

Everywhere, It's Christmas

A Multicultural Christmas Play



Here is a preview of the play listed above. There are eight scenes in total and three in this preview—Scenes II, IV, and V. The characters in this play are listed first.

The play booklet comes with the script and notes, plus some other great tools, such as an optional Nativity ending, guidelines for costuming, song suggestions, a Sample Letter to Parents, and Artwork for your programs.

Characters (in order of appearance):

Mario or Marietta: Italian, extremely gregarious and charming (or so he thinks!)
The main character of our play is hopelessly optimistic and very flamboyant.
Costume: Bright shirt with nice slacks and a beret.

Dr. Iceberg: An American scientist working in Antarctica.
Costume: Large parka, gloves, and boots

Pierre: One of Santa's French helpers. **Costume:** Bright clothing with beret.

Jose: Mexican child who teaches Mario how to break the piñata.
Costume: Bright serape over jeans and brightly colored shirt, with sombrero.

Anna, Heidi, and Elga: Austrian young ladies who share the story of the writing of *Stille Nacht* (Silent Night) with the audience. **Costume:** Bright Christmas boxer shorts over red or green tights and a solid colored turtleneck worn with the Traeger, or suspenders, made from laminated paper. Top off this outfit with a little Austrian felt hat and a pheasant feather.

Greta: Very sassy and bossy little Austrian or German girl. **Costume:** Same as Anna, Heidi, and Elga.

Kiko: Elegant Japanese girl who explains Hoteiosho (Santa Claus) to Mario.
Costume: Kimono paired with a pretty fan. Have this character wear her hair up in a bun and add hair sticks for an authentic Japanese look.

Pablo and Marci: A Brazilian boy and girl who explain Papai Noel and the presepio to Mario. **Costume:** Clothing in Brazil is not very distinctive, so these were tricky. Some choices would be to dress Pablo as a cowboy (known as a gaucho) with ponchos and baggy trousers. Marci can dress in a long full skirt, colored shawl, and turban-like headscarf.

Santa: traditional Santa who introduces the story of Father Brebeuf and the Huron Indians. **Costume:** Traditional red and white suit with white beard and cap.

Kristkind: In some parts of Germany a girl called Kristkind brings the gifts. She wears a crown with candles and carries a basket of gifts. She helps tell story of Father Brebeuf also. **Costume:** A white gown or robe with a crown of candles for her head, and a basket of gifts for her to carry.

Noel: Helps Kristkind and Santa tell the story of Father Brebeuf. **Costume:** No particular nationality here, so we just used Christmas boxers and red tights with a colored turtleneck and a big Santa hat.

Father Brebeuf: A real French Jesuit missionary who lived in the early 1600's and came to what is now called Canada to work with the Huron Indians. He wrote the words to the first Christmas carol of the New World, *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*. **Costume:** A dark robe with a large wooden cross to hang around his neck.

Extra Actors: Using extras in some of these scenes allows students to feel as though they are a part of the drama. Here is a suggestion about how to do this: **Scene I** – extras play a part of the scientific team in Antarctica; **Scene II** – extra helpers work with Pierre in the workshop; **Scene III** – extra Mexican children come with Jose to find Mario; **Scene V** – portray Japanese family as Kiko describes preparations for the Japanese New Year; **Scene VI** – extra Brazilian children. In fact, all of the scenes would support extras—make it fit your students and their needs.

SCENE II –Santa’s Workshop (*Pierre is busy working on a toy as Mario comes across stage*)

Mario: Bon giorno. . . . bon giorno! Oh, Befana, come out, come out! Mario is here to see you. (*does a deep charming bow*)

Pierre: Who are you looking for, monsieur?

Mario: Befana. . . Sinterklass. . .

Pierre: Who?

Mario: Pere Noel!. . . You know. . . HO HO HO. . . Santa Claus!

Pierre: Ooooooh!

Mario: I’ve come to offer my services. I want to be-a his navigator, like-a. . . you know, Rudy’s sidekick. I want to see-a the world, to fly with the *MAIN MAN*. (*shrugs shoulders*) Besides, I need-a the work. (*Pulls out empty pockets*)

Pierre: Well, come along quickly. We could use a little help. We leave tonight for the Dark Continent.

Mario: Oh, grazie, grazie! (*kisses Pierre’s hand*) Let’s see, now, where’s my African dictionary. Now. . . how is it you say “Merry Christmas” in Swahili? Ah, here-a it is. . . Krismas Njema Na Heri Za Mwaka Mpya!

SCENE IV

Mario: Perdono!! Surely, Madame (*or Monsieur/Name of the Director*), you are not going to leave out the story of the most beloved Christmas carol of all time. (*Director looks baffled*) Well, I took-a the liberty of asking Anna, Elga, and Heidi to share it with our-a lovely audience. (*Calls three girls out from wings of stage*) Anna! Elga! Heidi!

Anna: Vell, the beloved carol was written in the small village of Oberndorf, Austria, on Christmas Eve in 1818. That afternoon, an emergency arose when Franz Gruber, the organist of the village church, discovered that the organ had broken down. . .

Mario: (*Interrupting*) The mice-a had-a chewed through the bellow. . .

Heidi: Anyvay, dere vas not time to fix de organ before the Christmas Eve service. Gruber and Joseph Mohr, the vicar of the church, knew the villagers would be sorely disappointed, so they decided to quickly write a new song to ease the hurt. It was simply called Stille Nacht.

Mario: *(interrupting again)* You know-a. . . . Silent Night!

Elga: That night, the villagers sang the carol for the very first time, accompanied, of course, by guitar.

Mario: Today, it is sung at Christmas time in-a many different languages. Why, they probably even sing it in Swahili! But, no matter, go on bambinos, raise your voices!! *(Mario raises his arms in encouragement to singers as he ushers Anna, Elga, and Heidi off the stage. Singers finish Silent Night.)*

SCENE V -- Santa's Workshop *(Greta and Kiko are looking at the decorations on stage left. Mario comes out and begins to ride a white stick horse round and round Greta until she becomes increasingly annoyed.)*

Greta: Herr Mario, vat een de vorld are you doing? St. Nicholas doesn't allow us to play vit de toys—we are here to make de toys!

Mario: Relax, pretty Greta. I was only-a pretending. Tonight we visit Holland, and Sinterklass, as the children call him, will ride-a his white horse through the streets.

Greta: Ja, Herr Mario, and I see dat you vant to be his companion Black Pete. Vell, in Holland, dear Mario, not all de children get candy and toys—sometimes Black Pete must punish those children who have acted badly.

Mario: Ah, si, Greta, but those who have been-a good set-a their wooden-a shoes outside their door filled with hay and carrots for Santa's horse. The next-a morning, the hay is-a gone and there are presents in those shoes from Sinterklass himself!

Kiko: Sinterklass?! I never heard of him. In the Land of the Rising Sun, there is one who must be like your Sinterklass. We call him Hoteiosho. He is a very kind old man who carries a huge pack. The children all know he has eyes in the back of his head, always watching to see what they are doing. Of course, our most important holiday is the Japanese New Year. The night before, the house is thoroughly cleaned—every corner! The next morning, the father marches all through house, followed by the whole family, to drive away evil spirits. It is a time to greet one another with congratulations, “Omedeto Gozaimasu!” *(Extras can act out the part of the family as Kiko speaks)*