

**Playstage  
Junior**

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## **PAPA PANOV**



**A NATIVITY PLAY SET IN RUSSIA  
BASED ON A STORY BY TOLSTOY**

**Written by  
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# **PAPA PANOV**

## **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.**

**2<sup>ND</sup> CHILD**

**Will you tell us a Christmas story, Papa Panov?**

**3<sup>RD</sup> CHILD**

**Yes please! Tell us a story, please!**

**PANOV**

**I don't know any stories!**

**4<sup>TH</sup> 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?**

**5<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**6<sup>TH</sup> CHILD (Peter)**

**Don't forget the angel!**

**5<sup>TH</sup> 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.**

**7<sup>TH</sup> CHILD**

**What's a Saver?**

**8<sup>TH</sup> 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.**

**5<sup>TH</sup> CHILD (Irina)**

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

**9<sup>TH</sup> CHILD (Maria)**

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

**5<sup>TH</sup> 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.)*

**10<sup>TH</sup> CHILD (Larissa)**

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

**9<sup>TH</sup> CHILD (Maria)**

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

**10<sup>TH</sup> 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.)*

**9<sup>TH</sup> CHILD (Maria)**

**I only asked.**

**10<sup>TH</sup> CHILD (Larissa)**

**So they travelled all the way to Bethlehem...**

**6<sup>TH</sup> CHILD (Peter)**

**Don't forget the donkey!**

**10<sup>TH</sup> CHILD (Larissa)**

**...on a donkey. (*glaring at him*) Peter! But when they got there, there was nowhere for them to sleep.**

**4<sup>TH</sup> CHILD**

**They kept going from inn to inn and all the innkeepers kept saying "Sorry, no room at the inn"....."Sorry, no room at the inn"....."Sorry, no room at the inn"....**

**10<sup>TH</sup> CHILD (Larissa)**

**(*Raising her voice to interrupt*) BUT....they finally came to a place where the innkeeper felt sorry for them and let them spend the night in his stable.**

**6<sup>TH</sup> CHILD (Peter)**

**Don't forget the animals.**

**10<sup>TH</sup> CHILD (Larissa)**

**Peter!**

**PANOV**

**Why don't we let Peter finish the story.**

**(*Peter stands up and Larissa sits down.*)**

**6<sup>TH</sup> CHILD (Peter)**

**There was an ox and an ass and Mary and Joseph's donkey and probably lots of chickens too. I suppose there might have been geese or maybe even a goat....**

**ALL THE CHILDREN**

**Peter!**

**6<sup>TH</sup> CHILD (Peter)**

**Alright. (*Losing interest*) So Mary had her baby during the night and she called him Jesus.**

**1<sup>ST</sup> CHILD**

**You forgot the manger!**

**6<sup>TH</sup> CHILD(Peter)**

**And she laid him in a manger**

**2<sup>ND</sup> CHILD**

**Filled with straw.**

**3<sup>RD</sup> CHILD**

**And an angel went to see some shepherds and told them about the baby and they came to the stable to see him.**

**1<sup>ST</sup> CHILD**

**And then some wise men came on camels and brought lots of gifts.**

**4<sup>TH</sup> CHILD**

**Gold, frankincense and myrrh.**

**6<sup>TH</sup> CHILD (Peter)**

**Hey! I was supposed to be telling the story!**

**PANOV**

**Now, now children. Don't fight. You all told the story in the end. Didn't you? And very nicely too. Now you had better run along home. It's beginning to get dark and your mothers will be busy getting ready for Christmas Day. Run along now.**

*(All the children put their mugs back on the table and thank Papa Panov and run off calling out "Goodbye", "Happy Christmas" and so on.)*

**PANOV**

**What a lovely start to the holy season. But, in a way, it's very sad to think of poor Mary and Joseph being turned away from so many places and Mary having to sleep in a stable with her new born baby. I wish I had been alive then. I would have made such a welcome for them. I would have given them nice warm beds to sleep in and plenty of food. I should have loved to see Jesus. I certainly would.**