

Creepy
Crawly
CHRISTMAS
A Festive Musical

Book, music & lyrics by
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Libretto

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PRODUCTION NOTES

Welcome to **Creepy Crawly Christmas!** I am sure you will enjoy rehearsing and performing this festive musical, but to aid you in your production it may be helpful to consider the following production notes.

CASTING

The script is written for 51 characters, as listed overleaf. These include 36 speaking parts and 15 Nativity miming parts. However, this production is designed to be flexible so that it will match your casting needs as closely as possible. For productions with fewer cast members, condensing and doubling of characters is possible. This can be done in numerous ways, but the following example reduces the cast number to 28:

- Reduce Ladybirds, Crickets and Fleas to just 2 parts.
- In the Nativity scene, remove the Innkeeper and Pages and have only 1 Angel and Shepherd.
- Double Caterpillars with Beetles and Ants with Dragonflies.
- Get your own Head Teacher to play the Head Teacher!

If more parts are required, then additional characters can be introduced, including extra caterpillars in the school scene, ants in the rockery scene, flowers and bug guests for the flowerbed scene, spiders in the “**Webtastic**” song and dragonflies in the “**Dragonfly Brigade**” song. With 12 such extra non-speaking characters in each scene plus a non-acting choir of 30 this brings the cast number up to over 150! It is also possible to split the lines of the caterpillars, ants, ladybirds, crickets, fleas etc. so that additional speaking parts can be made in these scenes.

Please note: Mr. Smith is intended to be the head teacher of your own particular school, and therefore you will need to replace this name with that of your own head. The name of the school (*in this case St. John's*) will also need to be replaced with the name of your own school.

COSTUMES

The majority of characters in this musical are insects and there is obviously great scope for imaginative costume design. Colours and textures of the original insects can be reflected in the costumes through the use of various unusual fabrics. Bright and colourful costumes and face paints can be enhanced with little important appendages including antennae, wings and additional legs! The insects also have particular characters or occupations, and it would be useful to reflect these in the costumes. For example, uniforms and caps for the RAF dragonflies, and headscarves, shawls and spectacles for the dotty old ladybirds.

STAGING

This musical is flexible enough to suit a wide range of venues and staging styles. Thought should be given to the size of the majority of characters (they are all small creatures) and therefore scenery should reflect this. Simple scenery such as large, bright flowers and plants should work very well. Stars and an evening sky are also important and could be incorporated into the design.

MUSIC

All the music required to stage this production is found in the score and on the Backing Track CD. A vocal recording is provided as a guide and to enable the swift learning of songs. The backing tracks without vocals are ideal to use in rehearsals and performances. Although the solo parts in songs are written for soloist only, directors may, if they wish, allow a choir to accompany or replace the soloist. This is often necessary if certain cast members are unable to perform the solo themselves fully or if a larger chorus or choir is required to be employed more fully throughout the show.

AND FINALLY...

I hope that you, your children and your audience will enjoy performing and watching this production as much as I have enjoyed writing it.

My best wishes for a successful and enjoyable production.

Craig Hawes

CHARACTERS

<i>Main Parts:</i>	Wilfred*	<i>-the unlikely caterpillar hero.</i>
	Madame Butterfly	<i>-the head of the Kindergarten</i>
	Solomon Bungee*	<i>-the singing spider</i>
	Mr. Smith	<i>-the school head teacher</i>
<i>Caterpillars:</i>	Anne Tenor	
	Chris Illiss	<i>-Wilfred's classmates at Caterpillar Kindergarten</i>
	Curly Feelers	
	Millie Pede	
<i>Ants:</i>	Sarge	
	Adam	<i>-an army of soldier ant cadets lead by Sarge Ant.</i>
	Brilly	
	Buoy	
<i>Ladybirds:</i>	Dotty	
	Ruby	<i>-a group of spinster ladybirds who love knitting and gossip.</i>
	Scarlet	
	Flo	
<i>Crickets:</i>	Botham	
	Bradman	<i>-a team of cricket cricketers who love star-gazing at night.</i>
	Sobers	
	Hobbs	
<i>Fleas:</i>	Garibaldi	
	Scratchetti	<i>-a troupe of energetic Italian Flea Circus acrobats.</i>
	Hoppo	
	Flip	
<i>Bees:</i>	Fuzz	
	Buzz	<i>-a gang of worker bees lead by the royal Queenie.</i>
	Queenie	
	Sting	
<i>Beetles:</i>	John	
	Paul	<i>-a familiar looking group of Liverpudlian musicians.</i>
	George	
	Ringo	
<i>Dragonflies:</i>	Oscar	
	Charlie	<i>-a squadron of RAF dragonfly pilots lead by Wing Commander Oscar.</i>
	Victor	
	Mike	

Nativity:

Mary
Joseph
Innkeeper
Angel 1
Angel 2
Angel 3
Shepherd 1
Shepherd 2
Shepherd 3
King 1
King 2
King 3
Page 1
Page 2
Page 3

The Nativity Characters listed above are non-speaking parts who appear in the Nativity Mime in Scene 8.

* denotes characters with singing solos

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Music 1: Overture**SCENE 1**

As the overture ends, the curtain rises upon the whole cast who are assembled to sing the first song.

Music 2: It's Christmas Again

ALL: WHEN BELLS BEGIN TO RING,
AND CHILDREN'S VOICES SING,
THE CHOIR COME A CAROLLING,
THROUGH ALL THE FROST AND SNOW!
WHEN LAUGHTER FILLS THE AIR,
YOU SMILE WITHOUT A CARE,
THERE'S MUSIC PLAYING EVERYWHERE,
AND EVERYBODY KNOWS -
IT'S CHRISTMAS AGAIN!

WHEN LIGHTS UPON THE TREE,
FILL EVERY HEART WILL GLEE,
AND UNDERNEATH FOR ALL TO SEE,
ARE PRESENTS TIED WITH BOWS!
WE HANG OUR STOCKINGS HIGH,
WITH CARROT AND MINCE PIE,
FOR SANTA CLAUS IS PASSING BY,
AND EVERYBODY KNOWS -
IT'S CHRISTMAS AGAIN!

THE SEASON'S JUST BEGUN,
A TIME FOR FESTIVE FUN,
AND IN THE HEARTS OF EVERYONE,
THE FEELING GROWS AND GROWS!
THERE'S NOTHING THAT I FEAR,
WHEN CHRISTMAS JOY IS HERE,
THE GREATEST TIME OF ALL THE YEAR,
AND EVERYBODY KNOWS -
IT'S CHRISTMAS AGAIN!
CHRISTMAS AGAIN!
CHRISTMAS AGAIN!

As the song ends, the caterpillars gather together centre stage playing games and chatting whilst the other cast members exit. Madame Butterfly enters carrying a register.

BUTTERFLY: Settle down now, young caterpillars. As you all know, this is the final day of lessons at the Caterpillar Kindergarten before you take your tests and earn your wings, I hope you are all going to work hard and do your best.

CATERPILLARS: Yes, Madame Butterfly!

BUTTERFLY: Good! Now then, let me take the register. Anne Tenor?

ANNE: Here, Madame Butterfly!

BUTTERFLY: Chris Illis?

CHRIS: Here, Madame Butterfly!

BUTTERFLY: Curly Feelers?

CURLY: Here, Madame Butterfly!

BUTTERFLY: Millie Pede?

Millie comes running on.

MILLIE: Coming, Madame Butterfly!

BUTTERFLY: Millie Pede! Why are you so late?

MILLIE: I'm sorry, Madame Butterfly. I've been taking my shoes off for the last half hour!

BUTTERFLY: I know you have more feet than the rest of us, dear, but please try to be more organised. Now let me see, who's missing?

CATERPILLARS: Wilfred!

Wilfred comes running on, looking very flustered and disorganised and as if he has got dressed in a hurry.

WILFRED: Here, Madame Butterfly!

BUTTERFLY: And where exactly have you been, Wilfred?

WILFRED: Well, you see there are nine of us in our family but my mum only set the alarm clock for eight!

BUTTERFLY: Oh, Wilfred! Still, you're just in time for school breakfast. And afterwards, we shall prepare for your big test!

WILFRED: *(looking worried)* Big test?

BUTTERFLY: That's right! To see who will earn their wings! Now, there's a plate of toasted spinach for each of you. Eat well!

Madame Butterfly hands a plate of spinach to each caterpillar, then exits. Wilfred tucks in straight away whilst the others begin to chat excitedly.

CHRIS: I'm going to be a Red Admiral when I get my wings!

ANNE: Well, when I pass the test I want to be a Painted Lady!

MILLIE: Mummy says that I'm going to be a Camberwell Beauty Queen.

CURLY: And I'm going to be a Small Copper like my dad! *(imitating a policeman)* Evening all!

WILFRED: *(finishing a mouthful of spinach)* I thought I might like to be a Tortoiseshell.

The other caterpillars all turn to look at Wilfred in amazement, then laugh loudly.

CHRIS: Well, that would suit you, Wilfred! You're as slow as a tortoise!

ANNE: Let's face it, Wilfred. You're never going to earn your wings!

MILLIE: It's true, Wilfred. You eat too much, you're slow and you can't do your sums!

CURLY: Never mind, Wilfy. When we become butterflies and you don't, you'll still be our mate, mate!

Music 3: Wilfred Our Mate

ALL: WHO IS EATING MORNING 'TIL NIGHT
ALWAYS GIVING SOMETHING A BITE
NOW HE'S FOUND HIS TROUSERS TOO TIGHT
OUR MATE, OLD WILFRED!
LETTUCE, CABBAGE, BRUSSELS AND QUICHE,
APPLE CRUMBLE, CHOCOLATE AND PEACH,
WHO WILL HAVE TEN PLATEFULS OF EACH?
WILFRED, OUR MATE!

WHO CAN'T DO WHAT WE CAN ALL DO?
WHO CAN'T SPELL OR TIE HIS OWN SHOE?
WHO CAN'T EVEN ADD TWO AND TWO?
OUR MATE, OLD WILFRED!
IN THE ANNUAL EGG AND SPOON RACE,
WHO WILL SHAKE ALL OVER THE PLACE?
WHO'LL END UP WITH EGG ON HIS FACE?
WILFRED, OUR MATE!

WHO'S A NATURAL PLAYING THE FOOL,
WHO'S SO SQUARE HE'LL NEVER BE COOL,
WHO GETS LOST JUST WALKING TO SCHOOL?
OUR MATE, OLD WILFRED!
WHO WILL NEVER LEARN HOW TO FLY,
WHO'LL JUST SIT DEJECTED AND CRY,
WHILE THE OTHERS ALL FLUTTER BY?
WILFRED, OUR MATE!

WILFRED: WHO HAS HAD ENOUGH OF THIS SONG?
WHO JUST WISHES HE COULD BELONG?
WHO WOULD LOVE TO PROVE THEM ALL WRONG?

ALL: WILFRED, OLD WILFRED, OLD WILFRED -
OUR MATE!
(AND NOW HE WANTS SOME MORE SO PASS HIM YOUR PLATE!)

At the end of the song, the other caterpillars pile up their plates in front of Wilfred, who looks extremely fed up. The school bell rings.

CHRIS: Playtime! Come on!

SCENE 2

The other caterpillars exit quickly and noisily, leaving Wilfred alone and sad. As Wilfred speaks, he moves slowly across the stage and the lighting and scenery change to reflect a new scene as he walks into the outside world and arrives at the rockery.

WILFRED: Well that's it! I've had enough of their jokes. I'm not going to stay around here and watch them all get their wings. That's it - I'll run away! I'll find somewhere where they can't find me and tease me any more.

Wilfred finds a rock and sits down upon it looking thoroughly dejected.

If only I could prove them all wrong! If only I could find a way to show them that I am clever and I can do things for myself. Some hope!

Music 4: Falling Star

Suddenly, a large glittering star falls from above and lands upon (or next to) Wilfred.

Oh, my goodness! Hello! Where did you come from? *(looking in wonder at the star)* You're very beautiful - I wonder what you are? If I was clever I could work it all out myself and take you back to where you belong. *(suddenly smiling with an idea)* Hey, maybe I can! Well, if I could do that, that would show the others! But ... wait a minute, what's that noise?

The sound of marching can be heard, along with Sarge's "Left, right" calls. The ants enter, marching, with Serge Ant leading the way.

SARGE: Left, right, left, right, left, right! Come on, you 'orrible lot, keep it up! Left, right, left, right - halt! Cadets, we seem to have found a lost caterpillar!

WILFRED: I'm not lost! I've just run away. Who are you, anyway?

SARGE: We're soldier ants, laddy. I'm Sarge Ant and these are my cadets. Cadets, attention! This is Adam Ant.

ADAM: *(saluting and stamping one foot)* Yes, Sir!

SARGE: This is Brilly Ant.

BRILLY: *(saluting and stamping one foot)* Yes, Sir!

SARGE: And this is our swimming champion, Buoy Ant.

BUOY: *(giving a little wave)* Hello!

SARGE: And what's your name, laddy?

WILFRED: Wilfred, Sir.

SARGE: And what seems to be the problem, Wilfred?

WILFRED: Well, I've found something strange and I need to know what it is. Then I can return it to where it came from and show the other caterpillars that I'm not useless after all! Look!

Wilfred picks up the star and shows it to the ants who all gasp and step back in fright.

ADAM: Blimey, Sarge, it's a spiky, shiny bomb!

BRILLY: It looks like some strange, dangerous weapon to me, Sarge!

BUOY: No, Sarge, it's a secret enemy bugging device!

SARGE: Calm down, cadets, let's not get carried away! Tell me, Wilfred, how did you find this ... er ... thing?

As the music begins, the ants gather around Wilfred to listen to his story.

Music 5: What Is It?

WILFRED: THERE I WAS, ALONE AND SAD,
I COULDN'T SEE HOW LIFE HAD GOT SO BAD,
THEN THIS THING FELL OUT OF THE SKY,
I WONDER WHAT AND I WONDER WHY!

ALL: WHAT IS IT, WHAT IS IT,
WHAT COULD IT BE?
ANIMAL, VEGETABLE, BIG MYSTERY!
THERE'S ONE THING WE'RE SURE ABOUT -
WE DON'T WANT IT, THROW THE THING OUT!

WILFRED: NOW I MAY HAVE FOUND A WAY
TO PROVE I'M NOT AS SILLY AS THEY SAY
THIS IS WHAT MY QUEST IS ABOUT
BUT I NEED HELP TO FIGURE IT OUT!

ALL: WHAT IS IT, WHAT IS IT,
WHAT COULD IT BE?
ANIMAL, VEGETABLE, BIG MYSTERY!
THERE'S ONE THING WE'RE SURE ABOUT -
WE DON'T WANT IT, THROW THE THING OUT!

WHAT IS IT, WHAT IS IT,
WHAT COULD IT BE?
ANIMAL, VEGETABLE, BIG MYSTERY!
THERE'S ONE THING WE'RE SURE ABOUT -
WE DON'T WANT IT, THROW THE THING OUT!
WE DON'T WANT IT, THROW THE THING OUT!

SARGE: That's our advice, laddy. Throw the thing out!

ADAM: That's right, mate, it looks pretty dodgy to me.

BRILLY: You don't want to go messing with that - it's a UFO.

BUOY: Yes, an Unidentified Falling Object!

WILFRED: But I have to know what it is. It's my quest!

SARGE: Well, if you insist, I know some ladies who could help you.

WILFRED: Will you tell me where to find them?

SARGE: We'll do better than that, laddy. We'll take you there! Cadets, fall in! (*The ants all fall over each other and land on the floor in a heap.*) Not literally, you 'orrible lot. Now come on, and remember- watch out for the spider! (*The cadets get up and form a line, with Wilfred carrying the star at the back*) Left, right, left, right, left, right, left, right.

Sarge leads the ants and Wilfred off and they exit.

Blackout.

Music 6: What Is It Payout