

PAPA PANOV (SAMPLE)

CAST LIST

Papa Panov

Angel

Road sweeper

Woman with baby

Mrs Markov

Mrs Petrov

Beggar 1

Beggar 2

Children

Child 1

Child 2

Child 3

Child 4

Child 5

Child 6

Child 7

Child 8

Child 9

Child 10

18 speaking parts. Non-speaking could be added.

PAPA PANOV

A Nativity play

(The play is in one continuous scene)

(The play opens in the street of a Russian village, outside Papa Panov's shop. Some children are singing a carol underneath a lantern while some other children are dancing. Papa Panov appears in the doorway of his shop. When the carol is finished he applauds.)

PANOV

**Well done, children! Well done! Such beautiful singing and dancing!
Just the thing for Christmas Eve to make us all cheerful! You must come
in at once, out of the cold, and have a warm drink and some cakes!
Come along children! Come along!**

(The children all laugh and talk excitedly and crowd into his shop. There is a table with mugs on and a plate of cakes. Papa Panov sits in his armchair by the table.)

PANOV

Help yourselves children! Come on! Don't be shy.

(All the children help themselves to drinks and cakes and sit down on the floor around Papa Panov.)

1ST CHILD

Do you like Christmas, Papa Panov?

PANOV

**Of course I do child. I love Christmas. But I loved it more when my wife
was alive and my children were here. But they are all grown up now and
they live far away.** 2ND CHILD

Will you tell us a Christmas story, Papa Panov?

3RD CHILD

Yes please! Tell us a story, please!

PANOV

I don't know any stories!

4TH CHILD

What about the Nativity? You must know that story.

PANOV

Of course! I was just reading my Bible before you started your lovely singing and dancing. I could read you that story. But, I have a better idea. Why don't *you* tell me the story of the Nativity. I bet you all know it by heart, don't you?

ALL THE CHILDREN

Yes.

PANOV

Alright then. Irina – why don't you start?

5th CHILD (Irina)

***(She stands up.)* Once upon a time, long ago. There was a lady called Mary. She was sweet and good and she was married to man called Joseph.**

6TH CHILD (Peter)

Don't forget the angel!

5TH CHILD (Irina)

I was coming to that Peter! Don't interrupt! One day an angel came to Mary and told her that she was to have a baby and he was going to be the Saviour.

7TH CHILD

What's a Saver?

8TH CHILD (Michael)

Ooh! I know! I know! It's the son of God ! Jesus was the son of God!

PANOV

Very true Michael. And he was going to save the world from evil.

5TH CHILD (Irina)

Anyway...Joseph had to go to the place where he was born to sign some papers or something...

9TH CHILD (Maria)

Why did Mary have to go with him? I mean she was expecting a baby wasn't she?

5TH CHILD (Irina)

They keep interrupting me Papa Panov! I can't tell the story if they keep interrupting!

PANOV

You're doing very well Irina but you have to let the children ask questions you know. It's the only way they can learn. Perhaps you'd better have a rest now and let....um...Larissa carry on.

(Larissa stands up and Irina sits down.)

10TH CHILD (Larissa)

Well... Mary and Joseph travelled all the way to Bethlehem....

9TH CHILD (Maria)

Nobody answered my question? Why did Mary have to go with Joseph?

10TH CHILD (Larissa)

(Sighing.) **Because she was Joseph's wife, silly, and someone had to cook his food on the journey, didn't they?**

(All the children laugh.)

9TH CHILD (Maria)

I only asked.

10TH CHILD (Larissa)

So they travelled all the way to Bethlehem...

6TH CHILD (Peter)

Don't forget the donkey!