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ROBOSANTA
A CHRISTMAS COMEDY

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ROBOSANTA - A CHRISTMAS COMEDY

written by

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Synopsis

It’s the night after Christmas and all through the world… Christmas was a disaster! Santa is getting older. He is having trouble keeping up with the times and struggles to provide children with the presents they desire in today’s tech-savvy world. Although these challenges produce some hilarious gift mix-ups for the audience, the results are a nightmare for Santa. The higher-ups at the Holiday Advisory Board have fired Santa and replaced him with a data-driven robot Santa Claus ready to make Christmas a successful operation. Will Robosanta and the elves be able to provide children the toys they desire? Will children miss the nostalgia that Santa Claus brings to Christmas? What would happen if Robosanta’s technology turned out to be less than dependable? As this ensemble cast keeps the audience laughing, it will be anything but a silent night!

Cast of Characters

Unless indicated, the character can be played by either a male or female actor. Elves names can be slightly altered if needed. (For example, "Eve" could be changed to "Evan".)

If needed, extra elf characters can be added. These characters would say the "all elves" lines, and would otherwise be nonspeaking roles.

MOM	female, leader of the family
DAD	male, more like another kid in the family
TAYLOR	the oldest child
PAYTON	the middle child
ALEX	the youngest child
SANTA	male
ROBOSANTA	male
MS. EBENEZA	female, all business
JOSEPHINE (OR "JOSEPH")	the head elf
HOLLY	female elf
JOLLY	female elf, not so jolly
TWINKLE	elf
TINSEL	elf
ELFY	Santa's favorite elf
TINY	elf
FROSTINE	elf
JINGLES	elf
MERRY	elf
EVE	elf
WHIMSY	elf
GINGERSNAP	elf
SNOWFLAKE	elf

Set

The play is meant to be staged using simple items to suggest the setting. The family scenes occur stage left, and the North Pole scenes occur stage right. Music can be played while the scenes switch between the family and the North Pole scenes.

Director Notes

SUGGESTED COSTUMES

Family: Although different periods of time are represented, costume changes are not necessary. Children can wear Christmas pajamas. Mom and Dad can wear Pajamas with bath robes.

Elves: Christmas colors and accessories. In addition, there is also the option for the elves to make t-shirts with their character's name on it.

Santa: A child sized Santa suit can be purchased.

Ms. Ebeneza: Dark colors and professional wear.

Robosanta: A robot costume can be made out of a cardboard box, decorated, placed over the head of the actor, covering only the torso, and leaving the face being uncovered. A slit can be cut into the box so that Robosanta can drop items from it. Robot arms can be made and glued onto the box, while the actor's real arms are inside the box. In addition, the actor could have face paint and a Santa hat on.

ACT I

Scene 1

Setting: The family's home on Christmas morning. There is a Christmas tree at Stage Left surrounded with presents.

At Rise: TAYLOR, PAYTON and ALEX enter excitedly and gather around the tree.

TAYLOR

Santa came!

PAYTON

Look at all the presents!

ALEX

I bet the big present is mine!

PAYTON

Mom! Dad! Hurry, so that we can open presents!

DAD *(offstage)*

Just a second. We are coming, kids!

(MOM and DAD enter.)

MOM

Sorry to keep you waiting. You know how scary Dad can be without his coffee.

DAD

Alright, kids, these are the presents from your mother and me.

(He gives a gift to each kid.)

PAYTON

Can we open them now?

(MOM and DAD's lines are both said at the same time.)

MOM

Yes, Honey, you can open them now.

DAD

No, you need to wait and take turns.

(MOM gives DAD a mean look. DAD clears throat.)

DAD

Yes, you can open them now.

ALL KIDS

(Sentences can be said in any order.)

Look at this! Mom, look at what I got! Oh, good. I needed these. I wanted this! I love it!

DAD

What did you get there?

ALEX

I got an airplane!

DAD

Let me see that.

(He grabs the airplane from ALEX.)

ALEX

Why?

DAD

Well, sometimes these airplanes can be dangerous. Why don't you let me inspect this to ensure that it's safe?

(DAD goes upstage and plays with the airplane.)

MOM

Well, you each have one present left. These are your presents from Santa.

(KIDS get excited.)

TAYLOR

I can't wait to see what Santa brought us!

PAYTON

(before opening the gift)

I think I know what this is.

TAYLOR

What did you get?

PAYTON

(opens gift and stares in confusion)

Mom, what is this?

MOM *(confused)*

It looks like a lily pad... Is that what you asked for?

PAYTON

No! I asked for an IPAD. Not a LILY pad! Are you kidding me?

ALEX

It's my turn!

(opens the gift)

What??

DAD

Oh, cool! You got an X-Man! And Superman!

(MOM rolls her eyes.)

ALEX

These are dolls, Dad.

MOM *(sympathetic)*

I'm sorry you didn't get what you wanted, Honey. What is it that you asked Santa to bring you?

ALEX

I asked for an XBOX, not an X-MAN. Or any superheroes. Now I'm stuck with a silly doll!

DAD

He's not just a doll, Kid. He's faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, and can leap over tall buildings in a single bound!

ALEX

This isn't what I wanted at all!

MOM

Well there is still one more present. Maybe you will have more luck with this one.

TAYLOR

(closes eyes and wishes aloud)

I hope I got the Kindle I asked for.

(opens the gift)

PAYTON

What is it? What did you get?

TAYLOR

A candle? What am I supposed to do with this?

PAYTON

This stinks.

TAYLOR

Lame.

PAYTON

What a terrible Christmas.

ALEX

I hate Santa Claus!

(DAD returns. All the KIDS are pouting.)

DAD

(to MOM)

What is the matter with them?

MOM

No one had a good Christmas this year.

DAD

Why? Didn't they think that—

(TAYLOR walks over and interrupts.)

TAYLOR

Mom, do you know why—

(MOM interrupts.)

MOM

(to TAYLOR)

You're Dad and I are talking. Go play with your candle, Honey.

MOM (CONT)

(to DAD, angrily)

Not one of the kids got the presents that they asked Santa for. Not ONE! This is unacceptable!

DAD

Look, I wouldn't be so quick to blame Santa. I mean, look at the specific presents that the kids asked for. A Kindle? An Xbox? An Ipad? Think about it. Do you actually think Santa knows what those things are? He's getting OLD.

MOM

Well, even if that's true, young children should not have to suffer for that. Christmas is supposed to be a happy time. Look at them.

(KIDS look overdramatically bored and miserable.)

DAD

It couldn't have been much worse.

MOM

I'm making a phone call tomorrow morning. Something will be done about this. I'll see to it.

(FAMILY exits. ELVES enter Stage Right.)

Scene 2

Setting: Santa's Workshop the day after Christmas.

At Rise: The sounds of phones ringing continuously can be heard. ELVES are working hard to answer them and are taking notes on clipboards.

HOLLY

(answers phone)

Santa's workshop. Holly speaking. Yes, Mam. I see. Oh dear. We will get right on that for you, Mam. Is this a good contact number to reach you? Ok. Thank you for letting us know. Have a good day.

JOLLY

(answers phone)

Santa's workshop, this is Jolly. Your son asked for what? And he received a what? I see. No, Sir. We take this very seriously, Sir. We will take care of this and get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you. Bye.

MERRY

(answers phone)

Santa's workshop. Merry speaking. I'm sorry, sir. Uh, please slow down. Sir, let me assure you that there is no need to be angry. We have every intention of sending the correct gifts to your kids. You will be hearing from us shortly. Thank you. Goodbye.

JOSEPHINE

Good job, Elves. We have a lot of angry parents out there and there are still many more phone calls to go. Stay patient.

GINGERSNAP

Josephine, what are we supposed to tell these parents?

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Scene 5

Setting: The family home on the day after Christmas.

At Rise: MOM stands looking at a Christmas tree surrounded by presents.

MOM

Kids, come see this!

(TAYLOR and PAYTON come running in.)

TAYLOR

What's going on?

PAYTON

Look at the tree!

TAYLOR

Presents!

(ALEX enters.)

ALEX

Guess what? The reindeer food I left is gone!

PAYTON

Is it Christmas?

TAYLOR

Wasn't it Christmas yesterday?

MOM

I'm confused.

TINY

Yeah, they want answers and they want new presents.

JOSEPHINE

Right now you need to keep doing what you are doing. I just spoke to the Director of Christmas Affairs. She is on her way over. She will have more answers for us.

HOLLY

In the meantime, what exactly are we supposed to tell the big guy upstairs?

(Everyone stops and looks up at the sky.)

HOLLY

No, not that "big guy upstairs", Santa! He's upstairs sleeping and I don't think he realizes that Christmas was a catastrophe this year.

JOSEPHINE

It's not looking good for Santa, but it's not our job to break the news to him. When The Director of Christmas Affairs gets here and she will handle all of the dirty work.

TWINKLE

What do we say when we see him?

JOSEPHINE

Keep working, and when Santa gets here act normal.

JINGLES

(answers phone)

Santa's workshop. Yes, mam. I'm sorry, mam. We will get right on that for you. I'm sorry. Thanks.

DAD

(offstage)

Hey! Who ate my leftover hamburger?

(MOM and KIDS look around, confused.)

TAYLOR

Wait a second. You don't think...

MOM

Well, we didn't leave out any milk and cookies. Maybe he got hungry.

(DAD enters.)

DAD

Ok, I want to know who ate—

(shocked when he sees the presents)

Whoa. I'll be right back.

(DAD exits.)

PAYTON

All of this could be from---

ALEX

(notices something)

Santa! His footprint is here in the fireplace!

MOM

Do you think that Santa could have done all of this because he wants to make up for the awful Christmas with the robot?

(DAD enters.)

DAD

Ok, I know what is happening here.

MOM

Us too.

(KIDS agree.)

MOM

We're pretty sure that it's Christmas again because—

(DAD interrupts.)

DAD

My time machine is working.

MOM

Time machine?

DAD

Yeah, I built it.

(MOM and KIDS look at him unimpressed.)

DAD

Look, I know it's probably a a little bit shocking. But yesterday while I was in my time machine sitting upside down, eating a piece of pizza—

(TAYLOR interrupts.)

TAYLOR

Dad—

(DAD cuts them off.)

DAD

There was this lighting strike—

(TAYLOR interrupts again.)

TAYLOR

DAD!

(DAD stops talking.)

TAYLOR

Santa did this. Christmas was not great because of Robosanta. So, it looks like the real Santa came back to make up for it.

DAD

(He speaks slowly as it sinks in.)

Ohhh. That...that makes more sense.

MOM

(looking at DAD in confusion)

But why were you sitting upside down in a storm eating—

(She stops herself.)

It doesn't matter.

(looks at KIDS)

You guys are probably really excited to open your presents, aren't you?

(TAYLOR, PAYTON, ALEX, and DAD all nod. KIDS open gifts.)

MOM

What did you get?

ALEX

A tablet!

TAYLOR

A phone!

PAYTON

A guitar!

DAD

My very own airplane!

MOM

What do you think?

TAYLOR

We love these presents!

DAD

Oh look, they each came with their own little remote control!

TAYLOR

This was a much better Christmas!

ALEX

I love Santa!

TAYLOR

What is that sound? It sounds like crying?

(MOM peeks out of the window.)

MOM

It’s our neighbor, Bobby! I think he just realized he got coal for being bad!

DAD

Hopefully that will teach him to leave Fluffy alone.

MOM

What an unusual, but very wonderful, Christmas!

TAYLOR

We hope that all Christmases are as good as this one!

ALL

Thank you, Santa! Merry Christmas!



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