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SCRIPT & LYRICS V1

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2025 CHRISTMAS

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INTRODUCTION

(Our Campers are playing “hide-and-seek” in the middle of the crowded store. Our mannequin characters are scattered around the set. Mr. Ebenezer and Mrs. Jones are doing their regular work. Christmas shoppers are frantically working on completing their Christmas lists.)

SONG 1: “DUDE, YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?”

DUDE, YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

Words and Music by Rob Howard

chorus

Dude, you hear what I hear?
Christmas is near
This is my favorite season
Dude, you hear what I hear?
It's the best time of year
And there is a really good reason
Hear the story loud and clear
It's everywhere
Dude, you hear what I hear?

verse 1

Hark the herald angels sing
Oh, oh, oh, oh
Glory to the newborn King
Oh, oh, oh, oh
Peace on earth and mercy mild
Oh, oh, oh, oh
God and sinners reconciled
Oh, oh, oh, oh
The good news is ringing out
If you can hear it let me hear you shout

chorus

Dude, you hear what I hear?
Christmas is near
This is my favorite season
Dude, you hear what I hear?
It's the best time of year
And there is a really good reason
Hear the story loud and clear
It's everywhere
Dude, you hear what I hear?

verse 2

Joyful all ye nations rise
Oh, oh, oh, oh
Join the triumph of the skies
Oh, oh, oh, oh
With angelic hosts proclaim
Oh, oh, oh, oh
Christ is born in Bethlehem

Oh, oh, oh, oh
The good news is ringing out
If you can hear it let me hear you shout

chorus

Dude, you hear what I hear?
Christmas is near
This is my favorite season
Dude, you hear what I hear?
It's the best time of year
And there is a really good reason
Hear the story loud and clear
It's everywhere
Dude, you hear what I hear?

chorus

You hear what I hear?
Christmas is near
This is my favorite season
Dude, you hear what I hear?
It's the best time of year
And there is a really good reason
Hear the story loud and clear
It's everywhere
Dude, you hear what I hear?
You hear what I hear?

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SCENE 1

(As the song ends, we hear a P.A. announcement.)

EBENEEZER: *(over P.A.)* Ladies and gentlemen, your Forest Creek Mondo-Mart will be closing in 15 minutes. We're open seven days a week for your Christmas shopping convenience, and as always, we want to thank you for shopping right here, at Mondo-Mart!

(As the announcement ends, our campers run almost simultaneously back to a display of merchandise they are using as "base." As each one reaches "base," they yell ...)

CAMPERS: *(ad lib.)* On base! Not it! Base! Beat ya!

(As others walk toward base from stage right, apparently smug in the knowledge that they have returned undetected, we see Taylor sneaking stealthily in from stage left. Like a lion, she springs out at the others tagging them.)

TAYLOR: Gotcha!

JOEY: Oh, nooooooooo, she got me!

BROOKE: Where'd *you* come from, Taylor?!

MRS. JONES: *(A good-natured store clerk who just happened to see the action and is amused, walks up to Kim.)*
Are all these kids yours?

KIM: Oh no! I'm just their counselor! We're on our way to Christmas camp for a couple of days and

we ran out of snacks, so we stopped just to keep the natives from getting restless.

MRS. JONES: **Been there! *(referring to Taylor)* That one's a little tiger!**

KIM: **Yes, I'm afraid even a quick shopping trip can turn into a game of hide and seek when Taylor's around!**

MRS. JONES: **Oh, I know. I just stumbled on her hiding in the furniture section.**

KIM: **Oh, I'm so sorry. I hope we're not disrupting things in your store.**

MRS. JONES: **Oh, no!**

KIM: **Good.**

(Taylor runs up to Kim.)

TAYLOR: **Do we have time for another game of hide-and-seek before we go? Please?!**

KIM: **Taylor, the store's closing. Besides, I really don't think ...**

MRS. JONES: **My goodness, you are quite the hide-and-seek player!**

(Taylor just stares at her like a deer in headlights, then sprints away and Mrs. Jones is surprised.)

KIM: **I'm sorry. She's really shy. She really doesn't talk at all unless she knows you.**

(Madison runs up.)

MADISON: **One more game?!**

MRS. JONES: **Well, you’ve got your hands full, and I have to
get ready to close the store. You all have fun
“shopping”!**

KIM: **We’ll sure try! Okay, kids, time to get back on
the bus!**

CAMPERS: *(ad lib.)* **Awwwwww!**

KIM: **We’ve got a long way to drive, and it’s getting
late! *(looking around)* Everybody here? Where’s
Taylor?**

JOEY: **She got shy and ran back to the bus ... I saw her
heading that direction. She’s probably back on
the last row asleep already.**

BROOKE: **Miss Kim?**

KIM: **Yes?**

BROOKE: **Why do you think Taylor is so shy?**

KIM: **Well, her mom says that when she was little,
she said some words funny and people used to
make fun of her. Now she talks just fine, but
she’s still too afraid to speak in front of anybody
she doesn’t know.**

MADISON: **That’s too bad. She’s really nice when you get
to know her.**

(Joey runs up with a toy truck in a box.)

JOEY: *(to kids around him)* **Look at this!**

BROOKE: **What is it?!**

JOEY: **It's a truck ... I think ... I'm not sure. But it's *so cool!***

MADISON: **You don't know what it is and you want it? It's just a funny-looking truck.**

JOEY: *(mesmerized by the toy)* **No! I think it's one of those trucks that turns into a robot.**

BROOKE: **It looks like a robot that turns into a different robot.**

MADISON: **It looks like a robot that turns into a pile of broken plastic!**

JOEY: **I have *got* to have this! I mean ... I know somebody who would love this!**

MADISON: *(pointing at something not identified)* **Brooke! I can't believe it! Looooook!**

(Brooke and Madison scream and run towards another toy.)

KIM: **Kids we *have* to leave! Get to the bus!**

(music begins to "I've Gotta Get It")

(DIALOG 1 - begins at the start of the song)

MADISON: **I *have* to text my mom and tell her they still have these at Mondo-Mart!**

(Madison begins texting.)

JOEY: **Miss Kim! Miss Kim! I wanna get this! I'll use
my own camp money!**

KIM: **Joey, Christmas is in a week!**

JOEY: **I know! It's not for me! It's for my mom!**

(DIALOG 2 - begins measure 33)

*(Madison comes running up with a box she found
on a counter during the song.)*

MADISON: **Miss Kim! It's here!**

KIM: **What's here?**

MADISON: **The "Justin Heartthrob Book of Tweets!" It's all
his Tweets for the whole last year!**

BROOKE: **No!**

MADISON: *(looking at the box)* **Yes! Look at this one: "I just
sneezed!"**

BROOKE: *(dramatically)* **Gesuntheit, Justin! Gesundheit!**

(Both girls swoon.)

(DIALOG 3 - begins measure 64)

(Joey appears with a large box.)

BROOKE: **Is that what I think it is?!**

JOEY: *(shows her the box)* **Yep!**

MADISON: **I want!**

KIM: *(curiosity piqued)* **What is it?**

JOEY: **It's called "A Thousand Random Pieces and a
Megaphone!"**

KIM: **Sounds horrible. How does it work?**

MADISON: **You throw the pieces up in the air and
megaphone your brother to clean it up!**

KIM: **We are *outta* here!**

SONG 2: "I'VE GOTTA GET IT"

I'VE GOTTA GET IT

Words and Music by Rob Howard

chorus

I've gotta get it
You know I've gotta get it
I've really gotta get it for Christmas
I've never seen it
You know I've never seen it
I've never seen anything like it before
I've gotta get it
You know I've gotta get it
I've really gotta get it for Christmas
I couldn't find it anywhere else
I know it's gotta be in this store

chorus

I've gotta get it
You know I've gotta get it
I've really gotta get it for Christmas
I've never seen it
You know I've never seen it
I've never seen anything like it before
I've gotta get it
You know I've gotta get it
I've really gotta get it for Christmas
I couldn't find it anywhere else
I know it's gotta be in this store

chorus

I've gotta get it
You know I've gotta get it
I've really gotta get it for Christmas
I've never seen it
You know I've never seen it
I've never seen anything like it before
I've gotta get it
You know I've gotta get it
I've really gotta get it for Christmas
I couldn't find it anywhere else
I know it's gotta be in this store

bridge

You've never seen anything quite like this
It's a one-of-a-kind piece of plastic

This is something everyone'll get
You know I know the difference between wants and needs
Come on mom, buy it please

chorus

I've gotta get it
You know I've gotta get it
I've really gotta get it for Christmas
I've never seen it
You know I've never seen it
I've never seen anything like it before
I've gotta get it
You know I've gotta get it
I've really gotta get it for Christmas
I couldn't find it anywhere else
I know it's gotta be in this store
I've gotta get it, I've gotta get, I've gotta get it, I've gotta get it
I know it's gotta be in this store

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SCENE 2

(At the conclusion of the song, the rest of the customers look at their watches, realize what time it is, and hurry out of the store. The campers and Kim march off toward the bus, followed by Mr. Ebenezer and Mrs. Jones who lock the door behind them.)

(The stage is silent and still and the only presence in the store are the mannequins. Without moving their bodies, the mannequins begin to speak to each other!)

MOONDOG: Psssst! Is the coast clear? Any mannequins in the area speak up!

TATIANA: Are you speaking to me? Before speaking to a princess, I believe it is customary to bow or curtsy.

MOONDOG: *(sarcastically)* Oh *excuse* me, Princess! *(he bows deeply)* I forgot for a moment we had mannequins from girls' costumes and clothing on the center aisle today.

TATIANA: *(regally)* I accept your apology.

BIFF: Uh, hey! Dis is Biff from over in hardware and tools!

MOONDOG: Biff! Dude! Long time, no see!

BIFF: Moondog! Where have you been?

MOONDOG: Jus' chillin, sha! Big season over in sporting goods!

TATIANA: *(unimpressed with “commoners”)* You two
 “gentlemen” know each other?

MOONDOG: *Know* each other? Dude, we’re tight!

TATIANA: I’m not a “dude,” Mr. Moon—dog.

COOKIE: I think they’ve locked up!

TATIANA: Oh no, it’s Cookie. *(sarcastically)* I mean,
 greetings, Cookie!

MOONDOG: Cookie! They said you had a nervous breakdown
 over in cookware!

COOKIE: No, they sent me to the shop. Turned out I had a
 screw loose.

BIFF: Boy, did you ever. You still afraid of your own
 shadow?

COOKIE: No, Biff! I’m a new mannequin. Nothing scares
 me anymore!

TAYLOR: *(off stage)* Hello?

COOKIE: *Ahhh!*

MOONDOG: Shhhh! Dude, you hear what I hear?!

BIFF: A customer!

COOKIE: A customer?!

MOONDOG: A *customer!* Freeze!

(Taylor enters, slightly bewildered. She is looking around, not realizing that the store is closed.)

TAYLOR: *(calling for her missing choir friends)* Hey you guys! Aren't you gonna come look for me? You guys! This isn't fair. I found a really good hiding place this time. You guys?

COOKIE: *(without moving her body)* You guys! What do we do?!

TAYLOR: Who said that?!

BIFF: Cookie! Shhhh!

COOKIE: *(breaks her freeze in a panic)* This is horrible!

TAYLOR: *(reacting to everything she's seeing)* Wow! You're mannequins. And you're *talking*!

COOKIE: Ohhhh! We're in *big* trouble!

TATIANA: *(to Taylor)* I know this seems *quite* unusual, young person, but ... are you frightened?

TAYLOR: No ...

TATIANA: Why not?

TAYLOR: Because I'm not here. This is obviously a dream. I'll wake up soon. I'm in the back of the bus asleep. I'm only seeing this because I should never go to sleep after I eat barbeque potato chips and grape soda.

COOKIE: **Tatiana, are we just a dream?**

TATIANA: **No, we are real. Young lady, I am Tatiana,
princess of costumes. This is Biff, who does
wonderful work for us in ...**

BIFF: **Hardware. Moondog is from sporting goods, and
Cookie is from cookware. And you are?**

TAYLOR: **My name is Taylor.**

BIFF: **What department are you from?**

TAYLOR: **Department? Uh ... human kids?**

COOKIE: **We don't sell those.**

MOONDOG: **This is *epic*! We *never* get to meet people from
"Outer Space!"**

TAYLOR: **I'm not from Outer Space!**

COOKIE: *(freaked out)* **Everything outside of the store is
Ouuuttteerrrr Spaaaaaacce ...**

TATIANA: **Well, I guess Christmas is the best time of year
to be locked in a store!**

TAYLOR: **So mannequins know all about Christmas?**

MANNEQUINS: *(ad lib.)* **Shuh! Duh! Yeah!**
(music begins to "We've Been Waiting All Year")

TATIANA: **Oh yes, Taylor! There's no season like
Christmas. We look forward to it *all year long*!**

TAYLOR: **Me too!**

SONG 3: “WE’VE BEEN WAITING ALL YEAR”

WE’VE BEEN WAITING ALL YEAR

Words and Music by Rob Howard

chorus

We’ve been waiting all year
Waiting all year for Christmas
We’ve been waiting all year
Waiting all year for Christmas to come

verse 1

Tis the season, every year, when music fills the air
Shoppers rushing, children laughing, smiles are everywhere
Kids and grown-ups make their lists of toys they hope they’ll find
Decorations everywhere, you can’t beat Christmas time

chorus

We’ve been waiting all year
Waiting all year for Christmas
We’ve been waiting all year
Waiting all year for Christmas to come

verse 2

We know that it’s easy this time of year
To forget the true meaning once the presents appear
But forget about all the gifts underneath our tree
It’s all about the baby Jesus born for you and me

chorus (x2)

We’ve been waiting all year
Waiting all year for Christmas
We’ve been waiting all year
Waiting all year for Christmas, for Christmas

chorus

We’ve been waiting all year
Waiting all year for Christmas
We’ve been waiting all year
Waiting all year for Christmas
Waiting all year for Christmas to come

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SCENE 3

TAYLOR: So, if you look forward to Christmas all year long, you know all about Jesus then, right?
(blank stares from Mannequins) Right?

BIFF: Never heard of no Jesus, but we sure know Christmas!

TAYLOR: I don't understand ... Christmas without Jesus? How is that possible?

COOKIE: Tatiana, tell her about Christmas!

TATIANA: Okay, everyone gather 'round, and I'll tell you the story of Christmas, as we've learned it over the years from the all-wise public-address system.

TAYLOR: You mean you learned it from Christmas songs in a store?!

(All sit down, excited to hear the story once again.)

TATIANA: Okay. Christmas, as we all know, lasts for 12 days in December, even though it starts just after Halloween now. It was started by a man named Felix Navidad and his wife Mary Kalikimaka. They lived in a place called "Whoville." They wore red-rose rain gear and they each had five golden wings. Every Christmas they went on a picnic with their friend Sandy Kloss at a boulder called Jingle Bell Rock, where they feasted on partridges, French hens and green soup called "Grinch."

TAYLOR: *(sarcastic)* Sounds fun.

TATIANA: Well, it was until ...

BIFF: I don't even like to think about it ...

ALL MANNEQUINS: *(sadly)* Grandma got run over by a reindeer.

COOKIE: *(happily)* But now, everything is great because Mondo-Mart invented "savings up to 40% throughout the store for the entire Christmas season," and everyone is happy!

MOONDOG: Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

TAYLOR: Oh, brother. That's. Not. Christmas!

COOKIE: It isn't?!

TAYLOR: Really?! Okay, that's it ...

(Taylor looks over at a display filled with books. She shuffles through the books quickly, looking for something. She triumphantly holds up a Bible.)

TAYLOR: Ah, here it is. You *do* have one!

BIFF: A what?

TAYLOR: A Bible.

MOONDOG: Bibles? "Aisle 23!"

COOKIE: "Leather or hardback?" "It's a great gift idea! Buy one today!"

TAYLOR: You guys! It's not just something you sell. The Bible is God's story. It's a message from the creator of the world, and it all points to Jesus! His birth and His death and resurrection.

BIFF: Resa-what?

TAYLOR: Well, that's later. But it may be the most important thing in the Bible. For right now, you just need to know that Christmas is about Jesus! And when He came to live on earth with the people He created!

MOONDOG: So, like, are you gonna tell us what happened in that Bible from aisle 23? Don't be holdin' out on us, Taylor!

TAYLOR: *(excited now to tell the story)* Okay, it starts a long, long time ago. Like I said, God created the whole world, and He wanted everyone to know Him. But people turned their backs on God. Yet He still wanted to save them and bring them back to Himself. *(music begins to "Come, O Come, Emmanuel")* He promised He would do it. Just when everyone thought that God had forgotten them, something amazing started to happen!

SONG 4: “COME, O COME, EMMANUEL” COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

Words and Music by Rob Howard

chorus

Come, O come, Emmanuel
Son of God and Son of Man
Come, O come, Emmanuel
Prince of Peace, the Great I AM
Come, O come, Emmanuel
King of kings and Lord of lords
Come, O come, Emmanuel
Come, Salvation, for the world

verse 1

The prophets had foretold it, a King would come to save
Four hundred years of silence, they waited for that day
Faithfully, they watched for His coming, they listened for the Word
When that announcement would bring the best news ever heard

chorus

Come, O come, Emmanuel
Son of God and Son of Man
Come, O come, Emmanuel
Prince of Peace, the Great I AM
Come, O come, Emmanuel
King of kings and Lord of lords
Come, O come, Emmanuel
Come, Salvation, for the world

verse 2

The days of waiting are over, we can embrace the One
The Living God, Jesus Christ, God's only Son
Open your eyes to see Him, open your ears to hear
Invite the Savior of the world to come near

chorus

Come, O come, Emmanuel
Son of God and Son of Man
Come, O come, Emmanuel
Prince of Peace, the Great I AM
Come, O come, Emmanuel
King of kings and Lord of lords
Come, O come, Emmanuel

Come, Salvation, for the world

bridge

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

chorus

Come, O come, Emmanuel
Son of God and Son of Man
Come, O come, Emmanuel
Prince of Peace, the Great I AM
Come, O come, Emmanuel
King of kings and Lord of lords
Come, O come, Emmanuel
Come, Salvation, for the world
Come, Salvation, for the world
Come, Salvation, for the world

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SCENE 4

(At stage right, two police officers arrive at the door to the store. They are somewhat good-natured bumblers. They are excited at their chance to really work a big crime. Inside the store set is dimly lit, and we see the mannequins and Taylor mime a conversation.)

TESS: **A silent alarm?!**

BARNEY: **Yep! Goes off if there's a lot of movement in the store after closing.**

TESS: **Burglars, you think?**

BARNEY: **There's one way to tell!**

(Triumphantly, he pulls out a briefcase and opens it. Inside is a bunch of wires attached to a stethoscope.)

TESS: *(in awe)* **What's that?!**

BARNEY: **It's a listening device. We just got it. Ordered it on-line! With this little baby, we can hear everything that's going on in the store!**

(He puts the stethoscope cup against the door and starts listening through the earpieces.)

TESS: **What do you hear ...**

BARNEY: **Okay, there's some guy named Manuel. The guy must be a pretty bad hombre, because there are a bunch of people that need to be saved—and fast! Pretty sure I heard a little girl, and I heard some other people talking about how much**

“profit” they were gonna make ... something
about profits, anyway!

TESS: It’s a robbery alright! Should we bust in?!

BARNEY: Yeah, I think maybe we oughtta ... *wait!* There’s
a girl in there! If we bust in now, they might
take her hostage!

TESS: Okay, no need to hurry. Let’s just take this nice
and slow.

*(Lights up on the Interior Store set. Taylor is
reading to an enrapt group of mannequins sitting
on the floor.)*

MOONDOG: So this Jesus person, He came from heaven?

TAYLOR: He’s more than a person! He’s the Son of God,
the creator of everything. And He came to earth
to be with us and to save us.

COOKIE: Save?! Save?! *(P.A.-speak again)* “After Christmas
you can save a bunch!”

BIFF: “Forty percent off!”

MOONDOG: “Man, we’re *giving* the stuff away!”

TATIANA: *(dramatically)* “We must be *crazy!*”

BIFF: “Savings in every department!”

TAYLOR: Not that kind of saving! Jesus not only saved us,
He created us!

MOONDOG: Dudette! Maybe He created *you*, but my tag says my creator was “Ron” at Acme Mannequins of Carbondale, Illinois. I’ve never met “Ron.” I’d love it if I could meet that dude.

TAYLOR: I *do* know my creator. He’s Jesus, and He came to earth because He loves people. He came to earth to save us. *(trying to explain)* Moondog, what if the store was on fire and you were trapped, and “Ron” from Acme Mannequins of Carbondale, Illinois ran in and saved you?

MOONDOG: *(laughs)* Why would he do that? He’s probably made a million mannequins!

TAYLOR: But if someone told you that “Ron” was coming to save you ...

MOONDOG: *(solemnly)* That would be the most awesome news ever.

TAYLOR: Well, that’s what happened on the very first Christmas! On the night that Jesus was born, angels came from heaven to tell the people that the God who made us was sending His own Son to save us.

BIFF: That musta been quite a night!

TAYLOR: It sure was. Here’s how the Bible tells it, in Luke chapter 2 ... *(music begins to “What a Night”)* “And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

**Today in the town of David a Savior has been
born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”**

SONG 5: “WHAT A NIGHT”

WHAT A NIGHT

Words and Music by Rob Howard

verse 1

While shepherds watched their flocks by night
All seated on the ground
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around
“Fear not,” he said for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled minds
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind, to you and all mankind.”

chorus

What a night when the angels filled the sky
I can hear them cry
What a night with the star shining bright
I can imagine the sight
Good news, great joy, for all mankind
When the praises of God rang out, what a night

verse 2

All glory be to God on high and to the earth be peace
Goodwill for all from heav’n to men
Begin and never cease, begin and never cease

chorus

What a night when the angels filled the sky
I can hear them cry
What a night with the star shining bright
I can imagine the sight
Good news, great joy, for all mankind
When the praises of God rang out, what a night

bridge

(choir 1) Good news, great joy, for all mankind, in excelsis deo, in excelsis deo

(choir 2) Gloria, in excelsis deo, in excelsis deo

chorus

What a night when the angels filled the sky
I can hear them cry

What a night with the star shining bright
I can imagine the sight
Good news, great joy, for all mankind
When the praises of God rang out
And the glory of God came down, what a night

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SCENE 5

TATIANA: Taylor, would you provide some assistance?

BIFF: She means—could ya help us out with somethin’?

TAYLOR: Sure!

TATIANA: Due to our created function, we have difficulty in visualizing important things that we are not able to view.

(Taylor just looks at Biff, confused.)

BIFF: Tatiana means, we’re all about displays. Mannequins *are* displays! It’s hard for us to understand anything we can’t see. Is there any way you could show us a display that would help us understand the story?

TAYLOR: Ohhhh! I get it! A display ... hmmm. Wait! A manger scene!

MOONDOG: Is that anything like a nativity scene?

TAYLOR: Yes! It’s the same thing! Does the store have one?

COOKIE: No. We heard there was such a thing a few years ago, but they got rid of it because some people didn’t like it. Put a lot of good mannequins out of work.

TAYLOR: That shouldn’t stop us! We could build a manger scene right here!

BIFF: With what stuff?

TAYLOR: **Anything! This store is full of things we can use.
Let's look at what we need. (*opening the Bible
and reading*) "While they were there, the time
came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth
to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in
cloths and placed him in a manger, because
there was no guest room available for them."**

COOKIE: **Who is "she"?**

TAYLOR: **That's Mary. She's the woman God chose to give
birth to Jesus. And Joseph was the man who had
promised to be her husband.**

TATIANA: **We need a baby! (*Tatiana hurries off*)**

MOONDOG: **And cloths for the baby! (*Moondog hurries off*)**

COOKIE: **And a manger! I'll go get a manger! (*She runs
several feet then stops and turns around.*) Uh,
what's a manger?**

TAYLOR: **A manger is a feeding trough ... kind of a place
to put hay for the donkeys and the sheep that
were in the stable with them.**

BIFF: **I can make ya one of those!**

*(As he trots off, Moondog returns holding towels
and a large decorative angel. The larger the
better.)*

MOONDOG: **Check this out! I found cloths and an angel!**

TAYLOR: **Wow! An angel!**

*(Cookie tries to communicate with the angel as if
she's speaking a foreign language. She says her
words carefully and deliberately.)*

COOKIE: **Hello, angel. My name is Cookie! We are all mannequins. We are glad to have you with us!**

TATIANA: **She's a decoration, not a mannequin, Cookie. She can't speak.**

COOKIE: *(sheepishly)* **I knew that.**

MOONDOG: ***Everybody* knows that. Mannequins talk, decorations do not. Get your head on straight.**

COOKIE: *(puts her hands on her head and moves it around)*
Is it crooked again?

(Tatiana returns with a baby doll, and Biff with a basket on a small table, or something similar, which he has filled with shredded paper.)

TATIANA: **Here! A newborn child!**

(as Taylor wraps the baby in Moondog's towels)

BIFF: **Here's da' manger! I even put shredded paper in it to look like hay!**

TAYLOR: **What are we gonna do for Mary? For Joseph? For the shepherds?**

MOONDOG: **I've got a cousin over in men's clothing!**

TATIANA: **My sister Alexa is employed in sportswear. We can get other mannequins to help.**

TAYLOR: *(as she gently places the baby in the "manger")*
This is going to be wonderful.

*(Tatiana and the others are staring at the baby,
somewhat amazed.)*

TATIANA: **It seems amazing that God came to earth as such
a little baby. He must love people very much.**

(music begins to “God Is Here with Us”)

TAYLOR: **Well, God didn’t just come to save people. He
became one of us. When Jesus was born in
Bethlehem as a little baby, the creator of the
world, and the creator of all people, became a
person. God ... with ... us.**

SONG 6: "GOD IS HERE WITH US"

GOD IS HERE WITH US

Words and Music by Rob Howard

chorus

God is here with us
God is here with us
Peace has come to Bethlehem and to the world
God is here with us
God is here with us
Love is now among us like never before
Let the earth rejoice
God is here with us

verse

All around the manger gathered
See the shepherds come bow down
Mary and Joseph hold Him closely
Through the night His praise rings out

chorus

God is here with us
God is here with us
Peace has come to Bethlehem and to the world
God is here with us
God is here with us
Love is now among us like never before
Let the earth rejoice
God is here with us

bridge

O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

chorus

God is here with us
God is here with us
Peace has come to Bethlehem and to the world
God is here with us
God is here with us
Love is now among us like never before
Let the earth rejoice

God is here with us
Let the earth rejoice
God is here with us

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SCENE 6

(The scene begins outside the entrance to the store. Lights are out on the Interior Set. It is a scene with lots of activity. Mr. Ebenezer has returned to the store. The campers are back with the counselor, Kim, Joey, Madison, and Brooke. A BigStuff News Network reporter, Candy Little, is reporting “from the scene.” She faces the audience directly, as if on camera.)

CANDY: For BigStuff News Network, this is Candy Little reporting! A huge police standoff is underway at the Mondo-Mart store in Forest Creek. With me is Deputy Tess Andrews. Deputy Andrews, can you tell me what’s going on?

TESS: *(trying to act “too cool.”)* Well, Candy, it appears that we have a burglary in progress. We suspect that there might be as many as one hundred dangerous burglars inside the store. We’ve used high-tech listening devices and believe we know exactly what’s going on.

(Barney stands nearby as Tess goes over to listen through the door again.)

CANDY: Thank you, Deputy. We now have the store manager, Tom Ebenezer. Mr. Ebenezer, we’ve been told that the Deputies have heard discussions about *(referring to a pad)* angels, Jesus, and Emmanuel coming from the store.

EBENEZER: That’s impossible, Candy! We at Mondo-Mart are very careful to keep religion out of Christmas.

BARNEY: *(blurts)* Well, *that's* a good trick. How do you do that?

EBENEZER: It's not easy, but we're committed to communicating the true meaning of the holidays, so people know that they *(looking directly into and pointing at the "camera")* can save 40% throughout the store, here at Mondo-Mart—thru December 24th!

CANDY: *(to Tess)* What are you hearing inside the store now, Deputy?

TESS: *(answers from the door)* Lots of movement. Sounds like things are being moved around, or dragged. Not sure what's happening.

CANDY: *(to Barney)* So what's your next move, Deputy?

BARNEY: Well, Candy, it seems like we're coming up on the time where we'll have to bust through the door and end this situation!

CANDY: *(faces the audience)* Well, there you have it ... a burglary gone wrong, and the Deputies are just about to end a tense standoff! Reporting from Creekside, this is Candy Little, BigStuff News Network.

(Lights down on the Exterior Set, lights up on the Interior Set.)

BIFF: *(proudly)* I made a donkey out of a stick-pony and a saw-horse.

TAYLOR: That's beautiful! Now all we need are Wise Men.

BIFF: Well, you've come to the wrong place!

TAYLOR: No! Wise Men! Magi! They were men who studied everything they could find about God and about science. They lived a long, long way away ... well, let's just listen to what the Bible says in Matthew: "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?'"

COOKIE: They knew He was going to be born? How did they find Him if they were from a long way away?

TAYLOR: God provided a star for them to follow that brought them to Jesus. Listen! (*reading again*) "The star ... went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."

MOONDOG: Well Taylor, if you have enough cash, you can buy the baby some mondo gifts here at Mondo-Mart!

(*music begins to "I Offer Him My Life"*)

TAYLOR: Moondog, I don't really have any money, but that doesn't matter. I think I know just the thing I can bring to Jesus ...

SONG 7: “I OFFER HIM MY LIFE”

I OFFER HIM MY LIFE

Words and Music by Rob Howard

verse 1

Jesus came from heaven to earth
He left His throne for a humble birth
No greater love ever seen
No greater gift we’ve ever received

channel

What am I to bring?
What’s a gift fit for a King?

chorus

My alleluias and my praises ring
His worship fills the sky
No other gift is fit to bring the King
So I offer Him my life
I offer Him my life

verse 2

Wise men, traveling far
On a journey, follow a star
Bearing gifts for a King
Bowing down with their offering

channel

What am I to bring?
What’s a gift fit for a King?

chorus

My alleluias and my praises ring
His worship fills the sky
No other gift is fit to bring the King
So I offer Him my life
I offer Him my life

bridge

O come and worship
Come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

chorus

My alleluias and my praises ring

His worship fills the sky
No other gift is fit to bring the King
So I offer Him my life
I offer Him my life
I offer Him my life
So I offer Him my life

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SCENE 7

(As the song ends, the front door bursts open, and in comes Tess, Barney, Mrs. Jones, Mr. Ebenezer, Candy Little, Kim and the campers. The mannequins instantly freeze. As the crowd enters, they stop almost immediately when they see only Taylor.)

DEPUTIES: **Police! Freeze ...**

(A moment of confusion where everybody just looks around.)

BARNEY: *(to Taylor)* **Where are the burglars?**

TESS: **Are you okay, little girl?**

TAYLOR: **I'm fine!**

BARNEY: **Are you sure? Where did they go?**

TAYLOR: **Who?!**

BARNEY: **The burglars!**

TAYLOR: **Burglars? There weren't any burglars in here!**

TESS: **So much for mail-order listening devices.**

BARNEY: *(whiney)* **But I *heard* them!**

EBENEZER: *(spying the nativity scene)* **Who moved my mannequins?! And what's *this*?!**

MRS. JONES: **That looks ... like ... a nativity scene.**

CANDY: *(seeing the nativity scene and walking over)* **Mr. Ebenezer, this is the most beautiful nativity scene I've seen all season. Who thought of including mannequins to represent everyday people? It's brilliant! Not only do they have the traditional clothing, but underneath we see that people from every part of life worship Jesus now? What creativity! Would you mind if I did a story on it? Lots of publicity for your store.**

EBENEZER: **Well, Candy, uh ... we're ... very proud of our new nativity scene. Sure you can!**

(Taylor just stands there as her friends crowd around her. She appears to have reverted to her overly shy self.)

KIM: **Are you okay, Taylor?**

(Taylor just looks at the now-frozen mannequins and at everyone else. Candy approaches her, sticks a microphone in her face and asks her a question.)

CANDY: **Candy Little, BSN News. Taylor, we heard so many things tonight and now we don't know what's true and what's not! Help us out! What's the scoop?**

(Taylor just stares awkwardly at the audience/camera and looks at the microphone. She looks terrified. There is a long, awkward moment as Kim walks up to Candy and gently tries to explain.)

KIM: **Candy, Taylor probably can't answer you. You see, she's very ...**

(At this moment, Taylor grabs the microphone.)

TAYLOR: **Lemme have that!** *(now, looking into “the camera” straight at the audience)* **Everybody thought they heard something tonight. The police thought they heard a bunch of burglars, but they were wrong. Some people thought they heard that the real story of Christmas comes from a store. That’s not true either. And some people are just afraid to talk, because they’re afraid people will make fun of them.**

KIM: **Taylor! You’re talking!**

TAYLOR: **Yep. You know what, everybody needs to hear the true Christmas story. Lots of people think they’ve heard all about why we look forward to Christmas all year long, but they’re missing it. Tonight, I’m hearing it all like it’s the first time! And when we’ve got news this good, people gotta hear it!**

(All are looking at Taylor, and behind her, you see the mannequins jumping up and down cheering her. Moondog jumps up and yells.)

MOONDOG: **Dude, you hear what I hear?!**

(Everybody turns around, and he freezes again. Confused, they turn and look back at Taylor.)

BROOKE: **Dude, you hear what I hear?**

MADISON: **Shhhh!**

CANDY: *(proudly)* People all over the world have been watching our coverage of this tense situation. What would you like to tell them?

(Taylor walks over to Moondog, who remains frozen. In the mannequin's hand is a Bible! She takes the Bible from his hand.)

TAYLOR: Thank you, Moondog.

MRS. JONES: Why is the mannequin holding a Bible? And who is Moondog?

TAYLOR: *(holding up the Bible)* It's all right in here! There is good news of great joy for all the people. A Savior has been born, and He is Christ the Lord. Give God the glory!

CAMPERS: *(all agree, cheer, etc.)*

(Taylor is mobbed and hugged by her friends.)

CANDY: Well, there you have it from Forest Creek. Burglars in a store? Obviously not. Voices? Just the public address system. A burglary in progress? I think not. A good reporter has a sixth sense about these kind of things. I knew it all the time. *(music begins to "Can You Hear It?")* And if you can hear what I heard, it's that even a dummy can hear the Good News of Christmas!

SONG 8: “CAN YOU HEAR IT?”

CAN YOU HEAR IT?

Words and Music by Rob Howard

chorus 1

Can you hear it?
The sound of Christmas ringing
Listen the whole earth's singing
Christ is born
Raise your voices
Come on and join the chorus
God has made a way for us
Christ is born

chorus 1

Can you hear it?
The sound of Christmas ringing
Listen the whole earth's singing
Christ is born
Raise your voices
Come on and join the chorus
God has made a way for us
Christ is born

chorus 2

Sing His praises
Sing out the name of Jesus
He has come to save us
Shout it out for the world to hear
Sing His praises
Sing out Our God is with us
The God of the universe is near
Shout it out for the world to hear

bridge

Oh, oh, oh
Can you hear it?
Oh, oh, oh
The sound is rising up
Oh, oh, oh
Can you hear it?
Oh, oh, oh
It's the sound of God's great love

chorus choir 1

Can you hear it?
The sound of Christmas ringing
Listen the whole earth's singing
Christ is born
Raise your voices
Come on and join the chorus
God has made a way for us
Christ is born

chorus choir 2

Sing His praises
Sing out the name of Jesus
He has come to save us
Shout it out for the world to hear
Sing His praises
Sing out our God is with us
The God of the universe is near
Shout it out for the world to hear

chorus choir 1

Sing His praises
Sing out the name of Jesus
He has come to save us
Shout it out for the world to hear
Sing His praises
Sing out our God is with us
The God of the universe is near
Shout it out for the world to hear
Shout it out for the world to hear

chorus choir 2

Can you hear it?
The sound of Christmas ringing
Listen the whole earth's singing
Christ is born
Raise your voices
Come on and join the chorus
God has made a way for us
Christ is born
Shout it out for the world to hear
Shout it out for the world to hear

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SONG 9: “DUDE, YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR? CURTAIN CALLS”

DUDE, YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR? CURTAIN CALLS

Words and Music by Rob Howard

WHAT A NIGHT

bridge

(choir 1) Good news, great joy, for all mankind, in excelsis deo, in excelsis deo

(choir 2) Gloria, in excelsis deo, in excelsis deo

(choir 1) Good news, great joy, for all mankind, in excelsis deo, in excelsis deo

(choir 2) Gloria, in excelsis deo, in excelsis deo

chorus

What a night when the angels filled the sky

I can hear them cry

What a night with the star shining bright

I can imagine the sight

Good news, great joy, for all mankind

When the praises of God rang out

And the glory of God came down, what a night

CAN YOU HEAR IT?

bridge

Oh, oh, oh

Can you hear it?

Oh, oh, oh

The sound is rising up

Oh, oh, oh

Can you hear it?

Oh, oh, oh

It's the sound of God's great love

chorus choir 1

Can you hear it?

The sound of Christmas ringing

Listen the whole earth's singing

Christ is born

Raise your voices

Come on and join the chorus

God has made a way for us

Christ is born

chorus choir 2

Sing His praises
Sing out the name of Jesus
He has come to save us

chorus choir 1

Sing His praises
Sing out the name of Jesus
He has come to save us
Shout it out for the world to hear
Sing His praises
Sing out our God is with us
The God of the universe is near
Shout it out for the world to hear
Shout it out for the world to hear
Shout it out for the world to hear

Shout it out for the world to hear
Sing His praises
Sing out our God is with us
The God of the universe is near
Shout it out for the world to hear

chorus choir 2

Can you hear it?
The sound of Christmas ringing
Listen the whole earth's singing
Christ is born
Raise your voices
Come on and join the chorus
God has made a way for us
Christ is born
Shout it out for the world to hear
Shout it out for the world to hear

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THE END