

Saint Nicholas

The Real Santa Claus



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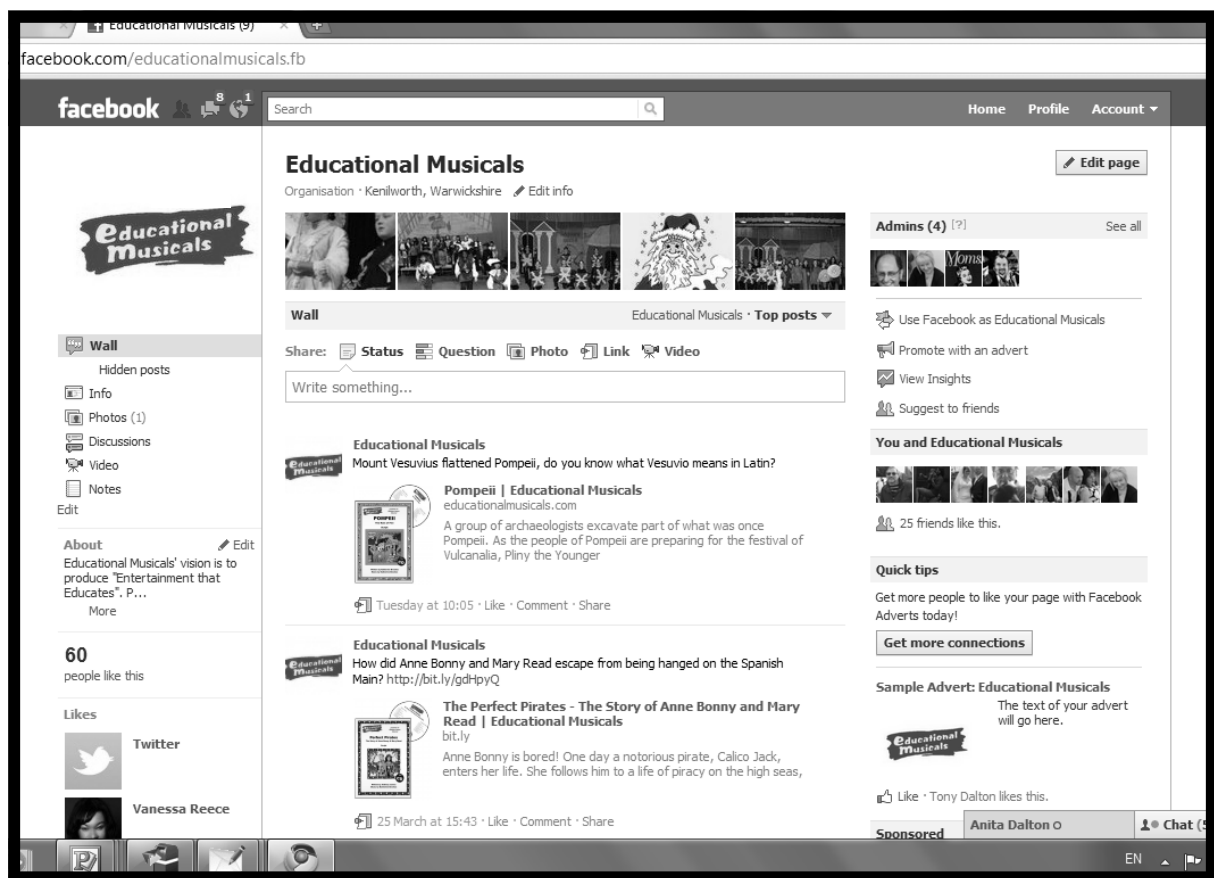
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"The Translation of Saint Nicholas Mediaeval Sourcebook".
(Greek Anonymous Account, 13th Cent. MS)
Translated by J. McGinley and H. Mursurillo.

*"Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
St Nicholas the Wonder Worker".*

"The Legend of Santa Claus" by Vee McLaughlin.

Videoing productions.

A licence is available. To obtain one please write to the publishers.

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Fact Sheets.

Saint (sa'nt) n. person canonised by the Church; person of great piety and virtue -ly, a-vt. to canonise; honour for piety. (Dictionary).

Saint Nicholas - The Legends.

There are many stories about Saint Nicholas, the Christian Bishop of Myra. Legends tell of his love of children, his kindness, his generosity and the miracles he brought about, even after his death. However, it is for one story in particular he is remembered above all others. A story that has connected the Saint with the celebration of Christmas all over the world. The legend concerns Saint Nicholas saving the virtue of three sisters who were about to be sold into slavery, since their poverty stricken father could not offer the dowry necessary for their marriages. Under the cover of darkness, the Saint threw three bags of gold through their window on three nights. On the last night, the girl's father was on watch to catch their anonymous benefactor. When confronted, Saint Nicholas begged the father not to reveal his charitable act. Later stories told how he threw the bags of gold down the chimney, where they landed in stockings hung near the fire to dry by the three girls. It is this version of the story that has given us the Christmas stocking tradition.

Saint Nicholas became the patron saint of children, due to a more sinister legend that may have been constructed long after his death. For centuries, artists painted St Nicholas holding three bags of gold. However not all of these artists were familiar with the original story, and in some pictures they mistook the bags of gold for three human heads. These incorrect pictures gave rise to another legend connected to the Saint.

While on his travels, Saint Nicholas stopped to pass the night at an inn. Since the land was undergoing a severe famine, the cruel, inhuman innkeeper, desperate to keep his paying guests, murdered three young brothers, intending to serve them as food. St Nicholas, realising something was wrong, searched the inn and discovered the remains of the three boys. In horror he prayed for their souls and made the sign of the cross over their bodies. Miraculously they rose up whole and were restored to life.

Saint Nicholas also became the patron saint of sailors due to the legend that, during his life-time, he appeared in a storm to threaten sailors who evoked his aid off the coast of Lycia, bringing them home safely. Sailors in the Aegean and Ionian seas, following a common Eastern custom, had their Star of Saint Nicholas to follow and wished one another a good voyage, using the phrase, "May Saint Nicholas hold the tiller".

Other legends connect the Saint with prisoners, bakers, pawnbrokers, shopkeepers and wolves.

Saint Nicholas - The facts as we know them.

Similar to many legends of this type, the various accounts of the life of Saint Nicholas are confused and historically unconfirmed, however, certain facts are known. Saint Nicholas was born in Patara, formerly a city in the ancient Roman ruled district of Lycia, in the Middle East in the 4th century AD to elderly parents, Epiphanes and his wife Johane.

As a boy he was known to be very pious and religious and from the beginning of his life it was said all he wanted was to please God. He began his religious studies at the age of five. His parents were well off, but passed away while he was still young leaving him a healthy inheritance that he used to help the poor and needy. He eventually became the youngest Bishop of Myra (now Demre near the coast of Turkey). During his eventful life he travelled to Palestine and Egypt, was imprisoned during the persecutions of the Emperor Diocletian, and released later by Emperor Constantine. He also attended the first council of Nicaea in 325 AD. In the 11th century soldiers carried Saint Nicholas' remains to Bari where they erected a church in his honour. The remains of the Saint still rest within the beautiful Basilica of Saint Nicholas today.

Six hundred years after his death the Russian Emperor Vladimir visited Constantinople and heard all the wonderful stories about Bishop Nicholas. He decided to make him the patron saint of Russia. Other countries too quickly embraced the Saint, including Holland, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Norway and Greece. The stories about him even spread to Lapland, where people use reindeer sleds.

As the years passed, the anniversary of his death, December 6th in either 345 AD or 352 AD, eventually merged with the Christmas celebration in many countries, with gifts given in memory of Saint Nicholas' generosity. Saint Nicholas' own feast was abolished in some European countries after the Protestant reformation. However, the Dutch preserved the ancient Catholic custom and Dutch children still await a visit from Sinter Klaas (Dutch for Saint Nicholas) on the night of December 6th.

The American Santa Claus.

Many Dutch people emigrated to New Amsterdam in the United States, which was taken over by British forces and renamed New York after the Duke of York. The Dutch carried with them the tradition of commemorating the feast of Sinter Klaas, a name which eventually became Santa Claus. Eventually the Saint's red and white Bishop's clothes and his tall, red hat were transformed by turn of the century literature and commercial concerns. These included Dr Clement Clarke Moore's poem "A Visit from Saint Nicholas" ('Twas the Night Before Christmas) and Coca Cola's Santa created in 1931 by Haddon Sundblom.

Now our modern day image of Saint Nicholas is of a white bearded, rounded gentleman carrying a sack of toys. This image of Santa is the image recognised today all over the world.

Santa - The Facts.

Names.

Santa Claus has many other names including, Saint Nicholas the wonder worker, Saint Nick, Father Christmas, der Weihnachtsmann, Sinter Klaus and Kris Kringle.

Places.

Although Saint Nicholas was born in the Mediterranean, Santa Claus became synonymous with the North Pole as the American version of Santa Claus took off. Realising that there was nowhere for reindeer to graze at the North Pole, newspapers began to reveal that in fact Santa lived in Lapland, Finland. A popular Finnish children's radio show revealed his whereabouts in 1927. Santa Claus lives on Lapland's Korvatunturi Fell.

Joulupukki.

Before the American Santa was adopted, Finland had a spirit called Joulupukki (Yule Buck) who would expect presents, rather than give them. Once a frightening character, even the pagan Joulupukki has now become the American Santa.

Assistants.

The constantly evolving character of Santa Claus has had many assistants across the world. In Dutch legend, Black Peter carries a whip to chastise naughty children. In Germany, Ruprecht would give gifts from a sack to good children, and hit bad children with a rod. Today Santa's assistants have turned into a general set of elf like helpers and toy makers.

How Fast!

Due to the rotation of the earth, Santa has 31 hours to deliver every present to every good Christian child in the world. This works out at 822.6 visits per second. This would mean that every visit could only last 1/1000th of a second. To achieve this number of visits, Santa's sleigh would have to travel at 3,000 times the speed of sound.

Reindeer.

Saint Nicholas and Santa Claus have been associated with many creatures. A white horse, two goats called Cracker and Gnasher and a donkey to name a few. The flying reindeer associated with Santa Claus are another American addition to the legend. They come from Dr Clement Clarke Moore's "A Visit From Saint Nicholas" also known as "Twas The Night Before Christmas", a poem that helped evolve Saint Nicholas into today's Santa Claus.

Dr Moore listed the tiny, flying reindeer as follows - Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen.

The remains of the real Saint Nicholas are kept in Bari in the beautiful Basilica of Saint Nicholas.

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Characters.

Total characters. 10 main parts, 2 slavers, 3 suitors, 4 Christmas characters, 4 street traders, 4 slaves. (Numbers are flexible).

Vicki -	A modern-day schoolgirl.
Sarah -	A modern-day schoolgirl.
David -	A modern-day schoolboy.
The Sailor -	A mystical Sailor, saved by St Nicholas.
Saint Nicholas -	The young Bishop of Myra.
Sirus -	Father of three daughters.
Daughter 1 -	Sirus' daughter.
Daughter 2 -	Sirus' daughter.
Daughter 3 -	Sirus' daughter.
Demus -	An extremely dubious slaver.

Christmas Characters.

Kris Kringle

Father Christmas

Joulupukki

Mrs. Claus

Assorted Santas (*optional*).

Other Characters.

Slavers -	2 assistants for Demus.
Suitors -	3 suitors for Sirus' daughters.
Slaves -	4 slave children.
Street Traders -	4 city street traders/dwellers.
Landlord	

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Saint Nicholas is a retelling of the legend that gave us Santa Claus. Two schoolgirls are transported on a snowy Christmas Eve, 1,700 years into the past, to meet a young priest who tries to stop three young girls being sold into a life of slavery. He throws three bags of gold into their father's house. The gold will mean that the girls can marry the boys they love and avoid a life of poverty and slavery. Will the money save the girls from the evil slavers, and what effect will the story have on the two schoolchildren?

Saint Nicholas is a magical and imaginative story based on the Christian legend of Bishop Nicholas of Myra. Actual historical facts, as we know them, are used wherever possible to create a lively retelling of a Christian legend, that was to form and affect the way we celebrate Christmas forever. It is based accurately on the historical facts known about Saint Nicholas of Myra and is created specifically for children with a musical accompaniment that encompasses the joy and magic of Christmas.

Saint Nicholas

The Real Santa Claus

Song List.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Have You Seen...? - | <i>The children.</i> |
| 2. He's Just Your Dad - | <i>Vicki & Sarah.</i> |
| 3. Welcome - | <i>Street traders & slaves.</i> |
| 4. Not A Penny To My Name - | <i>Sirus.</i> |
| 5. Must Not Love - | <i>The three daughters.</i> |
| 6. Slaving Away - | <i>The slavers.</i> |
| 7. Sharing is Better - | <i>Saint Nicholas.</i> |
| 8. Presents Down The Chimney - | <i>Sirus and his daughters.</i> |
| 9. Thank You - | <i>Vicki & Sarah.</i> |
| 10. One Man - | <i>The sailor & cast.</i> |
| 11. Has Anyone Seen Santa? - | <i>All Santas.</i> |
| 12. Merry Christmas Everyone - | <i>All.</i> |

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Performance Notes.

This musical has been constructed so that no one character has more than five consecutive lines.

At the very start of the show children throw snowballs at each other, (see Art Pack). Vicki and Sarah's hats and scarves should be taken off by a street trader after Song 3. They are returned to the girls, by the same cast member, during the change to Scene Three.

The show is set in a modern day, snow covered street, and also Turkey in around the year 300 AD.

An optional lighting cue occurs just after Song 6. If lights are not being used, this can be a low volume sound cue. Both should run until Song 7. A second sound cue of sleigh bells can occur in Scene Three, which can be a tape or physical effect.

Four Santa costumes need to be constructed for characters at the end of the show. Saint Nicholas has a larger cast than many other of our musicals because it is a Christmas production. Please take care when sweets are distributed to the audience at the end of Scene Three. Sweets must not be thrown.

Obviously the story of Saint Nicholas is a Christian story. While respecting this, the writer has taken care not to write a purely religious musical. I would expect the member of staff directing the production to exercise their discretion as to whether the religious content of the show should be expanded. Many of Saint Nicholas' lines can be extended for this purpose if required.

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SCENE ONE - A Winter Scene

*Children run onto the performance space in warm, woolly hats and scarves.
During the song occasional snowball fights break out using paper snowballs.*

SONG 1: Have You Seen...? -The Children.

The children.

Have you seen a brighter night?
Have you seen such clear cut light?
In the night is winter's hand,
Casting snow across the land,
And the light, on this night,
Is God's hand.

Could there be a greater joy?
Than the face of girls and boys,
As they stampede down the stair,
Like a gust of winter air.
What's he brought? Has he been?
Santa Claus.

And they never can see him,
He's always too quick!
He's off with his reindeer.
The jolly St.Nick.
We know that he's been here.
No brandy in sight!
He must be quite tipsy by the end of
the night.

Have you seen a brighter
night?
Have you seen such clear
cut light?
In the night is winter's hand,
Casting snow across the
land,
And the light, on this night,
Is God's hand!

Have you seen?
Have you seen?
Have you seen...?

At the end of the song all the children exit apart from David, Sarah & Vicki. David paces around while the girls sit in the centre of the performance space.

David. Brrrrrrr, it's cold.

Sarah. Do you want to go in then?

David. I didn't say that.

Vicki. *(Sarcastically)* Oh, is it too cold for action man? Di dums!

David. Vicki, do you know you're a pain in the neck?

Vicki. Yes, and I'm the best pain in the neck there's ever been.

David. I can believe that. *(He pats his sides trying to stay warm).* Why is winter so cold here? Do you know in some countries it's boiling hot on Christmas Eve and they've never seen snow.

Sarah. I don't think I'd like that, not seeing snow. Anyway how would Santa use his sleigh if there wasn't any snow?

David. *(Laughing)* Sarah, there's no such thing as Santa. He's made up.

Vicki. Don't say that. David. But it's true. It's dad dressed up in a silly costume.

Vicki. But what about the drink and mince pie we leave out?

David. Dad eats them.

Sarah. How dishonest.

David. You mean you really think there's a Santa Claus, ha? *(He turns to the audience with arms outstretched)* Girls!

David exits laughing, the girls just sit glumly.

Vicki. No Santa!

Sarah. It's all a hoax.

SONG 2: He's Just Your Dad - Vicki & Sarah.

Sarah. He's just your dad,
Your dad in a suit.
It's just a man,
Your daddy to boot!
Look at his nose,
He's not Santa Claus,
He's just your father, yours!

Vicki. He's just a fake,
A man in disguise?

Sarah. It's just your dad,
He loves his mince pies!
Look at his beard,
It's near hanging off,
It moved when he just coughed!

Think of all the presents you receive on Christmas day.
They buy them from the shops, and quickly hide them all away!

He's just your dad,
He likes to wear red.
You'll see your dad,
At the foot of your bed.
You'll know it's him,
By the way that he jokes.
Vicki. And Santa does not smoke!

Sarah. Could you see your father dashing skyward in a sleigh?
Because he brings the presents in his shiny, red coupe!

He's just your dad.
Don't fall for this fix.
His name is Roy.
Not jolly Saint Nich.
He's good at golf,
Not present relay.
Don't fall for this foul play.

Vicki. It's just a man, fair play.

Both. Still, call on Christmas Day!

During the last few lines of the song, traders and bystanders enter the performance space and reverse the rear screens to show a street scene in Myra, now Demre near present day Turkey. Amongst them is a sailor.

SCENE TWO - A Street in Myra

The two girls stand and take off their woolly hats and scarves.

Vicki. Phew, it's suddenly got really hot.

Sarah. Wow, where are we, and how did we get here?

Sailor. Do not be alarmed, I brought you here.

Vicki. Don't talk to him he's a stranger.

Sailor. Very wise. However, let me assure you I mean no harm.

Sarah. Where have you brought us?

Sailor. You have travelled 1,700 years into the past. You are now in the ancient city of Myra, near what you would call the coast of Turkey.

Vicki. You're having us on!

Sailor. Check it out for yourself.

Sarah & Vicki run up to the rear screens, and then back into the centre of the performance space.

Vicki. He's right.

Sarah. He's mental.

Sailor. Welcome to Myra.

SONG 3: Welcome - The Sailor & Street Traders.

Sailor. Welcome to the city,
Wealthy city never sleeps,
And the rich and thrifty men and women strive.
If however you are poor without a single cent.
You will find it hard that is if you're alive.

Traders. The city has great wealth and a population large,
With a market full of treasures so's the talk.
The city houses many 'bout a quarter of a mill'
Which is roughly 'bout a fraction of New York!

Individuals.

1. I heard it's great.
2. I heard it's large.
3. I heard it's cheap.
4. I heard they overcharge!
5. I heard there's gold.
6. I heard there's fleas.
7. I heard there's sanity.
8. I heard disease!

All.

Welcome to the city.
It is bright and it is bold,
The Casino the retreat of wealthy men.
Welcome to the city.
It runs hot and it runs cold.
And the gutter the retreat of one in ten.

Individuals.

1. I heard it's great.
2. I heard it's large.
3. I heard it's cheap.
4. I heard they overcharge!
5. I heard there's gold.
6. I heard there's fleas.
7. I heard there's sanity.
8. I heard disease!

All.

Welcome to the city,
Wealthy city never sleeps,
And the rich and thrifty men and women strive.
If however you are poor without a single cent.
You will find it hard that is if you're alive.

Through the song the sailor shows the two girls around and introduces them to the city traders, who exit after each introduction until only the sailor, Vicki and Sarah remain.

Vicki. Alright we're here, but why have you brought us here on Christmas Eve?

Sailor. Oh, I do this sort of thing quite often.

Sarah. What sort of thing?

Sailor. You'll see. Watch!

The sailor gestures to Vicki and Sarah and all three move to sit at the side of the performance area. A figure dressed in red and white Bishop's robes enters.

Vicki. Who's that man in a dress?

Sailor. Ssssh, that's not a dress, he's wearing Bishop's clothes.
Now listen.

A door opens in the centre flat and Sirus and his three daughters emerge. The figure in red and white also stops to one side and listens.

Sirus. It's no good my children, all our money has gone, our riches spent. If only I'd been more careful.

Daughter 1. But father, we are a wealthy family and what about our weddings, we are all betrothed to men we love?

Sirus. But my dear daughters, I cannot afford your dowries, the gift I must give to your betrothed's parents. You cannot marry.

Daughter 2. But father, what are we to do?

Sirus. I do not know. I do not know.

SONG 4: Not a Penny To My Name - Sirus.

Sirus. Not a penny to my name.
Not a penny to my name.
All I have now are my daughters.
Not a penny to my name.

All the treasures of the earth,
Came to me when she gave birth.
Would your mother, want it this way?
You my treasures of the earth.

Please, please forgive.
How can I even live.
You make the poorest man
Richer than all the sultans of the world.

Not a penny to my name.
Not a penny to my name.
All I have now are my daughters.
Not a penny to my name.
Not a penny to my name.
Not a penny to my name.

After the song Sirus dejectedly returns to the house leaving his daughters. Three suitors enter and each joins his own partner.

Daughter 1. (To partner) Oh what are we to do?

Daughter 2. (To partner) We cannot marry.

Daughter 3. (To partner) Our father does not have enough money to secure our dowries.

Suitors. (Together) But we love you.

Vicki. It's very sad.

SONG 5: Must Not Love - The Three Daughters.

If time is for healing, heal me.
If love is the meaning, I see.
Lead me kindly light.
Take us through this night.
Lead on to the day.
Find another way.
Must not love these men.
Love may call again.
How could we sustain,
Such anguish and such pain?

And if you go,
We think you should know,
Our hearts are yours.
Eternally yours.
Must not love these men.

If time is for healing, heal me.
If love is the meaning, I see.
Lead me kindly light.
Take us through this night.
Lead on to the day.
Find another way.
Must not love these men.
Love may call again.
How could we sustain,
Such anguish and such pain?

And if you go,
We think you should know,
Our hearts are yours,
Eternally yours.
Must not love these men.

After the song the suitors exit and the daughters return into their house. Three figures enter the performance area. One is bent crooked with a wicked smile and with a crooked walking stick. He raps on Sirus' door.

Vicki. (To the sailor) Who's he?

Sailor. He is Demus, a powerful slaver who occasionally works for the Romans. He's a nasty piece of work and so are his friends.

Sarah. He looks like our *(add relevant victim)* teacher at school.

Sirus opens the door and enters the performance area.

Sirus. What do you want?

Demus. Dear Sirus, what troubles you?

Sirus. Why would you want to know Demus? Are slaves that hard to find you have time to listen to my problems?

Demus. *(Wringing his hands)* Dear Sirus, maybe I can help. Your daughters are indeed beautiful. They would make very valuable slaves.

Sirus pushes Demus away.

Sirus. Get out of my sight, you evil man. I will never sell my daughters into slavery, never!

With that Sirus storms back to the door and exits.

Demus. We'll see about that Mr High and Mighty.

SONG 6: Slaving Away - Demus And The Slavers.

Demus. A slave don't ask for very much in life.
Maybe a meal or two.
He lives on berries, nuts and mouldy bread.
It's always in need of the loo.

He doesn't care for heavy lit'rature.
Reading's beyond its league.
Its brain is empty, servile, null and void.
Its body aches with fatigue.

Others. 1. It will lift and it will strive.
2. It breathes so lightly, is it alive?
3. Don't bow down and don't placate it.
4. There's only fifty thousand to replace it!

Demus. You can work for twenty hours a day.
You'll be on double time.
You'll even get yourself a double pay.
Well double of nothing is fine.

So if you're in the market for a slave.
Take a look and buy with me.
The price goes lower if it's near the grave,
So buy my slaves all under guarantee!

Through the song a line of slaves enter and Demus dances around them making them bring him drinks (in empty plastic glasses), food, etc. At the end of the song they exit, followed secretly by the figure in red and white.

Sarah. Wow, so what happens now?

Vicki. And who was the character in red and white?

Sailor. All will be revealed, but we have to wait for nightfall.

Performance Note.

If lighting is used, this is a lighting cue to reduce the level of the lighting. If no lighting is used, a sound cue of crickets can be used to indicate nightfall.

Sailor. There you go, watch!

The figure in red and white returns, carrying three small bags.

Vicki. What's in the bags?

Sailor. Gold.

Vicki & Sarah. Wow!

The figure sneaks up to the centre house. He throws three bags into the chimney. As he is doing this Sirius opens the window and watches. Having thrown the bags the figure leaves, but Sirius enters with one of the bags and catches him.

Sirus. Who are you?

St Nicholas. Oh nobody.

Sirus dips into his bag pulling out a handful of gold.

Sirus. There is enough gold here to save my daughters from slavery.

St Nicholas. It was nothing, just a gift.

Sirus. A very generous gift. Who are you?

St Nicholas. My name is Bishop Nicholas. I am the Bishop of Myra. My parents died when I was very young leaving me money. I give it to those in need.

SONG 7: Sharing is Better - St Nicholas & Sirus.

St. Nicholas. Do you know the meaning of life?
Do you know the reason for strife?
Can you tell me why we must all live and die?
I tell you, it's so we can give.

If we live for anyone's sake.
Please share with them part of your stake.
For sharing whatever is part of the joy.
Do you think it's better to take?

So live, live your life,
Give your love,
Give your life,
So...

Sirus. Live, live your life,
Give your love,
Give your life.

St.Nicholas. If we live for anyone's sake.
Please share with them part of your stake.
For sharing whatever is part of the joy.
Do you think it's better to take?

So live, live your life,
Give your love,
Give your life,
So...

Sirus. Live, live your life,
Give your love,
Give your life.

At the end of the song Demus and the slavers enter with the landlord.

Demus. Have you thought about my offer, Sirus? I have spoken to your landlord here and you are behind with the rent.

Sirus. *(With a smile on his face)* I am?

Demus. I can buy your daughters from you now if you'd like.

Demus offers Sirus money. Sirus knocks it from his hand scattering it across the performance area. As this happens Sirus' daughters and their suitors enter. Demus scrabbles around on the floor retrieving his money.

- Demus.** What are you doing, have you gone mad?
- Sirus.** (*Laughing*) No, I haven't gone mad. Here landlord, here is your rent.
- Landlord.** But Sirus, it is known you have no money. How can you pay the rent?
- Sirus.** Because of this man, Bishop Nicholas of Myra. He has saved my daughters from slavery.
- Daughter 1.** Father, I went to the fire where my stockings were drying and found this bag of gold. It is a miracle.
- Daughter 2.** I too found a bag of gold that had come down the chimney.

SONG 8: Presents Down The Chimney – Sirus & his Daughters.

- Daughter 1.** What is this? What was that?
Why the gold on the mat?
- Daughter 2.** Why it shines! Why it's mine!
- Sirus.** This here gold must be the product of some crime!
- It's too good to be true!
Why the goodness of the gift from down the flue?
Can't be right, must be loot!
Bags of gold inside a stocking
Just too cute!
- Daughters.** Must be wrong? Must be mad!
But these presents down the chimney make me glad!
- Sirus.** And the joy that I feel,
Must be magic, can't be real.
And the faith I now have,
Is all due to his love.
- Daughters.** It's too good to be true!
Why the goodness of the gift from down the flue?
- Sirus.** an't be right, must be loot!
Bags of gold inside a stocking, just too cute.
- All.** Must be wrong? Must be mad!
But these presents down the chimney make me glad!
But these presents down the chimney make me glad!
But these presents down the chimney make me glad!

During the song the three daughters dance around Saint Nicholas. They then begin dancing around Demus. They play 'piggy in the middle' with him, throwing their gold around him. Vicki and Sarah stand and join in. The sailor stands next to Saint Nicholas.

Demus. So, Bishop Nicholas of Myra, you have deprived me of three beautiful slaves. You will pay for this.

Demus attacks Saint Nicholas with his stick but the sailor leaps forward and struggles with him. Vicki and Sarah also join in grabbing two money bags and beating off the slavers. Eventually the sailor threatens Demus with his own stick, he screams and runs away. The daughters and everyone cheer.

St Nicholas. Thank you, why did you do that?

Sailor. Bishop Nicholas, once you were aboard my ship in a terrible storm. You prayed and saved both my ship and its crew. We owe you a great debt.

Daughter 1. It seems we all owe you a great debt, Bishop Nicholas.

St Nicholas. And I have a great way you can all pay it. On the day of our Saviour's birth we should all give each other presents.

Daughter 1. And we can hang stockings by the fire and put presents in them.

St Nicholas. The presents don't have to be gold or expensive. Just a way of saying thank you to our friends, and to our Lord at Christmas.

SONG 9: Thank You - Vicki & Sarah.

Vicki. I've never seen a face like yours in reality.
The welfare of your fellow man was always on your mind.
I've never seen such love before in reality.
I've one thing left to say to you, thank you for your kind.
Thank you. Thank you.

Sarah. You leave me lost for words,
Your kindness is astonishing.
I've never seen such selflessness in any of mankind.
You saved his daughters with your love,
You saved a father's life.
The one thing I have left to do, is thank you for your kind.
Thank you. Thank you.

Both. Thank you Oh father,
For sending this love.
He's our salvation now.

I've never seen a face like yours in reality.
The welfare of your fellow man was always on your mind.
I've never seen such love before in reality.
I've one thing left to say to you, thank you for your kind.
Thank you, thank you.
Oh thank you! Thank you for your kind.

During the song the daughters exit hand in hand with their suitors followed by a beaming Sirus. The landlord also exits.

Sailor. Well it's time we got you two home (*indicating Vicki & Sarah*).

Sarah. But we were just beginning to enjoy ourselves.

St Nicholas. It's very nice to have met you. Thank you for your help.

Sarah. It was nothing, see you again.

St Nicholas. You just might.

St Nicholas exits.

Vicki. He was a nice man. Now, how do we get home?

Sailor. Ah, now that's where the magic of Christmas really begins.

As he says this everyone returns to the performance area to change the scenery. As they do, they join in the song. The sailor helps Vicki and Sarah put their woolly hats and scarves back on.

SCENE THREE - A Winter Scene

SONG 10: One Man - The Sailor & Cast.

The Sailor. What would you say about flying away?
Could this dream last forever?
Is it here to stay?
Soaring through space to a distant nowhere,
For the magic of Christmas will take you all there,
You are there.

All. You must believe in this wonderful day,
With the whole world uniting together in play.
Can you imagine the joy in the face,
Of each boy and each girl in the whole human race.

The Sailor. Can you see it?

Vicki. Yes, I can!

The Sailor. Can you believe it was down to one man!

Soaring through space to a distant nowhere,
For the magic of Christmas will take you all there.
You are there.

All. You must believe in this wonderful day,
With the whole world uniting together in play.
Can you imagine the joy in the face,
Of each boy and each girl in the whole human race.

The Sailor. Can you see it?

Sarah. Yes, I can!

All. Can you believe it was down to one man!
One man!
One man!
One man!!!

At the end of the song everyone exits, leaving Vicki and Sarah sitting in the centre of the performance space.

David. *(Shouting from behind the rear flats)* Vicki, Sarah, where are you?

Vicki & Sarah. *(Together)* We're here, stupid.

David runs onto the performance space.

David. Where have you two been? Mum's going to kill us when we get in.

Vicki. We've been to Turkey.

Sarah. Myra, in fact.

David. Yes sure, and I'm Rudolph the red nosed reindeer.

Tape cue. Suddenly there is a sound of sleigh bells.

David. What was that?

An unfamiliar figure enters wearing a red and white costume but topped with a crown of holly.

Father Christmas. Hello, my name is Father Christmas. Have you been good this year?

David. *(Thinking)* Err..... *Another figure enters.*

Kris Kringle. Hello everyone, my name is Kris Kringle. I visit German children on Christmas Eve, to give them presents if they've been good.

Another figure enters; this one is strange and has horns on his head and a pointed beard.

Joulupukki. My name is Joulupukki. Now where are my presents?

Sarah. What do you mean, where are your presents? What about our presents?

Several other figures enter. All are dressed roughly like the traditional version of Santa Claus but with slight differences. One has a white and black costume instead of red and white, one has shoes instead of boots; there is even a Mrs Claus.

David. Do you know, I don't know who these people are but I can't see Santa Claus anywhere?

SONG 11: Has Anyone Seen Santa? – All Santas.

Santa 1. I am here and I exist In imagination's twist,
And if children live I always will survive.
I learn every name by rote,
And so Santa you may quote.

All Santas. I am always here and always will I thrive.

Santa 2. Though the world is so widespread
But I exist inside their heads,
And from culture, creed and kin I will appear.
So I live and I am real,
And express it now with zeal.

All Santas. I am here to fill your soul with Christmas cheer!

Santa 3. And although I may wear red,
As the children's poem said.
I look equally astonishing in green.
And as Joulupukki states.

Joulupukki. I can just as easily take,
For both giving and receiving are supreme!

All Santas. And I spin around the earth,
On this night of Christian birth,
At three thousand times the speed of earthly
sound.
But you won't hear from me noise,
Be you girls or be you boys,
For on padded boots you rarely have to bound!

I am here and I am real,
And the love that I can feel,
Is the love of children near and far and wide.
But I have to leave your court,
For the time is running short,
And I have to be awake for Christmas tide.
Yes, I have to be awake for Christmas tide
Oh! I have to be awake for Christmas tide!

After the song Saint Nicholas, now in a recognisable Santa's costume, enters.

Vicki. The Bishop Nicholas, thank goodness. Who are all these people?

St Nicholas. Why...they're all different versions of me of course.

Sarah. How can that be?

St Nicholas. Well over the years the story of how I saved the three daughters from slavery has been added to other stories. Gradually lots of characters have joined together to make.....

Vicki. Santa Claus! You're Santa Claus! See I told you David, there is a Santa Claus!

St Nicholas. That's right, I'm Santa Claus, and all of my versions, well apart from Joulupukki here, like to give out presents.

Saint Nick and all the Christmas characters delve into their pockets and sacks, producing sweets which they distribute to the audience. Saint Nick then produces three presents for David, Vicki and Sarah as all the cast return to the performance area.

SONG 12: Merry Christmas Everyone - All.

Merry Christmas everyone!
Merry Christmas everyone!
Merry Christmas everyone!
Merry Christmas everyone!

You see what he means to us.
This man is the symbol of goodness.
He showed us that giving is better.
He showed us the light of Christmas!

Merry Christmas everyone!
Merry Christmas everyone!
Merry Christmas everyone!
Merry Christmas everyone!

He may take a different form.
Depending on how you see him.
He's always both loving and warm.
And how we would like to be him.

Merry Christmas everyone!
Merry Christmas everyone!
Merry Christmas everyone!
Merry Christmas everyone!

Music underscores the last lines. St Nicholas steps forward and produces a scroll from his sack.

St Nicholas.

Christmas is special, a time of good cheer,
A brilliant end to another old year,
Family and friends, loved ones all near,
And people all over, are free now from fear.
And so now you know, that many years ago
I was known as a generous Saint.
And after our show, I hope that you go
Back home without any complaint.
So please could you pause, and give your applause for
the real

All.

(Shouted together) Santa Claus!

Merry Christmas everyone!
Merry Christmas everyone!
Merry Christmas everyone!
Merry Christmas everyone!

The cast hold hands and bow.

THE END



Artist Anthony James has worked extensively as "**Creaturama Workshops**" in education since 1992. His work, based on the use of junk materials, has featured in three nationally touring exhibitions. Anthony has also worked as a television and theatre "Production Designer" and his work has appeared on many T.V. programmes. As part of "**Creaturama**", Anthony also runs workshops based on real historical subjects and the following pages are taken from these formats and are based on techniques that have proved to be achievable in the field.

WARNING.

All scissors are dangerous, even if plastic. Make children aware of this prior to scenery, costume and prop construction. Check collected junk for such items as glass and metal tins. In a past workshop a six inch carving knife was handed to me, found in a pile of donated junk materials. Also check that bottles and food containers have been emptied and cleaned properly. (*There really is nothing like the smell of festering milk in the bottom of an old plastic milk bottle to make children sick*).

MATERIALS.

All of Anthony's work is based on the use of two inch wide masking tape. To use thinner tape is a false economy as the children will just use more of this to achieve the same effects. Wide masking tape, scissors and cardboard are the only real indispensable materials needed. **THE FEATURED TECHNIQUES WILL NOT WORK WITH THIN MASKING TAPE.** Other useful materials include coloured papers, kitchen rolls, cereal boxes and old newspapers.

MASKING TAPE.

Masking tapes differ widely in their quality and price. Be aware of differing prices and shop around, the savings you can make may surprise you. Remember masking tape is created for masking so most masking tapes can be painted over. Do not confuse with gummed tape or parcel tape (*both are usually dark brown as opposed to light cream*). Make children aware that ripping tape with their teeth is unwise, particularly if they are "First teeth"! Cutting with scissors or breaking by using the thumb placed on the roll's edge are both acceptable. Make children aware that masking tape and hair do not mix!

DO NOT BE AFRAID.

The biggest hurdle in three-dimensional model making is a misconception that it is a complex or unattainable skill. The trick is in making items stick together properly and after some initial practice you will realise just how easy this is.

PAINTING.

When three-dimensional creations are painted, try getting the children to paint them one colour first. The primary coat as I call it. This stops a random mixing of colours occurring when several are used at the same time. Once the primary coat is dry other colours and features can be added. If paint refuses to cover tape or plastics, use a small amount of PVA glue mixed with a ready mixed paint.

FINALLY.

All the techniques featured have been tried out before their inclusion in this pack and are achievable by children from reception upwards. They are meant as a guide only and it is up to you and the children's individual talents as to just how ambitious you wish to be. Get the children to make big things. Model making is great fun and is a lively and informative way of teaching Art, History and Technology.

Good Luck & Enjoy

As seen on
BBC TELEVISION'S

Anthony James

Blue Peter

CREATURAMA – Page 2

Scene One. A Winter Scene.

Scene Two. A Street In Myra

Scene Three. A Winter Scene

The Scenery.

The Scenery for "Saint Nicholas" consists of several flats and a central box big enough for four children to stand in. These should be created from very large, thick, brown box cardboard, the type used for fridge freezers, bikes and furniture etc. The grain (interior corrugation) of these boxes should run from the top to the bottom for extra strength.

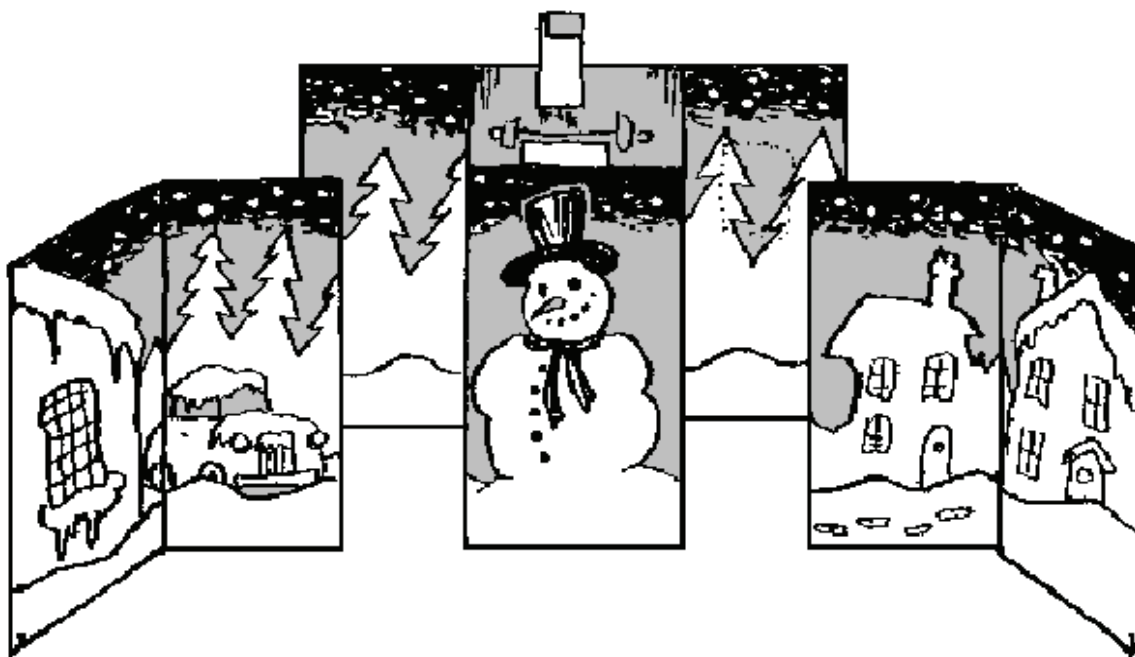
Scenes One & Three.

These are comprised of a combination that will allow for two entrances and exits, primarily used in Scene Three, but available in Scene One for the children to use when first entering for their snowball fight.

The central box should have two flats attached to its corners showing Myra, allowing for masking.

In one of these should be cut a window shape. One of its sides should be left to create a hinge. It would be better if this hinge were on its left hand side when facing the Myra scene.

The winter scene can consist of any winter scene you like. I have included instantly recognisable elements like a snow man. You, of course, can leave this up to the children. The large cardboard used WILL warp when painted. Do not worry as it will straighten when painted on the other side.



CREATURAMA – Page 3

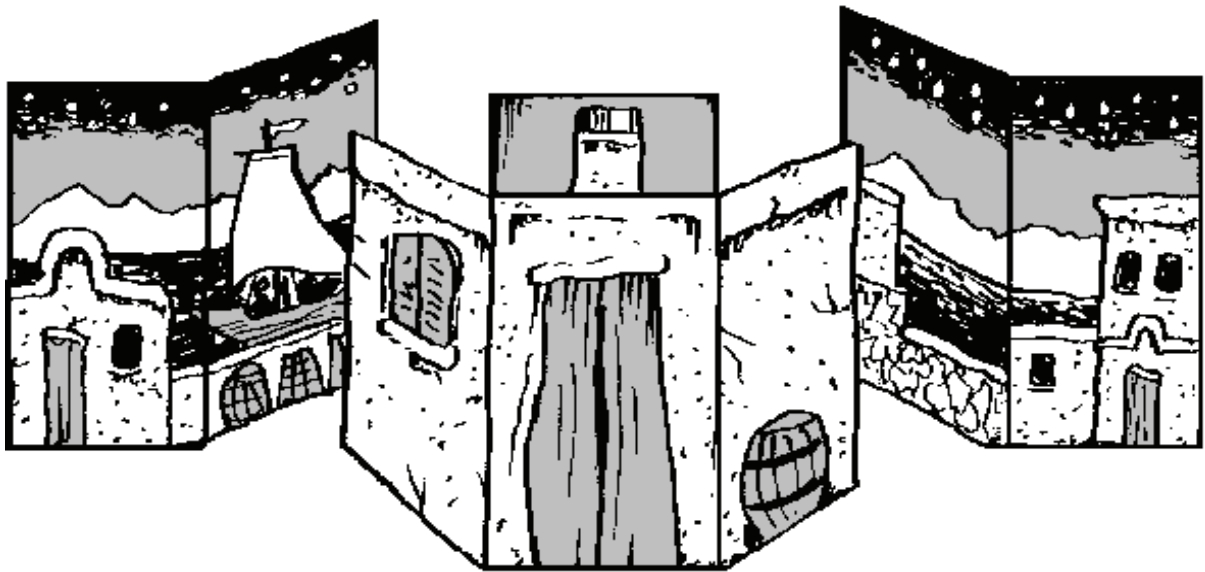
Scene Two.

Created by reversing the two outer flats and by bringing the central box forward and revolving it. Sirius and his daughters should enter now and help move the box into position.

They will enter and exit into this box until it is reversed in Scene Three. A smaller box should be attached to the inside, above the door opening, for the chimney that Saint Nicholas uses to throw in his money bags.

The door should be large enough for the children to enter and exit comfortably. Two thin pieces of material can be taped above the door on the boxes inside. Paper fasteners are also a good way of securing these.

Myra itself was on the Turkish coast, so when painting this scene you can have the sea in the background plus some boats. The buildings would have been stone and flat tops (no rain to worry about!).

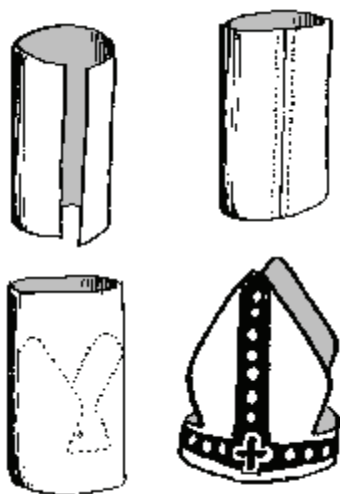


Construction.

These very large boxes can have staples. These need to be removed. For strengthening joints use a little papier maché over masking tape. This is advisable where the chimney is attached. If you require extra scenery, Myra can have barrels, fishing nets and boxes of cargo placed around the performance area.

CREATURAMA – Page 4

Bishop's Hat.



Many of the hats and creations in these art packs are created out of opened and inside out cereal boxes. The Bishop's hat is one instance where the cereal box card would be too small, so you will need an A2 piece of red or orange card.

Turn the card into a tube and measure around the wearer's head until comfortable, mark with a pen. Cut off the excess, (rather than overlap it) and stick together with tape. Cut out the shapes shown making sure the centre of one shape is the tape.

You can now decorate. As the card creates the background, paint can be used to colour the tape. A strip of transparent tape attached to the lower inner surface acts as a sweat barrier, stopping the hat from becoming soggy after use.

Father Christmas Holly Crown.

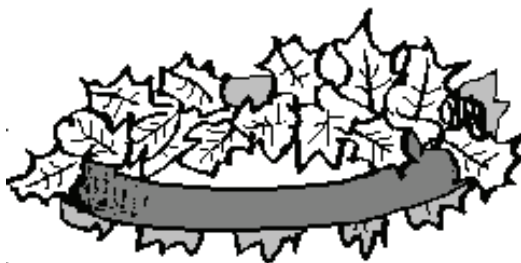
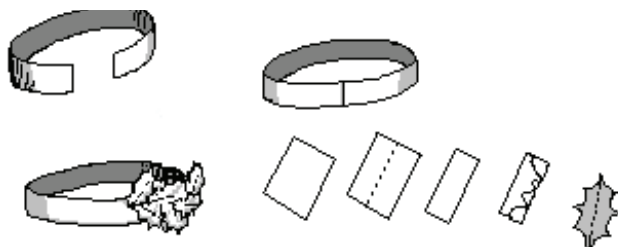
This can be simply created from green cardboard.

Cut out a long strip that will fit around the wearer's head about 5cm wide. Attach a strip of transparent tape on what will be the inner surface as per above.

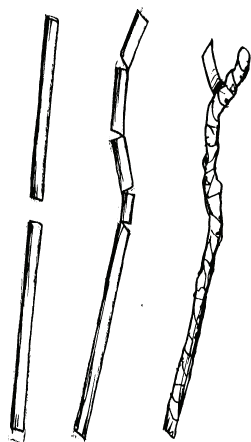
Now take some small squares and rectangles of card around 6cm by 5cm and fold in half length ways.

While folded, cut out some curves to create holly leaves. Double sided tape attached to the back allows them to be attached to the head strip.

Attach randomly to create a crown of holly.



Demus' Stick.



As the villain Demus attacks Saint Nicholas and his friends with a stick, the stick should be as soft as possible, so this is a simple way of creating a gnarled walking stick. Use two of the cardboard inner tubes from tubes of wrapping paper and attach one to the other, then cut out several small triangles as per the illustration (but in your own pattern).

These triangles should almost cut the tube in half but try not to. When finished pull the triangles together and stick with tape. Next use the tape and wind it around the tube haphazardly. Press the tape down and paint brown with black mixed in occasionally. Hopefully you should surprise yourself with how effective this looks.

(Special Note) Cutting any cardboard rolls in this way can create Dinosaur legs, animal trunks and noses for masks.

CREATURAMA – Page 5

Costumes.

Costumes for the children comprise of contemporary normal dress with the addition of woolly hats and gloves. Coats shouldn't be worn as they will inhibit movement and make the children too warm.

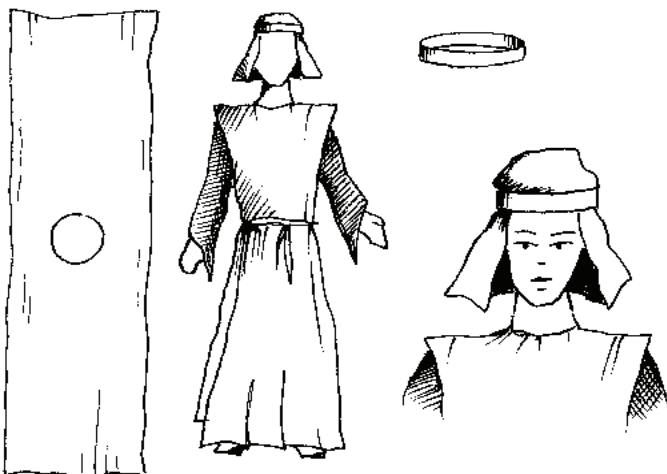
Costumes for the inhabitants of Myra can be very simply created by using canvas, sacking or calico tied around the middle with string. Headgear can be created as shown in the illustration.

Demus and his slavers can be wearing black with leather belts around their middles.

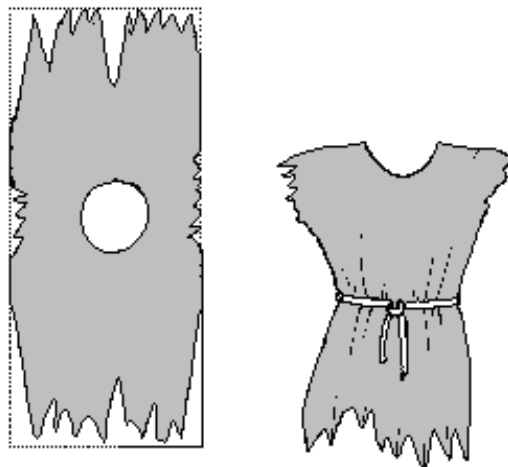
The sailor should wear the same costume as a citizen of Myra, but it should be black.

Slave costumes should be created in the same way as Demus and his slavers, but much dirtier and ragged.

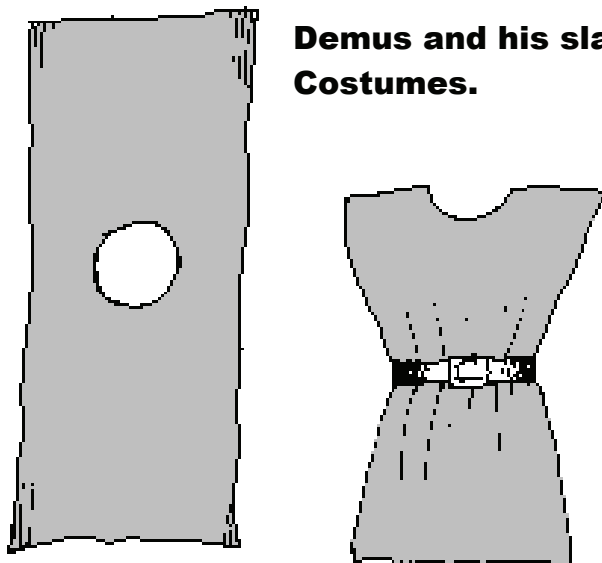
Citizen of Myra.



Slave Costume.



Demus and his slaver's Costumes.

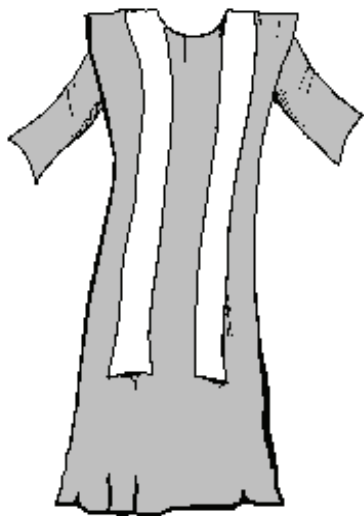


Sailor Costume.



CREATURAMA – Page 6

St Nicholas' Costume.



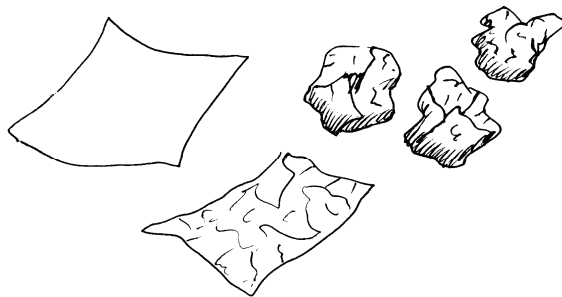
This outfit should consist of one large rectangular piece of red material with a hole cut out of the middle for the wearer's head. Once this is draped over the body you can then attach two thin strips of white material to each shoulder.

A red, long sleeved top along with a skirt or trousers should be worn underneath the costume to complete its effect.

This simple costume is an approximation of a Bishop's costume of the time. The colour red is a contemporary reference to Santa Claus.

Snowballs.

Simply scruple up several sheets of white paper or plain kitchen roll. You can ensure they stay rolled up by covering them in transparent wrapping film. The type used to keep food fresh. Don't use polystyrene to make snowballs, it's far too messy!



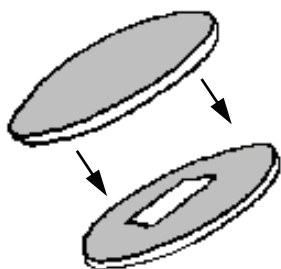
Gold Coins.

Gold coins are used twice, once when Sirius reaches into one of the mysterious bags that appear down his chimney, and when the daughters scatter the gold from the hands of Demus.

Gold coins can be created with gold or yellow card, taped together with double sided tape and attached to another piece of gold or yellow card. A head with the name "Emperor Constantine" can be drawn with a red or orange felt tip (*the Roman Emperor of the period*). If every child in a class of 30 makes 10 coins, you have 300 coins to fill Saint Nicholas' bags with.

Another way to create coins is to use the sweet versions usually available around Christmas.

The benefit of using these is that they can be eaten after the performance!



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