

*In Celebration of the Winter Solstice*

**Rocky Mountain Revels 2023**

**JACOBEOAN – TOWER OF LONDON**

Original script by Gray Eubank  
Robert Lockwood (2014)

Script heavily revised and edited by Alastair Norcross  
(2023)

**INT. SCENE - DESCRIPTION**

*The Tower of London. This is a recreation by some museum types to give the look of the Tower from the 17th Century. Probably some modern signage, crowd control ropes, maybe a "wax" figure or three in period costume.*

**1. BRASS OVERTURE**

**2. WITH HER HEAD TUCKED/OH COME OH COME  
EMMANUEL MASHUP**

*Enter a tour group. In the group is a family - mother, father, and two bored, bored, bored teens. An elaborately dressed Beefeater is directing the tour and the tour members carry guide brochures which they reference occasionally. The teens are Noah and Rachel. They were dragged unwillingly on this trip and want everyone to know what utter torture this is.*

**YEOMAN**

Please follow along and remain in the group whilst we move into the chapel. As I mentioned the Tower of London is not all as dark as the tales make it out to be. While we stand near where many a condemned prisoner drew their final breaths, confinement in the Tower was often more for political convenience than capital punishment.

**NOAH**

Blah, blah Tower. Blah, blah kings and queens. Blah, blah London.

**MOTHER**

Noah, is that really necessary? Can't you enjoy being with your family for at least part of the winter holidays?

**RACHEL**

**(holds up cellphone)** I'm not even getting any reception in this dump! This is a nightmare!

**MOTHER**

Rachel! Put that phone away! Why do you want to look at that screen, when you're in this fabulous place? Look how much your father is enjoying himself.

**FATHER**

**(Looking up from guidebook, pointing)** Look! HORSE armor!

**YEOMAN**

**(loudly, over the bickering family)** In this very room many winters past the families of prisoners often came to be with their loved ones who had fallen out of favor with royals. Or perhaps royals themselves passed the winter days and nights with loved ones.

**NOAH**

I think we're the only kids in the world forced to learn HISTORY over winter break!

**RACHEL**

We could be skiing.

**MOTHER**

**(Annoyed, to kids)** Would it kill you two to *try* to act interested? Maybe you could find something around here to torture *each other* with!

**FATHER**

**(oblivious to family)** This is the actual armor of kings! **(sings, dances)** "I'm Henry the Eighth I am, I am".

**(Noah and Rachel hide their faces in embarrassment)**

**RACHEL**

Please, let me die now!

**NOAH**

Do you know how many parties we're missing, right now?

**RACHEL**

Heather's.

**NOAH**

Joey's.

**RACHEL**

Jenny's.

**NOAH**

Todd's.

**RACHEL**

Heather's.

**NOAH**

You already said Heather's

**RACHEL**

She's having two. One at her mom's place, and one at her dad's. She's so lucky that her parents are divorced. I wish ours were.

**NOAH**

Yes, but no such luck!

**MOTHER**

Noah, Rachel, what a terrible thing to say! Your father and I love each other very much, don't we Harold?

**FATHER**

Er, yes dear.

**MOTHER**

And we're very happy together, aren't we Harold?

**FATHER**

Er, yes dear.

**MOTHER**

And we'd never dream of getting divorced. Would we, Harold? (no answer). Would we Harold?

**FATHER**

**(absorbed in looking at a suit of armor, or the like)** What?

Er, yes dear.

**MOTHER**

What, Harold?

**FATHER**

What? Oh, er, no dear.

**YEOMAN**

Please, follow me and stay with the tour.

**MOTHER**

Harold, the tour is heading this way, are you going to stay in this room forever?

**FATHER**

Yes, dear. **(Mother looks pointedly at him, and he realizes what's going on)** No, dear, no, of course not. **(Bows exaggeratedly to her, and holds out his hand)**

M'Lady, I pray thee, wilt thou accompany me, er, yonder? Thither? **(takes her hand and walks MOTHER over in regal fashion, humming "Rule**

**Brittania", bows as he struts past NOAH and RACHEL, who get even more embarrassed)**

**RACHEL**

This is torture! It's like I'm the prisoner here! I'm like one of those princesses in the tower.

**NOAH**

Yes, I hate this! I wish we were anywhere else besides this stupid Tower of London right now.

BLACKOUT

### **3. CHORUS: NAY IVY NAY (Contest of Holly and Ivy)**

*During anthem the lights come up on the Tower setting. All modern trappings are gone. The place looks real, not like a Disney recreation. The families of the Tower residents are joining them for the solstice feast. Noah and Rachel stand alone, their family has disappeared in the chaos and darkness. As the anthem ends the chorus breaks up into family groups, each meeting with their imprisoned loved one and staking out a spot to settle in for their feast. They ignore the children completely. While this happens, out pops Morley. Morley is a ragged bedraggled man. He's been in the Tower most of his life and knows every secret tunnel and passage way except the one that might lead to freedom. Morley settles in next to Noah and Rachel.*

**MORLEY**

Not locals I take it?

**RACHEL**

Huh?

**MORLEY**

Not to the Tower born? Not a son and daughter of England? Not of we few, we chosen few? Strangers in a Brave New World?

**RACHEL**

What world is this?

**MORLEY**

Oh this is England. Tower of London. Not what you were hoping for?

**NOAH**

No! I wished I was anywhere else but here right now.

**MORLEY**

Then your wish came true.

**NOAH**

How can you say that. This looks like the Tower of London to me.

**MORLEY**

Ah, yes - but it's not right now. This is the Tower of London about 400 years ago. Why aren't people ever specific when they make wishes? Have you met the Wizard Earl?

**RACHEL**

A wizard? Really?

**MORLEY**

Yeeeeesss. Newts into dragons, love potions, magic wands.

**NOAH**

Wow! He can do all that?

**MORLEY**

Of course not. We just call him the Wizard because he's a man of the future, a man of science. He's right there with his wife. Probably going to sing something. They do that a lot here. And EEEEEVERYBODY has to sing along.

#### **4. ROUND (with audience): Christmas is Coming**

##### **WIZARD EARL**

So, now is come our joyful'st feast, Let every man be jolly;  
Each room with ivy-leaves is drest, And every post with holly.  
Though some churls at our mirth repine, Round your foreheads  
garlands twine; Drown sorrow in a cup of wine,  
And let us all be merry.

*Morley brings Noah and Rachel to the Wizard and Lady Earl at the end of the song.*

##### **MORLEY**

M'Lord, M'lady, may I present two young visitors from  
uh... uh...afar.

##### **LADY EARL**

Where are your parents, children?

##### **RACHEL**

Um, I don't know, your, your, majesty?

##### **NOAH**

Yes, I think we've lost them, your highness.

##### **LADY EARL**

Lost them? **Lost** them? *Both* of them?

##### **RACHEL**

Er, yes, your ladyship.

##### **LADY EARL**

To lose one parent, my dear children, may be regarded as a  
misfortune; to lose both looks like carelessness.

I didn't catch your names, my dears.

##### **NOAH**

It's Noah.

**RACHEL**

And Rachel.

**LADY EARL**

Yeeees? (she looks expectant, the children look confused)

**MORLEY**

Your surname, children.

**NOAH**

Aah. Noah and Rachel Stewart.

*A gasp from much of the chorus. They all take a few steps away from Noah.*

**WIZARD EARL**

Not an overly popular name here. You wouldn't be kin to Charles or James Stuart would you?

**RACHEL**

Who?

**NOAH**

Never heard of them.

**WIZARD EARL**

James Stuart. James VI of Scotland, later James I, King of England, and his son, our current monarch, Charles I.

**LADY EARL**

Are you spies sent to catch us speaking ill of the royal family?

**MORLEY**

From the sound of them, m'lady, I take them to be renegades from the New World.

**MAN**

Yeoman coming, Mr. Morley! Yeoman!

(Kids exit)

*Morley looks wildly for an escape route. He is too far from any exit to get out of the room in time. As the Yeoman wanders in (same Yeoman as we saw in modern time) some of the chorus crowds together to hide Noah, Rachel, and Morley.*

## **5. CHILDREN: DECK THE HALL**

## **6. CHORUS: BOAR'S HEAD**

## **7. EVERYONE: BIG CIRCLE DANCE**

*During the dance the Yeoman chases Morley through the dancers, never getting him, and eventually leaving*

## **LADY EARL**

One would think that after 30 years our dear yeoman would catch on to our tricks.

## **NOAH**

30 years? In the Tower? And I thought 30 minutes was too long!

## **WIZARD EARL**

When the alternative is the ax or the noose 30 years is never quite long enough!

*General amusement and chuckles from the Tower residents.*

## **RACHEL**

How can you laugh at that?

## **WIZARD EARL**

What would you have us do? The Tower is where we are. There are better places, there are worse places - but today is the shortest day of the year. In all the land people celebrate the turning toward the light. And so shall we - no matter where we are.

**NOAH**

Why?

**LADY EARL**

Because this, more than any other time of the year, is the time of hope. And who, my young man, is more in need of hope than the imprisoned and the condemned?

**RACHEL**

And I was just hoping to get back home before I miss all the Christmas parties.

**WIZARD EARL**

You are here now. And we are having a party. And you are invited to join the celebration. Or you may gnash your teeth and wail. We still each have the freedom to make that choice. Though, for some of us, the time remaining may be running short.

*The Wizard Earl steps toward his wife and takes her hand, they speak the poem as a playful conversation.*

**8. SPOKEN: WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S SONNET No.138**

**WIZARD EARL**

When my love swears that she is made of truth,

I do believe her, though I know she lies,

**LADY EARL**

That she might think you some untutored youth,

Unlearnèd in the world's false subtleties.

**WIZARD EARL**

Thus vainly thinking that she thinks me young,

**LADY EARL**

Although she knows thy days are past the best,

**WIZARD EARL**

Simply I credit her false-speaking tongue:

**LADY EARL**

On *both* sides thus is simple truth suppressed.

**WIZARD EARL**

But wherefore says she not she is unjust?

**LADY EARL**

And wherefore say not *thou* that thou art old?

**WIZARD EARL**

Oh, love's best habit is in seeming trust,

**LADY EARL**

And age in love loves not to have years told.

**WIZARD EARL**

Therefore I lie with her and she with me,

**LADY EARL**

And in our faults by lies we flattered be.

**9. CHORUS: PASTIME WITH GOOD COMPANY**

**MORLEY**

Now all our neighbors' chimneys smoke, And Christmas logs  
are burning; Their ovens they with baked meats choke, And all  
their spits are turning. Without the door let sorrow lie; And if for  
cold it hap to die, We'll bury 't in a Christmas-pie, And  
evermore be merry!

*(offering Noel a piece of meat)*  
Snack Master Stewart?

**NOAH**

Thank you! *(Noah is QUITE hungry and dives right in...chewing)* What is it?

**MORLEY**

It's either Chicken or Rat. I can't tell any more.

*Noah chokes on what he's eating*

**RACHEL**

*(looking to change the subject)* The Wizard Earl says you've been here for thirty years. Is that true?

**MORLEY**

Thirty years? Let me think *(pause)* What's today? Tuesday?  
*(counts on fingers)* Yes, 30 must be about right.

**NOEL**

What are you in the Tower for?

**MORLEY**

To be honest, I haven't a clue. Me memory ain't what is used to be. Or maybe it is. I don't remember. I came one day. I never left. That's how many Tower stories go. But even in the most challenging times, there is much here to warm the winter nights.

## **10. CHILDREN'S SET: MASTERS IN THIS HALL—INSTRUMENTAL—I SAW THREE SHIPS (WITH ADULTS)**

*Toward the end of "I Saw Three Ships," the Yeoman re-enters. When the song concludes, the Wizard Earl boldly engages him.*

## **WIZARD EARL**

My good Yeoman Warder - your arrival at our festivities is auspiciously timed. Each Winter Solstice we Tower guests choose from amongst our ranks a Lord of Misrule to turn the hierarchy bottoms up and shake the proper order about. Whom, of all these present, wouldst thou have bandy the jailer's keys for an all too hasty moment and wield the wayward rules of life and death?

## **11. BRASS INTERLUDE: THE LORD/LADY OF MISRULE**

*The Yeoman, relishing his new task, then turns and points into the audience. He chooses a "volunteer" to bring to the stage to be the Lord of Misrule. To a rousing fanfare the Lord/Lady of Misrule is seated in a position of honor along with the Wizard Earl.*

## **WIZARD EARL**

M'Lord/M'Lady of Misrule - as is the custom of the season, we now subject ourselves to your rule. It is now our honor to serve *your* pleasure. So, for our entertainment, you must choose, according to your whim. Morley, bring forth the choices for our distinguished Lord/Lady

*Morley brings forward a scroll which he unravels as he speaks.*

## **MORLEY**

M'Lord/M'Lady, may I present your choices? Pick one from this list. Any one you like. It's entirely up to you. (*scroll says 'Ghost Story' over and over again*) So you're picking ghost story? Are you sure? You wouldn't like to reconsider? As I said, you can pick any of these you like. OK then. Ghost story it is.

*Ghosts cross the stage*

## **NOAH**

Those are ghosts!

## **LADY EARL**

Each with a story to tell. But we've heard them all time and again. *(a brilliant idea hits the Lady Earl)* Master Noah, Mistress Rachel! You two must have a grand new Christmas ghost story for the season. We would hear it.

**NOAH**

Ghost stories! At Christmas? No one tells ghost stories now.

**MORLEY**

No one? We tell them every year. And it would be unwise to disappoint the Lady Earl when she asks for a ghost story. She may look like she has the body of a weak and feeble woman (Lady Earl looks daggers and clears throat, so Morley continues in a hurry); but she has the heart and stomach, and foul temper, of a king, and of a king of England too.

**RACHEL**

But we don't know any Christmas ghost stories (to Noah) do we? Oh wait, what about the Scrooge one?

**NOAH**

Scrooge?

**RACHEL**

Yes, you know (puts on old English person accent) Bad Handbag!

**LADY EARL**

(Full Lady Bracknell) Bad Handbag? Bad Handbag?

**NOAH**

No, I think it was Bah Humbug!

**LADY EARL**

(Lady Bracknell again) Bah Humbug? Bah Humbug?

**WIZARD EARL**

My dear, let the children proceed. I am anxious to hear of this humbug gentleman.

*The chorus rush to gather around Noah anxious for a new story. They haven't heard one in some time.*

**12. STORY: A GHOST STORY OF CHRISTMAS**

## **NOAH**

Once there was this, like, grouchy old dude named Ebenezer Scrooge.

Every time people said Merry Christmas, he'd say "Bah! Humbug!" and shake his walker at them . . .

## **MORLEY**

I like it already! (*The chorus all practices saying "Bah. Humbug!"*) I'll be Ebenezer! (*Morley takes on the role of Scrooge, children run up to him begging for food or money*)

### **MORLEY (as Scrooge)**

Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?

## **CHILD 1**

We'd rather die!

### **MORLEY (as Scrooge)**

If you'd rather die, you had better do it, and decrease the surplus population.

## **RACHEL**

Scrooge hated Christmas and parties and pretty much hated everyone. But he loved money.

(Band plays "Money, Money, Money")

## **CHILD 1**

I work all night,

## **CHILD 2**

I work all day,

## **CHILD 3**

To pay the bills I have to pay.

### **MORLEY (as Scrooge)**

Ain't it sad!

## **CHILD 1**

But still there never seems to be a single penny left for me.

**MORLEY (as Scrooge)**

That's too bad (cackles).

**NOAH**

One Christmas Eve the ghost of his old business partner, Bob Marley, told Scrooge that if he didn't chillax about the cash he was going straight to H,E, double-hockey- sticks.

*The chorus has no idea what Noah means. Noah points down. Everyone takes a second, then understands.*

**NOAH**

So Bob says "Watch out for three little ghosts, on your doorstep. They have a message for you, hoo, hoo". Then POOF! Bob vanishes in a cloud of smoke. So, Ebenezer thinks "wow man! I must have been spending too much time in Colorado, and hey, look at my hands!" But then, just as he was falling asleep . . .

*Ghosts wander back in and start speaking*

**GHOST (Past)**

I am the ghost of Christmas past. Come walk with me to a Christmas long ago.

*Morley takes the spirit's hand and walks to a part of the stage where a young man and woman and other couples dance.*

**12A. OLD-STYLE DANCE (Grimstock)**

**MORLEY (as Scrooge)**

*(Watching the dance)* Why, that's Belle as a young woman! We were promised to be married, you know.

**GHOST**

Your wedding was never to be.

**MORLEY (as Scrooge)**

I was supposed to take her to the ball, but was hours late that night because I was settling a bad account... arguing with a tradesman. I could see the disappointment in her eyes.

**GHOST**

Belle saw you as you have become.

*Morley starts to reach for Belle as she suddenly stomps away from both Ebenezers.*

**BELLE**

It's money you love Ebenezer; pledge yourself to it! There's no room for me in your tiny heart. I could have loved you so, and we would be each other's old age comfort. But now - draw what comfort you can from your riches - alone and bitter.

**MORLEY (as Scrooge)**

Foolish youth. I never spoke to her again. *(Wistfully and with a hint of hidden tears)* Yet, her company was sweet.

**RACHEL**

So the spooky Christmas Past dude dropped Eb back at his crib and that was Ghost Numero Uno. Next thing Ole Eb knows the clock is striking, and in walks Casper Number Two.

**NOAH**

WALKS! In WALKS Casper Number Two!

*The Ghost of Christmas Present finally picks up on the cue, and enters.*

**GHOST (Present)**

I am the ghost of Christmas Present. Walk with me Scrooge. Tonight the family of your clerk, Bob Cratchit, feasts the season. Though with what miserly wages you pay him there's little enough to their feast. And still they find joy and hope.

*The apparition leads Scrooge to a part of the stage where the Cratchit family (including Tiny Tim) gather around a meager meal and sing:*

## **12B. CHORUS: HEY HO NOBODY HOME**

### **BOB CRATCHIT**

Blessings on us all.

### **MRS CRATCHIT**

Even Mr. Scrooge?

### **BOB CRATCHIT**

Even Mr. Scrooge. What say you Tim?

### **TINY TIM**

God bless us, everyone!

### **MORLEY (as Scrooge)**

Bah! Humbug! More time working and less time singing would make for a family that robs me less of my income. Spirit, their young boy Tim, who was always so small and frail, what does life bring to him?

### **GHOST**

With no change in the fabric you are weaving, he joins Ignorance and Want in an empty future.

### **NOAH**

So this cheery number deposits Scrooge back in his bed just in time for the clock to strike again.

*Mr. and Mrs. Cratchit fade away, and Morley/Ebenezer fearfully confronts the Ghosts for a third time.*

## **MORLEY (as Scrooge)**

I know you must be the Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come. I am more mortally fearing what you may reveal than any spectre yet.

*The Spirit points to two characters off to one side.*

## **GRAVEDIGGER 1**

. . . not man nor woman citywide will miss his stingy bones or weep his passing. He leaves a string of debtors happy to see him gone.

## **GRAVEDIGGER 2**

What's to become of his money?

## **GRAVEDIGGER 1**

I'm guessing he took it with him?!

*(They both laugh loudly at this.)*

## **GRAVEDIGGER 2**

Well, I suppose I'll attend the funeral - if they're serving lunch! *(Again the Gravediggers laugh heartily.)*

## **MORLEY (as Scrooge)**

Tell me Spirit - what man is it they speak of?

*The Ghost points to the Gravediggers, who step away to reveal a simple gravestone with "E. Scrooge" scrawled on it. Scrooge breaks down sobbing, and all the Ghosts disappear. Scrooge wakes alone as the clock strikes.*

## **NOAH**

The ghosts were out of there like ... ghosts! Scrooge checked out the dawn light and saw some peeps in the street.

**MORLEY (as Scrooge)**

You, boys?!

**GIRL (indignantly)**

Boys?

**MORLEY (as Scrooge)**

I'm sorry, I have a cold. You, girls, what day is it today?

**GIRL**

It's Christmas Day, of course!

**MORLEY (as Scrooge)**

Well, bless my soul! The Spirits have done it! I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me.

**RACHEL**

And the miser guy bought everyone big turkeys and to this day they party like it's 1699 every year. The End.

**THE WIZARD EARL**

A Christmas Ghost Story as I've never heard. *(to the Lord/Lady of Misrule, bringing him/her to the front of the stage)* My Lord/Lady of Misrule, we end your reign with a Dickens of a tale! Morley! *(Morley runs to join the LOM and Wizard Earl in a posed three person line- up with linked arms at the front of the stage)* - return our guest to his/her proper throne! Our thanks, M'Lord/M'Lady, for ruling o'er our topsy-turvy time.

*As Morley and the LOM return to the audience the chorus breaks into song.*

**13. CHORUS: GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN**

*At the end of the song Morley returns to the stage backing up to where the Wizard Earl was and resuming his pose from before he seated the LOM. Morley's attention is on the audience bidding farewell to the LOM and perhaps flirting a bit with audience members. He doesn't realize that the Yeoman has returned and is standing right behind him, where the Wizard Earl was earlier. The chorus tries to silently warn him, but he is oblivious.*

## **MORLEY**

Rank misers now do sparing shun, Their hall of music soundeth;  
And dogs thence with whole shoulders run, So all things there  
aboundeth. The country-folk themselves advance, For  
crowdy-mutton's come out of France; And Jack shall pipe, and Jill  
shall dance, And all the town be merry!

*Morley intertwines arms with the Yeoman who clamps his arm tightly.*

## **YEOMAN WARDER**

Thirty years I've waited for this day! Thirty years you've run me  
up stairs and down tunnels, through passageways, behind walls,  
and out chimneys. Thirty years I've been sent daily to try to bring  
you before His Majesty. And now, as must with all the Tower's  
guests, your day is come. You're nicked, mate!

## **MORLEY**

It's a fair cop!

*The Yeoman drags a squirming Morley out through the house.*

## **RACHEL**

What will happen to Mister Morley?

## **WIZARD EARL**

What nature has a way of bringing to us all eventually. For many  
of us here though, the final reward has a way of arriving sooner  
than nature intended.

## **NOAH**

But . . . at Christmas?

**LADY EARL**

And that is why we're joyous and celebrate fully every Solstice as if it were our last - celebrate life as the rare sweet rose it is.

**14. CHORUS: Madrigal–To Shorten Winter's Sadness**

**WIZARD EARL**

You are troubled, Master Stewart?

**NOAH**

I miss Morley.

**LADY EARL**

And, perhaps, just a wee bit, your family?

**RACHEL**

We're not supposed to be here! And people who should be here, aren't. How can we ever return to my right place? Nothing is as it should be.

**WIZARD EARL**

One thing is always as it should be.

**NOAH**

What?

**WIZARD EARL**

In the darkest of times there is Hope.

**15. CHORUS: *THE LORD OF THE DANCE* – ALL SING ON REFRAINS**

1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun; I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun;  
I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth. At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain

Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,

And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll  
lead you all in the dance, said he.

2. I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
But they would not dance and they would not follow me; I danced  
for the fishermen, for James and John,  
They came with me, and the dance went on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll  
lead you all in the dance, said he.

3. I danced for the people and I cured the lame;  
The high and the mighty said it was a shame.  
They whipped and they stripped, and they hung me high; They left  
me there on a cross to die.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll  
lead you all in the dance, said he.

4. I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back; They buried  
my body, and they thought I'd gone,  
But I am the dance, and I still go on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll  
lead you all in the dance, said he.

5. They cut me down, and I leapt up  
high: I am the life that'll never, never die. I'll  
live in you if you'll live in me;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;

I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll  
lead you all in the dance, said he.

*[Repeat refrains as cast and audience dance  
out of the theater into the lobby.]*

## **INTERMISSION**

### **ACT TWO**

**16. DANCE: *ABBOTS BROMLEY HORN DANCE* (semi  
darkness**

**17. CHILDREN: HOLLY AND IVY**

*At the end, Noah and Rachel are seated alone. The Lady Earl enters,  
followed by the Wizard Earl. The Lady Earl moves to Noah and Rachel.*

**LADY EARL**

Children, why do you choose to sit so glumly in the dark?

**NOAH**

It's dark whether we "choose" it or not.

**RACHEL**

And in case you didn't notice, our only friend here has been hauled away to his funeral.

**LADY EARL**

Do you know why my husband is called the Wizard Earl?

**NOAH**

Because he dresses funny?

**WIZARD EARL**

Because I am interested in things that people don't understand. Things they often call "magic" or witchcraft.

**RACHEL**

And this has what to do with sitting in the dark?

**WIZARD EARL**

You may bemoan your state or choose to better understand yourselves and bring light into the world.

*The Wizard Earl removes two flasks from his cloak and pours the contents together. He shakes it and the liquid begins to glow. (this is a simple chemical reaction that can be prepared beforehand.)*

It is your choice. Our solstice feast celebrates bringing light into a darkening world.

**NOAH**

Can you mix up a batch of friends and family for us?

*The Wizard Earl takes Noah and Rachel downstage to look out the tower windows.*

**WIZARD EARL**

What lies in that river bed?

**NOAH**

A lot of ice.

**WIZARD EARL**

And on a warmer day it's water. In the spring a mist rises from the river.

**RACHEL**

Ice, water, cloud — it's all the same thing.

**WIZARD EARL**

Hope, love, light - it's all the same thing.  
You have as much as you create.

*The Song Leader comes forward to divide up the audience and lead them in the singing of the Peace Round, "Dona Nobis Pacem."*

**18. CHORUS: NOEL NOUVELET**

*At the end of the song Noah and Rachel have been brought among the singers and suddenly realize that Morley is standing behind him.*

**NOAH**

Morley! What are you doing here!

**MORLEY**

Just visiting.

**RACHEL**

But we thought you were . . . I mean, aren't you . . . you know .

**MORLEY**

Shuffling off this mortal coil? Dancing a long jig at the end of a short rope? Hanging around?

**NOAH**

*(getting into the fun)* Sleeping with the fishes?

**MORLEY**

Food for worms?

**RACHEL**

Pushing up daisies?

**MORLEY**

Bereft of life, I rest in peace? Am I not an ex fool?

**LADY EARL**

Morley! How come you to be among the living?

**MORLEY**

M'Lady - turns out I was always the Court's favorite fool! Thirty years ago as I carried a message to the Yeoman Warder, I hit my head on the low ceiling. When I awoke, I assumed I was a prisoner here and all the while, as I avoided them, the Yeomen have been seeking to release me.

**NOAH**

Wait, what? You only *thought* you were a prisoner . . . for thirty years?!

**MORLEY**

And now, I think I'm free!

**RACHEL**

And you really ARE a fool?

**MORLEY**

I am a complete and utter fool.

*The chorus mobs Morley to congratulate him, the brass plays the intro and the chorus breaks into*

**19. CHORUS: PEACE ROUND: DONA NOBIS PACEM  
– ALL SING**

Dona nobis pacem, dona nobis pacem.

Dona nobis pacem, dona nobis pacem.

Dona nobis pacem, dona nobis pacem.

*The chorus and children continue the celebration of Morley's release and the Solstice. They break into family groups and move away from center stage. Noah and Rachel watch the family groups in their festive mood and sigh glumly. The Wizard Earl approaches them.*

**WIZARD EARL**

Still hangs a sadness cast about you.

**NOAH**

No mystic potion of yours can return us to our family.

**WIZARD EARL**

Ah, missing them are you? What brought you so far the wrong direction in the cascade of years?

*Noah and Rachel shake their heads in confusion. They have no idea.*

**WIZARD EARL**

Family, friends, tradition - they mark the way forward. Ignore your mother's graying hair, your Father's reassuring voice, your Grandmother's new-formed wrinkles - your way is confounded. Forget to note the sunrise, the new moon, the turning of the season, the shortest day - each hour could be any other anywhere.

**NOAH**

But if we hold close the people we love most and celebrate the days we have together?

**WIZARD EARL**

What could be more natural than to flow together through the course of time?

**RACHEL**

Forward, not reversed!

*They think a moment and look at each other, then imitate Scrooge from "A Christmas Carol"*

## **NOAH**

I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.

## **RACHEL**

I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. And every day, all in the right order!

## **20. CHILDREN (song and dance): *Dame Get up and Bake Your Pies***

## **21. THE MUMMERS' PLAY**

*Enter Mummings ROOM*

### **ROOM**

We are right glad to meet you here! Christmas comes but once a year, but when it comes it brings good cheer! Now let the Wassail Cup abound, Whene'er the mummings' time comes round!

*Enter FATHER CHRISTMAS.*

### **FATHER CHRISTMAS**

Here comes I, old Father Christmas; Welcome me, or welcome not,  
I truly hope old Father Christmas will never be forgot!  
I travel the world, to spread good cheer,  
God thing I only work one night a year!  
I'm 16 hundred and thirty-three,  
Do you know how often I've been to PT?  
I still see you when you're sleeping,  
Even though I'm getting old.  
You know the rules—if you mess up,  
You're only getting coal.  
It's time now for the mummings play,

So come on Room, and clear the way!

## **ROOM**

Room, room, brave gallants all, give us room to sport,  
The actors must have needs this room we wish now to resort:  
At the sounding of the trumpet, and beating of the drum.  
Make room, brave gentlemen, and let our actors come.

We are the merry actors that show a pleasant play.  
Stand forth, King Charles the Third, and boldly clear  
the way.

*KING CHARLES steps forth.*

## **KING CHARLES**

I am Charles Three, a king of renown,  
Through decades on end I awaited my crown,  
While my dear old mum was adored by all you,  
The best you'd say about me is I wasn't Andrew.  
After ninety-six years, Liz Truss shook mum's hand,  
Which finished her off, then seven weeks later she'd ruined this  
land.  
So now I'm the king of a penniless state,  
We're not even in Europe, we're really third-rate.  
But enough of complaints, a hero I'll be,  
So summon the villains, and I'll make them flee!

## **ROOM**

Two villains we have, to make London scream,  
A barbering ghoul and pie-maker supreme.  
Their business arrangement was really quite odd,  
Step forth Mrs Lovett, and then Sweeney Todd!

*Sweeney Todd and Mrs Lovett step forth.*

## **SWEENEY TODD**

Sweeney Todd is my name, a cutter of, um, hair,  
Come one, come all, and sit in my chair,  
Of my sharp blade you'd best beware,  
Mrs Lovett and I make quite the pair.  
It really should come as no surprise,  
I supply the meat to go in her pies.

## **MRS LOVETT**

Lovett's my name, my pies are the best,  
So juicy, and meaty, they pass any test.  
Take a dollop of meat, and then you'll see,  
Just mail it off to 23 and Me.  
In a week or two, the results will show,  
You've been chowing down, on great Uncle Joe!

**KING CHARLES**

I say, you two, this is a frightful bore,  
But eating people is against the law.  
I command you to stop, in the name of me,  
Your sovereign king, that's Charly Three.

**SWEENEY TODD**

King Charles, you say, what a lucky break,

**MRS LOVETT**

I've been looking all over for fresh *chuck* steak.

**KING CHARLES**

(takes out a pen and paper) I'll write you a  
warning with my royal pen,  
You can go this time, but don't do it again,  
To anger King Charles, you can't afford,  
The pen is mightier than the sword.

*Sweeney Todd and Mrs Lovett look at each  
other and burst out laughing*

**SWEENEY TODD**

Perhaps he's right, but then again,

**MRS LOVETT**

(takes out and brandishes cleaver) The  
*cleaver* is mightier than the pen!

**KING CHARLES**

(looks at pen) Blasted pen!

*Mrs Lovett chases King Charles until both  
get exhausted, and Sweeney Todd beckons  
King Charles to sit in her chair, where she  
kills him.*

**SWEENEY TODD**

Well that was too easy, his fighting slipshod.  
Hardly a challenge for Lovett and Todd.

### **MRS LOVETT**

To make matters worse, he's got barely enough  
Meat on his bones, and it's stringy and tough.  
To make decent pies with meat that's this poor,  
I'll need to add sauces and spices galore.

### **FATHER CHRISTMAS**

*Spices*, you say? Well here's my assertion,  
That wimpy King Charles was just a diversion.  
To see England's *true hero* you'll quake and you'll cower,  
For nothing can stand against mighty girl power!

### **ROOM**

So now our real saviour will avenge our king twice,  
Step forth and do battle, our mighty Five Spice.

*Five Spice steps forth*

### **FIVE SPICE**

Here come I, Five Spice is my name,  
Of posh, baby, ginger, and scary fame.  
I'm also quite sporty, but mostly I'm clever,  
You'll never defeat me, not if you *viva forever*.  
I know what you're thinking, why aren't there more?  
There's just one of you, where's the other four?  
The problem's our budget, five girls cost a ton,  
So for our cash-strapped show, *five become one*.  
Now Father Christmas, don't be nonchalant,  
Speak up and tell me, *what you really really want*.

### **FATHER CHRISTMAS**

(Pointing at Sweeney Todd and Mrs Lovett)  
This barber and baker have slaughtered poor Chuck,  
Our rightful king, though a bit of a schmuck.  
You must avenge him, so *say you'll be there*,  
Please finish them off, neither one must you spare.

### **SWEENEY TODD**

(Laughing) You're pulling our legs, this young slip of a thing,  
Could never avenge your feeble old king.

### **MRS LOVETT**

If you think she can beat us, you're really quite wrong,  
What's she going to do, kill us with a song?

### **FATHER CHRISTMAS**

Well, now that you mention it...

### **ROOM**

Didn't you guys see last year's show?

### **FIVE SPICE**

I might not have mustard, but still I'm quite spicy,  
Your situation just got rather dicey.  
A few notes from me, you'll be begging me "Stop",  
Just one is *too much*, you're both going to drop.  
(to Father Christmas and Room)  
Best cover your ears, or else you will cry,  
For these two foul villains, this is *Goodbye*.

*Five Spice kills Sweeney Todd and Mrs Lovett with  
excruciating singing. Then in a change of tone, steps  
forward and recites solemnly.*

First comes Christmas, then comes Spring.  
Like Winter I must die, then to life again like Spring!  
Dance, men, the sword dance now for me.

## **21A. Sword Dance**

*Sword dance, ending with Five Spice death.*

### **FATHER CHRISTMAS**

My child! My hero! Here's trouble and strife,  
Who can we find to *spice up your life*?  
Is there a doctor to be found,  
To heal this deep and deadly wound?

### **DOCTOR**

Someone call for a doctor? That would be me!  
I'll treat any patient, just pay me the fee.  
(Father Christmas starts to hand over money)

### **ROOM**

Not so fast! How cam'st thou to be a doctor?

**DOCTOR**

By my travels.

**ROOM**

Where have you traveled?

**DOCTOR**

Lafayette, Louisville, Boulder and Golden,  
I've treated them all, the young and the olden.  
I can see to your boo-boo, your owie, your ouchie,  
They say I'm as good as Anthony Fauci.  
So large is my skill, so great is my fame,  
I'll see a blind patient, and then make him lame.  
I'm simply the best, the greatest I am,  
Last Christmas I cured a holiday ham.

**ROOM**

Who have you treated, and where?

**DOCTOR**

The young and the restless, the bold and the beautiful,  
Through the days of our lives, in general hospital,  
To all my children I've been a guiding light,  
As the world turns, on the edge of night.

**ROOM:** (to Father Christmas)

You want *her* to cure *her*, but don't raise your hopes,  
It seems all she knows she learned from the soaps.

**FATHER CHRISTMAS**

Please doctor, our hero, our joy and our pride.

**DOCTOR**

I'll fix her right up; you folks step aside.  
*(Examines legs with stethoscope, and holds mirror up to feet to check for breathing)*  
I'm detecting no breathing, which isn't ideal.  
The non-breathing patients are harder to heal.  
It's not looking good, I cannot pretend.

**FATHER CHRISTMAS**

Perhaps you should look at the opposite end?

**ROOM (to Father Christmas)**

Are you sure she's a doctor? Her skills seem third-rate.  
*(pulls sweat shirt from doctor's bag and shows it to audience)*

It appears her degree is from Colorado State.

## **DOCTOR**

Now just hold your horses, while I take a look,  
I'll research the cure in my medical book.  
*(takes out book, and looks in it)*  
I've got the answer, it's really quite clear,  
We'll go with old faithful *(produces can of beer)*, a strong local  
beer.

Good hops, malt, and barley, with taste this is rife,  
My microbrewed ale brings the dead back to life.  
*(holds beer over Five Spice, who is revived)*

## **FIVE SPICE (singing)**

Good morning, gentlemen, a-sleeping I have been,  
And I've had such a sleep as the like was never seen.  
But now I am awake, alive unto this day.  
Our mummers tale is done, and we must be on our way.

## **KING CHARLES**

We all shake hands, never fight no more: All be  
brothers *(all women shout "and sisters!")*, and  
sisters, as we ever was before.

## **SWEENEY TODD**

A pocket full of money and a cellar full of beer,  
And a good safe haircut, to last you all the year!

## **FATHER CHRISTMAS**

Be there loaf in your locker and wassail in your cup,  
A fire on the hearth and good luck for your lot,

## **MRS LOVETT**

Money in your pocket and a tasty pie in the pot!

## **ROOM**

Our play is done, we must be gone, we stay no  
longer here

## **ALL MUMMERS**

We wish you all both great and small, a happy  
bright new year!

## **22. MEN: GLOUCESTERSHIRE WASSAIL**

*The chorus loudly leaves the stage and Noah and Rachel remain. He is sleeping. Mom enters and wakes them. In the background are The Wizard and Lady Earl frozen in tableau.*

### **MOM**

So there you are. The tour is almost over. Your Father says you missed all the good parts, something about the family jewels, and for that you're a couple of fools.

*Noah and Rachel look at each and smile at the compliment, they imitate Morley's accent.*

### **NOAH**

Aye m'lady, that we are!

### **RACHEL**

Complete and utter fools!

*Entrance: The rest of Noah's family with the Yeoman tour guide.*

### **YEOMAN**

And our newest and final exhibit on this tour of the Tower Of London is an homage to Henry Percy, the Ninth Earl of Northumberland. He was suspected of involvement in the Gunpowder Plot and was imprisoned here for 17 years before his release in 1621. Members of his family often lived here with him and he made the best of his captivity, even going so far as to have a ten-pins alley installed during his visit. Because of his interest in science and alchemy he was known as "The Wizard Earl." Ladies and gentlemen, your time in the Tower is at an end. If you will

follow me one last time - the gift shop is directly through here.

*Noah and Rachel lag behind long enough to do a double-take at the Wizard Earl statue, as they think the wax figure has winked at them. Then, as they continue to stare at the figure for an instant, he discreetly waves at them. Totally freaked out, but comforted at the same time, they rush off to catch up.*

### **23. WOMEN: To Drive the Cold Winter Away**

*The stage goes dark, Morley and the Lady Earl enter and come downstage center. A single special light reveals the speakers onstage.*

### **24. SPOKEN: *THE SHORTEST DAY***

So the shortest day came, and the year died,  
And everywhere, down the centuries of the snow-white world, Came people  
singing, dancing, to drive the dark away.  
They lighted candles in the winter trees; They hung their homes with  
evergreen,  
They burned beseeching fires all night long To keep the year alive.  
And when the new year's sunshine blazed awake They shouted, reveling.  
Through all the frosty ages you can hear them echoing, behind us -- listen!  
All the long echoes sing the same delight this shortest day:  
As promise wakens in the sleeping land, They carol, feast, give thanks,  
And dearly love their friends, and hope for peace. And so do we here, now,  
this year, and every year. Welcome Yule!

ALL (*shout*): Welcome Yule!!

*The cast all return and join the speaker onstage.*

### **25. CHORUS: *SUSSEX MUMMERS CAROL* – ALL SING**

1. God bless the master of this house,

With happiness beside,

Where'er his body rides or walks, His

God must be his guide.

His God must be his guide.

2. God bless the mistress of this house,  
With gold chain round her breast; Where'er  
her body sleeps or wakes,  
Lord send her soul to rest. Lord  
send her soul to rest.

3. God bless your house, your children too,  
Your cattle and your store;  
The Lord increase you day by day And  
send you more and more.  
And send you more and more.

## **26. CURTAIN CALL/BOWS – BRASS**