

PRANCER PAYS A VISIT SKETCH

Christmas Eve. Two families are sitting down watching television. The television is placed downstage left so that all the cast are positioned in the stage-right rear quadrant, fanning out in a triangle, looking at it. Some cast members can be on chairs, some on cushions. On stage are: Dawn, Jim, Hilda, Jack, Amy, Katy, Tom, Ben, Steve, Sue, Sarah, Chloe, Michael and George. The dog and the cat are lying down, asleep. There is a small table by the television on which can be seen a cordless telephone, a carrot and a mince pie on a plate.

TRACK 23:**SFX THE TELEVISION**

Jim is pointing a remote control at the television and pressing buttons furiously.

Jim should "change channel" after the following cues:-

Racing commentary: "Number 1A, Outrigger"

TV Show: "I'm doing the best I can"

Football commentary: "Oh I say"

F1: after second crescendo of car

A Kangaroo At Christmas: "one thing that it likes to"

Business Report: "so it's hard to know where it's heading"

News Jingle: Jim should say his *1st line as he fades the volume down on this channel.

JIM: *Hundreds of TV channels, but I still can't find anything I want to watch!

BEN: Can't we watch cartoons Dad?

HILDA: I'd like to see a nice black and white film.

JACK: Don't be daft Hilda! We've had colour TV since 1967 and *you* want to watch something in black and white!

TRACK 24:**SFX A NOISE ON THE ROOF**

(Everyone looks up to the ceiling and then at each other in shock as soon as they hear the noise.)

AMY: What on earth was that?

JIM: ***("turning off" the television and placing the remote control on the table.)*** I have absolutely no idea but it sounded *very* expensive!

DAWN: Oh dear Jim, I hope our satellite dish hasn't been damaged otherwise that'll be the end of our Christmas Day telly.

JIM: ***(Irritated)*** Is that all you ever think about, television?

DAWN: Pretty much!

- STEVE:** *(Getting up in a manly way)* Well, I suppose *one* of us had better go out and see what's happened.
- SUE:** *(Clutching his arm and using a timid, frightened voice)* Oh do be careful dear it might be one of those U.F.O thingies. You know - a little green man!
- MICHAEL:** *(Impersonating, pointing to the sky)* "E.T. phone home!"

(Everyone laughs except for Sue who buries her face in her hands.)

TRACK 25: **SFX A KNOCK AT THE DOOR**

(Everyone looks at each other in fear and wonder.)

- JACK:** Well is anyone going to answer the door?
- JIM:** I suppose I'd better go. After all, I *am* the man of the house.

(Jim walks across the stage to stage-left, behind the television and "opens" the door. Prancer stands there looking a bit dishevelled. His antlers are out of place and he is carrying a leather lead.)

- JIM:** *(Keeping Prancer at the edge of the stage) (Nervously)* Hel-Hello. Who are you? *(Looking back to the families)* Why am I talking to a reindeer?
- STEVE:** Who's standing on his hind legs
- SARAH:** Carrying his reins.
- PRANCER:** Do you mind if I come in? I've had a bit of an accident.

(Everyone gasps when they hear Prancer speak. Jim ushers him onto the stage and they both move to the centre where everyone stares at the reindeer in disbelief. The dog and the cat come and sniff Prancer and then go back to where they were lying.)

- KATY:** *(Going over to Prancer and offering him a carrot) (Kindly)* Would you like a carrot?
- PRANCER:** *(Pulls a face)* No thanks love. Have you got any mince pies? Santa always gets those whilst we poor reindeer have to make do with carrots.

(Ben brings a mince pie over from the table and Prancer takes a bite and chews happily.)

- CHLOE:** You said "Santa"? You mean you're one of Santa's *actual* reindeers?