Christmas Is Cancelled

A Radio Drama Project

SAMPLE

by

Clive Hulme

Published by

ARTS on the move

Copyright Notice

Christmas Is Cancelled

Published by Arts On The Move

Copyright © 2020 Clive Hulme

The right of Clive Hulme to be identified as the author of this work has been asserted by him in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. All rights reserved.

Unlimited copying is permitted by the purchasing institution for use within that institution only. Distribution beyond the purchasing institution, in any form whatsoever, is strictly prohibited. This includes sharing any adapted versions of this work.

Major revisions to the text may not be made without the prior written permission of the publisher. Please email info@artsonthemove.co.uk for permission.

The name of the author – Clive Hulme – must be included in any reference to the work including in social media, blogs, audio recordings, podcasts, websites and in any promotional or advertising material.

Public Performance Notice

Any recordings of this play made available to the wider public – defined as anyone who is not a full-time attendee at your school or drama group – must be supported by purchasing a **Performance and Distribution Rights Licence** in advance. This includes (but is not limited to) being uploaded to a server, being hosted on a website (either in downloadable or streamed form), being available as a podcast, as an online performance, or communicating the work in any other form or medium. All audio recordings must include the name of the play and the author. Licences are available in single use forms only. Licences are only valid for one recording and broadcast. Any subsequent recordings and broadcasts of this material must be supported by purchasing an additional **Performance and Distribution Rights Licence**.
Further details are available on the Arts On The Move website.

If you intend to include music or songs in your production you may need to purchase a UK music licence. You can check this here:
https://www.gov.uk/licence-to-play-live-or-recorded-music

If you have recordings of this material that you are happy to share, please email them to info@artsonthemove.co.uk.
Please note that recordings will be shared on the Arts On The Move YouTube channel (for under 18s only) and on social media.

SAMPLE

Extract 1 (Full scheme is 17 pages)

Information for Teachers

This has been a difficult period in so many ways. We have had to adapt to new ways of working, living – and teaching.

In other times an end of term performance, while stressful for all those involved in producing it, gave the opportunity for teamwork and chances for students to shine in different ways.

At the moment, we need to be different. This project aims to give you and your students the opportunity to produce a collaborative, Christmas-themed radio play.

It is not complex but has the flexibility to use whatever technical facilities you have.

You will need:

1. A way of recording sound
2. The script in this resource
3. Loads of things which make noises
4. Some children (these could be included in the previous category)

Every school is different and has different facilities and constraints. Therefore the suggestions below are just that – suggestions.

1. Recording

At the very least you will need a machine to record sound onto. You may need a second machine to play the sound back if the first machine does not have its own speaker. If using two machines, you will need a way to connect them.

Your first machine could be a mobile device - phone or tablet. If it doesn't already have the facility to record sound then you can download an app which will allow you to do this. There are hundreds of free ones available, either from Google Play (for Android devices) or from the App Store (for iPhones, iPads, etc.) There are also free editing apps which will let you manipulate the recorded sounds or add sounds to what has already been recorded.

SAMPLE

Extract 2

How to Approach this Project

Before introducing the play, it would be useful to do some introductory exercises. You can try some – or all – of these with your class, all of the time getting them to concentrate on the most important thing for this project's success – effective use of voice. Some useful and effective Introductory Activities follow.

Introductory Activities

1. Teacher Story

Divide the students in to three roughly equal groups. The teacher tells a story about what s/he did yesterday which has the opportunity for many sound effects to be included. As each sound occurs in the story, the teacher points to a group who need to make it. It isn't rehearsed – it's done spontaneously. Teacher to use hand up and down to increase / decrease volume. Make the story so that it's perfectly possible to have two groups simultaneously making different noises.

The story *could* start off:

When I got up on Saturday I needed to go to the shops for some milk. I went out making sure I closed the front door *(point to group 1)* and started up my car *(group 2)*. Unfortunately the car alarm went off *(group 3)*. I started the car again *(group 2...*

SAMPLE

Extract 3

Christmas Is Cancelled

Cast

Santa	Rudolph
Dancer	Prancer
Donner	Blitzen
Dasher	Comet
Cupid	Vixen
Narrator	

SFX STRONG WIND NOISES WHICH FADE BUT STILL PLAY IN THE BACKGROUND AS THE CHARACTERS SPEAK

SANTA Well this isn't looking good Rudolph. I don't think we'll be able to take off tonight.

RUDOLPH There must be something we can do. We can't let all the children down.

SANTA I've been looking at the barometer. The wind is blowing directly against us. Let me check it again…

SFX TAPPING NOISE.

SANTA No, no good at all. Call the other reindeer. We'll just have to cancel Christmas.

RUDOLPH Cancel Christmas? Cancel it?? But we…

SANTA It's no good Rudolph. Call them.

RUDOLPH Yes Santa. *(Calling)* Dancer! Prancer! Donner! Blitzen! Dasher! Comet! Cupid! Vixen!

(We hear distant answers, one by one, as each is called)

SAMPLE