

Stageplay

Cast of Characters

<u>King Pumpernickel:</u>	traditional
<u>Queen :</u>	traditional
<u>Princess Crisobelle:</u>	traditional
<u>Town Crier:</u>	
<u>Lady Griselda:</u>	Ladies in waiting costume
<u>Lady Claudette:</u>	Ladies in waiting costume
<u>Lady Prunella:</u>	Lady in waiting costume
<u>Jester:</u>	Traditional jester/
<u>Children:</u>	
<u>Timmy :</u>	street children/ robe
<u>Tommy:</u>	street children/robe
<u>Mary:</u>	street children/robe
<u>Ruthies:</u>	street children/robe
<u>Sir Toothsome:</u>	Devonshire England chef carrying a hot dish knighthood
<u>Madame La Rose:</u>	far reaches of the world, Nepal fancy urn holding an elixer
<u>Dr. Claistoga:</u>	Italy, a scholar holding a philosopher's stone
<u>Lady Insulet:</u>	from Romania dark, mysterious w/ crystal ball
<u>additional props:</u>	french bread, rope, 4 trays with jewels and trinkets, scroll,

(MORE)

Cast of Characters (cont'd)

RUTHIE:

I will be merry! I'm going to pretend this is fresh baked bread I picked up at the bakery just this hour. I will tear it open and watch as the butter melts through.

TOMMY:

Thank-you butler (waves off the Minstrel) you may be dismissed. Ah I loved to be served warm bread on such a cold day. It is grand to be rich!

MARY:

Feed the birds! I have so much extra bread I will go down to the pond to feed the chickadees on such a cold day.

TIMMY:

Ah, quit your pretending and eat your bread or I'll snatch it from you and run away!

RUTHIE:

Timmy, you are no fun!

MINSTREL:

Children, children, you may be cold and you may be poor, but you never need be miserable.

TIMMY:

How can we keep from being miserable when we have nothing?

JESTER:

Maybe the question is 'How can you keep from being miserable when you have everything? (pointing out the sad princess as she walks by)

As this scene is unfolding the princess and her ladies-in-waiting notice the children but the "ladies-in-waiting" cannot be bothered with the poor"

FANFARE-THE BOAR'S HEAD

ROYAL COURT:

So many are in the feast, it is Boar's head that we eat!

Boar's Head Carol (verse one)

ROYAL COURT:

Let us serve with a song, we'll be eating Boar's Head ere too long!

(CONTINUED)

Boar's Head Carol (verse two)

ROYAL COURT:

In the Queen's hall we shall eat, the rarest of the rarest treat!

Boar's Head Carol (verse three)

MAIN COURSE

Scene 2 The Palace

Princess Cristobelle enters and falls into her throne. Ladies-in-waiting enter holding trays of jewels, trinkets etc. the Town Crier is "pulling a pony"

LADY PRUNELLA:

Princess how can you be so unhappy, look at all these beautiful jewels that were sent to the palace just for you.

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

Take them away!

LADY GRISELDA:

Princess Cristobelle, it is Christmas time, think of the parties, the balls, the outings you will be attending!

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

I will not attend one party, I cannot, I am too unhappy!

TOWN CRIER:

A pony Princess? I have a pony for you! Wouldn't you like to see it?

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

Take it away, all of it!

LADY CLAUDETTE:

Princess Cristobelle, how can you be so miserable on Christmas? Think of all you have. So many have nothing and you with everything and yet you are unhappy.

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

Oh Lady Claudette, don't you see... (runs off weeping)

Scene 3 The Proclamation

TOWN CRIER:

(reading from a scroll)

Hear ye, Hear

ye

One and

all

The King

Pumpnickel has declared this Christmas season to be

UN-MERRY.

This

proclamation has been made at the Princess

Cristobelle's request that no one make merry this

Christmas

season.

There

shall be no merriment such as singing, dancing,

laughing, giggling, exchanging of

presents. There will be not a stuffed goose,

fresh pudding or Rum

punch.

Anyone

engaging in such merriment and frolic will be sent to

the stocks or clock tower for the remainder on the

holiday

season.

Hear

Ye, Hear ye...

Scene 4 Minstrel/Jester at thePalace*Jester is dancing before an empty throne when the
Ladies-in-waiting enter*

JESTER:

My Fair Ladies!

LADY GRISELDA:

Impertinent Knave!

LADY PRUNELLA:

Saucy Vagabond!

LADY CLAUDETTE:

Sassy Jester!

Jester bows again

LADY GRISELDA:

How dare you dance before the thrones of their

majesties!

JESTER:

And why not? It is to dance that I came--to dance with
the Princess Cristobelle on Christmas.

(CONTINUED)

LADY GRISELDA:

To dance with the Princess?

LADY PRUNELLA:

Are you for an early grave?

LADY CLAUDETTE:

Be off with you, dolt! There will be no dancing in this palace, no, nor in all the town the Christmas.

JESTER:

What are you talking about ?!

LADY GRISELDA:

You are a fool indeed! Can you not hear and read? In every tavern and market place you may see the King's orders and throughout the whole land the criers carry the command that there shall be no dancing and feasting this Yule-tide.

JESTER:

No dancing and feasting! Why this is a grave matter. Now what could have gotten into his Majesty to spoil Christmas time like that?

LADY PRUNELLA:

There's plenty that's got into the King, and just to save your silly noodle I'll tell you. The Princess Cristobelle refuses to be merry.

JESTER:

What?! Not even if you tickle her soles with a feather?

ALL:

NO!

JESTER:

Not even if you recite the seven silly riddles of Glenhaven which are the funniest in existence?

ALL:

NOT EVEN!

JESTER:

Ah, but the fine presents she will be receiving from her Father, they will set her tiny hand's a clapping and her feet a tapping.

LADY GRISELDA:

But there you are wrong again. The princess will have none of her Father's presents or her Mother's, or ours!

JESTER:

You don't tell me?

LADY PRUNELLA:

She sighed when the King placed a beautiful diamond necklace around her neck, one that had been worn by 27 princess before her.

LADY CLAUDETTE:

And when we brought her a most beautiful gown of ruby red silk that would trail behind her 100 feet, ..she yawned.

LADY PRUNELLA:

And at the very sight of a milk white pony trained to bow at her feet--she burst into tears!

JESTER:

Well! I guess to much of a good thing can be bad...Now perhaps if I ...

LADY GRISELDA:

Perhaps you will be taking yourself out of the palace before you are thrown out!

LADY PRUNELLA:

And you better be heeding what we have to say, even if you are just a silly jester, we do not want to see your neck hanging from the gallows.

LADY CLAUDETTE:

Mind you, not a caper or a tune, not a melody or tap, or your neck will be stretched as long as a giraffes'.

JESTER:

Then I'll be off. But sing I must and shall. Not for all the melancholy princesses and lily-liver kings in the land will I sit a-moping on Christmas Day. God keep you!

LADY GRISELDA:

Were it not high treason to do so, I should think the princess a horrid person for spoiling our Christmas fun!

LADY PRUNELLA:

And so should I!...if it were not a capital offense against the crown.

LADY CLAUDETTE:

Well, perhaps, when the King's four guests from around the world arrive with their gifts for the princess, she will be pleased.

(CONTINUED)

LADY GRISELDA:

'Tis said they bring mysterious and lovely gifts that would delight any sensible person.

LADY PRUNELLA:

And in that is where the problem lies. I do not believe our princess is being sensible.

LADY CLAUDETTE:

Ah, but maybe she will forget her melancholy in spite of herself and we all can be merry for one day.

FANFARE: THE DESSERT

TOWN CRIER:

Their Majesties!

KING:

Escort the Princess Cristobelle to her throne.

(cont'd)

Oh dear, oh dear! What did we ever do that our child should be so unhappy!

KING:

I'm wondering that myself. Didn't I give her everything she wanted from the day she could point her little finger?

QUEEN:

You did. And didn't I let her have her own will from the time she lay in her golden cradle?

KING:

I'm sure you always did, my dear.

QUEEN:

And it's the entire kingdom that's unhappy with her. Would you believe that I can't even have a smell of a goose or a Christmas tree in the palace. The housekeeper's upset and can't keep the servants in order with all this gloom and depression.

KING:

I could stand a bit of dance myself.

TOWN CRIER:

The Princess Cristobelle.

QUEEN:

How are you feeling, my pet?

(CONTINUED)

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

Alas, I grow more melancholy every hour.

KING:

(To the princess)

Now my dear, we have arranged a little surprise for you.

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

Not another silly Christmas present, really Father!

QUEEN:

Oh no, no indeed. We quite understand how you feel about Christmas.

KING:

It's just that we want you to have everything that can possibly bring you happiness. In all the world there are four things you haven't for and now I'm having them brought to you.

QUEEN:

I'm sure when I was a girl I should have been..

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

Mother please!

QUEEN:

Very well my dear, but what I was going to say is true nonetheless.

TOWN CRIER:

The for strangers have arrived, your Majesty.

KING:

Bid them enter.

Each guest is escorted in by a robed page

TOWN CRIER:

The Lady Insulet from Transylvania, Romania.

LADY INSULET:

Princess Cristobelle, I bring you all power and knowledge. Behold my gazing ball, it will tell you the past as well as the future.

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

Is that so. Tell me then Lady Insulet why am I so unhappy.

(CONTINUED)

LADY INSULET:

(begins chant and rubbing her gazing ball)

Gazing ball, gazing ball as I look deep into the core of your being show us the true reason the princess is unhappy this Christmas season.

KING:

What does it show you? I demand you tell us!

LADY INSULET:

The princess is unhappy because her dog was run over by an out of control horse and cart!

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

This is ridiculous, I have no dog!

LADY INSULET:

Yes, yes I know,. It has been run over by a horse and cart!

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

Send her away.

LADY INSULET:

Wait your princess, I have not told you your future. That is where the wonders lie, the magic. I will make you merry all the days of your life. Gazing Ball, Gazing Ball, show us what is in store for the Princess Cristobelle's future.

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

Stop! I do not wish to see tomorrow or any other day in the future.

LADY INSULET:

You do not wish to see what pleasures are in store for you?

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

To know would spoil everything. No, you and your gazing ball with all its wonders, are powerless to help me. Take it away.

Lady Insulet bows and takes a position at the right of the throne.

TOWN CRIER:

Sir Toothsome from Devonshire, England.

SIR TOOTH SOME:

Princess Cristobelle, I won my knighthood with a rabbit pasty and never, never has that pasty been surpassed

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SIR TOOTH SOME: (cont'd)

until now! In this peacock pie I have expressed my very soul! Merely to smell it is to know paradise! (he holds it out for the princess to sniff, she curls her nose and backs away) But to eat it! Ah, that is to know seven heavens at once! What joy lies in that flaky, golden crust! What delight lurks in the juicy, savory meat within! Happiness, my dear Princess, lives in the stomach. Devour my peacock pie and the mere recollection of it will bring you everlasting merriment!

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

Sir Toothsome, it is well known that a pasty is the apothecary's best friend.

SIR TOOTH SOME:

Ah you cut me to the quick--what do you mean apothecary's best friend?

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

I would be forced to go to the apothecary to request the pink bottle for my burning, churning stomach!

SIR TOOTH SOME:

Well I never.

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

Take that smelly pie from me!

Moves to stand by Lady Insulet

TOWN CRIER:

Madame la Rose, from the far reaches of the orient, Kathmandu.

MADAME LA ROSE:

Princess Cristobelle, loveliest princess in all the land, I will make you lovelier still. Here is my secret of everlasting and supreme beauty.

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

What? And have more suitors try their luck at winning my hand in marriage because of my beauty. I'm not so sure this would bring me happiness.

MADAME LA ROSE:

You are fair, ah, yes, but when you touch your cheek with my magic oils they will be of the texture of Helen of Troy. What greater boon do you possess than the gift of beauty I am about to give you?

(CONTINUED)

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

But does beauty bring happiness?

MADAME LA ROSE:

Dear Princess, no. Beauty makes ones life move more swiftly, brilliantly perilously. But Happiness--that is something which I cannot tell you. Its secret does not lie in cosmetics.

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

But that is the only gift I desire.

MADAME LA ROSE:

Ah, there I cannot help you.

Moves to stand by Sir Toothsome

TOWN CRIER:

Dr. Calistoga from Treviso, Italy.

DR. CALISTOGA:

Nobel Princess, I bring you the greatest gift in the world---endless wealth! Behold--the philosopher's stone.

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

And will it bring me happiness?

DR. CALISTOGA:

Happiness?! Who cares for that? What can surpass the satisfaction of unlimited gold?!

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

But gold is cold and lifeless. It is something else that I desire.

DR. CALISTOGA:

Then buy it! With unlimited wealth you can buy whatever it is that will make you happy. Ah, yes you can BUY happiness.

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

No, there is nothing, nothing in the world that can make me happy.

LADY GRISELDA:

What is that I hear?

LADY PRUNELLA:

Hush!

LADY CLAUDETTE:
Hark!

QUEEN:
Do I hear music?!?!?

KING:
Did I not forbid all festivity!?!?!?

LADY GRISELDA:
This is monstrous!

LADY PRUNELLA:
This is an outrage!

LADY CLAUDETTE:
Unforgivable!

KING:
Stop it at once!

QUEEN:
Don't let it upset you my dear, just plug your ears!

music grows louder

KING:
Stop that music! Stop it I say!!

LADY GRISELDA:
Your majesty, I will speak to the Majordomo.

QUEEN:
Don't listen my pet, it will soon be gone.

The princess listen intently the Majordomo rushes in.

KING:
Summon the palace guard to drive those revelers away!

The towncrier bows and hastens out. Everyone fusses, fans, cranes their necks to see, whispers. The Princess sits silently bored. Lady Claudette and the town crier, come running on stage clutching each other followed by the dancing Jester. The "pages" (children) disrobe themselves and begin dancing with the Jester. the Queen sits in horror, the King shouts

KING:
Stop them! Stop them I say!

The Jester and children stop dancing. The Minstrel bows to the Princess as the children reach out their hands in invitation.

JESTER:

A Merry Christmas to you Princess. Come and dance with those who have nothing of their own to give you but the happiness they posses at Christmas.

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

Oh, I should like to dance with you!

QUEEN:

Cristobelle, you have forgotten yourself!

KING:

Impossible! You are a princess!

LADY GRISELDA:

My lady, these are the ragged children from the street!

LADY PRUNELLA:

'Twould be a crime if they so much as touched your fingers!

QUEEN:

Drive them out! Drive them out!

Town Crier attempts to drive them out but the Jester and children dance around him laughing

JESTER:

I bring my gift, Princess Cristobelle--the merry heart of Christmas.

RUTHIE:

I bring joy!

TOMMY:

I bring merriment!

MARY:

I bring happiness!

TIMMY:

I bring my dirty little self to.. (Mary pokes him in the ribs) I bring frolicking

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

May I go Father? May I dance with them?

KING:

No, daughter. No. I shall provide a great ball for you tonight if you wish it.

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

But I don't wish to dance with courtiers and princes. It is with them I wish to laugh. They have nothing and yet they are truly merry. I want to dance with them.

She reaches towards the Jester to give her hand

QUEEN:

But stop! how could you, when no other Princess before you ever did such a thing?

KING:

It's breaking court etiquette, my dear and that's a serious thing!

PRINCESS CRISTOBELLE:

(to the Jester)

Nevertheless, yours is the only gift I shall accept--the Merry Heart of Christmas! Let me dance with you, with all of you!

The children and the princess begin to dance; they are joined by the four visitors, the town crier jumps in with the Ladies-in-waiting. Finally the King and Queen join in--they dance off stage)

JESTER:

So it has been
found
more
of Christmas
Lord

Ye need look no
The Merry Heart
This year of our

We'll celebrate ye one and
all
in the castle, there in the
hall.
of trees.
things.

We'll sing of babes, we'll sing
We'll sing of merry and happy

Here

We'll frolic , we'll dance, we'll whisper, we'll chant.
nothing will stop our holiday
cheer.
December

and stop not on the 26th of

For by King Pumpernickel's
comrad
whole year through.
cheer this Christmas season and through the next

We shall be Merry the
Be Merry and full of

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

17.

JESTER: (cont'd)
year!
and Happy New Year!

Merry Christmas