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OVERVIEW

Best On The Box is a theme-based, complete Christmas concert. It has been designed to include every student in the school, while dividing the work load equally among the staff through the component system.

Each staff member should become familiar with the story and the component that they wish their class to perform. Each component is a unit in itself and can be rehearsed as a separate classroom unit, thus greatly reducing the time needed to prepare this production. Each component includes a description of characters, props, costumes, and stage directions. Those staff members who do not have a regular class of students, such as the Librarian or the Teacher Assistants, might wish to be the Director and/or be responsible for rehearsing the main characters or the choir.

The component feature allows teachers to add or delete items to suit their particular school size. To include more classrooms, creative teachers may wish to make up or adapt other acts to fit the theme. Other possibilities might include any popular T.V. shows such as situation comedies, game shows, sports commentaries, interview/talk shows, and Walt Disney (*Dashing Through The Snow...White*, a comedy adaptation of *Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs*, found in the Oct./Nov. 1986 edition of *Classroom* magazine is very good and would be suitable for Grades 4 through 8.). Current T.V. shows are best. You may also choose to do a re-run of an old T.V. show such as Ed Sullivan. Almost any concert item can be inserted by writing a few introductory and concluding lines for Santa Claus plus inserting a song for the choir which provides time for each act to get on and off stage. If your school does not wish to follow the theme, each individual component may be used in a variety concert by excluding Santa Claus' part.

THE STORY

Santa Claus has come down with a cold one week before Christmas. His doctor has advised that if he takes some medicine he could be better in seven days and if he doesn't he will be better in a week. The doctor recommends that Santa should rest up - curl up in his easy chair and watch a little T.V. Santa takes him at his word and watches the **BEST ON THE BOX** which includes a variety of T.V. shows (The Components), commercials, and school choir fill-ins. Santa's day of watching T.V. Christmas Specials culminates in *Charlie Brown's Christmas* which reveals the true meaning of Christmas - The Nativity Scene.

COMPONENTS

SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL

#1	The Big Comfy Couch.....	K - 2
#2	Sesame Street.....	K - 2
#3	Silver Collection.....	6 - 8
#4	Fred's Night Before Christmas.....	5 - 8
#5	Oprah.....	2 - 4
#6	A Very Special Gift.....	4 - 8
#7	Star Trek: The Next Generation.....	2 - 4
#8	The News.....	4 - 8
#9	World's Funniest Jokes.....	4 - 8
#10	Charlie Brown's Christmas.....	3 - 5

COMMERCIALS

These commercials would be appropriate for Division Two students. One class may choose to do all the commercials or a class which has performed the previous component could perform the commercial that follows.

#1	Canadian Rumpel	#4	Fruit Of The Loom
#2	Pizza Hut / Duraacril Bunny	#5	Pink Insulation
#3	Grabber's Drug Store	#6	Ho! Ho! Ho!

CHOIR

Some choir selections are suggested but any seasonal or appropriate songs may be used. The choir could be one classroom or could be selected from the entire student body. It is possible for the choir members to also take part in their classroom production, although this does cause some traffic problems, with students coming and going from the choir to the stage.

COMMERCIAL #4 - FRUIT OF THE LOOM

Santa: "Let's see what's on Channel _____."

(CURTAIN OPENS.)

Wife: "I wonder what I should buy for my husband for Christmas this year? Every year it gets harder and harder to select something that really shows I care about him. Let's see, last year I got him a warm scarf - he really hates the cold. The year before he got so many nice socks."

Friend: "Maybe he'd like a plane ticket to Bermuda. He doesn't like the cold."

Wife: "Oh, Frieda, that's too expensive! Come on, can't you help me? Seriously now....."

(Enter characters dressed as Fruits)

Grapes: "Did I hear you say you wanted to buy a gift that was inexpensive?"

Apple: "Did you say it had to be something warm?"

Lemon: "Did you want to show your man that you really care about him?"

All Fruits: "Then buy Fruit Of The Loom!" *(They unfurl huge shorts or a pair of long johns)*

Lemon: "The gift that shows you really care!"

Apple: "And so warm, too!"

Grapes: "And just the right price!"

(CURTAIN CLOSES.)

Santa: "I sure hope Mrs. Santa has remembered to get my new Fruit Of The Loom long johns! I can't manage Christmas Eve without them!"