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Santa and the Naughty Ninjas

INTERACTIVE HOLIDAY COMEDY. The leader of a band of naughty ninjas is determined to seek revenge against Santa for having received a lump of coal for Christmas instead of a Red Radio Flyer Wagon (and Numchuck Ninja is in desperate need of an Easy-Bake Oven). So seven days before Christmas, the naughty ninjas arrive at Santa's workshop at the North Pole and demand that Santa turn over all his toys to them when they return on Christmas Eve. Santa realizes his elves are no match for the naughty ninjas, so he sends his elves out to find seven heroes to help battle the ninjas and save Christmas. The elves venture forth and return with an odd assortment of "heroes" including an evil clown, a mime, a cowboy actor, a nerdy scientist, and a guy who likes to wrap himself up like a Christmas present. When the naughty ninjas return on Christmas Eve, the heroes and elves are easily defeated as they square off against the ninjas. It looks as though Christmas may be ruined until a bumbling elf unleashes his secret heroes. Audience members get to join in on the fun by playing a host of hilarious roles in this delightful, interactive holiday show.

Performance Time: Approximately 60-75 minutes.

Characters

(4 M, 6 F, 22 flexible)

(Doubling possible)

SANTA CLAUS: Wears a traditional Santa suit.

MRS. CLAUS: Santa's wife.

WHITNEY: Santa's feisty head elf; female.

ALFREDO: Bungling elf in charge of making action figures; male.

LIZZLE: Super happy elf in charge of making stuffed animals; best friends with Dizzle; flexible.

DIZZLE: Lizzle's best friend who repeats what Lizzle says; flexible.

GROUT: Grumpy elf; flexible.

HYPO: Hyperactive elf who eats too much candy; in charge of making racing car toys; flexible.

HARPIE: Elf in charge of making musical toys; has a singing quality to his/her voice; flexible.

ACTION FIGURE 1, 2: Giant robotic superhero action figures that Alfredo designed; speak with robotic, monotone voices; they wear masks and simple superhero costumes like black clothes and a cape; flexible. (Note: the costume needs to be simple because audience members will play action figures later on.)

SAKAMAKADAKAMOTTO "MOTTO": Villainous leader of the Ninjas who wants to steal all of Santa's toys; wears a ninja costume—all-black clothing with a cape and headpiece; male.

NUMCHUCK NINJA: Desperately wants an Easy-Bake Oven; wears all-black clothing and a black hood that reveals only his eyes; carries a numchuck; flexible.

SWORD NINJA: Wears all-black clothing and a black hood that reveals only his eyes; carries a sword; flexible.

POLE NINJA: Wears all-black clothing and a black hood that reveals only his eyes; carries a pole; flexible.

KUNG FU GRIP NINJA: Wears all-black clothing and a black hood that reveals only his eyes; flexible.

KICKING NINJA: Wears all-black clothing and a black hood that reveals only his eyes; flexible.

COWBOY REX: Movie actor; dressed as a cowboy; has a holster and two cap guns; male.

MIME: Wears a traditional mime costume with white face and specializes in doing "the wall"; flexible.

EVIL CLOWN: Dressed as a clown but has super scary evil clown face; flexible.

LISA: Cheerleader at the local high school or junior high school; wears a cheerleading costume and carries pom-poms; female.

SUZIE: Cheerleader at the local high school or junior high school; wears a cheerleading costume and carries pom-poms; female.

WRAPPING PAPER HERO: Loves to wrap himself up like a Christmas present; flexible.

VICTOR VON ULSTEIN: Nerdy scientist and expert in nanotechnology and robotics; wears a lab coat and glasses; flexible. Note: Victoria Von Ulstein if female.

BUSINESS PERSON: Mean and rude; flexible.

ANNOUNCER 1: Game show host; flexible.

KID THUG: Young hoodlum; flexible.

DIRECTOR: Movie director; flexible.

MOM: Mom who hires Evil Clown to perform at a birthday party.

ANNOUNCER 2: Announcer at a science convention; flexible.

TOOTH FAIRY (Optional): Legendary Tooth fairy complete with wings; female.

EASTER BUNNY (Optional): The legendary Easter Bunny; flexible.

NOTE: For flexible roles, please change the script accordingly.

Production Note

As an audience participation show, audience members have the opportunity to play a host of fun roles including Ninjas, Thugs, Birthday Party Guests, Action Figures, Contestants, etc. The instructions on how to involve audience members in the show are contained in the script. If audience members are used, then the actors must be prepared to improvise a little to make sure the audience members are standing in the right place, reacting the right way, etc. If desired, actors can take the place of volunteers and can be planted in the audience.

Setting

Santa's workshop at the North Pole, eight days before Christmas.

Set

Santa's workshop at the North Pole. There is a worktable CS with tools and toys on it. The room is decorated with Christmas decorations and there is a sign posted that reads, "Santa's Workshop."

Synopsis of Scenes

Scene 1: Santa's workshop at the North Pole, eight days before Christmas.

Scene 2: Busy city street played in front of curtain.

Scene 3: Santa's workshop.

Scene 4: Santa's workshop.

Scene 5: Santa's workshop, Christmas Eve.

EPILOGUE (Optional): Played in front of curtain.

Props

Toys (Stuffed animals, race cars, musical toys, etc.)	Marble-sized ball made of masking tape
Holiday wrapping paper	Shopping bags, packages, etc., for City Folk
Bows	7 Large toy bags (Large enough to cover Heroes)
Ribbons	Twinkie
Candy	Ding Dong
Jerky	2 Pistols
Plate of holiday cookies	Holster
Cardboard tube from a paper towel roll	Barbie and Ken dolls
Sheet	Candy canes
Piece of paper	Wrapped present
2 Ski masks, for Screaming Ninja and Ballet Ninja	2 Rubber chickens
Numchucks	2 Chairs
Sword	Camera
Ninja pole	Serving tray
Small stuffed Santa Claus doll	Clown makeup
Toy list	Large candy cane
Lump of coal	2 Large bags filled with candy

NOTE: Ninjas can use toy weapons or homemade weapons.

Special Effects

Candy cane being snapped in half
Gunshot (optional)
Triumphant fighting music
Music to signal final ninja battle

**“I have dreamed
of the day
when I would
take over
Santa’s workshop
and then be asked
by an elf
why I would do
such a thing
as take over
Santa’s workshop.”**

—Sakamakadakamoto

Scene 1

(AT RISE: Santa's workshop at the North Pole, eight days before Christmas. All the Elves are at or around the work table making toys and singing "Jingle Bells," except for Grout, who looks a bit miffed. As soon as the song is over, the Elves start singing the song again but Grout interrupts.)

GROUT: (To Elves.) Be quiet! Be quiet! Will you be quiet?!
(They all stop singing.) I am so sick of that song. It's like Christmas 24-7 around here.

HARPIE: No kidding. We're elves.

ALFREDO: And this is Santa's Workshop.

GROUT: That's another thing...do we really need a sign saying that this is Santa's workshop? I mean, we work here every day, I think we know that this is Santa's workshop.

(Elves look at each other and then start singing "Jingle Bells" again. Whitney interrupts song.)

WHITNEY: All right, everyone, Santa is gonna be here and soon. He wants to see how this year's order is coming along. There's only eight more days until Christmas and we've got to be on the ball, so everyone get their orders ready.

LIZZLE: Yes, sir.

DIZZLE: Right away, sir.

(Lizzle and Dizzle stand up.)

WHITNEY: Lizzle, Dizzle, I am the head elf. I'm not a military commander, so stop calling me "sir."

LIZZLE: Yes, ma'am.

DIZZLE: Yes, ma'am.

WHITNEY: That's even worse.

LIZZLE: What do we call you?

DIZZLE: What do we call you?

WHITNEY: How about "Whitney." That's my name. From now on just call me Whitney.

LIZZLE: Yes, sir.

DIZZLE: Yes, ma'am

(Lizzle and Dizzle snicker and start working on some toys.)

ALFREDO: *(Obviously in love with Whitney.)* Whitney?

WHITNEY: Yes, Alfredo.

ALFREDO: I think Santa's gonna be really happy with his order this year. I took special care with the assignment he gave me.

HARPIE: I hope it's not like last year.

HYP0: Yeah. Remember when you made those Barbies with the pepper spray?

ALFREDO: They were so pretty I thought they might need some way to defend themselves from Grout's shipment of [GI Joe] dolls. *[Or insert another male action figure.]*

HARPIE: Can you imagine if we had sent those Barbies out with real pepper spray? The children could've hurt themselves and Christmas would've been ruined.

ALFREDO: I guess I didn't think about that.

GROUT: That's your problem. You don't think. Like two years ago when you made those chocolate-flavored razor blades.

ALFREDO: I just wasn't thinking.

WHITNEY: Alfredo, you need to make exactly what Santa tells you. Stop trying to improve on it. When Santa says he needs 3,478,326 [Game Boys] that's exactly what you make. You don't put 48" screens with surround sound in them. *[Or insert another suitable toy.]*

HYP0: Yeah, how are the kids supposed to take that in the car with them?

ALFREDO: This time I did it right. I made exactly what Santa asked for, no improvements, no big ideas, just the exact order. I think you'll be proud of me, Whitney.

WHITNEY: Good. Hypo, can you get some more ribbon? We've got to start wrapping all the presents. Only seven more days until delivery, elves!

HYP0: I'm on it. (*Rushes offstage and returns immediately with some ribbon. Jumping up and down.*) Anything else? Give me another assignment! I'm up for it.

LIZZLE: Hey, Hypo, why are you so spastic all the time?

DIZZLE: All the time.

HARPIE: (*To Hypo.*) Yeah, relax. We're right on schedule. The toys will be ready just like every year.

HYP0: It's all this Christmas candy. It's everywhere. I can't stop eating it! (*He takes a handful of candy and shoves it into his mouth.*)

GROUT: Just leave it alone.

HYP0: Are you kidding? It's just sitting there begging me to eat it! (*He downs another handful of candy.*)

LIZZLE: You're such a spaz.

DIZZLE: Spaz.

GROUT: Why don't you eat something salty for a change? (*He takes a bite of jerky.*)

HARPIE: What is that?

GROUT: Deer jerky.

(*Elves look at Grout in shock.*)

HARPIE: What...? Where did you...? I mean...

WHITNEY: All right, everyone, here he comes! Here comes Santa Claus! Here comes Santa Claus!

HARPIE: (*Sings.*) "Right down Santa Claus Lane."

(*Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus enter SR. Mrs. Claus is carrying a plate of holiday cookies.*)

WHITNEY: Hello, Santa. Hello, Mrs. Claus.

SANTA: Ho, ho, ho, how are my little workers doing?

GROUT: You ever hear of child labor laws?

WHITNEY: Grout! *(To Santa.)* He's just kidding, boss. And how are you, Mrs. Claus?

MRS. CLAUS: Wonderful, wonderful. I made some cookies. Would anyone like some?

HYPO: I'm there!

(Hypo rushes to the plate and downs all the cookies. Harpie gives Hypo an angry look.)

HARPIE: *(Sarcastic.)* Sure I'll have one.

HYPO: Oh, sorry.

(Hypo hands Harpie a mangled half-eaten cookie from his mouth.)

SANTA: *(To Elves.)* Ho, ho, ho. Well, how are the toys coming? Only seven more days till the big night.

WHITNEY: On schedule as usual, boss.

SANTA: Wonderful, wonderful. Well, let's see what we've got then.

(Santa and Mrs. Claus approach Lizzle and Dizzle.)

MRS. CLAUS: Oh, hello, Lizzle. Hello, Dizzle.

LIZZLE/DIZZLE: Merry Christmas, Mrs. Claus.

SANTA: And what are you two working on?

LIZZLE: Stuffed animals.

DIZZLE: Stuffed animals.

SANTA: Oh, yes, I get a lot of calls for stuffed animals, don't I?

LIZZLE: Approximately 600 million.

DIZZLE: Six hundred million.

MRS. CLAUS: Oh my, that is a lot, isn't it? I don't know how you make them all.

LIZZLE: One at a time.

DIZZLE: One at a time.

SANTA: Right. *(Santa and Mrs. Claus approach Grout.)* And how are you doing, Grout?

GROUT: I have diarrhea.

(Pause.)

SANTA: Ho, ho, ho! *(Santa and Mrs. Claus approach Harpie.)* And how is your order coming, Harpie?

HARPIE: You put me in charge of musical toys, sir. Look at this. *(She holds up a cardboard tube from an empty paper towel roll.)*

SANTA: What's that?

HARPIE: It's a der-der.

MRS. CLAUS: A der-der?

HARPIE: A der-der.

SANTA: What's a der-der?

HARPIE: *(Puts the tube up to her mouth and sings into it like a trumpet.)* Der-der-der!

(Santa and Mrs. Claus approach Hypo.)

HYP0: *(Before Santa can say anything.)* Racing cars, sir. My order is complete, wrapped, and ready to go.

MRS. CLAUS: *(To Santa.)* He's such a speedy little guy.

HYP0: Thanks, ma'am. If the elf business ever turns south, I'm looking to get a job with [UPS]. *[Or insert another delivery service.]*

SANTA: Just remember, when it comes to delivery, they're number two.

(They all look out at the audience and wink.)

HYP0: Yes, sir.

(Santa approaches Alfredo.)

SANTA: And how is Alfredo today?

ALFREDO: My order is complete too, sir. You put me in charge of action figures. Would you like to see one of them?

SANTA: Sure, sure, my good boy.

ALFREDO: They're in the other room. I'll go get one. *(He rushes off SL.)*

MRS. CLAUS: *(To Santa.)* He's such a sweet elf.

SANTA: He sure is. The only problem is that he messes up the order every year by trying to improve on it.

MRS. CLAUS: He's creative. You should utilize that.

(Alfredo enters with Action Figure 1, which is covered with a sheet. With some difficulty, Alfredo pushes Action Figure 1 from behind. Action Figure 1 is stiff and walks only with the help of Alfredo.)

ALFREDO: *(To Santa.)* Well, here it is.

SANTA: *(Confused.)* But...

ALFREDO: This year I didn't make any improvements or try to put my own ideas in.

SANTA: But...

ALFREDO: I just made them exactly how you ordered.

SANTA: But...

ALFREDO: Are you ready? Here it is.

(Alfredo takes the sheet off Action Figure 1. Action Figure 1 is wearing a superhero costume.)

SANTA: What is this?

ALFREDO: It's an action figure. Here...watch this. You just flip the switch on the back and...

(Alfredo flips the switch in the back of Action Figure 1 and it starts to move like a robot.)

ACTION FIGURE 1: *(In robot voice.)* Stop, you villains. I will save the day.

(Action Figure 1 walks like a robot toward Santa and Mrs. Claus.)

MRS. CLAUS: Oh, how wonderful!

ACTION FIGURE 1: You shall not escape. I shall be triumphant.

(Action Figure 1 advances on Santa and Mrs. Claus and grabs them around the throat. Whitney jumps into action to free Santa and Mrs. Claus but she cannot release them. Alfredo freezes and just watches in horror. Elves panic.)

WHITNEY: *(In a panic, shouts.)* Alfredo, will you do something?!

(Alfredo springs into action and turns off the switch. Action Figure 1 releases Santa and Mrs. Claus and stands in a neutral position.)

ALFREDO: *(To Santa, sheepish.)* You see? Just what you asked for...

(Santa catches his breath. He tries a few "ho, ho's" but they don't come out quite right.)

SANTA: Whitney?

WHITNEY: Yes, boss?

SANTA: Could you read back the action figure order for me?

(Whitney rushes to the table and grabs a paper.)

WHITNEY: Here it is. *(Reads from paper.)* "Seventy-two action figures, six inches tall."

(Everyone looks at Alfredo.)

ALFREDO: *(To Santa.)* I thought you said six action figures at 72 inches tall.

(Pause.)

SANTA: I couldn't possibly put those into children's stockings. Ho, ho, ho...

MRS. CLAUS: Ha, ha, ha...

WHITNEY: Alfredo, you idiot! You did it again! *(Santa and Mrs. Claus keep laughing as Alfredo walks Action Figure 1 off SL.)* I'm sorry, boss. He messed it up again.

SANTA: Don't be too hard on him. He means well.

WHITNEY: Yes, but now we're all gonna have to work overtime to get the right order out in time.

(Alfredo enters.)

ALFREDO: I'm sorry, Whitney, Santa, everyone. Maybe I'm just not cut out to be an elf...

(Grout runs downstage and looks out into the audience.)

GROUT: *(Shouts.)* Ninja attack!

(Suddenly, the stage is overrun by Ninjas. They wear all black clothing and ski mask-style hoods. They come from all directions and do kung fu moves. On their way up to the stage, they grab two Audience Members [1 female and 1 male] and give them the same ski masks to wear and coax them to come up onstage with them. Elves watch as Ninjas demonstrate their fighting abilities. Ninjas strike a pose DSC and freeze in this pose. Elves scream and run around the stage in a panic. Ninjas unfreeze and chase Elves. Lizzle and Dizzle go to the Audience Ninjas 1, 2 and are in charge of making sure Audience Ninjas hold them captive. Ninjas catch all the Elves and hold them in various positions like full nelsons, leg locks, etc. During the mayhem, Sakamakadakamoto ["Motto"] makes his

entrance and stands SR, watching with his fists on his hips and laughing an evil laugh.)

SANTA: *(Shouts.)* All right, all right! Everyone, quiet! Now, what's going on?

MOTTO: *(With a Japanese accent.)* You be quiet, Mr. Santa, if you wish to live! All I have to do is give the signal and my Ninjas will snap the necks of your precious elves.

MRS. CLAUS: Oh my! What's the signal?

MOTTO: *(Hesitates.)* Uh, well, we didn't really plan a signal. So I'll just say, "Snap their necks!" and I'll snap my fingers at the same time. That's what it is. Yes, that is the signal. If I snap my fingers and say "Snap their necks!" then your precious elves will all have their necks snapped. Now, allow me to introduce myself and my deadly band of ninja warriors, who I will now introduce along with myself.

HARPIE: What if you just snap your fingers without saying, "Snap their necks"? Like, if we were singing a song and you started to snap your fingers to the beat...would they snap our necks then?

MOTTO: What do you mean?

HARPIE: You know, like...

(Harpie leads the Elves in "Jingle Bells." They all start singing and Motto and the Ninjas snap their fingers to the beat.)

MOTTO: Okay, okay, knock it off!

HARPIE: Well, you can see how there could be some confusion. So what if you just snap?

MOTTO: No. Ninjas, only snap their necks if I say "Snap their necks" while I snap my fingers.

MRS. CLAUS: So, what if you say "Snap their necks" without snapping your fingers at the same time? Then what happens? Because you've said "Snap their necks" several times already while you were explaining.

MOTTO: Yes, I see. Okay, I'll say "Simon says" before I say "Snap their necks" and snap my fingers. Now, is everyone clear on this?

ALFREDO: Is your name Simon?

MOTTO: No. My name is Saka-maka-daka-motto.

ALFREDO: Saka-maka-sacramento?

MOTTO: Saka-maka-daka-motto.

LIZZLE: Saka-maka-daka-pork-chop?

MOTTO: Saka-maka-daka-motto!

DIZZLE: Daka-motto-saka-kaka?

MOTTO: Saka-maka-daka-motto!

ALFREDO: Saka-maka-daka-motto?

MOTTO: Yes! That's it!

GROUT: Then shouldn't you say "Saka-maka-daka-motto says" instead of "Simon says"?

MOTTO: All right, all right. The signal is "Saka-maka-daka-motto says, 'Snap their necks,'" and I will snap my fingers at the same time. And if all this happens, then my Ninjas will destroy you.

HYP0: You mean snap our necks.

MOTTO: Sorry. Snap your necks.

(Pause.)

LIZZLE/DIZZLE: Sakaka-dotto-maka-saka-motta-kasda-kama—.

MOTTO: Will you shut up?! *(To others.)* Now, have no illusions. We are in charge, for we are in control...and I have the ninjas and the signal...which in charge makes me...of which illusions you should have none. For the ninja fighter is the most deadly warrior on earth, for on this earth, there is no warrior more deadly than the ninja. Allow me to introduce my deadly band of ninjas. Ninjas, formation Number 1! *(All the Ninjas release their Elves and line up in a single-file line CS. Elves move to either side of Ninjas to watch.*

Audience Ninjas 1, 2 should be the last in line SL.) First, there is Numchuck Ninja!

(Numchuck Ninja steps forward and shows a pair of numchucks then proceeds to swing them in a fast and impressive Bruce Lee-style routine. He bows.)

NUMCHUCK NINJA: Haii!

(Numchuck steps back into line, and all the Elves applaud.)

MOTTO: Next is Sword Ninja!

(Sword Ninja steps forward and does a short impressive sword routine and bows.)

SWORD NINJA: Haii!

(Sword Ninja steps back into line, and all the Elves applaud.)

MOTTO: Next is Pole Ninja!

(Pole Ninja steps forward and does a short pole routine and bows.)

POLE NINJA: Haii!

(Pole Ninja steps back into line, and all the Elves applaud.)

MOTTO: And then there is Kung Fu Grip Ninja.

(Kung Fu Grip Ninja steps forward and does a short impressive routine with just his bare hands. Then he pulls out a small stuffed Santa Claus doll and, with a scream, rips its head off, and bows.)

KUNG FU GRIP NINJA: Haii!

(Kung Fu Grip Ninja steps back into line, and all the Elves applaud.)

MOTTO: Kicking Ninja!

(Kicking Ninja steps forward and does a short kicking routine and bows.)

KICKING NINJA: Haii!

(Kicking Ninja steps back into line, and all the Elves applaud.)

MOTTO: And one of my newest Ninjas...Screaming Ninja!
(Audience Ninja 1 is Screaming Ninja. Note: Kicking Ninja should give an encouraging nudge, and if necessary, make the Screaming Ninja do a screaming routine and make sure he/she bows at the end and gets back into line.) And now, for my most dangerous ninja of all...Ballet Ninja! *(Audience Ninja 2 is Ballet Ninja, the last in line. Note: Kicking Ninja should give an encouraging nudge, and if necessary, make the Ballet Ninja do a ballet routine and make sure he bows at the end and gets back into line at the end of his routine. Elves applaud.)* Now that you have met my Super Ninjas and have seen their destructive and neck-snapping powers, I have some demands for you...demands that you will meet because of the fear I have struck into you by meeting the destructive and neck-snapping powers of my Super Ninjas. Are there any questions?

SANTA: I have one. How did you find my workshop?

MOTTO: We came north and then followed the signs.

GROUT: I knew those signs were a bad idea.

MOTTO: Now, we have demands, demands which I will make now. You have been making toys all year, which are scheduled for delivery in seven days. But in seven days, you will not make that delivery. Because on that seventh day—that day being Christmas Eve—you will turn over all the toys to me and my ninja warriors. So because you will

relinquish all toys to my ninja warriors and myself in seven days, you will not make your delivery in seven days.

WHITNEY: *All the toys?*

MOTTO: Yes. *All the toys. (He pulls out a list.)* And a few other things that I've always wanted. *(Hands the list to Santa. Numchuck Ninja approaches Motto, whispers something into his ear, and then goes back in line. To Santa.)* Oh, yes, and an "Easy-Bake Oven." Let me just add that to the list. *(He writes it on the list that Santa is now holding.)* There. Now, you have seven days to finish all the toys you were already working on when we came in, plus the ones on the list, or we will return and destroy you...and by "destroy" I mean snap your necks. *(Numchuck Ninja coughs or clears his throat.)* And don't forget the Easy-Bake Oven.

WHITNEY: Why would you do this? Think about all the children in the world whose Christmases you will ruin. Why do you want to steal their toys?

MOTTO: *(Evil laugh.)* Ha, ha, ha! *(Ninjas do evil laughs with him until he suddenly cuts them off with a wave of his hand.)* Everything is going according to my design. I have dreamed of the day when I would take over Santa's workshop and then be asked by an elf why I would do such a thing as take over Santa's workshop. Well, the answer is right here! *(He pulls out a small lump of coal and holds it in front of Santa's face.)* This is what I received in my stocking when I was little boy. A lump of coal! My mother took me to the mall, and I stood in a very long line to sit on your lap. When I finally got my turn, one of your elves sat me on your lap and you asked me what I wanted for Christmas. I said I wanted a Red Radio Flyer Wagon with duel axles and a black swivel handle for a 180-degree turning radius. And you said, "Okay, sure, kid." And then do you know what I found in my stocking on Christmas morning instead of a Red Radio Flyer Wagon with duel axles and a black swivel handle for a 180-degree turning radius?

GROUT: Yeah, that lump of coal. We get it already.

MOTTO: Wrong, little elf! When I woke up—giddy as a little boy on Christmas morning and ran downstairs to check my stocking—I found only this... (*Holds up the lump of coal.*) This lump of coal! This in place of my Red Radio Flyer Wagon with duel axles and a black swivel handle for a 180-degree turning radius. A lump of black coal. (*To Santa.*) And you said, "Okay, sure, kid."

SANTA: Actually, that was one of my helpers. I can't visit all the malls, you know. Ho, ho, ho.

MOTTO: Shut up! He was a helper representing you, so you are responsible for his representation.

SANTA: Yes, well lumps of coal are given to naughty little children instead of toys. And you must've been on my naughty list. That's the only explanation. You must've been naughty.

MRS. CLAUS: (*To Motto.*) The list doesn't lie, you naughty boy.

SANTA: (*To Motto.*) And I checked it twice.

MRS. CLAUS: (*To Motto.*) He always checks it twice.

MOTTO: Nevertheless! Because of your justified coal delivery you and all the children of the world will suffer the same way I suffered as a naughty little boy.

(*Alfredo approaches Motto.*)

ALFREDO: Hey, if Santa says that you deserved that lump of coal, then you deserved it! You can't try to punish everyone else because you were naughty.

(*Motto grabs Alfredo around the neck with one hand.*)

MOTTO: What is your name, elf?

ALFREDO: (*Choking.*) Alfredo.

MOTTO: Listen to me, Fettuccini Alfredo...you have seven days until we return. And at that time, the time of our return, you will deliver up all the toys to us, including the

Easy-Bake Oven, or face the dire consequences of neck snapping. *(Evil laugh.)* Ha, ha, ha! *(Ninjas do evil laughs until Motto cuts them off with a wave of his hand.)* And merry Christmas! *(Motto holds up a small ball the size of a large marble, which is made of masking tape so it doesn't bounce much.)* Smoke bomb! Ninja, vanish! *(He throws the ball onto the stage. Nothing happens. Frustrated, to Ninjas.)* Just go.

(Doing their kung fu moves and making kung fu noises, Motto and the Ninjas exit into the audience the same way they entered. Two Ninjas take Audience Ninjas 1, 2 back to their seats, have them take off their masks, and tell them to hold onto the masks until later.)

SANTA: Oh, dear, what are we gonna do?

HARPIE: What can we do?

HYP0: I don't like the sound of necks snapping. It gives me the heebie-jeebies.

GROUT: We're no match for ninjas.

LIZZLE: I liked Screaming Ninja.

DIZZLE: I liked Ballet Ninja, even though he was a bit uncoordinated.

WHITNEY: You guys, these ninjas are gonna massacre us unless we turn over all the toys! We've got to do something.

GROUT: How about turn over all the toys? Then they get what they want and we don't get killed.

MRS. CLAUS: But think of all the children.

ALFREDO: Yeah, and think of all the other Saka-maka-daka-mottos out there who might come after us next year for not getting what they asked for this year.

GROUT: Selfish brats.

LIZZLE/DIZZLE: Saka-mada-mada-kasa-kada-mama—

SANTA: All right, listen. We are not going to disappoint the children...and he deserved that lump of coal.

GROUT: Let the massacre begin.

SANTA: No. We're gonna fight.

HARPIE: We can't fight ninjas.

SANTA: No, but we know people who can.

HYPO: [Chuck Norris]? [*Or insert another martial arts figure.*]

SANTA: We can do better than that. All right, I want each one of you to go out and find us a hero.

WHITNEY: But we've never been away from the North Pole. How will we know what to look for?

SANTA: Don't worry. You'll know a hero when you see one. You need to look for someone different...someone who stands out in a crowd. Someone virtuous. Someone who is kind and loving. Someone who cares about Christmas. But most of all, someone who can kick some ninja butt!

(Elves cheer.)

WHITNEY: Christmas on three! *(They huddle and stick their hands in.)* 1, 2, 3—

EVERYONE: Christmas!

(All cheer and run off. Blackout.)

Scene 2

(AT RISE: A busy city street, played in front of curtain. City Folk are walking around carrying packages and shopping bags going to work, meetings, etc. Note: Actors can grab some Audience Members and put them onstage to play the City Folk. Elves enter and stand huddled together CS, watching all the City Folk.)

WHITNEY: (To Elves.) Well, here we are. Remember, we need heroes. Santa said they would stand out in a crowd. Does anyone see anyone that stands out?

GROUT: Are you kidding? They all look the same. Look at them all, rushing off to do whatever, only thinking of themselves. (Grout moves a little when he talks and someone bumps into him sending him flying into another person, who sends him flying back the other way and into a Businessman. The Businessman pushes Grout out of the way, and he falls to the ground.) Hey, watch it!

BUSINESSMAN: Shut up, you stupid elf! Why don't you go sing "Jingle Bells"?

GROUT: I'll jingle your bells!

(Grout goes after the Businessman, but the other Elves stop him.)

HARPIE: (To Elves.) Hey, he called Grout an elf. They know who we are.

WHITNEY: No, they think we are department store elves. Most adults don't believe we even exist. This is gonna be harder than we thought. Maybe we should split up.

HYPO: Good idea. We can all go to different places and each locate our own hero.

WHITNEY: All right. Remember, we're looking for someone different.

LIZZLE: Someone who stands out in a crowd.

DIZZLE: In a crowd.

ALFREDO: Santa says we'll know a hero when we see one.

HYPO: All right, let's go.

GROUT: Wait a minute! Once we find a hero, how do we get him to come with us?

WHITNEY: *(Remembers.)* Oh yeah, Santa gave me his magic toy bag and his backup bags. *(She hands each Elf a large toy bag.)* These are the same magic bags that Santa puts all the toys in when he delivers them. Just put the heroes in these bags.

HARPIE: We put them in these bags?

GROUT: Man, this is getting dumb.

HYPO: All right, let's go bag some heroes.

(Elves split up. Whitney exits down main theatre aisle. Alfredo exits down SL theatre aisle. Grout exits down SR theatre aisle. Lizzle and Dizzle exit SR. Harpie and Hypo exit SL. City Folk start to exit into the audience and they send the Audience Members back to their seats. While everyone exits, Announcer 1 and Wrapping Paper Hero enter through the audience and select four Audience Members to help them. Announcer 1 carries wrapping paper, bows, and ribbon. Announcer 1 has four Audience Members stand in a row along with Wrapping Paper Hero. Hypo enters and stands by watching them.)

ANNOUNCER 1: *(To audience.)* Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to our 12th Annual Wrap Yourself Like a Christmas Present Contest. *(Announcer hands each Contestant some Christmas wrapping paper, bows, and ribbon.)* All right, contestants, you know the rules. When I say "go," you wrap yourself up like a Christmas present the best you can in 30 seconds. Contestants, ready your paper. And...go! *(Watching the other Audience Member Contestants to see how they are doing, Wrapping Paper Hero starts wrapping herself. Announcer 1 lets Contestants wrap themselves for about 30 seconds.)* Time! Okay, stop! No more wrapping. And now the judging. *(Announcer goes to the Contestant 1 and makes a face at his wrapping job.)* Sheesh! As far as wrapping goes, I

prefer [M.C. Hammer]. (*Announcer goes to Contestant 2.*) I'd hate to find you under my tree! (*Announcer makes fun of Contestants 3, 4 and then comes to Wrapping Paper Hero.*) I'd open you anytime! The winner! (*He directs the Audience Members to go back to their seats.*) Ladies and gentlemen, the winner of the 12th Annual Wrap Yourself Like a Christmas Present Contest"...our hero! (*At "hero," Hypo's eyes pop open, realizing that he has just found a hero. Wrapping Paper Hero puts his arms up in victory. Hypo pulls out his bag and throws it over Wrapping Paper Hero. Hypo grabs Wrapping Paper Hero and quickly disappears with him through the curtains, leaving Announcer 1 alone onstage.*) That was weird. [*Or insert the name of another rap star.*]

(*Announcer 1 shrugs and exits. Mime enters and stands CS and starts doing a mime routine. Harpie enters and watches Mime with fascination. Kid Thug has recruited some Kids from the audience and has instructed them when to say their one line. They enter SL, stop, and see Mime.*)

KID THUG: Hey, look, a mime!

KID VOLUNTEERS: Get him!

(*Kid Thug and his Volunteers take off after Mime. They chase Mime around the stage, into the audience, and then back up onto the stage. Harpie pulls out her bag. Mime runs up and meets Harpie CS.*)

HARPIE: (*To Mime.*) You're fast.

(*Harpie throws the bag over Mime's head and disappears with him behind the curtains. Kid Thug and the Volunteers go CS and look around.*)

KID THUG: Where'd he go?

(Volunteers look around and then Kid Thug sends Volunteers back to their seats. Mom enters with several Child Volunteers from the audience. Note: Volunteers can also be played by adults. She sits them down on the stage. Grout enters and watches. Note: Mom gives the Child Volunteers instructions to be afraid of Evil Clown and run back to their seats when Evil Clown comes out.)

MOM: *(To Child Volunteers.)* Hey, kids, is everyone ready for the entertainment? In honor of Billy's birthday, we got a clown. Who likes clowns? *(Kids react.)* Okay, here he is. *(Evil Clown enters and starts doing a clown dance. Evil Clown's dancing scares all the Kids and they run back to their seats in the audience. To Evil Clown.)* You brute!

(Mom whacks Evil Clown and exits.)

EVIL CLOWN: What?

GROUT: *(To himself.)* Oh, I gotta get this guy!

(Grout throws his bag over Evil Clown's head and disappears with him behind the curtain. Cheerleader Lisa and Cheerleader Suzie enter from the audience and grab a couple of Audience Members. Note: Older men are the funniest to recruit. Once they are up on the stage, Cheerleaders direct the Audience Members to follow along with them. Lizzle and Dizzle enter and watch.)

LISA: *(To Cheerleader Suzie and Volunteers.)* Ready? Okay.

(Cheerleader Lisa and Cheerleader Suzie do a cheer and encourage the Volunteers to follow along. Note: Any cheer will do.)

SUZIE/LISA: *(Cheering.)*

"We're number one!

Can't be number two!

We're gonna kick the whoopsie

Out of you!"

(When they finish cheering, Lizzle and Dizzle approach Lisa and Suzie, whisper something into their ears, and hold their bags open for Lisa and Suzie to jump in.)

SUZIE: *(To Lizzle and Dizzle.)* Eeeeeew! No way.

LISA: *(To Lizzle and Dizzle.)* Forget it!

(Lizzle holds up a Twinkie. Lisa sees it and stares. Lizzle throws it into the bag and Lisa dives in to get it. Lizzle wraps her up. Dizzle holds up a Ding Dong to Suzie and then throws it into the bag. Suzie dives in and Dizzle wraps her up. Lizzle and Dizzle instruct the Volunteers to go back to their seats and disappear behind the curtains. Director, Cowboy Rex, and several Kids from the Audience enter. They stand CS.)

DIRECTOR: All right, Rex, this is the big scene. You are surrounded by the bad guys. They are coming up on you from all directions. You draw your guns and blast 'em to kingdom come. All right?

REX: Got it. Blast 'em.

DIRECTOR: *(To Volunteers.)* All right, bad guys, get in your places. When I say "action," you all attack Rex, here. And I want huge, dramatic dying scenes from each of you when he shoots you. Got it? All right, here we go. *(Director has the Volunteers move back and get into attack position.)* Lights, camera, action! *(Whitney enters and watches. Director instructs Volunteers to sneak up on Rex and attack him. Rex shoots them, taking time to let them have their big dying scene. [Note: If a blank gun is unavailable, he can shout "Bang!" or a sound effect can be used.] When all the Volunteers are dead, Rex blows into the barrel of his gun, spins it around, and holsters it. Amazed by Rex's heroism, Whitney throws the bag over Rex's head and disappears with him behind the curtains.)* Cut! Okay, everyone, that's a wrap. *(To Volunteers.)* Bad guys, good work. You can go back to your seats. Nice shootin', Rex. Rex? Rex? Where'd he go?

(Director scratches his head and exits. Announcer 2 enters and stands CS. Alfredo enters far SL and watches.)

ANNOUNCER 2: *(To audience.)* Ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure to introduce to you this evening one of the most brilliant minds in modern robotics and nanotechnology. Here to speak to us tonight at this—the 25th Annual Progressive Sciences Convention—a true hero in his field, Dr. Victor Von Ulstein.

(Announcer 2 claps as Scientist enters.)

SCIENTIST: Good evening, ladies and gentle—

(Alfredo throws the bag over the Scientist's head and disappears with him behind the curtain.)

ANNOUNCER 2: Well, let's give Dr. Ulstein a hand for one of the most exciting speeches we've ever heard here at the convention! *(Claps enthusiastically and exits. Blackout.)*

Scene 3

(AT RISE: Santa's workshop. Mrs. Claus is wrapping something. Santa is playing with some Barbie and Ken dolls. Santa notices the curtain is open and, embarrassed, puts the dolls away.)

MRS. CLAUS: Oh, dear, only three days left until those naughty ninjas return. Do you think the elves can actually find someone who can fight them off?

SANTA: Don't worry, we can count on Whitney. She's really very clever.

MRS. CLAUS: Perhaps we should relocate...just move the workshop someplace else so they can't find us. Maybe the South Pole.

SANTA: No, if he found us here he can find us anywhere. That would just be delaying the inevitable. No, we've got to take a stand here and now.

MRS. CLAUS: Oh, I can just hear those little elf necks snapping. (*Shivers.*)

SANTA: Why don't we think of something more pleasant? Here, have a piece of my candy cane. (*He snaps the candy cane in half making a neck-snapping noise.*)

MRS. CLAUS: I can't. (*Starts to cry.*)

WHITNEY: (*From off SL, calls.*) Santa? We're back!

SANTA: (*To Mrs. Claus.*) Here they come. Now, put on a good face and show courage. Let's see who they've brought.

(*All Elves and Heroes enter SL. Heroes still have bags over their heads. Elves lead Heroes to CS and form a line. Each Elf stands by his/her hero. Lined up from right to left: Wrapping Paper Hero and Hypo, Mime and Harpie, Evil Clown and Grout, Lisa and Suzie and Lizzle and Dizzle, Rex and Whitney, Scientist and Alfredo.*)

WHITNEY: Here they are, Santa. We found seven heroes.

SANTA: My, that was fast.

WHITNEY: We split up. Each of us searched on our own so it would take less time. I figured we'd need it.

MRS. CLAUS: *(To Santa.)* You're right. She is clever.

SANTA: Very good, Whitney. Well, let's see who you've brought to save Christmas—not to mention our necks. *(Santa and Mrs. Claus stand just right of Wrapping Paper Hero.)* Well, Hypo, let's start with you. What kind of hero did you bring us?

HYPO: I thought you'd never ask. This guy rocks!

(Hypo takes the bag off of Wrapping Paper Hero's head.)

WRAPPING PAPER HERO: *(Confused.)* Hey.

MRS. CLAUS: *(To Hypo.)* This is a hero?

HYPO: That's what the announcer said.

SANTA: *(To Wrapping Paper Hero.)* Well, what kind of special abilities or powers do you have?

(Wrapping Paper Hero shows them a wrapped present.)

MRS. CLAUS: *(Sarcastic.)* We're saved.

WRAPPING PAPER HERO: Santa? Where am I? What's going on?

SANTA: *(To Hypo.)* He doesn't know? Didn't you tell them?

HYPO: As soon as I knew he was a hero, I just grabbed him.

MRS. CLAUS: So we're kidnappers now? *(Sarcastic.)* Great. Santa and his kidnappers.

(Santa and Mrs. Claus look at each other and then move on to Harpie and Mime.)

SANTA: Let's see who else we've got. And who did you bring us, Harpie?

HARPIE: Oh, this one really stands out in a crowd.

(Harpie pulls the bag off Mime's head. Mime just stands there looking at them.)

SANTA: You're right. She certainly does stand out in a crowd. *(To Mime.)* And what is your special ability?

(Mime starts to mime a wall. Everyone just stares at her. Santa just looks at Mime.)

MRS. CLAUS: *(Sarcastic.)* Snap.

(Santa and Mrs. Claus move on to the Evil Clown.)

SANTA: Well, Grout, let's see your hero.

GROUT: Oh, you're gonna love this guy.

(Grout takes the bag off of Evil Clown. Everyone screams at the sight of him. Santa and Mrs. Claus jump back.)

MRS. CLAUS: Holy crap, what is that thing?!

GROUT: He's my hero.

SANTA: Can he do anything...special?

EVIL CLOWN: I did my own makeup. And I have one of these. *(He pulls out a rubber chicken.)*

MRS. CLAUS: *(Sarcastic.)* Well, I don't think we need to look any further. That's all we needed.

(Santa and Mrs. Claus move on to Lisa and Suzie.)

SANTA: *(To Lizzle and Dizzle.)* Okay, who'd you bring?

LIZZLE: Twinkie.

DIZZLE: Ding Dong.

(Lizzle and Dizzle pull the bags off of Lisa and Suzie. Lisa and Suzie have Twinkie and Ding Dong all over their faces and their mouths are full.)

LISA/SUZIE: *(Cheer.)* Be aggressive! Be, be aggressive! Be aggressive! Be, be aggressive! Go... [Insert name of local school mascot]! Oh yeah, [Insert mascot name]!

MRS. CLAUS: *(To Santa.)* What's a [mascot name]?

SANTA: I don't know, but they seem to be aggressive.

SUZIE: Hey, wait a minute. What's going on here?

LISA: Yeah, who are you people?

SANTA: I'm Santa Claus. And this is my wife, Mrs. Santa Claus, and these are my elves.

LISA: Hi, everyone.

SUZIE: Nice to meet you.

SANTA: Tell me, can you take on ninjas?

LISA: Ninjas?

SUZIE: Are they a [4A] school? *[Or insert local name for highest school rating.]*

LISA: Hey, we can take on anyone. We've taken on [Silver Wolves], [Stingin' Bees], [Grizzlies], [Bobcats], and the [Lakers]. *[Insert names of rival school mascots.]*

SUZIE: Ninjas? No problem.

SANTA: Excellent! *(Turns to Mrs. Claus.)* Looks like we're in luck!

MRS. CLAUS: Dear...they're cheerleaders.

SANTA: *(Crying.)* I know. *(Santa and Mrs. Claus move on to Rex and Whitney.)* Well, Whitney, I hope you've brought someone who can help us.

WHITNEY: Don't worry, boss. I brought a true hero.

(Whitney takes the bag off of Rex.)

REX: Yeee-haw! *(Rex draws his guns and "fires" a couple shots into the air.)*

SANTA: Oh, wow! A cowboy! Well done, Whitney.

WHITNEY: Thank you, boss.

SANTA: What's your name, son?

REX: Rex.

MRS. CLAUS: (*Sarcastic.*) This is a good sign. We used to have a dog named Rex.

SANTA: Rex, I suppose you're used to fighting off bad guys.

REX: Yes, sir, every time.

MRS. CLAUS: Are you any good... (*Indicating guns.*) ...with those things?

(Rex draws his guns, spins them, holsters them, and tips his hat.)

REX: Ma'am.

SANTA: Awesome. Tell me, have you ever fought ninjas?

REX: Oh, sure, in "Ninjas of Gatling Gun Pass."

MRS. CLAUS: What's "Gatling Gun Pass"?

REX: That was the name of the picture.

SANTA: Picture?

REX: Yeah, the movie. It was called "Ninjas of Gatling Gun Pass."

(Mrs. Claus puts her head down, shaking it.)

SANTA: So if I were to ask you to shoot a toy off that table over there, could you do it?

REX: Well, I could shoot at it, but I ain't gonna hit anything on account of I only got blanks in these guns. That is...unless you have that toy rigged with special effects to fly off the table.

MRS. CLAUS: He's a movie star, dear.

WHITNEY: (*To Santa.*) Sorry, boss.

SANTA: It's no use. We're done for. We don't even have time to make the rest of the toys on his list. We're all gonna have our necks snapped and Christmas will be ruined.

ALFREDO: You haven't seen mine yet, sir.

SANTA: Is it worth it?

ALFREDO: Could be.

(Santa and Mrs. Claus move on to Alfredo's hero.)

SANTA: *(Depressed.)* All right, let's see.

(Alfredo lifts the bag off of the Scientist's head.)

ALFREDO: Ta-da!

SCIENTIST: ...men. I would like to start my lecture tonight by discussing the most intricate aspects of nanotechnology and their special applications on the future of industrial robotics. *(Realizes.)* Oh, goodness gracious, where am I?

SANTA: You're at the North Pole.

MRS. CLAUS: *(Sarcastic.)* South Pole here we come.

SCIENTIST: This is absolutely nutty.

SANTA: We're doomed.

ALFREDO: Sir, he can help.

MRS. CLAUS: What's he gonna do...bore them to death?

WHITNEY: *(To Santa.)* Sir, we still have to try. We can't just give up. Think of the children!

SCIENTIST: I demand to know what is going on here.

LISA: Me, too.

REX: Yeah. Why are we here?

(Heroes start talking at once. Elves are trying to explain and the Heroes are complaining and trying to figure things out. Mime is, of course, miming. Chaos builds.)

SANTA: *(Shouts.)* Okay, everyone! Listen up! *(Everyone is still talking. Yells louder.)* Beeeeee quiet! Will you all just be quiet!?! *(Grabs Mime by the arm. To Mime.)* Especially you! Now shush! *(Everyone is quiet.)* Thank you. Well, I guess you're all wondering why you're here.

WRAPPING PAPER HERO: Quite frankly, yes. Apparently, we were all just minding our own business, going about our lives, when you suddenly kidnapped us and brought us here against our will. I demand to know what this is all about. What kind of organization is this that deceives

people like this? (*Thinks.*) Wait a minute. Is this [AIG]? [*Or insert the name of another ill-reputed organization/company.*]

SANTA: No, no, it is nothing of a sales nature, I assure you.

Let me explain, and everything will become clear. I am Santa Claus. This is my wife, Mrs. Claus.

MRS. CLAUS: A pleasure, I'm sure.

SANTA: These are my elves. (*Elves wave.*) And this is my workshop. Several days ago, we were raided by a band of naughty ninjas. Their leader is a man named Saka-maka-daka-motto.

LISA: Saka-daka-north-dakota?

SANTA: Saka-maka-daka-motto.

SUZIE: Saka-mama-kama? I don't get it.

SANTA: Never mind. He has promised to return on Christmas Eve and take all the toys, or he and his ninjas will snap our necks. (*Heroes ad-lib "Oh, that's terrible," "What a mean man!" "That would ruin Christmas!" etc.*) Yes, Christmas would be ruined. So we decided to bring...*heroes*...to help us fight the ninjas upon their return.

EVIL CLOWN: So where do we come in?

SANTA: You're the heroes. (*Pause. Heroes go nuts. The Elves try to calm them down but this just adds to the chaos. Shouts.*) Listen, listen! (*Heroes and Elves quiet down. Dejected.*) It's obvious that we made a mistake. You're not heroes, and I don't expect you to risk your lives for us. My elves will take you all back to your homes.

(*Whitney grabs a chair and sets it CS for Santa. Santa sits and sobs, putting his head in his hands. Everyone just watches Santa cry. Wrapping Paper Hero approaches Santa.*)

WRAPPING PAPER HERO: Santa...you brought me my first wrapped present. (*Sits down on Santa's lap.*) You brought me one every year. And I was looking forward to this year's. I don't know how effective I can be, but if you need me to fight, I'll fight.

(Wrapping Paper Hero stands up and goes SL. Mime approaches Santa. Other Heroes form a line to Santa's right, waiting to sit on his lap. Elves move back by the tables. Harpie goes to the front of the line and holds the Heroes back just like at a mall. Mime sits on Santa's lap. She points at herself and mimes a big heart and then points at Santa. Then she mimes that she will fight. She mimes punching and choking and kicking. She gets up and moves to the left, and Alfredo gives her a candy cane. Alfredo will do this after each Hero sits on Santa's lap. Evil Clown approaches and sits down on Santa's lap. Whitney goes DS with a camera and holds the camera up to take a picture of Evil Clown on Santa's lap.)

WHITNEY: *(To Evil Clown and Santa.)* This way. Say, "candy cane."

(Santa and Evil Clown smile at her.)

EVIL CLOWN/SANTA: Candy cane.

(Whitney takes their picture.)

EVIL CLOWN: Santa, you brought me my first squirting flower. I'll help you fight those ninjas!

(Evil Clown holds the rubber chicken up to Santa's face and squeezes it. The chicken makes a honking noise. Evil Clown gets up and goes SL. Harpie lets Lisa and Suzie through. Lisa sits on Santa's lap. Suzie stands behind Santa with her arms wrapped around him. Whitney points the camera at them.)

WHITNEY: *(To Suzie, Lisa, and Santa.)* Say "stockings."

LISA/SUZIE/SANTA: Stockings.

(Whitney takes their picture.)

SUZIE: We'll help you, Santa.

LISA: *(To Santa.)* You brought us our first set of pom-poms.

SANTA: Pom-poms, yes. Ho, ho, ho. Thank you, girls.

(Santa helps them off his lap and they move SL. Harpie lets Rex through, and he sits on Santa's lap. Whitney points the camera at them.)

WHITNEY: *(To Rex and Santa.)* Say "fruitcake."

REX/SANTA: Fruitcake.

(Whitney takes their picture.)

REX: *(To Santa.)* Well, big fella... *(Santa starts bouncing him on his knee like he's riding a horse.)* ...you brought me my first cap guns. I've been playin' the hero all my life. I guess this is my chance to be one for real. Count me in.

(Rex moves SL. Harpie lets the Scientist through and he sits on Santa's lap. Whitney points the camera at them.)

WHITNEY: *(To Scientist and Santa.)* Say, "turkey leftovers."

SCIENTIST/SANTA: Turkey leftovers.

(Whitney takes their picture.)

SCIENTIST: *(To Santa.)* You brought me my first chemistry set. I can't let you down. Perhaps we can devise some sort of plan. *(He moves SL, deep in thought.)*

WRAPPING PAPER HERO: *(Shouts.)* Three cheers for Santa!
Pip, pip...

EVERYONE: Hurray!

WRAPPING PAPER HERO: Pip, pip...

EVERYONE: Hurray!

LISA/SUZIE: Last time!

WRAPPING PAPER HERO: Pip, pip...

EVERYONE: Hurray!

MRS. CLAUS: Well, Santa, it looks like they're all with you.

SANTA: Very well. We've got three days. Anyone have any ideas?

WHITNEY: We've got some preparations to make before they come back.

HARPIE: What do you suggest?

WHITNEY: We elves are gonna have to fight, too. We need to train. *(To Heroes.)* So, if there's anything you know, anything you can teach us...about fighting ninjas...anything that could help...it would be...well, it would be...helpful.

REX: Let's do it!

(Rex puts his hand in and they all put their hands in.)

WHITNEY: One, two, three...

EVERYONE: Christmas!

(They all cheer and run off. Blackout.)

Scene 4

(AT RISE: Santa's workshop. This scene is done quickly. Wrapping Paper Hero and Hypo enter and run CS. Wrapping Paper Hero strikes sumo wrestler pose and Hypo imitates him. Wrapping Paper Hero shows him some moves that don't look so good, and when Hypo imitates them, they look even worse. Wrapping Paper Hero looks worried. Mrs. Claus enters carrying wrapping paper, bows, and ribbons. Hypo speedily dances over to her. Wrapping Paper Hero gets an idea. He takes the wrapping paper, bows, and ribbons from Mrs. Claus. Mrs. Claus shrugs and exits. Mime and Harpie enter. Mime shows her a scary pose by flexing and miming a roar like she's intimidating the enemy. Harpie tries to imitate it, but her pose looks more like a dance step and she sings out a high note and holds it. Mime shakes her head. Mime decides to start with the basics. She shows her "the wall." Harpie tries it. They both pantomime it across the stage and exit. Evil Clown and Grout run on. Evil Clown hits Grout over the head with the rubber chicken.)

GROUT: Hey, what the—?

(Evil Clown gives Grout the rubber chicken. Grout hits Evil Clown over the head with the rubber chicken and laughs. Evil Clown praises him and then looks at him carefully and gets an idea. He pulls out some clown makeup and looks at Grout. Grout smiles. They run offstage. Lisa and Suzie and Lizzle and Dizzle enter and stand CS.)

LISA: Okay, first things first. (Serious.) No one move until I say, "Ready...okay." (Lizzle and Dizzle are completely frozen. Lisa and Suzie look at them and then stand at attention.)
Ready...okay!

LISA/SUZIE: (Cheer.) Give me an "S"!

(They lift a knee and pom-poms in classic cheerleader pose.)

LIZZLE/DIZZLE: "S"!

(They try to form the letters with their bodies.)

LISA/SUZIE: Give me an "A"!

LIZZLE/DIZZLE: "A"!

LISA/SUZIE: Give me an "T"!

LIZZLE/DIZZLE: "T"!

LISA/SUZIE: Give me an "A"!

LIZZLE/DIZZLE: "A"!

LISA/SUZIE: Give me an "N"!

LIZZLE/DIZZLE: "N"!

LISA/SUZIE: What's that spell?! *(Lizzle and Dizzle have terrified looks on their faces as they realize it spells "Satan.")*

Santa! Yeah, Santa!

(Lisa and Suzie jump up and down and cheer. Lizzle and Dizzle join them.)

LIZZLE: *(To Lisa and Suzie.)* Hey, hey, hey! How many D's are in "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"?

(Dizzle snickers. Lisa and Suzie count, confer, and give their answer.)

LISA/SUZIE: Four.

DIZZLE: Nope. Three-hundred and twenty-six.

(Lizzle and Dizzle start singing "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" but instead of the words they sing "Dee.")

LIZZLE/DIZZLE: *(Singing.)* Dee dee dee dee dee dee dee...
(Lizzle and Dizzle laugh.)

LISA: (*Serious.*) Okay. Now there's one more really important thing you have to do. We wave our arms around and yell really loud as we go off. Ready...go!

(*Lisa and Suzie cheer as they exit. However, Lizzle and Dizzle scream in terror and shake their hands above their heads as they run off. Whitney and Rex enter.*)

REX: (*To Whitney.*) Okay, the first thing you do to fight someone is get into a fighting stance. (*They get into a boxing stance with hands up.*) Now circle around. (*They quickly circle around each other.*) Then wind up. (*Rex winds up his punching arm in circles.*) And punch! (*Rex throws a punch at Whitney, but he is about three feet away from hitting her.*) See? Like that.

WHITNEY: Okay, get into a stance. (*They get into a boxing stance with hands up.*) Now circle around. (*They quickly circle around each other.*) Then wind up. (*Whitney winds up her punching arm in circles.*) And punch! (*She throws a punch at Rex but is about three feet away from hitting him.*) Like that?

REX: Perfect! Now, you've got to make the nap.

WHITNEY: The nap?

REX: Yeah. The nap is the sound the punch makes. You can make it by slapping your chest or stomping on the ground or even with your mouth. Like this... (*He shows her another punch and slaps his chest to make the nap.*) Now you try.

WHITNEY: Like this? (*She punches and makes the nap.*)

REX: Perfect.

(*Whitney and Rex run off. Alfredo and Scientist enter. Alfredo waves to Whitney as she runs off but she doesn't notice him. Alfredo looks dejected. Alfredo and Scientist start doing some fighting punches in unison like at a karate dojo. Finally, Alfredo stops.*)

ALFREDO: (*To Scientist.*) I'm tired.

SCIENTIST: I think we can take a break.

ALFREDO: Hey, you know I screwed up on one of Santa's orders this year...again. And, uh, they were supposed to be

action figures. And I made them the wrong size, but I was trying to implement some nano-robotics so they could move on their own. I thought I had them right, but when I showed Santa, it kinda went berserk. I have to scrap them because of their size but maybe you could show me what I did wrong in the robotics part.

SCIENTIST: Sure, bring one in.

(Alfredo rushes off SL and enters with Action Figure 1.)

ALFREDO: Okay, watch this. *(He flips the switch on the back of Action Figure 1.)*

ACTION FIGURE 1: *(In robot voice.)* Stop, you villains. I will save the day.

SCIENTIST: Wonderful.

ALFREDO: Keep watching.

ACTION FIGURE 1: You shall not escape. I shall be triumphant.

(Action Figure 1 advances on Scientist and grabs him around the throat.)

ALFREDO: See? He's kinda hostile.

SCIENTIST: *(Choking.)* Yes, I...see—. Help!

ALFREDO: Sorry! *(He flips the switch, and Action Figure 1 shuts down.)* So you see the problem?

SCIENTIST: Yes, yes. Let me take a look. *(He looks at the back of Action Figure 1.)* I think we can fix this. How many of these do you have?

ALFREDO: Six.

SCIENTIST: Well, let's take a look.

(Alfredo and Scientist exit SL with Action Figure 1. Santa and Mrs. Claus enter.)

SANTA: *(To Mrs. Claus.)* Tomorrow's the big day. The naughty ninjas will return, and then we'll have a real fight on our hands.

MRS. CLAUS: The elves have trained hard.

SANTA: I hope it will be enough to save Christmas...and our necks.

MRS. CLAUS: The heroes have taught them everything they know.

SANTA: Do you think it will be enough? Do you think we can beat the ninjas and save Christmas?

MRS. CLAUS: Nope.

[END OF FREEVIEW]