

Playstage

Junior

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DO THEY KNOW IT'S CHRISTMAS?



IT'S DOWN TOOLS AT THE NORTH POLE!

IS SANTA REALLY GOING ON STRIKE?

A COMEDY PLAY WITH SONGS

Written by

Stewart

Auty

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE**Dad Spencer****Mum Spencer****Grandma Spencer****Sam Spencer (could be boy or girl)****Ella Spencer****Newsreader****Interviewer****Prime Minister****Alf Capp, President of the National Union of Shirkers****John (neighbour)****Mary****Postman****Builder****Vicar****Shopkeeper****Bus Driver****Landlord/lady of village pub****Hairdresser****Mrs Bunn, cake shop owner****RUNNING TIME APPROX. 45 MINUTES.**

19 speaking parts. A separate group of singers could be used for all the songs that say "whole cast".Lyrics for 6 suggested songs included. Inclusion of these songs is optional.Please feel free to amend the script if you decided to omit any or all of the songs. The full lyrics are given but, in practice, most schools prefer to cut the songs down to about half of their written length.

SEE MUSIC PAGE OVERLEAF.

MUSIC

Backing tracks or instrumental versions of songs can be purchased and downloaded for a modest fee from various sources, as shown below. Or, you could source the original artiste's recording from amongst parents/grandparents and just have the children sing along to it, as many schools do.

If you cannot source them from amongst the school community, then Amazon sell very cheap downloadable MP3 tracks for hundreds of thousands of songs. These can be purchased, downloaded on to a computer and then burnt on to a CD for performance. Below we give the song title and source of backing tracks or MP3 versions. Where it says "Traditional" or "Disney" this means there is no backing track we know of but it may be in sheet music form in your school or on a children's school music compilation CD.

DO THEY KNOW IT'S CHRISTMAS SONGS

Hey Mr Christmas (Showaddywaddy)	www.ameritz.co.uk
Part of the Union (The Strawbs)	www.ameritz.co.uk
We're All In This Together(High Street Musical)	www.ameritz.co.uk
Do They Know It's Christmas (Band Aid)	www.ameritz.co.uk
Let it Snow (Michael Buble)	www.ameritz.co.uk
Morningtown Ride (The Seekers)	www.ameritz.co.uk .
I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day(Wizard)	www.ameritz.co.uk

SCENE 1

The Spencer's Living Room. (SEE PRODUCTION NOTES) The set remains the same throughout. On one side of the stage there is a small desk and chair with a screen behind it on which is a picture of a city (the NEWSREADER'S desk.)

SONG – HEY MISTER CHRISTMAS (Whole cast)

**Hey Mister Christmas, we hope you're havin' fun,
Hey Mister Christmas, Mister Christmas here we come.**

**Throw away your troubles at Christmas,
And make this Christmas bright,
Carol singin', bells are ringin', Santa comes tonight.
Forget your troubles and worries,
And kick them out the door,
Don't look back, come on in, we'll just play some more, more, more,
more.**

**Hey Mister Christmas, we hope you're havin' fun,
Hey Mister Christmas, Mister Christmas here we come.**

**Old folks sit by the fire,
Children play in the snow,
They've been waiting, anticipating, see their faces glow.
Forget your troubles and worries,
And kick them out the door,
Don't look back, come on in, we'll just play some more, more, more,
more.**

**Hey Mister Christmas, we hope you're havin' fun,
Hey Mister Christmas, Mister Christmas here we come.
Mister Christmas here we come.**

**Hey Mister Christmas, we hope you're havin' fun,
Hey Mister Christmas, Mister Christmas here we come.**

(Everyone exits apart from MUM, DAD, SAM, ELLA and GRANDMA. Dad and Mum sit at the table, listening to a radio. The two children lie on the floor reading comics/playing games, and Grandma sits in an armchair.)

DAD (*Turns off radio*)

But it's not going to be fun this Christmas. That's just the point.

MUM

We don't know if this strike will happen yet. Perhaps they will see sense. There's still time to sort things out.

DAD

"Forget your troubles and worries, and kick them out the door"

MUM

Now don't get down. We've got to believe, we've got to think of something.

DAD

Sam? Ella? You two listening? I'm going to put the TV on, and I need you two to keep quiet when the news is on.

MUM

This strike is very worrying. It could affect lots of people, especially just before Christmas.

GRANDMA

Strikes! They've never had it so good. Back in my time....

DAD

The dinosaurs ruled the earth!

MUM

That's a bit unkind, David. Show more respect.

DAD

It was a joke, that's all, just a joke. I know Grandma had a hard life, much harder than we do today.

GRANDMA

You don't know you're born. You lot know nothing. If I wanted to change channels, I had to stand up, walk across the room to the TV and twiddle a dial. And we only had two channels.

DAD

Times were hard, Grandma. Only two channels...

GRANDMA

None of your multimedia, no satellite TV, no computers, nothing like that. No remote controls either.

SAM

No remote control?

GRANDMA

No, and we had power cuts too.

ELLA

What's a power cut mum?

MUM

It's when the electricity goes off. There's no power.

DAD

We had to watch telly in the dark!

SAM

In the dark? Cool!

MUM

Take no notice children. Talk sense David. They believe everything you say.

SAM

Are you going on strike dad?

ELLA

What's a strike, dad?

DAD

It's when some people refuse to work. And no, I'm not going on strike.

SAM

But you get paid to work, don't you dad?

DAD

Everybody who works gets paid, but it's a bit complicated.

SAM

So why do people want to stop working?

MUM

It's for grown-ups to understand. It's difficult for you two, Sam and Ella, as you're so young.

DAD

I'll switch the telly on now, so shush both of you, the news is about to start.

(Sound effect, music or Big Ben bongs, Newsreader walks onstage and sits at the desk)

NEWSREADER (Reading)

Welcome to the six o'clock news. The main headlines tonight: Talks between the government and trade unions appear to be at a stalemate. The strike planned for later this month looks certain to go ahead.

DAD

That's not good news, that's not good news.

MUM

Ssshh! Don't interrupt!

NEWSREADER (Looks at family and nods)

Thank you. If I can continue without interruption?

(DAD looks at MUM and points to screen, frowning)

DAD

Did you see that?

NEWSREADER

We can now go live to Downing Street, to hear from the Prime Minister.

(Interviewer, holding a microphone, and Prime Minister walk on opposite side of the stage.)

INTERVIEWER

Prime Minister, talks seem to have broken down, the strike looks as though it is going ahead, is this the worst crisis you've faced since becoming Prime Minister?

PRIME MINISTER

Thank you for this opportunity to explain the government's position. As most people realise, no one wants industrial action just before Christmas.

INTERVIEWER

But it now seems inevitable.

PRIME MINISTER

If you'll just let me finish. We have made a good offer, yet the unions seem to disregard this, and appear to want the strike to go ahead.

DAD (*Shouts*)

It's a disgrace! They ought to be ashamed of themselves!

MUM

Ssshh! It's the Prime Minister!

PRIME MINISTER (*Turns to family*)

I agree! You're quite right, Mr Spencer. It is a disgrace.

DAD (*Startled*)

What? The Prime Minister can hear me !?

INTERVIEWER (*To DAD*)

Of course. All television is a two-way communication. You watch us, and we can watch you, watching us.

DAD

Well I'll be blowed!

MUM

Will you keep quiet?

PRIME MINISTER

Mr Spencer makes a valid observation. The unions are a disgrace, holding people to ransom at what should be a very special, family time of celebration.

INTERVIEWER

But the unions say that the government refuses to listen.

PRIME MINISTER

Government is about leadership, taking tough decisions, which in the long run will benefit everyone, not just a selfish minority. We have made a fair offer, but it has been rejected by the union leaders. Not by the union members, but by the leadership.

INTERVIEWER

Are you suggesting that the union leaders are out of touch with the rank and file membership?

PRIME MINISTER

That is exactly the problem. The ordinary man in the street does not want this strike. It will achieve nothing. In fact, the offer may be withdrawn if the strike goes ahead.

INTERVIEWER

That seems like a threat, Prime Minister.

PRIME MINISTER

Not a threat, but a promise. Leadership is not about popularity with the unions. Leadership is about the man in the street, the Mr Spencers of this world.

DAD

He's talking about me!

PRIME MINISTER

That's right, Mr Spencer. The man in the street needs to tell the unions to stop the strike. The silent majority must step forward. The silent majority must speak. People like Mr Spencer can find a solution.

INTERVIEWER

So you're not going to give in?

PRIME MINISTER

We have stated our position. We will not move. This government's not for turning.

INTERVIEWER

Thank you Prime Minister. I now hand you back to the studio for further comment.

PRIME MINISTER (*Peering at the Spencers*)

Children, I can see what you've just had for tea! It's a long time since I had fish fingers, beans and chips!

MUM

You'll have to come round for tea sometime then.

PRIME MINISTER

That would be very kind. In Downing Street, the food's always very posh, you know, banquets and things.

SAM

What's a Prime Minister, mum?