

Have
Yours-elf
an
inventive
Little
Christmas



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BIG DOG PUBLISHING

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BIG DOG PUBLISHING

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Have Yours-elf an inventive Little Christmas

HOLIDAY COMEDY. Tinsel is an imaginative elf who spends all of her time creating “helpful” inventions for Santa’s workshop. But there’s just one problem: Tinsel’s inventions tend to malfunction at the worst times. The Stocking-o-matic makes misshapen Christmas stockings. The Candy Cane-o-matic shoots candy canes at the elves. The Teddy Bear Generator assembles hideous teddy bears. The Gift Wrapping-o-matic wraps up the elves in paper, bows, and ribbons. The Straw Distributor shoots straw at the reindeer. And Santa’s anti-gravity boots, designed to keep him from falling off of roofs, are so heavy he can’t walk in them! Tired of Tinsel’s menacing machines, the head elf orders that Tinsel’s inventions be shut down, unplugged, and recycled. But when Jack Frost and the Snow Queen create the snowstorm of the century, it’s up to Tinsel to save Christmas with her creative inventions. Perfect for all ages. Easy to stage.

Performance Time: Approximately 45-60 minutes.

Characters

(2 M, 6 F, 16 flexible)

(With doubling: 2 M, 6 F, 14 flexible)

TINSEL: Elf at Santa's workshop who loves to invent new devices; wears a tool belt; female.

MERRY: Tinsel's best friend who thinks Tinsel's inventions are the way of the future at Santa's workshop; flexible.

COAL: High-strung, grumpy head elf who is sick of dealing with Tinsel's malfunctioning inventions; flexible.

JINGLE: Elf who works in the gift-wrapping department and is wrapped up by Tinsel's Gift Wrapping-o-matic; suffers from ribbon-o-phobia; wears identical clothing to Bell; flexible.

BELL: Elf who works in the gift-wrapping department and is wrapped up by Tinsel's Gift Wrapping-o-matic; wears identical clothing to Jingle; flexible.

SPRUCE: Elf security guard in charge of keeping Santa's elves safe; annoyed that he has to clean up the messes that Tinsel's inventions create; flexible.

GINGER: Elf in charge of candy in Santa's Confectionary Department; gets attacked by Tinsel's Candy Cane-o-matic; female.

COOKIE: Elf in charge of cookies in Santa's Confectionary Department; gets attacked by Tinsel's Candy Cane-o-matic; flexible.

SUGAR PLUM: Elf who helps in Santa's Confectionary Department; gets attacked by Tinsel's Candy Cane-o-matic; female.

HOLLY: Cheerful elf who works in Santa's Stuffed Toy Department; unhappy with Tinsel's Teddy Bear Generator; wears identical clothing to Jolly; female.

JOLLY: Cheerful elf who works in Santa's stuffed toy department; unhappy with Tinsel's Teddy Bear Generator; wears identical clothing to Holly; flexible.

- JOY:** Elf in charge of taking care of Santa's reindeer; unhappy with Tinsel's Straw Distributor because it shoots straw at Santa's reindeer; flexible.
- DASHER:** Reindeer who thinks Tinsel has jingle bells for brains; flexible.
- DANCER:** Reindeer who wants Tinsel's Straw Distributor removed from the stable immediately; flexible.
- PRANCER:** Reindeer who loves puns; flexible.
- VIXEN:** Sleep-deprived reindeer; flexible.
- COMET:** Reindeer disappointed with the Straw Distributor; flexible.
- CUPID:** Reindeer who thinks Tinsel must hate reindeer after being attacked by the Straw Distributor; flexible.
- DONNER:** Cold reindeer that didn't get any straw from the Straw Distributor; flexible.
- BLITZEN:** Reindeer who keeps getting shot with straw from the Straw Distributor; flexible.
- SANTA CLAUS:** Tries out Tinsel's anti-gravity boots but can't walk in them because they are too heavy; wears a Santa suit; male.
- MRS. CLAUS:** Santa's sweet, jolly wife who likes to sew teddy bears; female.
- SNOW QUEEN:** Competitive, trash-talking queen of winter who loves blizzards; carries a snowflake wand; female.
- JACK FROST:** Competitive, ornery spirit of winter who loves frost, ice, and icicles; male.
- EXTRAS (opt.):** As Elves and Reindeer.

Options for Doubling

Snow Queen may be doubled by **Holly, Ginger, or Sugar Plum.**

Jack Frost may be doubled by **Jolly, Cookie, Jingle, or Bell.**

Setting

Santa's workshop, before Christmas.

Set

The set may be as simple or elaborate as your budget allows.

Santa's workshop. A backdrop and some set pieces may be used or a bare stage will suffice.

Synopsis of Scenes

Scene 1: Santa's workshop.

Scene 2: Outside Santa's workshop. A backdrop may be used, opt.

Scene 3: Santa's workshop.

Scene 4: Santa's workshop, Christmas Day.

Props

Wacky, misshapen stocking
Clipboard
Tool belt, for Tinsel
Bows
Ribbons
Wrapping paper
Tissue paper
Tape
Candy canes
Deformed, ripped up teddy bear
2 Teddy bears
Mutant teddy bear
Space-age looking boots, for Santa
Helmet and goggles, for Spruce
Snowflake wand, for Snow Queen
Cardboard box
Light-up holiday jewelry
Large round flashlight
TV remote control or another piece of electronic equipment
(radar device)
Old vacuum decorated to look like a snow diffuser
Knitted holiday scarves, for reindeer
Screwdriver with a bow on it

Sound Effects

“Waltz of the Snowflakes” from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*
(For Jack Frost to dance to at the beginning of Scene 2.)
Sound of wind gusts/fierce snowstorm

***“Is this what
we are handing out
to naughty kids
these days?”***

—Joy

Scene 1

(AT RISE: Inside Santa's workshop. Merry runs on.)

MERRY: Tinsel! Tinsel!

(Tinsel enters with a wacky stocking.)

TINSEL: Oh, hi, Merry. I was just looking for you! *(Holds up the wacky stocking.)* Behold! The fruits of my latest invention!

MERRY: That...er...sure is something, Tinsel.

TINSEL: Right?

MERRY: What is it, exactly?

TINSEL: A stocking. I made it using my Stocking-o-matic, the latest in stocking-making machinery! Behold the future of stockings!

MERRY: Well, it...is...er...certainly...distinctive.

TINSEL: The Stocking-o-matic could use a little tweaking—

COAL: *(Offstage, calls.)* Tinsel!

MERRY: *(Remembers.)* Tinsel! That's why I came to get you.

Coal is looking for you.

COAL: *(Offstage, calls.)* Tinsel!

TINSEL: *(To Merry.)* For me? Why?

MERRY: I don't know exactly, but I think it might have something to do with your invention, the Gift Wrapping-o-matic.

TINSEL: Coal probably just wants to thank me. I'm sure the Gift Wrapping Department's efficiency has tripled thanks to the introduction of my Gift Wrapping-o-matic!

MERRY: I'm not so sure.

(Carrying a clipboard, Coal storms on.)

COAL: *(Calls.)* Tinsel! Where is that idiotic inventor?!

TINSEL: Coal!

COAL: Tinsel! There you are. (*Indicating wacky stocking.*)
What is that?

TINSEL: It's the latest prototype from my newest invention,
the Stocking-o-matic!

COAL: If anything is going to stop Santa from coming down a
chimney, it's that being at the bottom. Who would want to
stick their hand in that? Talk about a nightmare before
Christmas!

TINSEL: Granted, my Stocking-o-matic needs a few tweaks—

COAL: More like recycled.

TINSEL: I'm still early in the design process. But don't worry!
The Stocking-o-matic will produce the stockings of the
future.

COAL: Hopefully a future I'm not a part of. Kids will be
blocking the chimneys if Santa gives them those.

MERRY: I think it's a very creative and well-meaning idea,
Tinsel.

COAL: Now, see here, Tinsel...about that Gift Wrapping-o-
matic--

TINSEL: No need to thank me. I was just doing my duty to
assist in the gift wrapping process.

COAL: Thank you?! Maybe I should let Jingle and Bell thank
you. (*Calls.*) Jingle! Bell! Get out here! (*Calls louder.*)
Jingle! Bell!

*(Jingle and Bell enter, wrapped in an assortment of gift wrapping
materials.)*

JINGLE: (*To others.*) Help!

BELL: (*To others.*) Please!

TINSEL: What happened to you Jingle, Bell?

JINGLE: Your Gift Wrapping-o-matic happened to me!

BELL: (*To Tinsel.*) There I was innocently trying to wrap a
doll, when out of nowhere it hit me!

JINGLE: (*To Tinsel.*) I don't remember much...just the
ribbons...cellophane tape...and the bows.

BELL: *(To Tinsel.)* There were lots of bows!

MERRY: Oh, my.

JINGLE: *(To Tinsel.)* A little help, please! I'm being crushed by cellophane tape here.

TINSEL: Look, I can fix this. I bet you typed in too many commands at once. The Gift Wrapping-o-matic...it can't take too many requests...only one at a time. I can't imagine why it would do something like this.

COAL: I can! Your cockamamie machine is a menace, you mechanical miscreant! It should be unplugged! Scrapped! Melted down!

JINGLE: *(To Tinsel.)* Can you untie me now?

TINSEL: I'll take a look at the Gift Wrapping-o-matic right away.

COAL: See that you do!

JINGLE: Please get this ribbon off of me! I have ribbon-o-phobia!

BELL: Ribbon-o-phobia? What's that?

JINGLE: A fear of ribbons!

BELL: Since when did you have ribbon-o-phobia?

JINGLE: Since I got attacked by the Gift Wrapping-o-matic.

BELL: I'm pretty sure I have ribbon-o-phobia, too!

COAL: *(Calls.)* Spruce! Spruce!

(Spruce rushes on.)

SPRUCE: Yeah, Coal? What is it?

COAL: Can you free Bell and Jingle?

SPRUCE: Coal, I'm a security guard. I'm supposed to be keeping elves out of danger.

JINGLE: I am in serious danger of having my hand lose circulation! Get this ribbon off of me!

BELL: *(To Spruce.)* Me, too! I'm being suffocated by ribbon here!

SPRUCE: *(To Jingle and Bell.)* Of course. Glad to assist. Follow me.

JINGLE: Sure thing. Where are you?

SPRUCE: Follow my voice.

(Spruce starts to exit, leading Jingle and Bell off.)

BELL: *(To Jingle.)* If we survive this, I'm transferring out of Gift Wrapping to another department.

JINGLE: Me, too! I can never look at a ribbon the same way again. Which department were you thinking?

BELL: Any one that doesn't have a machine built by Tinsel. I'll pull a sleigh if I have to...anything to escape her monstrous machines!

(Spruce, Jingle, and Bell exit.)

TINSEL: *(Calls.)* I'm sorry, Jingle! Sorry, Bell!

MERRY: Tinsel will fix the Gift Wrapping-o-matic, Coal. It's just a glitch. I'm certain. Tinsel is the best inventor at Santa's workshop, the North Pole, and even the world!

TINSEL: Thanks, Merry!

COAL: *(To Merry.)* She better fix it! Look, Tinsel, I'm supervising all the departments in Santa's workshop. We are making enough Christmas presents for two billion children, aka a third of the world's population. I don't have a lot of free time to clean up after your messes!

TINSEL: Look, Coal, the Gift Wrapping-o-matic was just one machine. I promise it won't happen again.

(Ginger, Cookie, and Sugar Plum enter. They have candy canes sticking out of their hair, boots, aprons, clothes, etc.)

GINGER: *(Shouts.)* Run for your lives!

COOKIE: *(Shouts.)* It's after us!

SUGAR PLUM: *(Shouts.)* Help!

MERRY: *(To Ginger, Cookie, and Sugar Plum.)* You're safe now. It's okay. Take deep breaths.

COAL: What happened Cookie, Sugar Plum, Ginger?

GINGER: We were just adding the finishing touches to our gingerbread houses.

SUGAR PLUM: *(To Coal.)* You know, the licorice trim, gumdrops, mint decorations, those little hot candies, some tiny chocolate medallions –

COAL: We get the picture, Sugar Plum. So what happened?

COOKIE: The Candy Cane-o-matic started making this strange gurgling sound like this... *(Makes weird gurgling noises.)* And then it was like... *(Makes the sound of an explosion.)* And then... *(Makes the sound of tons of candy canes flying out of the machine at a high speed.)* And then we were like... *(Makes the sound of the Elves screaming in fear followed by them running away.)* And now we're like... *(Sigh of relief.)*

MERRY: *(Confused.)* Huh?

COAL: Cookie, did my ears deceive me or did you say "Candy Cane-o-matic"? *(Tinsel tries to sneak off. Coal stops her.)* Tell us more about what happened with the Candy Cane-o-matic...with fewer sound effects and more descriptive words, please.

MERRY: Although, nice job on those sound effects, Cookie.

COOKIE: Thanks, Merry!

GINGER: *(To Coal.)* So the machine exploded, and then it started shooting candy canes at us.

TINSEL: At least no one was hurt.

SUGAR PLUM: No one was hurt, but all of our gingerbread houses that we had painstakingly spent hours baking and decorating were destroyed.

COOKIE: *(To Tinsel.)* Not to mention, the candy canes were still... *(Makes the sound of the machine shooting candy canes.)* ...when we escaped.

GINGER: *(To Tinsel.)* We're too afraid to go back in there.

COAL: *(Calls.)* Spruce! *(Shouts.)* Spruce!

(Spruce rushes on.)

SPRUCE: What is it, Coal?

COAL: You need to shut down a rogue candy cane machine in Confectionary. Make sure you're wearing protective armor. I think you might be heading into a sticky situation...and not the good toffee-coated kind.

SPRUCE: All right, Coal, but need I remind you that I am a security guard?

COOKIE: That Candy Cane-o-matic is a menace to society!

GINGER: *(To Spruce.)* Don't underestimate peppermint candy at high speed. Sugar kills.

SUGAR PLUM: *(To Spruce.)* We can't go back in there until we are sure that thing is off.

SPRUCE: Don't worry, Elves, I'll check it out. Come with me.

GINGER: Can I have a shield or some protective armor?

COOKIE: *(To Spruce.)* Can't you go while we wait somewhere else...preferably on the opposite end of Santa's workshop far away from that thing?

SPRUCE: Don't worry, Elves, I can handle this.

SUGAR PLUM: Clearly, you have never come up against a Candy Cane-o-matic.

(Ginger, Cookie, Sugar Plum, and Spruce exit.)

COAL: *(To Tinsel.)* So just one machine, huh?

TINSEL: Again, another minor glitch that I'm sure I can fix.

COAL: Now, see here, Tinsel!

(Mrs. Claus enters with Holly and Jolly. Holly and Jolly are holding pretty teddy bears.)

MRS. CLAUS: Tinsel! There you are!

COAL: Mrs. Claus.

MRS. CLAUS: I hope this isn't a bad time.

COAL: Well, actually –

HOLLY: We really need to talk to you, Tinsel.

JOLLY: *(To Tinsel.)* It's about the Teddy Bear Generator.

HOLLY: So, Tinsel, you know the Teddy Bear Generator you created for the Stuffed Toys Department?

MERRY: Those teddy bears look fantastic, Holly, Jolly! So fluffy and huggable!

JOLLY: Why, thank you, Merry.

HOLLY: *(To Merry, indicating teddy bears.)* Jolly and I made both of these.

MERRY: Oh, so they aren't from Tinsel's Teddy Bear Generator, huh?

MRS. CLAUS: No, Merry, this is what Tinsel's Teddy Bear Generator made. *(From behind her back, holds out a mutant teddy bear.)*

MERRY: What is that?

JOLLY: I thought it looked kind of like a Picasso teddy bear...really Cubist.

HOLLY: *(To Merry.)* Whereas, I thought it looked like a teddy bear that tried to jump between dimensions and got trapped between two parallel universes.

[END OF FREEVIEW]