

Christmas Grotto

Primary Script

by

Dave Corbett

Ideal Cast Size 40

Speaking Roles 31

Minimum Cast Size 23

Duration (minutes) 25

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CAST LIST

In the following list the bracketed number shows the number of spoken lines each character has.

The asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character has solo or featured sung lines.

The Family

Mum	(20)
Stevie	(40)
Annie	(39)
Polly	(12)

The Department Store

Father Christmas	(25)
Mother Christmas	(16)
Shop Assistant	(15)

Santa's Place

Snowy Snowman	(5)
Blackie Blackbird	(2)
Flaky Snowflake	(11)
Fairy	(5)
Icy Icicle	(3)
Bruce Spruce Tree	(3)
Robin Red Breast	(2)

Penguin Posties

Pengy	(9)
Pingy	(5)
Peter	(4)
Paul	(6)
Pamela	(1)

Animals

Dormouse	(2)
Squirrel	(2)
Rabbit	(2)
Ratty	(2)

Snowmen

*Snowman 1	(4)
*Snowman 2	(4)
*Snowman 3	(4)

Narrators

Narrator 1	(8)
Narrator 2	(8)
Narrator 3	(7)
Narrator 4	(8)
Scene Announcer	(6)

N.B. In addition to the characters listed above, a Chorus of Customers, Parents and Children (non-speaking) will be required.

SPEAKING ROLES BY NUMBER OF LINES

In the following list the number shows the number of spoken lines each character has.

The asterisk () before the character's name indicates that this character has solo or featured sung lines.*

Stevie.....	40
Annie	39
Father Christmas	25
Mum.....	20
Mother Christmas	16
Shop Assistant.....	15
Polly.....	12
Flaky	11
Pengy	9
Narrator 1	8
Narrator 2	8
Narrator 4	8
Narrator 3	7
Scene Announcer	6
Paul	6
Snowy.....	5
Fairy.....	5
Pingy.....	5
Peter.....	4
*Snowman 1	4
*Snowman 2	4
*Snowman 3	4
Bruce	3
Icy	3
Blackie	2
Robin	2
Dormouse	2
Squirrel	2
Rabbit	2
Ratty	2
Pamela	1

SUGGESTED CAST LIST FOR 23 ACTORS

In the following list the number shows the number of spoken lines each character has.

The asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character has solo or featured sung lines.

Stevie.....	40
Annie	39
Shop Assistant..... also plays Mother Christmas.....	31
Father Christmas	25
Mum.....	20
Flaky..... also plays *Snowman 2.....	15
Polly.....	12
Pengy..... also plays Parent or Child in Scenes One and Six.....	9
Snowy..... also plays *Snowman 3.....	9
Narrator 1	8
Narrator 2	8
Narrator 4	8
Narrator 3	7
Fairy..... also plays Rabbit	7
Icy..... also plays *Snowman 1.....	7
Scene Announcer	6
Paul..... also plays Parent or Child in Scenes One and Six.....	6
Pingy..... also plays Parent or Child in Scenes One and Six.....	5
Bruce..... also plays Squirrel.....	5
Peter..... also plays Parent or Child in Scenes One and Six.....	4
Blackie..... also plays Ratty	4
Robin..... also plays Dormouse	4
Pamela..... also plays Parent or Child in Scenes One and Six.....	1

No additional Customers required for this reduced casting.

CHARACTERS IN EACH SCENE**Scene One**

Announcer
 Narrators 1-4
 Father Christmas
 Shop Assistant
 Customers
 Children
 Parents
 Stevie
 Annie
 Polly
 Mum

Scene Two

Announcer
 Stevie
 Polly
 Annie
 Blackie
 Snowy
 Fairy
 Icy
 Bruce
 Robin
 Flaky
 Narrators 1-4

Scene Three

Pingy
 Peter
 Paul
 Pamela
 Announcer
 Pengy
 Stevie
 Annie
 Polly
 Narrators 1-4

Scene Four

Announcer
 Polly
 Stevie
 Annie
 Dormouse
 Squirrel
 Rabbit
 Ratty
 Snowmen 1-3
 Narrators 1-4

Scene Five

Announcer
 Mother Christmas
 Father Christmas

Scene Six

Customers
 Father Christmas
 Announcer
 Narrators 1-4
 Shop Assistant
 Mum
 Stevie
 Polly
 Annie

LIST OF PROPERTIES**Scene One**

Pay Counter with Till.....	Scene Prop
Hat Display on Sales Stand.....	Scene Prop
Chair.....	Scene Prop
Presents.....	Scene Props
Door Labelled 'No Entry'.....	Scene Prop
Ridiculous Large Hats.....	On Hat Display
Mirror (could be cardboard).....	On Hat Display

Scene Two

Party Table.....	Scene Prop
Party Food.....	On Party Table
Crackers.....	On Party Table
Party Hats.....	On Party Table
Plate of Mince Pies.....	Flaky
Jug of Gravy.....	Flaky

Scene Three

Mail Sorting Table.....	Scene Prop
Huge Sacks of Mail.....	Penguin Posties
Opened Letters.....	On Mail Sorting Table
Large Sack.....	Pengy
Watch.....	Pengy

Scene Four

Bag of Sweets.....	Annie
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Scene Five

Table.....	Scene Prop
Large Key.....	On Table
Armchair.....	Scene Prop
Foot stool.....	Scene Prop
Watch.....	Father Christmas
Huge Sack of Mail.....	Mother Christmas

Scene Six

Pay Counter with Till.....	Scene Prop
Hat Display on Sales Stand.....	Scene Prop
Ridiculous Large Hats.....	On Hat Display
Chair.....	Scene Prop
Presents.....	Scene Props
Door Labelled 'No Entry'.....	Scene Prop
Large Key.....	Father Christmas

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 have been 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.

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.

Scene One

Christmas Time in a Large Department Store. This Scene should be set so that one side of the stage has a sales stand and a pay counter and the other should represent the Grotto. Trestle tables or similar are suggested for the sales stand and pay counter which should ideally have a till placed on it. The mirror could be made of cardboard with shiny foil.

The Grotto should have a chair with sacks of presents placed around it and a door at the side of the stage labelled 'No Entry' in large letters so it is clearly visible to the audience. The door can be made simply out of cardboard.

Scene Two

Snowy the Snowman's Dining Room. In this scene a tea party takes place so one of the tables from the previous scene can be left on stage and set with party food, crackers and hats. Several chairs should be placed around the table for the party guests.

Scene Three

The Post Room. The table from previous scenes can yet again be left on stage to become the mail sorting station. It should now be set with large sacks of mail and piles of letters.

Scene Four

On The Stairs. No particular scenery is required for this scene, although if you have access to a stage block it would be ideal to place it at centre stage for the children to sit on.

Scene Five

Father Christmas' Sitting Room. The table from previous scenes should be brought back on stage and set with a large key. There should also be a chair and footstool present.

Scene Six

Back at the Department Store. This scene should be set as Scene One.

MUSIC

All the music required to stage this production 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, Customers, Parents and Children should wear modern day clothes appropriate for the age of the character they are playing.

The Narrators could wear school uniform or smart clothes.

The Shop Assistant should wear a shirt/blouse with a smart skirt or trousers.

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

Mother Christmas should be dressed in a red dress with white trimmings and should also wear a red hat.

The Snowmen should be wearing all-white clothing and perhaps, white face paint. Again some extra padding is effective.

Most of the animals in the show could be in a dark top and leggings/trousers with 'signifiers' in the form of face paint or masks. Robin should have a large red chest and the Penguins can wear black leggings with white T-shirts.

Flaky and Icy should wear white or silver glittery costumes.

Fairy should wear a pretty dress and wings.

Bruce should wear a brown T-shirt and Leggings with paper leaves attached to the T-shirt.

SCENE ONE:**THE GROTTO**

(On one side of the stage is a sales stand and a pay counter – ideally with a till placed on it – while the other side represents the Grotto. The Grotto should have a chair with sacks of presents placed around it and a door labelled ‘No Entry’ in large letters so it is clearly visible to the audience.)

ANNOUNCER: Scene One: The Grotto.
NARRATOR 1: Welcome to our Christmas Grotto.
NARRATOR 2: Christmas is such a happy time of the year.
NARRATOR 3: Yes, peace and goodwill to all mankind.
NARRATOR 4: Shhhh! Will you lot be quiet, and let’s get on with the performance!

TRACK 1:**VISITING SANTA**

(During the song Father Christmas enters. He inspects his grotto and arranges presents. At the end of the song he sits down and waits for the children to arrive.)

ALL: GOING TO SEE GOOD OLD FATHER CHRISTMAS.
 THERE HE WILL BE, WAITING IN THE STORE;
 SITTING INSIDE SUCH A PRETTY FAIRY GROTTA,
 IT’LL BE GREAT WALKING THROUGH THE DOOR.
 GOING TO SEE GOOD OLD FATHER CHRISTMAS.
 HURRY ALONG, CAN’T WAIT ANYMORE.

VISITING SANTA, VISITING SANTA,
 VISITING SANTA, VISITING SANTA.

CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN, CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN.

GOING TO SEE GOOD OLD FATHER CHRISTMAS.
 ISN’T IT FUN? WONDER WHAT HE’LL SAY?
 PROMISING US LOTS AND LOTS OF LOVELY PRESENTS,
 TELLING US ALL, “WAIT FOR CHRISTMAS DAY”.
 GOING TO SEE GOOD OLD FATHER CHRISTMAS.
 HURRY ALONG, LET’S GET ON OUR WAY.

VISITING SANTA, VISITING SANTA,
 VISITING SANTA, VISITING SANTA.

CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN, CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN.

GOING TO SEE GOOD OLD FATHER CHRISTMAS.
 SNOWY WHITE BEARD, RED FROM HEAD TO TOE.
 SEEING HIM THERE, SEE THE SACK AND SANTA SMILING;
 REALLY CAN’T WAIT, MISS OLD SANTA SO.
 GOING TO SEE GOOD OLD FATHER CHRISTMAS.
 HURRY ALONG, TIME FOR US TO GO.

VISITING SANTA, VISITING SANTA,
VISITING SANTA, VISITING SANTA.

CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN, CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN.

(A shop assistant enters and stands behind the pay counter busily checking things. Several "extras" walk across the stage looking for things to buy. Several children and their parents enter, eager to see Father Christmas. The twins Stevie and Annie, with their little sister Polly and their Mum, bring up the rear. The first child and mum go into the grotto and chat to Father Christmas. The others wait in a long line.)

ANNIE: *(Grumpily)* Oh Mum, look at the queue! We'll never get to see Santa at this rate.

MUM: We will get to see him soon Annie; he's not going to disappear in a puff of smoke you know.

STEVIE: *(Cheekily)* Not unless he's a magic Santa!

MUM: There's a lot of magic around at Christmas time.

ANNIE: I like Christmas magic.

STEVIE: But it's not as though Santa is going to turn into a fluffy white rabbit is it?

ANNIE: I'd like a fluffy white rabbit for Christmas.

STEVIE: Perhaps you can have the spare one Santa always has dangling from his chin!

MUM: Don't be rude Stevie. That's a beard, as you well know. Now, this is Polly's treat and I don't want you spoiling it. *(After a pause)* You and Annie can go over there and see if you can find Uncle Bert a Christmas present. I'll wait here with Polly. We'll call you when it's our turn to see Santa.

(Stevie and Annie go to the hat display.)

ANNIE: Ooh, look at that one Stevie. *(She points to a ridiculous hat)*

STEVIE: *(Mocking)* Oh Lovely! Would madam like to try it on?

(Stevie grabs the hat, which is far too big. He rams it on Annie's head and pulls it over her eyes.)

ANNIE: *(Pulls the hat off her head)* How did I look?

STEVIE: Like Cinderella's ugly sister.

ANNIE: How about this one. *(Puts another ridiculous hat on)*

STEVIE: Yuk! Bride of Frankenstein.

ANNIE: Here's one for you.

(Annie takes another monstrous hat and puts it on Stevie.)

STEVIE: ***(Looking in the mirror)*** No way. I look like a wally in that!
ANNIE: You said it!
ASSISTANT: ***(Comes across from the pay till. Sternly)*** You naughty children... these hats are not for playing with. Where is your Mother?
ANNIE: ***(Mock sadly)*** We've lost our mummy.
MUM: ***(Coming over to the Assistant)*** Are these children misbehaving?
ASSISTANT: They've lost their mummy and there's nobody to look after them.

(Mum crossly pushes Stevie and Annie towards the grotto.)

MUM: Lost? Lost? I'll give them lost! Get over to that queue and wait with Polly. It's her turn next. I'm just going to buy some crackers.

(Mum exits. At this point any other extras should also leave the stage.)

F.CHRISTMAS: ***(Booms)*** Next, please.

(The children enter.)

F.CHRISTMAS: Ho, ho, ho ... and a very merry Christmas to you.
STEVIE: ***(Imitating Father Christmas)*** Ho, ho, ho ... and the same to you!
F.CHRISTMAS: ***(Looks closely at Annie)*** Have I seen you before?
ANNIE: Last year, don't you remember?
F.CHRISTMAS: ***(Thoughtfully)*** Oh yes. You wanted that big cuddly teddy bear didn't you!
ANNIE: ***(Indignantly)*** No way! I wanted Mega-Alien-Death-Blaster 2
STEVIE: ***(Cheekily)*** I wanted the cuddly teddy bear.
F.CHRISTMAS: You did?
STEVIE: No I didn't. Only kidding Santa. What I really wanted was to pull off that fuzzy beard of yours. ***(Pulls Santa's beard, but it won't come off)*** Is it stuck on with superglue?
F.CHRISTMAS: ***(Shaking a finger at Stevie)*** You had better behave yourself young man, or you won't be having a good Christmas at all!

(Assistant hears the commotion and walks towards the grotto.)

ANNIE: Look out Stevie, here comes old Mrs ***(or Mr)*** Shop Assistant. She'll ***(He'll)*** throw us out.
POLLY: ***(Starting to cry)*** I want Mummy.

STEVIE: *(Grabbing Polly's hand)* Shut up Polly. I was only having a laugh. Quick you lot, let's escape through this door.

(As the shop assistant approaches Father Christmas, the children go through the 'No Entry' door. Father Christmas spots them.)

ASSISTANT: Are you all right, Father Christmas? Where have those horrid children gone?

F.CHRISTMAS: **(Points)** They just ran through the 'No Entry' door. It should have been locked up tight. **(They both go to the door and try to enter)** It seems to have locked itself behind them now. I'll have to go and get the key.

ASSISTANT: Oh dear! I'll go and tell the mother what's happened. I saw her buying crackers in the next department.

(Assistant and Father Christmas exit.)

TRACK 2: **MAGIC DOORWAY**

(To facilitate flow in the production, the song could be used to change the scene props. The pay counter now becomes the party table set with party food, crackers and party hats.)

ALL: MAGIC DOORWAY; COULD LEAD ANYWHERE.
STEP IN, CLOSE IT BEHIND YOU;
WHAT YOU SEE IS QUITE MYSTERIOUS...
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
NOTHING IS REAL INSIDE.

FAR FROM ORDINARY LAND,
SEE THINGS THAT YOU'D NEVER SEE;
THINGS YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND,
STRANGE AS THEY COULD EVER BE.

MAGIC DOORWAY; COULD LEAD ANYWHERE.
STEP IN, CLOSE IT BEHIND YOU;
WHAT YOU SEE IS QUITE MYSTERIOUS...
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
NOTHING IS REAL INSIDE.

BEING HERE IS LIKE A DREAM,
SEEING THINGS YOU COULDN'T SEE;
NOTHING HERE IS AS IT SEEMS,
IT'S A PLACE YOU SHOULDN'T BE.

MAGICAL DOORWAY,
MAGICAL DOORWAY,
MAGICAL DOORWAY.