

OVERVIEW

***Santa Surfs The Net* 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 the 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 appropriate acts or skits. These can be inserted by writing a few introductory lines for the main characters and 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 the main characters and having a Master of Ceremonies.

THE STORY

Shortly before Christmas, Santa's elves have introduced him to the use of the computer. The E-mail, CD Rom, and Internet have captured Santa's interest. He foresees many opportunities for their use in his workshop. Needless to say, his skills are minimal, which causes some serious mix-ups. Santa is spending hours experimenting with his computer and is neglecting his preparations for Christmas. Santa shares his experiences with the audience (which are performed on stage by the various classes), in a sometimes serious and sometimes humorous light. The concert culminates with the Nativity, which Santa discovered in "Virtual Reality" from the First Church of Cyberspace on the Internet.

CHOIR

The choir selections are inserted at the end of each component. Some selections are suggested but any appropriate songs may be used. The choir could be one classroom or could be selected from the entire student body. The choir selections immediately follow each component and provide time for each class to get on and off stage.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Throughout the concert, the main character is seated at his computer on a swivel chair in front of the curtain or below stage level, facing the audience. The script of the main character and the singing of the choir provides enough time for one class to leave the stage and for the next class to get on stage and get ready. Two aisles and two side stage doors allow for a smooth arrival and departure of classes by having them enter by one aisle and leave by the other. Stage hands are a definite asset in setting and clearing the stage, and allowing for a smooth transition from one scene to the next. The stage hands will find it much easier to do their job efficiently if you prepare a list of props for each class' performance.

A complete rehearsal is recommended to time the items so that each class can be ready to enter on time, and so that the main character, the lighting and sound directors, stage hands, and curtain puller(s) can practice their cues. This also provides an opportunity for students to practice using the microphones.

The choir is best placed below stage level or to the right of the stage, so that while they are singing, the stage can be set up for the next performance. If the main character and the choir are below stage level, flood lights will be required for each of them when they perform. The lighting director will need to turn these lights on and off at the appropriate times. For approximately \$75 - \$100, a set of four lights can be rented from a theatrical company. Each light can be controlled from a switch box. Position one light on the choir, one on the main character, and two on the main stage. The house lights will be dimmed throughout the performance, unless you are using component #5 - the Silver Collection.

Stage decoration is not necessary for the concert, but if you wish to, it should be as neutral as possible considering the variety of settings for the scenes. We used a starry night sky for a background and found that it enhanced the lighting and visibility of the performers, and reduced the amount of shadows.

We have found that most students cannot project their voices well enough to be heard. Much of the continuity and humour of the concert is lost to the audience by not hearing the crucial lines. We therefore recommend the use of microphones - 2 on stage and 1 or 2 for the main characters. Any music required for the class performances is best handled by the sound director and run through the P.A. system. Rehearsing for the concert is much more efficient if the whole school practices at a designated time. This allows assisting teachers, aides, and parents to pull the main characters and the choir from class for their practice.

COMPONENT 1 - SANTA LEARNS A LESSON

CHARACTERS:

Santa Claus	World Scene: Queen Elizabeth
Mrs. Claus	Mexican
Elf #1	Sumo Wrestler
Elf #2	Crocodile Dundee
Elf #3	Person from your town
Elf #4	Beach Scene: Sand castle builders
Elf #5	Beach ball tossers
Elf #6	Sunbathers
	Surfer

COSTUMES:

As appropriate to the various roles.

PROPS:

Computer; desk; chair; rocking chair; knitting needles and yarn; flat map of the world made of cardboard with holes marking London, Tokyo, Mexico City, Sydney, and your town; flashlight to shine through the holes on the map; beach balls; towels; sunglasses; lotion; hats; pails and shovels; water wings; sand castles made of cardboard; cardboard surfboard; music (Beach Boys - "Surfing USA"); clips of authentic music from the five countries; computer sounds.

STAGE SET:

The left half of the stage is set up with Santa's computer desk and chair, and a rocking chair for Mrs. Claus. The right half of the stage is empty and will be used for the beach scene and the world scene. As the scene opens, the left half of the stage should be lit and the right half in shadow.

Santa: "Ho, ho, ho. Thank you for giving me these pointers. I'm going to spend the rest of the evening surfing the net by chatting with some of the Christmas newsgroups and exploring the browsers."

(Santa sits at the computer. Elves exit. Lights fade out.)

(CURTAIN CLOSES. SPOTLIGHT ON CHOIR.)

Choir: SANTA CLAUS IS SURFING THE NET
(Adaptation of "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town")

You better watch out, you better not cry
Better not pout, I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is surfing the net

He's typing a list, spellchecking it twice
Gonna find out who's naughty and nice
Santa Claus is surfing the net

He's been reading your E-mail
He knows just what to take
He knows if you've been bad or good
So be good for goodness sake

Oh! You better watch out, you better not cry
Better not pout, I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is surfing the net

Santa: *(SPOTLIGHT ON SANTA)*

"Well folks, that was just the beginning!"

That night led to another and another
And soon the days as well
Mrs. Claus and the elves were all upset
As further behind my work fell.

I couldn't leave that blasted computer
I was caught up in it's spell
I didn't care about anything else
I was addicted, can't you tell.

I'd become a computer-holic
It was oh so plain to see
I was caught up in the World Wide Web
No one could rescue me.

I discovered the world of E-mail
And all that it can do
No more "snail mail" for me
Out my orders flew!"

(SPOTLIGHT ON STAGE. CURTAIN OPENS.)

COMPONENT 2 - TROUBLE

CHARACTERS:

Secretary of LePages Co.	Elves #1 - 10
President of LePages Co.	Santa Claus
Secretary of Duracell Co.	Mrs. Claus
Workers at the Reebok Store # 1 & 2	Cow
Battery-operated glue bottle	

COSTUMES:

As appropriate to the various characters. The battery-operated glue bottle can be made as a white sandwich board, coloured to look like a glue bottle. A cereal box which has been painted 3/4 black and 1/4 copper colour (to resemble a Duracell battery), can be glued on the back.

PROPS:

A large glue bottle; 2 desks and chairs; 2 telephones; signs that read "LePages Glue Company, Duracell Company, and Reebok Shoes"; one pair of pantyhose; sleigh bells and cow bells; a wreath; a doughnut; very short clip of heavy metal music and "Surfing USA".

STAGE SET:

The stage is set initially to represent three different scenes: the LePages Glue Company office at stage left; the Duracell Company office at center stage; and a Reebok Shoe Store at stage right. When these scenes are complete, the scene shifts to Santa's workshop at the North Pole. If lighting permits, each scene may be illuminated as it is performed and then remain in semi-darkness. The change of scene to Santa's workshop can be executed in semi-darkness.

Worker #1: "There's never a dull moment around here. I just received an E-mail from Santa at his workshop. It is asking for a size 39 sleigh runner. Even with Ralgrow in the beef, I didn't think the kids would have feet that big."

Worker #2: "Sleigh runner? Sleigh runner? That's not a brand name that I've ever heard of. Santa must have been listening to heavy metal when he made this order. (Play a few seconds of heavy metal music and have the worker wear a walkman as if he is listening to it.)

(Scene shifts to Santa's workshop at the North Pole)

Elf #1: "Man, am I ever having a bad hair day under my toque! I got out the pattern to make the 101 Dalmatians and - would you believe it - Santa ordered spotted material all right, but the spots belong to the leopard in the Lion King." (Again, other movies could be substituted)

Elf #2: "Oh, dear! I know what you mean. I've got problems too. I told Santa to order Christmas stockings for all the good little boys and girls, and look what I got - pantyhose!!!" (Holds up a pair of pantyhose)

Elf #3: "Pantyhose! Yuck! Wouldn't they look just ducky hanging from the mantelpiece on Christmas Eve?"

Elf #4: "Boys, boys, Santa must be off his rocker."

Elf #5: "Why do you say that?"

COMPONENT 5 - THE TRUE STORY OF HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

CHARACTERS:

Rasha (Narrator)	Jimmy
Grinch	Zolton
Max	Hugh
Cindy Lou Who	Betty Lou
Sebatian	Cinda
Sandy	Matilda
Clare	Margie

COSTUMES:

A dog costume, with horns, for Max. The Grinch should have green hair and a green face. The Grinchlings are in pyjamas and have green faces. Hugh and Betty Lou should be dressed as twins.

PROPS:

A desk full of papers; 1 meter by 1 meter calendar dated the year prior to your concert; Christmas tree with gifts; toys; hoops; books; cards for the Grinchlings to play with; sound effect of a clock striking 4 times.

STAGE SET:

The scene is set in the livingroom in the cave of the Grinches. The Grinch is sitting at his desk. The children are playing on the floor. Max is among them.

COMPONENT 7 - RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT

STAGE SET:

The curtain opens to a large sign, "Ripley's Believe It Or Not", on the center stage wall. The set is arranged around five vignettes. At stage left, drums are set up for one actor to provide a drum roll after each punch line is delivered. There is a garbage can with a flip-top lid at center stage. It is disguised as a mailbox and has the lettering, CANADA POST, on the audience side. It has a dual purpose as a podium/pulpit when covered with a cloth. Props include a small desk and a chair at stage left; the mailbox at center stage; and two chairs at stage right. If you have the lighting capabilities, spotlighting each vignette is effective. Otherwise, have full lights on stage.

RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Vignette #1 (Right side of stage):

A preacher in a black gown is at the "pulpit" (garbage can covered with cloth). Two members of the congregation are seated on chairs, stage right, looking bored.

Narrator: (Holding an hourglass made from two plastic pop bottles taped together with duct tape at the necks)

"Believe it or not... the hourglass was invented for the purpose of limiting the length of sermons."

Preacher: "And I say to you, you must repent! Have you been saved?" (Bell rings as the hourglass runs out)

Member #1: "Saved by the bell."

Member #2: (Lifts a sign with the words, "To be continued next week.")

(Drumroll as actors walk off stage left)