

# Norsey or Nice?

Junior Script

by

Mike Horth & Jan Porter

**Ideal Cast Size** 45

**Speaking Roles** 30

**Minimum Cast Size** 28

**Duration (minutes)** 45-50

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**CAST LIST**

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

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

***The Vikings***

|                         |      |
|-------------------------|------|
| Skald                   | (62) |
| Harald Bluetooth        | (21) |
| Magnus Red Nose         | (10) |
| Hilda                   | (8)  |
| Gudrun                  | (5)  |
| Gorm                    | (8)  |
| Ragnar                  | (6)  |
| 3 x Dragon Ship Vikings | (0)  |
| 6 x Viking Choir        | (0)  |

***The Trondheim Crew***

|        |      |
|--------|------|
| Astrid | (21) |
| Eric   | (14) |
| Ivor   | (15) |
| Freya  | (18) |
| Bjorn  | (16) |
| Sven   | (15) |

***Santaland Characters***

|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| *Santa          | (30) |
| Dasher          | (9)  |
| Dancer          | (16) |
| Cupid           | (3)  |
| Rudolph         | (3)  |
| Blitzen         | (2)  |
| Comet           | (3)  |
| Prancer         | (4)  |
| Polar Bear      | (11) |
| *Buddy Gumdrops | (4)  |
| Ollypops        | (8)  |
| Bubbles         | (5)  |
| Basil           | (3)  |
| Mistletoe       | (3)  |
| Chip            | (5)  |
| Sparkle         | (7)  |
| Chalky          | (6)  |
| 6 x Elf Choir   | (0)  |

### **SPEAKING ROLES BY NUMBER OF LINES**

***N.B. In the following list, the number shows how many SPOKEN lines each role has.***

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

|                       |                            |    |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|----|
| Skald.....            | Viking Storyteller.....    | 62 |
| *Santa.....           |                            | 30 |
| Astrid .....          | Trondheim Crew .....       | 21 |
| Harald Bluetooth..... | Legendary Viking Lord..... | 21 |
| Freya .....           | Trondheim Crew .....       | 18 |
| Dancer .....          | Reindeer .....             | 16 |
| Bjorn .....           | Trondheim Crew .....       | 16 |
| Ivor .....            | Trondheim Crew .....       | 15 |
| Sven .....            | Trondheim Crew .....       | 15 |
| Eric .....            | Trondheim Crew .....       | 14 |
| Polar Bear.....       |                            | 11 |
| Magnus Red Nose.....  | Viking Lord.....           | 10 |
| Dasher .....          | Reindeer .....             | 9  |
| Gorm.....             | Feasting Viking .....      | 8  |
| Hilda .....           | Feasting Viking .....      | 8  |
| Ollypops.....         | Elf .....                  | 8  |
| Sparkle .....         | Elf .....                  | 7  |
| Ragnar.....           | Feasting Viking .....      | 6  |
| Chalky.....           | Elf .....                  | 6  |
| Gudrun.....           | Feasting Viking .....      | 5  |
| Bubbles.....          | Elf .....                  | 5  |
| Chip .....            | Elf .....                  | 5  |
| *Buddy Gumdrops ..... | Elf .....                  | 4  |
| Prancer .....         | Reindeer .....             | 4  |
| Basil.....            | Elf .....                  | 3  |
| Mistletoe .....       | Elf .....                  | 3  |
| Rudolph .....         | Reindeer .....             | 3  |
| Comet.....            | Reindeer .....             | 3  |
| Cupid .....           | Reindeer .....             | 3  |
| Blitzen.....          | Reindeer .....             | 2  |

***Non-speaking roles: 3 x Dragon Ship Vikings; 6 x Viking Choir; 6 x Elf Choir.***

**SUGGESTED CAST LIST FOR 28 ACTORS**

***N.B. In the following list, the number shows how many SPOKEN lines each role has.***

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

|                       |                                       |    |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|----|
| Skald.....            |                                       | 62 |
| *Santa.....           |                                       | 30 |
| Astrid .....          |                                       | 21 |
| Harald Bluetooth..... |                                       | 21 |
| Freya .....           |                                       | 18 |
| Dancer.....           | Also plays Blitzen .....              | 18 |
| Bjorn .....           |                                       | 16 |
| Ivor .....            |                                       | 15 |
| Sven .....            |                                       | 15 |
| *Buddy Gumdrops ..... | Also plays Polar Bear as an Elf ..... | 15 |
| Eric .....            |                                       | 14 |
| Dasher.....           | Also plays Comet.....                 | 12 |
| Bubbles.....          | Also plays Sparkle .....              | 12 |
| Chip .....            | Also plays Chalky .....               | 11 |
| Magnus Red Nose.....  | Viking Lord.....                      | 10 |
| Gorm.....             | Feasting Viking .....                 | 8  |
| Ollypops.....         | Elf .....                             | 8  |
| Hilda .....           | Feasting Viking .....                 | 8  |
| Ragnar.....           | Feasting Viking .....                 | 6  |
| Gudrun.....           | Feasting Viking .....                 | 5  |
| Prancer .....         | Reindeer .....                        | 4  |
| Basil.....            | Elf .....                             | 3  |
| Mistletoe .....       | Elf .....                             | 3  |
| Rudolph .....         | Reindeer .....                        | 3  |
| Cupid .....           | Reindeer .....                        | 3  |

***Non-speaking roles: 3 x Dragon Ship Vikings also become Viking Choir and sing with Viking actors; Elf Choir - sung by Elf actors.***

**CHARACTERS IN EACH SCENE****Scene One**

Magnus  
Hilda  
Gudrun  
Gorm  
Ragnar  
Viking Choir x 6  
Skald  
Harald Bluetooth  
Dragon Ship  
Vikings x 3  
Eric  
Freya  
Sven  
Ivor  
Astrid  
Bjorn

**Scene Two**

Magnus  
Hilda  
Gudrun  
Gorm  
Ragnar  
Viking Singers x 6  
Skald  
Harald Bluetooth  
Eric  
Freya  
Sven  
Ivor  
Astrid  
Bjorn

**Scene Three**

Magnus  
Hilda  
Gudrun  
Gorm  
Ragnar  
Skald  
Eric  
Freya  
Sven  
Ivor  
Astrid  
Bjorn  
Dasher  
Dancer  
Polar Bear

**Scene Four**

Magnus  
Hilda  
Gudrun  
Gorm  
Ragnar  
Skald  
Eric  
Freya  
Sven  
Ivor  
Astrid  
Bjorn  
Buddy  
Polar Bear  
Elf Choir  
Ollypops  
Dasher  
Dancer  
Chip  
Bubbles  
Basil  
Mistletoe

**Scene Five**

Magnus  
Hilda  
Gudrun  
Gorm  
Ragnar  
Skald  
Eric  
Freya  
Sven  
Ivor  
Astrid  
Bjorn  
Bubbles  
Basil  
Mistletoe  
Chip  
Santa  
Elf Choir  
Sparkle  
Chalky  
Rudolph  
Blitzen  
Comet

**Scene Six**

Magnus  
Hilda  
Gudrun  
Gorm  
Ragnar  
Skald  
Eric  
Freya  
Sven  
Ivor  
Astrid  
Bjorn  
Santa  
Elf Choir  
Sparkle  
Chalky  
Rudolph  
Blitzen  
Comet  
Prancer  
Cupid  
Entire Cast for  
Final Song

**LIST OF PROPERTIES****Scene One**

Feasting table with 5/6 goblets ..... Magnus and Feasting Vikings  
 Throne ..... Magnus  
 Four chairs..... Feasting Vikings  
 Chair ..... Skald

***N.B The above properties remain on stage throughout the show, together with Magnus Red Nose and the Feasting Vikings.***

Biscuit ..... Eric  
 Large Map ..... Harald Bluetooth  
 \*Three flags on sticks with Bluetooth-type 'Rune' symbols on them ..... Dragon Ship Vikings

**Scene Two**

Three paper crackers with hats, whistles and jokes ..... Magnus, Feasting Vikings, Skald  
 Two inflatable rings and dragon heads as prow and stern..... Bjorn and Eric  
 Two sets of flippers, armbands and oars ..... Sven and Astrid  
 Swimming hat, goggles, bucket ..... Ivor  
 Snorkel, Bluetooth-type 'Rune' flag on a stick (From Scene One)..... Freya  
 \*Large weather symbols on card: wind, rain, lightning, thunder..... Viking Singers  
 \*Large symbol of big waves, on card ..... Viking Singers

**Scene Three**

\*Four pieces of a broken sign ..... Ivor, Bjorn, Sven, Freya  
 \*Welcome to Santaland. Please Ring the Bell for Attention sign ..... Ivor  
 Clipboard ..... Polar Bear  
 Bells..... Dasher and Dancer

**Scene Four**

Long table..... Elves  
 Sixteen toys in a box, namely:  
 Car, star, dog, cat, pig, wig, doll, hat, duck, truck, ball, bat, box, fox, train, track  
 Empty Box ..... For Honorary Elf song  
 Four pieces of a broken sign (From Scene Three) ..... Dasher and Dancer

**Scene Five**

Six tool belts and carpentry tools ..... Trondheim Crew  
 Amazoff Box containing candle and lots of packaging ..... Basil  
 Royal Snail Box containing wooden spoon ..... Mistletoe  
 Freezy Freight box containing large eye patch ..... Chip  
 Elvri box containing very small eye patch ..... Bubbles  
 Large scroll entitled 'The Naughty List' ..... Santa  
 Bluetooth-type 'Rune' flag on a stick (From Scene One) ..... Santa

**Scene Six**

Two pieces of broken wood ..... Cupid  
 Piece of broken wood ..... Around Prancers foot  
 Broken sleigh ..... Trondheim Crew  
 Six tool belts and carpentry tools (From Scene Five) ..... Trondheim Crew  
 Wooden battens ..... Ivor  
 Wooden planking ..... Astrid  
 Pot of glue ..... Eric  
 Pot of resin ..... Eric

***\*See page 16 for photocopyable resources***

## **PRODUCTION NOTES**

Welcome to '**Norsey or Nice?**', our show about Vikings and Santa's Naughty List.  
To get you started, we have enclosed notes and suggestions for the production below:-

### **CASTING**

The script is written for **45 characters**:

|                                     |    |             |
|-------------------------------------|----|-------------|
| Principal roles                     | 10 | 14-62 lines |
| Mid-range roles                     | 12 | 5-13 lines  |
| Smaller roles                       | 8  | 2-4 lines   |
| Non-speaking roles (Mainly singing) | 15 |             |

The cast can be condensed to **28 characters**:

|                                     |    |             |
|-------------------------------------|----|-------------|
| Principal roles                     | 11 | 14-62 lines |
| Mid-range roles                     | 9  | 5-13 lines  |
| Smaller roles                       | 5  | 2-4 lines   |
| Non-speaking roles (Mainly singing) | 3  |             |

### **CHORUS**

Chorus parts are flexible; a Viking choir and Elf choir are included in the full cast performance, although numbers could be increased using members of the cast.

### **COSTUMES AND CHARCTERS**

Vikings (including Skald) Polar Bear, Elves, Reindeer and Santa.

See the chart on the next page for more details.

| Character                           | Costume                                                                                                                                                         | Notes                                |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Feasting Vikings                    | Classic Viking tunics and leggings with leg wraps.<br>Swords.                                                                                                   |                                      |
| Magnus Red Nose<br>Harald Bluetooth | As above but with cloak to make them look more important.                                                                                                       |                                      |
| Skald                               | Gandolph type outfit with cloak white beard and staff.                                                                                                          |                                      |
| Trondheim Crew                      | As Feasting Vikings.                                                                                                                                            | Only need swords for the first scene |
| Polar Bear                          | White furry outfit face paint.                                                                                                                                  | Carries a clipboard                  |
| Elves                               | Classic Elf costumes.                                                                                                                                           |                                      |
| Santa                               | Classic Santa costume.                                                                                                                                          |                                      |
| Reindeer                            | Brown tops and leggings with reindeer antler headband.<br>Red nose for Rudolph.<br>Dasher and Dancer each need a little sleigh bell in each of their harnesses. |                                      |

## STAGING

## SCENERY

The show has six locations:

1. A Viking Hall (decorated for Yule.)
2. Viking Boat in a Calm Fjord
3. A Rough Sea
4. The North Pole (a winter scene on a frozen beach.)
5. Elves Workshop and Christmas Village
6. Starlit Night Sky (outside the Reindeer's stable.)

Our digital backdrops **Project It!** can be used as scenery to represent the locations.

Alternatively, the backdrop of a Viking Hall decorated for Yule would serve for the whole show with a portable night sky/sleigh backdrop for the final scene.

**CHOREOGRAPHY**

Each song lends itself to movement of some sort. The chart below lists the context of each song and gives some ideas you may wish to consider.

| Song                                                                                                                                    | Purpose                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Details                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Yuletide Song                                                                                                                           | Strong celebration of Yule; the Vikings are resting for winter.                                                                                                                                                    | The Feasting Vikings mime eating, drinking and laughing whilst raising their goblets to toast each other.                                                               |
| The Seasick Song                                                                                                                        | To relate a very rough sea journey by the reluctant, Viking crew.                                                                                                                                                  | See script for stage directions forming the crew to represent a boat. Many actions from the crew and large weather symbols to be held up by Viking singers.             |
| An Honorary Elf                                                                                                                         | To indicate the making of toys as the crew are co-opted into helping the elves.                                                                                                                                    | See script for stage directions as the elves form a production line, pass toys along and box them.                                                                      |
| The Naughty List<br><i>Original music and lyrics by Gilbert and Sullivan.<br/>Music and Lyrics adapted by Mike Horth and Jan Porter</i> | A solo by Santa with backing from the elves.                                                                                                                                                                       | This is a lyric heavy song. It will rely on exaggerated actions to get the humour across to the audience.                                                               |
| Santaland                                                                                                                               | The crew fly in Santa's sleigh to help deliver presents on Christmas Eve. They decide that they will leave their old life as Vikings behind because they were never happy there and start a new life in Santaland. | The finale is a whole cast number; however, the crew should arrange themselves to echo the position of the boat in the Seasick Song in the centre of the other singers. |

If using the Dance it! suggestions for movement, please note that the arrangement of the dancers won't always reflect the stage directions for each song in the script and may need adapting for your purposes.

## **MUSIC**

All the music required to stage this production, including sound effects, can be found on the Backing Tracks album. A Vocal Tracks album is also available as a guide, and to enable the swift learning of songs. The Backing Tracks without Vocals are ideal to use in rehearsals and performances, and the score gives vast flexibility if you have the luxury of a live pianist. A great product called 'Sing it!' is also available. This download can help to teach all 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.

The songs (apart from a few solo parts) are designed to be performed with simple actions by the entire cast. The help of a separate 'Choir' is highly recommended. A good technique is to use any cast members who are not in the current scene to boost the number of singers in the choir. The choir should also be part of the show, performing the actions and any spoken dialogue marked 'ALL:'.

In case you don't have enough confident solo singers, the songs featuring soloists can be reassigned to the choir, if need be.

For companies wishing to perform the show with a full live band, we include 'Xtra Tracks' in our free resources area on the 'Norsey or Nice?' page on our website. These contain the sound effects used in the show, which can be triggered as required.

## **MUSIC PLAYBACK**

The various sound effects and music tracks can easily be played from a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Every track ends with enough recorded silence to ensure that your operator has the time to press pause and prevent the next track from starting too soon. However, there are even easier options that we highly recommend exploring as outlined below:-

In our 'Tech Tips' area, you'll find our most up-to-date advice on tablet, smartphone and computer playback for PC and Mac users, along with links to the best, free software available for these platforms. All of these utilise a method called 'non-continuous playback', where the device automatically pauses playback between tracks. This really does take the heat off your operator as they perform this vital, yet often overlooked, task!

## **GENERAL STAGECRAFT**

Performing is an exciting aspect of staging a production and is rich with potential teaching fodder! Below, we've included some basic tips based on our own teaching experiences, which you may find useful. Of course, feel free to embellish these or use your own methods as you see fit!

## Positions

To save time when blocking scenes (making sure that all the performers are in the right place), the stage directions in the script often refer to traditional stage positions. It will help if your cast and production crew know these positions.

| Backdrop               |                         |                       |
|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Upstage Right</b>   | <b>Upstage Centre</b>   | <b>Upstage Left</b>   |
| <b>Centre Right</b>    | <b>Centre Stage</b>     | <b>Centre Left</b>    |
| <b>Downstage Right</b> | <b>Downstage Centre</b> | <b>Downstage Left</b> |
| Audience               |                         |                       |

Consider using tape to mark out the stage so your performers know where to stand. They should try and avoid standing in rows when acting to avoid a 'school assembly' look!

## Delivery

It is essential that all performers deliver their lines clearly so that the audience can enjoy the story and the comedy. Performers should be encouraged to 'relax', 'breathe', 'leave gaps' and use 'big voices' to project their lines to the back of the audience. They should also be reminded to wait for any audience laughter, or applause, to quieten down before continuing the scene. Every performer should be encouraged to make the audience 'love' their character by giving an energetic and memorable performance!

## Timing

Within the script dialogue, the punctuation and stage directions will help with the timing of the lines. Some of the dialogue may be performed to music, in accordance with the stage directions. All of this particular dialogue is performed on the Vocal Tracks album and 'Learn it!' to provide examples of how it can be done.

## Movement

We encourage the use of simple choreography to boost the energy of your cast's performance. For this, feel free to devise your own movement, – perhaps involving your cast in the choreographing process. 'Dance it!' is a great support for choreographing your production, available alongside the other learning tools.

## **Acting To Music and Sound Effects**

For ultimate simplicity, all scenes can be performed without any of the accompanying music or sound effects, if you wish. However, we highly recommend using the audio tracks included in the Backing Tracks album to greatly enhance your show.

With a little practice, and by utilising our user-friendly tools, your cast can be massively enthused from acting to the audio tracks, making them feel like they are starring in a movie!

Learning these simple set pieces is similar to learning the songs and, in many cases, even easier! This is where our 'Learn it!' tool comes into its own. 'Learn it!' is a complete audio read-through of the script and songs. Think of it as a thrilling audiobook that you can enjoy with your pupils whilst they learn their lines!

We have provided obvious audio cues on the Backing Tracks and Vocal Tracks albums for your cast and crew to time their dialogue and actions to. These cues are also clearly noted in the script.

## **SOUND**

The show can be performed with nothing more than a media player and set of speakers. However, a good sound system, along with confident performances, will really help make an engaging atmosphere. Ideally, performers should be trained to speak and sing loud enough for the audience to hear them without microphones. This way, if you have the luxury of microphones, they will simply enhance the show rather than prop it up.

If solo microphones are available, they should be used by any solo singers. If you have a limited number of headset or lapel microphones, these should be allocated to the main speaking characters first.

A powerful set of speakers with a good bass response will allow the performers and audience to get into the show. The volume of the backing tracks and music should be as loud as possible, without overpowering the voices of the performers.

If possible, enlist the help of an experienced sound engineer.

## **LIGHTING**

'Norsey or Nice?' can be performed with simple lighting. At the very least, simply switching your venue's lights off between scenes will suffice.

For those with the means to have more ambitious lighting, we have designed the show to be complimented by this.

**PHOTOCOPIABLE RESOURCES**

High-resolution images are also available on the [Free Resources tab on the Musicline website](#).

**Bluetooth Rune****Symbols for**

Wind



Rain



Thunder



Lightning



Waves



Welcome to Santaland sign:



Pieces of a broken sign:



Ideas for constructing a sleigh...

