

the Night before Christmas



Relaxed Pack 

A Polka Theatre and Royal & Derngate,
Northampton Co-Production

The Night Before Christmas

Amber is six and loves reindeer! It's Christmas Eve but Grandad is feeling tired and Amber's favourite snow-globe gets broken. Then her world is turned topsy turvy by a surprise visitor and Amber begins an adventure she will never forget.

Join Amber on a festive journey like no other - after all, on the night before Christmas, anything can happen.

Inspired by **Clement Clarke Moore's** much-loved poem 'Twas the Night Before Christmas', we bring Christmas Eve to life in an exciting original production written by **Hattie Naylor** featuring music, skilful puppetry and a generous sprinkling of festive magic.

Creative Team

Original Play Written by **Hattie Naylor**

Directed by **Roman Stefanski**

Music by **Julian Butler**

Set and Costume Design by **Kate Bunce**

Lighting Design by **Aaron J Dootson**

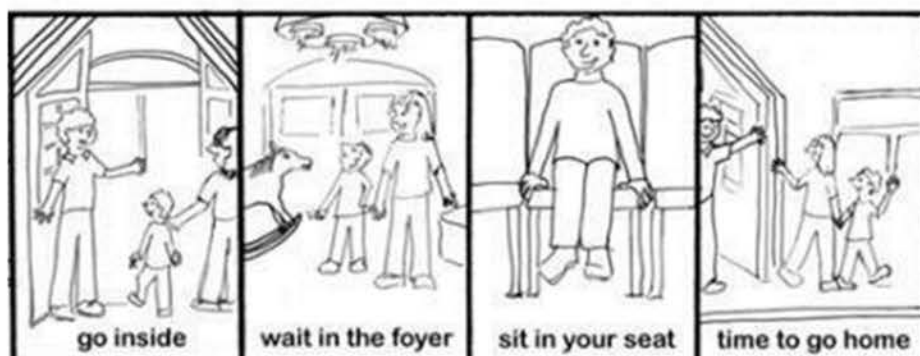
Cast

Angelle Ruhana

Stephan Boyce



Picture information strip- this is what you will do when you go inside:



To prepare you for your visit we have put together a synopsis - this is to help you to understand the story that you are about to see and prepare you for what to expect during the performance.

The performance will last approximately 50 minutes.

The Night Before Christmas

This heart-warming play consists of 2 actors and one of the actors will play more than one role. The actor playing more than one role will change costumes to represent their change in character.

The actors will use props & puppets to recreate key moments in their story.

This is the performance space and set as you first see it:



The scene is set in the living room of a flat. Amber has recently moved in with her Grandad so there are boxes of her stuff everywhere.

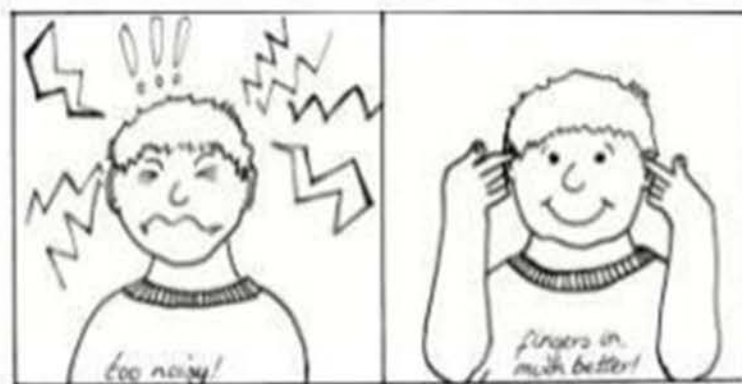
There is a sofa and a side table on the left-hand side of the stage, and a large window at the back of the set which is located slightly off centre to the left. On the right-hand side of the stage, there are lots of boxes stacked on furniture and to the far right of the set there is a Christmas tree with presents underneath it. The room looks like a standard living room featuring everyday items, plus lots of additional clutter.



During the show, the actors might interact with you. You are welcome to respond to characters performance and laugh or smile at any time.



During the show, you might see something that makes you feel sad or scared. You are allowed to feel sad or scared, that is ok.



If you see this symbol, it means there will be a loud or unexpected noise and you can put your fingers in your ears.



If you see this symbol, it means there will be visual projections, or something visual happening onstage that will aid with the storytelling.



If you see this symbol, it means you will hear music or there will be a song.



If you see this symbol, it means you will hear a sound effect coming from the speakers.



If you see this symbol, it means there will be a change in lighting and you can cover your eyes.

Pre-Show



You will hear a pre-recorded voice over coming from the speakers. This is Father Christmas welcoming you to the theatre and informing you of some safety guidelines to adhere to.

Scene 1. Part 1. The Night Before

Magical Christmas music will begin to play and the lighting will brighten.



It's Christmas Eve and Amber is feeling particularly grumpy. Auntie Mina calls and invites Amber and Grandad to spend Christmas with the family. It soon becomes clear that Amber and Grandad are not feeling the Christmas spirit this year and Amber does not want to go. In this scene you will hear a phone ringing and Auntie Mina's voice coming through the speakers as if she is on loud speaker. This voice is pre-recorded.



Scene 1. Part 2. The Magical Thinking Place



Grandad attempts to understand why Amber is feeling so negative and takes Amber to 'the magical thinking place' to find out. Every time they visit the 'magical thinking place' they will play a ukulele and a glockenspiel.



It is soon time for bed. Grandad makes a pretend chimney for Santa using everyday household items, before reading a section of Amber's favourite poem, 'Twas The Night before Christmas' to help her fall asleep.



There will be a lighting change when Grandad reads out the poem. There will also be a winding sound effect coming through the speakers as Grandad winds the snow globe and magical music will play when Grandad reads.



Before Grandad leaves for bed he will try to fix the Christmas tree lights. They will temporarily work before glitching and turning off. The stage will remain dimly lit.

Scene 2. Part 1. Enter Blitzen



You will hear music coming from behind the audience seating area. Blitzen the reindeer will enter from the back of the room playing loud music through his boombox. He sniffs around Amber's living room before making himself comfortable with Amber's duvet and falling asleep by the Christmas tree.

Amber wakes up for Christmas and she is excited to see what Santa has left for her. Here she finds Blitzen asleep next to the false chimney. She wakes him up with excitement and tries to understand what he is doing there. Blitzen is hesitant to explain, but it soon becomes clear that he has also lost his Christmas spirit due to an incident that occurred last Christmas.



Glitter drops from the ceiling representing a text message from Santa. There will be x4 glitter texts in this scene and each one will be a different colour.



Scene 2. Part 2. Blitzen in the magical thinking place



In efforts to reunite Blitzen with Santa and the other reindeers, Amber takes Blitzen to 'the magical thinking place' to think of a plan to find his Christmas spirit.

They try exchanging Christmas presents but this does not work. Amber realises the best way to find the missing Christmas spirit is to physically go and find it. The only way they can do this is by teleporting, which is a special reindeer talent.



Whilst Amber gets ready for the adventure, Blitzen accidentally breaks her precious snow globe that belonged to her mother. He claims he can fix this using his reindeer magic, but this does not work. You will hear a breaking sound coming through the speakers as the globe breaks.

The pair then get ready to teleport to another location to find the missing spirit. Here Blitzen will speak out to the audience and ask 'if anyone believes in Christmas'. He will ask you to do reindeer hooves with your hands to help with the magic and send your Christmas spirit their way.



Scene 3. The Playground



There will be a lighting change and a scene change to Amber's playground. This will be a miniature playground created using everyday items and the actors will use these props to re-create the scene. Music will be playing during this transition.

Amber and Blitzen try to find Amber's Christmas spirit at the playground and try out different activities to see if they can find it. The playground is completely empty with no other children playing, so they conclude that the Christmas spirit must not be there.



Blitzen receives another glitter text message from Santa.



They return back to the flat to figure out their next destination to find Blitzen's missing spirit.

Blitzen will then ask the audience to help with the magic and join in with reindeer hooves again before another scene change. Magical music will play during the transition.



Scene 4. The Chimney

The lighting will get darker and the scene will change to the chimney where Blitzen got stuck. This will again be a miniature version of the scenario and the actors will use puppet props to re-create the scene.



Blitzen re-creates the moment he fell into the chimney to try and find his lost spirit. He re-enacts the scene moment by moment, but he still can't find his Christmas spirit.

Amber begins to feel sad about her snow globe which prompts Blitzen to try something else.



They return back to the flat. The lighting will get brighter and music will play during the transition.



Blitzen will ask the audience to help with the magic and join in with reindeer hooves again before another scene change.

Scene 5. Part 1. The Elves workshop



There will be a scene change and a lighting change on the set and in the audience. The Actors will position white sheets around the set to look like snow before unveiling the elves workshop from within one of the cardboard boxes. This will be a miniature version of the workshop. There will be a video projection of snow on the mini window and smoke coming from the tiny chimney. Magical music will play during this transition.



Amber thinks they are at the workshop to find Blitzen's missing spirit, however, Blitzen really brought them here to fix the snow globe, which he fails to do. You will hear the sound of a broken spring coming through the speakers.



In desperation Blitzen sings the 'elves mending song' to see if that works instead. This is followed by another glitter text message from Santa.



Scene 5. Part 2. We've Found it!



In one final attempt to find the lost Christmas spirit, Amber and Blitzen revisit 'the magical thinking place'. Here they realise that all of the places they visited were empty and begin to understand that Christmas spirit is found when we are all together.



At this time, they celebrate their discovery and rock out. The lighting will gently flash in these 'rocking' moments.



Blitzen receives another glitter text message from Santa and asks Amber to join them on the sleigh. Whilst Amber packs, Blitzen fixes her globe. There will be a magical sound effect coming through the speakers and the globe will light up at this time.

Before returning to Santa to save Christmas, Blitzen asks the audience for magical assistance one final time.



Scene 6. Back at the flat

⚡ There will be a lighting and scene change back to the flat. There will be a video projection on the window of a sleigh crossing the night sky with Amber July on the back waving. Grandad enters the room on Christmas morning and catches a glimpse of Amber flying on Santa's sleigh. He is very confused. 🎵 Magical music will play during this transition.

Amber wakes up from the sofa extremely excited to share the news with Grandad that she has found the missing Christmas spirit – it's at Auntie Mina's!

👁️ She then realises that Blitzen did not fix her Mum's snow globe and begins to feel a little bit sad again. Grandad looks at the snow globe to fix it, but discovers it isn't broken. Blitzen fixed it after all! 🗣️ You will hear a winding sound coming through the speakers as Grandad winds the snow globe and the snow globe will light up and sparkle.

🎵 They both proceed to read out the poem 'Twas the Night before Christmas' on the magical Christmas day. Magical music will begin to play and the lighting will change with a magical effect.

🗣️ Finally, they call Auntie Mina to share the good news. You will hear the sound of a phone ringing coming through the speakers at this time.



The End.



The show has now finished. At the end of the show everyone will clap their hands, which is to show the actors and production team that they have enjoyed the show.



Please stay seated after the applause as the actors will bring out a miniature version of Father Christmas and his reindeers. As this happens, it will begin to snow in the theatre (carpeted areas are the main areas where the snow will fall).

