Bucky Saves Christmas

By
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DEDICATION

This play is dedicated to Big Time, Princess, Lil' Train, Squirrel and the incredible woman who has made our family what it is. I love you all.

STORY OF THE PLAY

The Breckenheimers are a colorful but loving family celebrating Christmas with a unique hillbilly flair all their own. As our story begins, we flashback to the day Poppa delivered some very exciting news to Mama, his parents and his children Bucky, Queazy, Myra Jean and Lindy. He has just been promoted to the Assistant to the Junior Assistant Manager at the pickled egg plant owned by Garver Goobler. Poppa even gets to help Goobler with a "special" project Christmas morning.

But the family's happiness is tempered by Mama's uneasiness with the motives of Goobler. Things become even more complicated when three orphans enter the Breckenheimers' lives. Their problem sets young Bucky off on a challenge that will change his view of the real meaning of Christmas forever!

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(18 flexible characters)

HOOLEY: Bucky's son.
DUFUS: Bucky's son.
ADULT BUCKY: Narrator.
MYRA JEAN: Bucky's sister. Between the ages of 6-12.
LINDY: Bucky's sister. Between the ages of 6-12.
POPPA: Bucky's father.
MAMA: Bucky's mother.
GRAMS: Bucky's grandmother.
GRAMPS: Bucky's grandfather.
BUCKY: Teenage boy.
QUEAZY: Bucky's "identical twin." She is clearly a girl.
MR. GOOBLER: Poppa's boss.
DIONNE: Teenager and one of the orphans soon to lose her home. Acts as a caroler with her sisters.
CHER: Another.
ENGLEBERT: Another.
PAUL: One of the Ghosts of Christmases Past, Present and Future.
GEORGE: Another.
RINGO: Another.

A NOTE ON CASTING

This show was written to allow for flexible casting. If Bucky is cast as female, the orphans should be male. Lindy and Myra Jean are between the ages of 6-12. All other characters can vary in age and you can actually use this variance to make the play more humorous. For example, Hooley and Dufus could be grown men with facial hair but are treated simply as little boys. The roles of Paul, George and Ringo can easily be doubled by any of the other actors except Gramps, Bucky, and Englebert.

SETTINGS

Most of the action takes place in the Breckenheimers' simply decorated, old-fashioned living room. Center stage are two rocking chairs. On the stage left wall is a clock. Upstage right is a large picture of the family, especially funny if they are in the exact pose at end of the speech in Scene 5 where everyone salutes. Also optional is a piano stage left. Piano can be portable or even a toy piano on table – no one really ever plays it. There is a spot center stage for a Christmas tree. Additional settings include:

Scene 1: A recliner for Adult Bucky is placed extreme downstage right or left.

Scene 4: "Outdoors" is played downstage or even below the main stage, if possible.

Scene 7: A small desk and chair for Goobler's home, is downstage left or, if possible, on small separate riser.

PROPS

Recliner
Stuffed animals *(The more odd the better.)*
Storybook
Raw bacon *(Felt cutouts)*
Stapler
Two pairs of scissors
4-6 rolls of toilet tissue paper
Empty egg carton
Screwdriver
Christmas tree – should be bare
Pink piece of paper
Toaster
Small hand-held horn backstage (or recording of foghorn)
Tray with plastic cups
Large outdoor plastic garbage can filled with crumpled newspaper
Streetlight or cutout of streetlight
Squash, gourd, or banana
Swimming goggles and snorkel
Band-aids
Small photo album

Optional:
Smoke machine to fill stage with smoke as Paul, George and Ringo appear

Scene 1

(AT RISE: ADULT BUCKY sits in a recliner with an oversized book. He wears a bathrobe and pajamas. He is telling HOOLEY and DUFUS a story. The boys are in flannel pajamas and each has a stuffed animal. They sit on each arm of the chair. The two of them sit in awe with their heads resting on Bucky's shoulders as he concludes his story.)

ADULT BUCKY: And they say, boys, that if the moon is just right in the sky, you can still see the shadow of that old outhouse in the squash patch where it all began!

(HOOLEY and DUFUS look at ADULT BUCKY in awe.)

HOOLEY: Gee, Dad! That's the neatest story in the whole world! Is it really true?
ADULT BUCKY: *(Chuckles.)* Yes, son. Of course it is ... as far as you know.
DUFUS: Daddy … whudya?
ADULT BUCKY: Would I what, son?
DUFUS: Whudya tell us just one more story?
HOOLEY: Yeah, Dad! Tell us anotha one. Tell us anotha one.
ADULT BUCKY: Well ….
HOOLEY and DUFUS: *(Insistently.)* Ya gotta … ya gotta ... ya gotta ....
ADULT BUCKY: OK, boys, OK. Just one more. Then it's off to bed with the two of you. *(HE puts his hand to chin and looks skyward.)* Hmmmm .... Let me think. *(Eyes light up.)* Hey, boys! Have I ever told you the story of your dad's first real life Christmas miracle?
HOOLEY: Gee, no Dad! Tell us, tell us, tell us!
DUFUS: Yeah. Start at the very beginning and don't leave nuthin' out, Daddy!
ADULT BUCKY: The very beginning?
HOOLEY: Yeah, Dad!
ADULT BUCKY: Well, OK.

(HE rises slowly looking into the heavens. A SPOTLIGHT in blue follows him as he rises. SFX: Space-age music begins to play.)

ADULT BUCKY: *(Continued. HE lowers voice as reverb comes in.)* In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and—

DUFUS: Naw, Dad. Not that far back!

(MUSIC fades as BUCKY sits back down. LIGHT fades from blue to white again.)

ADULT BUCKY: You're right. That would've taken quite awhile. *(Rubs HIS chin again and pauses.)* Let me see ....

(They ALL begin to wiggle or "wave" back and forth.)

DUFUS: *(Appearing a bit worried.)* Daddy! What's happening to us? Why are we wiggling back and forth?

HOOLEY: We ain't wiggling, Dufus. We're getting wavy. Remember? Like on Gilligan's Island? Everybody gets wavy when they remember back into the past or daydream.

DUFUS: *(Points to the audience.)* Then why ain't they getting wavy?

ADULT BUCKY: Can't afford for everyone to get wavy, son. We're on a pretty tight budget. Now, where should I begin? Oh yes .... It all started one December when I was just 13 years old. *(LIGHTS begin to dim as HE continues.)* The wonder of the season had already begun to spring to life! All of the sights and sounds of this most glorious time of year surrounded each of us and filled our hearts and minds with expectation! Just when we thought we could no longer contain the excitement of it all, it was here! For all of those who possess the heart of a child that wonderful night had finally arrived: Christmas Eve was finally here!! *(Single SPOT fades from BUCKY and BOYS.)*

End of Scene

End of Freeview

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