

NODA PRESENTS....

**FRANKENBOLT'S
FIRST
CHRISTMAS**

BY

STEVEN YEO

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A NOTE FROM THE WRITER

Although Christmas theme Pantomimes are not as common as the traditional family pantomimes, they can give the family audience a chance to re-capture the spirit of Christmas together. **FRANKENBOLT'S FIRST CHRISTMAS** does just that. It is full of Christmas sing-along and its characters enjoy much of the traditions of the festive time.

Frankenbolt's first ever Christmas, is an exciting time. His best friend Baby Brian is teaching him everything he needs to know to help make it the best Christmas ever. But since there hasn't been a Christmas in castle Van Hairpiece for years, they all must work at it. With a couple of mischievous rats and ghosts, a playful housekeeper, and the help from a stand in fairy god mother, Christmas may happen, eventually.

This pantomime has all of the traditional pantomime elements, with a dame and principle boy and Fairy god mother, but I have combined the elements of the skin (usually a horse or a cow) and baddy into the two mischievous rats who could each be dressed in a full one piece rat costumes if required.

The kitchen scene is an opportunity for some real slapstick fun, and the cellar scene, with its' ultra violet ghost dance, will have the younger audience members mesmerised. Every time the fairy enters the audience will be guessing what will go wrong next as she battles with the sound man for a correct sounding entrance, and the audience is very much a big part of the show from start to finish. I have also added a special Cameo appearance from the real Father Christmas for the very young to wonder at and so this actor needs to look the part.

Good luck!

STEVEN J YEO

OTHER TITLES AVAILABLE BY THE SAME AUTHOR

THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL

THE THREE CHOCOLATIERS

CAST LIST

Principle roles

Frankenbolt -
Dr. Van Hairpiece -
Esmerelda -
Baby Brian -
Ratchet -
Spanner -
Fairy Sid -
Father Christmas -

Supporting roles

Radio voice -
Child #1 #2 #3 -

Chorus

Rats -
Dancers -
Village Carol singers -
Ghosts -

LIST OF SCENES

ACT ONE

SCENE 1: The laboratory
 SCENE 2: Front of tabs
 SCENE 3: The library
 SCENE 4: The dungeons

ACT TWO

SCENE 1: The library
 SCENE 2: Front of tabs
 SCENE 3: The castle kitchen
 SCENE 4: Front of tabs
 SCENE 5: The library
 SCENE 6: The library (Christmas morning)

MUSIC/SONG SUGGESTIONS

Act 1: Scene 1

Time warp (By Richard O'Brien) (Suggestion only)

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing (Public Domain)

Act 1: Scene 4

I see the light (From Disney's Tangled)

Act 1: Scene 5

Silent Night (Public Domain)

Away in a Manger (Public Domain)

Act 2: Scene 1

Santa Clause is coming to town (By John Frederick Coots and Haven Gillespie) Bruce Springsteen version (Suggestion only)

Act 2: Scene 5

Jingle Bells (Public Domain)

I'm getting nothing for Christmas. (By Sid Tepper and Roy C. Bennett) (Suggestion only)

Act 2: Scene 6:

The twelve days of Christmas (Public Domain)

Alternative lyrics

1st day of Christmas = A bra that was meant to hold three. (Use a three-cupped bra)

2nd day of Christmas = Two rubber gloves

3rd day of Christmas = Three wellie boots (On a string)

4th day of Christmas = Four pots and pans (On a string)

5th day of Christmas = Five toilet rolls (On a string)

(After the eighth day these can be thrown into the audience for fun before singing the 5th day each time. The actor who sings will have to play "go fetch" for them)

6th day of Christmas = Six Wicker baskets (tied together for ease)

7th day of Christmas = Seven tatty frocks (On a string)

8th day of Christmas = Eight Christmas crackers (On a string)

9th day of Christmas = Nine smelly socks (On a string)

10th day of Christmas = Ten soggy sponges (On a string)

11th day of Christmas = Eleven cuddly toys (On a string)

12th day of Christmas = Twelve cups of water (Held in soak guns or water pistols kept off stage until the last minute slightly wet the audience. (When the cast sing from twelve to one for the last time, it will give the cast a chance to gather the props all up to exit)

Act 2: Scene 6

Cast Walk down music

So here it is, Merry Christmas (By Slade)

SOUND EFFECTS**Act 1 scene 1**

Electrical crackles and noises
 A Microwave Beep
 Heavy footsteps
 Doorbell
 Doorbell

Act 1 scene 2

Rumble of thunder
 Footsteps
 Rumble of thunder
 Footsteps
 Rumble of thunder
 Footsteps

Act 1 scene 3

Rumble of thunder
 Footsteps
 Rumble of thunder
 Footsteps
 Horse footsteps

Act 1 scene 4

Dripping water for duration of scene

Act 1 scene 5

Rumble of thunder
 Footsteps
 Small raspberry sound
 Raspberry footsteps
 Huge raspberry sound

Act 2 scene 1

Doorbell
 Frankenbolt Footsteps

Act 2 scene 2

Rumble of thunder
 Footsteps
 Rumble of thunder
 Raspberry Footsteps

Act 2 scene 3

Radio voice (if recorded)
 Gunshots 3 in a row
 Gunshot x1
 Gunshot x1

Act 2 scene 4

Rumble of thunder
 Raspberry footsteps
 Elephant footsteps
 Elephant trumpet

Act 2 scene 5

Doorbell

Act 2 scene 6

Sleigh bell footsteps.

LIGHTING EFFECTS

Act 1 scene 2

Flash of lights

Flash of lights

Flash of lights

Act 1 scene 2

Flash of lights

Flash of lights

Act 1 scene 3

None

Act 1 scene 4

U V lighting for ghosts

Act 1 scene 5

Flash of lights

Act 2 scene 1

None

Act 2 scene 2

Flash of lights

Flash of lights

Act 2 scene 3

None

Act 2 scene 4

Flash of lights

Act 2 scene 5

None

Act 2 scene 6

None

PROPS LIST

Act 1 Scene 1

Industrial hairdryer (set on stage)
Hand mirror (set on stage)
Large strong rustic table (set on stage)
Stool (set on stage)
Teddy bear (set on stage)
A bag of sweets (set off stage)
Empty sack with SWAG written on it (Spanner)
Letters (Esmerelda)
Feather duster (Esmerelda)

Act 1 scene 2

None required

Act 1 Scene 3

Large strong rustic table (set on stage)
One or two chairs at the table (set on stage)
A white table cloth (set on stage)
Various books (set on stage)
A monsters Christmas carol book (set on stage)
A laptop and mouse (Set on stage)
Shower cap (Fairy Sid)
A towel (Fairy Sid)
A loofah (Fairy Sid)
4 working torches (Baby Brian)

Act 1 Scene 4

Boxes of Christmas decorations (set on stage)
Working torches (1 for each cast member)

Act 1 Scene 5

Boxes of Christmas decorations (set on stage)
Large strong rustic table (set on stage)
One or two chairs at the table (set on stage)
A white table cloth (set on stage)
Various books (set on stage)
A Christmas tree to decorate (Dr. Van Hairpiece)
A tray of hot chocolate 1 for each cast member (Esmerelda)
Sweets for children (Esmerelda)
Small present (Child #3)
Two lanterns on poles
Glitter (Fairy Sid)
Shopping trolley full of groceries (Fairy Sid)
Sack with SWAG written on it (Spanner)
Spay can of black paint in swag sack (Spanner)
Rat disguises (Ratchet and Spanner)

Act 2 scene 1

A Christmas tree, decorated (Set on stage)
Parcel full of broken china (Baby Brian)

Act 2 scene 2

None

Act 2 scene 3

Large strong rustic table (set on stage)
Kitchen tablecloth (set on stage)
Radio (set on stage)
Large mixing bowl (set on stage)
Eggs one of which is blown empty
Rolling pin (set on stage)
Old fashioned egg whisk (set on stage)
Gun (set on stage)
Axe (set on stage)
Rabbit on fine fishing line (set on stage)
Speaking tube with funnel on end of it (set on stage)
Apron for Frankenbolt
Talcum powder (set off stage)
Cricket bat (set off stage)
Large piece of steak (Esmerelda set off stage)

Act 2 scene 4

None required

Act 2 scene 5

A Christmas tree, decorated (Set on stage)
Large strong rustic table (set on stage)
Stockings with cast names on them (Set on stage)
A plate of chocolate chip cookies (Baby Brian Set off stage)
A small glass of milk (Baby Brian Set off stage)
A carrot (Baby Brian Set off stage)
Note to Father Christmas (Dr. van Hairpiece)
Swag sack (Spanner)
Two parcels for rats (Father Christmas)
Sack full of presents (Father Christmas)
2 large pieces of cheese (Father Christmas)

Act 2 scene 6

A Christmas tree, decorated (Set on stage)
Lots of various presents under tree (set on stage)
Tray of eggnog and cocoa cola (Esmerelda Set off stage)
Rat parcels under tree (set on stage)
A 3-cupped bra
Two rubber gloves
Three Wellie boots (On a string)
Four pots and pans (On a string)
Five toilet rolls (On a string)
Six Wicker baskets (tied together for ease)

Seven tatty frocks (On a string)
Eight Christmas crackers (On a string)
Nine smelly socks (On a string)
Ten soggy sponges (On a string)
Eleven cuddly toys (On a string)
Twelve cups of water (Contained in squirt guns, water pistols or soaker guns)

COSTUMES

Frankenbolt - Wears black/charcoal trousers that are too short/or cut in the legs and a black /charcoal suit jacket too short/or cut in the arm, with heavy boots and a stripped tee shirt, not white.

Baby Brian - Wears a blue bell-boys type uniform with a hat to hide any long hair.

Dr. Van Hairpiece - needs to wear a white doctor's coat with an old fashioned dentist style mirror headpiece.

Esmerelda - Needs to wear a dress and coloured apron, not white.

Ratchet/Spanner - These two need to be identified as rats. A full one-piece rat suit is preferred but can be dressed in brown with separate ears, nose with whiskers and a long tail.

Fairy Sid - Dressed as a punk rocker fairy with a short tutu and striped stockings.

Father Christmas - Dressed in traditional Father Christmas style, white fur edged red suit, white hair and beard, with large red sack and black boots.

The Chorus - Will be dressed in Father Christmas style fur edged red dresses or skirts or trousers. They need black trousers for the U.V. ghost scene to cover legs.

ACT 1**SCENE 1 - THE LABORATORY**

Curtains open to reveal DR. HAIRPIECE at work in his laboratory. There is a large panel against a wall full of lights and buttons and a large strong rustic table centre backstage. There is also a stool to the side of the stage and a teddy bear next to it. Frankenbolt is led down, relaxed on the table with an industrial hair dryer on his head. Lots of sparks and flashes and electrical noises can be seen and heard. Enter the chorus who dance and sing to "The time warp" by Richard O'Brien or something similar.

Song 1 "The time warp" (Suggestion only)

Exit the chorus

DR. HAIRPIECE: Soon my creation will become reality. Just a few more minutes and I shall see my greatest creation ever. **(He twiddles with a few buttons on the Control panel)** All the years of experiments, all the electric bills everything has been leading to this moment.

A buzzer goes off.

DR. HAIRPIECE: At last! The time has come.

He removes the large hair dryer from Frankenbolt's head.

DR. HAIRPIECE: It's alive!

Frankenbolt sits upright. His hair totally on end looking electrified.

FRANKENBOLT: Of course I'm alive. I've only been having a nap.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Not you, your hair. It's my greatest creation ever.

FRANKENBOLT: **(Excitedly)** Ooh let me see. Pass me the mirror. I want to see.

Dr. Van Hairpiece passes him the mirror.

FRANKENBOLT: Oh, now you've really gone and out-done yourself this time. It is a masterpiece of design and elegance. How did you do it?

- DR. HAIRPIECE:** I borrowed the idea from [*Local celebrity's*] hairdresser and just vamped it up a bit.
- Frankenbolt steps down from the table with a thump from his heavy shoes.**
- FRANKENBOLT:** (**Looking at his feet**) I wish you could give my feet a make-over as well. Can't you pinch me a pair of feet from a dancer or something, to make me a little bit lighter on my feet?
- DR. HAIRPIECE:** Sadly, they all get cremated these days.
- FRANKENBOLT:** Oh, it's so hard getting spare parts.
- DR. HAIRPIECE:** All in good time my little monster, all in good time.
- FRANKENBOLT:** I wish you wouldn't keep calling me that. It's hard enough going down to [*local shop*] for a pint of milk to go on my cocoa pops. All the shoppers start screaming monster and start running away. You know like when [*local politician*] comes walking down the street.
- DR. HAIRPIECE:** Well that's a bit harsh on [*local Politician*]. What have they done to you?
- FRANKENBOLT:** Have they banned cremation yet?
- DR. HAIRPIECE:** Well no, but you can't expect a law like that to be passed.
- FRANKENBOLT:** Well they'll never get my vote until they do.
- DR. HAIRPIECE:** You've never actually voted, yet have you?
- FRANKENBOLT:** Well no.
- DR. HAIRPIECE:** And why is that?
- FRANKENBOLT:** Well there was a time when Halloween was the scariest day of the year now it's Election Day.
- Frankenbolt shudders. There is a short pause as Frankenbolt admires his hair in the mirror.**
- FRANKENBOLT:** You know what they say, if you're not part of the solution you are probably running for parliament.

DR. HAIRPIECE: What, they don't say that. Who says that?

Enter Esmerelda with the mornings post. She stops and looks innocently at the Dr who is scowling at her.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Oh yes, of course.

ESMERELDA: **(Innocently)** What?

She hands the post to DR. HAIRPIECE. He snatches it from her.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Could you kindly stop teaching Frankie your political views in future.

ESMERELDA: But he asked me for my opinion on who lives behind the big shiny door with number ten on it. We got talking and.... Yes OK, sorry doctor.

She notices Frankenbolt's new hair style.

ESMERELDA: Hey I like your hair Frankie boo.

FRANKENBOLT: Does it make me look more human?

ESMERELDA: It certainly makes you look taller.

The doorbell rings.

ESMERELDA: Oh I'll get it I'm expecting a delivery from monster chef.

Exit ESMERELDA.

DR. HAIRPIECE: So am I. It could be your new eyelashes Frankie.

FRANKENBOLT: Oh I hope so. I've had these for so long now.

Enter Baby Brian, who skips on stage and moves directly to the front of the stage.

BABY BRIAN: Hello boys and girls. **(Audience reaction)** I said hello boys and girls. **(Audience reaction)** I tell you what boys and girls, will you say hello Baby Brian, every time I arrive? **(Audience reaction)** You will? Oh, that's fantastic. Let's try it.

BABY BRIAN skips off stage. Frankenbolt and DR. HAIRPIECE look at each other in wonder. They look towards the audience but can't see anything. Baby Brian skips back on again. The audience will react.

BABY BRIAN: Hello Boys and girls. (**Audience reaction**) That was brilliant.

BABY BRIAN skips back to join the Doctor and Frankenbolt.

BABY BRIAN: Hello Doctor, hello Frankie.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Hello Brian. Who were you talking to?

BABY BRIAN: The boys and girls.

DR. HAIRPIECE: What boys and girls?

DR. HAIRPIECE and FRANKENBOLT move to the front of the stage and look, but cannot see the audience.

DR. HAIRPIECE: There's nobody there!

BABY BRIAN: Oh yes there is.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Oh no there isn't.

Baby Brian gets the audience to join in.

BABY BRIAN: Oh yes there is.

FRANKENBOLT: I can't hear them.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Yes, that reminds me, we must replace your ears too. Well, I can only just hear a little whisper from somewhere. Are you sure there is someone out there?

BABY BRIAN: Come on boys and girls, you're going to have to shout louder than that. After three, shout hello Baby Brian. Ready! One! Two! Three!

The audience will react.

DR. HAIRPIECE: I heard them that time. Oh yes, I can see them now. Ugly lot aren't they. (**Rubbing his hands together**) Maybe there are a few good parts amongst them.

- FRANKENBOLT:** Have any of you got a spare pair of feet I can have. My feet are killing me.
- DR. HAIRPIECE:** You can't ask them that, we don't know who they are. We'll get in trouble.
- FRANKENBOLT:** Well no; technically you'll get in trouble not me.
- DR. HAIRPIECE:** Yes, well I'm going before you do get me in trouble. I need to pay a few bills anyway. Catch you later Brain.
- BABY BRIAN:** Bye doctor see you tomorrow.
- The doctor exits. Baby Brian sits on the edge of the table.**
- BABY BRIAN:** Hey I like your hair Frankie. Shocking man!
- FRANKENBOLT:** Oh thank you Brian. Was there a delivery for me today?
- BABY BRIAN:** No sorry Frankie. Just loads of Christmas parcels.
- FRANKENBOLT:** Christmas? What is that?
- BABY BRIAN:** You don't know what Christmas is?
- FRANKENBOLT:** Well no. I've never seen Christmas here. What is it?
- BABY BRIAN:** You don't just see Christmas Frankie. You smell it, feel it and hear it. You completely experience the wonderful joy that is Christmas. Have you never had a Christmas?
- FRANKENBOLT:** No what is it?
- BABY BRIAN:** Oh dear. Frankie. Well then, we'll have to do something about that.
- BABY BRIAN jumps down from the table and moves to the front of the stage.**
- BABY BRIAN:** Will you help me boys and girls? (**Audience reaction**) Oh brilliant. We'll make sure Frankenbolt knows everything there is to know about Christmas. But where do we start? (**He walks across the stage and back again, with his hand on his chin, deep in thought**) OK, let's start by telling you the story of

Christmas. Come on, sit down here a while, I want to tell you a story.

BABY BRIAN beckons FRANKENBOLT to the stool at the side of the stage. FRANKENBOLT sits on it and eagerly awaits the story.

BABY BRIAN: If you are sitting comfortably, then I will begin.

FRANKENBOLT picks up a teddy by the side of the stool and starts to suck his thumb.

BABY BRIAN: A long, long time ago a little baby boy was born in a manger in a stable. His parents were too poor to afford a proper room for the night.

FRANKENBOLT: Can I stop you there? I'm so confused.

BABY BRIAN: Which part?

FRANKENBOLT: This little boy was born. Do you mean to tell me some horrible poor people stitched this poor little boy together, in a manger in a stable? Not even in a proper room. What were his parents thinking?

BABY BRIAN: Not everyone is stitched together like you were Frankie. Most of us are babies born into this world.

FRANKENBOLT: How are babies born?

BABY BRIAN: Ah, OK, we'll come back to that bit. So anyway, this baby boy was called Jesus Christ and that is where the name Christmas comes from because of his birthday. We celebrate his birthday every year, by giving and receiving presents, with everyone who loves us.

Frankenbolt starts to look sad.

BABY BRIAN: Why so sad now?

FRANKENBOLT: Nobody loves me. I've never had a present or a Christmas before.

BABY BRIAN: Oh dear. But I love you Frankie. We all love you don't we boys and girls? **(Audience reaction)** Don't we boys and girls? **(Audience reaction)** See the boys and girls love you too. I'm

going to get you a fabulous present for Christmas. One you will never forget.

FRANKENBOLT: You really mean it, because I have never had a present before?

BABY BRIAN: And, I'm going to teach you all about Christmas. We are going to go Carol singing, drink eggnog, eat Christmas pudding and roast turkey. You'll see, this is going to be the best Christmas ever.

FRANKENBOLT: The best Christmas ever?

BABY BRIAN: Yes, the best Christmas ever.

FRANKENBOLT: Oh I must run and tell my father.

FRANKENBOLT exits stage left BABY BRIAN walks to the front of the stage.

BABY BRIAN: **(stage whispers)** I deliver presents this time of year for a lot of the Panto land fairies. I'm going to ask the fairy god mother to help here at this castle. She'll know how to make it special. Shh. It's our secret boys and girls. **(Short pause while he looks around)** I have another secret too. Do you want to hear it boys and girls? **(Audience reaction)** well people call me baby because of my baby soft skin. It's so soft. And do you know why it's so soft? **(Audience reaction)** Well, **(Looks all around)** it's because I'm not a parcel delivery boy. **(He removes his hat to let his hair fall)** I'm a parcel delivery girl. My name is Briony not Brian. I've been pretending to be a boy just so that I can do the job. Boys get paid more than girls, it's not fair. They won't let girls deliver the parcels to all those strange places in panto land. They say it's too dangerous. Well we all know what nearly happened to little red riding hood and the three little pigs don't we? I know it's not fair but that's the way it is. And I love delivering parcels to castle Von Hairpiece here in *[local town]* because I get to see my good friend Frankenbolt. Well, **(Shyly)** he's more than a friend to me boys and girls. **(Holds his hand to his mouth so only the audience can hear)** I think I'm in love with him. Oh, he's so big and tall and ruggedly handsome. Oh, but you won't tell him, will you? Do you promise boys and girls? **(Audience reaction)** Oh, thank you.

Heavy footsteps can be heard off stage getting closer.

BABY BRIAN: Shh, he's coming back. **(Puts her hat back on hiding her hair)**

Enter FRANKENBOLT stage left.

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