A CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME
By Kim Williamson © 2001

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Characters
Narrator (male or female)
Dame (male or female)
Miss Prim (female)
Natas (male)
Bubble (female)
Squeek (male)
Nemod (female)
Richard (male)
Norman (male)
Cat (male or female)

Props
Carpet Cleaner
Headphones and Walkman
Folder for Narrator
Large Hand
Backpacks
Large Clock
Candy
Extra small cell phone
Oversized cell phone
Computer
Nativity props
Old Doll
Lectern
Signs “Boo!” and “Yay!”
Benches or chairs
Packed lunch
Toilet paper
Remote control
Torch / flashlight
A CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME

ACT I
SCENE 1

Narrator enters. Good evening Folks, and welcome to an evening full of fun 
And laughter…….
(Dame enters with carpet cleaner, ear phones and walkman and dressed in cleaning gear)
…er, welcome to an…
(she begins to sing, quite badly ‘Man, I feel like a woman’)
…..er, welcome to an..

I’m sorry, excuse me. (Dame ignores him, continues song)
Excuse me!(nothing) HEY!(Dame looks around, removes headphones)
Sorry, I wonder (indicates audience) We’re busy here.

Dame Oooh, hello then. What’s happening? I thought it was free tonight. They said I could 
do the cleaning when it was free, and I thought it was free tonight.

Narrator Well it’s not, so clear off.

Dame Oooh, now that’s not very nice, is it? I mean, you might tell me what’s going on.

Narrator Oh all right. We are doing a play here. A pantomime actually.

Dame Aaah. (pause) What’s that then. What’s a panty line?

Narrator A panty line is where your underwear comes to, but that’s not important right now…

Dame Oh right. My smalls come to here.

Narrator (in horror as she lifts here skirts to reveal undies to her knees!) No! No! Oh yuk!! They’re not smalls - more like extra larges! Look, it’s got nothing to do with undies, for goodness sake. This is a respectable show. At least it was. It’s a pantomime. And a pantomime is a piece of theatre full of slapstick, fun and audience participation. It has good guys who win and bad guys who lose.

Dame A show? Like as in theatre? (Narrator nods) Well where’s the audience then?

Narrator (slightly exasperated) Out there!

Dame (peering into darkness) Where? I can’t see a flippin’ thing out there.

Narrator I’m so sorry about this. Could we have the house lights up please? (lights up)

There!

Dame Ooooh, hello. I didn’t see you lot out there. And me showing me undies and all. How embarrassing. Not a very good looking bunch are they? Bit on the ugly side really. Especially that one over….(interrupted by Narrator)

Narrator Thank you, that’s quite enough from you. Of you go now. Hoppit!
Dame What are you doing?

Narrator Are you still here? I told you to leave.

Dame Well I didn’t. What’s that you are doing? Poetry?

Narrator (with a heavy sigh) No. It’s called rhyming couplets. Now please leave.

Dame But I want to be in the play.

Narrator Not on your life! You in this play? Don’t make me laugh!

Dame Please, I’ll be good.

Narrator No way and that’s final, now go away!

Dame (indicating audience) I bet they’d like me to be in the play.

Narrator I very much doubt it. These are classy and sophisticated people out for a night at the theatre.

Dame I bet they would, they look like a lovely lot.

Narrator You just finished calling them ugly!

Dame Oooh, I never did. You’re putting words in my mouth. Look why don’t we just ask them. It can’t hurt anything to ask.

Narrator Alright, if you promise to leave afterwards. (she nods) O.K. I’m terribly sorry about this ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls. I am as anxious to get on with this show as you are, and so if you could bear with me and do this one little request, we will carry on. Now, I’m going to ask you to vote on whether you would like this…er…lady to be in the show or not. Those of you who are inclined to say No, please raise your hands…..

Dame Hang on a bit. That’s a bit negative isn’t it? (mimics)’those of you what is hinclined to say no’. How about something more positive?

Narrator Oh alright! Those who would fall into the ‘yes’ category, please raise your…

Dame Hold on. How about this. Those who say ‘yes’ raise their right hands and those who say ‘no’ raise their left hands, and those who are undecided raise both hands. O.K? (Narrator tries to disagree) here we go then…remember, right is yes and left is no and both is don’t know. And go! Let’s see those hands. C’mon, all of you should have a hand in the air, there’s no excuse for not. There now. Cor there’s a lot of them isn’t there? (Narrator’s trying to count) Well, looks like a landslide victory to me. Thanks everyone, you were marvellous. O.K. love, you can put your hand down now. Well, that’s settled then.

Narrator What do you mean ‘that’s settled then’?
Dame Well you saw all the hands, and everyone knows that the audience knows best. Where do I sign up?

Narrator (resignedly) O.K. Go back there and see Bob - he’s the stage manager. He’ll give you a role.

Dame I hope it’s a big one. With jam. I do like a big jam roll. (exits off)

Narrator (aside) So we can see! (remembering audience) Right, where were we? I simply must apologise for that, but let’s move on shall we? (Composes self)

Good evening folks, and welcome to an evening full of fun, And laughter, jokes and morals too, and by the time we’re done, So many things you will have learnt, things you can take away This wisdom you can take with you and use one rainy day.

The show you are about to see is full of myth and tale Some is truth, and some of it is bigger than a whale. But the choice is yours dear audience, as you watch and perceive Whether this story is really real, or simply make-believe.

And to tell this tale I’ll need your help to boo and clap and cheer To let the players know that their audience is here. So when I hold the signs up, you will help me, will you not? And the actors will also call on you, I imagine, quite a lot.

So lets get started and call them on, introductions all around: The first is our heroes, some real cool dudes, so let your cheers resound! (holds up YAY card. Richard, Norman, Cat enter) And next we have the heroine, a beauty, don’t ya think? (Miss Primm enters, holds ‘aaah’ card) Of course, up next, our lovely Dame, who always makes a stink! (Dame enters)

No pantomime would be complete without the rabble and mob So here they are, a great big hand, they do a wondrous job (Mob brings in big hand, Narrator sends it off) And now a great big robust Boooo! To bring our Bad Guys on The leader, Wife and sidekicks, two, (Natas, Nemod, Bubble, Squeek enter, Narrator holds up BOO card) and now the casting’s done.

So let’s begin our story thus: our drama group has begun (Miss Primm, Mob move on stage for the next scene) Miss Primm is trying to cast the players in parts one by one. The show they are performing next is The Christmas Nativity The lights go on, the curtain rises to a scene of much gravity. (Narrator exits)

SCENE 2
Miss Primm O.K. Are we all here? Shall we begin?

Mob 1 But what about Walter and Edna? They aren’t here yet.

Mob 2 We can’t start without Walter and Edna.
Miss Primm  Sadly, Walter and Edna won’t be in this year’s nativity.

Mob 3  What?

Mob 4  It’s not possible. We can’t do it without them.

Mob 1  Yeah, who will play Joseph and Mary?

Mob 2  They’ve always played those roles, as long as I remember.

Mob 3  Yes. They have the right bed sheets. No one else has got bed sheets like that.

Mob 4  (slightly hysterical) It’s not possible. We can’t do it without them!

(general commotion and babble)

Miss Primm  Now calm down everyone. (continued noise) Please…..calm…..it will… SHAAATUP!!! (All stop in astonishment) Right, that’s better. Now it isn’t the end of the world. We will find someone else to play Mary and Joseph.

(Dame enters) Hello Aunty, you made it.

Dame  Sorry am I late? Sorry…(as she shuffles to her place)..excuse me…look out.

Now what have I missed?

Miss Primm  I was just telling everyone……

Mob 1  Walter and Edna aren’t doing it.

Dame  But they’re the only one with those bed sheets.

Mob 4  Exactly!

Mob 2  Who can take their place?

Mob 3  No Moseph and Jary.

Miss Primm  Now, it’s not that….

Mob 4  It’s not possible. We can’t do it without them.

Miss Primm  Oh come. The nativity isn’t just about bed sheets. We’ll just get someone else to play those roles. It’s not hard…

Dame  I’ll do it! I’ll be Jary…I mean Mary. You’ll be looking for some lovely young thing who can take on the role without any problem. Well, that would be me.

(Miss Primm opens her mouth to say something, but finds no words. The rest look horrified)

‘Look no further, for here I be, the lovely young virgin, Dame Mary’. Perhaps I could do rhyming cupcakes for Mary’s lines. I’m good at that sort of thing.

Miss Primm  (finally finding her tongue) No! No lines. Mary doesn’t have any lines.

Dame (ignoring her) Of course, you’ll need to find a pretty good Joseph, someone who is at my level.
Mob 1  We’ll have to run auditions down at the Beehive to get down to her level!

Dame  Yes, I would hate to show anyone up.

Mob 2  She’ll show us all up, and more besides! She can’t be Mary.

Miss Primm  No, I don’t think you can be Mary. It’s a difficult role, Aunty, and think of all you’ll have to put into it.

Mob 3  I don’t know about putting into it, but she’ll need to take five stone out of it for starters!

Dame  I heard that! I reckon I could do it - you could coach me Isabella.

Miss Primm (grasping for excuses) It’s just that it would be too hard to find such a Joseph to be your match.

Dame  Oooh, I don’t know, I’m not that hard to light up! (winking at others who shudder) Get it? (to audience) Match… light up….oh, suit yerself.

Mob 4  It’s just that we’ve always done it with Walter and Edna. I don’t think I could do my character without their presence.

Dame  Did they give you presents? Well no wonder you pranced around in your fairy outfit bowing and scraping to them.

Mob 4  (proudly) I…am an angel.

Miss Primm  Look, I wonder if we can get back to the play. We only have a few weeks and the town is expecting it to go ahead as usual. I think that it would honour Walter and Edna if we did the play.

Mob 1  The show must go on!

Miss Primm  Yes, quite. Anyway, we need to find…er (glancing at Dame)…well, at least a Joseph, and perhaps a Mary (Dame frowns)...if the right Joseph can’t be found. So if everyone can keep their eyes open and we’ll meet again on Tuesday for auditions. (Mob exit chattering) Is that alright with you Aunty?

Dame  I’ll see what I can do for you m’dear. (Miss Primm exits) Can’t do Mary indeed! I’ll show them. I’ll go home and learn the part for our next meeting. And I’ll find me a lovely Joseph who will bring out me good side (she looks behind her) which hopefully turns out to be smaller than me back side!(exits)

SCENE 3

Natas (in his hideout, he is plotting) Har har har, I have stopped the stupid play from going ahead. Oooh, I’m so good. By encouraging those fools Walter and Edna to leave, there is no one else to play their ridiculous roles. I hate that play. Now, where are my stupids, I want an update on the last, and final, meeting har har har. (yelling) Bubble! Squeek! Come here. Where are those slimy ratbags? (Bubble and Squeek enter) Ah there you are. Now then, I want a report on that last meeting. Did they cancel everything? Was there tears? Give me the dirt!

Bubble  Yes, your great awfulness, there was a certain amount of grief during the proceedings, but…
Natas       But?! But?! I don’t like buts. But what? (Nemod enters)

Bubble     Er…over to you, Squeek.

Nemod      Now you tell me. Why don’t you like buts? I’ve been working out for ages now, trying to firm up, just to look my loveliest for you, and now…

Natas      Oh, hello dear.

Nemod      And what’s going on here? Planning bad deeds and not including your little precious? (giving Natas a playful slap) Naughty, naughty, Natas!

Squeek (aside to Bubble) There is nothing little or precious about that!

Natas      Be quiet, imbecile!(sees Nemod glaring at him) Oh, not you Nemod, dearest.

Nemod      So what’s going down, Natas?

Natas      Oh nothing very exciting. Just a dull staff meeting, really. Shall I call you when we’re done…er and we’ll have coffee and donuts together, yes?

Squeek (aside to Bubble) If she has any more donuts and we’ll be having her for morning tea!

Bubble     Ssshhh!

Nemod      Alrighty. But I hope you’re not holding out on me, Natas darling.(exits)

Natas (shudders) Now, where were we?

Squeek      Nativity meeting. Bubble was busy telling you about the meeting, and then your adorable wife wafted in scattering proverbial petals wherever she walked, and then you said…..

Natas      Yes yes, that’s quite enough! Now tell me what happened at the Christmas nativity play meeting - before I make mincemeat out of you.

Squeek      That would be a first. Mincemeat out of bubble and squeek!

Natas      Be quiet! Now, the play.

Bubble     It’s the director.

Squeek      Yes, she wants it to go ahead.

Bubble     She’s got her Aunty involved.

Squeek      And they’re looking for a new Joseph.

Natas      What?? It’s going ahead? Stinky pooh! Need a new plan. Yes, plan B. But what?(thinks) If we’re going to stop the show….stop the show…wait! I’ve got a better idea. Rather than stopping the show, we should let it go on. Yes! But in our way. Yes har, har, har.

Bubble     You’ve lost me, boss.
Squeek: I thought you wanted it stopped. I thought you said you hated that play. I thought...

Natas: And we know what too much ‘thought’ does to some, don’t we? (Squeek looks confused) No my little idiots, we are going to take over this play and make it so hideous that no one will like it har, har, har. And then I can go ahead with my other plan - plan...er...A, B, C! Yes plan C.

Squeek: What’s that then? What’s plan C?

Natas: Plan C, my little ball of slime, is ‘World Domination!’ Har, har, har. Yes, I will be in charge!

Bubble: I still don’t understand. How can stopping this one play going ahead help you in your quest for world domination?

Natas: Use capitals, girl.

Bubble: Sorry, ‘World Domination!’

Natas: Better. Now then, listen carefully my little specks of grime. This is only the beginning. If we let this play go ahead, this (distastefully) Christmas nativity, people will think there is more to Christmas. They may think that there is a big fella in the sky looking after them. They may even believe that he loves them. And if they believe that, I am sunk. (Bubble and Squeek look more confused than ever) Oh, for goodness sake you bumble-heads. Think! If I want to achieve ‘World Domination!’ what do I need to be? (Squeek is about to say ‘an idiot’) Did I use the word ‘think’? Sorry Squeek, I forgot you were present. Let me give you a hint. I need to be B-A-D. (much confusion still) Oh! (to audience) Come on kiddies, what does that spell? That’s right BAD! But I need to be seen as being good. With me? But if they believe in something that is really good, then I will look bad, and I don’t want to look bad, I want to be bad, but look good. Understand now?

(Bubble and Squeek look at each other dazed)

Bubble: Oh yes, your most horribleness, that’s very clear.

Squeek: Clear as mud!

Natas: You bone-heads! Why can’t I get someone who has some sense to work for me.

Squeek: No one would understand that load of garbage. Good, but bad, bad but good?

Natas: Of course they would. It is very clear to people who actually have a brain and use it.

Squeek: They wouldn’t (indicates audience)

Natas: Of course they would.

Squeek: Oh no they wouldn’t.

Natas: Oh yes they would. Wouldn’t you?

Bubble: Oh no they wouldn’t.

Natas: (threatening) Oh yes they would.
Squeek  (encouraging audience to join in) oh no we wouldn’t. (etc, etc)

Natas (finally)  ALRIGHT! That’s enough. Look, it doesn’t matter whether you get it or not, what matters is that it is your job to stop this play… and… yes… yes… that’s it! It’s your job to stop this play, so go and stop it! (both look suitably blank) You (to Bubble) will be Joseph. And you (to Squeek)

Squeek  Oh please, no! Not that. I’ll never live it down. What will my mates at ballet class say? (Natas and Bubble do a double take)

Natas  (with great pleasure) Yes, you will be Mary.

Squeek  Oh thank goodness. I thought you were going to make me a shepherd. Those guys are such pansies.

Natas  Riiight. Anyway, get dolled up and get along to the next meeting. And make sure you get those roles, no matter what! Or you’ll have me to answer to, have I made myself clear?

Bubble  Yes, crystal.

Natas  Good, and don’t call me Crystal. Now go and find some good disguises! (they exit) You see, I just want to be in charge. To be the Big Boss. I just want people to like me and respect me. (rap music starts. Bubble and Squeek help out)

Bubble and Natas!  Natas! His name is Natas! (they sing this throughout)

Squeek  Ever since I was a boy, I wanted to be liked, I wanted to have friends, who thought I wasn’t psyched I wanna be ‘da man’ I wanna rule the world I wanna have a big car I wanna get the girl.

But then they mocked me, laughed at me, called me names, treat me unfairly.

So I got mean and turned tough for fun, my name is Natas, I’m a son of a gun.

SCENE 4

Richard  (singing) I love to go a wondering, along the mountain track, and as I go I love to sing, my knapsack on my back valeree, valerah, valeree, valerah, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, valeree sing it with me, valerah, valeree, valerah, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha valeree, valerah, my knapsack on my back.

Ah, what a beautiful place for a tramp. Look at that view. There’s none like it anywhere. You can see forever up here, Norman.

Norman  (panting hard and looking around) I can’t see Forever, but I can see Bayfair, and there’s the bridge, and there’s …

Richard  Yes, yes, it’s an expression, Norman. Now, how about that knapsack? I’m famished after all that exercise. Come on, let’s sit over here. (they move upstage and set up their picnic as Bubble and Squeek enter also panting, dressed as Mary and Joseph)
Bubble (between breaths) And this…is your idea….of a short cut?! I’ll shortcut you, you…you...(collapses with the effort)

Squeek (matter of fact, and not so tired) Yes, we should’ve turned left when we went right, and then we should’ve gone straight, instead of around, and we never should’ve gone up! (they sit downstage without seeing Richard and Norman)

Bubble So where now?

Squeek Down. Definitely down.

Bubble Well obviously. There is no more ‘up’ to go, is there? But ‘where’ down?

Squeek (looking around) Hey look, we can see where we are from up here - wow, you can see forever.

Bubble Well, I can’t see Forever, but I can see Bayfair, and if we head out in that direction, that will take us to the meeting. What time is it?

Squeek (takes out large clock) Only quarter past three. We have loads of time yet.

Bubble Right, let’s have a rest and then we’ll move on.(pause)

Squeek Have you ever been in a play before?

Bubble (proudly) Oh yes. I have experience in that area.

Squeek I haven’t. I’ve always wanted to be in one, but I’ve never had the nerve. All those people watching you, and what if you make a mistake.

Bubble (with great authority) Why then you ad-lib. It’s easy when you know how.

(Norman exits behind bush)

Squeek What’s that then?

Bubble (on a role) It’s short for adding liberally, you see, ad-lib, and it simply means you make it up as you go along. But you have to be fairly talented.

Squeek I do that all the time. I add liberally all the time. Even now I’m doing it. Wow, do you think I have some kind of talent? Huh?

Bubble Oh yes, Squeek, you have ‘some kind of talent’ alright. A UKT perhaps. Unidentified Kind of Talent. It’s out of this world!

Squeek (proudly) Do you think so? Well now I’m really looking forward to playing Mary. I want to get inside the character, (gets carried away) to really get to know Mary, nay, to be Mary.(looks dramatically at Bubble) I am Mary.

Bubble O.K. You might want to shave before you go telling people that.

Squeek Aren’t you excited Bubble? Don’t you feel the roar of the greasepaint and the smell of the people coming back to you? What plays have you done, aye?

Bubble Oh, you don’t want to hear about…..I can hardly remember…a few unknown… (resignedly) I was the tail end of the donkey in our kindy production of the
Squeek (completely over his head and almost in a whisper) Wow! You’ve been in the nativity already. (melodramatically) Joseph, I am Mary! (shakes hands. Long pause with both looking at each other) Come on, lets go.

Bubble Yes, right. We don’t want to upset Natas the Nasty now, do we? I wonder why he is so determined to stop the nativity play from going ahead?

Squeek I don’t know. He’s a man with issues.

Bubble Bless you. He’s a man with problems, that’s for sure. Come on then, this way. (exit)

Richard Did you hear that Norman? Norman?

Norman (off) Over here, Chief. Sorry, won’t be a mo. I just had to go. (re-entering with toilet paper on his shoe) Hey, that rhymes. I’m a poet, and I didn’t know it.

Richard Couldn’t you have waited? Fancy spraying this lovely foliage? You’ll damage local flora and fauna if you aren’t careful.

Norman Sorry Guv, I was busting.

Richard Anyway, did you hear what those…er…people were saying? They are trying to stop my Isabella’s play going ahead. She loves doing that play. Norman, (dramatically)it’s time for Really Good Guy to.. (rips shirt off to reveal bare chest) What the???

Norman You took your super hero shirt off at the last stop…said you were too hot. Remember?

Richard Well give it here and I’ll go change. (exits behind same bush as Norman)

Norman You know, it might be a good thing to think of a new super hero name. I just think that ‘Really Good Guy’ doesn’t cut it. People tend to laugh. Oh, watch out behind there, don’t step in….

Richard (off)Aaaarrrrggghh!!

Norman Now I’m for it.

Richard (entering half dressed) Run! Run for it! It’s a wild beast!

Norman (looking behind bush) It’s a cat! It may be wild, but hardly a beast, Sir.

Richard (running into audience and hides) Oh yes he’s wild alright - he’s wild at you for weeing over him.

Norman (calls Cat over strokes him and gets some food) He’s lovely. Want something to eat little puddy? He’s a bit wet though. Go on, off you go now, your scaring that super hero over there. It’s o.k. he’s gone now. You can come back..

Richard Thanks Norman. I really hate cats you know. They make me very nervous. Look at me shaking.

Norman Don’t worry, I won’t let him get you. Now you go and finish getting changed.
Richard: I’m not going back there again. It’s probably laying in wait for me.

Norman: Well you stay here and get changed and I’ll go back there, o.k.?

Richard: But what if he comes while you are gone?

Norman (looking around and seeing audience): I bet they’ll help, won’t you? Whenever you see the cat, call out to Richard, O.K.? Alright now? They said they’ll help. I’m off so you can get changed. (exits)

Richard (during this speech he is changing into his super hero gear): Thanks so much for your help. I know it’s silly being afraid of cats and all, but I can’t help it. (Cat enters behind, hopefully audience will yell ‘behind you’ etc but by the time he turns it is of course gone. This happens a couple of times - add lib things like ‘you’re tricking me’ ‘did you really see him’ etc) Look, I’ve had enough of this! You are telling me untruths, and that’s not nice. I am a super hero (Cat enters again and comes up behind him, watching) and I would save you if you needed it. No, stop your yelling ‘it’s behind you’ because I no longer believe you. I thought you were my friends. (Cat raises claws to slash him just as Norman enters)

Norman: Look out Richard!(Richard turns and sees cat, and faints) Oh, now look what you’ve done. You’ve gone and made him faint. He will be angry when he comes round.

Cat: Sorry. I didn’t mean to scare him that much. It was just for a laugh.

Norman: You spoke! You just spoke! You did, I heard you. (to audience) Did you hear him? See we all heard you.

Cat: Yes, I talk. I’m a talking cat.

Norman: Well I never. Whatever next?

Cat: Pleased to meet you Norman, I am ….well, you can call me Cat.

Norman: Don’t you have a name?

Cat: Yes. But you don’t need to know it. ‘Cat’ will do.

Norman: But that seems so plain. Sort of like you calling me Human. Come on, tell me your real name.

Cat: Oh alright, but you must promise never to tell anyone else, O.K..? (whispers in Norman’s ear. He starts laughing) Do you see why I never tell anyone?

Norman: That’s terrible. Who gave you such a hideous name?

Cat: Aah. That’s why I’m here. My former master wants to rule the world, and I need your help to stop him. Plus I owe him one for that awful name.

Norman: I don’t see how we can help.

Cat: You are super heroes aren’t you? You saw those two lame brains earlier? They are in on the plan for ‘World Domination!’
Norman: world domination?

Cat: No, capitals – ‘World Domination!’

Norman: Wow. That’s serious. (Richard starts to come around)

Cat: Look, I’ll nip off for a bit while you explain it to him, and I’ll meet you at the town hall and explain my plan to you. (exits)

Richard: What happened? Where’s the cat. Is it gone?

Norman: Yes, for now. But listen I have something very important to tell you. The cat said that there is this evil guy who…

Richard: The cat said??? Cats don’t talk, my dear Norman.

Norman: This one does, doesn’t it everyone? (to audience) See. They heard it too.

Richard: Who did? I want to see a show of hands. Who exactly heard the cat talking? (hands up in audience, he goes down into audience and speaks to different ones) You did? Are you sure? Hmmm, I don’t think I can trust you, you look far too imaginative. Etc. Alright Norman, you have me convinced, now what does this cat want?

Norman: Well Sir, I’ll tell you on the way. He wants us to help him…(as they exit off)

SCENE 5

Bubble: Well, here we are, and in plenty of time. Now we’ll just wait here for the lovely Miss Primm to show, and then we’ll woo her with our amazing talents, and she’ll just have to cast us in her production (while he is talking, Miss Primm enters and is immediately set upon by Squeek who proceeds to do a very melodramatic version of Mary in labour. Bubble turns to see him) Oh no! Stop! Look, I’m sorry Miss Primm, I do apologise for my friend here. It’s just that he’s…er…she’s so keen to be in your play. We both are. We have a vast amount of acting experience. And we really want to be in your show. (pause) Please?

Miss Primm: Goodness. I don’t know what to say. How did you hear that I needed some actors?

Bubble and Squeek: One of the others told us. (elbows Squeek) Our evil Boss sent us. Ooops, I mean, what he said.

Miss Primm: I see. Well, this is wonderful timing as I was going to have to cancel the play (Bubble groans) But, well, you’re both hired. I’m Miss Primm, but you can call me Isabella. And who are you?

Squeek: I’m Squeek (Bubble frowns at him and shakes head) er, but you can call me Bob.


Miss Primm: Quite. You have quite a deep voice, Bobbette.

Bubble: She’s had a cold, haven’t you Bobbette? Terrible cold. It’s going around. Makes you go hoarse.
Squeek (trying to help makes neighing sound, then in falsetto) But I’ll be fine for the play.

Bubble Ah, see? Her voice is coming back already.

Miss Primm Great. Well, come on in. The others will be here soon.

Bubble (aside to Squeek) Are you trying to get us nabbed? Be careful and let me do the talking. (they take a seat as Mob enters)

Miss Primm O.K. are we all here? Just waiting on Aunty?

Mob 1 I think she’s in the Ladies.

Miss Primm I’ll go and tell her we are all here and waiting. (goes to Ladies door and taps) Knock, knock.

Dame Who’s there?

Miss Primm Isabella.

Dame Isabella who? (Miss Primm is about to answer when Dame enters with the punch line) Isabella necessary on a bicycle. (to audience) Get it? Is a bell?? Aah, forget it.

Miss Primm Quite. Now, go and take a seat, Aunty. I’ve got some good news. We have our Mary and Joseph. This is Steve and Bobbette.

Squeek Hi guys, call me Bobby. (Bubble nudges him and he coughs and changes to falsetto) Yes, all my other friends call me Bobby for short.

Miss Primm Bobby, of course, will be playing Mary.

Dame Wait a minute…

Miss Primm (trying to avert a storm) And Aunty, you will be the Angel Gabrielle.

Dame Oooh, that’s quite important, isn’t it?

Mob 4 (who is normally the Angel) Wait a minute.

Miss Primm And you are now ….someone else very important. Yes, I have done a complete cast change. I thought it would be beneficial for each of us to see the play from a different angle.

Mob 1 I don’t want to see it from a different angle. I just want to do my bit. The same bit I’ve always done. I know when to come on and when to go off. It’s easy.

Miss Primm But I feel like we’ve got into a rut. The play has no energy or realness to it. We just ‘do our bit’ and that’s that. But there’s so much more to it (all are bored by this except Squeek who is getting as carried away as Miss Primm) It is truth that we are portraying, and unless we bring those characters alive, how can we draw our audience into the play. How can they believe in the characters unless we believe in them. It’s more than the nativity, it’s more than just doing our ‘bit’. We have a message!
Squeek  (standing suddenly and with passion) I AM MARY!!

Miss Primm  Yes! Yes, you are Mary! And you are Gabrielle, and here is Joseph. Do you see? Can you feel it? (breaks into singing’ What a Feeling’ Does a twirl and dip with Squeek drops him and peters out as she realizes the others are watching her) Anyway, it’s going to be different this year. Here are your new roles.(hands out scripts) Let’s starts rehearsing.(she gets a directors chair and horn) First let’s begin with a song to warm up. Now who knows a nice Christmas carol. (blank looks) A carol, you know? Goodness, we’ll have to start at the beginning with this lot How about you? (to audience) I bet there are some lovely singers out there. Does anyone know Away in a Manger? How about some volunteers to help me teach this lot? (get 6 or so kids on stage to sing Away in a Manger. Give them some lollies for a wonderful job. All exit with kids)

SCENE 6

Natas  And now my plan to destroy the nativity is almost complete har, har, har. I wonder how my little infidels are doing? Hopefully they haven’t majorly botched this assignment. I’d better call them.(takes out large cell phone and punches in way too many numbers. Spotlight to Bubble answering phone) It’s me. How’s it going? Are you in?

Bubble  Oh yes, we’re in all right (aside) in up to our necks!

Natas  O.K. Good. Just don’t botch it, alright?(yelling) I want this play ruined, do you hear me?

Bubble  Yes, and so will everyone else if you don’t keep your voice down.

Natas  Just do the job (hangs up)

Bubble  Thank you Sir, and goodbye to you to, you Old Toad - with capitals!!

Natas  Now then, to fulfill the rest of my plan. (to the audience) You see, what I’m really after is the very lovely Miss Primm - Isabella. So far she has thwarted all my plans to make her return to me, but this time she won’t be able to resist me. You see, when her precious play is in jeopardy she will do anything for it to go ahead. She really believes all that nativity nonsense har, har, har, and so when I come in as the gallant hero and save the play, she will have to accept my proposal. Har, har, har. It’s such a dastardly plan, don’t you think? (Boooo) Oh what do you know. I have been Natas the nasty for longer than most of you have been around har, har, har. And now I will go to the town hall to wait for my opportunity to be a hero har, har, har.

Nemod  (entering) Who are you talking to my dearest?

Natas  Ah, Nemod, my love. No one. Just myself. Making plans and whatnot.

Nemod (stroking his hair) You are working too hard. You need to relax, or you will burn out. I hope you’re taking those vitamin B for stress pills I got you? Wouldn’t you want you to get ulcers or die of a heart attack prematurely now, would we?(Natas shakes his head) By the way, did you see that guy about your life insurance? (Natas nods) Gooooo. Yes, we’ve got to look after you, my lovely.(pinches his cheeks)

Natas  What would I do without you? (disentangling himself) Well precious, I must be off.
There’s more bad things out there that need doing. I’ll see you at tea, shall I?

Nemod Alright my dear, don’t be late (pinches his bottom as he exits) Ooh, he’s lovely. Lovely and rich! I’ve got to get his money before he gets someone to replace me. (thinks, then cackles hideously and exits)

SCENE 7

Richard (entering with others) But that’s a terrible thing to do, and to my lovely Isabella. I will go and warn her right away, and then she and I can…..

Cat I don’t think that’s a very good idea. You see, we have to destroy Natas, and this is our opportunity to catch him at it, as it were. Then we have him.

Norman Cat’s right, Sir. But what are we to do?

Cat Here’s my plan. Firstly, we must find out where he is, and then….. (looks around and calls the others closer, they huddle around as Cat outlines his plan)

Richard Well, Cat I must say that’s an impressive plan. You’ve really thought this one through. I’m sorry I …er, underestimated you at first.

Norman Yes, and I’m sorry that I over watered you at first.

Cat A genuine mistake, though really, you should use the conveniences for that sort of thing.

Norman That’s the trouble, they weren’t very convenient at that moment.

Richard Just one question – is your name really Cat? It sounds odd to call you that.

Cat It’s a long story.

Richard I’d like to hear it.

Norman Well, it’s not his real name you see. Natas actually named him…..

Cat No!!! (looking around) Not here, please. Whisper it. (whispers name to Richard who starts to giggle)

Richard That’s terrible. What an awful name.

Cat Yes, that is my other reason for wanting to find him, and pay him back for all the times people have laughed at me.

Richard Right. Now to find this Natas the Nasty - my evil nemesis, and stop his really bad plan. This is certainly a job for Really Good Guy (goes to rip his shirt off and tears his super hero suit) Oh man.

Norman Super, you’re already wearing your…oh, never mind.

Cat (seeing Natas approaching) Here he comes. That’s him now. Quick, into positions everyone. (Richard goes into combat mode with hand signals etc, until Norman drags him off. Natas enters without seeing Cat)
Natas  Ah, here we are. Now I wonder how things are progressing.
Cat   Meeow.
Natas  Hello little pussycat. You look like a cat I used to have.
Cat   Meeow.
Natas  But he could talk.
Cat   Meeow.
Natas  And he was a pain in the neck, so this is for him and all the grief he caused me!
      (goes to kick Cat, who suddenly leaps up into ‘Karate Kid’ pose)
Cat   Why hello, master. How are you keeping these days?
Natas  You? Why you….I’ll..(they fight. Natas picks up a light saber ‘Star Wars’ fashion.
      Cat produces a gun and in slow motion ‘Matrix’ style, shoots Natas who avoids the
      bullets. While Cat is inspecting gun, Natas grabs him)
Cat   Now! (Richard and Norman step out with a large remote control)
Natas  A trap. (looking at Richard) What on earth?? You look like a dick!
Cat   Freeze frame!(they press a button and freeze Natas. Cat extracts himself) Well done.
      Right, now for phase two. Reprogramming. Where’s the computer screen?
Richard  I gave it to Norman to look after.
Norman   (proudly)And I put it in a safe place. For safe keeping.
Cat    Good. Can I have it then?
Norman I can’t remember where that safe place was.
Cat    Great. Do you have any idea where you may have put it?
Norman   Oh yes.(pause)
Cat    Well??
Norman (pointing out to audience) It’s out there somewhere. Under a seat. Do you want me to start looking
      for it?
Cat     We don’t have time for that now. The freeze framer will only hold him for 20
      seconds at a time.(to audience) We need your help. Under one of your seats there is
      a computer screen. Anyone? Ah look, there it is Norman.(Norman goes to fetch it)
Richard (as Natas starts to move) Look out, he’s moving! (Cat freeze frames him again)
Cat     And where’s the keyboard?
Norman    I don’t know, I just had the screen. (All look at Richard who grins sheepishly)

Cat    More safekeeping, huh?

Richard    It’s over there somewhere (pointing in a different direction)

Norman    Look out, he’s coming round! (freeze frame him again)

Cat    I wonder if some of you down the front can help us out. If you see him moving, give us a yell so we can freeze frame him again. (During the next speech, Natas comes around and the audience will yell their warning) Now, does anyone have our keyboard over there? Ah, thankyou. (Richard gets it) And now where are the leads? (both Richard and Norman shrug) Blow, I must have dropped them. Sorry, can you have a hunt around and find those leads for me? Anyone? Ah, you couldn’t bring then to me please? Give this person a hand. Now then, let’s set this machine up and reprogramme Natas here. (to audience) This may take us some time, so why don’t you toddle off into the foyer and get yourselves a cuppa and a piece of that adorable cake, and we’ll be back in about 20 mins, O.K?

INTERMISSION

ACT II

SCENE 1

Narrator    Welcome back, please take your seats it’s time to start Act two.  
            To summarise, the bad guy’s gone and Cat’s in a to-do. 
            But the drama group is about to meet and rehearse an age-old scene. 
            So we cast our eyes on Isabella’s group, who are all so very keen.

            (Mob is sitting around yawning and looking bored)

Miss Primm    O.K. Lets go over the part with the shepherds. Everyone in place? (Mob grab toy sheep and dog) And action! (the following is very slow and wooden)

Mob 1    Golly it’s cold out tonight. Those sheep are lucky to have woollen coats (does baaahing noises through the rest)

Mob 2    Yes. The sky is very clear. Look at that really bright star.

Mob 3    (looking up) Is that what is making it seem so light?

Mob 4    Look! What’s that? (Dame enters with flashlight)

Dame    Behold I bring...

Miss Primm    Cut! Cut!!

Mob 1    Baaaah!
Miss Primm  Shut up! (to Dame)  What have you got?

Dame  A torch.

Miss Primm  Whatever for?

Dame  Well they talk about it being very bright, so I thought a torch would help. (Miss Primm shakes her head in despair)

SCENE 2

Natas (enters running)  Those idiots. Think they can outsmart me, do they? I’ll show them. Reprogramming indeed! I’m bad and there is nothing that can be done about that. I was born bad and I’ll die bad. I can’t help it, it’s genetic. Har har har. (hears sound off)  Ooops, better hide. (to audience)  You’d better not tell where I am, or they’ll be trouble, because I’m really bad, har har har. (hides in barrel)

Cat (entering with others)  Well he can’t have got that far. He must be here somewhere.

Norman  Hmmm. If I were a really bad guy, I’d hide in that barrel.

Richard (shaking head)  That’s why you’re not a super-hero-bad-guy, Norman. That is far too obvious a place. No, he’ll be hiding in a very cunning place that we wouldn’t suspect. Like here  (points to a really small box)  I give you (lifting box)  Nasty Natas! Tah dah!! Oh. Well, I’m all out of ideas. What about you Cat?

Cat  Let’s ask these guys. Do you know where he is hiding? Good. We need the element of surprise, so…

Richard  I didn’t realise that ‘Surprise’ was one of the elements. I know them pretty well, Hydrogen, Helium, Lithium, Beryllium, (he continues with the periodic table trying to work out where Surprise comes in)

Cat (trying to ignore Richard) …so I want you to whisper where he is hiding. Let’s see how quietly you can whisper.

Norman  Yes, try saying supercalefraceljisticepxpealidocious really quietly.

Cat  Actually, I don’t think that will work. I know, Norman and I will point to things and you can nod your head ‘yes’ or shake your head ‘no’, and that way we’ll find out where Natas the Nasty is hiding and we’ll take him by surprise. O.K? (They point to various things while the audience shakes their heads until they finally reach where he is)  Good work everyone. Right, let’s surround this and we’ll have him.

Richard  So, he was in the barrel after all. See Norman, I told you it would be a place we wouldn’t suspect.

Cat  All right Natas, come out. We’ve got you surrounded. (silence) We know you’re in there Natas. (to audience) You are sure he went in here, aren’t you? Norman, take the lid off. (Norman removes lid. It’s empty)

Norman  Hey, he’s not here. (to audience) Are you trying to trick us?

Natas (from behind the audience)  No, I am! You fools, did you really think you could catch me? See you
later. (ducks out)

Cat After him! (they exit chasing him)

Nemod (entering out of breath with lunch box) Natas? Natas! Where has he got to? He’s forgotten his lunch. I made it myself. It’s special. (to audience) Did you see which way he went? (response from audience) Thanks. (exits after him)

SCENE 3

Dame (dressed as an angel, sits) Oooh, me arches are killing me. Because I’m an arch angel. Get it? Archangel? Arch angel? Ah, forget it. It’s all that standing around and speaking me lines, and I still didn’t get that jam roll what I was promised. This acting lark isn’t all it’s cracked up to be. But I’ve enjoyed the singing. Though I must say I am a little confused by one of me songs. Here, listen to this and perhaps you can help me out.

‘O little town of Tauranga set in the harbour bay
You’ll be a lot like Auckland when they finish route PJK’

Is that right? It doesn’t sound very religious to me. What do you think? (get some kids up to help out with song O Little Town of Bethlehem) Oh that’s great. It also makes a lot more sense.

I’ve been learning me lines too. I’d better practice them, and you can tell me what you think, alright? (very dramatically)

‘Be not afrraid. For I brring you tidings of grrreat joy. For in this town a Saviour  is born who is Chrrist the Lord.’ Pretty good, aye? Don’t know what it means though. Hey perhaps you can tell me what it means? You guys are smart. Does anyone know what all that gobbledy gook means? (get people to call out what it’s all about, throw them a lolly)

I see. I wonder if I should change it a bit so that people can understand it? No point in saying stuff if no one understands what you’re on about. Come to think of it, I don’t really understand what any of us say. Perhaps I should get together with that lovely Bobby. What a treasure she is. And we can re-write the whole lot. Good idea. Thanks for your help.(exits)

SCENE 4

Miss Primm O.K. Why don’t we try the Wise Men scene? Ready? And action! (again wooden and slow)

Mob We three kings of orient are
  Bearing gifts we traverse afar
  Field and fountain
  Moor and mountain
  Following yonder star....

Miss Primm I wonder if we could pick up the pace a bit? Maybe??

Mob (as before) We three kings of orient are...

Miss Primm We need some help.

Squeek I’ve got some friends that might give us a hand.

Miss Primm That would be marvelous, Bobby.

Squeek I’ll just ask them. (to audience) Would you mind giving us a hand with this song? Nice and loud. (sing the song We Three kings of Orient Are)
Miss Primm: Wonderful! Just exactly how I want it. Now you lot go home and practice that. Only a few more practices until the show.

Mob 1: See you tomorrow. (they exit)

Miss Primm (speaking to Squeek. Bubble is waiting) I think we’re making wonderful progress with our play, Bobby. Thanks again for your input.

Squeek: Oh it’s nothing. I feel like I really know Mary and what it took for her to go through what she went through. But I know it would be so much better if I had a real baby to work with rather than this (holds up shabby dolly)

Miss Primm: But you as the artist must make the audience believe it’s a real baby, and someone like yourself can easily do that.

Squeek (doubtfully) Maybe. Are you sure there isn’t anyone willing to lend their baby? (Miss Primm shakes her head) Well, we’ll do our best. Bye bye Isabella. (kiss on cheeks) See you tomorrow.

Bubble: Yeah, bye. Come on ‘Bobby’. I’ll be glad when this is all over. It’s torturous.

Squeek: But Steve, it’s all about the process.

Bubble: My name is not Steve, and stuff the process! I just wanna get this over and done with and go home! I only hope His Miserableness appreciates this.

Squeek: I don’t want to go back.

Bubble: What are you talking about? Have you gone mad?

Squeek: No. I think I’ve finally come to my senses! I’m sick of being put down and yelled at. I’m tired of always having to think of bad things to do and being glad when others are hurting. I’ve had enough.

Bubble: But you are a bad guy. You were born bad and it’s in your genes …

Squeek: …in my genes. Yeah yeah, I know. But I don’t believe it any more. And I’ve had enough.

Bubble: The boss isn’t going to be pleased when he hears this. Mutiny isn’t allowed.

Squeek: Bubble, the Boss doesn’t care about me or you. He only thinks about himself, and I wouldn’t be surprised if this was another one of those assignments where you and I end up looking like fools.

Bubble: Of course he cares about us. We are his friends. Everyone needs friends. Even bad guys. Come on Squeek, don’t bail out. You’ll upset him.

Squeek: I don’t care. Life is full of disappointments, so get used to it. (Dame enters)

Dame: Yoohoo, Hello. Just the person I wanted to see.

Bubble: Oh great! Godzilla’s arrived.

Dame (ignores Bubble and speaks to Squeek) Now I’ve just been thinking about the play, and realise that
what it needs is modernising. So why don’t we put our heads together and see what we come up with.

Bubble

Ha! If you put your two heads together, who knows, you may even be able to come up with half a brain!

Squeek

Just ignore him. He’s got issues.

Dame

Bless you. He seems to have a lot of problems. Come on, let’s give it a go.

Squeek

But what about Isabella? Shouldn’t we ask her first?

Dame

I think she’s a bit out of it at the moment. She’s a bit over the top with this play. Can’t see the trees for the forest, if you know what I mean. Come on, we’ll get some ideas together and show her at the next reversal. (Bubble goes to go with them)

Sorry, it’s girls only on this one (they link arms and exit)

Bubble

I think she has got ‘girls’ muddled up with ‘hags’! I’ve had enough of all this. I’m sick of the nativity stuff. What a load of rubbish. A king born in a stable. Shepherds bringing sheep. Wise guys following stars. Give me a break. No wonder the boss wants to stop it going ahead. Well, I’m all for that. From now on, I will be the worst ever Joseph, and Squeek had better be the worst ever Mary, or there’ll be trouble! I’ll give the boss a ring and see how much longer he wants us to keep this lark up. (takes out cell phone and punches in numbers)

SCENE 5

(phone rings somewhere in auditorium. Natas answers with a hiss)

Natas

Not now!

Bubble

But I just wanted…. (phone goes dead) Hello? Oh grizzle guts?? Hmm, must have got cut off. I’ll try again. (meanwhile Cat, Norman, and Richard have entered the auditorium. Phone goes again. Natas stands and begins to run with others chasing him. Phone is going all the time) That’s funny. He’s not answering (as ringing gets nearer) It’s like I can hear his phone ringing (Natas right behind him) What is that ringing? Maybe I’ve got tinitis.

Natas

You’ll have something much more serious if you don’t turn that phone off, and help me to hide!

Bubble (jumping) Why your miserableness, there you are! I’ve been trying to get hold of you to ask…. (Natas grabs him by the throat) But that can wait. Hide you say? Er, how about a disguise? Put this on (hands him his Joseph outfit which he quickly gets into as others arrive)

Richard

Hello citizens.

Bubble

Hello. My name is Bub...Steve. And this is...er, Joseph. Joe.

Richard

Hello Bub-Steve, and Joe. Going to a fancy dress, huh?

Bubble

Yes. He’s going as Joseph and Mary. Well, just Joseph really.

Richard

Good. I wonder if you can help us. We are looking for a bad, nasty villain. Did you
see anyone come this way?

Bubble Not at all. Maybe he went the other way?

Richard I don’t think so citizen Bub, because we’ve just come from there.

Norman Are you sure you didn’t see anyone?

Cat That means he must be around here somewhere.

Bubble (Natas nudges him) Ah, a bad nasty villain, you say? (all nod. Bubble begins to describe Natas) A tall fellow? (all nod) Dark hair? (nod) Sort of looks like this guy (they start to look at Natas who stamps on Bubbles foot) Ouch! But it’s not him of course. No, because this is Joe and the fellow you want went that way. (points off)

Richard Thank you very much citizen Bub. You have aided in thwarting a bad guy, and you can take a great deal of satisfaction in that, if not for you…

Cat Oh come on!

Richard Right. Bye. (they exit)

Natas Good, we’ve got rid of them. I’m off.

Bubble Hang on Boss. I wanted to ask you about…

Natas Oh for goodness sake. Questions, questions. Can’t you work it out for yourself?

Bubble Not really. It’s about this assignment. How much longer do we have to keep going?

Natas Until it is finished, idiot!

Bubble It’s just that I’m concerned about Squeek. He’s really getting into…

Natas Concerned? Concerned! What kind of talk is that from a bad guy. You shouldn’t be concerned about anyone. Only yourself. That’s what being a bad guy is all about - you only think of yourself. You don’t give a care about anyone else.

Bubble Yeah, not any of those good guys.

Natas No one! Do you think I reached this pinnacle of badness by caring for people? I don’t care for anyone. Not you. Not that imbecile Squeek. No one! You guys are a dime a dozen, and the sooner you realize that, the easier it will be for you. Now I’m off. So long sucker, and welcome to the big, bad world. (he exits leaving Bubble standing very sadly on the stage watching him go. Hopefully you’ll get some ‘aaaah’s from the audience. He goes to exit)

Cat (off) Hey you. Stop! (they come running on) Wait! Where’s your friend gone? (Bubble looks confused) The guy that was with you. Y’know, Joseph.

Bubble Oh. He went that way. (they go to exit. Bubble thinks) Hey, can I ask you guys a question?

Norman Sure, what is it?
Bubble: Do you care about each other? I mean, if one of you was in trouble, would you others help them? Would you care? Oh, that sounds stupid. Forget it.

Richard: No, that's a good question, and the answer is yes. We always try and help each other out, and we certainly do care about each other. Why do you want to know?

Bubble: No reason. Just wondering.

Cat: Well, we've got to go now.

Bubble: Wait. That other guy? He's the one you're looking for. Natas the Nasty. He went that way.(they look at her and smile)

Cat: Thanks. Come on. (exit)

Bubble: There is something very wrong about not caring for others. I think I've just learnt a lesson.

Nemod (rushing on): Oy! You! Booble, isn't it? Where's my Natas?

Bubble: No Madam, it isn’t Booble, it’s Bubble.

Nemod: Whatever. Just tell me where Natas is, will you.

Bubble: You are made from the same uncaring mould that he was made from, aren’t you?

Nemod: What are you rabbiting on about, dross-head?

Bubble: See? By belittling others, you can make yourselves feel better. Well, it doesn’t work. And I’ve had enough.

Nemod: Look, I’ll speak slowly so that you can understand. Natas has forgotten his lunch. I need to find him so that I can give it to him. O.K?

Bubble: You want to give Natas his lunch?(she nods) Because you really care about him. How lovely. Nemod, you have proven me wrong.

Nemod: Care about him? What on earth are you talking about. I’ve put cyanide in his sandwiches – I want to make sure he gets it!(evil laugh)

Bubble: Maybe Natas is right. You can’t change really bad guys. (to Nemod) He went that way(she exits after him) But I know it’s not too late for me to change. (exits)

SCENE 6

Dame: And then for the last scene, rather than have shepherds and wise men, we thought we could update it to pimps and fortune tellers, and then it doesn't have to be just blokes, you see. We can use women.

Miss Primm: I daren’t ask what gifts the pimps and fortune tellers would bring. (carries on as Dame is just about to tell her) And as for updating the angels to care-givers, and Mary and Joseph to Romeo and Juliet, well, I've never heard such a thing.

Squeek: We just wanted to modernise it. Make it more accessible to the audiences of today. Maybe we went a bit far.
Miss Primm  Modernise it? I think we are missing a point here, people, and if we don't understand it, how on earth can we make our audience get it? We are talking here about an historical event. Something that really happened. And because it is true, we don't need to update it, or modernise it. We are also talking about an historical event that changed our world. Something so big, it still has people arguing over it today. And it all started with this little baby (picks out doll and cradles it) called Jesus. It's all about him. Now I have some homework for you all. Find out about this baby - all you can. Read the story of how he was born. Read about his life. Get to know him. Our performance is tomorrow night! I should have cancelled when I had the chance. Anyway, we shall meet early tomorrow for a quick run through before hand. See you then.(they all get up to leave. Bubble has taken Squeek aside to talk to him) What a shambles.

Dame  Didn't you like any of our ideas?

Miss Primm (thinks) No. Do your homework, Aunty, and I think you'll be inclined to agree with me.

Dame  If I do my homework reclined, I'll fall asleep my dear. Bye bye.(exits)

Miss Primm  (to Bubble and Squeek who are still talking) Ready to go?

Squeek  We won’t be long.

Miss Primm  Well I’ll let you lock up. Good night.

Bubble  Good night.(she exits) And then he called me a sucker. You were right, Squeek. He doesn’t care about us.

Squeek  He’s really bad. But it’s good that you have realised it.

Bubble  So what do we do now? Pull out of the play?

Squeek  No way. We do the opposite.

Bubble  But we can’t stay in the play. We will ruin it.

Squeek  Not if we do our absolute best.

Bubble  Squeek, look at you. You’re not even a woman!

Squeek  Don’t think that hasn’t concerned me either, especially because I think I really like Isabella.

Bubble  Oh great!

Squeek  But we’ve got away with it so far. All we need to do is carry it off for the play. Like I say, do our best.

Bubble  Do you really think we can do it?

Squeek  I think it’s all in what Isabella said tonight. We have to get to know Jesus. That’s what will save us. Come on, let’s get started.

Bubble  I wonder what Natas will do when the play doesn’t get wrecked?
Squeek      We’ll find out tomorrow. Come on.(exit)

SCENE 7

Natas      Managed to get rid of those awful good guys once and for all. Now I can put my plans into action. I must find the lovely Isabella and plant a little seed. Ah, here she comes now.(Miss Primm enters and starts setting stage for The Nativity) Hello my dear, how are you?

Miss Primm  Oh it’s you! What are you doing here? Up to some mischief no doubt. Well, I don’t want you around here tonight. I am far too busy putting my play on.

Natas      But that’s what I’m here to see. I love that play.

Miss Primm  You?

Natas      Can’t get enough of it. Wherever there is a nativity, there am I.

Miss Primm  Quite. Anyway, don’t get under my feet.

Natas      So how is it going? Looking good?

Miss Primm  Everyone is doing their best.

Natas      But no concerns or anything?

Miss Primm  Look, what do you want? I’m busy.

Natas      And I want to help. I want to see that show go ahead just as much as you. What can I do? A shoulder rub perhaps?(tries to rub her shoulders)

Miss Primm  You can leave me alone! I’m sorry, but I’m very concerned about this play, so if you could just leave me alone....(he doesn’t get the hint) now!

Natas      Oh right. Sure. I’ll be just here if you need a hand.(she goes) Har, har, har. If she wasn’t already stressed, she sure is now. And once the play goes on and my dolt-heads start messing up...it’ll be ‘Oh Natas, please help me’. Speaking of those dolts, I wonder where they are? I’ll go and find them and give them some last minute instructions.(exits as Bubble and Squeek enter)

Squeek      All set?

Bubble     All set.

Squeek      Let’s go and find the others. We really need to make sure this is the best nativity ever.(as they go to exit, Bubble sees Natas coming towards them)

Bubble     Oh blimey! Look out! Nere’s Hatas....

Squeek      What? Who hates us?

Bubble     Nook, Latas!

Squeek      No, we’re not late.
Bubble  Aaarggh! Lo! Nits, Atas!!

Squeek  Nits ate us?? What on earth are you talking about?(Bubble turns his head towards where Natas is coming) Oh, Natas. Natas!!! Just act natural. Hello Sir. Fancy seeing you here.

Natas  Of course I’m here, silly. I’ve come to see you ruin this play.

Squeek  That’s right.

Natas  All under control, is it?

Squeek  All under control, Sir.

Natas (indicating Bubble who looks a bit pale) What’s up with him? Cat got his tongue, aye? Har, har, har.(Cat suddenly drops in)

Cat  Not this time I haven’t, Natas. But I’ve got you.

Natas  Don’t you ever give up?

Cat  Never!(calling off) Over here guys.(Norman and Richard enter) And now to a cozy, comfy cell for you lot.

Natas  You can’t arrest me, I haven’t done anything.

Cat  Aah, but we suspect that you are going to do something, and so we can book you and hold you for a few hours...at least until after the play is over. Come on you lot, you’re all involved in this.

Squeek  No, wait!(Richard grabs him)

Richard  No use putting up a fight, Madam. You’re coming with me.

Bubble  You don’t understand.

Richard  Oh we understand alright. You are trying to wreck my lovely Isabella’s play, and I won’t have it! Now come quietly or I shall have to get rough.

Squeek  But we are in the play.

Bubble  Yes. It can’t go ahead without us.(Richard ponders this)

Natas  That’s right, dullbrain. Do you want to be responsible for telling Isabella that her play cannot go ahead?

Richard  Alright. You can do the play. But then you are going to jail.

Cat  But Richard, the reason we are putting them in jail is so that they can’t do the play.(Richard struggles with this one)

Richard  No. They have to do the play. But we’ll stay here and keep an eye on them.

Cat  I don’t think this is a good idea.
Squeek: Might I have a word with you, Cat? You remember me, don’t you? (drops wig)

Cat: Squeek?

Squeek: The same.

Cat: I never knew... (indicating that he cross dresses)

Squeek: No! It’s not what it seems. But if I could just have a word? (they go aside and whisper. Nemod enters)

Nemod: There you are, you little rascal (pinches Natas’s cheek). I’ve been running all over the countryside after you. You forgot your lunch, you big silly. Here it is, now. Where’s my kiss for bringing it? (Natas shudders)

Richard: Who is this unwholesome creature? A friend of yours Natas? Perhaps another accomplice?

Nemod: Unwholesome creature? I’ll give you unwholesome creature, matey! Come here (she chases Richard with lunchbox)

Richard: No! Stop!! Help Norman! (Norman and Bubble manage to stop Nemod)

Cat (turning from his conference with Squeek): Alright Richard, … oh no! Not her. What are you doing here Nemod?

Nemod: Well, well, if it isn’t my little… Bottom! Hee hee hee, I love that name. Fancy calling a cat Bottom, hee hee hee.

Natas: And then to call him in at night it’s “Bottom, where are you? Where’s my Bottom” Har har har. (Cat is feeling very bad) Don’t you think it’s funny?

Norman: I don’t think it’s funny to poke fun at anyone, Natas. Especially by calling them silly names. (others all agree) Come on Cat, let’s finish what we came here to do.

Cat: Yes, thankyou Norman. Richard, we shall go with your idea. We’ll stay and watch the play.

Squeek: And we really need to go and get ready. Come on Bubble.

Natas (aside to them as they exit): Good work boy. Don’t know what you said but it worked a treat. Now make me proud!

Cat: Let’s get a seat near the front, shall we? (they go down and seat themselves in audience. Lights dim and come up as Miss Primm enters)

SCENE 8

Miss Primm: Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls. Thank you so much for coming out tonight. It has been a lot of effort and hard work to put this show together for you, and I want to thank everyone who has helped out. And now we would like to present for you ‘The Nativity’. (exits as play starts)

Narrator (story is acted out as it is narrated. Swap Bubble to Mary and Squeek to Joseph)
AND IT CAME TO PASS THAT GOD SENT THE ANGEL GABRIEL TO NAZARETH TO MARY, WHO WAS ENGAGED TO JOSEPH, AND MARY BECAME PREGNANT WITH GOD’S OWN SON. CAESAR AUGUSTUS ISSUED A DECREE FOR ALL THE WORLD TO BE TAXED AND EACH HAD TO GO TO HIS OWN TOWN TO REGISTER. JOSEPH AND MARY, WHO WAS VERY PREGNANT, HAD TO GO TO THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM. BUT WHEN THEY ARRIVED THE TOWN WAS FULL AND THERE WAS NO ROOMS AVAILABLE. JOSEPH AND MARY SLEPT IN THE STABLE, AND THERE SHE HAD HER FIRSTBORN SON. SHE WRAPPED HIM IN BLANKETS AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER.

(song) SILENT NIGHT


(song) WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD AND THE WORD WAS GOD. THROUGH HIM ALL THINGS WERE MADE; WITHOUT HIM NOTHING WAS MADE THAT HAS BEEN MADE. IN HIM WAS LIFE AND THAT LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN. THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS, BUT THE DARKNESS HAS NOT UNDERSTOOD IT.

(song) O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

SCENE 9

Miss Primm (to everyone) That was fabulous. Thank you everyone, thank you. (Richard, Norman, Cat and Natas enter)

Richard (kisses Miss Primm on cheek) My dear Isabella, that was superb. Well done. (they continue to talk as Natas goes over to Bubble and Squeek)

Natas What do you call that? Try to ruin my plans would you? Well that’s the last time I let you two do a job for me again. It’ll be kitchen duty for a long time for the both of you.

Squeek Not for me. I quit!

Bubble I quit too.

Natas You can’t quit. You’re not allowed.

Squeek Who’s going to stop us?

Mob 1 (coming up to them) Good job Bobette, Steve. Hope you guys can help out next year.

Natas Bobette? Steve?? Aah, these people don’t know who you really are do they? How
about I blow the whistle on you unless you come back and work for me.

Squeek    Blow your whistle, Natas. You can’t hurt us.

Bubble    But Squeek, what about Isabella.

Natas      What? I see. You have a little crush on the lovely Isabella, but she thinks you’re a girl. Hmmm. I see a chance for some mischief. Har, har, har.

Squeek     Don’t you dare, Natas. What is it with you? Your life is horrible, so you have to make other people’s lives horrible? Didn’t you learn anything from the play?

Natas      What are you talking about. You can’t learn things from plays. It’s just a story. And what do you know about my life?

Squeek     I know that you are a sad little man, who just really needs a friend. I know that some stories are true. And I know that I have had enough of all the bad stuff. I just wanna have some fun!

Natas      It’s true. I am a sad little man. I do make others miserable. (sigh) Ah but who can be bothered with the rehabilitation. (jumps on stool) Hey everyone, look at this! (takes Squeeks wig off) Things aren’t always what they seem har, har, har. (stunned silence) See ya later (exits)

Cat        Get him (Norman and Richard grab him and bring him back)

Squeek     I’m sorry everyone. It’s a long story. I’m going now. (starts to exit)

Miss Primm Wait. Don’t go. (to Natas) You are a mean and miserable person. I thought there was some hope for you both, but I see now that you choose to be evil, and no one will change that except yourselves. Until that time, you are no longer my parents!

All Your parents???

Miss Primm (to Squeek) Whatever has happened is in the past. You helped make our show a success. Please stay, Bobby, or whatever your name is.

Dame      Oooh, a bloke. She was wondering why she fancied you. Ooops, did I say that out loud?

Squeek    (to Miss Primm ) You like me?

Miss Primm (embarrassed) Er…I appreciate all you’ve...

Squeek    No, I mean, because I like you too.

Miss Primm You do?

Squeek    But I thought that Richard and you....

Miss Primm Richard? He’s my brother.

All        Your Brother??

Natas    (to Nemod) Where did we go wrong, my dear?
Nemod  Potty training (both nod sadly)

Squeek  Your brother. Wonderful!

Dame  (to Bubble) ‘Ere, you’re not a woman, are you?

Bubble  Actually, yes, I am.

Dame  That’s a relief, because I didn’t fancy you at all. (to Richard) You, on the other hand…. C’mere gorgeous (chases him around)

Narrator  And to the end we finally come, we hope you’ve had some fun
  Our tale of love and laughter done, the girl is finally won.
  And for those of you who missed the moral, we think we should explain
  If you’re bad you’ll be sad, and the good guys win, we hope it’s very plain.
  So goodnight, adieu, and fond farewells and thank you for your aid
  The pleasure this night has all been ours, especially when I get paid!

All  You get paid?!?

  (bows during We Wish You A Merry Christmas)

THE END
A pantomime is a traditional British Christmas play. They are an important part of our Christmas festivities. They are performed in theatres, villages halls and community centres. © copyright of projectbritain.com. Did you know? The word pantomime comes from the Greek words Pan, which means all, and mimos, which translates as imitator. Pantomimes contain a number of standard ingredients: Cross dressing - In pantomimes the male roles are often played by women and female roles by men. Our dedicated Christmas and pantomime page has everything you might need to know about what's coming up over the winter months. Featured pantos. Dick Whittington logo image. Dick Whittington. Wimbledon. Pantomime. Performances begin: 05 December 2020. Buy Tickets. Best pantomimes to watch this Christmas 2019. What are the fairest pantos in all the land? Damian Buhagiar, Richard Appiah-Sarpong, Jonathan Hermosa-Lopez and Dominic Sibanda in West Side Story rehearsals at the Curve. Pantomimes. Pantomime (or 'Panto' for short!) is a traditional British Christmas play and a chance for people to go to the theatre. But it really came from very un-British traditions, nothing to do with Christmas whatever! Millfield Theatre Pantomime - Mother Goose 2012 [CC-BY-SA-2.0 (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0)], via Wikimedia Commons. It is now primarily a children's entertainment show, in the theatre, based on traditional children's stories Fairy Stories such as Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella.