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Christmas Play in One Day: SCRIPT SAMPLE

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for looking at this sample from 'Christmas Play in One Day', a Christmas performance which can be performed by all ages from 6-7 upwards.

SYNOPSIS

This easy one scene play is set on Christmas Eve. It's the middle of the night and Santa is secretly delivering gifts to a children's hospital when the patients spring a trap on him!

TIMING

If you stick exactly to the script, this performance should take about 18 minutes. However, you can easily shorten or lengthen the production by 10 minutes either way. Suggestions of ways to do this can be found in the 'production notes', included in your purchase.

DISCLAIMER

Please note that for copyright protection, only the first few pages of the script are included below. Similarly, only partial song lyrics are shown.

CAST LIST You can perform this play with any number of children between 15 and 200+

| <i>Part (No. In brackets)</i> | <i>Details</i> |
|---|--|
| Narrator/s (1-36) | In total there are 36 narrators' lines in the script arranged into 9 different verses. The narrators don't have to learn lines and can read from the script. |
| Santa (1) | Santa is on stage for the whole performance and has about 4 lines to learn. |
| Child Hospital Patients (3-13) | There are small parts for up to 13 hospital children with a line each. If you have a small cast, you can easily share these parts between 3 or 4 children. |
| Elves (4-52) | There are parts in the script for between 4 and 52 elves. They don't have to memorise lines and only need to read out loud as they hold up letters of the alphabet. If you have a small cast, these parts can be shared by 4 or 5 pupils. In addition, a group of elves can sing part of song 1 if required (1 st half of verse 2). Also, please note that an ' <i>alphabet & parts</i> ' document is included in your purchase to save you time. A sample is included below. |
| Optional: Reindeer (2-9) | Children dressed as reindeer can sing part of song 1 if required (2 nd half of verse 2) |
| Head Elf (1) | A head elf who organises the other elves and has about 4 lines. |
| Mrs Claus (1) | Santa's wife comes on stage at the end and has 2 small paragraphs. |
| Children's parents / families - non-speaking roles (4-50) | At the end of the play, during the final song, 'family members' of the hospital children come on stage to hug the children and give them presents. These are non-speaking roles. At a minimum you will need one person for every child on stage, but you could have as many as you want. |
| Optional Nativity Characters: Non-speaking roles (0-50) | During the second part of the play, an optional nativity story is told. At this point you can have children dressed as nativity characters come on stage to present a nativity scene. I.e., Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men, servants, angels, innkeeper, animals, children holding a large star, etc... These are non-speaking roles. |

The Santa Trap: PLAY SCRIPT

A Christmas Play by Stuart Ross © 2013

Instructions for how to rehearse this show in just one day are included in this sample document below this script sample.

NARRATORS: 'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house,
Nothing was stirring, not even a mouse,
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
They'd been worn all week and needed the air.

But seriously, our play isn't set in a family dwelling,
It actually takes place in a hospital setting,
We're heading to the local children's ward,
Where the land of dreams is being explored.

As the children slept, dreaming of new toys,
From above you could hear a familiar noise,
Of jingling bells and reindeer's hooves,
And a 'thud', as something landed on the roof.

Then, as if by magic, Santa appeared,
In his smart red suit and long white beard.
He crept around, not making a noise,
Silently delivering games and toys.

Santa had nearly finished his chore,
But mischief and mayhem lay in store,
For as Santa headed through a gap,
All of a sudden, the children sprung a trap!

ALL CHILDREN: GET HIM!!!! (*The children jump out of their beds and hold Santa tight*)

SANTA: Hey! What's going on?

CHILD 1: Dear Santa, please don't be annoyed. We're so glad you came to see us.

CHILD 2: You're our favourite person in the whole world, but we need some special help from you.

CHILD 3: Before we explain, I'm worried about your reindeer. Will they be okay on their own for a little while?

SANTA: I suppose so.

CHILD 4: What about your sleigh? Do you need to pay for parking?

SANTA: *(Pointing upwards)* Don't worry, it's on the house! Now what can I do for you?

CHILD 5: This hospital is very nice. The doctors and nurses are really kind, and we get lots of special treats.

CHILD 6: But honestly, none of us want to be in hospital on Christmas day. We want to be at home with our families.

CHILD 7: So, we want you to use your special magic powers to make us all better, so that the doctors will let us go home!

ALL: Awwwww!

NARRATORS: Santa did indeed have special powers,
He could go round the world in just a few hours,
Make reindeer fly and make toys appear,
And do his special trick of spreading Christmas cheer.

But as for the children's little suggestion,
Well, sadly it was completely out of the question!
So, although Santa knew it would make him late,
He took the time to explain his powers weren't that great.

One by one, the children's faces turned sad,
Santa too, no longer felt glad,
So, from his pocket he took a magic whistle and blew,
And into the room, elves and reindeer flew!

SANTA: Since I can't make your wish come true,
The least I can do is put on a show for you. Hit it!

Song 1: **Jingle Bells** *(Vocals Track 1, Music Track 7)*

VERSE 1: Dashing through the snow,
In a one-horse open sleigh... etc...

HEAD ELF: And now here's our favourite bit. The elves and reindeer proudly present the Christmas alphabet... *(One by one the elves hold up letters of the alphabet as they read the following) ...*

ELVES: A is for advent, a countdown of days,
Heading towards Christmas, a day to amaze.

B is for bells, ringing loud and clear,
Telling the world that Christmas is here.

TIME-SAVER: To help you out we've included a document in your purchase that has all the large letters of the alphabet, next to the accompanying parts. A sample is included below. Print them back-to-back and you're ready to go!

C is for the crackers that go with a 'POP',
Inside are toys and jokes to swap.

D is for decorations on your home and street,
There to give your eyes a festive treat.

E is for the elves that help Santa prepare,
To launch his sleigh up into the air.

F is for Frosty, the famous snowman,
If he doesn't cheer you, no one can!

G is for giving gifts to all,
Wonderful presents both big and small.

H is for holidays, a few weeks off school,
The Christmas holidays are very cool.

I is for icing on the Christmas cake,
And all the other treats you can bake.

J is for the jingle bells on the sleigh,
Signalling that Santa is on his way.

K is for knitted jumpers and socks,
Given to dads everywhere in a gift box.

(L is deliberately missed out and isn't revealed till the end of the play, when we discover that it stands for love, providing a festive, heart-warming ending)

...

'CHRISTMAS PLAY IN ONE DAY' INSTRUCTIONS:

HOW TO REHEARSE THIS 8 PAGE PLAY IN JUST ONE DAY

1) **READ FROM SCRIPT:** Get the cast to read from the script as much as possible rather than memorising their parts. Narrators can read their parts and 'alphabet elves' can have their lines printed on the reverse of the letter they're holding (*a document is included with this prepared to save you time. See sample below*).

2) **FEW LINES TO LEARN:** The only cast members with parts to learn are:

(a) Up to a dozen 'child hospital patients' with one line each. If you have a small cast, you could divide these parts between 3 or 4 children.

(b) Three main parts: Santa, Mrs Claus and Head Elf - 3 or 4 lines each.

If you give these parts to your most able children, they should be able to learn them very quickly. It might be wise to send all these children off in groups to learn their words while you go through the songs/script with everyone else.

If your cast is made largely of younger children and you still feel there are too many lines, then don't worry, you can use the editable version of this script to easily cut out lines from most characters. Alternatively, you could consider having older children or adults to play Santa / Mrs Claus and be narrators.

3) **SONGS:** Four songs are included (+ 2 optional extras), but you don't have to do them all. 'Pick and mix' the most suitable for your cast. Having said that, it isn't too hard to teach all the songs in an hour or two if you consider the following...

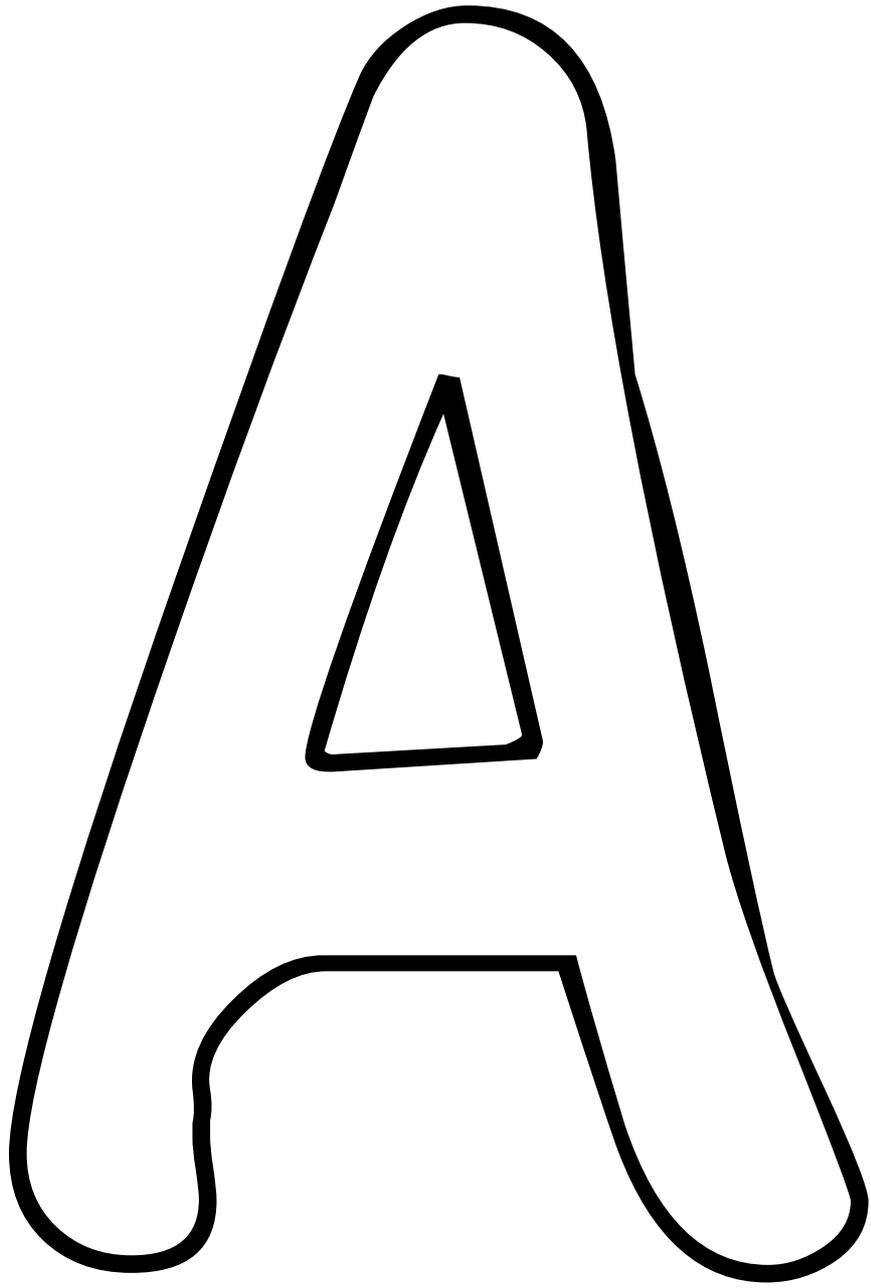
a) It's worth remembering that the four songs in the main script are very well-known songs / tunes, making them easy to pick up.

b) Divide and conquer! You could split the songs between different classes, groups or individual children... so that no child has more than one song to learn.

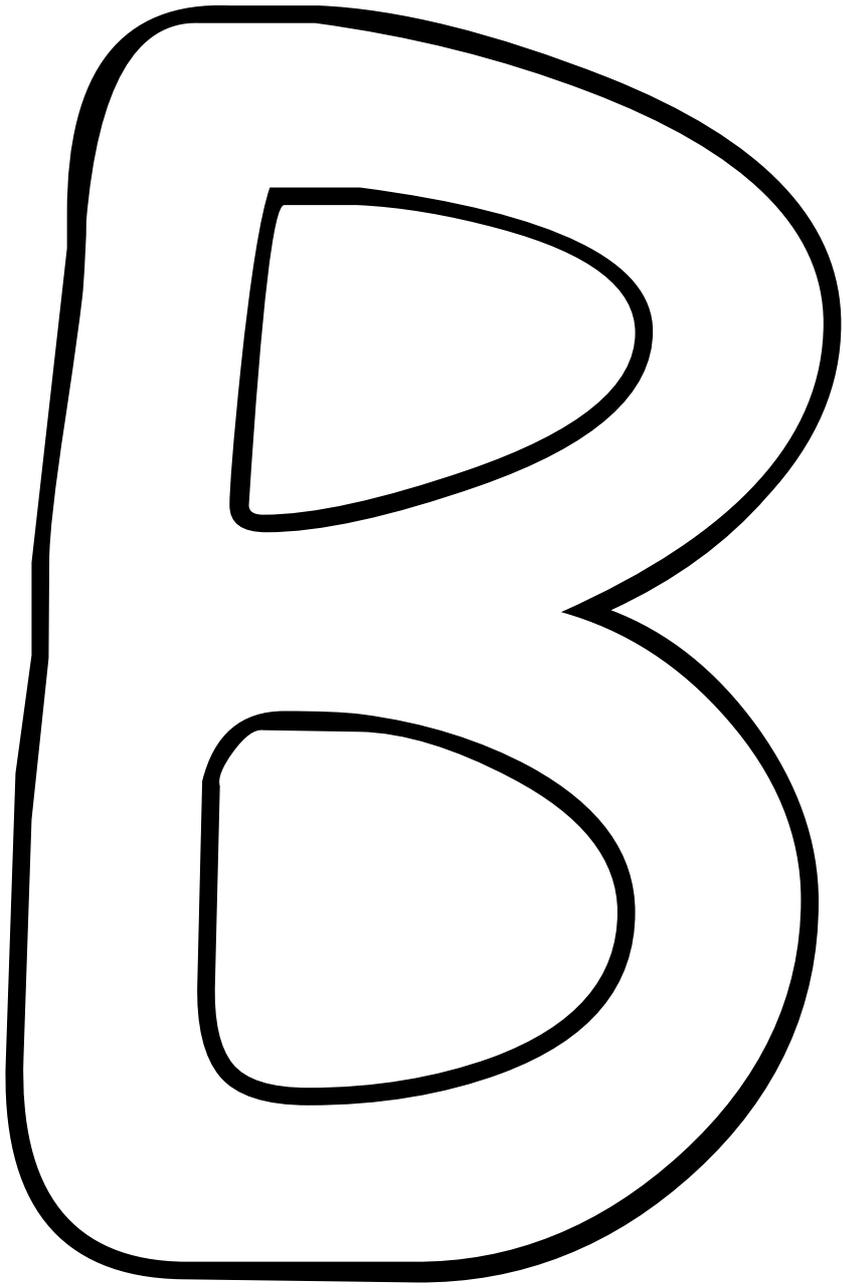
c) You don't have to get the children to learn all the song words. Instead, either give the children song sheets, or use the included PowerPoint song words, possibly projecting the lyrics behind the audience.

ALPHABET & PARTS SAMPLE

Below is a sample of the alphabet document included as part of your purchase. Just print it back-to-back and you're ready to go. The letters have been left blank for your children to colour and decorate if required.



A is for advent, a countdown of days,
Heading towards Christmas, a day to amaze.



B is for bells, ringing loud and clear,
Telling the world that Christmas is here.