

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

Note: Where appropriate in the script directors are welcome to use local place names and references.

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 her 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 goes to move off, but stays)
Right, sorry about that Ladies and Gentlemen. To begin...
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....

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'?

(general agreement)

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 Auntie, 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 butts. But what? (Nemod enters)

Bubble Er...over to you, Squeek.

Nemod Now you tell me. Why don't you like butts? 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 me 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) Har, har, har. I am so close. (to audience) 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

nativity.(pause)

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)Aaaarrggghh!!

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.

Bubble (jumping in quickly) ette...Bobbette...it’s French... for Shirley. And I’m Steve. That’s not French. It’s English. (getting bogged down) Not from England though.

Miss Primm Quite. You have quite a deep voice, Bob..bette.

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 start 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 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) Gooood. 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!

Richard Why yes, I am. How did you guess? Though I really do prefer Richard.

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 them 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 Hmm. 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 supercalefrajesticexpealidocious 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 Yooohoo, 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. Nemo enters)

Nemo 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?

Nemo 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 Nemo)

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

Nemo 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, thank you 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

THERE WERE SHEPHERDS LIVING OUT IN THE FIELDS NEARBY, WATCHING OVER THEIR FLOCKS.

THE ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED TO THEM AND THE GLORY OF GOD SHONE AROUND THEM AND THEY WERE TERRIFIED. BUT THE ANGEL SAID: "(FEAR NOT) I BRING YOU GREAT NEWS. TODAY A SAVIOUR HAS BEEN BORN. YOU WILL FIND HIM LYING IN A MANGER".

AND THE SKY WAS FILLED WITH ANGELS ALL SINGING 'GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE AND GOODWILL TO ALL MEN'.

WHEN THE ANGELS HAD LEFT THE SHEPHERDS HURRIED OFF AND FOUND JOSEPH AND MARY WITH THE BABY. AND THEY PRAISED GOD AND WENT ABOUT TELLING EVERYONE WHAT THEY HAD SEEN.

(song) WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT

THERE CAME FROM THE EAST WISE MEN FOLLOWING A STAR , LOOKING FOR THE KING OF THE JEWS. THEY CAME TO JOSEPH AND MARY, AND WHEN THEY SAW THE CHRIST CHILD THEY BOWED DOWN AND WORSHIPPED HIM, AND GAVE HIM GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH. AND THEN THEY DEPARTED TO THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

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. Hmm. 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. Oops, 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 Nemo) 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