



*The*  
*Christmas*  
*Story*

An EPmusic Musical

By Elisa Polimeni-Das

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***THE CHRISTMAS STORY***

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## **Synopsis**

'The Christmas Story' ties all your favourite Christmas carol classics into a heart-warming story that will leave the audience feeling the true spirit of Christmas. The musical can be easily taught in one school term and will allow each and every one of the students in your school to shine.

'The Christmas Story' is told in three parts and explores the true meaning of Christmas. The first story tells of Jesus' birth. The second is the story of Saint Nicholas. And the third story is a retelling of the William Dean Howells classic 'Christmas Every Day'.

Intertwined in these three tales are 10 classic Christmas carols including 'Away in a Manger', 'Jolly Old St Nicholas' and 'Deck the Halls' as well as an original opening number. You can easily add or subtract songs according to the number or size of your classes. Backing tracks and rehearsal tracks are included for each of these numbers and sheet music with the melody line and lyrics is also available.

So, what are you waiting for? Christmas?! Come and celebrate 'The Christmas Story'...

## Characters

| <i>Character</i>                          | <i>Number of lines</i> |
|---|------------------------|
| <i>Narrators:</i>                         |                        |
| 1. Elf 1 - wise, older elf                | 17                     |
| 2. Elf 2 – new recruit                    | 16                     |
| <i>Story 1: The Story of Jesus' Birth</i> |                        |
| 3. Joseph                                 | 6                      |
| 4. Mary                                   | 7                      |
| 5. Innkeeper                              | 2                      |
| 6. Peasant                                | 1                      |
| 7. Shepherd 1                             | 5                      |
| 8. Shepherd 2                             | 5                      |
| 9. Shepherd 3                             | 4                      |
| 10. Angel 1                               | 1                      |
| 11. Angel 2                               | 1                      |
| 12. Angel 3                               | 1                      |
| 13. Wise man 1                            | 1                      |
| 14. Wise man 2                            | 1                      |
| 15. Wise man 3                            | 1                      |
| <i>Story 2: The Story of Santa Claus</i>  |                        |
| 16. Grandpa Jim                           | 11                     |
| 17. Child 1                               | 4                      |
| 18. Child 2                               | 3                      |
| 19. Child 3                               | 3                      |
| 20. St. Nicholas                          | 0 (mime only)          |
| 21. Daughter 1                            | 0 (mime only)          |
| 22. Daughter 2                            | 0 (mime only)          |
| 23. Daughter 3                            | 0 (mime only)          |
| <i>Story 3: Christmas Every Day</i>       |                        |
| 24. Dad                                   | 31                     |
| 25. Daughter                              | 11                     |
| 26. Little girl                           | 13                     |
| 27. Fairy                                 | 0 (mime only)          |
| 28. Mother                                | 3                      |
| 29. Father                                | 3                      |
| 30. Sister                                | 7                      |

## **Musical Numbers**

1. The Christmas Story – Elisa Polimeni-Das
2. Away in a Manger - Traditional
3. The First Noel - Traditional
4. Go Tell It on the Mountain – John Wesley Work Jr.
5. We Three Kings – John Henry Hopkins Jr.
6. Jolly Old Saint Nicholas - Traditional
7. Up on the Housetop – Benjamin Hanby
8. O Christmas Tree - Traditional
9. Deck the Halls - Traditional
10. O Holy Night - Music by Adolphe Adam/Poem by Placide Cappeau
11. We Wish You a Merry Christmas - Traditional

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## Sets/Props

### Story 1: Jesus' Birth

#### Set:

- Nativity Setting: manger, hay, oxen, donkey, star

#### Props:

- Toy donkey on lead
- Drum for slamming door sound effect
- Baby Jesus – doll wrapped in blanket
- 3 crooks (long sticks) (Shepherds)
- 3 wrapped gifts (Wise Men)

### Story 2: Santa Claus

#### Set:

- Impoverished home setting, sparse furniture with a fireplace
- Off to one side, Christmas tree and rocking chair where the story is being narrated

#### Props:

- Rocking chair (Grandpa Jim)
- Book
- 3 stockings
- Bishop Staff (St Nicholas)

### Story 3: Christmas Every Day

#### Set:

- Average home setting
- Off to one side, Christmas tree and rocking chair where the story is being narrated

#### Props:

- Table and Tablecloth
- Christmas turkey
- Paper plates/cutlery
- Newspaper (Dad)
- Letter (Little Girl)
- Wand (fairy)
- Gift bag with doll (Little girl)
- Gift bag with dress (Sister)
- Gift bag with bathrobe (Mother)
- Gift bag with socks (Father)
- Gift bag with basketball (Brother)
- Calendar pages
- Whoopee cushions
- Coin purse (mother)

## Costume Suggestions

| <i>Character</i>                  | <i>Costume suggestions/props</i>   |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Narrators:</i>                 |  |
| Elf 1 - wise, older elf           | Elf costume OR red and green with Christmas hat                                  |
| Elf 2 – new recruit               | Elf costume OR red and green with Christmas hat                                  |
| <i>The Story of Jesus' Birth:</i> |  |
| Joseph                            | Head covering, robes   |
| Mary                              | Blue robes, head covering, easily removable pregnant belly (cushion or material) |
| Innkeeper                         | Robes  |
| Peasant                           | Ragged clothes   |
| Shepherd 1                        | Head covering, robes, crook  |
| Shepherd 2                        | Head covering, robes, crook  |
| Shepherd 3                        | Head covering, robes, crook  |
| Angel 1                           | White, wings and halo  |
| Angel 2                           | White, wings and halo  |
| Angel 3                           | White, wings and halo  |
| Wise man 1                        | Robes, turban or crown   |
| Wise man 2                        | Robes, turban or crown   |
| Wise man 3                        | Robes, turban or crown   |
| <i>The Story of Santa Claus:</i>  |  |
| Grandpa Jim                       | Cardigan, glasses  |
| Child 1                           | As themselves  |
| Child 2                           | As themselves  |
| Child 3                           | As themselves  |
| St. Nicholas                      | Red robe with white stoll OR Santa suit, staff                                   |
| Daughter 1                        | Ragged clothes   |
| Daughter 2                        | Ragged clothes   |
| Daughter 3                        | Ragged clothes   |
| <i>Christmas Every Day:</i>       |  |
| Dad                               | Polo T-shirt and jeans   |
| Daughter                          | As herself   |
| Little girl                       | As herself   |
| Fairy                             | Fairy costume or dress with wings  |
| Mother                            | Dress  |
| Father                            | Shirt and pants  |
| Sister                            | As herself   |
| Brother                           | As himself   |



# **The Christmas Story**

By Elisa Polimeni-Das

## **Backdrop 1: Merry Christmas**

**ELF 1:** Welcome to our Christmas musical!

**ELF 2:** We hope that our stories and songs help you to get into the Christmas spirit.

**ELF 1:** And remind us all of the true meaning of Christmas...

**ELF 2:** Presents!

**ELF 1:** No, not presents!

**ELF 2:** Are you sure?

**ELF 1:** Yes, I'm sure!

**ELF 2:** Well then, what is the true meaning of Christmas?

**ELF 1:** You'll just have to wait and see...

*Elves skip off stage.*

## **Track 1/Song 1: THE CHRISTMAS STORY**

### **Story 1: Jesus' Birth**

#### **Backdrop 2: Starry Night Sky**

*Joseph and Mary are walking slowly with their donkey trailing behind them.*

**JOSEPH:** Mary, this donkey is useless. I told you we should have got the horse.

**MARY:** Oh Joseph, leave him alone. There's no way he could carry me now!

**JOSEPH:** Well, it looks as though I'll be carrying *him* soon if we don't find somewhere to stay.

**MARY:** What about this place?

**JOSEPH:** It says 'No Vacancies'.

**MARY:** Maybe they can find a place for us.

*Joseph knocks on the door.*

**INNKEEPER:** What do you want?!

**MARY:** We need a place to stay, I am about to have a baby.

**INNKEEPER:** Can't you read? We are full! Now go away!

*The Innkeeper slams the door.*

**JOSEPH:** Well, I can't see him staying in business very long!

**PEASANT:** Excuse me, I couldn't help but overhear. I have a place that you could stay. It isn't much, but it's warm and there's plenty of hay to lie on.

**MARY:** Thank you that sounds wonderful!

*The peasant begins to lead Joseph and Mary to his barn.*

**JOSEPH:** Hay? What do you mean, hay?

**ELF 1:** So, Mary and Joseph found a place to rest for the night and shelter from the cold.

**ELF 2:** And what about the baby?

**ELF 1:** It was born in a manger that night. They named him Jesus.

**MARY:** Isn't he just beautiful, Joseph? I think he is really going to be someone special.

**JOSEPH:** I think you might be right, Mary.

**Track 2/Song 2:  
AWAY IN A MANGER**

*Three shepherds are watching their sheep.*

**SHEPHERD 1:** I can't believe we're on the night shift again.

**SHEPHERD 2:** I know! You'd think there would be an easier way to protect these sheep.

**SHEPHERD 3:** Hey! Look at those stars – they seem to be getting brighter!

*Three angels appear before the shepherds.*

**SHEPHERD 1:** They're not stars – they're angels.

**ANGEL 1:** Don't be afraid.

**ANGEL 2:** We bring you good news.

**ANGEL 3:** Tonight, in Bethlehem, a baby has been born.

**SHEPHERD 2:** Well, please pass on our congratulations to the parents. Unfortunately, we have sheep to watch.

**ANGEL 1:** You do not understand. This baby is particularly special.

**ANGEL 2:** It is said that he will be the one to save the world.

**SHEPHERD 3:** Oh wow. Well, in that case we better go and visit!

**ANGEL 1:** Follow the star – it will lead you to him.

**ANGEL 2:** You will know this baby because he will be wrapped in cloths and laying in a manger.

*The angels exit.*

**Track 3/Song 3:  
THE FIRST NOEL**

**SHEPHERD 1:** Does everyone know the news?

**SHEPHERD 2:** I think it's just us.

**SHEPHERD 3:** We better go and spread the word!

**SHEPHERD 1:** What about the sheep?

**SHEPHERD 2:** Oh, let's just leave them. What's the worst that could happen?

**Track 4/Song 4:  
GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN**

*The three wise men, the shepherds and the angels are all gathered around Mary, Joseph and Jesus in the manger.*

**SHEPHERD 3:** Look at the wise men - I told you we should have brought gifts!

**SHEPHERD 1:** Nothing was open at this hour of night. Just forget about it.

**WISE MAN 1:** We have brought gifts for the son of God. I have brought gold.

**WISE MAN 2:** I have brought Frankincense.

**WISE MAN 3:** And I have brought Myrrh.

**MARY:** Thank you for your lovely gifts.

**SHEPHERD 2:** (*quietly to Shepherd 3*) For wise men, you'd think they would bring more appropriate gifts for a baby...

**Track 5/Song 5:  
WE THREE KINGS**

**ELF 2:** So, is the 25<sup>th</sup> of December really Jesus' birthday?

**ELF 1:** Well, probably not.

**ELF 2:** Why do we celebrate it on that date then?

**ELF 1:** Well, no one really knows for sure. The 25<sup>th</sup> of December is as good a date as any other, right?

**ELF 2:** I guess so. But if the 25<sup>th</sup> of December is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, what does Santa have to do with that? Is it just a coincidence that he brings us presents the night before?

**ELF 1:** Ah... good question. I think Grandpa Jim tells this story best. Let's watch and find out...

**Story 2: Santa Claus**

**Backdrop 3: Christmas Living Room**

**GRANDPA JIM:** Come on children, gather round – I have a story to tell you.

**CHILD 1:** Is it about fairies?

**GRANDPA JIM:** No, but it is about magic.

**CHILD 2:** Is it Harry Potter?!

**GRANDPA JIM:** No, but it is about a very special and kind man.

**CHILD 3:** Is it about Santa?

**GRANDPA JIM:** Why yes, it is.

*Children look at each other excitedly. The story is acted out/mimed while Grandpa Jim narrates (story can be read from a book).*

**Backdrop 4: Run-Down Home**

**GRANDPA JIM:** Once upon a time, hundreds of years ago, there lived a man named Nicholas. He came from a very wealthy family, but he knew that others were not so lucky. There was a very poor family with three daughters that lived in the same village as Nicholas. One night, when the girls were sleeping, Nicholas came and

dropped three bags of gold down the chimney. The girls had hung their stockings out to dry by the fireplace that night and when they woke up, they found the gifts inside their stockings.

***Track 6/Song 6:***  
**JOLLY OLD SAINT NICHOLAS**

**END OF SAMPLE SCRIPT**

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