

# A MIRACLE ON 34<sup>th</sup> STREET

## **Miracle on 34th Street**

**Adapted by: Mountain Community Theatre from the novel by Valentine Davies based upon the Twentieth Century Fox motion picture *Miracle on 34th Street***

**Directed by:  
Brady Katshor**

**Auditions:  
Monday, October 14th and Tuesday, October 15th  
6:30PM - 8:30PM**

**Pit & Balcony Community Theatre | 805 N. Hamilton St,  
Saginaw, MI 48602**

*Pit & Balcony Community Theatre is committed to providing a nurturing environment in which to share diverse experiences and ideas. In employment, volunteer recruitment, and casting we do not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, or military status. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community.*

## **Welcome!**

Thanks for taking the time to look over the Audition Packet. This show is a staple of the Christmas season, and I am excited to work on this show and I'm excited to see everyone's faces at auditions. We all know that the Christmas season is hectic, and cold. This is also the time depression tends to hit a lot of people. So I hope that with your help, we will be able to brighten someone's day, even just a little bit, with this show. This show is going to be a lot of fun, so be sure to come into auditions with high spirits.

– Brady Katshor; Director

## **Synopsis:**

By chance, Kris Kringle, an old man in a retirement home, gets a job working as Santa for Macy's. Kris unleashes waves of good will with Macy's customers and the commercial world of New York City by referring parents to other stores to find exactly the toy their child has asked for. Seen as deluded and dangerous by Macy's vocational counselor, who plots to have Kris shanghaied to Bellevue Psychiatric Hospital, Kris ends up in a court competency hearing. Especially at stake is one little girl's belief in Santa. In a dramatic decision, the court confirms Kris as the true Santa, allowing Susan and countless other children to experience the joy of childhood fantasy.

## **Audition Expectations:**

Please complete the online audition form: <https://forms.gle/pUwDM3fpjjVGza8x7>

This will be an audition primarily focused on acting and having fun. We will be doing some readings of scenes from the script with other auditioners. These scenes are located below under Sides. I have a very loose direction style and like to see what people bring to the characters so we can personalize it to the actor. So please, come to auditions expecting to play, have fun, and maybe do some silly things based on my whims.

## **Special Notes:**

- All named roles will be played by ages 10+
- All actors under 15 who are cast will be released from rehearsals at 9pm until tech week. From then on, they will be released at the end of rehearsal.
- There is a school show that everyone MUST attend. It is listed on the calendar below. If cast, please be prepared to make arrangements for this day. It is expected that you will be done by noon.

## Character Descriptions:

**Doris Walker** - Personnel Manager at Macy's

**Fred Gayley** - A lawyer, neighbor, and friend to Doris and Susan

**Kris Kringle** - Santa Claus

**Macy** - Owner and manager of Macy's Department Store

**Dr. Pierce** - Physician at Maplewood Home

**Sawyer** - Macy's vocational guidance counselor

**Susan Walker (will play age 7)** - Doris' Daughter

**Shellhammer** - Mrs. Walker's assistant

**Judge Harper** - of the New York Court

**Mara** - Prosecuting Attorney

**Ensemble** - teenagers, children, elves, parents, pedestrians, shoppers, postal baggers.

## Rehearsal Calendar:

October-2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Audition: 6:30pm - 8:30pm	Audition: 6:30pm - 8:30pm				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	First Read-Thru: 6:30pm - 9:30pm	Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Act 1 Scenes 1-3	Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Act 1 Scenes 1-3	Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Act 1 Scenes 1-3		
27	28	29	30	31		
Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Act 1 Scenes 4-5	Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Act 1 Scenes 4-5	Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Act 1 Scenes 4-5	Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Act 1 Scenes 6-8	<b>Halloween</b>		

# November-2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	01	02
Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Act 1 Scenes 6-8	Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Act 1 Scenes 6-8	Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Act 1	Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Act 2 Scenes 1-5	Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Act 2 Scenes 1-5		
Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Act 2 Scenes 1-5		Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Act 2 Scenes 6-11	Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Act 2 Scenes 6-11		Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Act 2 Scenes 6-11	
Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Act 2		Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Act 2 Off-Book	Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Act 1		Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Act 1 Off-Book	
Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Full Show	Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Full Show	Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Full Show		<b>Thanksgiving</b>		

# December-2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01	02	03 Rehearsal: 6:30pm - 9:30pm Full Show	04 Tech Rehearsal: 6:00pm - 10:00pm	05 Tech Rehearsal: 6:00pm - 10:00pm	06 Tech Rehearsal: 6:00pm - 10:00pm	07
08 Tech/Dress Rehearsal: 1:30PM - Call 3:00pm - Start	09 Dress Rehearsal: 6:00pm - Call 7:30pm - Start	10 Dress Rehearsal: 6:00pm - Call 7:30pm - Start	11 Dress Rehearsal: 6:00pm - Call 7:30pm - Start	12	13 Performance: 6:00pm - Call 7:30pm - Curtain	14 Performance: 6:00pm - Call 7:30pm - Curtain
15 Performance: 1:30pm - Call 3:00pm - Curtain	16	17	18 Pickup/School Performance: 8:00am - Call 9:30am - Curtain	19	20 Performance: 6:00pm - Call 7:30pm - Curtain	21 Performance: 6:00pm - Call 7:30pm - Curtain
22 Performance: 1:30pm - Call 3:00pm - Curtain	23	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b>	25 <b>Christmas</b>	26	27	28
29	30	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b>				

## **Sides:**

The sides are listed below. We may do all or some depending on who shows up to auditions, but expect to go through the sides a couple of times with different auditioners.

## **Side #1**

Scene: Macy's toy department, Santa's dais. The next morning.

**Shellhammer** - *(To Kris.)* Welcome aboard. I'm Ms. Shellhammer. It's my responsibility to train the new members of Macy's family of employees. Now, here's a list of the toys we want you to push, Mr. ahh...

**Kris** - Kris Kringle.

**Shellhammer** - Oh, really? That's very clever.

**Kris** - The name's been in the family for generations.

**Shellhammer** - *(Hastening past that one.)* Okay. Now we're overstocked on these toys. So if a child wants something we don't have, you should say, "Now, you might not like that. How would you like a *[Contemporary toy should be inserted]*?" Understand?

**Kris** - Why not give the children what they want?

**Shellhammer** - Because it's Christmas. People will buy just about anything for the kids at Christmas. *You* can change kids' minds because they think you're really Santa Claus, see? So it's a good time to clear out our surplus inventory.

**Kris** - Oh, the real economic spirit, huh?

**Shellhammer** - Yes. And a Santa who helps move merchandise gets a little something extra in his Christmas stocking. Now, we mustn't keep the shoppers... uh... the children waiting.

*(Shellhammer exits. Kris glares at the list, throws it in a trash receptacle, moves to the dais and sits, ready to start the day.)*

## **Side #2**

Scene: Macy's toy department.

**Pierce** - Are you Doris Walker?

**Doris** - Yes. May I help you?

**Pierce** - Doctor Pierce. (*They shake hands.*) I'm the resident physician at the Maplewood Home, where Kris Kringle used to live.

**Doris** - Oh, really? I think I'd like to talk to you.

**Pierce** - I heard that you've hired Kris as Macy's Santa Claus. I'm so glad you gave him a chance.

**Doris** - *Who* is he really, Doctor Pierce?

**Pierce** - That's a good question. I've given it a lot of thought. He claims he's the real Kris Kringle, and if there really is a Santa Claus, he certainly fits the part.

**Doris** - (*Appalled.*) You don't honestly think he's Santa Claus, do you?

**Pierce** - I didn't say that. I merely implied that from a purely philosophical point of view, he *could* be Santa Claus.

**Doris** - Well, do you think he's Santa Claus?—philosophically speaking, of course.

**Pierce** - It's one of those ideas that go round and round in your head—Like is snow, white? Or is red, red? Or when a tree falls in the forest, does it make a sound?

**Doris** - Of course it does.

**Pierce** - Does it? If you were standing there, it would, because the vibrations would bounce off your eardrums. But if there were no eardrums in the vicinity, could it still make a sound?

**Doris** - I've heard that argument, but it could never be proven...

**Pierce** - Or disproven. It's all in your perception. If nobody believed in Santa Claus, maybe he wouldn't exist. But millions of children all over the world do believe in Santa Claus. And Kris believes he is Santa Claus.

**Doris** - He surely does.

**Pierce** - We might say it's a case of "I think, therefore I am."

**Doris** - You are still speaking philosophically, I assume.

**Pierce** - When you live long enough, and deal with the world long enough, you find out that philosophically is really the only way to understand things. They make better sense that way.

**Doris** - Unfortunately we have to be realistic in the retail business.

**Pierce** - I understand... But I must tell you. Kris is perfectly harmless. There are thousands of people leading quite charming lives under similar delusions...

**Doris** - I'm glad you said "delusions."

**Pierce** - As I said, I've known Kris for years, and he's absolutely harmless. His delusion is a positive one. He just wants to bring happiness and the real spirit of Christmas to everyone. I just worry about him sometimes.

**Doris** - Why?

**Pierce** - Kris is an old man, and I'd hate to think of him wandering the streets of New York without a home to go to. If someone would just keep an eye on him... I mean after the store closes.

**Doris** - You mean he has no place to live?

**Pierce** - He can't stay at Maplewood anymore. They've discharged him.

**Doris** - I'll see what I can do, Doctor Pierce. I appreciate your insights. I feel much more at ease after this conversation

**Pierce** - Thank *you*, Mrs. Walker. I know you won't regret having Kris on your staff. Have a Merry Christmas. (*Exits.*)



### **Side #3**

Scene: Santa's dais.

*(Kris is alone on his "throne." Sawyer approaches.)*

**Sawyer** - Mr. Kringle, is it?

**Kris** - Yes. That is one of the names I am called.

**Sawyer** - I'm Albert Sawyer, Macy's vocational guidance counselor.

**Kris** - How do you do?

**Sawyer** - That remains to be seen. Uh... Mr. Kringle, before the customers start coming in, I'd like to get acquainted with you a little. As you are a new employee, store policy requires that I... uh... ask you some questions. Have you enjoyed your work here so far?

**Kris** - I'd hardly call it work. To be honest with you, I normally do this sort of thing for free.

**Sawyer** - I see. So... uh... you normally promise gifts to children around Christmastime?

**Kris** - I do my best.

**Sawyer** - How do you presume to provide all these gifts yourself?

**Kris** - Santa Claus has a lot of influence in making things happen.

**Sawyer** - Uh-huh. And you sometimes go back to the North Pole at night to manufacture the gifts, right?

**Kris** - Actually, no, I live with my reindeer.

**Sawyer** - Excuse me?

**Kris** - Yes. I'm temporarily staying at the home of the zookeeper. I help him feed the reindeer and see that they are all right.

**Sawyer** - Oh... Well, let's move on. Can you tell me what three times five is, Mr. Kringle?

**Kris** - Don't you know?

**Sawyer** - I want you to tell me.

**Kris** - Fifteen, of course.

**Sawyer** - Good. Thank you. Now I want you to...

**Kris** - Extend my arms and touch my nose, alternating between index fingers of each hand. *(Demonstrates.)* I also know this one: *(Touches thumb to each finger on his right hand.)* Do you know any new ones I haven't had before?

**Sawyer** - Who was the first president of the United States?

**Kris** - George Washington. And do you know who was vice president under Grover Cleveland?

**Sawyer** - I have no idea. Mr. Kringle, I'm conducting this interview, if you don't mind. Now. Are you married?

**Kris** - Is that a proposal?

**Sawyer** - *(Getting irritated.)* How many fingers am I holding up?

**Kris** - Three. *(Leans close.)* My, my. I see that you bite your nails. Do these interviews make you nervous?

**Sawyer** - That's none of your business! Now, how much is three times five?

**Kris** - Fifteen. The same as it was the first time you asked. Do you know that unconscious repetition is often a sign of overwork and stress? Are you getting enough rest, Mr. Sawyer?

**Sawyer** - *(Has reached his limit.)* That'll be all, Mr. Kringle!

**Kris** - You could really use a nice vacation. Why don't you take a couple of weeks. I could talk to Mr. Macy for you.

**Sawyer** - *(As Sawyer exits)* That... that... man! He definitely has a rampant psychosis!

## Side #4

Scene: Living room in Doris' apartment.

**Kris** - Do you have a lot of friends in the building, Susan?

**Susan** - Yes, but I don't see them very much. The games they play are so childish. Today they were being animals. They asked me what kind of animal I wanted to be, but I didn't want to be an animal. It's so dumb.

**Kris** - Why didn't you tell them you were a lion or a bear?

**Susan** - Because I'm not a lion. I'm a girl!

**Kris** - But the other children weren't animals, either. They were just pretending.

**Susan** - That's what makes the game so silly.

**Kris** - Do you know what imagination is, Susan?

**Susan** - That's when you see things that aren't really there.

**Kris** - Yes, but it's more than that. Imagination is a place you can go to. A very wonderful country. You've heard of nations like England and Russia and Japan? (*Susan nods.*) Well, imagi-Nation is a place like that. And the wonderful thing about that country is, once you get there, you can do anything you want.

**Susan** - Not *anything*...

**Kris** - For instance. How would you like to fly to Mars and be back by dinner time?

**Susan** - Oh, *that* wouldn't be possible.

**Kris** - Or be the Statue of Liberty in the morning and fly south with a flock of geese in the afternoon? (*Susan smiles and nods in spite of herself.*) It's very simple. Want to give it a try?

**Susan** - Well, I guess I could try.

**Kris** - Okay. Let's start with something easy. How would you like to be a bird flying in the sky?

**Susan** - I wouldn't know how to do that, Mr. Kringle.

**Kris** - Sure you would! Now, stand up. Spread your arms out. That's right. And wave them up and down like wings... Fine. Now tilt sideways and turn. Keep on flapping your wings. That's it! Now you are *soaring* like a bird!

**Susan** - (*Running to him when the experiment is finished.*) I did it, Mr. Kringle. That was fun!

**Kris** - (*Pause.*) Now tell me, if you were to believe that I was really Santa Claus, what would you ask me to bring you for Christmas?

**Susan** - Can you bring *big* presents?

**Kris** - Since we are in the land of imagination, it could be any size.

**Susan** - I want a real house for Mother and me... and a real father to live in it with us.

**Kris** - (*Jolted.*) You're right. That is a tall order, indeed.

**Susan** - Well, if you're really Santa, you can do it. And if you can't, then you're just a nice man with a white beard like Mother said.

**Kris** - Susan, not everyone always gets her wish. That doesn't mean there isn't a Santa Claus. Some children wish for things they can never use—like a real locomotive, for example. And little girls sometimes wish for baby brothers or sisters, even though their parents wouldn't be able to care for them properly... Sometimes a person has to learn something, like how to love or how to behave better before Santa can grant the wish.

**Susan** - But I've wished for a father and a house for such a long time, Mr. Kringle.

**Kris** - And the more you have wished for it, the more it will mean to you when it comes. If everyone got what he or she wanted right away, life wouldn't be half as much fun. So you see, Susan, there are a lot of reasons why a child's wish can't always come true.

**Susan** - A father and a house are really all I want—not toys.

## **Side #5**

Scene: Living room in Doris' apartment.

**Doris** - Hi. Is everything all right?

**Fred** - Did Kris come back here?

**Doris** - No. Isn't he with you?

**Fred** - When he didn't show up, I went to the zoo to find him. The man told me he had already been there to get his things and left over an hour ago.

**Doris** - Oh, heavens, Fred! Something's happened to him!

**Fred** - It's all my fault. And after I told you you could trust me.

**Doris** - I don't want to blame you.

**Fred** - I shouldn't have let him go get his things by himself.

**Doris** - The important thing now is to find out if he's all right. I'd never forgive myself if something happened to him.

**Fred** - I'm surprised. I didn't think you liked Kris.

**Doris** - It's not a matter of like.

**Fred** - I was hoping this was a sign that what he stands for was getting to you.

**Doris** - No. But this is New York City, you know.

**Fred** - Come on, Doris. Who's going to mug Santa Claus?

**Doris** - *(Looks at him a moment.)* I'm calling the police.

*(Picks up phone.)*

**Fred** - Look, Doris, if Kris can get here from the North Pole, then New York shouldn't be any problem for him.

**Doris** - I'm serious, Fred. If he was all right, he would have called by now. He must know I'd be worried.

*(She starts to dial. Susan enters from the bedroom, sobbing, holding blanket. Doris puts phone down.)*

**Doris** - Why, what's wrong, sweetheart?

**Susan** - I dreamed that Mr. Kringle went away and there wasn't any more Christmas.

**Doris** - Susan, you know that dreams aren't real.

**Fred** - *(Has taken Susan beside him on the sofa.)* It was only a dream, Susan. Mr. Kringle will be fine. And we'll never lose Christmas as long as we have each other. *(He sings a lullaby or soothing Christmas carol, and Susan falls asleep.)*

## **Side #6**

Scene: Macy's Toy Department, Santa's dais.

**Macy** - *(To Bloomingdale.)* Welcome to our store. I'm so happy that we can work together in the spirit of Christmas.

*(They shake hands. Photographers' bulbs flash.)*

**Bloomingdale** - Yes, I must admit, I was at first very jealous of the popularity of your goodwill campaign. I felt you were stealing Christmas business from us. Then someone reminded me that goodwill isn't any organization's private property. So we started our own goodwill operation. I must say, it has been most profitable for us.

**Macy** - That's right. Goodwill goes a lot farther with everybody than competition. Now, would you come forward, Mr. Kringle? *(Kris joins them. To Bloomingdale.)* This is the man I told you about. *(To Kris.)* Mr. Kringle, you have brought a very special spirit to both Macy's and Bloomingdale's stores this Christmas season. And it seems to have spread to the entire city of New York as well. Whatever your special gift, it deserves recognition and appreciation. In honor of your distinguished service, Macy's would like to present to you this token of our esteem and gratitude. *(He hands a check to Kris.)*

**Kris** - *(Glances at check.)* Oh, thank you so much. This is very generous... It's going to make Christmas really special for someone who has been kind to me... It's going to buy an X-ray machine.

**Macy** - A what?

**Kris** - It's for the medical facility at the Maplewood Home. Doctor Pierce says an X-ray is very helpful in some situations.

**Macy** - That's going to be quite expensive. That check won't...

**Bloomingdale** - Let me handle it for you. We'll get it for you wholesale.

**Macy** - *(Not to be outdone.)* We'll get it for you at cost!

**Kris** - Thank you both very much. *(He shakes hands with Macy and Bloomingdale as photographers' bulbs flash again.)*

**Bloomingdale** - *(Pointing at photographers.)* Will you folks, and you too, Mr. Macy, and Mr. Kringle... Will you come over to Bloomingdale's to take some more pictures in front of my store? *(To KRIS.)* And since you have brought extra business to Bloomingdale's, there will be a bonus check for you there. That should help pay for that expensive machine.

*(Exit All, ad libbing cheerful words. Doris and Fred are left.)*

## **Side #7**

Scene: Employee meeting room.

**Kris** - (*To Elves.*) I've been thinking. Do you remember how we should always look for the good in everyone, no matter how bad the person seems to be?

**Elf R** - (*Unbelieving.*) Does "everyone" include Mr. Sawyer?

**Kris** - Sometimes the good in people is buried so deep that it has a difficult time trying to get out. When it does come out, we may not be able to recognize it because we've blocked off our willingness to see it. Mr. Sawyer sees things very narrowly because he lacks the ability to dream. That means he can't imagine anything being better than his limited view.

**Elf W** - Is there hope for him?

**Kris** - Of course there is. He just apologized for his angry words. I don't know if he was sincere... but still, we must encourage his good feelings in every way we can.

**Elf R** - What if he wasn't being honest?

**Kris** - That would mean... that the bad was, *at the moment*, stronger than the good.

**Elf W** - You shouldn't go with him, Mr. Kringle!

**Kris** - Not so fast. We must be quick to recognize the good intentions in his words. Having said them, even he, deep down, believes he should mean them.

**Elf Q** - I'm calling for a vote of the elves on whether Mr. Kringle should go with Mr. Sawyer. All those in favor?

**Kris** - Aye!

**Elf Q** - Opposed?

**Elves** - (*Shouting.*) Opposed!

**Kris** - I'm sorry, but I'm in charge of me. So the ayes have it. I'm going to give Mr. Sawyer a chance. Besides, it's Mrs. Walker who decided I should go with him. Don't worry. I can take care of myself. You elves go on home, and I'll see you in the morning.

**Elves** - If you say so, sir. But please be careful.

## **Side #8**

Scene: Bellevue State Hospital, Men's Ward.

*(Kris is dressed in a shroud-like gown, sitting dejectedly on his bed. Fred stands beside him.)*

**Kris** - How could she have done it? How could she have done this to me?

**Fred** - Doris didn't send you here. She thought Sawyer was taking you to dinner.

**Kris** - *(Not really hearing him.)* She must have been humoring me all along. I thought she was beginning to believe in me.

**Fred** - How did it happen that you went with him to Bellevue?

**Kris** - He tricked me. Sawyer kept looking out of the restaurant window as he made small talk. Suddenly he said, "Let's go," and when I stepped outside he pushed me into a waiting taxi, and two men put me between them. Then I heard one of them say "Bellevue." Sawyer didn't even come along.

**Fred** - Didn't they give you the usual sanity tests that you know by heart?

**Kris** - Of course, the same routine. But I was so crushed that Doris would do this to me that I deliberately gave them all the wrong answers. So they committed me.

**Fred** - Doris had no idea what Sawyer was up to, Kris. She agreed that you two would have dinner and he would only talk with you about seeing a psychiatrist.

**Kris** - I'm relieved to know that. But why didn't she come to me herself and explain?

**Fred** - She was afraid of hurting you, Kris.

**Kris** - Well, it hurt anyway. I'm just a nice old man she felt sorry for.

**Fred** - She feels more than that, I'm sure.

**Kris** - *(Shakes his head.)* No... She had doubts, Fred. That's why she isn't here. If you had been dragged off here, she would have been here in a heartbeat.

**Fred** - She certainly had doubts at first. But, she was really beginning to open up and believe. I think her belief was still too new and fragile, and Sawyer may have tipped her the other way. Kris, I'm sure that Doris won't want you to stay here.

**Kris** - It's not just Doris. It's people like Sawyer. He's dishonest and... Ohhhh... I don't want to say the other awful words that occur to me... Yet he's the one who's called normal. If that's how sane people behave, then I'd rather stay here with these more honest folks.

**Fred** - Nonsense, Kris! You're quite sane, and a whole lot saner than most.

**Kris** - Yet he's out there, and I'm in here. I should have listened to the elves. I believed there was some good in that man that I could touch. Now I'll be spending my life at Mt. Hope after all, the way Doctor Pierce said.

**Fred** - Kris! Don't be so gloomy! You're not living up to your own philosophy. You can't just think of yourself.



**Kris** - Eh?... Am I just thinking of myself?

**Fred** - You can't give up! What happens to you matters to a whole lot of people. People like me who have faith in you and what you stand for. And people like Susan who are just beginning to learn about faith.

**Kris** - (Hesitantly, then building.) Well... Maybe... Maybe you're right... Maybe you're right, at that... I should be ashamed of myself. And by golly I am!... Come on, Fred! Let's get out of here!

**Fred** - *Wait* a minute there, Kris. It's not that easy. (*Doubtful.*) There are some legal matters that may be difficult to clear up. I'm not sure...

**Kris** - You tell *me* not to be discouraged. Now, don't *you* be discouraged... I've got faith in you, Fred. I know you'll be able to do it.

**Fred** - Really? Then I'll *do* it! I'll get you out of here!

*(They shake hands.)*

## **Side #9**

Scene: Courtroom.

**Mara** - *(Coming forward.)* As the competency report has already been submitted in evidence, Your Honor, the prosecution wishes to call its first witness: Mr. Kris Kringle.

**Kris** - *(Walks brightly to the witness stand.)* Good morning, Your Honor.

*(Judge smiles and nods, feeling a liking for the old guy.)*

**Mara** - Please state your name for the record.

**Kris** - Kris Kringle.

**Mara** - And where do you live?

**Kris** - That's what this hearing will decide, I believe.

*(Mara scowls. Courtroom chuckles.)*

**Judge** - A very sound answer, Mr. Kringle.

**Mara** - Do you believe that you are Santa Claus?

**Kris** - Of course.

*(Stunned silence.)*

**Mara** - *(To Judge.)* The State rests its case, Your Honor.

*(Courtroom reaction. Halloran catches Judge's attention.)*

**Judge** - *(To Fred, after nodding to Halloran.)* Well, young man, do you want to cross examine the witness? I believe he was employed to *play* Santa Claus. Perhaps he didn't understand the question.

**Kris** - I understood it perfectly, Your Honor.

**Judge** - Uh... In view of the witness' statement, do you still wish to enter a defense, young man?

**Fred** - I do, Your Honor. I am fully aware that Mr. Kringle believes himself to be Santa Claus. In fact, that is the basis of the entire case against him. The State declares that this man is not sane just because he believes he is Santa Claus.

**Judge** - I believe that is a reasonable and logical premise for such a declaration, Mr. Gayley.

**Fred** - It would be, Your Honor, if you or I or Ms. Mara here, believed that we were Santa Claus.

**Mara** - *(Tartly.)* Anyone who thinks he is Santa Claus is out of touch with reality. Of course, he's insane!

**Fred** - Not necessarily. *(Significant pause.)* You believe yourself to be Judge Harper, Your Honor, and nobody questions your sanity, because you are Judge Harper.

**Judge** - *(Suspicious.)* I know all about myself, young man. Mr. Kringle is the subject of this hearing.

**Fred** - I was only making a point, Your Honor.

**Judge** - And your point is...?

**Fred** - I wished to clarify that if a person *is* the person he believes himself to be—just as you are, sir—then he is just as sane.

**Judge** - Of course. But he isn't.

**Fred** - Oh, but he *is*, Your Honor.

**Judge** - Is... WHAT?

**Fred** - I intend to prove that Mr. Kringle **IS** Santa Claus!

*(Hubbub in courtroom. Flashbulbs. Reporters flee to call in stories to their editors. Judge bangs gavel for order.)*

**Judge** - This hearing is adjourned until tomorrow morning at Ten AM *(Gavel.)*

## **Side #10**

Scene: Courtroom.

**Judge** - *(After courtroom is seated.)* The question of Santa Claus is... uh... by and large a matter of opinion. Many people firmly believe in him. Many others do not. The tradition of American justice demands a broad and unprejudiced view of such a controversial matter. This court intends to keep an open mind. I will hear any evidence from either position.

**Fred** - Your Honor, I believe I have some further evidence. I call J. Mara to the stand.

**Mara** - *(Startled.)* Who? Me?

**Fred** - Miss Janet [*or "Master James," if played by boy*] Mara. *(Janet takes stand. To Judge.)* May we skip the oath, Your Honor? *(Judge nods.)* Now, do you believe in Santa Claus, Janet?

**Janet** - Sure I do. He brought me a doll buggy [*sled*] last year.

**Fred** - What does he look like?

**Janet** - He's sitting right over there!

**Mara** - Objection!

**Judge** - Overruled.

**Fred** - Tell me, Janet, why are you so sure there is a Santa Claus?

**Janet** - Because my mommy told me so.

*(Outburst from crowd. Judge grins and raps for order.)*

**Fred** - And you believe your mommy, don't you, Janet? She's a truthful person.

**Janet** - Of course. My mommy wouldn't tell me something that wasn't so.

**Fred** - Thank you, Janet. You may go.

**Janet** - *(As she passes Kris.)* Don't forget a real beauty parlor set [*official football helmet*].

**Kris** - You shall have it, Janet.

## **Side #11**

Scene: Judge's chambers.

**Halloran** - Look here, Henry. I don't care what you decide about old whisker-puss out there, but if you officially rule that there is no Santa Claus, you might just as well start looking for a chicken ranch somewhere. We won't even be able to put you in the primaries!

**Judge** - I'm a sane person and a responsible official. I've taken an oath. How can I say there is a Santa Claus, Charlie? If I do they'll have me de-robed and try *me* for insanity!

**Halloran** - Listen, Henry. Do you know how many millions of dollars' worth of toys are produced each year? Toys that wouldn't be sold if it weren't for Santa Claus? Have you ever heard of the National Association of Manufacturers? How do you think they would like your ruling? And how about all the people they employ to make those toys? Union members, Henry! They're gonna love you! And they're gonna say it with votes!... Then there are the department stores... and the candy companies... and the Christmas card artists and printers... And what about the Salvation Army? They've got a Santa Claus on every corner, and it's their biggest source of income... I'm telling you, Henry, if you rule that there's no Santa Claus, you can count on getting just two votes: yours and that lawyer, Mara's.

**Judge** - (*Shakes his head sadly, puts up one finger.*) One. Mara's a Republican.

(*Sometime later.*)

**Halloran** - Henry, the publicity on the Kringle hearing has reached massive proportions. They're writing blazing headlines about it.

**Judge** - (*Gloomy.*) Yeah. I've seen the papers too.

**Halloran** - So... What are you going to do? You have to think of your situation.

**Judge** - *And my duty to my office.*

**Halloran** - Today is Christmas Eve. If you send Santa Claus to the nut house on Christmas Eve, you're likely to be up for a protest demonstration... or assaulted... or even murdered!

**Judge** - (*Sighs.*) I know. It's desperate... If that young Gayley can figure out the slightest "competent authority" reference that I can use for a sanity ruling, I will willingly and eagerly give him every possible break. I've been observing Mr. Kringle very carefully. He seems to be nothing worse than a very kindly old gentleman. But... unless something miraculous happens, I'll have no alternative but to accept the report of incompetency and have the old guy put away.

(*He exits toward courtroom, followed by Halloran.*)