

LITTLE DRUMMER BRAWL

A Christmas One-Act Play

by
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SETTING: The stage, as they prepare for the Christmas program.

CAST: Many participate: as members of chorus, angels, elves, etc.
(Speaking parts)

Director	Deer I
Drummer	Deer II
Star	Deer III
Cymbals	Mary Beth (Sings)
Angel	Morgana (Sings)
Props	

DIRECTOR: When they came to talk to me, the kids said they wanted to have a Christmas Play, but that the teacher had started crying and quit. I thought, how can you get so upset with the sweet little darlings? So I said I would direct the show. Here's what happened.

(CURTAIN OPENS The stage is full of kids. It is pandemonium. Some kids are in half costume. There are a couple of kids playing "Heart and Soul" on the piano. Two kids are arguing over who gets to wear the big crown. A drummer boy is doing "Wipe Out" on the snare and a little kid with a large pair of cymbals is marching around the stage. The director stares at the scene, then picks up a script from the piano.)

DIRECTOR: (Normal voice) Okay, let's get started. (No one listens--Louder) Okay! May I have your attention, please! (Slowly they quiet down, except the drummer who is in his own world, drumming away loudly. The director goes to him and tries to grab the sticks. After a struggle, she wins and the drummer looks at her, bewildered.)

DRUMMER: What?

(The director hands the sticks back and turns to address the cast. A perky, smiling girl arrives at her side.)

STAR: And a great Hi-dee, ho, ho, ho, Miss Clench.

DIR.: And you are--

STAR: I'm Star, and I'm your assistant. It's my job to make sure that your job is as smooth as egg nog.

DIR.: (She isn't sure she can take this girl's sweet disposition.) Great. Well, I'm about to get started, so stand over here in case I need you.

STAR: Yes, Miss Clench. I'm here whenever you need me.

DIR.: Thank you. (Turns to group.)

STAR: Yes, ma'am, I've been given the gift of helping. I'm--

(The director cuts her off. Star tries to say something else, but the director won't let her say a word. Finally Star gets the message.)

DIR.: (To the group.) For some reason, Mrs. Applebee cannot continue with the play, so I will help you get ready for the show. Today, I just want to run through the script. Places, please!

(All exit except the chorus. Star hovers around Miss Clench.)

DIR.: Yes?

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STAR: I have to go sing in the chorus, but I just wanted you to know that if there's anything you need, I'll be right up there in the alto section.

DIR.: Thank you.

CYMBALS: Tell me when to come in, Miss Clench.

DIR.: I will.

(Miss Clench turns to the pianist and nods. The pianist does a grandiose introduction to "Jingle Bells" and the chorus starts to sing. It is very poor singing. Two students, dressed as elves, trot across the stage, tossing confetti that is supposed to be snow. The director is horrified.)

DIR.: Stop! I mean, okay, let's back up.

(The elves are on either side of her and continue to toss snow, one finally throwing a big pile on the director's head, who looks sternly at him. That elf shrugs, and the other one, who has a handful in his fist stops for a second, then throws the snow like he can't help himself. The director's head snaps around to the other elf, then she looks at the chorus. An elf has stolen Angel I's halo and the angel chases the elf across the stage and off.)

DIR.: Let's try again.

("Jingle Bells" begins with the same flourish. The singing is not much better. The elves go crazy with the snow. The drummer boy goes off on the snare. A triangle player and a kid with a tambourine follow suit. Even the kids stop singing one by one to watch the drummer and his friends. The tambourine player stops and it is just the drummer and the triangle player. The director marches over and puts her hand on the skin so that the drummer boy must stop. The triangle player goes on, but slows down as he realizes that she is glaring at him. He stops and she looks away and he gives one final "ting!")

CYMBALS: Now?

--- END OF FREE PREVIEW ---