North Pole's Got Talent!

By Lavinia Roberts

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NORTH POLE’S GOT TALENT!

By LAVINIA ROBERTS

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(In Order of Speaking)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th># of lines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOLLY</td>
<td>elfin co-host; full of holiday cheer</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MISTLETOE</td>
<td>another</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SANTA CLAUS</td>
<td>jolly and caring, with a fondness for milk and cookies</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRS. CLAUS</td>
<td>warm and welcoming, but worried about the seasonal workload</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MERRY</td>
<td>exuberant toymaker</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COAL</td>
<td>keeper of “naughty and nice” list; high-strung and grumpy</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUBY</td>
<td>the red-lipped reindeer, loves bad puns</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JINGLE</td>
<td>Bell’s elfin twin</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BELL</td>
<td>Jingle’s other half</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JACK FROST</td>
<td>ornery spirit of winter</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNOW QUEEN</td>
<td>chilly-hearted queen of the cold</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FERN</td>
<td>tough elf; security guard</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPRUCE</td>
<td>another</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IVY</td>
<td>another</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOY</td>
<td>perky toymaker</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOLLY</td>
<td>another</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TINSEL</td>
<td>caretaker of Santa’s reindeer</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DONNER</td>
<td>reindeer; excitable</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLITZEN</td>
<td>another; hates being last</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIXEN</td>
<td>another; snarky, always hungry</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DASHER</td>
<td>another; very fast</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCER</td>
<td>another; likes to dance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRANCER</td>
<td>another; likes to prance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUPID</td>
<td>another; very supportive</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COMET ................ another; the fastest of all 5
GINGER ............... elfin baker and sweets-maker 6
COOKIE ................ another 7
SUGAR PLUM....... another 7
EXTRAS ............... as performers n/a

SETTING

Time:  Just before Christmas.
Place:  The North Pole.

SET DESCRIPTION

Our stage is set for a talent contest, which takes place at Santa's Workshop. Three judge's stools are lined up diagonally on one side of the stage. The rest of the set can be as simple or elaborate as desired and can include an array of Christmas or talent show-related decorations.
BEFORE LIGHTS UP: MUSIC CUE: HOLIDAY MUSIC. (See PRODUCTION NOTES.) LIGHTS UP as HOLLY and MISTLETOE ENTER RIGHT and cross DOWN CENTER. MUSIC CONTINUES UNDER their introduction.

HOLLY: Season’s greetings, elves and reindeer, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls of all ages! Happy holidays to our live studio audience and to our viewers at home snuggled close to the Yuletide fire! Welcome to Santa’s Workshop and to tonight’s filming of North Pole’s Got Talent!, the reality show where the gifted inhabitants of the North Pole compete for a special mystery prize! I’m your host, Holly Daze.

MISTLETOE: And I’m your co-host, Mistletoe Merryman! We’re excited to share with you all the talent the North Pole has to offer! Let’s start by bringing out our judges. (MUSIC FADES OUT.) First, the Big Guy himself. He’s known by many names, including Saint Nick, Kris Kringle, and Father Christmas. Let’s give a round of applause for that jolly old soul, that spritely oversized elf, the sleigh-riding, gift-bearing, bringer of holiday cheer… the one, the only, Santa Claus!

SANTA: (ENTERS.) Ho, ho, ho! Merry Christmas! (Waves to AUDIENCE.)

HOLLY: Up next… her hobbies include baking gingerbread cookies with the elves, caring for the reindeer, knitting holiday sweaters, and sewing teddy bears. Let’s give a warm welcome to the cheerful, caring, and compassionate Mrs. Claus! (MRS. CLAUS ENTERS, frazzled and carrying a basket of knitting.)
SANTA:  *(To MRS. CLAUS, indicating a stool.)* Have a seat, dearest.

MRS. CLAUS:  A seat! A seat!? None of us has time to take a seat! Why, we still have candy canes to make. Not to mention those doll dresses that need ironing. And the gift-wrapping machine has been malfunctioning again, Kris. *(Calls OFF from where she entered.)* Oh, Merry! Merry, come out here! *(MERRY ENTERS, covered haphazardly in bows and wrapping paper, including some over her eyes so she can barely see.)*

SANTA:  Ho, ho, ho! *(To MRS. CLAUS.)* Don’t worry, darling. We will fix the gift-wrapping machine after the talent show. Tonight should be spent celebrating all the talent here in our very own workshop! Help us get into the holiday spirit!

MRS. CLAUS:  *(Unsure.)* If you say so. *(Sits down.)*

MERRY:  *(Feels around.)* Um, can someone help me? Please?

COAL:  *(ENTERS.)* Sure thing, Merry.

MERRY:  Is that you, Coal?

COAL:  *(As he “unwraps” MERRY.)* Who else do you think they would get to stage manage? That’s right, good old Coal. It’s not like I don’t have enough to do already, being in charge of the naughty and nice list. You know how many children there are in the world? There’s one point nine billion. That’s right. Thirty percent of the world’s population. I’m supposed to be keeping track of one-third of the people on this planet! I’m telling you, we really need to go digital. This whole writing things by hand is really getting to me. Talk about a hand cramp!

MERRY:  Yeah, okay. Can you just please help get me out of this?
COAL: So, the gift wrapping machine is malfunctioning again, huh?

MERRY: Yes, help me! Please.

COAL: Yeah, sure, right this way, Merry. (Starts to lead MERRY OFF, also carrying out any of the wrapping paper and bows that have been removed.)

HOLLY: Hey, Coal, will you tell our final judge to get ready to come out?

COAL: Yeah, yeah, sure thing. I’ve got nothing better to do. (EXITS with MERRY.)

HOLLY: (To AUDIENCE.) She’s cheery and bright and can light up the room with her humorous banter! And she’s one useful ungulate to have around if you need a makeover! Give it up for this fashion-forward fashionista whose smile will warm even the coldest North Pole winter, Ruby, the red-lipped reindeer!

RUBY: (ENTERS.) Happy holidays! Great to be here tonight! I’m so glad I could fit this into my calen”deer.” Calen“deer”? Calendar. Get it?

MISTLETOE: Yeah, we get it, Ruby.


HOLLY: Uh, good one, Ruby, but I believe reindeer have antlers. Anyhow, moving on to our first contesta—

RUBY: Ooh, how about this one? What do Santa’s elves do after school? Their “gnome”work! Get it? Gnome? Kinda like an elf? Oh, oh, here’s a good one! What do Santa’s elves study in school? The “elf”abet!

MISTLETOE: (Exasperated.) Enough with the jokes, Rudy!
HOLLY: (Aside.) She really should be called Ruby, the bad-pun reindeer.

RUBY: Sorry for my bad manners. I guess I’m just a rebel without a “clause.” You know, like Santa Claus? Sorry, how “rude of” me. Get it? “Rude of.” Rudolph?

HOLLY: (At wit’s end.) We get it! We get it! Great! Now, judges, Coal is going to give you each twelve cards. (Calls OFF.) Coal! (COAL ENTERS with three stacks of cards, which he hands to SANTA, MRS. CLAUS, and RUBY.

NOTE: The stacks don’t have to be complete as we only see a few cards from each stack.)

MISTLETOE: Those cards are…
Twelve drummers drumming,
Eleven pipers piping,
Ten lords a-leaping,
Nine ladies dancing,
Eight maids a-milking,
Seven swans a-swimming,
Six geese a-laying,
Five gold rings,
Four calling birds,
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves…

HOLLY/MISTLETOE: …And a partridge in a pear tree!

HOLLY: So, to review, twelve drummers drumming is the highest number of points you can give a group or a performer. A partridge in a pear tree is the lowest possible score.

MISTLETOE: Now, Coal, can you get our first contestant, please?
MRS. CLAUS: And hurry! I still have gingerbread houses to decorate! Although, I suppose I can get a little knitting done while I wait. *(Gets materials from basket and begins knitting.)*

SANTA: Very resourceful of you, dear.

RUBY: Let’s get started! There’s no business like “snow” business! *(ALL groan.)*

COAL: Yeah, yeah. I’m on it! *(Calls OFF.)* Jingle! Bell! You’re up! *(EXITS.)*

MISTLETOE: Please welcome two of our best toymakers, elfin twins Jingle and Bell. *(JINGLE and BELL ENTER.)*

JINGLE: Season’s—

BELL: Greetings!

JINGLE: I’m Jingle—

BELL: I’m Bell.

JINGLE/BELL: And together we’re Jingle Bell!

JINGLE: Today, we are going to—

BELL: Share our musical talents.

JINGLE: We have a song for your—

BELL: Listening pleasure.

RUBY: This is a “major” development. Loud music is my “forte!” Without music, life would “B-flat!” Sing away, elves!

SANTA: And I love a good carol! Especially while I’m having milk and cookies.

JINGLE: We will also be playing—

BELL: Our favorite instrument. *(They shake their bells.)*

JINGLE: And singing—

BELL: Our favorite song.
JINGLE/BELL: “Jingle Bells!” (They shake their bells again.)
JINGLE: So—
BELL: Without further ado...
JINGLE/BELL: Jingle Bells! (OPTIONAL MUSIC CUE: “Jingle Bells.” They shake their bells as they sing all or part of the song, sometimes alternating each line, sometimes singing together. They end the song by shaking their bells enthusiastically. MUSIC OUT. MRS. CLAUS, SANTA, and RUBY applaud.)

MRS. CLAUS: Wonderful! That’s one of my favorite songs.
SANTA: Mine, too, though I really like the song, “Here Comes Santa Claus.” It’s just so catchy! (Hums the first line of “Here Comes Santa Claus.”) Ho, ho, ho!
RUBY: “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” is my favorite holiday song. Except for that heartbreaking part in the beginning where they make fun of his nose and don’t let him join in any reindeer games. (Sniffles.) Makes me teary-eyed just thinking about it! Oh, now my mascara’s going to run!
HOLLY: Alright then, judges. Let’s see those scores!
SANTA: So much energy and enthusiasm! I’m giving them ten lords a-leaping! (Holds up “ten lords” card.)
MRS. CLAUS: That performance was so full of festive holiday cheer. So festive and fun! That’s why I’m giving them eleven pipers piping! (Holds up “eleven pipers” card.)
MISTLETOE: And what about our final judge?
RUBY: Well, let me, “ring out” my response. I loved the whole jingly bell thing, but I wanted to see more fashion. So I’m going to have to give you just nine ladies dancing. (Holds up “nine ladies” card.)
HOLLY: (Tallies.) Okay, that brings your total score to 30 points! Congratulations, Jingle, Bell!

JINGLE: Thank you—

BELL: So much!

JINGLE/BELL: Merry Christmas! (They “jingle” OFF.)

MISTLETOE: Now, let’s welcome our next contestants…

(JACK FROST and SNOW QUEEN ENTER.)

MRS. CLAUS: Is it me or is it getting colder in here?

MISTLETOE: (To JACK FROST and SNOW QUEEN.) Um, who are you?

JACK FROST: Don’t pretend you don’t know who I am.

MISTLETOE: Don’t worry, I won’t pretend I don’t know who you are, because I don’t know who you are. So, I can’t pretend to not know who you are.

JACK FROST: Huh? I’m confused.

MISTLETOE: Me too!

SNOW QUEEN: This is North Pole’s Got Talent!, correct?

HOLLY: That’s right. But we don’t see you on our list of contestants.

SNOW QUEEN: This is Jack Frost. And I am the Snow Queen. North Pole wouldn’t be what it is without us, so we should be allowed to be in this competition.

SANTA: Jack Frost! You do all that beautiful patterns on the window panes, don’t you?

JACK FROST: Yes, I do. That’s my talent. I know it’s hard to believe, but every single crystal is different. They have to be individually crafted.

SNOW QUEEN: Why, just one snow crystal consists of over one quintillion molecules of water. The number of
ways in which those molecules can be arranged into six-sided crystals is astronomical.

JACK FROST: It’s really an art form!

RUBY: That’s “snow” small feat! *(Pleased with herself, looks around for a reaction. There’s none.)*

JACK FROST: I’ve been perfecting my icicles lately. You know, expanding beyond just the frost in windows. Queenie here is fantastic at icicles, too.

SANTA: How impressive!

SNOW QUEEN: Yes, we are impressive. The snow, blizzards, sleet, frost, ice, and wind! We create this winter wonderland that is around you!

RUBY: I suppose “snow.” At “frost” glance, I could tell you were very chill, and I am one for “frost” impressions. I am not easily “sled” to the wrong conclusions. Although fame is “sleeting,” you are clearly destined for “snow” business.

SNOW QUEEN: *(Stage whisper to JACK FROST.)* Those are really bad puns. Can I freeze her now?

JACK FROST: *(Whispers back.)* No, she’s a judge! And we’re here to win and take the prize!

COAL: *(ENTERS with FERN, IVY, and SPRUCE and points at SNOW QUEEN and JACK FROST.)* Fern! Ivy! Spruce! These two aren’t on the contestants’ list. Take these cold-hearted intruders away!

FERN: *(Approaches JACK FROST and SNOW QUEEN with caution.)* Alright, let’s get off the stage. Nice and quiet.

SPRUCE: *(Approaches opposite FERN.)* We don’t want any trouble.

RUBY: Why, they are “snow” trouble at all.

End of Script Sample
PRODUCTION NOTES

PROPERTIES ONSTAGE
Three stools.

PROPERTIES BROUGHT ON
Three stacks of “Days of Christmas” cards (COAL)
Basket with knitting supplies (MRS. CLAUS)
Bells (JINGLE, BELL)
Holiday-themed hand puppets (MERRY, JOY, JOLLY)
Knitted hats and scarves (COAL)

MUSIC
Music selection is ultimately up to the director, but care should be taken to ensure any holiday songs used are in the public domain. Live piano can be used, or performers can sing carols acapella. “Joy to the World” or “Jolly Old St. Nicholas” would work well for HOLLY and MISTLETOE’S opening introduction. As the script is written, JINGLE and BELLS perform to “Jingle Bells.” MERRY, JOY, and JOLLY do their hand-puppet routine to “Deck the Halls.” The REINDEER dance to “Up on the House Top.” Alternative songs can be used if preferred.

COSTUME SUGGESTIONS
For the most part, follow your instincts. The cast should wear colorful Christmas costumes to match their character. ALL except SANTA, MRS. CLAUS, JACK FROST, SNOW QUEEN, and the REINDEER should dress as elves. Other details are below:
MERRY is covered with wrapping paper and bows at first.
JINGLE and BELL wear identical costumes and don many bells.

JACK FROST should have light-colored hair.

SNOW QUEEN should wear a crown and hold a scepter or wand.

REINDEER costumes need not be complicated and wearing antlers should suffice.

RUBY should have bright-red lipstick.

GINGER, COOKIE, and SUGAR PLUM could have cooking wear, like aprons, oven mitts, or chef hats.

**FLEXIBLE CASTING and CAST SIZE**

The roles of SANTA, MRS. CLAUS, RUBY, JACK FROST, and SNOW QUEEN, must be played the gender written. All other roles can be played by either female or male actors, generally with only a few minor pronoun changes.

For a smaller cast, some doubling is possible. Other than SANTA, MRS. CLAUS, RUBY, HOLLY, MISTLETOE, and COAL, all other roles can be doubled.

For a larger cast, feel free to add additional contestants. Additional songs and accompanying performances may be added at the director’s discretion.
We hope you’ve enjoyed this script sample.

We encourage you to read the entire script before making your final decision.

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