go near Larry Potter and his Goblet of Fire. ASIDE: They don't get any better do they? Yes, he gave me this magic titfer. Would you like to try it?

SNATCHITT: Would I? I would!

RUBY: Very well, but I'd never part with it – but you can have a go. OK?

SNATCHITT PUTS THE HAT ON. RUBY MIMES SPEAKING.

SNATCHITT: What? I can't hear you.

RUBY PULLS THE HAT OFF HIM.

RUBY: Marvellous, isn't it? I bet you couldn't hear a word.

SNATCHITT: I couldn't – I need that hat. You said you wouldn't sell it but.....

RUBY: Try me.

SNATCHITT: How about thirty pounds.

RUBY: Thirty? You insult me.

SNATCHITT: Twenty then.

RUBY: Call it fifteen and you've got a deal.

SNATCHITT: You're a hard saleswoman. Go on then – fourteen it is.

SNATCHITT PAYS HER AND TAKES THE HAT.



SNATCHITT: (ASIDE) Stupid old woman – fourteen pounds for this magic hat!  
She's been done.

RUBY: (ASIDE) That's what he thinks!

SNATCHITT: Thank you, thank you so much!

RUBY: MOVING DOWNSTAGE AND UNAWARE THAT SNATCHITT IS NOW PUTTING THE HAT ON. You are very welcome – very welcome indeed. If you don't get a good night's with this on I'm Sophia Loren.

SNATCHITT: Sophia Lo..... Hang on! I heard every word!

RUBY: Ooh, I'll see you later!

RUBY RUSHES OFF.

SNATCHITT: Drats! I've been well and truly conned! The only thing I can do is find another mug.

ENTER SNAFFLE.

SNAFFLE: Oh, you're up already. I didn't get a wink of sleep last night – those pesky elves gave me a bunk in their dormitory and boy do they snore!

SNATCHITT: You don't say.

SNAFFLE: I did – didn't you hear me?

SNATCHITT: You've hit the nail on the head. That Reindeer Ruby gave me this hat to wear in bed last night – it's a magic hat.

SNAFFLE: Magic? In what way?

SNATCHITT: She was given it by a chap named Barry Potter and when you wear it you can't hear a thing.

SNAFFLE: Nothing? Not a word? This Barry Potter must have been some chap.

SNATCHITT: He was! Now let me think what the story was – yes, he was a sorcerer who had a gall stone out and no one heard him scream. Barry Potter and the Sorcerer's silent stone I think it was. ASIDE: Alright, alright, I didn't write this rubbish!

SNAFFLE: Then that's the titfer for me. I don't suppose you'd be willing to sell it, would you?

SNATCHITT: Well, for you – anything. Here, give it a go, try it on.

SNATCHITT PUTS THE HAT ON SNAFFLE'S HEAD. SNATCHITT MIMES TALKING FOR A SHORT WHILE THEN PULLS THE HAT OFF HIS HEAD.

Well? Did you hear anything?

SNAFFLE: Nothing! Complete silence. Can I try it again?

SNATCHITT: Again?

SNAFFLE: Yes. You see, they were up to some very odd things in that elf dorm last night.

SNATCHITT: I'm not sure I want to know.

SNAFFLE: Some of them were singing in their sleep.

SNATCHITT: Singing? Singing what?

SNAFFLE: Little elfin songs. And I don't want to go through that again. So, I'll put the hat on and you sing. Just to make sure it works on warbling.

SNATCHITT: Very well!

SNAFFLE PUTS THE HAT ON. SNATCHITT SINGS HIS NUMBER BUT EVERY SO OFTEN SNAFFLE TAKES THE HAT OFF HIS HEAD TO LOOK AT IT. WHILST THE HAT IS OFF HIS HEAD, SNATCHITT MIMES. (IF YOU HAVE LIVE MUSICIANS THEY COULD STOP PLAYING WHENEVER THE HAT IS OFF SNAFFLE'S HEAD).

NUMBER Snatchitt
------------------

AT THE CONCLUSION SNAFFLE TAKES THE HAT OFF.

SNAFFLE: That was brilliant! I'll take it. Here's a pound.

HE HANDS A POUND OVER AND PUTS THE HAT BACK ON.

SNATCHITT: A pound? You owe me twenty!

SNAFFLE: Sorry, can't hear you!

SNATCHITT: You owe me twenty!

SNAFFLE EXITS WHISTLING.

SNATCHITT: I've been had - again!

RUSHES OFF.

## 2. A CORRIDOR

SNAFFLE ON WEARING THE HAT. DEIRDRE ON FROM THE OPPOSITE SIDE. THEY BUMP INTO EACH OTHER.

DEIRDRE: You imbecile.

SNAFFLE: Oh, mistress....how did you sleep?

DEIRDRE: Hanging upside down from the rafters – how do you think?

SNAFFLE: ASIDE: She’s a bit batty!

DEIRDRE: Nincompoop.

SNAFFLE: The Toy factory is looking beautiful – all ready for the party. You have to give it to those elves, they do make great hosts.

DEIRDRE: Oh, they do – but they make great sandwiches too. I could just eat an elf, couldn’t you? Toasted lightly on brown bread.

SNAFFLE: You haven’t woken up feeling any happier then?

DEIRDRE: Happier? I won’t be happy until Father Christmas is SLICES ACROSS HER THROAT WITH HER HAND, the elves are in the buffet and the reindeers are on the Barbie. Now that’s what I call a party!

NUMBER Deirdre and Snaffle.
-----------------------------

AT THE END OF THE NUMBER THEY EXIT. RUDOLPH’S HEAD APPEARS THROUGH THE CURTAINS OR FROM THE WINGS. HE HAS HEARD EVERYTHING. WE HEAR AN ‘Uh Oh!’ FROM HIM.

### **3. THE TOY FACTORY**

#### **RUBY IS CENTRE STAGE AS SNATCHITT ENTERS.**

SNATCHITT: Ah, just the woman – the hat was a con!

RUBY: A con? DOUBLE TAKE Are you accusing me – a lady of breeding – of interfering with your whatsits. Of diddling your dodahs? Of messing with your mind?

SNATCHITT: Not in so many words, no.

RUBY: Good. CLOSER TO HIM You see, I thought we might become friends – I can see you're a man of high morals and low standards. Just the sort I had my eye on. Are you married at all?

SNATCHITT: I can't say I've had the pleasure.

RUBY: My late husband went out for a tin of peas and never came home.

SNATCHITT: What did you do?

RUBY: Opened a bag of carrots. I brought my son Ronnie up on me own – just me and no one else. Except for 342 elves and a herd of reindeer.

SNATCHITT: But now Ronnie's growing up –

RUBY: He is – and so it's *me* time. Yes, time to kick off me boots and have some fun. And you know what I need? A man! A man who's like a bank account.

SNATCHITT: Really?

RUBY: Yes, without his money there's little interest from me. What do you say Snatchitt? Are you game for a laugh?

SNATCHITT: My dear lady, are you propositioning me?

RUBY: I might be – if I knew what it meant. I was just asking you out on a date.

SNATCHITT: But I'm too busy serving Dreary Deirdre – my mistress.

RUBY: What a miserable Madame she is – she could stare at milk and make her own yogurt. She'd be sacred in India she would.

SNATCHITT: Yes, she's not the easiest of bosses.

RUBY: I mean – does she cook for you? Look after you? Keep you warm at night?

SNATCHITT: None of the above.

RUBY: Then let me show you what I can do! Have you had breakfast?

SNATCHITT: Not yet, no –

RUBY BRINGS ON TROLLEY ON WHICH ARE HER PROPS.

NUMBER Ruby and Snatchitt  
You could bring some chorus on to help.

DURING THE NUMBER SHE PREPARES HIS BREAKFAST. SHE TAKES SOME EGGS AND THROWS THEM INTO THE AIR CATCHING THEM IN TWO BOWLS. WHISKS THEM. AND POURS INTO A FRYING PAN. THEN SHE TAKES A STRING OF SAUSAGES AND PUTS THEM INTO THE PAN AND MAKES AS IF SHE'S COOKING.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE NUMBER SHE 'POURS' ONTO A PLATE – IN REALITY SHE HAS A PLATE WITH SOME FRIED EGGS GLUED ONTO IT. THERE'S ALSO A SAUSAGE ON IT WHICH IS ABLE TO STAND UP (see Technical notes).

RUBY: Now, how does that grab yer gullet?

SNATCHITT: It smells wonderful –

RUBY: That's probably me – I tried some new perfume today. Toilette De Canard it's called.

SNATCHITT: That's Toilet Duck in French.

RUBY: Those blooming elves. Anyway, never mind them – more about us!

SHE HOLDS THE PLATE AND THE SAUSAGE STANDS UP AND SITS DOWN.

Can you feel it – the romance? The crackle of love?

SNATCHITT: Not a sausage.

RUBY: Really? ASIDE: My special breakfast normally gets 'em. You know, marriage is a wonderful institution.

SNATCHITT: Yes, but who wants to live in an institution?

THE SAUSAGE STANDS UP AND FALLS BACK DOWN AGAIN.

Excuse me – I don't think that sausage is dead yet.

RUBY: Ehh dear, what a date this proved to be.

SHE PUTS PLATE ON TROLLEY.

SNATCHITT: Anyway, it's no use – Deirdre couldn't cope without me.

RUBY: Ooh, come on handsome - come and live here – with me.

RUDOLPH ON – OR APPEARS THROUGH HATCH OR FROM WINGS.

And him! What are you doing up and about? I've told you Rudy...

HE SIGNALS HER TO HIM. SHE GOES.

What is it? HEAD CLOSE. Really? And when did you hear this?  
No! Go on – get your head down, leave it to me.

RUDOLPH EXITS.

Well, well, well – so, Snatchitt, anything you want to tell me?

SNATCHITT: We haven't even had the date yet.

RUBY: I'm not talking marriage proposals – My Rudolph there, he overheard your mistress plotting. Well, it was like a Sunday omnibus of Emmerdale it was that dreadful and dramatic.

SNATCHITT: Alright, alright – she does have plans to bump Santa off and make the reindeer into burgers but –

RUBY: Oh, she does does she? And when were you thinking of telling me this? After the wedding?

SNATCHITT: Wedding?? You're a fast mover and no mistake.

RUBY: Just what my mother said – men can't stand the sniff of wedding cake. Well, I know what you and your cohorts are planning – and wait until I tell Santa. He's going to be so mad and angry and –

FATHER CHRISTMAS HAS ENTERED BEHIND THEM.

FATHER C: Actually, he already knows.

RUBY: He does?

FATHER C: You forget Ruby, you don't get to my age without learning a thing or two. TO SNATCHITT: Your mistress needs to learn something –

SNATCHITT: What?

FATHER C: Christmas is not all about getting presents you know.

SNATCHITT: It isn't?

FATHER C: LAUGHS No! No, it isn't. And life isn't all about *taking* either –

NUMBER Father Christmas, Snatchitt and Ruby.

RUBY: So what can we do Father Christmas?

FATHER C: Are you willing to help me Snatchitt?

SNATCHITT: Yes! Yes!

FATHER C: Then you'd better come with me – we have work to do, plans to hatch....

HE HAS EXITED.

RUBY: Well go on, you'd better catch him up!

SNATCHITT GIVES HER A PECK ON THE CHEEK AND CHASES OFF.

RUBY: Well I never! You see, I've still got it!

ENTER RONNIE.

RONNIE: What are you blushing for?

RUBY: Blushing? I'm not blushing – that's a healthy glow from working outdoors.

RONNIE: Mum! Tell the truth you always say –

RUBY: Oh alright, you can read me like a book –

RONNIE: Yes, a right mucky one an' all.

RUBY: It was that Snatchitt – he gave me a kiss.

RONNIE: MOCK HORROR He's been kissing my mum! Hey, I'll knock his block off.

RUBY: You'll do no such thing. At my time of life, you've got to take it where you can.

RONNIE: Ugh!!! MOCK TEENAGER: That is mucky mum!

RUBY: You can't begrudge me a bit of happiness in me old age, can you? I mean, I've brought you up on your own since you were small, being a little baby, just a tot in me arms, or even younger. Oh yes, I did. And now I'm in the autumn of me days – not over the hill yet but with a

good view of the valley – love’s young dream walks into me life and whisks me off me feet and bowls me over and –

RONNIE: What is he – a mugger?

RUBY: Well, he has taken me heart alright.

NUMBER Ruby and Ronnie.
-------------------------

RONNIE: Mum, I just want you to be happy.

ENTER TOY PROFESSOR SURROUNDED BY ELVES. HE CARRIES A RED BOX WITH AN ANTENNA ATTACHED.

PROFESSOR: Ah there you are!

RUBY: Now, what on earth is this?

THE ELVES GET EXCITED.

PROFESSOR: Calm down boys and girls ....

RONNIE: What ever it is – it’s got this lot all worked up.

PROFESSOR: It’s a new invention of mine – it’s a R-H-T-P-M.

RUBY: I’m none the wiser. A R-H-T-P-M? What’s that when it’s at home?

PROFESSOR: It’s a Random Heart Transmogrification Pictogram Machine.

RUBY: That’s easy for you to say. But what does it do?

ELVES: It looks into your heart.

RUBY: Into your heart? What for?

PROFESSOR: Well, there’s no better way of explaining it than to show you. A demonstration if you please! Smithers! Smithers! Oh, where is that boy? He seems somewhat pre-occupied at the moment.

SMITHERS RUNS ON.

SMITHERS: Yes Professor?

PROFESSOR: Where have you been?

SMITHERS: I had something important to put into action. ASIDE: Something very important.



RUBY: Well, come and help with this demonstration. We're going to look into someone's heart. Hey, TO ELVES: I don't know who he's going to choose as his victim but you want to watch out – you don't know what he'll turn up.

DURING THIS SMITHERS AND THE PROFESSOR ARE PRESSING BUTTONS AND CLEARLY SETTING IT UP TOWARDS RUBY.

I mean, do you remember when he tried that new invention out on little elf Randy – all his hair fell out! And his face turned green for three weeks. LAUGHS

RONNIE: Are you ready?

SMITHERS: We're ready.

RUBY: LAUGHING So who is the unlucky little volunteer?

PROFESSOR: Well *you* of course.

RUBY: Oh no, not me – think of me looks. You don't get a body like this without punishing yourself you know.

THE PROFESSOR PRESSES A BUTTON. LIGHTS FLASH. RUBY REACTS.

SMITHERS: It's working Professor – look at the screen.

RUBY: Turn it off, it tickles.

RONNIE: What can you see? Of her heart?

RUBY: That it's beating I hope.

PROFESSOR: Oh no Ruby – it looks *into* your heart to see who you love.

THE ELVES GIGGLE.

ELF 1: Yes, we'll all see who you have the hots for.

RUBY: Well it's not you. Switch it off! Switch it off!

SMITHERS: Hang on, I've never seen this before – PEERS INTO BOX – Is that David Beckham (or other good-looking young star)?

PROFESSOR: And the Hollyoaks (or other young show) cast –

SMITHERS: Wayne Rooney (or similar)?

RUBY: ASIDE: A bit of rough I know.

SMITHERS: The England rugby team?.

RONNIE: No actors?

RUBY: TRYING TO GRAB A LOOK: I do have some limits.

SMITHERS: And who's this? Sir, it's that –

SNATCHITT ENTERS.

RUBY: Snatchitt!!!

PROFESSOR: Yes!!! It's him – in swimming trunks.

RUBY: Turn it off!! Now!!

SNATCHITT: What's going on?

THE ELVES GIGGLE.

ELF 2: Ruby is in love with you.

ELF 3: Yes – we saw it in her heart.

SNATCHITT: You did? Ruby?

RUBY: I was trying to tell you before, wasn't I?

NUMBER REPRISE Ruby, Snatchitt and Company
--

#### 4. FATHER CHRISTMAS' OFFICE

DEIRDRE IS GOING THROUGH A PILE OF GIFTS ON THE DESK.

DEIRDRE: If I could only find it.

SHE THROWS SOME ONTO THE FLOOR.

ENTER FATHER CHRISTMAS WITH A COUPLE OF ELVES.

FATHER C: What is it you're looking for?

DEIRDRE: A present with my name on it.

FATHER C: You're not going to find one there.

ENTER SMITHERS.

DEIRDRE: Smithers – just in time. Tie the old fool up and let's put him out of his misery.

SMITHERS: It's not him who needs some sense knocking into them – it's you.

DEIRDRE: Not you as well?

FATHER C: No, he's not turned against you – he was never with you.

DEIRDRE: What?

FATHER C: This is Smithers – he's in charge of trying to change the bad children. And you've been very bad indeed.

SMITHERS: Indeed she has.

FATHER C: Tell her –

SMITHERS: TAKING PAPER FROM HIS POCKET AND READING:  
Tormenting your brother, not doing your homework, crossing the road when the lollipop lady wasn't looking, not eating your greens –

FATHER C: PUTTING UP A HAND TO STOP HIM Does he need to go on?

DEIRDRE: Alright, alright – it's all true. But what's that got to do with me not getting a visit from you at Christmas?

FATHER C: What's it got to do with it? Everything! I only deliver to good children you know – bad children's addresses do not appear on the delivery list.

SMITHERS: No good – no list – no present.

This script is licensed for amateur theatre by NODA Ltd to whom all enquiries should be made. [www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk) E-mail: [info@noda.org.uk](mailto:info@noda.org.uk)

FATHER C: Now, do something for me – read out the labels on the presents on that table.

DEIRDRE: READING SOME OUT: Snatchitt – Smithers – Ruby – Ronnie – Snaffle.

FATHER C: There are two lessons you need to learn and the first is in your hands right now.

DEIRDRE: SHE'S HOLDING SOME GIFTS In my hands? These aren't for me, they're for everyone else.

FATHER C: So? What do you think you need to do?

DEIRDRE: I'm not playing games.

SMITHERS: Give them to the people on the labels?

DEIRDRE: Give presents? But I want to receive some.

SMITHERS: Exactly.

DEIRDRE: Oh! It's not just about receiving gifts, but about giving them to.

FATHER C: You know Smithers, I think she might be getting it.

DEIRDRE: Alright, alright!

TOY PROFESSOR LEADS ON RUBY, RONNIE, SNAFFLE AND SNATCHITT.

PROFESSOR: Sir, sir – the alarm was sounding on the S-O-I-A-S.

SMITHERS: The - ?

PROFESSOR: The Santa's Office Intruder Alarm System. Ah – SEES DEIRDRE – her!

FATHER C: Yes, and I think she has something she wants to do.

DEIRDRE: TENTATIVELY SHE HANDS THE GIFTS OUT Yes, here you are – presents for everyone.

RUBY: But - ?

RONNIE: Well, thank you.

FATHER C: And how did that feel?

DEIRDRE: Not bad, not bad at all.

FATHER C: Good.

SMITHERS: Now, the second and final lesson.

FATHER C: Ah yes, Ruby and Snatchitt seem to have – well, fallen in love.

DEIRDRE: What??

SNATCHITT: Yes mistress, I wonder if you might release me so that I could live here with Ruby.

DEIRDRE THINKS BEFORE SHE SPEAKS. SHE LOOKS AT SANTA, HE NODS.

DEIRDRE: I have one thing to say to that. Yes, of course you can.

EVERYONE CHEERS.

FATHER C: Gifts don't have to cost the earth – but every gift must be given with the heart.

SMITHERS: I think she's learnt her lesson.

DEIRDRE: I have, I have.

EVERYONE CHEERS.

NUMBER Company

THE ELVES ENTER CARRYING A LARGE PRESENT.

FATHER C: Ah, Rusty – pass that present over here.

THE PRESENT IS PASSED TO HIM. HE READS THE LABEL.

Deirdre, I think this is for you –

SHE TAKES THE PRESENT.

NUMBER REPRISE Company

## 5. THE TOY FACTORY

### RONNIE ENTERS CARRYING A BASKET.

RONNIE: What a wonderful turnaround – it just goes to show that Santa sees and knows everything doesn't it? REACTION and what about my mum and Mr Snatchitt eh? What a turn up for the books that is. I couldn't be happier for her. So, you've finished your tour of the North Pole. I'm sorry, it was too cold outside to show you Santa's garden. Oh, yes, he has a lovely garden – well, he loves to do gardening! Didn't you know that? REACTION But of course – he's always ho, ho, ho-ing! Now, who wants to help me sing a song? REACTION You do? Well, that's great. Let's see if you know this one –

NUMBER Ronnie
---------------

I thought you did a great job there but I think we could have a competition – I want you to sing every other line with me – so, let's have this half of you first POINTS TO ONE SIDE and then we'll come to you lot over there POINTS TO OTHER SIDE Brilliant! Are you ready then?

NUMBER REPRISE Ronnie
-----------------------

He gets each side singing alternate lines. Each time Snowball is mentioned he throws a snowball from his basket into the audience.
--

That's was fantastic! You're all honorary snowballs! How's that!

### CLAXON SOUNDS

Hey up! That sound means Father Christmas is heading off to bed for the summer – I'll have to get packed up and ready. Would you like to say goodbye to everyone before we all go? REACTION Alright then – are you ready? REACTION Here goes –

### RONNIE EXITS

NUMBER Company
----------------

During which the company come on, down to the front, bow and move to the sides. The cast enter in the following order: Toys, Elves, Smithers, Dreadful Deirdre, Snaffle and Snatchitt, Toy Professor, Ronnie, Ruby and Father Christmas.
--

### THEY ALL MOVE TO LINE UP ACROSS THE STAGE.

FATHER C: So your tour is over, your visit complete.

RONNIE: You'd better hurry – it's beginning to sleet.

RUBY: I've found meself a husband herder,

SNATCHITT: I hope me new life won't be murder!

DEIRDRE: The message to take is to be good and true,

FATHER C: I'm working on the naughty list –

THEY ALL POINT OUT

ALL: - and watching you!

IF YOU ARE ABLE – IT SNOWS ON STAGE. IF HE CAN, RUDOLPH  
APPEARS OR RUNS ON.

NUMBER REPRISE Company
------------------------

**CURTAIN**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The idea behind this script was to come up with something seasonal but new whilst retaining many of the traditional pantomime elements. Every child understands who Father Christmas is so the story and setting work without too much explanation. There are a couple of familiar routines and a moral tale – just as you’d expect, we also have the dame, silly boy and baron-like figure in the shape of the Toy Professor. There is a reindeer (just the one) and I’ve written it in such a way that you can use either a full costume or just a head appearing over the stable door. Chorus-wise you can use just children or a mix of children and adults.

**TECHNICAL:****Act One:****Scene 1:**

Christmas music, shriek and footsteps montage: You could pre-record these effects or make them live.

Partly opened present containing jumper with detachable sleeve: So you need a box wrapped in Christmas paper with no top. The jumper needs to be very gaudy with one sleeve attached to it by Velcro for Deirdre to pull off.

2x party hats: For Snaffle and Snatchitt to wear.

Party hooter: For Snaffle.

Christmas stocking: For Deirdre.

**Scene 2:**

Clipboard with lots of sheets of coloured paper on it: For Ronnie.

Camera: Ruby has this in her handbag (ideally it should work and the flash should go off)

Mobile phone: Again, for Ruby to have in her bag.

Mobile phone ring: Pre-recorded effect.

Clip clop sound: To show Rudolph is on his way – a slow clop on some coconut shells would work.

**Scene 3:**

2x Practical lanterns: For Snaffle and Snatchitt – ideally they should work.

Map: Use a folded sheet of paper.

Squidgy noise: Representing them standing in poo. You can probably record something awful using a balloon and some water.

**Scene 4:**

Black box with aerial: For the Professor to bring on. As elaborate as you like – could have flashing lights etc.

Sack of letters: A large Santa sack stuffed with old newspapers. Around the top get some envelopes and glue them together into bunches and stitch them around the top so it appears as the letters are overflowing.

Buttonhole: For the Professor. Stitch various coloured silk scarves together and secrete behind the lapel on his costume with the end sticking through the buttonhole (which may have to be larger than normal). Shape to look like a flower.

Boxes with tricks: One suggestion is that during his number the Professor open various boxes and things jump out – like those snakes made of springs. If you can, let your imagination go wild.

Telephone: For the seasonal creature to carry on.

Ringling noise: Slightly different one than the mobile phone – but pre-recorded.

Whistle on string: Around the Professor’s neck.

Claxon sound: Pre-recorded.

This script is licensed for amateur theatre by NODA Ltd to whom all enquiries should be made. [www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk) E-mail: [info@noda.org.uk](mailto:info@noda.org.uk)



Weighted parcels: These are for the routine. Empty boxes containing heavy objects such as oranges, half bricks etc to allow them to slide down the ramps.

Elf booklet: A small notebook for Snaffle to read.

Fanfare: Keep it short.

### **Scene 5:**

Table and 3 gifts: On the table as 3 wrapped presents. One must have a lid which opens and on the inside of the lid in large letters it reads NUTS. Ideally, use red wrapping paper.

Mobile phone ring: As before.

Claxon: As before.

Mobil Phone: As before, for Ruby.

Notepad: A small notepad for the Professor.

### **Act Two:**

#### **Scene 1:**

Balloons, streamers and a table covered in food: You need a table covered in a cloth with platters of fake food decorated for a party. You could maybe tie some helium filled balloons to it.

Box of party hats: For Ronnie to bring on.

Box of party blowers: For Ruby to bring on.

Box of crackers: For the Professor to bring on.

Magic hat: For the routine. Something big and colourful.

Money: Snatchitt and Snaffle both use money. Make some from card.

#### **Scene 3:**

Trolley on which are eggs, frying pan, 2 bowls, whisk, string of sausages, and the comedy plate: You need a hostess trolley on wheels. You could use real eggs but make the string of sausages from tights. Take a thick pair and stuff one leg with dark tissue paper. At intervals tie it with cotton to make a sausage prop. For the comedy plate you need a wooden round or oblong 'tray' with sides of around 1.5" high. Paint the whole thing like a plate and make or buy some fake fried eggs to stick to it. Make a hole in the rim and thread a piece of wire through. On the outside twist it against the rim and use the rest of the wire to form a small handle. Inside, twist against the rim then thread onto the wire a fake sausage. When the little handle is turned the sausage should stand up. The sausage will need to be quite big to be seen by the audience.

Box with antenna: The Professor uses this – it could be the same one as before but ideally, it can be red with flashing lights.

#### **Scene 4:**

Pile of gifts on desk: On Santa's desk we need some wrapped presents with labels.

Paper: Smithers produces a piece of paper from his pocket.

Large present: The elves bring on something big and beautifully wrapped.

#### **Scene 5:**

Basket of snow balls: A nice large basket trimmed with tinsel which contains decent sized cotton wool balls.

Claxon sound: As before.

### **NUMBERS:**

Here are some suggestions:

Act One:

Scene 2:

Elves: *Sleigh Ride* or *The Most Beautiful Night of the Year* (and reprise)

Elves and Ronnie: *Here Comes Santa Claus* or *Santa Claus Is Coming To Town*.

Ruby, Ronnie and Rudolph: *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*.

Scene 3:

Snaffle and Snatchitt: *Poison Ivy* or *The Night Has A Thousand Eyes*.

Scene 4:

Toy Professor: *Laugh and Be Happy* or *Make 'Em Laugh*.

Toys: *March of The Toys* (from *Babes in Toyland*) as an instrumental.

Father Christmas and the Company: *White Christmas* or *Let It Snow*.

Scene 5:

The Company: *Having A Party* or *Dancin' In The Streets*.

Act Two:

Scene 1:

Ruby, Ronnie and Toy Professor: *Friendship* or *Put It There Pal*.

Snatchitt: *I'm Looking For A Woman* or *Frosty the Snowman*.

Scene 2:

Deirdre and Snaffle: *Crazy* (Patsy Cline version) or *If I Could Spend Christmas With You*.

Scene 3:

Ruby and Snatchitt (and possibly chorus): *How Do you Like Your Eggs in the Morning?*

Father Christmas, Snatchitt and Ruby: *Life Can Be Beautiful* (from *Smash Up*) or *Sing*.

Ruby and Ronnie: *Happiness* or *Zing Went My Heart Strings* (change from 'you' to 'he' in the lyrics) (and reprise)

Scene 4:

The Company: *Celebration* (Cool and the Gang) or *Happy Days*. (and reprise)

Scene 5:

Ronnie: *Ten Green Bottles* (change lyric to 'ten big snowballs lying in a row' etc)

The Company: *Santa Claus Is Coming To Town* or *Merry Christmas Everybody*.

## **COSTUMES**

Some ideas for those on limited budgets:

Father Christmas: Obviously a traditional red trousers and coat with fur trim. Black boots, white gloves and a belt. Whether he wears a hat is up to you – although he is indoors. He'll need a good mane of white hair, beard and moustache.

Reindeer Ruby: She's the dame so she needs something over-the-top like a full patched skirt, large blouse with leg of mutton sleeves, boots and a shawl.

The Toy Professor: Britches, stockings and shoes. An open neck shirt, waistcoat and neckerchief.

Reindeer Ronnie: Britches, stockings and shoes. A shirt and waistcoat – all in bright colours.

Rudolph: You can either create a full costume with two people inside it or just use a head. Make sure he has a red nose!

Snaffle and Snatchitt: Trousers, tunics and hats. They need elf costumes of Santa hats with bells on the end, green or red waistcoats, blouses, britches, stockings and pixie shoes. They need fake beards that can be quickly pulled off. They dress as elves in Act One, Scenes 4 and 5 only.

Dreadful Deirdre: Black shoes, stripy socks, blouse and a pinafore dress.

Smithers: Trousers, a white lab coat maybe with some fancy trimming on it and gloves.

Chorus: The elves, toys: As elves they have pixie hats, tunics, britches, stockings and shoes. The toys are flexible – you can use whatever costumes you can buy/make – toy soldiers, rag dolls, teddy bears or more modern versions like Buzz Lightyear or Barbie.

## SCENERY

Again, for those with limited budgets or space here are some basic suggestions:

### Act One:

1. Prologue: This can take place in front of the tabs or in front of a screen.
2. The Stables: A bit more space is needed and also, an indication that these are stables so a bale of hay maybe, some doors with the names of the reindeer over them or just one door perhaps with all the names. Rudolph has to appear so if you're using just a head then you need a door to open or a screen (about 4ft high) over which he can appear.
3. A Corridor: This could be using the tabs again as you don't need much space.
4. The Toy Factory: Ideally using the full stage with lots of piles of parcels and toys. You need room for the parcel shoots to run off into the wings and wing space enough for someone to send the parcels down. Be careful to ensure the planks are varnished or made of something nice and smooth. They'll need to be about 2ft wide and at a suitable angle to get a good speed on the drop. It'll require lots of practice.
5. The Stables: As before except that the table is set for the routine.

### Act Two:

1. The Toy Factory: You can remove the parcel shoots and replace with the party table.
2. A Corridor: Again, use the tabs if required.
3. The Toy Factory: As before.
4. Father Christmas's Office: You'll need a desk and a large chair. This could be on a truck maybe.
5. The Toy Factory: As before although you may wish to remove the party table to give you more room for the finale.

## CHARACTERS

Some notes to assist with the playing of the roles.

Father Christmas: He must be played as he's written – a little bit of humour but basically, straight down the line. All the other characters (except Deirdre) is in awe of him. No messing about.

Reindeer Ruby: Played by a male or female, she's the dame role. Mum to Ronnie and as usual, sex-starved, loving, basically a heart of gold. She has quite a bit to do including all the routines.

The Toy Professor: The mad professor really – wild hair and wild personality. He's as mad as a box of frogs. Quite a fun part for an older actor.

Reindeer Ronnie: The 'silly boy' part although he's not that daft. He looks after the elves and gets above himself now and again but basically he's a nice kid.

Rudolph: Whether he's played by two people in a 'skin' or we see just the head it's important to get the look right. Every child knows Rudolph so it's no good cheating them with a poor costume. It's not a panto cow – and is not played for laughs.

Snaffle and Snatchitt: The broker's men in essence. Comedy villains who are sent to kill Santa – but we know they have no intention of actually doing it. They have some

good comedy stuff and Snatchitt eventually falls for Ruby so the ages should be comparable.

Dreadful Deirdre: An over grown school bully (maybe played like Violet Elizabeth Bott from Just William) she represents all the bad and spoilt children of the world. However, like all panto villains she only wants to be loved and comes right at the end.

Smithers: The Professor's assistant. We discover that Deirdre knows him – she thinks he's on her side but he turns out to have been working for Santa all along and we find out he works on turning around the bad children.

Chorus: The elves: The elves are given personalities in Ronnie's business with them at the opening of scene 2. It would be good to work out what each elf does so that the actors can imbibe them with some personality of their own.

### **TOPICALITY:**

Throughout the script you'll find chances to add in local references – audiences always enjoy a mention of the local pub, football team and so on and it's usually a guaranteed laugh. You'll also find the occasional topical reference to TV personalities and so on – obviously, as time passes since this script was written the topicality of these references will wane. However, the same jokes have been used for decades with the current Prime Minister's name or the current famous TV chef's name added in – jokes about Fanny Craddock gave way to Delia Smith then to Jamie Oliver – but the gag stayed the same so please, simply update the reference.

