

# **The Christmas Factory**

**Primary Script  
by  
Dave Corbett**

**Ideal Cast Size 66**

**Speaking Roles 29**

**Minimum Cast Size 29**

**Duration (minutes) 35**

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**CAST LIST**

***N.B. In the following list, the bracketed number shows the number of spoken lines each role has.***

**Narrators**

Narrator 1	(3)
Narrator 2	(4)
Narrator 3	(5)
Narrator 4	(3)
Narrator 5	(3)
Narrator 6	(3)

**Family**

Mum	(10)
Dad	(9)
Chrissie	(10)
John	(12)
Lisa	(15)

**The Christmas Factory**

Santa	(22)
Worker 1	(5)
Worker 2	(1)
Doll	(2)
Mender 1	(6)
Mender 2	(1)
Mender 3	(1)
Mender 4	(1)

**Snowmen/women**

Snowman 1	(2)
Snowman 2	(4)
Snowman 3	(2)
Snowman 4	(3)
Snowman 5	(2)
Snowman 6	(4)

**Reindeer**

Rudolphina	(7)
Rachel	(5)
Rebecca	(5)
Rudolph	(7)

**Non-Speaking Roles**

Jack/Jill Frost
Cat
Mouse
Pantomime Cow
Clown(s)

***N.B. In addition to the characters listed above, a Chorus of Snowflakes, Trees, Children, Elves, Soldiers, Dolls and Fairies will be required, plus a nativity tableau group comprising Choristers (optional), Mary, Joseph, Shepherd(s), and King(s). These nativity characters could be played by actors from the Prelude scene.***

**SPEAKING ROLES BY NUMBER OF LINES**

***N.B. In the following list, the number shows the number of spoken lines each role has.***

Santa .....	22
Lisa .....	15
John.....	12
Chrissie.....	10
Mum.....	10
Dad.....	9
Ruldophina .....	7
Rudolph .....	7
Mender 1 .....	6
Rebecca .....	5
Rachel .....	5
Worker 1 .....	5
Narrator 3 .....	5
Narrator 2 .....	4
Snowman 2.....	4
Snowman 6.....	4
Narrator 1 .....	3
Narrator 4 .....	3
Narrator 5 .....	3
Narrator 6 .....	3
Snowman 4.....	3
Doll .....	2
Snowman 1.....	2
Snowman 3.....	2
Snowman 5.....	2
Worker 2.....	1
Mender 2 .....	1
Mender 3 .....	1
Mender 4 .....	1

**SUGGESTED CAST LIST FOR 29 ACTORS**

***N.B. In the following list, the number shows the number of spoken lines each role has.***

Santa .....	22
Lisa .....	15
John.....	12
Chrissie.....	10
Mum.....	10
Dad.....	9
Narrator 3 ..... also reads Narrator 6’s lines .....	8
Narrator 2 ..... also reads Narrator 5’s lines .....	7
Ruldophina .....	7
Rudolph .....	7
Snowman 2..... also reads Snowman 5’s lines .....	6
Snowman 6..... also reads Snowman 3’s lines .....	6
Narrator 1 ..... also reads Narrator 4’s lines .....	6
Mender 1 .....	6
Rebecca .....	5
Rachel .....	5
Worker 1 .....	5
Snowman 4.....	3
Doll .....	2
Snowman 1.....	2
Worker 2.....	1
Mender 2 .....	1
Mender 3 .....	1
Mender 4 .....	1

***Non-speaking Roles: 4 Children and Jack/Jill Frost.***

***For this reduced cast, the other non-speaking roles are covered by actors doubling parts in the following way:***

***The 4 Reindeer also play Trees;***

***The 4 Snowmen/women also play Snowflakes;***

***Jack/Jill Frost & the 4 children from the Prelude Scene also play the Fairies, Cat, Mouse and Clown;***

***Workers 1 & 2 also play the mended Soldiers;***

***Menders 1-4 join Workers 1 & 2 in the earlier “Christmas Factory” Scene, and Mum, Dad, Chrissie, John & Lisa don simple shawls & headdresses to play the Nativity characters.***

***Neither the Pantomime Cow nor additional Elves or Dolls will be required.***

**CHARACTERS IN EACH SCENE***(In order of appearance)***Prelude**

Trees  
 Snowflakes  
 Jack/Jill Frost  
 Children

**Scene One**

Dad  
 Mum  
 Chrissie  
 John  
 Lisa  
 Narrators 1-6  
 Santa

**Scene Two**

Elf Workers  
 Santa  
 Chrissie  
 John  
 Lisa  
 Doll

**Scene Three**

Snowmen/women 1-6  
 Rudolphina  
 Rachel  
 Rebecca  
 Rudolph

**Scene Four**

Elf Menders  
 Chrissie  
 John  
 Lisa  
 Santa  
 Soldiers  
 Dolls  
 Fairies  
 Cat  
 Mouse  
 Pantomime Cow  
 Clown(s)  
 Narrators 1-6  
 Church Choir  
 Mary  
 Joseph  
 Shepherds  
 Kings

**Scene Five**

John  
 Lisa  
 Mum  
 Dad  
 Chrissie

**LIST OF PROPERTIES****Prelude**

No properties needed

**Scene One**

Two chairs ..... Scene Props  
 Christmas tree ..... Scene Prop  
 Decorations ..... Scene Props  
 Tatty teddy ..... Lisa  
 Presents, including one which rattles as if with broken china ..... Santa  
 Sleigh ..... Scene Prop

**Scene Two**

Trestle tables or work benches ..... Scene Props  
 Little hammers ..... Elves  
 Toys ..... Elves  
 Red racing car ..... Worker 1  
 Tatty teddy ..... Lisa

**Scene Three**

Snowballs ..... Snowmen  
 Hand held mirror ..... Rudolphina

**Scene Four**

Trestle tables or work benches ..... Scene Props  
 Sewing kits ..... Elf Menders  
 Glue ..... Elf Menders  
 Toys: soldiers, dolls, animals, trains etc. .... Elf Menders  
 Tatty teddy ..... Lisa  
 Mended teddy ..... Mender 1  
 Watch ..... Santa  
 Manger ..... Scene Prop

**Scene Five**

Two chairs ..... Scene Props  
 Christmas tree ..... Scene Prop  
 Presents, including red racing car and baby doll in gift bags ..... Scene Props  
 Mended teddy on a chair ..... Scene Prop



## **HELPFUL HINTS AND TIPS**

Give your children their words to learn first – enlist the help of parents here. Set a date by which they should know them; you cannot hope to rehearse movement or introduce props until words and cues are learned.

If sending home words to learn, send cues (the preceding line or two) as well, so children not only know what to say but when to say it!

Songs are best learned separately (it helps to keep the blood pressure down for all concerned).

Once rehearsing begins on stage, introduce any flats (free standing scenery) as soon as possible, so that children have their positions correct from the start. And don't forget to have one or two rehearsals with props, microphones (and lights if using) before the official dress rehearsal to allow time for children to get used to them.

Finally – this may seem obvious but is often forgotten – don't forget to practise your cast bows (arms across tummies or not?) and the order in which they should lead off stage. All too often a super show ends in foot shuffling embarrassment because no one knows quite what to do when the applause ends.

## **PRODUCTION NOTES**

### **STAGING**

Depending on the facilities available this show can be as simple or complex as you want. Just remember, this is not supposed to be a West End production. All most parents want to see is their child on stage. All most teachers want is to survive unscathed. So feel free to add, subtract or completely change the ideas below. And don't forget to send your comments and pictures to [kate@musicline-ltd.com](mailto:kate@musicline-ltd.com).

It is intended that all characters should sing as part of the Chorus when not required on stage, so seating areas close to the stage would be ideal.

#### **Prelude**

The Prelude is set in an outdoor winter scene. Nothing other than the actors is required on stage in order for them to be able to move with ease during the song.

#### **Scene One**

A snug sitting room decorated with Christmas trimmings. A couple of chairs and a Christmas tree should be on stage.

#### **Scene Two**

Inside Santa's Christmas Factory. Santa's Elves are busy making toys in this scene so a couple of trestle tables or similar would be ideal for the Elves to work at. Boxes and tools could be on the table or dotted about the stage. A chair is also required for the Doll to sit on.

#### **Scene Three**

In a field outside Santa's Christmas Factory. As in the Prelude, just a very simple outdoor winter scene with nothing else required.

#### **Scene Four**

The Menders' Shop. In this scene, the Elf Menders are busy sewing and glueing toys so again, trestle tables or similar would be ideal for the Elves to work at.

Some space at the front of the stage will be required for the nativity tableau at the end of the scene.

#### **Scene Five**

Back in the family sitting room. This scene should be set the same as Scene One.

## MUSIC

All the music required to stage this production, including sound effects, is on the high quality Backing Tracks and Vocal Tracks CDs (both also available as mp3 downloads). An Easy Play Score is also available for purchase (see our website). These products are not only invaluable for performance, but can assist with the teaching of the songs too.

In addition, a brand new product: a CD-ROM or download of all the songs called **Sing it!** is also available. This CD-ROM or download can teach the songs to the children without any teacher input. Children can use it at school or at home - think of the time it will save you! Most schools use it in class on an interactive white board or in the school hall on the overhead projector to allow full cast practice.

## COSTUMES

The Family should wear modern day clothes appropriate for the age of the character they are playing.

The Narrators could wear school uniform or smart clothes.

Santa should wear his famous red hat and suit with white trimmings. He should also have a long white beard and maybe some extra padding!

The Elf Workers and Menders should wear typical elf costume with pointy hats and brightly coloured clothes.

The Snowmen should be wearing all-white clothing and perhaps, white face paint. Again some extra padding is effective. Snowman 6 is the only Snowman to have a carrot nose.

The Reindeer could wear brown T-shirts and leggings with an antler headband. Face masks or face paint could enhance the costume.

The Toys should wear costumes appropriate to each group. For example:

Dolls in traditional frilly dresses.

Fairies with wings.

Clown(s) wearing brightly coloured clothes with red noses and wigs.

Soldiers in smart jackets and trousers.

The Pantomime cow could be either one child dressed in white with black patches or two children with a sheet in typical panto cow style. Both options would require a face mask or face paint.

The Cat and Mouse could wear brown, black or white T-Shirts and leggings and have facemasks or face paint to indicate what animal they are.

The Trees should wear brown T-shirts and leggings with paper leaves attached to the T-shirt.

The Snowflakes and Jack/Jill Frost should wear white or silver glittery costumes.

**PRELUDE****TRACK 1: COLD, COLD WINTER**

*(The show opens with a lovely song which portrays a cold Christmas Eve. The song lends itself to dance and mime. Children dressed as trees take their positions before or during the intro. During the first verse, children, dressed as snowflakes, glide through this tree scape. During the second verse icy Jack (and/or Jill!) Frost dances about with spiky movements, and in the third verse a group of children skip through the trees on their way home on Christmas Eve.)*

**ALL:** COLD, COLD WINTER;  
COLD, COLD CHRISTMAS EVE.  
COLD, COLD WINTER;  
COLD, COLD CHRISTMAS EVE.

COLD WHITE SNOWFLAKES COVER ALL,  
LIKE A FLEECY LINING.  
COLD WHITE SNOWFLAKES GENTLY FALL.  
SNOW-WHITE MEN KEEP WATCH UPON THIS...

COLD, COLD WINTER;  
COLD, COLD CHRISTMAS EVE.

ICY FINGERS PINCH YOUR NOSE;  
WRAP YOUR SCARF AROUND YOU.  
FREEZING WINDS AS JACK FROST BLOWS.  
ICY SPIKES HANG DOWN FROM DRAINPIPES.

COLD, COLD WINTER;  
COLD, COLD CHRISTMAS EVE.

SCURRY HOME TO BLAZING FIRES,  
HURRY, HURRY HOME.  
WAIT FOR SANTA!  
SCURRY UP INTO YOUR BED.  
WHEN THE FIRE'S OUT,  
HE'S COMING DOWN THE CHIMNEY!

COLD, COLD WINTER;  
COLD, COLD CHRISTMAS EVE.

FROZEN TREES ARE STARK AND BARE,  
POINTING AT THE SNOWFLAKES.  
FROZEN GROUND AND FREEZING AIR.  
FROZEN PONDS THAT SHINE IN MOONLIGHT.

COLD, COLD WINTER;  
COLD, COLD CHRISTMAS EVE.

*(At the end of the song the trees exit and the scene is set in a lounge with Mum, Dad and three children. They are putting finishing touches to a Christmas tree in the corner.)*

**SCENE ONE:****AT HOME**

**MUM:** Isn't this exciting!

**DAD:** Not long now, you lot.

**LISA:** I wonder if we'll see Father Christmas this year?

**JOHN:** I wonder if he'll eat as many mince pies this year?

**CHRISSIE:** Yes, fifteen was rather a world record.

**JOHN:** I think he'll be too podgy to ever get down the chimney.

**DAD:** Well he won't get down ours for sure, because we haven't got one. Hooray for central heating.

**JOHN:** Where does he get in, Dad?

**MUM:** Your father leaves the back door open on Christmas Eve.

**DAD:** It means Santa can park his sleigh on the drive instead of on the roof. Very dangerous parking on the roof.

**CHRISSIE:** At least there aren't any traffic wardens up there!

**MUM:** Look, it's bedtime. If you don't get to sleep he won't park here at all!

**LISA:** *(Picking up a very old battered teddy bear from the chair. One ear is torn, an eye is missing and a leg is hanging loose)* Poor Ted is getting very old. I can remember when Santa first brought him. Could you mend him again, Mum? *(She lovingly hugs the bear.)*

**MUM:** Oh Lisa, Ted is very, very old, and I just can't fix him anymore. He's just one big repair site. Perhaps Santa will bring you a new one.

**LISA:** I don't want another one. I just want Ted fixing a bit.

**DAD:** Come on now you lot, up to bed with you all, including tatty Ted!

*(Children, Mum and Dad exit. Enter Narrators 1 to 6. They stand facing the audience to speak their lines clearly and slowly. It is suggested that they wear something festive.)*

**NARRATOR 1:** Christmas Eve; the children were so very excited.

**NARRATOR 2:** In fact they were tired out just through being excited, and soon fell asleep in their cosy beds.

**NARRATOR 3:** Now, because they were fast asleep, they didn't hear Santa's sleigh skidding to a halt on the drive.

**TRACK 2:****SFX SLEIGH SKIDDING TO A HALT**

**NARRATOR 4:** They didn't hear the back door open and close.

**TRACK 3:                    SFX DOOR OPENING AND CLOSING**

**NARRATOR 5:**        They didn't hear a record twenty-one mince pies being munched.

**NARRATOR 6:**        But they did hear Santa drop one of the presents on the lounge floor!

*(Narrators exit. Santa enters the lounge laden with presents. Just before he reaches the tree, the topmost present topples to the floor with a sound of breaking china.)*

**TRACK 4:                    SFX BREAKING CHINA**

*(Santa puts the remaining presents under the tree. He picks up the present that crashed to the floor and shakes it.)*

**SANTA:**                Oops! There goes another broken teapot. I must be more careful. Oh dear! Oh dear!

*(Enter the children rubbing their sleepy eyes. Lisa is still clutching her tatty Ted.)*

**ALL:**                    Santa!

**SANTA:**                Shhh! You'll wake the grown-ups.

**JOHN:**                *(Patting Santa on the arm to see if he's real)* Father Christmas, is that really you?

**SANTA:**                Of course it's me! Who did you think it was – your Dad? I'm sorry I woke you, I'm getting very clumsy in my old age! I'm afraid I've broken your Mum's teapot. *(Shakes the box)* I'll have to whizz back to Winter Wonderland and get her a new one. *(Looking very crestfallen)* Rudolphina is not going to be happy with all this extra running about.

**JOHN:**                Don't worry Santa. I'm good at fixing things. I'll go and find Dad's Superglue.

**SANTA:**                Well, thanks John, but I'll be there and back in a flash.

**CHRISSIE:**            Please can we come, Santa?

**SANTA:**                Well, it will be a bit of a squash with three extra passengers.

**LISA:**                 I'll sit on Chrissie's knee.

**JOHN:**                And I'll ride Rudolphina.

**SANTA:**                Well, come on then. Go and get your coats – it's a frosty night. And go quietly... we don't want grown-ups interfering. Oh, and don't forget that plate of mince pies. They will come in useful for the workers' tea break.

*(Santa leads as they all tip-toe offstage.)*

**TRACK 5:****HEADING FOR HOME**

*(For the really ambitious production you might like to devise a way of showing the sleigh travelling during the song. Perhaps the sleigh could stay still, and characters and hand-held pictures or scenery move past it to give the illusion of movement.)*

**ALL:**

OFF WE GO, JUST SETTLE BACK;  
SANTA'S REINDEER KNOW THEIR WAY,  
DOWN THE FOREST SNOWY TRACK.  
THOUGH WE'D LIKE TO, WE CAN'T STAY 'CAUSE...

WE'RE HEADING FOR CHRISTMAS VILLAGE,  
WE'RE HEADING FOR CHRISTMAS LAND.  
WE'RE HEADING FOR CHRISTMAS VILLAGE,  
WINTER WONDERLAND.

THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN'S SNOWY PASS,  
SEE THE ANIMALS STOP AND STARE.  
SWISHING ONWARD EVER SO FAST,  
WE CAN'T STOP UNTIL WE'RE THERE 'CAUSE...

WE'RE HEADING FOR CHRISTMAS VILLAGE,  
WE'RE HEADING FOR CHRISTMAS LAND.  
WE'RE HEADING FOR CHRISTMAS VILLAGE,  
WINTER WONDERLAND.

WE'RE HEADING FOR,  
WE'RE HEADING FOR WINTER WONDERLAND.  
WE'RE HEADING FOR,  
WE'RE HEADING FOR HOME.  
WE'RE HEADING FOR,  
WE'RE HEADING FOR WINTER WONDERLAND.  
WE'RE HEADING FOR,  
WE'RE HEADING FOR HOME.

SNOWFLAKES BLOWING IN OUR HAIR,  
SPEEDING REINDEER GALLOP FAST.  
SNOWMAN SAYS WE'RE ALMOST THERE,  
NOW WE SEE THE LIGHTS AT LAST...

WE'RE HEADING FOR CHRISTMAS VILLAGE,  
WE'RE HEADING FOR CHRISTMAS LAND.  
WE'RE HEADING FOR CHRISTMAS VILLAGE,  
WINTER WONDERLAND.

WE'RE HEADING FOR,  
 WE'RE HEADING FOR WINTER WONDERLAND.  
 WE'RE HEADING FOR,  
 WE'RE HEADING FOR HOME.  
 WE'RE HEADING FOR,  
 WE'RE HEADING FOR WINTER WONDERLAND.  
 WE'RE HEADING FOR,  
 WE'RE HEADING FOR HOME.

OFF WE GO, JUST SETTLE BACK;  
 SANTA'S REINDEER KNOW THEIR WAY,  
 DOWN THE FOREST SNOWY TRACK.  
 THOUGH WE'D LIKE TO, WE CAN'T STAY 'CAUSE...

WE'RE HEADING FOR CHRISTMAS VILLAGE,  
 WE'RE HEADING FOR CHRISTMAS LAND.  
 WE'RE HEADING FOR CHRISTMAS VILLAGE,  
 WINTER WONDERLAND.

## SCENE TWO:

## CHRISTMAS FACTORY

*(The action takes place inside the factory. There are lots of elves working away with little hammers etc., making toys. The doll sits on a chair. Santa and the children enter. Lisa is still dragging her old teddy along.)*

**SANTA:** Well children, this is where we make all the toys. My workers do a really good job at getting things ready.

**CHRISSIE:** Hadn't we better get Mum's teapot and rush back?

**SANTA:** No, don't worry Chrissie, time sort of stands still on Christmas Eve in Winter Wonderland. Have a good look round and enjoy your visit.

**JOHN:** Hey! Look at that racing car!

*(He goes over to a worker making a red racer.)*

**WORKER 1:** *(Speaks in a very superior voice, lifting the car and lovingly stroking it)* You'll like this because it's got aerodynamic styling, executive spoiler, quad mega air ducts, hyper-angled aerofoil nose cone, super wide wheelbase chassis with cantilever sills, chamfered windshield with ergonomic viewpoint...

**JOHN:** *(Enthusiastically)* Well actually, it's the colour that really caught my eye.

**WORKER 1:** *(Rather let down)* Oh really! How disappointing.

**JOHN:** *(Moves to look at the baby doll sitting on a chair)* Hey Lisa! Come and look at this baby doll.