

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

THE SWORD IN THE SCONE (The real true story of how Arthur became king)

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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)

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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

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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

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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)**

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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 stag)

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)

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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?

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- 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.

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- 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 I expect.
- 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

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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 Frankenkolt. 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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FRANKENBOLT: I told my dad but I don't think he was happy about it.

BABY BRIAN: Oh well never mind. The boys and girls will help make this the best Christmas ever. Now I have got to go and finish all my deliveries, but I'll see you later Frankie. Bye boys and girls. **(Shyly waves to FRANKENBOLT)** Bye Frankie.

BABY BRIAN exits stage left.

FRANKENBOLT: You know what boys and girls? Baby Brian makes me laugh. We all know she is really a girl but I can't understand why she cannot tell me and must keep pretending. **(Shyly)** I really like her to be honest. I know she is my only friend but she is my best friend. Even more than Esme is. But every time she is here, I get a funny feeling in here. **(Taps his heart)** and I don't understand why. Maybe she has given me a disease or something. Or, maybe I'm allergic to her perfume, because girls wear far too much perfume don't they boys **(Audience reaction)** but any way I'm glad she is my best friend. And I'm so glad she told me about Christmas. Oh, I wonder what eggnog and roast turkey taste like. I wonder what a Christmas carol sounds like too. **(He moves to the front of the stage)** Do you boys and girls know any Christmas carols? **(Audience reaction)** Do you really? **(Audience reaction)** Can you sing one, because I'd really like to hear one? **(Audience reaction)** Oh you will. That's fantastic. My script says the words are in your program, it's called "Hark the herald angels sing".

SONG 2 "HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING"

The chorus enter to sing amongst the audience as the music starts. Frankenbolt is smiling and conducting the singing. When the song is finished Frankenbolt starts clapping and encourages the audience to do the same as the chorus exits.

FRANKENBOLT: Oh, that was beautiful. It's the best Christmas carol I have ever heard. Well actually it's the first Christmas carol I have ever heard. But it's still the best. Oh, that was exciting, I best go and have a lie down now and recharge my batteries.

He moves to the table and lies down on it. He soon starts to snore. Enter Ratchet and spanner. Spanner is carrying an empty sack with swag written on it.

RATCHET: Oh what was that horrible squealing noise we just heard?

SPANNER: It sounded like someone was committing mass mouse murder. It was horrible.

Ratchet notices the audience and nudges Spanner to get his attention. Spanner notices and they both move to the front of the stage.

RATCHET: Here look out there. There are hundreds of them.

SPANNER: Oh yes. What do they want?

RATCHET: I don't know. Why don't you ask them?

SPANNER: They all look scary. No, you do it.

RATCHET: Don't be such a wimp. Go on.

Ratchet nudges Spanner and encourages him.

SPANNER: Oh, OK. What do you want from us?

Audience reaction Regardless of what they say.

SPANNER: You want what? **(Waits for audience reaction)** What Sweets? I haven't got any.

RATCHET: Well we better find some because they look hungry and we don't want them eating us.

They both look around the stage. Spanner finds a big bag of sweets off stage.

SPANNER: Here you go. Please don't eat us.

He throws handfuls of sweets to the boys and girls.

RATCHET: They'll be alright now. **(Pointing to an imaginary child in the audience)** Look that one's already eating his own fingers.

SPANNER: Phew, I thought we were goners then.

RATCHET: You didn't give away too many of those sweets, did you?

SPANNER: No, there're loads left. Why?

RATCHET: Great put them in the sack we can eat them later watching the Rat factor. Let's see what else there is to, um, borrow, shall we say.

The two look around the stage for other bits to borrow. Frankenbolt starts to stir on the table and starts to talk in his sleep.

FRANKENBOLT: Christmas; eggnog; hark the herald angels sing.

The two rats sneaks up to Frankenbolt.

RATCHET: **(Stage whispering)** Christmas, eggnog. Oh no he's caught it.

SPANNER: **(Stage whispering)** caught what Ratchet?

RATCHET pulls SPANNER to the front of the stage.

RATCHET: That horrible Christmas thing. You know when everyone gets all sappy and lovey-dovey.

SPANNER: Yuk. Yes, I remember. Everyone went down with it last year. It was in December I think.

RATCHET: Hang on its December now. Oh no, it's started again. Quick let's get out of here before he wakes up and breathes on us.

They both exit sharply. Enter Esmerelda with her feather duster.

ESMERELDA: Oh a woman's work is never done. **(Pointing at FRANKENBOLT with her duster)** Oh, look at him. He's so angelic when he's asleep. **(She dusts Frankenbolt and moves to the front of the stage. She notices the audience)** Oh, hello my dears. What are you all doing here? My name is Esmerelda and I'm the housekeeper and cook and well, everything else for Dr. Van Hairpiece, here in his castle. It gets very dusty in this old place and I seem to dust every day. **(She dusts all the way into the audience and stops at a man in the audience)** Oh, now you look really, dirty. I bet you are dirty, aren't you? You're a real dirty boy. Are you married? **(Tries to get a reaction from him)** I mean, you could be, just saying the word, dirty boy, and I could come and clean house for you. **(Blows him a big kiss and dusts various men on the way back to the stage, singing the holy and the ivy, ending at the side of Frankenbolt)** Oh, it may be dusty, but I love it here in *[local town]* castle, the people are so friendly. Poor Frankenbolt seems to get a bit of a rough time though.

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Frankenbolt wakes up. He sits up on the table and listens unnoticed by ESMERELDA.

ESMERELDA: If I looked like him, with those big bolts holding my head on, I'd probably frighten everyone too.

Frankenbolt quietly climbs down from the table and stands behind Esmerelda.

ESMERELDA: But he doesn't frighten me. He's all cute and cuddly to me. He could never scare me in a million years.

Frankenbolt puts his hands in the air and roars. Esmerelda turns to face him and completely ignores his roar. She looks at him and pinches his cheek.

ESMERELDA: He's my little Frankie boo. Aren't you Frankie?

She starts to tickle him. He starts to laugh.

FRANKENBOLT: Oh Esme, stop it. You know I'm ticklish there.

She tickles him some more.

ESMERELDA: Tickle, tickle.

Frankenbolt stamps his foot.

FRANKENBOLT: **(Angrily)** stop it!

ESMERELDA: Frankenbolt Van Hairpiece, don't you stamp your feet and raise your voice to me.

FRANKENBOLT: **(Sheepishly)** I'm sorry Esme.

ESMERELDA: Good boy, Frankie boos. Now, did you have a good nap?

FRANKENBOLT: Yes thank you, Esme. I dreamed all about Christmas.

ESMERELDA: Christmas? Oh yes you were a June creation weren't you. So, this will be your first Christmas. Are you getting excited yet?

FRANKENBOLT: I think so. Baby Brian says he's going to get me the most wonderful present ever; one that I will never forget.

- ESMERELDA:** Oh he did, did he? Well you will just have to see what father Christmas brings you, won't you?
- FRANKENBOLT:** Who is Father Christmas?
- ESMERELDA:** Oh dear you are new to this aren't you? Father Christmas comes to your house, on Christmas Eve, when you are sleeping, and delivers lots of presents under the Christmas tree if you are a good boy or monster and only, if you're good.
- FRANKENBOLT:** Oh, have I been a good monster? Will I get lots and lots of Christmas presents under the Christmas tree?
- ESMERELDA:** Maybe. You'll just have to wait and see. We'll have to convince the doctor to get a Christmas tree first. Oh, the last time I saw anything Christmassy in this castle was about, let me see, yes, ten years ago at least.
- FRANKENBOLT:** So why doesn't daddy get a Christmas tree any more then?
- ESMERELDA:** Well we use to have Christmas here every year. We used to have big parties with lots of friends. You could always catch me in the pantry with some man or another. I mean, I was always rushed off my feet with preparations. It seemed like we were having a party or friends would come around every night. **(Lost in her memories)** Ah that was the good old days.
- FRANKENBOLT:** But why did it stop if it was so much fun?
- ESMERELDA:** Well his wife... your mother I suppose, she got ill and died.
- FRANKENBOLT:** Mummy died?
- ESMERELDA:** Well she wasn't really your mother, was she? You were made in June and she died a long time ago. Anyway, those were sad times. The doctor got very sad and didn't want to see anyone or have friends around anymore. No parties or celebrations and so eventually they all stopped coming. I haven't seen a man here since. **(Pointing at the same man in audience)** apart from you dear. **(Mouths the words)** Call me.
- FRANKENBOLT:** But he seems to be a lot happier, now doesn't he?

- ESMERELDA:** Yes, he does and that is because of you. I've never seen him so happy as the day he flicked the switch and you started to moan and grumble, just like men do.
- FRANKENBOLT:** So if he is happy now maybe we could have Christmas here again. Oh, Esme do you think we could?
- ESMERELDA:** Well maybe we could. I tell you what I'll ask him and see what he says. But I'm not promising anything.
- FRANKENBOLT:** Oh thank you Esme.
- ESMERELDA:** You're welcome my little Frankie boos. **(She pinches his cheek)** Now it's time you did your school work. Today is book day. So, go to the castle library and find yourself a book to read.
- FRANKENBOLT:** Oh, do I have to?
- ESMERELDA:** Yes you do.
- FRANKENBOLT:** Oh, but I don't want to.
- ESMERELDA:** Frankensolt Van Hairpiece you are to go to the library and find a book to read this instant.
- FRANKENBOLT:** Oh, OK Esme.
- He starts to walk away.**
- ESMERELDA:** Why don't you find yourself a book all about Christmas? Look for a book called "A Monster Christmas carol" by Charles the hatchet Dickens. You'll enjoy that one, it's a classic.
- FRANKENBOLT:** OK Esme I will. Thank you. "A monster's Christmas Carol".
- FRANKENBOLT exits. ESMERELDA continues to dust the set for a few seconds until the doorbell rings.**
- ESMERELDA:** **(To audience)** Oh, I hope that's a delivery from Monster chef. I'm waiting for my slime pie ingredients to arrive. Oh, how Frankie boos loves his slime pie. Bye, bye my dears. **(Mouths to man in audience)** Call me.
- She exits.**

Blackout and Curtains**SCENE TWO – FRONT OF TABS**

Enter the FAIRY GOD MOTHER front of tabs. She crosses the stage. When the FAIRY GOD MOTHER stops, there is suddenly a flash of lights and a rumble of thunder then footsteps are heard, all after the fact.

FAIRY SID: (To sound man) look, that was a bit late. I know I'm not everyone's first choice for Fairy God mother but can we at least get the entrance right. I'm sorry boys and girls but we need to do that again.

She exits. There is a flash of lights and a rumble of thunder but no footsteps. FAIRY GOD MOTHER Peers around the front tabs.

FAIRY SID: (Stage whispers to sound man) Pssst. Where are the footsteps?

There is a short pause and the FAIRY GOD MOTHER enters anyway

FAIRY SID: Oh don't worry I'm here now.

She crosses the stage and stops in the middle. The sound of footsteps is heard after she stops.

FAIRY SID: Hello boys and girls. I'm the fairy god mother today. My name is Sid. I'm just filling in at short notice for Fairy sparkle who is feeling a bit under the weather today. She's lost her sparkle so to speak. **(She laughs)** Fairy Sparkle lost her sparkle, under the weather. Oh, please yourselves. I'm here today in all my magnificence, to grant these poor people their heartfelt wishes. **(There is a short pause)** But that's the problem. I'm winging it. I don't know who I'm supposed to be fairy god mother too. Fairy sparkle didn't give me the job sheet, or the script, so I don't know what's going to happen in this show, any more than you do. Now I know it has something to do with Christmas so, maybe you boys and girls can help me. Have you seen a tiny Tim tonight? **(Audience reaction)** No? What about Pinocchio? **(Audience reaction)** No? What about Cinderella? **(Audience reaction)** Then I'm stumped. I haven't got a clue. So, what shall I do? **(Short pause)** Oh I know. I can use the wishing spell. Then whenever someone makes a wish, I will magically appear. Do you think

that's a good idea boys and girls? **(Audience reaction)** Me too! OK. Here goes. The wish spell, let's see if I can remember. If a wish is made, straight from the heart, may the fairy god mother appear, and fart! Oh no. I'm sorry boys and girls that's wrong. I'll try again. If a wish is made, straight from the heart, may the fairy god mother appear, no matter what! **(Waves her wand)** Yes that should do it. OK boys and girls I'm off. Bye, bye boys and girls. **(She stands waiting for sound effects. Nothing happens)** And I'm off.

Again, she stands waiting for her sound effects. Nothing happens. Frustrated she exits anyway. Then the sound effects happen. She rushes back on just as they finish. Disappointed she exits again. When she is gone the sound of footsteps can be heard.

Blackout.

Scene three – the library

Curtains open to reveal a library with wall to wall books. The backstage wall has a large fireplace and mantle over it. The rustic table is now covered with a white table cloth with a laptop closed on it. FRANKENBOLT is sat at the table reading a book. Enter BABY BRIAN.

BABY BRIAN: Ah, there you are. Hello Frankie. What are you doing?

FRANKENBOLT: Oh hello Brian. I'm reading a book all about Christmas. It's brilliant. This old man called Ezabarnicle Scrumphy is tight with his money and no one likes him. So, his friend, who is dead, makes some other ghosts come and scare him until he is nicer and gives all his money away.

BABY BRIAN looks at the cover of the book.

BABY BRIAN: Oh a Monsters Christmas Carol. I haven't read that one.

FRANKENBOLT: You can borrow it after me if you like. Have you finished your deliveries already today?

BABY BRIAN: Yes, I like to start early this time of the year so I can get home early and put my feet up in front of the fire. What are you doing tonight Frankie?

- FRANKENBOLT:** Nothing really. Why?
- BABY BRIAN:** I thought you might like to come with me to the forest and help me get a Christmas tree. Maybe you can get one for here too.
- FRANKENBOLT:** Oh yes please. But I'm not sure my dad will let me go out in the dark. Bad things happen when I go out in the dark.
- BABY BRIAN:** Like what?
- FRANKENBOLT:** Well last time I went to [local shops] in the dark, it started a riot and people chased me back home and stormed the castle.
- BABY BRIAN:** Oh dear well, maybe we should play safe and use the world-wide spiders web and order one online.
- FRANKENBOLT:** I think that may be best. And if we order it online you will have to deliver it.
- BABY BRIAN:** Yes, I suppose I will. OK come on then, where is your computer? If we order it today it may get here by tomorrow.
- FRANKENBOLT:** Oh here it is I was doing some homework on it.
- FRANKENBOLT opens the laptop and they both look at it. He types in a search request.**
- FRANKENBOLT:** What's best, Gurgle or eekbay?
- BABY BRIAN:** Oh eekbay every time.
- Enter DR. HAIRPIECE**
- DR. HAIRPIECE:** Hello you two. What are you up to?
- BABY BRIAN:** Hello doctor. We're looking for a Christmas tree.
- FRANKENBOLT:** On the world-wide spider's web.
- DR. HAIRPIECE:** Christmas. We don't celebrate Christmas in my castle.
- FRANKENBOLT:** But dad. I've never even seen a Christmas. Oh, go on please.
- DR. HAIRPIECE:** No definitely not. No way. No never.

BABY BRIAN: But doctor, sir, Frankie wants to have a Christmas just like all the other boys and girls.

DR. HAIRPIECE: The other boys and girls don't celebrate Christmas.

BABY BRIAN: Oh yes, they do!

DR. HAIRPIECE: Oh, no they don't.

Back and forth with the audience

BABY BRIAN: See I told you. Now can Frankie have a Christmas this year? Please doctor Hairpiece. Please let him.

FRANKENBOLT: Oh, please dad. Please, please, please, please.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Oh, I don't know.

FRANKENBOLT: Pretty, please with whipped cream on top.

DR. HAIRPIECE: I'm not sure.

FRANKENBOLT: Pretty, please with whipped cream on top and a cherry on the top of that.

DR. HAIRPIECE: I don't know.

FRANKENBOLT: Pretty, please with whipped cream on top and a cherry on the top of that, with more whipped cream and sprinkles on top of it all.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Oh, if you put it like that. **(Reluctantly)** Yes, we can have a Christmas this year.

FRANKENBOLT rushes over to the Doctor and gives him a big bear hug lifting him off the ground, turning around at the same time.

FRANKENBOLT: Oh thank you, thank you, thank you daddy. You're the best.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Put me down before I change my mind.

FRANKENBOLT puts the doctor back down.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Or you break my ribs. But we can't afford to buy anything at all. My last electric bill was over a thousand pounds and I haven't got any more money left.

BABY BRIAN: Oh dear; that is a shame. But we can go to the forest and chop down a tree and make all the decorations ourselves. I can show you how Frankie.

FRANKENBOLT: Oh yes that would be fun. Oh dad, can we, can we?

DR. HAIRPIECE: No. You are not going out to the forest or anywhere else. You know what happens when you go out.

FRANKENBOLT and BABY BRIAN look disappointed.

DR. HAIRPIECE: I'll tell you what. Someone needs to go down to the dungeons and have a look to see what we have got lying around from when we did have Christmas's here, it was a long, long time ago. I bet there is a tree and loads of decorations. But I, for one, am not going down there. It's full of cobwebs and spiders and lots of horrible creepy crawlies. And there's a ghost.

FRANKENBOLT and BABY BRIAN hold on to each other, scared.

FRANKENBOLT/BABY BRIAN: A ghost!

FRANKENBOLT: Oh I don't like ghosts. In the book I just read, they were horrible to mister Scrumpy.

BABY BRIAN: I agree with you Frankie. I don't like ghosts either. No way am I going to go down there on my own.

FRANKENBOLT: So who is going to have a look then?

Enter ESMERELDA singing Deck the halls with boughs of holly.

ESMERELDA: It's the season to be jolly. Tra la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la.

Everyone looks at ESMERELDA. She sees them looking and gets worried.

ESMERELDA: What are you all looking at me like that for?

DR. HAIRPIECE: Esmerelda, we've decided to have Christmas this year at [local town] castle, so I need you to go down to the dungeons and fetch up all the Christmas decorations and trees etc. Please.

ESMERELDA: Oh, no I will not. I haven't been down there and dusted for years. Not since that ghost chased me away. It's all dark and horrible down there.

FRANKENBOLT: Well someone must go down and fetch it all, or we can't have a Christmas.

ESMERELDA: Well we'll just have to order Christmas online this year.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Oh, no we are not. We haven't got any money left after I just paid the electric bill. So, no choice, someone must go down to the dungeon and fetch Christmas back up here so Frankie can have his first Christmas.

FRANKENBOLT: Oh I wish someone would help us collect Christmas.

The cast talk amongst themselves. Suddenly there is a flash of lights and the sound of thunder. Enter FAIRY SID unnoticed by the cast, wearing a towel and a shower cap carrying a loofah. She walks to the front centre of the stage. When she stops the sound of footsteps can be heard.

FAIRY SID: Hang on a moment that's not fair. I was just about to get into the shower. Oh, dear what am I going to do now? They can't see me like this. Quick boys and girls, when they ask you, tell them to all go together. Can you do that for me so I can go finish my shower? **(Audience reaction)** Oh you will? That's great. Thank you ever so much.

She exits. When she is out of sight the lights flash and the sound of thunder can be heard. She rushes back on as it finishes.

FAIRY SID: **(To sound man)** Oh still doing it are we.

She waves her loofah at the sound man and exits again but this time to the sound of horse footsteps.

BABY BRIAN: Oh what are we going to do boys and girls? No one wants to go down to the dungeons alone. Especially now it sounds like thunder and a storm is near. What can we do? **(Audience reaction)** What? Go down together? Oh, that is a great idea.

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(Looking to the others) Everyone, the boys and girls said we should all go down to the dungeons together. That's a great idea.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Well they do say there is safety in numbers.

ESMERELDA: OK let's do it. But I'm not going first.

DR. HAIRPIECE: What do you say Frankie? Shall we all go and collect Christmas together?

FRANKENBOLT: Yes. I can be big and brave, let's do it together.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Ah. Sorry. I just remembered that I turned off all the lighting down there trying to save electric a couple of years ago. It'll be too dark to see anything down there now.

BABY BRIAN: Oh dear. Wait, hang on! I know. I Have lots or torches in my house. My mum keeps them around from when the Doctor here causes power cuts from using too much electric from time to time. I'll go and have a look for them.

BABY BRIAN rushes off stage.

ESMERELDA: And I hope you are not expecting me to cook up a feast for Christmas without anything in the larder.

FRANKENBOLT: Oh yes please, we have got to have turkey and Christmas pudding and eggnog.

DR. HAIRPIECE: You're too young for eggnog Frankie. Esmerelda are you telling me that we have ran out of food?

ESMERELDA: I was just going to do this month's shopping, but if you spent all the money on the electric bill then, yes, we've ran out of food.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Oh dear. Well don't panic I'll think of something.

Enter BABY BRIAN.

BABY BRIAN: I found them. I got four torches, but I'm not sure how long the batteries will last so maybe we had better get on with it.

BABY BRIAN gives them all a torch and then everyone except the doctor starts to move stage left.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Where are you all going to?

They all stop.

FRANKENBOLT: To fetch Christmas from the dungeon.

DR. HAIRPIECE: We'll yes, I know that, but why don't we use the secret passage way, it's quicker.

DOCTOR VAN HAIRPIECE opens the secret door stage right and they all exit.

Blackout

SCENE FOUR - THE DUNGEONS

Scene opens front of tabs. Or the library scene can be used if the stage is dark enough. Three boxes need to be pushed on stage left while stage is dark. THE CHORUS enter dressed as Bright white ghosts and dance under an Ultra Violet light silently to "I see the light" Other ghostly bright white or coloured shapes can be illuminated in various places around the stage.

SONG 3: "I SEE THE LIGHT"

The Ultra Violet light is turned off. Exit all the ghosts. Re-enter stage right DOCTOR VAN HAIRPIECE followed by ESMERELDA then FRANKIE and finally BABY BRIAN. They are all holding torches to their faces. ESMERELDA's torch is not turned on yet. The sound of dripping water can be heard throughout this scene.

DR. HAIRPIECE: I said it would be dark down, here didn't I?

BABY BRIAN: Yes, it is doctor. And it smells very damp too.

FRANKENBOLT: I hope we don't see that ghost.

ESMERELDA: OOOOOOOO.

BABY BRIAN: Who, who said that?

BABY BRIAN holds on to FRANKENBOLT.

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ESMERELDA: OOOOOOOO.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Frankie, come stand by me. We best stick together. It sounds like the ghost.

The three of them huddle together as ESMERELDA stands in front of them ready for the torch to turn on.

ESMERELDA: OOOOOOOO.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Esmerelda you better come and stand with us too.

Silence.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Esmerelda! Where are you?

ESMERELDA turns on her torch and lights up her face directly in front of them.

ESMERELDA: BOO!

The three of them scream as they see her face.

ESMERELDA: **(laughing)** it's me silly. Esme! It was a joke.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Esmerelda don't do that again. We thought you were that horrible ghost.

FRANKENBOLT: Yes Esme. Don't do that again. I nearly wet my pants.

BABY BRIAN: Speak for yourself I think I did.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Come on everyone. Let's all look around for these Christmas decorations and get out of here. If I remember right, they are in 3 big boxes.

They all look around the dungeon for the boxes. The illuminated ghost appears behind them.

GHOST: OOOOOOOO.

The ghost disappears.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Esmerelda stop making that ghost noise. It is not funny anymore.

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ESMERELDA: I didn't say anything. I'm standing next to you.

FRANKENBOLT: I'm scared. Can we please hurry up and find the boxes?

BABY BRIAN: Yes please let's hurry up and find the boxes.

The illuminated ghost appears again.

GHOST: OOOOOOOO.

The ghost disappears again.

BABY BRIAN: Was that the ghost boys and girls? **(Audience reaction)** Oh dear, if you see it again will you tell us. **(Audience reaction)** Oh brilliant. Just shout out ghost when you see it so we can be prepared.

They walk to stage left looking for boxes. The illuminated ghost appears stage right.

GHOST: OOOOOOOO.

The audience react as the four of them move to the front of the stage. The ghost exits stage right.

BABY BRIAN: You saw it where? **(Audience reaction)** Where? **(Audience reaction)** That side. **(Looks stage right)** It's not! **(Audience reaction)** Oh, no it's not.

Back and forth with the audience as the illuminated ghost appears stage left and moves behind them. Crosses the stage and exits stage right.

FRANKENBOLT: Where, behind us?

They all look behind.

FRANKENBOLT: Oh, no it's not. **(Audience reaction)** Oh, no it's not.

Back and forth with the audience ESMERELDA trips over a box.

ESMERELDA: I found one of the boxes. I'm taking it upstairs. Now hurry up will you.

ESMERELDA exits stage left. The cast move stage left. The illuminated ghost appears stage right and crosses the stage behind them then back again and exits stage right.

BABY BRIAN: On no not again. Which way did he go boys and girls? (**Audience reaction**) That way! (**Pointing stage right**) Oh then we're going this way.

They all move stage left. DR. HAIRPIECE trips over a box.

DR. HAIRPIECE: I found a box too. I'm taking it upstairs boys. Will you bring the other one? And hurry up.

DR. HAIRPIECE exits stage left. The illuminated ghost appears stage right and moves to the side of them.

BABY BRIAN: He's back again? (**Audience reaction**) The ghost is back again. Oh, thank you boys and girls. But, where is it? (**Audience reaction**) Where?

BABY BRIAN cuddles into FRANKENBOLT.

BABY BRIAN: Oh Frankie if we don't make it back upstairs I just want you to know...

FRANKENBOLT: I know you're a girl.

BABY BRIAN: No, but yes, I mean how did you know?

FRANKENBOLT: We've all known for ages. I don't know why you keep pretending.

BABY BRIAN: I only keep it up because if they found out I was a girl then I would lose my job, and I wouldn't be able to deliver parcels here. And that means I wouldn't be able to see you very often. And I like seeing you Frankie.

FRANKENBOLT: I like seeing you too. I look forward to your visits.

They hold hands.

BABY BRIAN: Oh Frankie you're my best friend in the world.

FRANKENBOLT: You're my best friend in the world too.

They move closer almost kissing. The illuminated ghost appears and the audience react. FRANKENBOLT turns around and sees the ghost.

FRANKENBOLT: You leave my girlfriend alone.

FRANKENBOLT roars at the ghost. The ghost sees FRANKENBOLT and it screams and runs away and exits stage right.

BABY BRIAN: Oh well done Frankie, you saved me. You're my hero. Oh, but, you called me your girlfriend. **(Takes him by the hand)** Am I really your girlfriend?

FRANKENBOLT: Yes, **(Sheepishly)** if you want to be.

BABY BRIAN: Yes please.

They almost kiss again. But BABY BRIAN notices the box.

BABY BRIAN: Oh, look there's the last box. Quick let's get it upstairs before that horrible ghost comes back again.

FRANKENBOLT: Right behind you Brian.

They exit stage right with the last box of decorations.

SCENE FIVE - THE LIBRARY

Enter BABY BRIAN and FRANKENBOLT stage right through the secret door back into the library, carrying the box.

BABY BRIAN: You showed that ghost a thing or two Frankie.

FRANKENBOLT: But I didn't do anything. I only looked at him.

BABY BRIAN: Yes, but you scared him away. You're my hero. Well done. Now we have all the Christmas decorations up from the dungeon. All we got to do is find a tree and we can start decorating it.

FRANKENBOLT: But I don't know what to do. Will you show me how to do it Brian?

BABY BRIAN: Of course I will Frankie.

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Enter DR. HAIRPIECE Stage left with the biggest Christmas tree the stage doors allow.

DR. HAIRPIECE: I found the tree while on my way back. I remember this one. What a beauty.

FRANKENBOLT: Oh it looks a bit bare, doesn't it?

BABY BRIAN: Of course it does. Now we should put all the Christmas decorations on it. And play some Christmas carols as we do it.

DR. HAIRPIECE: No, we are saving electric. Why don't you get your imaginary friends to sing something to us?

BABY BRIAN: What a great idea. Will you sing us a song boys and girls?
(Audience reaction) Oh please sing us a song while we decorate the tree. **(Audience reaction)** Oh thank you. If you look in your program again you will see the words for silent night. If you sing it, we will decorate the tree.

Enter the chorus who join the audience to sing.

SONG 4 "SILENT NIGHT"

The chorus and audience sing the song while FRANKENBOLT, BABY BRIAN and DR. HAIRPIECE decorate the tree. When the song has finished, enter ESMERELDA stage left with a tray full of mugs of hot chocolate as the chorus exit.

ESMERELDA: We must have hot chocolate while we decorate the tree.

They all drink their chocolate and decorate the tree for a short while then the doorbell rings.

FRANKENBOLT: That will be Brian again with another parcel.

BABY BRIAN: It's not me silly. I'm here already.

FRANKENBOLT: Oh yes, silly me. So, if it is not Brian, who can it be?

ESMERELDA: Don't worry Frankie boos, I'll go and see who it is.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Thank you Esme.

The three continue to decorate the tree until ESMERELDA enters stage left with a few small children carrying lanterns on canes and the chorus.

ESMERELDA: Look its a few children from the village below. They are carol singing.

BABY BRIAN: Oh that's wonderful. You can see what it's like to be carol singing now Frankie.

FRANKENBOLT: Oh do you think they might let me join in with them?

BABY BRIAN: They might. Why don't you go and ask them?

FRANKENBOLT moves towards the children.

FRANKENBOLT: Can I help you sing your Christmas carol please? I hope I don't scare you.

CHILD #1: You don't scare us mister.

CHILD #2: Of course you can help us.

CHILD #3: The more the merrier.

The children and the stage cast gather around the Christmas tree and sing "Away in a manger".

SONG 5 AWAY IN A MANGER

FRANKENBOLT: Oh that was fantastic. Hang on children, you have got to have some sweets to say thank you for singing such a beautiful song and this is my first Christmas you know.

ESMERELDA: Oh, don't worry Frankie boos I've got loads here in my apron for them.

ESMERELDA removes some sweets from her apron and gives them to the children.

CHILD #1: Excuse me mister, but is this really your first Christmas?

FRANKENBOLT: Yes, it is.

CHILD #2: Then we would like to give you a little present.

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- CHILD #3:** **(Gives a small present to FRANKENBOLT)** Happy first Christmas mister.
- FRANKENBOLT:** Oh wow! My first present ever! Thank you very much.
- CHILD #1:** But don't open it until Christmas morning.
- FRANKENBOLT:** Oh but I want to open it now.
- DR. HAIRPIECE:** Frankie! Not until Christmas. You heard the children.
- FRANKENBOLT:** Oh OK. Thank you very much again children, for my first present ever.
- ESMERELDA:** Come on then children say goodbye. Let's get you home safe.
- The children wave goodbye to the cast as ESMERELDA shuffles them and the chorus to exit stage left.**
- BABY BRIAN:** The tree looks wonderful Frankie, doesn't it?
- FRANKENBOLT:** Yes it does and I have got my first present to put under the tree now.
- BABY BRIAN looks at his watch.**
- BABY BRIAN:** Oh, look at the time. I better get home for my tea. See you tomorrow Frankie. Bye boys and girls.
- BABY BRIAN exits stage left.**
- DR. HAIRPIECE:** Yes, I better get on with my work or we won't have any money to buy food for Christmas. I'll catch you later Frankie.
- DR. HAIRPIECE exits stage left. FRANKENBOLT moves to the front of the stage.**
- FRANKENBOLT:** Look boys and girls. I was given my first Christmas present by the children. Wasn't that nice of them? Dad says I'm not allowed to open it until Christmas. Do you have to wait until Christmas before you open your presents? **(Audience reaction)** You do. Oh, but that's not fair, is it? I want to open it now. Oh well if I'm not allowed to open it then I better put it under the tree where it will be safe. **(He puts the present under the tree)** Will you look after my present boys and girls? Will you tell me if anyone tries to steal

it? **(Audience reaction)** You will. Oh, that's great. But I think we better have a practice. I tell you what, you shout out Frankie as loud as you can. Ready one two three. **(Audience reaction)** Oh you can shout louder than that one two three. **(Audience reaction)** Oh that's fantastic. Now if anyone tries to steal my present you call me as loud as you can. Oh, thank you boys and girls. **(He starts to yawn and stretch his arms)** I feel very tired now after all that excitement. I better have a nap to recharge my batteries here in this chair. I wish this would be the best Christmas in the world ever. **(Yawn)** See you later.

FRANKENBOLT falls to sleep in the chair. Enter FAIRY SID pushing a shopping trolley full of groceries. When she has entered the lights flash and there is a sound of thunder. She walks to the middle of the stage.

FAIRY SID: Oh no, not again. I was doing my shopping.

Suddenly there is a sound of footsteps.

FAIRY SID: **(To sound man)** really! You still can't get it right?

A loud sound of a raspberry is heard.

FAIRY SID: I can turn you into a frog if you like. Keep this up and I might. Now, where was I? Ah yes *[Local supermarket]* doing my shopping. So, if I am here and now, then someone must have made a heartfelt wish again. **(Sees the audience)** Ah did you see who made the wish boys and girls? **(Audience reaction)** Who? That monster there! Did he make a wish? **(Audience reaction)** So he is the one I'm supposed to be fairy god mother to. Well at least I can drop the wish spell now, or next time I might be sat on the toilet or something. That would be embarrassing, wouldn't it? **(Laughs to herself as she walks up to FRANKENBOLT)** So he wants his first Christmas to be the best in the world ever. Well then let's see what we can do with a little fairy magic shall we. **(She sprinkles some glitter over FRANKENBOLT)** I'm going to keep a close eye on this one now. I think we can give him what he wants. OK boys and girls thank you for your help. I will see you later. I've got lots of things to do. Bye for now.

She waves good bye to the audience and waits for her sound effects. A huge raspberry is heard along with some flashing lights. FAIRY SID exits stage left pushing her trolley to the sound of footsteps. Enter RATCHET and SPANNER stage right.

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- RATCHET:** **(Looks at the tree)** I see all this Christmas rubbish has started again. Look at this tree, it's too colourful.
- SPANNER:** Yes too bright. Shall we give it a nice coat of boring black? Just how we like it?
- SPANNER removes a spray can from his sack.**
- RATCHET:** No leave it. Let's see if they've put any chocolate on the tree like they did in the village last year.
- They both look all over the tree but there is no chocolate.**
- SPANNER:** Nothing. No chocolate coins or chocolate reindeer. BORING!
- RATCHET notices the present under the tree.**
- RATCHET:** Hey spanner, look. There is a present under the tree.
- SPANNER:** Cor! I'm having that.
- The audience will react.**
- RATCHET:** No, I saw it first.
- Audience reaction as FRANKENBOLT wakes up. The rats see him and quickly exit stage right before FRANKENBOLT can see them.**
- FRANKENBOLT:** Did someone try to steal my present. **(Audience reaction)** Oh thank you for waking me up. Who was it? **(Audience reaction)** The rats! We don't have any rats here, do we? **(Audience reaction)** We do. Oh, dear I better go and tell my dad. But remember to call me if those naughty rats come back again.
- FRANKENBOLT exits stage left. Enter RATCHET and SPANNER stage right. (Audience reaction) Exit RATCHET and SPANNER stage right angry with the audience. FRANKENBOLT enters stage left.**
- FRANKENBOLT:** Oh what's the matter? **(Audience reaction)** Did you see them again? **(Audience reaction)** Oh thank you for letting me know. Well they have gone now so I must go and find my dad and tell him.

Exit FRANKENBOLT stage left. Enter RATCHET and SPANNER stage right. They are dressed in a poor attempt as a disguise. The audience will react again.

RATCHET: No were not those horrible rats we are Um...

SPANNER: We are the electric men come to read the meter.

RATCHET: Oh, yes, we are. **(Audience reaction)** Oh, yes, we are. **(Audience reaction)** Shh! Keep quiet. Don't call him again.

Audience reaction Exit RATCHET and SPANNER annoyed stage right. Enter FRANKENBOLT stage left.

FRANKENBOLT: Was that them again? **(Audience reaction)** They were in disguise. Well it couldn't have been very good if you saw right through it. Oh, they are naughty, aren't they? I tell you what I'll take the present with me this time to tell my dad about them. Thank you, for letting me know you go and have a break while I find my dad and I'll see you in *[length of interval]*. See you later boys and girls.

FRANKENBOLT exits stage left with the present.

Blackout

Curtains

End of act one

ACT TWO**SCENE ONE - THE LIBRARY**

Curtains open. The tree has now been fully decorated with lights. Tinsel and ceiling decorations have now been put up. Enter the chorus dressed in Santa outfits who, dance and sing.

SONG 6 "SANTA CLAUSE IS COMING TO TOWN" (suggestion only)

When song has finished exit chorus and enter FRANKENBOLT

FRANKENBOLT: Hello boys and girls. Doesn't the tree look nice? It looks so Christmassy in here now. We have decorations all over the castle. What do you think? Isn't this the best Christmas tree ever? **(Audience reaction)** I think so too.

The doorbell rings. Enter BABY BRIAN stage left carrying a parcel

BABY BRIAN: Hello Frankie. Hello boys and girls. Look Frankie I have a parcel for you.

FRANKENBOLT: Oh good that will be a present I ordered online for a good friend of mine.

BABY BRIAN: That's it. You're getting into the spirit of Christmas. What are you going to do with it now?

FRANKENBOLT: Well according to Esme, I need to check it's OK then I need to wrap it and tie it with a Christmas bow.

BABY BRIAN: Yes that's right. Do you need any help?

FRANKENBOLT: **(Protective of the present)** No! I can manage, thank you Brian.

BABY BRIAN: OK well I'll go and finish the rest of my deliveries then. I'll see you later. Bye, bye Frankie. Bye, bye boys and girls.

BABY BRIAN exits stage left

FRANKENBOLT: Phew! That was close boys and girls. It's a present for Brian. I want it to be a surprise because Esme says surprise presents are the best presents. Right I must go and wrap it up. See you in a little while boys and girls.

FRANKENBOLT exits stage left. Enter RATCHET and SPANNER stage right

RATCHET: Oh dear look at that horrible shiny tree over there. This Christmas illness is bad this year.

SPANNER: Yes look it's even spread to the ceilings.

RATCHET: Well be careful in case anything falls from the ceiling and infects us with its Christmas bug.

SPANNER: Say, Ratchet what are we looking for?

RATCHET: We need to find something to eat; we need some food for the winter. People always throw away lots of food after December because they always buy too much for their Christmas dinners, but there is never anything around before. And I'm hungry.

SPANNER: But we've already checked the kitchen and the pantry here in the castle. They haven't got any food at all.

RATCHET: I know it's so selfish of them.

The sound of FRANKENBOLTS footsteps can be heard

RATCHET: Quick it's that monster thing coming back, hide. **(To the audience)** And don't you tell him where we are either.

They hide behind the tree. Enter FRANKENBOLT stage left

FRANKENBOLT: There it's all wrapped up and ready for Christmas. **(Audience reaction)** What's the matter? **(Audience reaction)** There's who, where? **(Audience reaction)** behind the tree! I'll have a look.

FRANKENBOLT looks behind the tree. He sees RATCHET and SPANNER

FRANKENBOLT: Shew. Go away. Leave my tree alone.

RATCHET and SPANNER hurriedly exit stage right

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FRANKENBOLT: Oh thank you boys and girls. I bet they were after my present again. Oh, I'm glad I didn't put it under the tree yet or they would have had taken it.

Enter DR. HAIRPIECE stage left

DR. HAIRPIECE: Hello Frankie. What are you doing?

FRANKENBOLT: Hello dad. I'm protecting my present from those horrible rats.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Those two rats are being a right nuisance lots of food from [Local town] have gone missing already.

FRANKENBOLT: Well they better not steal anything from the castle or they'll be for it.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Now Frankie, that's not the attitude to have is it.

FRANKENBOLT: Why not they are common thieves. They steal anything they can eat.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Yes, I know but you must think to yourself, why do they do it? You think about it for a while then we'll talk about them again. Anyway, what's that? **(He pointed to the parcel in FRANKENBOLT'S hands)**

FRANKENBOLT: It's a present for Baby Brian. I ordered it on the world-wide spider's web with my pocket money. It's a ten-piece dinner set. I just need to post it now but I'm not sure how to do it. I can't ask Brian.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Well that's easy. I'll help you. **(He takes the present from FRANKENBOLT)** Now you don't want to send it by normal post.

FRANKENBOLT: Why not?

DR. HAIRPIECE: Well look I'll show you what happens. The postman takes it off you and throws it in his sack. **(He drops the parcel on the floor)** Then he throws the sack over his shoulder. **(He throws the parcel over his shoulder)** Then when it gets to the sorting office they stamp it like this. **(He picks the parcel up from the floor and bashes it with his fists)** Then they throw it in another sack to deliver it. **(He throws the parcel over his shoulder)** So I wouldn't

send it by post. I mean you don't want it to get damaged do you. You ought to send it by airmail.

He collects the parcel and hands the parcel to FRANKENBOLT

FRANKENBOLT: No I don't want it to get damaged at all. Thanks dad.

DR. HAIRPIECE exits stage right. Enter ESMERELDA stage left

ESMERELDA: Hello Frankie boos. What you got there then?

FRANKENBOLT: Oh it's a present for Baby Brian. It's a... **(He shakes the parcel)** ...Twenty-piece dinner set. I was about to post it by airmail.

ESMERELDA: Oh you don't want to send it by air mail.

FRANKENBOLT: Why not?

ESMERELDA: I'll show you. **(She takes the parcel from FRANKENBOLT)** When the parcel goes by airmail the luggage man takes the parcel and throws it into the plane. **(She throws the parcel across the stage)** Then as the plane is flying, it always hits bad weather and the parcel gets shaken around. **(She picks up the parcel and shakes it from side to side)** Then when it gets to the other side the luggage man in the plane throws it to the man on the ground. **(She throws the parcel on the floor)** So I wouldn't send it by airmail. You'll end up with one of the cups getting chipped. And there is nothing more annoying as one of the cups being chipped and cutting your lip on it all the time. Why don't you try sending it by boat instead?

She collects the parcel and gives the parcel back to FRANKENBOLT

FRANKENBOLT: OH thank you Esme. Maybe I will send it by boat instead.

Exit ESMERELDA stage right. Enter BABY BRIAN stage left

BABY BRIAN: Hello boys and girls. **(Audience reaction)** Hello Frankie. What have you got there then?

FRANKENBOLT: Oh it's a Christmas present for a friend. I was just about to send it by boat to him.

BABY BRIAN: Is it fragile?

FRANKENBOLT: Yes, it is fragile. **(Shaking the present)**

BABY BRIAN: Oh then I wouldn't send it by boat Frankie; especially if it is fragile.

FRANKENBOLT: **(looks to the audience)** I'm going to have to ask aren't I boys and girls. **(To BABY BRIAN)** Why wouldn't I send it by boat then?

He takes the parcel from FRANKENBOLT

BABY BRIAN: When a parcel goes by boat, the man on the shore throws the parcel to the man on the boat.

FRANKENBOLT: Yes, I thought he might do that.

BABY BRIAN: And the man on the boat is never any good at catching so he misses it like this. **(Throws the parcel across the stage)** Then the man on the boat carries it to the hold and on his way over he trips on a rope and drops it. **(Does trip and drop the parcel)** Then he goes to the hold and drops it in. **(Holds the parcel above his head and drops it)** But there's a man in the hold and it lands on his foot and he is not very pleased.

FRANKENBOLT: No I didn't think he would be. What does he do?

BABY BRIAN: He kicks it. **(He kicks the parcel)** When the boat gets to the other end the man in the hold throws it to the man outside. **(Throws the parcel in the air)** Then he throws it to the man on the dock. **(Throws it again)** And he throws it into his delivery van to take it to the post office. **(Throws it across the stage)** Then I collect it from the post office. **(He picks up the parcel)** And I very carefully carry it with love and respect and deliver it. **(Carefully hands the parcel to FRANKENBOLT)** So I wouldn't send it by boat. I mean you don't want anything cracked or broken, do you?

FRANKENBOLT: No I don't want it to get broken or cracked.

BABY BRIAN: What is it?

FRANKENBOLT: It's a surprise Christmas present for a friend.

BABY BRIAN: Then why don't you go and deliver it personally.

FRANKENBOLT: What a good idea I think I will.

BABY BRIAN: Who is it for any way?

FRANKENBOLT: It's for you. **(Hands him the parcel)**

BABY BRIAN: Oh thank you Frankie. What a surprise.

FRANKENBOLT: I hope you like it.

BABY BRIAN: I'm sure I will. It will be just what I've always wanted. I'll put it under my tree when I get home. Now I must go and finish my deliveries. Bye, bye boys and girls. **(Lovingly)** Bye Frankie and thanks for the present.

BABY BRIAN exits stage left

FRANKENBOLT: I better go too and have a nap after all that parcel excitement. I think I need to recharge my batteries. Catch you later boys and girls.

FRANKENBOLT exits stage left

BLACKOUT

CURTAINS

SCENE TWO- FRONT OF TABS

There is a flash of lights and a sound of thunder. Enter FAIRY SID stage right to the sound of the footsteps front of tabs

FAIRY SID: Now that is how you make an entrance. Hello boys and girls. **(Audience reaction)** Oh come on boys and girls you can do better than that. Hello boys and girls. **(Audience reaction)** Oh that's better. Well I've gone and done it now. I've ordered loads of things for Christmas for everyone at *[Local town]* castle. Now why did I have to order it you may ask? I said why did I have to order it you may ask? **(She waits for audience reaction)** Oh please yourselves. Well we fairies can't just magic things out of nothing. No, we must order it first at fairy headquarters, to make

sure it is in stock. So, when we magic it up, it appears. If it's not in stock it just makes us fairies look as though we don't know what we are doing, when we do our spells and nothing happens. So, I'm going to have to wait until there is no one around or when they go to sleep, and then make it all happen. So please don't tell them and we can make sure it is all a big surprise for them. Anyway, I managed to get some of the food into the kitchen without anyone noticing but I still got a few things to prepare. So, bye for now! Catch you later.

There is a flash of lights and the sound of thunder as FAIRY SID exits stage left to the sound of raspberry footsteps. Quickly she re-enters again

FAIRY SID: (To sound man) Oh really. You had to go, there didn't you?

She waves a fist to the sound man and exits again

SCENE THREE - THE CASTLE KITCHEN

Curtains open to reveal the castle kitchen. There is a large kitchen table. On it there is a radio, a large mixing bowl, two eggs, one of which is blown, a rolling pin and an old-fashioned egg-whisk. Under the table there is an axe and a pistol and set off-stage is a rabbit tied to a long piece of fishing line. One more important prop in this scene is a speaking tube fixed somewhere on the set. ESMERELDA is busy at the table checking all the ingredients. Enter FRANKENBOLT stage left

FRANKENBOLT: OH hello Esme. Can I have some dinner please I'm starving?

ESMERELDA: No not just yet, I haven't made it! You can help me make it if you want to. But no messing around, this time.

FRANKENBOLT: What I mess around. (Innocently) I wouldn't do that. What shall I do first?

ESMERELDA: Put this apron on first.

FRANKENBOLT puts on a costume protecting apron

ESMERELDA: You can help me make a pie.

FRANKENBOLT: Lovely. What sort of pie? I know, how about a snake and pigmy pie?

ESMERELDA: No I don't think so. What about a nice rabbit pie?

FRANKENBOLT: Yes like Water ship down. I've read the book I've seen the film, now I can eat the pie.

ESMERELDA: Go and get me the rabbit from the pantry. Oh, and make it a nice humpty back one.

FRANKENBOLT: Why do you want a humpty backed rabbit?

ESMERELDA: It'll help keep the pastry up in the middle.

FRANKENBOLT exits and re-enters with a rabbit which has a fishing line attached to it that goes off stage. ESMERELDA picks up the axe from under the table

FRANKENBOLT: Oh here it is; One funny bunny.

Placing it on the table

ESMERELDA: I shall prepare the rabbit. **(She raises the axe as if to chop off its head and counts. One, two...**

The rabbit is pulled on the fishing line and moves about a foot along the table. They watch it move then FRANKENBOLT puts the rabbit back in position. ESMERELDA raises the axe and counts as before

ESMERELDA: One, two...

The rabbit moves again

FRANKENBOLT: I think it's scared.

ESMERELDA: You would be too. OK, I'll try once more.

ESMERELDA raises the axe and counts.

ESMERELDA: One, two....

The rabbit shoots off stage.

FRANKENBOLT: It's done a bunk. We'll have to think of something else for dinner. What are we going to cook now?

ESMERELDA: I know we'll make an omelette. Pass me an egg.

FRANKENBOLT passes her an egg and places it in front of her

FRANKENBOLT: There you go one egg.

ESMERELDA: OK, now beat it.

FRANKENBOLT: **(Looks sad)** OK, if that's what you want.

FRANKENBOLT starts to exit

ESMERELDA: Where are you going?

FRANKENBOLT: You told me to beat it.

ESMERELDA: I didn't mean you beat it, you dozy Frankie boos. I meant beat the egg with the egg whisk.

She hands him the whisk

FRANKENBOLT: Well why didn't you say so.

He takes the whisk but it doesn't bash enough. He rushes offstage and returns with a cricket bat and smashes the egg all over the table making a mess

ESMERELDA: Hey, what do you think you are doing you cheeky little monster. You've ruined my kitchen. It looks like a bomb's hit it.

FRANKENBOLT: I'm sorry, I got carried away.

ESMERELDA: You'll be carried away unconscious if you don't watch what you're doing with that thing.

FRANKENBOLT: I'm sorry Esme. I really am. I was excited to help. I'll clear it up immediately if not sooner. **(He scrapes the egg off the table with one hand and catches it in the other one)** You're angry with me, aren't you?

ESMERELDA: Well what do you expect? You made a mess all over my M.F.I. Kitchen.

FRANKENBOLT: Please don't be angry with me Esme. I've cleaned it all up and I've said I'm sorry.

ESMERELDA: Well I don't know about that.

FRANKENBOLT: Please.

ESMERELDA: Well I don't know.

FRANKENBOLT: Pretty, please with a cherry on top.

ESMERELDA: Well... I'm not sure. You're always messing around.

FRANKENBOLT: Friends again?

ESMERELDA: All right friends again.

FRANKENBOLT: Shake on it.

He offers her his hand full of the eggy mess and they shake

ESMERELDA: You, horrible little job. Look what you've done to me. Wait till I get my hands on you. You'll pay for this.

She chases him around the stage. As he goes around the table he grabs the blown egg which he threatens her with

FRANKENBOLT: Be careful, I've got another egg here.

They both stop. ESMERELDA is down stage and FRANKENBOLT is upstage

ESMERELDA: Don't you throw that egg at me.

FRANKENBOLT: This isn't just any old egg. This one is called a chucky egg.

ESMERELDA: Why is it called a chucky egg?

FRANKENBOLT: Because you can chuck them.

He throws the blown egg at her and she ducks and the egg goes into the audience

ESMERELDA: OK Frankie boos stop messing about. That's another egg we lost now.

FRANKENBOLT: What are we going to do now Esme?

ESMERELDA: Oh don't worry; I'm an expert in the kitchen. Go and get me some flour.

FRANKENBOLT: Where do I get some flour from?

ESMERELDA: There is a speaking tube over there which is connected directly to Tesco. Just pick it up and say can you send up some flour please and you'll get it.

FRANKENBOLT: What, I just say, will you send up some flour and I'll get it will I?

ESMERELDA: Oh you'll get it alright.

FRANKENBOLT walks over to the tube which consists of a piece of plastic tubing with a funnel connected to the end of it. The funnel is hooked to the stage with the tubing going off stage. The funnel has talcum powder in it.

FRANKENBOLT: **(He speaks into funnel)** I say, you down there, can you send up some flour. **(Someone off stage blows into the tube and the talcum powder goes all over his face)** Very funny I don't think.

ESMERELDA: **(laughing)** you know why that happened don't you? You didn't say please. Try it again.

He speaks into the pipe again

FRANKENBOLT: Can you send up some flour please.

He gets it in the face again

ESMERELDA: No you are still doing it wrong. Say, can you send up some flour please, and get your head out of the way.

FRANKENBOLT: OK I'll try that then. **(He speaks into the tube again)** Can you send up some flour please and get your head out of the way. **(Once again, the talcum powder hits him in the face again)** It's not fair.

- ESMERELDA:** No you don't say get your head out of the way, you move your head out of the way silly.
- FRANKENBOLT:** Oh well, why you didn't say so in the first place. **(Speaks into the funnel again)** Can you send up some flour please?
- He quickly moves his head out of the way and the talcum powder puffs into the air**
- FRANKENBOLT:** **(speaks into the tube)** Ha, missed me. **(A sudden puff of talcum powder hits him in the face)** Oh I'm fed up with this.
- ESMERELDA:** Never mind I'll tell you what let's see if the daily recipe is on the radio.
- She turns the radio on**
- RADIO:** Good morning housewives.
- FRANKENBOLT:** I'm not a housewife.
- RADIO:** I wasn't talking to you.
- FRANKENBOLT:** So sorry I'm sure.
- RADIO:** Today I'm going to tell you how to make steak pudding.
- ESMERELDA:** Steak what?
- RADIO:** You heard me steak pudding. Now, first you'll need a large basin, large basin, large basin....
- ESMERELDA:** Oh it's stuck in a groove.
- FRANKENBOLT:** I'll fix it.
- He hits the radio with the rolling pin**
- RADIO:** Thank you.
- FRANKENBOLT:** It's a pleasure.
- RADIO:** Now go and get a pound of steak.
- ESMERELDA:** It's in the pantry. I'll go and get it.

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ESMERELDA exits stage right

FRANKENBOLT: I'll play a trick on her. I'll change the radio station.

FRANKENBOLT changes the radio station

RADIO: Hello this is spook radio and welcome to talk football.

Enter ESMERELDA with a large piece of steak

ESMERELDA: I've got the steak. What do I do now?

RADIO: The first thing we must do is warm up. If we don't warm up properly we could break a leg or something.

ESMERELDA: How can you break a leg making steak pudding?

FRANKENBOLT: Just do as the radio says. They know what they're talking about.

RADIO: Let's run around and throw it to each other.

FRANKENBOLT: Come on do as the radio says.

They run around the stage throwing the steak to each other

ESMERELDA: This is barmy.

RADIO: Now let's kick it to each other.

ESMERELDA: If that's what the man says.

They kick the steak to one another

ESMERELDA: What now?

RADIO: Now I want you to throw it in the air and head it.

ESMERELDA: Did I hear, right?

FRANKENBOLT: Of course you did. Now I'll throw it, you head it.

**He throws the steak into the air and ESMERELDA heads it.
They do this, two or three times**

RADIO: Have you done that?

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- ESMERELDA:** You can see we've done it.
- RADIO:** No I can't I'm a radio, you twerp.
- ESMERELDA:** I'll throttle that radio in a minute.
- FRANKENBOLT:** Don't get excited, it'll be a lovely pudding when we've finished. What shall we do now?
- RADIO:** I want you to put it on the floor and then dribble.
- ESMERELDA:** Put it on the floor and what'll?
- RADIO:** Not what'll, dribble.
- ESMERELDA:** If that's what you want.
- She puts the steak on the floor and dribbles over it**
- FRANKENBOLT:** He doesn't mean that kind of dribble, he means this kind.
- He starts to dribble the steak all over the stage. As he does the radio speaks**
- RADIO:** That's right, that's right. Now shoot!
- ESMERELDA:** Do what?
- RADIO:** Shoot! Shoot!
- ESMERELDA picks up the gun from under the table and shoots it three times**
- ESMERELDA:** That's the daftest way I've ever heard of making steak pudding.
- RADIO:** Steak pudding I'm teaching you to play football.
- ESMERELDA:** Football. **(She looks to FRANKENBOLT)** That was you. You changed the radio station, didn't you? OH, wait till I get my hands on you.
- FRANKENBOLT runs towards the exit**
- FRANKENBOLT:** Oh put the gun down Esme. I'm sorry.

FRANKENBOLT exits. ESMERELDA stops and shoots the steak again

ESMERELDA: That's your fault.

She shoots the radio and exits stage left. A short pause then enters RATCHET and SPANNER stage right

RATCHET: Cor what a commotion. We better keep out of her way Spanner.

SPANNER: Yes, we don't want to end up like that steak down there.

They both look at the steak

RATCHET/SPANNER: (louder each time) Steak! Steak! Steak!

RATCHET: Quick you fool, grab it and put it in your sack.

SPANNER puts the steak in his sack. Enter ESMERELDA stage left

ESMERELDA: (points the gun at them) Oi! You two! Hop it! I don't want rats in my kitchen.

They both exit as fast as they can stage right

ESMERELDA: (Looking at the man in the audience) as for you, dirty boy, (waves the gun) meet me in my dressing room now!

ESMERELDA exits stage left

Blackout

Curtains

SCENE FOUR - FRONT OF TABS

There is a huge flash of lights and huge sounds of thunder. Enter FAIRY SID stage left and stops

FAIRY SID: Wow thank you mister sound man. What an entrance.

She walks to the centre of the stage to the sound of raspberry footsteps

FAIRY SID:

Oh I knew that was too good to last. Well, hello boys and girls. **(Audience reaction)** Oh I think you can do better than that. Hello boys and girls. **(Audience reaction)** That's better. Are you all ready for Christmas? Have you done your trees and hung your stockings up? **(Audience reaction)** Oh good. Well I have finally managed to get almost all my preparations done. I've ordered all their wonderful Christmas food for the big Christmas day dinner. With your help Frankie managed to find all the decorations in the dungeons and put them up all around the castle. I've told Father Christmas, that he must make a new delivery here. So, my job is almost done. And just in time I might add. You see, here in panto land its Christmas Eve now, and I know Father Christmas is already on his way. I only have one more thing to do but I'm saving it until the very end. You'll see boys and girls. Smell you later.

There is a sound of elephant footsteps and an elephant trumpet as FAIRY SID exits stage left, shaking her head

SCENE FIVE - THE LIBRARY

Curtains open to the library. FRANKENBOLT and DR. HAIRPIECE are hanging stockings up on the fireplace

FRANKENBOLT:

Dad why are we hanging dirty socks above the fire?

DR. HAIRPIECE:

They're not dirty socks Frankie. They are Christmas stockings. We hang them up for Father Christmas to fill with lots of little goodies. Look this one has your name on it.

FRANKENBOLT:

My very own Christmas stocking. Look there is one for you and for Esme and one for baby Brian too. But why has Brian got a stocking here?

FRANKENBOLT:

I asked him to come and spend Christmas with us this year. Christmas is a time when all our friends and family get together. He'll be here in a minute.

FRANKENBOLT:

(Clapping his hands with excitement) Oh, this is going to be, the best Christmas ever. But it's a shame we won't be having any turkey and eggnog.

Enter ESMERELDA

ESMERELDA: Oh I think you spoke too soon Frankie boo. Guess where I've been most of the day?

DR. HAIRPIECE: In your dressing room with him? (**Pointing at the man in the audience**)

ESMERELDA: Oh no, he never showed up. (**Waving her fist at the man in the audience**)

FRANKENBOLT/DR. HAIRPIECE: Then where?

ESMERELDA: In the kitchen. We had a delivery of tons of food. We've got puddings, turkey, mince pies, Brussels sprouts, fresh cream and everything you could think of.

FRANKENBOLT: Was there any eggnog?

ESMERELDA: Yes Frankie boos there was a bottle of eggnog, brandy, wine, shandy and loads of coca cola for you too.

FRANKENBOLT: Oh wow. This is going to be the biggest, best Christmas ever.

DR. HAIRPIECE: But I don't understand. I didn't have any money left. Where did it all come from?

ESMERELDA: I don't know. But isn't it wonderful.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Yes, it is. I much prefer roast turkey to baked beans for Christmas dinner.

The doorbell rings

ESMERELDA: Frankie can you answer that. It'll be Baby Brian I expect.

FRANKENBOLT: OK Esme.

Exit FRANKENBOLT stage left

ESMERELDA: Did you manage to buy Frankie any presents at all?

DR. HAIRPIECE: No. I didn't have any money left after paying the electric bill. You all decided to have Christmas after I already paid the bill. So, no, I haven't.

ESMERELDA: Oh dear he was so looking forward to opening lots of presents on Christmas day. Poor Frankie! **(She encourages the audience to say ahhh)** Yes, it's sadder than that boys and girls. **(Audience reaction)** Oh, please don't tell him.

Enter FRANKENBOLT and BABY BRIAN

BABY BRIAN: Hello Doctor. Hello ESMERELDA. Merry Christmas!

DR. HAIRPIECE/ESMERELDA: Hello Brian, Merry Christmas.

BABY BRIAN: Thank you so much for letting me stay here for Christmas. My mum and dad are going to uncle Richards for Christmas. I'm so, so glad I didn't have to go.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Is it not much fun at uncle Richards then?

BABY BRIAN: It's like watching snow melt. Boring makes it sound so much more exciting than it is.

FRANKENBOLT: Well we're going to have lots of fun while you are here Brian. And this is going to be my first sleep over too. Come on I'll show you to my room. Bags' bottom bunk!

BABY BRIAN: OK Bags' top bunk.

ESMERELDA: Hang on you two. Before you go and play. Aren't we forgetting something?

FRANKENBOLT/BABY BRIAN: We are?

ESMERELDA: Yes, we got to put out some milk and cookies for Father Christmas.

FRANKENBOLT: Oh yes and a carrot for his reindeer. Brian has been telling me all about it.

BABY BRIAN: Yes that's right Frankie.

The doorbell rings

ESMERELDA: Who can that be?

FRANKENBOLT: We'll go Esme on our way to the kitchen for Santa's milk and cookies.

ESMERELDA: OK thank you.

They both exit stage left

ESMERELDA: Do you remember when the castle was always full of people and fun things at Christmas doctor?

DR. HAIRPIECE: Yes, I remember Esme. It's not the same without my wife but I guess it'll come back to us.

ESMERELDA: Yes it will doctor. But what about presents for Frankie boos?

DR. HAIRPIECE: Well we'll just have to see what Father Christmas brings won't we.

ESMERELDA: Father Christmas never comes here. He's probably forgotten where we live by now.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Don't worry Esme. I put a huge glowing sign on the castle roof saying Santa stop here. I'm sure he won't miss it.

Enter FRANKENBOLT, BABY BRIAN, THE CHORUS and some kids from the village. BABY BRIAN places the plate of cookies, the milk and a carrot on the table

FRANKENBOLT: Look its some more kids from the village carol singing again.

ESMERELDA: Oh I love singing carols. Do you love singing carols too boys and girls? **(Audience reaction)** What are you going to sing for us tonight then?

CHILD #1: Jingle Bells.

CHILD #2: Do you know it miss?

ESMERELDA: Know it. It's my favourite Christmas song.

CHILD #3: We can all sing it together.

BABY BRIAN: Yes come on boys and girls the words are in your program.

The music starts and everyone sings Jingle Bells

Song 7 "Jingle Bells"

FRANKENBOLT: Oh that was brilliant. Wasn't it boys and girls?

Audience reaction

ESMERELDA: Oh yes it was lovely. That song helps me to remember, that Christmas is for having fun too. **(To the children)** Now it's starting to get dark so let's get you all home safely.

CHILD #1 #2 #3: Merry Christmas everyone.

ALL CAST: Merry Christmas!

ESMERELDA ushers THE CHORUS and the children to exit stage left

FRANKENBOLT: Come on Brian let's see who can fall to sleep the fastest and get their presents first in the morning.

BABY BRIAN: OK Frankie. Good night Doctor. Good night boys and girls.

Enter ESMERELDA stage left

ESMERELDA: And don't forget to clean those teeth you two.

FRANKENBOLT/BABY BRIAN: We won't.

Exit FRANKENBOLT and BABY BRIAN hand in hand. DR. HAIRPIECE places the milk and cookies on the edge of the table and adds a little note for Santa from his pocket

DR. HAIRPIECE: Are you sure they'll be OK left alone. You know, now that they are in love.

ESMERELDA: Yes, they are young, they'll be fine.

DR. HAIRPIECE: OK, well, I've left a note for Father Christmas telling him how good Frankie has been just in case.

ESMERELDA: Oh well done doctor. OK I best go and settle those two down for the night. Don't be long doctor.

DR. HAIRPIECE: I won't Esme. I'm just finishing up now.

ESMERELDA exits stage left. Soon followed by DOCTOR VAN HAIRPIECE

Lights dim

Enter RATCHET and SPANNER

RATCHET: You know what Spanner?

SPANNER: What?

RATCHET: I think I'm getting nothing for Christmas.

SPANNER: Yes and me.

SONG 8 "I'M GETTING NUTTIN FOR CHRISTMAS" by Sid Tepper and Roy C. Bennett (To be sung by Ratchet and Spanner)

RATCHET: Spanner did you see all that food in the kitchen?

SPANNER: Yes, I did. I'm staying here now. Forget looking for scraps in the village, when we can feast in this castle.

RATCHET: Yes, I agree with you. I'm not going anywhere now. Let's see if there is anything nice in here.

The two rats look around the stage and end up at the table

RATCHET: Hey look at those scrummy cookies.

SPANNER: And that milk. I haven't had milk for ages.

They are just about to help themselves when they hear a voice

FATHER CHRISTMAS: (O.S.) But they are not for you, are they?

RATCHET: (**looking around**) who said that? Did you say that Spanner?

SPANNER: No I didn't. (**Nudges RATCHET. Pointing to the audience**) do you think it was that lot?

RATCHET: I don't know! Why don't you ask them?

SPANNER: No it's your turn. They almost ate us last time.

RATCHET: Oh OK. They seem harmless enough now. Oi! You lot. Did you say that?

Audience reaction

SPANNER: Well if they didn't then I guess it doesn't matter now. Now let me at that milk.

FATHER CHRISTMAS: (O.S.) Put that milk down. It's not for you.

RATCHET: Who said that?

Enter FATHER CHRISTMAS through the fireplace if possible

FATHER CHRISTMAS: I said it.

RATCHET/SPANNER: It's Father Christmas.

FATHER CHRISTMAS waves at the audience

FATHER CHRISTMAS: Ho. Ho. Ho. What are you two rats up to, here in the castle?

RATCHET: Nothing bad your majesty.

SPANNER: Honestly. We were just looking for something to eat.

FATHER CHRISTMAS goes to the front of the stage and addresses the audience

FATHER CHRISTMAS: Ho. Ho. Ho. Are these two being naughty, boys and girls? **(Audience reaction looks at the two rats)** The boys and girls say you are up to no good. Ho. Ho. Ho. Is that right you two?

RATCHET/SPANNER: Yes sir. Sorry your majesty.

FATHER CHRISTMAS: Ho. Ho. HO. normally, when boys and girls are naughty, they go on my naughty list and don't get any presents for Christmas. I just give everyone on my naughty list a lump of coal.

RATCHET/SPANNER: Sorry your majesty.

FATHER CHRISTMAS: But then I don't really have a naughty list for rats. So, what should I do? I tell you what. Do you promise to be good from now on?

RATCHET/SPANNER: Yes, we do.

FATHER CHRISTMAS: Honestly?

RATCHET/SPANNER: We promise your majesty.

FATHER CHRISTMAS: Ho. Ho. HO. Then let's see what I have in my sack for you two then, shall we?

RATCHET/SPANNER: Yes, please your majesty sir.

FATHER CHRISTMAS opens his sack and takes out a present for each rat

FATHER CHRISTMAS: Now you two, put those presents under the tree until the morning when all the good boys and girls open their presents from me.

They place the presents under the tree. FATHER CHRISTMAS empties his sack under the tree. Gives the rats a large piece of cheese each

RATCHET/SPANNER: Thank you your majesty.

FATHER CHRISTMAS: Now off you go to bed, you two. And fast to sleep until the morning. Don't forget to clean your teeth as well!

RATCHET and SPANNER exit stage right excitedly. FATHER CHRISTMAS empties his sack of presents under the tree and then goes to the front of the stage

FATHER CHRISTMAS: I hope you boys and girls are being good too. Are you being good boys and girls? **(Audience reaction)** Mums and Dads, are they all being good? **(Audience reaction)** I hope so, because you don't want to end up on my naughty list. Ho. Ho. Ho. Well I better get going. There are lots more houses and castles to deliver to here in panto land. I will be seeing you all soon. Be good. Ho. Ho. Ho. Merry Christmas everyone. **(He sees the cookies and milk)** Oh my favourite, chocolate chip cookies.

He takes a cookie and drinks some milk and takes the carrot. FATHER CHRISTMAS waves as he exits through the fireplace

Lights UP

SCENE SIX - CHRISTMAS MORNING

Enter a very excited FRANKENBOLT closely followed by BABY BRIAN, DOCTOR VAN HAIRPIECE and ESMERELDA. ESMERELDA carries on a tray with eggnog and coca cola

FRANKENBOLT: It's Christmas!

DR. HAIRPIECE: Yes, it most certainly is. Merry Christmas everyone!

ESMERELDA/BABY BRIAN: Merry Christmas doctor.

FRANKENBOLT: **(Almost screaming with excitement)** Look at all those presents under the tree. There are hundreds of them.

ESMERELDA: Calm down Frankie boos. You'll fry your batteries.

FRANKENBOLT: We all must have been very good for Father Christmas to leave that many presents under the tree.

BABY BRIAN: **(Cuddles FRANKENBOLT)** See Frankie, the best Christmas ever.

FRANKENBOLT and BABY BRIAN hold hands

DR. HAIRPIECE: **(Yawning)** My Christmas always used to start a bit closer to dinnertime. It's far too early.

ESMERELDA: Too early for eggnog then doctor?

DR. HAIRPIECE: Oh, go on then it's never too early for eggnog.

DR. HAIRPIECE and ESMERELDA each take a glass of eggnog from the tray

FRANKENBOLT: Can I try some please.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Oh, go on then as its Christmas; But just a sip.

FRANKENBOLT takes a sip of the doctor's glass

FRANKENBOLT: Ugh! No thank you. Hooey what a horrible taste!

ESMERELDA: You better stick to coca cola Frankie boos. Here you go this will get the taste out of your mouth.

She hands him a coke from the tray

BABY BRIAN: At least you can say you've tried it Frankie.

FRANKENBOLT: Yuck! Never again!

ESMERELDA: Anyway, I best go and get the dinner started and that huge turkey into the oven.

Exit ESMERELDA stage left

BABY BRIAN: Look Frankie all the boys and girls have joined us for Christmas. Hello boys and girls.

Audience reaction

FRANKENBOLT: Merry Christmas boys and girls.

Audience reaction

DR. HAIRPIECE: Hey look boys, it's started to snow.

BABY BRIAN: Oh yes, well now it's a perfect Christmas.

FRANKENBOLT: Yes, the best most perfect Christmas ever, ever, ever.

FRANKENBOLT and BABY BRIAN cuddle. Enter ESMERELDA stage left

ESMERELDA: That's it the turkey is in the oven. Time for presents! I hope there is a present under that tree from my dirty man friend out there. **(Pointing to the man in the audience)** You're in trouble if you forgot.

FRANKENBOLT: Oh, yes time for pressies.

Enter RATCHET and SPANNER sneaking on stage right

ESMERELDA: Hold it you two. I can see you.

The two rats stop

ESMERELDA: What are you two doing here?

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RATCHET: We come to open our presents from his majesty the Father of Christmas.

SPANNER: Yes, he made us put them under the tree until morning.

FRANKENBOLT: You saw Father Christmas. WOW!

ESMERELDA: A likely story. You have just come sneaking around to see what you could get.

The Doctor looks under the tree and collects the two presents for the rats

DR. HAIRPIECE: Yes, they are correct there are two presents here. What are your names?

RATCHET: Ratchet and Spanner.

SPANNER: Spanner and Ratchet.

DR. HAIRPIECE: That's what is says on the presents. So, these two must be good rats if Father Christmas left them presents.

He passes the two presents to them

RATCHET/SPANNER: Thank you.

The two rats start to leave

DR. HAIRPIECE: Where are you two going?

RATCHET: Back down to the dungeons sir.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Not today it's Christmas. Why don't you stay here in the warm? You are welcome if you are good.

ESMERELDA: You can have some of the turkey dinner too if you behave.

RATCHET/SPANNER: Thank you. We'll be good, we'll be good.

FRANKENBOLT: Sit down you two. We are just about to open the presents to see what Father Christmas has bought us.

The two rats sit down on the edge of the stage

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ESMERELDA: Isn't this wonderful; a castle full of friends and family at Christmas. I feel like singing a song.

FRANKENBOLT: Please don't Esme. It'll be cold if you shatter all the windows.

ESMERELDA: Oh you, cheeky little monkey. You can join me now. In fact, you can all join me in a song.

The large box with the song props inside can be pushed on one side of the stage. FRANKENBOLT, ESMERELDA, BABY BRIAN and DR. VAN HAIRPIECE or a combination of three of them sing the song. The rats get scared and exit

Song 9 "THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS"

This needs to be performed by just three or four cast members for the full manic effect see production notes for comic lyrics and suggestions

FRANKENBOLT: Oh that was fantastic everybody.

BABY BRIAN: Well done boys and girls. It wouldn't be Christmas without you.

DR. HAIRPIECE: Come on everyone let's open the presents.

The lights dim

The cast all gather around the tree as the doctor hands out the presents. Enter FAIRY SID

FAIRY SID: Hello boys and girls. Look at that. Can I make a Christmas or can I make a Christmas? Well done me. Merry Christmas everyone!

She exits to the sound of sleigh bell footsteps

Blackout

Curtains

THE END

WALK DOWN MUSIC "SO HERE IT IS MERRY CHRISTMAS" by Slade (Suggestion only)

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Suggested Walk down order.

Child#1, #2 and #3 and the kids from the village.

Father Christmas

The chorus

Ratchet and Spanner

Fairy Sid

Dr. Van Hairpiece

Esmerelda

Baby Brian and Frankenbolt