

THE LITTLE TOWN OF CHRISTMAS

By Pat Cook

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AUTHOR'S NOTES

Here are twelve yuletide sketches with flexible casts and minor scenery, just right for any stage. Such old favorites as "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and "A Christmas Carol" are included, of course, along with interviews with elves and reindeer. There's even an interview with Mrs. Santa Claus, the *real* boss of the outfit.

This easy-to-produce show can be mounted as written for a full evening's entertainment or by incorporating other acts such as singers, dancers, etc., you can create more of a variety show. Also, the show is written in scenes allowing the producer to easily pick and choose which scenes the company may use, making the show any length needed.

As indicated, the show is very easy to produce, calling for only pieces of scenery rather than a full set, although a full holiday atmosphere is preferred. Each scene needs only a rocking chair or maybe a bench or two, making the show very practical for travel.

Also, the cast is extremely flexible. Many parts are simply written NARRATOR, INTERVIEWER or ANNOUNCER allowing them to be played by a man or woman. With that in mind, I hope you enjoy the show.

Playing Time: Full evening.

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SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

(NARRATOR opens all scenes.)

Sc. 1: 'Twas the Night Before Christmas...(9 Characters, Singers)

Sc. 2: Two Elves...(2 Elves)

Sc. 3: And a Partridge in Ah-Choo!...(Maestro, Chorus)

Sc. 4: Interview with a Reindeer...(Interviewer and Announcer)

Sc. 5: Santa's "Pop" Quiz...(Santa, Kid, Passersby)

Sc. 6: Advice From Mrs. Claus...(Mrs. Claus)

Sc. 7: Window Shopping...(3 Kids and Santa)

Sc. 8: Reindeer or...Dog?...(Newscaster, Announcer, Claude, Chorus)

INTERMISSION

Sc. 9: Holiday Etiquette...(Professor Hollie)

Sc. 10: That Giving Spirit...(2 Women, 2 Waiters, Man, Claude)

Sc. 11: Three (Young) Wise Men...(3 Kids)

Sc. 12: A Christmas Carol?...(13 or more, doubling possible)

Scene 1

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

(AT RISE: While the lights are still down, a very soft version of "Jingle Bells" begins. Slowly, the LIGHTS come up to reveal the NARRATOR, reading a paper, sitting on a bench, SL. A desk with microphone is CS. After a medium pause, the NARRATOR lowers the paper and notices the audience.)

NARRATOR: Oh, excuse me. *(NARRATOR rises.)* I didn't see you. Well, first let me welcome you to Christmastown. I have been appointed to greet you and make you all welcome. Merry Christmas. Oh, I guess you'll have to excuse me again. See, I really wasn't appointed as I said before. But the thing is, here in the little town of Christmas, whoever meets a stranger is automatically appointed a goodwill ambassador for the village, so to speak. It then behooves them to make the stranger comfortable. *(As the music dies down, the NARRATOR takes on a confidential tone.)* Tell you the truth, we don't get too many strangers. I mean, look around. You all know the place, the people. It's a...a comfortable, warm location. And the population, well, we can never keep count. Well, let's see. What can I show you first? *(ANNOUNCER comes onstage and moves to rocking chair near CS news desk.)* Oh, this is our local cable TV studio, and if I'm correct, they're about to present one of the holiday's best known classics...See, around here, at this time of the year, we have all kinds of special shows.

ANNOUNCER: *(Sitting in rocker.)* Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. This is cable access channel... *(Four musical TONES are heard.)* ...Y U L E.

NARRATOR: What else? *(ANNOUNCER shushes HIM.)* Sorry. *(NARRATOR exits.)*

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ANNOUNCER: Ah yes, the spirit of Christmas is everywhere, just perfect for tonight's little entertainment. Now, I'm sure you've all heard the classic story of Santa's ride. You may even know it by heart. It's called, "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" by Clement Moore...or less. So, sit back and relax.

(SFX: Sleigh bells are heard.)

ANNOUNCER: *(Starts to read from a large book.)* 'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature...

(SPOTLIGHT hits NEWSMAN who suddenly rushes in and sits behind news desk.)

NEWSMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, we interrupt this holiday program to bring you this late-breaking bulletin. Earlier this evening, an unidentified flying object was spotted just over Donner's creek. Since it's initial sighting, more reports have been coming in regarding the UFO. We now switch you electronically to the scene of the sightings where our reporter is standing by.

NEWSWOMAN: *(SPOTLIGHT on HER at DSR, holding a microphone and clipboard.)* Yes, I'm here at the edge of Donner's creek and oooops! *(Stumbles backward.)*

NEWSMAN: We seem to have lost our feed there.

NEWSWOMAN: No, just our footing. S'what I get for standing so close to the edge. I'm wearing my new pumps, too.

NEWSMAN: From your vantage point, can you see the flying craft?

NEWSWOMAN: Yes. Yes, I believe so.

NEWSMAN: Is it a saucer?

NEWSWOMAN: Yeeeno!

NEWSMAN: What was that? Could you be a little more specific?

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NEWSWOMAN: That is to say, it isn't shaped like a saucer. It appears to be some kind of a carriage. I...I can't see any landing wheels. It doesn't appear to have collision lights.

NEWSMAN: Are there any other eyewitnesses there with you?

NEWSWOMAN: *(As HELEN moves into SPOTLIGHT.)* Yes, I'm standing next to Helen Thurlough. She was the first to spot the craft. Miss Thurlough, can you tell us all exactly what happened, in your own words?

HELEN: I just talk in this thing here?

NEWSWOMAN: That's right.

HELEN: *(Into the mike.)* Hi, Ma! I'm on TV!

NEWSWOMAN: About your sighting?

HELEN: Of the thing up in the air?

NEWSWOMAN: That's right.

HELEN: Well, it was the strangest thing and all. I was outside, trying to get holda my youngest. Listen, when he's got in the mud, you gotta take both hands and have some knowledge of martial arts...

NEWSWOMAN: The UFO?

HELEN: Anyway, what I'd like to say about that thing first is I think it's been sending out some sort of...brain waves.

NEWSWOMAN: Brain waves?

HELEN: Yeah, on account'a how the kids have been acting, all over the neighborhood.

NEWSWOMAN: How do you mean?

HELEN: Well, it's been real quiet, you know, especially today. Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. And the kids then did something real peculiar.

NEWSWOMAN: Can you explain?

HELEN: Well, they started behaving themselves, first off. It was real weird, like they had visions of sugar plums in their heads or something. And the next think I know, get this...*(SHE leans in, confidentially.)*...they started hanging their stockings on the chimney with care?

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NEWSWOMAN: Well, who on earth did they think would be there?

HELEN: I don't know. I figured they hung the things there to get them warmed up. We used to do the same thing with Pa whenever he got -

NEWSWOMAN: (*Pushing ahead.*) That's when you saw the UFO?

HELEN: Nope. I heard it.

NEWSWOMAN: Heard it? What did it sound like?

HELEN: Uncle Bob.

NEWSWOMAN: Your uncle sounds like a flying saucer?

HELEN: He does when he walks.

NEWSWOMAN: Can you elucidate? (*HELEN stares at HER blankly.*) Can you explain?

HELEN: Oh! Well, see, whenever Uncle Bob walks around he sort of jams his hands into his pockets and jangles his change.

NEWSWOMAN: Jangles?

HELEN: Jingles, would be more like it.

NEWSWOMAN: So, you heard a jingling sound.

HELEN: Yeah. Like Uncle Bob.

(*SPOTLIGHT off WOMEN, back on NEWSMAN.*)

NEWSMAN: We thank you for that on-the-spot report. We now take you, electronically, to the Tannenbaum Observatory where we will be speaking to Professor Plum. He first wants to make it known that he had nothing to do with any board game.

(*SPOTLIGHT on PLUM, sitting SL.*)

PLUM: (*A New England type.*) Thank ya.

NEWSMAN: Professor, can you hear me?

PLUM: Heah ya' fine.

NEWSMAN: You have seen the object?

PLUM: Eyeah, that's correct.

End of Freeview

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