

# Holiday Celebrities: Criminal Justice

*By Bryan Starchman*

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*Dedicated to Noel*

## STORY OF THE PLAY

“Attention all units. Be on the look out for a man with pink wings and a bag full of human teeth. He’s considered unarmed and hilarious.”

What if the holiday celebrities that we all know and love lived among us? Would they still be welcomed with open arms or would their actions be considered criminal? In *Holiday Celebrities: Criminal Justice* we enter the dark underbelly of the holiday celebrity world. A world where Santa’s been dodging his taxes, the Easter Bunny gets caught breaking and entering, and the Thanksgiving Turkey is wanted for grand theft auto after stealing a poultry truck and driving straight for the border. The police will be working overtime tonight as they deport leprechauns, arrest Cupid for assault with a deadly weapon, and shoot down Witches flying over restricted areas. Call your lawyer and make bail in time to see this satirical play based on all of your favorite traditions.

### **Original Cast**

#### **Act 1**

*Bad Poet: Chandra Brenner*

*Max the Elf: Sam Brooks*

*Easter Bunny: Amanda Von Raeder*

*Officer Hammerstein: Wendy Burr*

*Thanksgiving Turkey: Ryan Delgado*

*The Tooth Fairy: Sam Brooks*

*Santa Claus: Michael Beaudoin*

*Harry from the IRS: Boomer Mayo*

*Jessica: Nasheena Chavez*

*Detective Gilbert: Tiffany Shaw*

*Detective Sullivan: Emily Bodfish*

*Gretel: Bri Summerlin*

#### **Act 2**

*Cupid: Chad Baker*

*Maude: Megan Fitzhenry*

*Stupid Questioner: Tenaya Bookout*

*Bailiff: Amanda Moczygemba*

*Father Time: David Gregory*

*Leprechaun: Wesley Riddle*

*INS Agent: Amanda Moczygemba*

*Kenny: Pierce Peterson*

*Bald Eagle: Michael Beaudoin*

*Billy: Ryan Delgado*

*Billy and Mary’s Mother: Anna Currier*

*Frank: Jordan Ashton*

*Madison Baker: Anna Currier*

*Judge: Misty Pettis-Humphrey*

*Mother Nature: Bri Pasley*

*New Year’s Baby: Eddie Bragg*

*Guard: Wendy Burr*

*Witch: Alycia Eichman*

*Kenny’s Mom: Jordan Ashton*

*Officer Rodgers: Sam Brooks*

*Mary: Jessica Furlan*

*Mrs. Campbell: Tenaya Bookout*

### **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(Widely flexible cast, approx. 12 m, 9 w, 13 flexible.  
Much doubling possible. See page 5 for suggestions.)*

\*BAD POET: Narrator (M/F) who sings and plays harmonica.  
\*SANTA CLAUS: Male.  
MAX (or Maxine): A disgruntled elf.  
HARRY (or Harriet): An auditor from the IRS.  
\*EASTER BUNNY: Female.  
JESSICA: A rich woman, mid-30s, living in Beverly Hills.  
OFFICER RODGERS: Male or female.  
OFFICER HAMMERSTEIN: Male or female.  
\*THANKSGIVING TURKEY: Male.  
DETECTIVE GILBERT: Good cop.  
DETECTIVE SULLIVAN: Bad cop.  
\*TOOTH FAIRY: Male.  
GRETEL: Girl, played by a teenager or adult with pigtails.  
\*CUPID: Male.  
FRANK: Middle-aged, unhappily married to Maude.  
MAUDE: The reason for Frank's misery.  
MADISON (or Mark) BAKER: Flashy attorney, male or female.  
\*STUPID QUESTIONER: A stupid attorney, male or female.  
JUDGE: Male or female.  
BAILIFF: Male or female.  
\*MOTHER NATURE: Female.  
\*FATHER TIME: Male.  
\*NEW YEAR'S BABY: Male.  
\*LEPRECHAUN: Male.  
GUARD: Male or female.  
INS AGENT: Male or female, hard to fool.  
\*WITCH: Female.  
KENNY: A creepy middle-aged man.  
KENNY'S MOM: An overly protective mother.  
\*BALD EAGLE: Male. Unusual officer of the law.  
BILLY: A young boy.  
MARY: Billy's bratty sister  
FATHER: Billy and Mary's father.  
OLD MRS. CAMPBELL: Their cranky neighbor.  
EXTRAS: Various extra prisoners and court observers.

*\* Indicates a Holiday Celebrity, 13 total.*

## **SYNOPSIS OF SCENES**

**Scene 1: The Big Three**

Santa, Bunny, Turkey, Bad Poet

**Scene 2: Revenge of the Disgruntled Elf or “Elf You!”**

Max, Harry, Santa

**Scene 3: Breaking and Eastering**

Bunny, Jessica, Officers Rodgers and Hammerstein

**Scene 4: Poultry in Motion**

Turkey, Officer Hammerstein

**Scene 5: To Tell the Tooth**

Bad Poet, Tooth Fairy, Detectives Gilbert and Sullivan,  
Gretel

**Scene 6: Take My Wife ... Please!**

Bad Poet, Officer Hammerstein, Cupid, Frank, Maude,  
Judge, Bailiff, Baker, Stupid Questioner

**Scene 7: The Odd Couple: Mother Nature and Father Time**

Officer Hammerstein, Judge, Bailiff, Madison Baker, Stupid  
Questioner, Mother Nature, Father Time

**Scene 8: The Really Odd Couple**

Leprechaun, New Year's Eve Baby, Guard, INS Agent

**Scene 9: Witch Upon a Star**

Witch, Kenny, Kenny's Mom

**Scene 10: Good versus Eagle**

Eagle, Officer Rodgers, Mary, Billy, Dad, Mrs. Campbell

**Scene 11: Plea Bargain**

Santa, Turkey, Easter Bunny, Cupid, Tooth Fairy,  
Leprechaun, Mother Nature, Father Time, Bad Poet, Baby,  
Witch, Bald Eagle, Stupid Questioner

## **DOUBLING**

Much doubling is possible with this play and almost all extra roles (and even some of the 13 holiday celebrities) can be played as male or female. Below is just a sample of how you could use doubling to cut down the non-holiday celebrity roles so that they could all be played by just six actors. There are many other possibilities to suit almost all sizes of casts.

*Actor 1: Max (Sc. 2), Hammerstein (Sc. 3,4,6), Guard (Sc. 8)*

*Actor 2: Harry (Sc. 2), Rodgers (Sc. 3.10), Bailiff (Sc. 6,7)*

*Actor 3: Jessica (Sc. 3), Maude (Sc. 6), INS Agent (Sc. 8)*

*Kenny's Mom (Sc. 9), Mrs. Campbell (Sc. 10)*

*Actor 4: Gretel (Sc. 5), Judge (Sc. 6,7), Mary (Sc. 10)*

*Actor 5: Det. Gilbert (Sc. 5), Frank (Sc. 6), Kenny (Sc. 9),  
Father (Sc. 10)*

*Actor 6: Det. Sullivan (Sc. 5), Baker (Sc. 7), Billy (Sc. 10)*

## **PROPS**

3 stools	Harmonica
Handcuffs	Easter basket
Baseball bat	Chairs
Chicken puppet	Gun or nightstick
Police radio handset	Lollipop
Stun gun	Quiver and bow
Gavel	Briefcase
Legal pad	Glasses
Dark glasses	Dollar bill
Broom	String
Foil hat	Tray of instruments
Badge	Cage
Stuffed toy cat	Plate of cheese sandwiches

## **COSTUMES**

**TURKEY, SANTA, and EASTER BUNNY:** Black and white-striped prison shirts in addition to their normal costumes.

**MAX:** Elf costume with a funny hat with a bell on the end, tights, and soft shoes with curled-up toes.

**GILBERT AND SULLIVAN:** Suits.

**CUPID:** Leisure suit with wings.

**MOTHER NATURE:** Floral apparel with leaves and birds in her hair.

**FATHER TIME:** A scraggily-looking old man with a very long beard and tinted sunglasses looking something like Jerry Garcia.

**LEPRECHAUN:** Dressed like all leprechauns, green tights, beard, and a big green hat with a gold shamrock on it.

**BABY:** Unitard overlaid with a bib, and a giant diaper, optional bonnet.

## **Scene 1**

### **The Big Three**

*(AT RISE: Three figures sit in a prison cell on stools in semi-darkness; shadows from the prison bars partially cover their faces. The SOUND of a sad blues harmonica plays from offstage as the LIGHTS fade UP. The audience discovers that the prisoners are the THANKSGIVING TURKEY, SANTA CLAUS, and the EASTER BUNNY, and it looks as if they have seen better days. They are each wearing a black and white-striped prison shirt. The stage is bare except for the stools they sit on. BAD POET enters, playing the blues harmonica ... poorly.)*

SANTA: *(To audience.)* Hello again, ladies and gentlemen. The last time you saw us gracing the stage we were begging folks to recognize the trials and tribulations that holiday celebrities have to endure every single day.

TURKEY: Now we look back on those days with fond memories. Life really wasn't all that bad. Sure Santa's reindeer were getting shot at, I got attacked at an Overeaters Anonymous meeting by a bunch of ravenous, turkey-craving fatties, and the Easter Bunny over there was picketed by animal rights activists for wearing fur ....

BUNNY: But at least we had our freedom. In the past months many of your favorite holiday celebrities have been wrongly accused of crimes that they have not committed. But we're innocent, I tell you, we're innocent!

SANTA: Yeah, that's what they all say.

BUNNY: But it's the truth!

SANTA: I know it is, but the only way we're going to get out of here is if we plead our case to the public.

TURKEY: That's right! If you folks out there will start a grassroots movement to free your favorite holiday celebrities, once again you'll be able to enjoy presents under the tree ....

SANTA: Easter Baskets overflowing with candy ....

### **End of Freeview**

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