THE BADDEST ANGEL BAND

By JEROME McDONOUGH
With special material by Brian McDonough
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DEDICATION
To Shirley Greener who lives this play.
And To The Two Original Casts:

PIONEER DRAMA SERVICE, INC.
DENVER, COLORADO
BADDEST ANGEL BAND
By JEROME McDONOUGH

CAST OF CHARACTERS
In Order of Appearance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th># of lines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEATURED ROLES:</td>
<td>(May not be multiple-cast)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* SERAPH</td>
<td>assistant principal of Angel School</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHERRY</td>
<td>the smartest Baddest Angel</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* SPIR</td>
<td>the lunchiest Baddest Angel</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANGELINA</td>
<td>the partyest Baddest Angel</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENSMBLE ROLES:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRS. GABRIEL</td>
<td>a teacher</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* COACH MICHAEL</td>
<td>a coach</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRS. POWERS</td>
<td>a teacher</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRS. THRONES</td>
<td>a teacher</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* STORE MANAGER</td>
<td>department store manager</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRS. LAMB</td>
<td>a civic-minded woman</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRS. BURROW</td>
<td>another civic-minded woman</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* ROLLER ONE</td>
<td>a dice player</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* ROLLER TWO</td>
<td>another dice player</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SANTA CLAUS</td>
<td>Now, you know who he is!</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWEET GIRL</td>
<td>a little girl who is NOT sweet</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* CHOIR DIRECTOR</td>
<td>a TV choral conductor</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* ANNOUNCER</td>
<td>a TV commercial announcer</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* TEDDY TURKEY</td>
<td>a weird turkey</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* NEWSCASTER</td>
<td>a TV newsperson</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MR. SHEPARD</td>
<td>a caring person</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* MRS. SHEPARD</td>
<td>a caring person</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* ANOTHER MAN</td>
<td>someone who wants to help</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANOTHER WOMAN</td>
<td>someone else who wants to help</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOTHER</td>
<td>a brand new mother</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FATHER</td>
<td>a brand new father</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* NICKY</td>
<td>a very cool musician</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* ECHO</td>
<td>a very cool musician</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* RHYTHM KING 3</td>
<td>a very cool, and silent, musician</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* (May be either male or female)</td>
<td></td>
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Ensemble members will also take part in a variety of Choruses as the play progresses.
THE BADDEST ANGEL BAND

SETTING: No set is required except for a bench which is located slightly UP of CENTER in the performance area. Any space . . . from a sanctuary to a meeting hall to a formal stage . . . will do. The spirit of Christmas helps provide the rest of the effect. However, yet another device helps the audience to maintain the feeling of theatre. That device is the Living Cyclorama. All chorus members (not counting the four featured performers) form a living wall UPSTAGE of the action when they are not actively involved in performing a scene. This arc, which the author calls the Living Cyclorama, is formed by the bodies of the actors as they face away from the action. The Living Cyclorama forms UPSTAGE of the bench. Entrances may be made from this Cyclorama and exits made to it. Some care should be taken to keep the size of the arc balanced to LEFT and RIGHT, but this should not become such an issue that the flow of the play suffers. The Living Cyclorama is a motion- and time-saving device, not an end in itself. If costume accessories are to be put on or taken off while on the "Cyc", some care should be taken so that focus will not be stolen. In scenes which involve the entire chorus, no Cyc will exist, of course. Much of THE BADDEST ANGEL BAND, particularly the latter scenes, will find itself in this mode, but the device is the rule where it may be applied.

AT RISE: SERAPH, a rather large Angel who is either male or female, is standing CENTER looking at a note. SERAPH is practically beside himself with anger.

SERAPH: (Calling OFF.) Get those three heathens in here! (Starts to pace back and forth, still angry. Then seems to hear something. Looks above. Speaks toward higher heavens . . . SERAPH is already in Heaven, you know.) Yes, Sir? (Listens, then . . .) [Each pause in his speech from here on will indicate listening to the voice from above, although we cannot hear it. Probably someday we will, though.] Yes, I heard about that. I’ve sent for them. And when they get here, I’m gonna . . . Well, I’ll be a LITTLE merciful . . . O.K., very merciful. But if you should change your mind . . . [The three angels are shoved ONSTAGE. THEY are named CHERRY, SPIR and ANGELINA. THEY are mischief-makers, deluxe models, but, at the moment, THEY are a little nervous.] So there you are! Never in all my years as Assistant Principal of Angel School have I had so many complaints on any three angels.

SPIR: We hold the record, huh, Mr. Seraph? (CHERRY and ANGELINA cover SPIR’S mouth and smile very broadly at SERAPH.)
SERAPH: Listen to this. *(Reading in mime as MRS. GABRIEL turns in from the Cyc.)*

MRS. GABRIEL: Cherry skipped harp practice today. I found her playing cloud hockey with Spir and Angelina. *(She turns back into the Cyc.)*

SERAPH: Signed, Mrs. Gabriel.

CHERRY: We’re trying to start a league, sir. *(SERAPH reads in mime again as COACH MICHAEL turns in as above.)*

COACH MICHAEL: Spir flunked sandal inspection today. He was wearing high-top tennis shoes. So were Angelina and Cherry. *(COACH turns back out.)*

SERAPH: Signed, Coach Michael.

SPIR: You can’t get any traction with sandals, Mr. Seraph.

SERAPH: What do you need with traction? You can fly!

SPIR: *(Looks blankly, then.)* I never thought of that.

SERAPH: And this! Mrs. Powers says . . .

MRS. POWERS: *(Turns in.)* Angelina stole my halo this morning to play Frisbee with Spir and Cherry. *(POWERS out.)*

ANGELINA: Old Mrs. Powers’ halo sails great. They don’t make ‘em like that anymore!

SERAPH: I don’t see why I shouldn’t set all three of you to hanging stars in a Black Hole . . . forever!

CHERRY: Please, sir. We’ll try harder.

SERAPH: I’ve heard that before . . . the day you got thrown out of cooking class. You couldn’t make Angel cake like everybody else, could you?

CHERRY: The other flavor’s my favorite.

SERAPH: DEVIL’S FOOD!? *(To ANGELINA.)* And you, when Mrs. Thrones asked . . .

THRONES: *(Turns in.)* Angelina, what causes thunder?

SERAPH: What did you say?

ANGELINA: Angel burps. *(THRONES turns out.)*

SERAPH: *(SPIR is falling over laughing. SERAPH turns his attention to him.)* And you’re the worst of all!! You know what I’m talking about.

SPIR: I’m not sure, Mr. Seraph.

SERAPH: Then I’ll remind you one last time. NO MORE SKY-WRITING! Or at least learn to spell the words correctly.

CHERRY: *(To SPIR.)* You little demon.

SERAPH: That’s enough of that, too. The three of you make me want to . . . *(God is calling again. SERAPH says to ANGELS:)*

Hold it a minute. *(SERAPH calms down and looks upward.)*

Yes, Sir? *(CHERRY, SPIR, ANGELINA look up but can’t hear anything. THEY shrug their shoulders. SERAPH continues his chat. Relishes what he hears and laughs quietly.)* I can do THAT? You changed Your mind about being merciful, didn’t You? I love it.
ANGELINA: Who were you talking to, sir?
SERAPH: The Principal.
SPIR: Why can’t we hear Him?
SERAPH: You can’t hear Him until you’re worthy to hear Him.
SPIR: When will I be worthy?
SERAPH: When hippos hang-glide.
SPIR: Will that be soon, sir?
SERAPH: Never mind. I have... (Chuckles...) ... good news.
I am not going to expel you.
ANGELS: Yay!
SERAPH: IF you complete the job I have for you.
ANGELS: Boo!
SERAPH: Stop that! I have found the only place in the universe
so backward, so crummy, so worthless that the three of you will
fit right in.
SPIR: Thank you, sir.
CHERRY: (Astonished at his stupidity.) Will you shut up?
SERAPH: Now we’ve tried to get these people’s attention a couple of
times... with a flood and some other stuff. The Boss even sent
his Son down there and things looked pretty good for awhile, but
apparently they’re at it again. Now, here’s the part I like best.
You’ll be allowed to stay in Angel School ONLY if you can find a
good reason to let that planet keep on turning. Otherwise... you
and it... phhhttt! Black Hole time.
ANGELINA: This sounds tough.
SERAPH: (With a deeply satisfied grin and a sarcastic snicker.)
Doesn’t it, though?
CHERRY: But where are we going?
SERAPH: (Grins, then.) Earth. (ANGELS go into horrible fits of
screeching and screaming, horrified by the thought.) Now get out
of here. (ANGELS EXIT, RIGHT, dreading their task. SERAPH
looks skyward again.) Thanks. (He EXITS. MEMBERS of the
ensemble become a knot of people, all facing OFF LEFT, waiting
quietly. One MEMBER has EXITED LEFT, to RE-ENTER as the
STORE MANAGER in a while. ANGELS RE-ENTER from RIGHT.)
ANGELINA: Whoo! That was great!
CHERRY: We’re going to get in trouble for that, Angie.
ANGELINA: Why? Seraph didn’t say we COULDN’T skydive in.
SPIR: I just wish I’d had a parachute like you two.
ANGELINA: Always complaining.
CHERRY: Now, we’re going to have to do this job right. No matter
how much it hurts.
SPIR: (Looks in the air around him; catches something in his hand.)
What’s this white stuff?
CHERRY: Snow.
SPIR: *(Noticing it has melted.)* Hmm. Sure wears out in a hurry.
ANGELINA: *(Ignoring him.)* Where do we start?
CHERRY: We’ve got one thing going for us... it’s close to Christmas.
SPIR: ‘What’s Christmas?’
CHERRY: It’s when these people celebrate the birth of the Boss’s Son.
ANGELINA: Birthday party time.
CHERRY: Well, not exactly. *(Pointing across.)* But they do give presents. Those people are waiting to buy some. *(Focus shifts to LEFT where the STORE MANAGER nervously ENTERS and speaks to the crowd.)*

STORE MANAGER: Ahem, uhh. Good morning. I, uh, I know you were told that we would have one hundred of this year’s favorite little dolly, “Sweet Puffy Face,” but our distributor was only able to ship us twenty. *(Grumbling starts among the crowd.)* Still, I know that you will move into the store in an orderly fashion and let those who arrived first get first pick of the Puffies. *(The grumbling stays at the same low level but seems to be increasing in intensity.)* I am now unlocking the door, and... *(As he runs inside, fleeing in terror.)*... MERRY CHRISTMAS! *(The crowd noise rises to a roar and people begin slow motion shoving and scratching and grabbing, MOVING LEFT slowly. The strongest get through the door, all acting like unleashed animals. The effect is not short of terrifying. [NOTE: This scene MUST be carefully and fully-staged to insure that no one will actually be harmed in this push. Be certain that everyone knows EXACTLY what to do and maintain slow motion throughout.]* The crowd is still pushing when CHERRY calls out...)

CHERRY: STOP! *(Crowd freezes in position.)*
SPIR: How’d you do that?
CHERRY: I don’t know.
SPIR: Maybe it’d work for me. MOVE! *(Crowd starts to push again.)* FREEZE! *(Crowd instantly starts shivering, blowing on their hands, slapping their arms, etc.)* I never do anything right.
CHERRY: Let’s try someplace else. *(She waves her hand and the ENSEMBLE instantly rushes to CENTER and sits on the floor, facing UPSTAGE. MRS. LAMB, standing UP CENTER, faces the crowd. She begins speaking very calmly. ANGELS watch from LEFT.)*

MRS. LAMB: *(Nodding to another woman, MRS. BURROW.)* Thank you, Mrs. Burrow. The Christmas Committee has a dynamite service planned. The Adult Choir and all of the Children’s choirs will sing and, of course, the Junior and Senior Bell Ringers will be here. We also have seven string players and a brass quintet and that marvelous kettle drummer we had last year. And the living cradle scene will
feature more shepherds than ever and... (she starts to get louder and louder and more and more excited, approaching mania and hysteria as the speech goes on.)... we've arranged for twice as many angels with bigger wings than anyplace else in town. And we'll have Giant Screen Video! And a Laser Show! And camels and ostriches and TWO ELEPHANTS... TWICE AS MANY AS LAST YEAR! WE'LL SHOW ST. CECILIA'S WHO CAN PUT ON A CHRISTMAS SERVICE. WE'RE GONNA MAKE THOSE...

MRS. BURROW: (Rises and tries to control MRS. LAMB.) Mrs. Lamb, please...

MRS. LAMB: (Calming herself.) Oh, forgive me, Mrs. Burrow. I get so excited.

MRS. BURROW: We understand.

MRS. LAMB: Did I mention the acrobats?

CHERRY: (Waving her arm, freezing the scene. To OTHERS.) It looks like the Black Hole for us.

ANGELINA: (Starting to lead the OTHERS to RIGHT.) You just don't have the touch. Watch this. (She waves her arm and the ENSEMBLE disperses to LEFT and ALL kneel, hands clasped, heads bowed, in a semi-circle.) It's all in the wrist. (However, the devout kneeling PEOPLE immediately drop their pose and get down to business... a dice game.)

ROLLER ONE: Come on, dice. Baby needs some Christmas shoes! (He mimes throwing the dice. ALL watch intently. He reacts with disgust when he does not get his point. OTHERS "razz" him and the dice are passed to the next shooter.)

ROLLER TWO: Roll 'em right. Santa's on his way!

CHERRY: (Freezes the ROLLERS with an arm wave.) The wrist, huh?

SPIR: Who's Santa?

ANGELINA: That's it! Santa!

SPIR: Hey, guys? Who's Santa? (ANGELINA waves her arm and the ENSEMBLE MOVES back to CENTER. One becomes SANTA on a bench, CENTER, putting on his beard and red hat as he CROSSES. Other ensemble members become parents and children in line, leading OFF LEFT, going to see SANTA. First in line is a very sweet little girl.)

SANTA: Tell Santa what you'd like for Christmas, young lady.

SWEET GIRL: (Drops her smile and mimics kicking SANTA in his shin. [NOTE: Pad SANTA'S shin to prevent injury.]) You fat creep! You think I've forgotten about last year, don't you? Well, little girls do NOT forget when they ask for seven dolls and they only get six. (Shouts to everyone.) Santa Claus is a stingy fake.
COSTUMES

SERAPH, CHERRY, SPIR and ANGELINA wear the same costume throughout the show. SERAPH wears white pants, white shoes, (soft will be all right), and a long white robe. He carries a sheaf of notes in the first scene. CHERRY, SPIR and ANGELINA wear white shirts, jeans and tennis shoes. Each may also wear some distinctive accessory such as a bandana or necklace to help define his or her own style. The ENSEMBLE PLAYERS wear a basic outfit consisting of a red or green or red and green shirt, a pair of jeans and a pair of soft-soled shoes. These costumes may simply be worn throughout the play or may be accessorized with the following items. (Spare costume pieces may be kept at the Cyc positions or stored offstage in the case of characters which make entrances from the wings. Care should be taken not to distract from the main action while adding or removing costume pieces.) Hand props for each character are included with this list.

MRS. GABRIEL - Glasses and/or books.
COACH MICHAEL - Ball cap and/or whistle.
MRS. POWERS - Handful of papers.
MRS. THRONES - Gradebook.
STORE MANAGER - Large set of keys.
MRS. LAMB - Glasses, notebook, sweater.
MRS. BURROW - Scarf tied at neck, pen. (Telephone pantomimed.)
ROLLER ONE - None. (Dice mimed. OTHERS may use paper money.)
ROLLER TWO - None. (Dice mimed.)
SANTA CLAUS - Santa Claus hat and beard.
SWEET GIRL - Large bow for hair, lollipop.
CHOIR DIRECTOR - None. (Works with back to Audience.)
ANNOUNCER - Bright sport coat.
TEDDY TURKEY - None or red rubber glove attached to the top of the head with large red rubber band. Flop the glove fingers down over the forehead.
NEWSCASTER - Blazer sport coat and/or microphone.
MR. SHEPARD - Winter Coat.
MRS. SHEPARD - Winter Coat.
ANOTHER MAN - Coat.
ANOTHER WOMAN - Coat.
MOTHER - Blue coat or shawl, realistic baby doll wrapped in a blanket. (Keep the baby face hidden from the audience.)
FATHER - Brown coat.
NICKY - Bright, very "cool" musician-type clothes.
ECHO - Bright, very "cool" musician-type clothes. Jam-box stereo; high-topped tennis shoes and bandana gifts.
RHYTHM KING 3 - As above.
MULTIPLE-CASTING: A highly respected (and almost always mandatory) practice in ensemble-type shows is the assigning of more than one part to each Chorus Member. Aside from keeping the show economically and interpersonal manageably, this technique underlines for each chorus member the vital part he or she is playing in the production.

A cast of four featured performers and ten ensemble performers (with a minimum of two male chorus members) may easily cover all the parts in THE BADDEST ANGEL BAND. A larger cast may certainly be used. Here is one possible multiple-casting of the ten ensemble roles.

ACTRESS ONE - Mrs. Lamb, Mrs. Gabriel
ACTRESS TWO - Mrs. Burrow, Mrs. Powers
ACTRESS THREE - Mother, Sweet Girl, Another Woman
ACTRESS FOUR - Mrs. Shepard, Choir Director
ACTRESS FIVE - Nicky, Mrs. Thrones, Roller Two
ACTRESS SIX - Echo, Store Manager
ACTRESS SEVEN - Rhythm King 3, Newscaster
ACTRESS EIGHT - Teddy Turkey, Roller One
ACTOR ONE - Mr. Shepard, Santa Claus, Another Man
ACTOR TWO - Father, Coach Michael, Announcer

(Two female performers may be eliminated by deleting the roles of MRS. SHEPARD, ANOTHER MAN, ANOTHER WOMAN and RHYTHM KING 3. Several lines must be adjusted or cut to make this step successful.)
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