All I Need for Christmas

By Annette Tringham

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DEDICATION

To my loving husband Blaine, for always reminding me;
"just do what you do."

STORY OF THE PLAY

Goldie, Frank, and Myrna, three counselors at an emotional helpline, have devised a way to have Christmas Eve off this year. They have engaged Thomas Wellmore, a charming but self-centered Wall Street type, to man the phones. He willingly embraces the opportunity to "balance his karma" and "do something real at Christmas for those less fortunate than himself." As the evening wears on and no one calls, he becomes increasingly irritated and his true character is revealed. Then, at the stroke of midnight, a cleaning woman enters with her young son, Christopher. Though the eyes of this mysterious child, Thomas is forced to examine himself and he learns what is really important in life. It is a humorous and heartwarming story about the magic and spirit of Christmas.

Running Time: Approximately 45 minutes.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 m, 3 w, 1 flexible, 1 boy, extras)

GOLDIE: a sweet young woman (30ish).

FRANK: a protective cynic (30ish).*

MYRNA: a lovable dingbat (50+).

THOMAS: a self-centered yuppie (30ish).

CHRISTOPHER: a bright young child (8-10).

MARY: Christopher's mother (25-35).

STREET CORNER SANTA: Any age.

SHOPPER: Any age.

OLDER HUSBAND: Celebrating with wife.

OLDER WIFE: Celebrating with husband.

JEN: Good friend of Carol.

CAROL: Good friend of Jen.

VARIOUS VOICEOVERS

**FLEXIBLE ROLE: The role of Frank is written as a female but may also be cast as a male. See production notes at end of script for dialogue changes.*

DOUBLING: Some roles such as the Santa, Shopper, Husband, Wife, Jen, and Carol are very small and can be doubled by Goldie, Myrna, Mary and (male) Frank, if desired.

SETTING

The office is decorated with lights, garland, and miscellaneous holiday decorations. There is a desk and chair with guest chair, a small table and chair, a table top Christmas tree, a filing cabinet, a window/wall, a coat rack, bookcase or an array of cardboard boxes.

PLACE: The office of Emotional Helpline, New York City.
TIME: Christmas Eve.

PROPS

Tote bag
Notepad
Pens
Telephone
Newspapers
2 Identical mesh wastebaskets
2 Gaudy stockings
2 Small picture frames
Scarf pin in wrapped box
2 Holiday mugs in gift bags
Book “1001 Places to See Before You Die” wrapped
Santa hat
Bell kettle
Packages, purse with money for Shopper
Mistletoe for Husband
2 Glasses
2 Pieces of luggage for Jen
Trash bag
Miscellaneous cleaning equipment
Backpack with toy, kaleidoscope, wrapped gift
Large box for cat
Cell phone

COSTUMES

GOLDIE: Tasteful, conservative sweater, casual pants coat and scarf/hat.
FRANK: Dark sweatshirt or baggy sweater, jeans, coat and scarf/hat.
MYRNA: Gaudy, colorful Christmas sweatshirt, casual pants coat and scarf/hat.
THOMAS: Suit and tie, dress shoes, upscale overcoat, nice watch.
CHRISTOPHER: Worn pants and sweater, coat and hat.
MARY: Worn blouse and pants, coat, bandana.
SANTA: Santa hat, overcoat, scarf, gloves.
SHOPPER: Overcoat, hat, scarf, gloves.
HUSBAND and WIFE: Festive indoor holiday attire.
CAROL and JEN: Coats, hats, gloves.

All I Need for Christmas

(AT RISE: LIGHTS up on a small dingy office, decorated haphazardly with lights and a garland. There is a desk with a phone. The space is covered with stacks of paper and books, overstuffed boxes and a filing cabinet. A grimy window overlooks a dark New York street. On top of the filing cabinet is a feeble looking artificial tree, about two feet tall. Gathered around it are GOLDIE, FRANK, and MYRNA. They are singing Christmas carols and putting the finishing touches on the tree decorations.)

ALL: *(In unison.)* FA LA LA LA LA – LA LA LA LAAAAAA!!!!!

(SFX: The phone rings. MYRNA runs to answer.)

MYRNA: My turn! *(Into the phone.)* Emotional Helpline, this is Myrna…mmm hmmm…of course it's all right to be sad Mrs. Wozniak. You should remember to cherish the good memories even though he has passed on…mmm hmm… Well, certainly you can talk to me about him if it will help… *(HER voice trails lower as she continues to listen to the caller.)*

FRANK: So, Goldie, what are your plans for tonight?
GOLDIE: I'm stopping by my old roommate's place for dinner. She's having kind of an orphan's Christmas Eve.
FRANK: Lots of people coming?
GOLDIE: No actually, it will just be the two of us and her neighbor across the hall. How about you?
FRANK: Bobbie Junior and I are opening presents tonight. He goes to his father's tomorrow afternoon. He always has the big family dinner thing…you know….
GOLDIE: This is your first Christmas…
FRANK: Yeah. It's tough not being a family anymore. But, hey, life goes on, right? Isn't that what we tell people here? Life is a roller coaster, not a merry-go-round. Oh, c'mon. I'm fine. I'm great. Don't give me that doe-eyed look.

GOLDIE: Sorry.
FRANK: Besides, you're the one who drew the short straw for tomorrow.
GOLDIE: Oh that's alright. I don't mind covering. I'm just glad we can all have Christmas Eve off for a change.
FRANK: Hey, where is that guy anyway? It's six o'clock.

(MYRNA has finished her conversation and re-joins the OTHERS.)

GOLDIE: Everything alright?
MYRNA: Mrs. Wozniak again. The holidays have been especially difficult for her since Boris passed away.
FRANK: Geez. It's been three years since that cat died!
MYRNA: You sound just like her husband. Which is probably why she calls us.
FRANK: So, okay, you two. I've got a little something. *(SHE pulls two small packages out of her pockets and hands one to each of THEM.)* It's not much, but Merry Christmas.
MYRNA: Well, I got you guys something too. *(She opens a file drawer and produces two huge, gaudy stockings.)* Ta-da!! I made them myself.
FRANK: Words escape me.
GOLDIE: Why, they're….adorable.
MYRNA: Aren't they great? They were this month's project on Martha Stewart. Look inside – look, look, look.
GOLDIE: Wait a minute, let me get yours too. *(SHE reaches into her rather large tote bag and pulls out their gifts.)* Happy Holidays!

(THEY tear into their presents, full of giggles and "Oohs" and "Aaaahs.")

MYRNA: Oh, what a lovely…belt buckle?
FRANK: It's a scarf pin. Look, that's a scarab on the clasp right there.
GOLDIE: It's beautiful, Myrna.
MYRNA: OK, now look in your stockings. Look, look, look.
FRANK: Alright, alright.

End of Freeview

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