

A NEVERLAND CHRISTMAS CAROL

By Sheri Flannery Verrilli

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A NEVERLAND CHRISTMAS CAROL

By Sheri Flannery Verrilli

A FULL-LENGTH HOLIDAY PLAY WITH TRADITIONAL CAROLS

SYNOPSIS: From the moment Peter Pan eavesdrops at the Darling’s nursery window and overhears Mrs. Darling reading *A Christmas Carol* to her children, Christmas becomes more spirited than ever before! Come along on this grand holiday adventure as Wendy and her brothers accompany Peter back to Neverland to share the story of Scrooge, and teach the Lost Boys the traditions of Christmas. But if you think this sounds like a merry little celebration, well, to paraphrase Ebenezer, “bah humbug!” While the ever-jealous Tinkerbell sulks at Wendy’s presence, wicked Captain Hook and his zany band of pirates concoct an evil scheme to sabotage the children’s festivities. Now, it’s up to Peter Pan, the Lost Boys, the Darlings, and a comical, Dickens-inspired reenactment to show Hook the error of his ways and, ultimately, save Christmas in Neverland.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(FLEXIBLE CAST OF 21; APPROXIMATELY 2 MEN, 7 WOMEN, 12
EITHER — DOUBLING POSSIBLE)

MRS. DARLING* (f)	Mother to John, Wendy, and Michael (54 lines)
WENDY DARLING (f)	A girl who thinks of Peter Pan as more than a friend (70 lines)
JOHN DARLING (m/f)	The oldest Darling boy (39 lines)
MICHAEL DARLING (m/f)	The youngest of the Darling children (46 lines)
LIZA* (f)	The Darling’s young maid (25 lines)
NANA* (f)	The Darling’s dog and the children’s governess (16 lines)

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Note: All of the “Darling” scenes are set in London, so the six characters above may use British accents.

- PETER PAN (m/f) The cocky young boy from Neverland (65 lines)
- TINKERBELL (f) A fairy and Peter Pan’s best friend (48 lines)
- TOOTLES (m/f)..... The youngest Lost Boy, a blabbermouth (28 lines)
- SLIGHTLY (m/f)..... Another Lost Boy, speaks with a comical lisp (26 lines)
- NIBS (m/f) Another Lost Boy (29 lines)
- CURLY (m/f)..... The oldest Lost Boy (29 lines)
- TIGER LILY (f)..... A native princess, she’s fond of Peter Pan (21 lines)
- SNAPDRAGON (f) Tiger Lily’s sister (25 lines)
- CAPTAIN JAMES HOOK (m)..... The infamous evil pirate with a hook for a hand (110 lines)
- SMEE (m) Hook’s right-hand man (38 lines)
- STARKEY (m/f) Hook’s first mate (25 lines)
- NOODLER (m/f) A pirate (20 lines)
- BILLY JUKES (m/f)..... Another (17 lines)
- ALF (m/f)..... Another (15 lines)
- COOKSON “COOKSIE” (m/f) A pirate and an awful cook (25 lines)

DOUBLING POSSIBLE: In the original production, MRS. DARLING also played ALF, LIZA played BILLY, and NANA played TINKERBELL. For a smaller cast, eliminate a Lost Boy or Pirate, and divide the extra lines amongst the others. For a larger cast, add pirates, lost boys, natives, and chorus.

**Denotes a role that can be double-cast as a Pirate.*

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE, SCENE 1: Darling's nursery

ACT ONE, SCENE 2: Darling's nursery

ACT ONE, SCENE 3: A forest in Neverland

ACT ONE, SCENE 4: A forest in Neverland

ACT ONE, SCENE 5: The deck of the Jolly Roger

INTERMISSION

ACT TWO, SCENE 1: Lost Boys' lair

ACT TWO, SCENE 2: Hook's cabin on the Jolly Roger

ACT TWO, SCENE 3: Jolly Roger (Bare Stage)

ACT TWO, SCENE 4: Darling children's bedroom

Based on the beloved characters of J. M. Barrie, this holiday tale continues the adventures of the "lost boy" from Neverland when Peter Pan visits the Darling's London nursery, and overhears Mrs. Darling reading "A Christmas Carol" to her children. Intrigued, Peter attempts to take the book, but Wendy catches him in the act, reminding Peter that he can't read. She then suggests that she and her brothers, John and Michael, accompany Peter back to Neverland, where she can read the Lost Boys the story, and teach them how to celebrate the traditions of Christmas. Delighted, Peter sprinkles the children with pixie dust, and all fly off through the nursery window.

Back in Neverland, Tinkerbell, having just rescued Peter Pan's crew from the villainous Captain Hook, is upset to discover that Peter has returned with the Darlings - especially Wendy, whom she is jealous of. Worse yet, when Captain Hook (who has hated Christmas ever since Santa overlooked him as a boy) learns of the Darlings' mission, he becomes incensed. To appease their leader, Mister Smee, Hook's right-hand man, and his zany pirate crew vow to sabotage all attempts by Peter Pan to celebrate the holiday. And, Captain Hook adds, they will annihilate Peter Pan and his friends, in the process. Then, laughing wickedly at their plan, the pirates seal their pact with a toast, thus ending Act One.

Act Two begins outside Peter's lair, where holiday activities abound. After reading Peter's troupe, "A Christmas Carol," Wendy, John and Michael teach the children carols and how to decorate a Christmas tree (while some decorate the audience with garland). When Wendy recounts how her classmates performed a Mummer's play to celebrate the winter solstice, the children beg to perform the play in Neverland. Wendy agrees to help them, and all follow her off. Peter lingers behind and informs Tinkerbell that Hook's ship, the Jolly Roger, has sailed into port to stock up on supplies. Worried that the pirates might be planning another attack, Peter and Tink agree to meet at the docks at midnight to investigate. Shortly after they exit, however, Smee and his pirate crew sneak in to gather up the Lost Boys' decorations, and snatch the garland back from audience members, with a "Christmas, bah!" and a "Wipe that smile off yer face!" Then, carrying off the Lost Boys' Christmas tree, the pirates rush off to destroy their booty.

Upon discovering the destruction, Peter Pan and his crew, armed with props and costumes, sneak aboard the Jolly Roger at midnight to perform a play - however, this is not the Mummer's play they had originally planned. Creeping into Captain's Hook's cabin, where he is fast asleep in a chair, the troupe enact a comical parody of "A Christmas Carol" with a ghostly effigy of "Blackbeard the Pirate" (Hook's former employer) heralding the arrival of three spirits, all intent on showing Hook the error of his ways. Frightened, the wicked pirate is not deterred until the ghosts chillingly close in on him, and "Toc" (the crocodile who once bit off Hook's hand) threatens to finish him off. Shaking, Captain Hook finally vows to leave Peter and his friends alone, and satisfied, the children tiptoe out, leaving the trembling pirate cowering on the cabin floor.

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Act Two, Scene 3, introduces the audience to a suddenly joyful, almost likeable Captain Hook, who enters singing and skipping through the audience, tossing out mini candy canes. But while the audience is delighted, the pirate crew, forced to wear elf hats, sing carols and ineptly build Christmas toys, are aghast. And upon discovering that the toys are for “poor Peter Pan and his friends,” they begin to wonder whether their captain might be affected by the plague. But Hook is merely infected with the spirit of Christmas, and after giving orders to wrap up the toys and deliver them to Peter Pan, he merrily skips off to enjoy a hot cocoa with marshmallows and whipped cream. As the pirates stare after him, with mouths open in disbelief, Mister Smee sums up their thoughts, “Ya know, mateys, I’m beginnin’ to think this is all just a bloomin’ nightmare!”

And so it appears, for as lights rise on the final scene, the audience discovers Wendy, John and Michael, fast asleep in their bed. Mrs. Darling enters, and gently wakes her children with the news that Santa Claus has come. Michael and John are thrilled, but upon waking, Wendy immediately wonders what her mother is doing in Neverland. The boys appear puzzled, even as Wendy recounts their adventures with Peter Pan, leaving Mrs. Darling to insist that it was all just a dream, and that the children should join their father for breakfast, after which, they may all open their toys. Excited, John and Michael rush off with their mother, however, a disappointed Wendy stays in bed, and sadly acknowledges that, perhaps, her mother was right. As Wendy closes her eyes, and drifts back to sleep, magical sound effects are heard. Immediately, a Christmas tree lights up, and Peter Pan, Captain Hook and all the residents of Neverland file in to surround Wendy’s bed. Peter awakens Wendy, who is delighted to discover that it wasn’t a dream, after all, and as everyone thanks the young girl for showing them the joys of the season, Captain Hook and Peter Pan shake hands, confirming that Christmas is, indeed, a time for peace. Hearing voices, John and Michael reenter with Mrs. Darling, who, after recovering from the shock, invites everyone to join the Darling family for Christmas breakfast. However, before they all exit, Peter Pan addresses the audience, as various cast members extend their holiday wishes in a rhyme reminiscent of an Olde English Mummer’s play:

“Be it Kwanzaa, Christmas, Hanukkah...or whatever day you keep...May your family and friends share good fortune and health, And all of the love that you reap! And now we’re done - we must be gone! We stay no longer here! So join us all - both great and small - as we wish each other cheer!”

As the entire cast sings, “We Wish You a Merry Christmas,” they invite the audience to join in, and the play draws to its close.

PRODUCTION HISTORY

In 2009, *A Neverland Christmas Carol* was produced by Little Lost Arts at the historic Ratsch Theater in Branchville, New Jersey, under its original title, *Peter Pan’s Christmas*, and featured a mixed cast of adults and children, that included:

Wendy Darling...Kristen English
John Darling...Emily Hand/Emily Argula
Michael Darling...Hannah Orr/Ashley Smetana
Mrs. Darling/Alf...Caitlin Lubey
Nana/Tinkerbell...Liah Paterson
Liza/Billy...Amanda Hayes
Peter Pan...Jamie Lowenstein/J.P. Schultz
Captain Hook...Marty Novak/Dan Warhol
Nibs...Micael-Anne Verrilli
Slightly...Jake Schultz
Smee...Ken Lowenstein
Tiger Lily...Kelsey Fleury
Snapdragon...Jenny Hayes
Tootles...Rocco Cannone
Curly...Paige Dunlap
Starkey...Courtney Verrilli
Cookson...Mishell Cannone
Noodler...Matt Morville

The play was also produced in 2009 by The Sparta Recreation Department’s “Holiday Theater,” utilizing a cast of seventeen children, (3 boys/14 girls, aged 10-16).

SET REQUIREMENTS

The original production was produced on a bare set with suggested scenery, but can be as elaborate as desired. In the original nursery, Mrs. Darling sat upstage right, near a tiny table, in a white wicker rocking chair flanked by two huge “ABC” blocks, on which Wendy and Michael sat. A dresser and coat rack stood upstage left. A huge window was suspended from the ceiling at upstage center, with a covered steel utility bench in front of it, sturdy enough to stand on. This bench later formed the foot of the bed (see final scene endnotes). A full moon painted on a backdrop was visible through the window and white lights twinkled overhead. “Neverland” was a bare stage with large painted trees that were removed for the sparse Jolly Roger scenes, which included Hook’s desk, a ship’s wheel and a suspended rope ladder. The Darling children’s bedroom was a bare stage with a “double bed” (see final scene endnotes) placed in front of the center stage window with the backdrop from ACT ONE.

COSTUMES

For the Darling household: Victorian costumes, long gowns and nightgowns, shawls, and a dog costume for Nana. For the “Neverland” characters: storybook costumes, pixie, pirate, orphan, native, and spooky/silly Halloween costumes and masks.

RUNNING TIME

Approximately 75 minutes, with one intermission.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

“Silent Night,” “Deck the Halls,” and “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” are traditional Christmas carols, as are “I Saw Three Ships,” “Jingle Bells,” and “Carol of the Bells,” the latter tunes which are sung to original lyrics by the author. “The Skye Boat Song” is a familiar lullaby, included on many children’s bedtime CDs. “The Drunken Sailor” is a lively sea chantey, made popular by The Irish Rogues and The Chieftains, and can be found on many children’s CDs. These songs, all in the public domain, can be sung a cappella, and were made to sound festive with the addition of tambourines, bells, wood blocks, etc. If accompaniment is desired, various versions of sheet music and CD recordings are readily available in stores and online. Other carols and lullabies may be substituted, added, or music can be deleted completely, with only a few minor changes to the dialogue.

SONGS (IN ORDER OF PERFORMANCE)

ACT ONE

SCENE 1: “*SKYE BOAT SONG*” (Mrs. Darling and Wendy)
“*SILENT NIGHT*” (Ensemble)

SCENE 4: “*TINKERBELL*” (Peter’s Crew and Darling Children)

SCENE 5: “*DRUNKEN SAILOR*” (Captain Hook and Pirates)

ACT TWO

SCENE 1: “*DECK THE HALLS*” (Peter’s Crew and Darling Children)

SCENE 2: “*HARK, CAPTAIN HOOK!*” (Peter’s Crew and Darling Children)

SCENE 3: “*I SAW THREE SHIPS*” (Captain Hook and Pirates)

SCENE 4: “*WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS*” (Ensemble)

ACT ONE, SCENE 1

AT RISE:

Nursery interior. CENTER STAGE RIGHT, JOHN DARLING sits on the floor, and WENDY and MICHAEL DARLING sit on large toy blocks on either side of MRS. DARLING's chair, as she reads to them from a book. On her left is a night table with lighted lamp, an unlit candlestick, and a plumed pen with stationary. UPSTAGE LEFT, LIZA listens, while folding three throws from a basket, and storing them in the lower drawer of an UPSTAGE LEFT dresser with a poinsettia plant on top. A coat rack stands nearby. NANA sits on a bench or window seat, in front of a big UPSTAGE CENTER window. Outside, seen only by the audience, PETER PAN crouches, and listens intently.

MRS. DARLING: *(Reading Dickens' "A Christmas Carol.")* "At the sight of the old gentleman in a Welsh wig, sitting behind such a high desk, Scrooge cried in great excitement: "Why, it's old Fezziwig! Bless his heart! It's Fezziwig alive, again!"

MICHAEL: Who is this Fezziwig?

JOHN: He was Mr. Scrooge's first employer, Michael.

MICHAEL: Oh.

MRS. DARLING: *(Reads.)* "Old Fezziwig laid down his pen, and looked up at the clock...then called out in a rich, fat, jovial voice, "Yo ho, my boys! No more work to-night! Christmas Eve, Dick! It's Christmas, Ebenezer! Clear away, my lads, and let's have lots of room here."

MICHAEL: Why? Were they going to have a party?

MRS. DARLING: They were, , Michael. *(She reads.)* With a sharp clap of old Fezziwig's hands, "the floor was swept, the lamps were trimmed, fuel was heaped upon the fire...and soon the warehouse was as snug and warm...and bright, a ball-room as you would ever desire to see upon a winter's night. And there was cake...and a great piece of Cold Roast, and there were mince-pies, and plenty of beer."

NANA: *(Rubs her belly.)* Woof! Sounds yummy!

MRS. DARLING: (*Reading.*) “Then, in came a fiddler with his music-book. In came Mrs. Fezziwig...and all the young men and women employed in the business...and the housemaid with her cousin, the baker. In they all came, one after another; some shyly, some boldly...”

MICHAEL: Some carrying sugar cookies...some carrying Christmas gifts ...

MRS. DARLING: (*Reading.*) “In they all came...anyhow and anyhow...”

MICHAEL: To sing carols and play guessing games and...

JOHN/WENDY: Michael...hush!!!

MRS. DARLING: Then “away they all went, twenty couples at once; [dancing] down the middle and up again. But the greatest effect of the evening came when old Fezziwig stood out to dance with Mrs. Fezziwig...for the couple shone in every part of the dance like moons.”

LIZA: Oh, how sweet!

MRS. DARLING: (*Reading.*) Finally, “when the clock struck eleven...Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig took their stations, one on either side of the door, and shaking hands with every person... as he or she went out, wished [everyone] a very Merry Christmas.”

Closes book. ALL clap. MICHAEL rises with his teddy bear.

MICHAEL: And then what happened, Mother?

NANA rises and barks. PETER PAN darts out of sight.

NANA: It's bedtime, Mrs. Darling.

MRS. DARLING: Thank you for reminding me, Nana. You are truly the best governess. Now, make ready for bed, my dears.

WENDY: (*Rises.*) Oh, but Mother, can't you read just a bit more? I do so love Mr. Dickens' story!

MICHAEL: (*Jumping up and down excitedly.*) Yes! Read more! Read more!

MRS. DARLING: Not tonight, Michael. It's time for bed.

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JOHN: *(Rises.)* But Father isn't even home yet. Can't we at least stay up to bid him a good night?

MRS. DARLING: Mr. Darling is working all through the night so that we can afford a very Merry Christmas this year. I suspect he won't be home until the wee hours.

JOHN/MICHAEL/WENDY: *(Crossing to hang robes/shawl on coat rack.)* Oh, pooh!

LIZA: Shall I take your book, Mrs. Darling?

MRS. DARLING: Yes, Liza. Put it in the top dresser drawer, will you? I'll read another chapter tomorrow.

LIZA: Yes, Mum. *(She starts to exit, stopping to place the book in the dresser.)* Come, Nana, it's time for the "you-know-what."

NANA: The tray is all set out in the kitchen.

She picks up laundry basket, then follows LIZA off at UPSTAGE LEFT.

MICHAEL: Mother, have I been a good boy lately?

MRS. DARLING: Why, I suppose so, Michael. Why do you ask?

MICHAEL: Just curious, that's all.

JOHN: Why you little impostor! It isn't curiosity, Mother. Michael's just worried that Santa Claus might not leave him any Christmas presents this year.

MICHAEL: No, I'm not!

WENDY: Are, too!

MICHAEL: Besides, I have little to fear, for I've been quite good. Isn't that right, Mother?

LIZA and NANA reenter UPSTAGE LEFT, and stop at DOWNSTAGE LEFT. LIZA has a tray with a large medicine bottle, a napkin, and spoon on it.

NANA: *(Barks to get their attention.)* Woof! Woof! Time to take your medicine!

CHILDREN: Oh, no!

LIZA: Never mind the groaning. Now, line up. Pit pat!

MICHAEL: *(Shouts defiantly.)* No!

LIZA: Now, Master Michael, if you cooperate, we can get this over rather quickly.

MICHAEL: (*Rushes to hide behind the curtains.*) No!!! I won't take that nasty medicine! I won't!

WENDY: Never mind, Liza. I shall go first.

She moves to NANA who pours the tonic into the spoon.

LIZA: That's a good girl, Wendy.

NANA: Down the hatch!

WENDY opens her mouth and holds her nose as NANA feeds her. She winces, swallows, then coughs and gags. LIZA blots WENDY's mouth with the napkin.

WENDY: Ugh! Michael's right. It does taste rather foul!

LIZA: But only for an instant. Your turn, John.

JOHN: Oh, all right. If I must.

NANA: Over the lips and past the gums! Watch out, laddie, here it comes!

NANA feeds JOHN. A repeat of the business above.

JOHN: Ugh! Why can't the apothecary make medicine that tastes like peppermint sticks instead of limburger cheese?

NANA: I know it's . . . "ruff"! But you must take your tonic so you can stay strong and healthy.

LIZA: Nana's right. Let's go, Michael, you're up.

MICHAEL: (*Dashes from the curtains to his mother.*) No! I won't! Please, don't make me, Mother!

MRS. DARLING: Now, Michael, be a dear, and take your medicine for Nana.

LIZA: Come along, now! It'll be over before you can say "Jack Sprat."

MICHAEL: No! It's yucky!

PETER PAN peeps in to see what the fuss is about. WENDY sees him, gasps, and covers her mouth. PETER PAN darts out of sight.

MRS. DARLING: I'm so sorry, Nana, but it seems that Michael—
WENDY: Mother! There's somebody at the window!

NANA barks, rushes to look out the window. ALL follow.

MRS. DARLING: What?

WENDY: I saw a silhouette! Someone was watching us...listening to our conversation.

LIZA: It isn't possible, Mum. This nursery window is three stories off the ground.

WENDY: But I swear, Mother, I saw someone! I know I did!

MRS. DARLING: Well, I don't see anyone now... *(She moves away from the window. Others follow.)* ...nevertheless, when your father gets home, I shall have him check the perimeters of the house - though I daresay a person would have to fly to get all the way up here.

JOHN: That's it! Maybe the person Wendy saw can fly!

MRS. DARLING: What are you saying, John?

JOHN: I'm saying...maybe it was Santa Claus!!!

MICHAEL: *(Gasps.)* Santa Claus?!!

JOHN: Yes. If Santa can fly to the roof and drop down people's chimneys, then I'm sure he can fly up to their windows just as easily. Don't you think, Mother?

MRS. DARLING: Why, yes, John, it's quite possible that old Father Christmas was peeping in the nursery window to see whether you children were being naughty or nice.

MICHAEL: Oh, no! Do you suppose Santa Claus heard me say I wouldn't take my medicine?

LIZA: I hope not, for if he did, then the name "Michael Darling" will surely be added to Santa's naughty list this year.

MICHAEL: Oh, the horror of it all! What am I going to do, Mother? I'll never get any Christmas gifts now. All I'll get in my stocking is a big fat dirty lump of coal!

HE starts to cry. MRS. DARLING consoles him.

MRS. DARLING: There, there...don't cry, darling. Perhaps Santa is still watching you...from a new hiding place. If so, there's plenty of time for him to catch you in the act of being good.

MICHAEL: Do you really think so?

MRS. DARLING: Yes, I'm sure of it.

NANA: (*Looks around.*) You're right, Mrs. Darling...I sense that someone is still watching us.

LIZA: Then, quickly, Michael! Come take your medicine!

MICHAEL dashes to NANA who pours a spoon. He swallows coughs, gags, then, fearful that Santa is watching, forces a smile.

MICHAEL: Why, thank you, Nana. That medicine was delicious!

Everybody laughs.

JOHN: Michael's a most convincing actor, don't you agree?

NANA: He certainly is, John.

LIZA: Well, Nana, 'tis another fine job. Now into the kitchen with you! I've got a nice juicy bone waiting there - with your name on it.

NANA: (*Rubs hands together.*) Woof! Sounds delicious. Nighty-night, children!

LIZA takes the tray, and she and NANA start to exit UPSTAGE LEFT.

CHILDREN: 'Night, Nana! Goodnight, Liza!

LIZA: Good night, all!

MRS. DARLING crosses to UPSTAGE LEFT, and takes three throws from the dresser drawer.

MRS. DARLING: Children, I've turned down your sheets, but I expect you'll need an extra blanket. It's a bit chilly tonight. Now come and get your throw, then it's off to bed with you.

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She hands JOHN a throw. He kisses her, and exits DOWNSTAGE LEFT.

JOHN: Goodnight, Mother.

MRS. DARLING: Goodnight, John.

Hands MICHAEL a throw. He kisses her, exits downstage left with his teddy bear.

MICHAEL: Goodnight, Mother.

MRS. DARLING: Goodnight, Michael.

WENDY takes her throw and kisses her mother.

WENDY: Goodnight, Mother.

MRS. DARLING: Goodnight, Wendy.

WENDY starts to exit DOWNSTAGE LEFT, then stops.

WENDY: Mother, if I tell you something, will you promise not to get upset?

MRS. DARLING: I'll do my best, darling. What is it?

WENDY: The silhouette I saw at the window tonight...

WENDY bites her lip and pauses, afraid to say the words.

MRS. DARLING: Yes?

WENDY: I think it was Peter!

MRS. DARLING: *(Instantly worried.)* Peter Pan? The boy from Neverland? Are you certain?

WENDY: Not entirely...but Peter did say he was coming back for me, remember?

MRS. DARLING: Yes, he said he would be back for spring cleaning - but, darling, it's only December.

WENDY: I know, and that's what puzzles me.

MRS. DARLING: *(Slowly crosses to chair, her arm around WENDY.)* Wendy, my love, 'twas only your imagination. You must put Peter Pan out of your mind. Besides, tomorrow your father has a wonderful day planned. He is taking us into the city to admire the shoppe windows adorned in all their holiday finery. Doesn't that sound like fun?

WENDY: Well, yes, but...

MRS. DARLING: Fret not, precious. *(She sits and pats the side of her knee.)* Sit and I will sing you a lullaby to ease the worries from your mind.

WENDY sits at her feet. As MRS. DARLING sings, she gently drapes Wendy's shoulders with the throw. WENDY can join in on the chorus.

THE SKYE BOAT SONG

(CHORUS)

Speed, bonnie boat, like a bird on the wing,
"Onward!" the sailors cry;
Carry the lad that's born to be King
Over the sea to Skye.

Loud the winds howl, loud the waves roar,
Thunderclouds rend the air;
Baffled, our foes stand by the shore,
Follow they will not dare.

(REPEAT CHORUS)

Though the waves leap, soft shall ye sleep,
Ocean's a royal bed.
Rocked in the deep, Flora will keep
Watch by your weary head.

(REPEAT CHORUS TO END)

WENDY: That was a lovely song, Mother.

MRS. DARLING: *(Rises.)* Yes. But now, my dear, it's time for bed.

WENDY: Mother, may I have a candlestick to place on my nightstand? I know it sounds rather silly, but somehow I feel that nothing can harm me after the nightlights are lit.

MRS. DARLING: I understand completely. *(She lights the candlestick and gives it to WENDY.)* Here. Now go to sleep, darling, so that visions of sugarplums may dance in your head.

WENDY: *(Kisses her mother then starts to exit DOWNSTAGE LEFT.)* That would be perfectly delightful. Good night, Mother.

MRS. DARLING: Good night, my love.

Lights dim as WENDY stops far DOWNSTAGE LEFT. MICHAEL and JOHN join her. CAROLERS enter to flank both sides of stage, facing downstage. MRS. DARLING sits at the window, looks off into the night. ALL sing.

SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Saviour is born
Christ, the Saviour is born

Lights fade to blackout. End of scene.

ACT ONE, SCENE 2

AT RISE:

Interior. A beat. PETER PAN peeps in the nursery window and seeing no one, climbs inside, tiptoes to the dresser and removes the book from the top drawer, knocking over the poinsettia atop it. Leaving the drawer ajar, he dashes to escape, just as WENDY enters DOWNSTAGE LEFT.

WENDY: Peter! I knew it was you!

PETER PAN: Wendy! You scared me! I mean, not really...I just thought...

WENDY: (*Crossing to him.*) Whatever are you doing here, Peter? I wasn't expecting you until spring cleaning.

PETER PAN: The Lost Boys were anxious for a new story. None of us know any stories. So tonight I came and listened outside your window and heard your mother tell a wondrous tale of a grand celebration with food and dancing and merriment and...

WENDY: Oh, you mean Christmas.

PETER PAN: Is that what it's called?

WENDY: Yes, and it's almost here. But why were you taking Mother's storybook, Peter?

PETER PAN: I just wanted to borrow it, to tell the Lost Boys the tale.

WENDY: But, Peter, you don't know how to read.

PETER PAN: Drat! I always forget about that. Then, will you tell me about Christmas, Wendy?

WENDY: Of course. Christmas is my favorite holiday, Peter. We decorate a tree, and wrap presents, and go to church. Then we go Christmas caroling...and afterwards, we always have hot cocoa—

JOHN appears at DOWNSTAGE LEFT, barely awake. Yawning, he crosses.

JOHN: ...with marshmallows, whipped cream, and plenty of gingerbread cookies. (*He yawns again.*) Hello, Peter.

PETER PAN: Hello, John.

MICHAEL enters DOWNSTAGE LEFT with his bear, rubs his eyes, yawns.

MICHAEL: Peter Pan! Were you the silhouette Wendy saw at the window tonight?

PETER PAN: Yup! That was me!

MICHAEL: Oh, no! You mean I took that nasty-tasting medicine for nothing?

WENDY: (*Chuckling.*) You certainly did.

PETER PAN: And I must say, you threw quite a tantrum, Michael.

JOHN: That's because he was afraid Santa Claus was watching.

PETER PAN: What's a "Santa Claus"?

JOHN: It's not a "what", Peter. It's a "who."

PETER PAN: (*Plunks down on the bench, swings his feet.*) But why was Michael afraid? Is Santa Claus a vicious pirate, like Captain Hook?

WENDY: No, not at all. Santa Claus is a very kind man who loves children.

MICHAEL: And he brings us candy and the most wonderful toys.

PETER PAN: (*Excitedly jumps to stand on the block, hands on hips.*) I like candy and toys. Where can I find this Santa Claus?

WENDY: You don't find him, Peter. Santa finds you - once a year on Christmas Eve.

PETER PAN: Then perhaps I should celebrate a Christmas, too.

JOHN: Oh, yes! Christmas in Neverland would be quite splendid, indeed!

PETER PAN: Only I'm not too sure how to go about it.

WENDY: Hmm...what do you think, John? Shall we fly with Peter to Neverland and show the Lost Boys how to celebrate the holiday?

JOHN: Sounds like a jolly good idea!

PETER PAN: You mean, you'd come home with me? Oh, the Lost Boys would be so pleased!

WENDY: And what about Tinkerbell?

PETER PAN: No. I daresay Tink wouldn't be happy at all. But too bad. She has no choice in the matter.

MICHAEL: But John, we can't leave! Father is taking us into the city tomorrow, remember?

JOHN: We can always go into the city, Michael. This is far more adventurous. *(He crosses to the table, picks up the pen and writes a note.)* I'll just leave Father and Mother a note saying that we went with Peter and will return soon.

PETER PAN: Wendy, can we take this book? I'd really like to hear the rest of the story.

WENDY: Of course, Peter.

PETER PAN: Great! Now, I must first sprinkle you all with a bit of pixie dust. *(HE jumps up on the bench in front of the window. Excited, ALL rush to him, lift their chins and close their eyes as PETER sprinkles them with foil confetti from his pouch. A tinkling of bells or magical SFX.)* There! That does it! Now, follow me, everyone! Back to Neverland! *(He turns to face UPSTAGE, then pausing, turns back to them.)* Oh, but wait a moment...you do remember how to fly, don't you?

CHILDREN: Of course!¹

PETER PAN: *(Turns UPSTAGE, points to the sky.)* Then on we go! Second star to the right, and straight on till morning! Just think lovely thoughts! And I've got a dandy one...Christmas!!!* *(Once PETER is safely offstage, he shouts.)* Come on, John!!!**

JOHN: *(Stands up on bench and calls.)* Candy canes! **(Once JOHN is safely offstage, he shouts....)* Come on, Wendy!!!**

WENDY: *(Stands on bench, and calls.)* Mistletoe! * *(Once WENDY is safely offstage, she shouts....)* Come on, Michael!!!**

MICHAEL: *(Stands on bench, and calls.)* Santa Claus! * *(Once MICHAEL is safely off, he shouts very loudly...)* Ho, ho, ho, ho, ho!!!**

From DOWNSTAGE LEFT, a barking NANA rushes in to the window and looks out, pacing a bit. DOWNSTAGE LEFT, LIZA calls from offstage.

LIZA: Nana! What is it? (*She rushes in to CENTER STAGE, then sees the poinsettia on the floor.*) Now who knocked over that poinsettia? (*Placing it back on the dresser, she notices the open drawer.*) And why is the dresser drawer open? (*As she moves to close it, she notices the missing book, gasps.*) Oh, no! The missus' book! We've been robbed! (*A bigger gasp.*) The children!!!

LIZA darts off DOWNSTAGE LEFT. A second later, MRS. DARLING rushes in, wrapping her robe about her.

MRS. DARLING: Is everything all right, Nana? What is it?

NANA: I thought I heard shouting, but the streets are empty.

LIZA: (*Dashes back in DOWNSTAGE LEFT, excited.*) Mum! The children! They're not in their beds!

MRS. DARLING: What?!!! How can that be?!!

NANA: (*Barks frantically.*) Woof! Woof! We've had an intruder! Woof! Call Scotland Yard!

MRS. DARLING crosses to JOHN's note, and reads it.

LIZA: Nana's right. We've got to get help. Shall I summon the police, Mum?

MRS. DARLING: No, Liza. I'm afraid the police will be of little help tonight.

LIZA: But, Mum, the children! What if they've been taken?

MRS. DARLING: I fear someone did take them, Liza, but I'm afraid the children went along quite willingly.

LIZA: Oh, Mum, no! You can't possibly mean...?

MRS. DARLING: Yes, Liza. I'm afraid it was Peter Pan.

NANA: Peter Pan? Why, that sneaky little... (*She barks out the word.*) ...ruff-ian!

LIZA: So, then it was Peter whom Wendy saw at the window tonight.

MRS. DARLING: Yes. Wendy told me as much, but I didn't want to believe her. I didn't think we'd have to worry about that boy again until spring.

LIZA: What shall we do, Mum?

MRS. DARLING: There's not much we can do, Liza, other than to wait. *(She sinks into her chair, worried.)* Oh, this is just dreadful! Mr. Darling is going to be most upset when he finds out.

LIZA: *(Putting an arm around her.)* Now, now, calm your nerves, Mum. Come into the kitchen and I'll fix you a nice spot of tea.

MRS. DARLING: Oh, Liza, you do think the children will be home in time for Christmas, don't you?

LIZA: Oh, yes, Mum. I doubt Michael would want to miss Santa Claus. What do you think, Nana?

NANA: I don't think anything could keep the children from missing Christmas, except for maybe...pirates!

MRS. DARLING: Pirates?! Oh, dear! I completely forgot about that awful Captain Hook! The children may be in danger! I must summon Mr. Darling right away!

Frantic, she rushes off, DOWNSTAGE LEFT. LIZA admonishes NANA.

LIZA: That was brilliant, Nana - simply brilliant!

NANA: What?! What did I say? *(Ignoring NANA, LIZA rushes off at DOWNSTAGE LEFT, calling.)*

LIZA: Mrs. Darling, wait up! What about your tea?

NANA: *(Shrugs.)* Ruff! Well, whatever it was...it looks as if I'm in the doghouse again!

Lights fade to blackout. End of scene.

—

¹ NOTE: A hidden step stool on the US side of the window helps with the “flying” transition. When PETER and the DARLING CHILDREN are ready to fly off to Neverland, they stand up on the bench, and immediately place one foot through the window. As soon as their foot safely finds the hidden stool, they shout out their “lovely thought” – which is the signal for a short blackout. Magical SOUND EFFECTS or a tinkling of bells will distract the audience while the actors step from the stool, to the floor and safely move offstage. Once an actor is safely out of view of the audience, he gives the signal for “lights up” by summoning the next person to fly, as in, “Come on, Wendy!” (or John or Michael).

* Blackout

** Lights Up

ACT ONE, SCENE 3

AT RISE:

Exterior. A forest in Neverland. UPSTAGE RIGHT, CURLY and TOOTLES are bound together with rope. At UPSTAGE CENTER, SNAPDRAGON is tied together with TIGER LILY. UPSTAGE LEFT, SLIGHTLY is tied with NIBS. HOOK and SMEE grill the children.

CAPTAIN HOOK: All right, ye filthy little gnomes...tell me whar yer leader is! Whar be Peter Pan?!!

NIBS: Don't tell him anything, Curly!

CURLY: Don't worry, Nibs! He'll never get a word out of me!

CAPTAIN HOOK: *(Threatening CURLY with his hook.)* Oh, won't I? Well, ya li'l pipsqueak...we'll see about that!

CENTER STAGE, SMEE pulls out his cutlass, runs his fingers along it.

SMEE: Ye want I should tickle 'im with Johnny Corkscrew, Captain?

CAPTAIN HOOK: No, Smee, I reckon these'll do the trick!

He yanks two feathers from TIGER LILY's hair band.

TIGER LILY: Ow! Ugly pirate pluck Tiger Lily like chicken!

CAPTAIN HOOK: One more word out of you, Princess, and I'll stuff me pillow with ya! *(HOOK hands one feather to SMEE, who crosses to the UPSTAGE LEFT prisoners. HOOK threatens to tickle CURLY.)* Now, tell me, ya grubby little orphan...whar be Peter Pan?

CURLY: *(Laughing.)* Ha, ha, ha! Help, Nibs! He's tickling me!!! A-ha, ha, ha!

NIBS: Fight it, Curly! Try to be brave!

SMEE: *(Gestures to SLIGHTLY.)* This one looks like he's hidin' somethin', Cap'n! *(Tickles SLIGHTLY, who starts to laugh.)* All right, you...whar's Peter Pan?

SLIGHTLY: A-ha, ha, ha! I don't know! Ha, ha, ha!!! I thwear!

SMEE: (*Tickles NIBS.*) What about you, Nibs?

NIBS: (*Laughs.*) No! Honestly! Ha, ha, ha, ha! I don't know anything!

SMEE: Then Tootles'll tell us, Cap'n. He's the weakest link in the bunch.

CAPTAIN HOOK: All right, Tootles, tell me whar yer captain is, or I'll tar yer hide with these lice-ridden feathers!

SNAPDRAGON: How dare you say Tiger Lily's feathers have bugs!

SMEE: Quiet, Princess, or you'll be usin' them feathers to write out yer will!

CAPTAIN HOOK: (*Tickles TOOTLES.*) Now, spit it out, Tootles!

TOOTLES: (*Laughs.*) Ha, ha, ha! Stop it! Stop it, I say!!!!

CAPTAIN HOOK: (*Still tickling him.*) Then out with it!!! Whar's that impish yellow-belly hidin'?

TOOTLES: (*Laughs.*) A-ha, ha, ha, ha!!! He's not hiding anywhere! We wanted a story...s-so—

LOST BOYS/NATIVES: Tootles, no!!!

CURLY: That's it! We're dead. Tootles can never keep a secret.

CAPTAIN HOOK: Give me Pan's location, or I'll rip out yer tongue!

TOOTLES: (*Out of breath.*) Okay...o-okay! Peter's not in Neverland. H-he went to find...

CURLY: Tootles, shut up!!!

TOOTLES: He went to f-f-find...

CAPTAIN HOOK/SMEE: (*Shouting at him.*) Find what?!!!

SFX: the loud ticking of a clock is heard. SMEE startles.

SMEE: Captain, what was that?

CAPTAIN HOOK: What was what? (*He listens. The ticking gets louder. HOOK gasps.*) Arrgh!! Blimey, Smee! It can't be! It sounds like that man-eatin' sea dog!

SMEE: Who, Captain?

CAPTAIN HOOK: The monster, Smee! That treacherous bone-crunching croc! The one responsible for...this!!!

He holds up his hook. All gasp. HOOK begins to panic.

SMEE: Shiver me timbers, Cap'n! The reptile's lookin' to chomp off yer other hand!

CAPTAIN HOOK: Gangway, Smee! We've got to get back to the Jolly Roger's poop deck!

HOOK starts to run off to UPSTAGE LEFT. SMEE gestures to captives.

SMEE: But, Cap'n...what about them?

CAPTAIN HOOK: Leave 'em be! We'll serve 'em up like a tray of hors d'ouvres. Now back to the dingy, Smee!

SMEE: Aye, aye, Cap'n!

He dashes off after HOOK, UPSTAGE LEFT. All breathe a sigh of relief.

LOST BOYS/NATIVES: Whew!!!

TIGER LILY: Thank goodness! They're gone!

NIBS: I thought we were goners, for sure!

SLIGHTLY: Uh...don't look now... but we're thill in a bit of a pickle!

SNAPDRAGON: *(Struggling to get free.)* Slightly's right. We have to get out of these ropes!

CURLY: *(Struggles.)* Or we'll be sitting here - like gator bait!

NIBS: It's not a gator, Curly. It's a mean old crocodile!

CURLY: Oh, well that makes me feel better.

NIBS: And a hungry croc, at that!

TOOTLES: Oh, dear! What'll we do? This is awful! Awful, I say!

TIGER LILY: Shhh! No speak! Tiger Lily hears sounds!

SNAPDRAGON: Snapdragon also hears sounds. It's the ticking...

CURLY: What about the ticking?

SNAPDRAGON: It's getting closer...

STAGE LEFT group shuffles closer to SNAPDRAGON at UPSTAGE CENTER.

TIGER LILY: And closer...

STAGE RIGHT group shuffles a few steps to **TIGER LILY**, *UPSTAGE CENTER*.

SNAPDRAGON: And closer...

Both groups shuffle closer until all are squished at UPSTAGE CENTER.

TIGER LILY: It's almost upon us!

SNAPDRAGON: It's...right... *(On "right," all bend their knees, crouching together in fear.)* over... *(On "over," all slowly turn their heads to look DOWNSTAGE LEFT.)* there!!! *(On "there," all straighten their knees and lean, staring anxiously DOWNSTAGE LEFT. A pause, then suddenly, TINKERBELL pops out and shouts.)*

TINKERBELL: Hiya, gang!

All scream as TINKERBELL crosses to CENTER STAGE, hiding a clock behind her back.

LOST BOYS/NATIVES: Aagh!!!

TINKERBELL: What's all the screaming about?

NIBS: Look out, Tinkerbell! It's a big monstrous crocodile!

TOOTLES: And it's headed this way!

SLIGHTLY: Ith gonna eat us!

CURLY: Devour us!

NIBS: Rip us apart!

TOOTLES: Then pick its teeth with our puny little bones!

ALL EXCEPT TINKERBELL: Run, Tinkerbell, run!!!

TINKERBELL: Ha, ha, ha! What a riot! You humans are so dreadfully ignorant!

TOOTLES: Hey! What d'ya mean?

TINKERBELL: I mean, you're all just lucky I happened to be flying over this forest today.

SNAPDRAGON: And why is that?

TINKERBELL: Because when I saw that Hook had captured you, I flew home and came back with this!

She holds up a large alarm clock, and swings it back and forth.

SLIGHTLY: Whath that?

TINKERBELL: Stupid mortal... don't you know a vicious crocodile, when you see one?

SLIGHTLY: But thath not a crocodile. lth a clock.

TINKERBELL: To you, it's a clock perhaps...but to Captain Hook— *(Suddenly, CURLY understands.)*

CURLY: Wait! I remember now. The crocodile that bit off Captain Hook's hand once swallowed an alarm clock.

TIGER LILY/SNAPDRAGON: That's why he's called "Toc".

CURLY: So when Captain Hook heard the ticking he thought "Toc the Croc" was coming back for him!

ALL laugh.

TIGER LILY: A most clever plan. Pretty fairy lady saved us all!

LOST BOYS/NATIVES: Hooray for Tinkerbell!!!

SNAPDRAGON: Little pixie is very smart!

TINKERBELL: Well, of course, I'm smart. I'm the cleverest person I know...except for Peter Pan. *(She looks around.)* Where is Peter, anyway? I haven't seen him around lately.

TOOTLES: That's because Peter went to see...

ALL EXCEPT TINKERBELL: Tootles, hush!!!

TINKERBELL: Who?

TOOTLES: Wendy!

ALL BUT TINKERBELL: *(A heaving sigh.)* Ugh!

TINKERBELL: Wendy? Oooh!!! *(Angrily stomping her feet three times as she says her name.)* Wendy, Wendy, Wendy! How I despise that girl!

TIGER LILY: Small boy has very big mouth!

TINKERBELL: Why does she have to come here, anyway? Why can't she stay home and find a boy of her own?

SLIGHTLY: Don't be angry, Tinkerbell. lth not what you think.

NIBS: Slightly's right. Peter only went to Wendy's house to get some new stories.

TINKERBELL: I can give Peter all the stories he wants.

A NEVERLAND CHRISTMAS CAROL

TOOTLES: Not like Wendy can. Peter says she tells better stories than anybody!

OTHERS EXCEPT TINKERBELL: Tootles!!!

SNAPDRAGON: Small boy opens big mouth and shoves in humongous foot.

TINKERBELL: So...Peter thinks Wendy tells better stories than me, huh? *(ALL shake heads "No." TOOTLES shakes his head "yes.")* Well, just wait until I get a hold of him! I'm going to give that Peter Pan a piece of my mind! *(TINKERBELL storms off towards DOWNSTAGE LEFT exit.)*

TIGER LILY: Wait! Don't go, fairy lady! You must untie us!

SLIGHTLY: Yeah, what about theeth ropes?

CURLY: You can't just leave us here like this! *(All struggle to get free, scream as lights fade.)*

ALL: Tinkerbell! Come back! Help!!!

Blackout. End of scene.

Do Not Copy

ACT ONE, SCENE 4

AT RISE:

Exterior. A forest in Neverland. TOOTLES, NIBS, SLIGHTLY and CURLY are onstage, rubbing their wrists and arms.

NIBS: Well, that was a close call!

CURLY: You said it. I thought we'd never get out of those ropes.

DOWNSTAGE LEFT, PETER PAN enters carrying MRS. DARLING's book.

PETER PAN: Ho there, lads! What's with all the droopy faces?

TOOTLES: Oh, Peter, thank goodness you're back!

CURLY: And you've brought company!

WENDY, JOHN, and MICHAEL enter.

TOOTLES: Wendy!

NIBS: John!

CURLY: Michael!

SLIGHTLY: We didn't know you were coming!

JOHN: We didn't know either, but it's certainly good to be back in Neverland again!

MICHAEL: Yes! We missed you all ever so much!

NIBS: So, does this mean you've come to live with us?

JOHN: I'm afraid not. We'd miss our family too much.

PETER PAN: But for now, we're all together, so everyone is pleased.

SLIGHTLY: Ekthept for Tinkerbell. Sheeth not happy at all.

TOOTLES: Peter, Tinkerbell saved us from Captain Hook!

PETER PAN: Hook? You mean that villainous pirate captured you while I was away?

CURLY: Yes, and he tried to torture us into telling him where you were.

NIBS: But you would be proud of us, Peter. We held our tongues quite well, didn't we, fellas?

CURLY: All except for Tootles, the big blabber-mouth!

PETER PAN: Tootles?

SLIGHTLY: Yeth, Tootles told Tinkerbell that you went to thee Wendy, and now sheeth furious.

TOOTLES: Sorry, Peter - it just slipped out.

PETER PAN: Never mind. I'll deal with Tink later. Right now I have a big surprise for you all.

LOST BOYS: What is it, Peter?

PETER PAN: While I was away, I heard a story about a marvelous holiday, and I've decided to bring it here to Neverland. It's called Christmas

NIBS: What's Christmas?

WENDY: Oh, Nibs, it's ever so wonderful, and you're going to learn all about it. I have a lovely story to read to you, and perhaps we can all go caroling.

SLIGHTLY: Whath "caroling"?

JOHN: It's when you go house to house with your chums to sing holiday songs.

CURLY: Well, we have plenty of chums.

NIBS: But we don't know any holiday songs.

JOHN: Don't worry. We're here to teach you.

WENDY: Now what song shall we start with?

MICHAEL: How about Jingle Bells?

WENDY: That's a good one. Now, my brothers and I will demonstrate the song, first. Ready, lads? 1, 2, 3...sing!

WENDY/JOHN/MICHAEL: *(Singing a cappella.)*

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way!

Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh – hey!

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way!

Oh, what fun it is to ride—

Suddenly TIGER LILY and SNAPDRAGON rush in, DOWNSTAGE LEFT.

TIGER LILY/SNAPDRAGON: Peter! Peter!

CURLY: It's Princess Tiger Lily and her sister, Snapdragon.

PETER PAN: *(Doffing his cap.)* Greetings, your Highnesses.

TIGER LILY: We came to warn you, Peter Pan! Pretty Fairy Lady is headed this way.

SNAPDRAGON: And she is most unhappy.

PETER PAN: Oh, drat! I suppose that means the end of our caroling lesson.

WENDY: Not necessarily! I have an idea. Now everyone, just follow my lead.

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