

The Spirit of Christmas

A Mini Christmas Program for Youth
Script by Helen Casper

Cast of Characters

Elves (3 – Have the kids come up with names for them)

Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

Shepherd/Shepherdess

Santa Claus

Mrs. Claus

+ a person to do sound effects, if desired

Production Notes

Runs approximately 15 minutes with songs. No sets are needed but if desired- one set for the snowy North Pole and one for the inside of Santa's house/workshop. Minimal costuming required- bright colors and pointy hats for the elves, reindeer antlers and red-colored nose for Rudolph, staff for the Shepherd, beard/hat for Santa, red outfits for Santa & Mrs. Claus. The only props needed are toys for the elves to carry, a piece of paper as a "petition", and a beverage for the elves to give Santa.

Scene 1 – The North Pole

Elf 1, 2, and 3 are carrying toys and come onstage chatting

Elf 1: That's what I'm saying- we need to get together and let our voice be heard!

Elf 2: I don't know, it seems kind of selfish... but I would like some more stylish clothes.

Elf 3: My cousin from the city has a Land Rover. I have a sled. I'm disgruntled!

Elf 2: What would you even do with a Land Rover?

Elf 3: I'd show it off to all my friends! (*Elf 2 rolls his/her eyes at Elf 1*)

Elf 1: Anyway, I think it's time we let Santa know how we feel. We may be the minority but maybe we can convince the others! (*All elves put down their toys and address the audience with the song.*)

SONG 1: Elf's Lament (*Words and music by Barenaked Ladies*)

Elf 1:

I'm an elf of reason and they say "'Tis the season
to be jolly" but it's folly when you volley for position

Elf 2:

Never in existence has there been such a resistance
To ideas meant to free us
If you could see us, then you'd listen

Elf 1 & 2 together:

Toiling through the ages, making toys on garnished wages
There's no union
We're only through when we outdo the competition

All Elves:

I make toys, but I've got aspirations
Make some noise
Use your imagination
Girls and boys, before you wish for what you wish for
There's a list for
who's been naughty or nice, but consider the price to an elf

Elf 3:

A full indentured servitude can reflect on one's attitude
But that silly red hat just makes the fat man look outrageous

Elf 1:

Absurd though it may seem, you know, I've heard there's even been
illegal dozing and though we're coping, I just hope it's not contagious
(*elbows sleeping Elf #2 next to him/her*)

Elf 2:

You try to start a movement, and you think you see improvement
But when thrown into the moment, we just don't seem so courageous

All Elves:

I make toys, but I've got aspirations
Make some noise
Use your imagination
Girls and boys, before you wish for what you wish for
There's a list for
who's been naughty or nice, but consider the price to an elf

Elf 1:

You look at yourself
You're an elf
And the shelf is just filled with disappointing memories

Elf 1 & 2:

Trends come and go, and your friends wanna know why you aren't just happy making

Elf 1:

crappy little gizmos

Every kid knows they'll just throw this stuff away

Elf 2:

We're used to repetition, so we drew up a petition

We, the undersigned, feel undermined

Let's redefine "employment"

Elf 3:

We know that we've got leverage, so we'll hand the fat man a beverage

And sit back while we attack the utter lack of our enjoyment

All Elves:

It may be tough to swallow, but our threats are far from hollow

He may thunder, but if he blunders, he may

Elf 3:

wonder where the toys went

All Elves:

I make toys, but I've got aspirations

Make some noise

Use your imagination

Girls and boys, before you wish for what you wish for

There's a list for

Elf 3:

who's been naughty or nice, but consider the price

Elf 2:

naughty or nice, but consider the price

Elf 1:

naughty or nice, but consider the price to an elf!

Scene 2 – The North Pole

(Elves continue "walking", Rudolph enters stage right.)

Rudolph: Hey guys! What's going on?

Elf 3: We have a petition for Santa to give us elves more stuff! Wanna sign?

Rudolph: Why do you guys need more stuff? Mrs. Claus makes you yummy food, right?

Elf 2: Well, yeah, but... just look at these clothes? My inner fashionista is so depressed!

Rudolph: But you have nice beds and lots of free time most of the year, right?

Elf 1: True but where is the fame? Where is the glory? We think we deserve more.

Rudolph: Okay, well, good luck to you guys. (*Rudolph sighs and leaves*)

Elf 3: What was his problem?

Scene 3 – The North Pole

(Elves continue “walking” and run into a shepherd/shepherdess. He/she is looking at the sky and smiling.)

Shepherd(ess): Why hello, elves! How are you this merry Christmas Eve?

Elf 3: We’re disgruntled!

Shepherd(ess): Whatever for?

Elf 1: We want workers’ rights, workers’ compensation, workers’... uh... stuff!

Elf 2 & 3: YEAH!

Elf 1: We even have a petition. Want to sign?

Shepherd(ess): Doesn’t Mrs. Claus take care of you when you’re sick?

Elf 3: Yeah but I want... GOURMET CHICKEN SOUP. You know, with those fancy crackers and stuff.

Shepherd(ess): Have you elves forgotten the spirit of Christmas?

Elf 3: Of course not- we know it’s all about getting stuff!

Shepherd(ess): I don’t think you remember. Good luck to you. (*Sighs and exits*)

Elf 2: I think she’s just jealous of the designer purse I’m going to get!

Scene 4 – Santa’s House

(Elves enter stage left to see Santa sitting and Mrs. Claus behind them. Santa is resting before his big Christmas Eve flight.)

Mrs. Claus: Hello elves! How are you this merry Christmas Eve?

Elf 3: We’re disgruntled!

Elf 1: We have something for you guys.

Elf 2: Yeah- there need to be some changes around here!

Santa: Changes? (*Santa takes the petition and begins to read it. Mrs. Claus looks over his shoulder.*)

Mrs. Claus: Employee stock purchase plan? 401 K? (*Reads some more, then exclaims*) A corporate jet?!?

Santa: (laughing) These are some demands here. What would you even do with a Land Rover?

(Elf 3 begins to talk but Elf 1 interrupts him/her).

Elf 1: That's not the point. We make stuff for you to give to kids all around the world. We want lots of stuff, too!

Elf 2 & 3: Yeah!

Santa: We live the same as you all. We all eat Mrs. Claus' cooking and she makes all of our clothes. I'm driving the same hand-carved sled pulled by reindeer that I always have.

(Stands up, smiles.)

Santa: The spirit of Christmas is not about presents or toys or how much stuff you get. It's about the birth of Jesus, remember? He gave us the ultimate gift- the gift of salvation. So we should honor him and honor His birth by being generous and giving to others.

Elf 3: But what about my Land Rover?

Elf 2: But I want some designer threads!

Mrs. Claus: Jesus says, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?"

Elf 1: But what about the fame and the glory! I want to be a celebrity.

Santa: Jesus also says, "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

Song 2 : From Heaven Above To Earth I Come *(Traditional hymn – Martin Luther)*

Santa & Mrs. Claus:

From heaven above to earth I come
To bear good news to every home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:

"To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild
This little child, of lowly birth,
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

All:

"This is the Christ, our God and Lord,
Who in all need shall aid afford;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.

Elf 3: (grabs petition and tears it up) You're right. We don't need this anymore!

Elf 1: Christmas is about Jesus. It's not about how fame and glory...

Elf 2: It's not about getting designer clothes or fancy things.

Elf 3: Christmas is about love, giving, and celebrating God's ultimate gift to us.

(Rudolph and the Shepherdess come out to join and they turn to the audience.)

Song 3 : We Wish You A Merry Christmas *(Traditional. New words by Helen Casper)*

All:

We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Elves (same tune as above):

For Jesus, he is the reason for giving in this season
For Jesus, he is the reason there's peace on earth.

All:

We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Good tidings and love to you and your kin.
Forgiveness and joy and freedom from sin!

For Jesus, he is the reason for giving in this season.
For Jesus, he is the gift that God gave us in love.

We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas
We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!