
DEAR SANTA

Book and Lyrics by
Norm Foster

Music by
Steve Thomas

SECOND SCENE EDITIONS

Dear Santa

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Music by
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Second Scene Editions
Playwrights Canada Press • Toronto

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Norm Foster was born in Newmarket, Ontario in 1949. He attended West Hill Collegiate High School in Toronto. He studied Radio and Television Arts at Centennial College in Toronto, and at Confederation College in Thunder Bay. Norm wrote two plays for Malcolm Black, then Artistic Director of Theatre New Brunswick. Those two plays, *Sinners* and *The Melville Boys*, were enormously successful for Theatre New Brunswick. *The Melville Boys* has made Foster one of Canada's most produced playwrights. *The Affections of May*, *Sinners* and *The Melville Boys* have been translated into French.

Dear Santa was first produced at Theatre Orangeville, December 5 to 22, 2002 with the following cast.

John Dolan	SANTA CLAUS
Avery Saltzman	ALGERNON GLADSTONE
Douglas Chamberlain	LOU FLAPDOODLE
Stephen Guy-McGrath	BOZIDAR
Siobhan O'Brien	KIT BISHOP
Lezlie Wade	OCTAVIA
Elves	
Katelyn Cassin	BALDERDASH
Nancy Robinson	FIDDLESTICKS
Nicole Jedrzejko	PIFFLE
Dean Harris	YEEGADS/MICHAEL BISHOP
Ariel Little-Alcorn	SKIFFLE
Olivia Turley	PHOOEY
Cheyenne Vandervoort	SHORT STACK

Directed by David Nairn
Set design by Stephen Degenstein
Lighting design by Simon Day
Stage manager Laura-Lynn Reid

Original song: "This is My Christmas", music by Steve Thomas, lyrics by Norm Foster.

Characters

SANTA CLAUS
ALGERNON GLADSTONE Santa's Chief of Staff.
KIT BISHOP A young girl in her late teens.
BOZIDAR Santa's foreman. He speaks with a Russian accent.
OCTAVIA Santa's housekeeper.
LOU FLAPDOODLE Sleigh salesman.
MICHAEL BISHOP Kit's brother.

Elves
PHOOEY
BALDERDASH
FIDDLESTICKS
PIFFLE
SKIFFLE
YEEGADS

Non-speaking parts: Mrs. Bishop, choir, assorted elves.

Note: The inhabitants of the North Pole are ageless, whether they have worked there for fifty-eight years or three hundred years.

DEAR SANTA

ACT ONE

Scene One

Time: The present.

Place: The North Pole. SANTA's office.

The play takes place in SANTA's office and the workshop. The office can be represented by just a desk and a chair. The workshop is a much bigger area with workbenches and toys. There should be two entrances S.L. and two entrances S.R. When the scene is in the workshop, one entrance is from the laundry room, the sewing room and OCTAVIA's room; one entrance is from outside. One entrance is from BOZIDAR's room and the elves quarters; one entrance is a back entrance. When the scene is SANTA's office, one entrance is from outside, one entrance is from SANTA's living quarters, one entrance is a back entrance and one is to another part of SANTA's house. Doors are not required. The entrances are merely from hallways.

As the lights come up, SANTA CLAUS and his chief of staff ALGERNON GLADSTONE enter the office. ALGERNON is carrying a large elf-type cap. SANTA is wearing his 'everyday' clothes—sweatpants and an old sweater. He also wears his Santa hat.

AL Santa, please, I'm begging you, don't make me wear the hat.

SANTA It's Christmastime, Algernon, and this is the North Pole. And when it's Christmastime at the North Pole, everybody wears the hat. It's part of the seasonal costume.

AL No, I understand that. And on the elves I can see it. They look cute in the hats. They look downright elfish. But I'm your chief of staff. I'm supposed to command respect. How am I gong to get any respect wearing the silly hat? Grown-up people who wear the hat look like buffoons.

SANTA I wear the hat.

AL And you look terrific in the hat. You are the hat. When people think of the hat, they think of you. But, me, I put it on, I look like a garden gnome. I look like I should be standing watch over your petunias.

SANTA Al, how long have you worked here?

NORM FOSTER

AL Fifty-eight years.

SANTA And every year we have this same discussion.

AL And isn't it getting just a little tiresome.

SANTA It certainly is. Now, put the hat on.

AL Santa...

SANTA Al. Put on the hat.

AL All right, you're the boss, but it's going to look silly. (*AL puts the hat on. It is far too big and falls down over his face.*) Well, what do you think?

SANTA Take it off. You look silly.

AL Thank you. (*He takes the hat off and sets it on SANTA's desk.*) You do that every year just to get a good laugh, don't you?

SANTA Yes. And it cracks me up every time. (*SANTA takes off his own hat and puts on a ball cap.*) All right, let's get down to business. What does my schedule look like today?

AL (*reading from his notebook*) Well, it's a busy one, Santa. Right after breakfast you have a meeting with the sleigh salesman.

SANTA Sleigh salesman?

AL Yeah. I told you about this last week. He's got a new sleigh he wants you to try out.

SANTA What's wrong with the sleigh I've got?

AL Santa, come on. It was made during the Renaissance. It's five hundred years old.

SANTA Oh, I think it's still got a lot of miles left in it.

AL A lot of miles? Santa, you've driven that thing into the ground. Plus I don't think the sleigh or the reindeer are meeting today's emissions standards.

SANTA Well, I think the sleigh is fine.

DEAR SANTA

AL Well, will you at least meet with the man? I mean, he's come all the way up here from Detroit.

SANTA All right then, if he's come all this way, I'll meet with him as a courtesy.

AL Thank you. Then at ten o'clock you're going to listen to the choir to hear how they're doing.

SANTA And how are they doing?

AL Well, word on the street isn't good, Santa. Ever since the choir master retired they've been rehearsing on their own and... well, I understand the rest of the staff has taken to wearing earmuffs whenever they pass the rehearsal hall.

SANTA Well, of course they're wearing earmuffs. It's cold outside.

AL Yeah. I'm sure that's the reason. Now, at ten-thirty it's your morning snack, at eleven o'clock it's brunch, and at twelve o'clock it's lunch. And then from twelve-thirty to one I've scheduled some indigestion. At two o'clock you're parachuting into the West Edmonton Mall. That'll be at the south entrance. And please be careful this time. You remember last year you misjudged your approach and landed on that sausage vendor's cart.

SANTA I didn't misjudge my approach. I was hungry.

AL Well, this year just land where they ask you to and we'll order in some ribs. And then at three-thirty you have a meeting in Paris with the Belanger twins.

SANTA Jacques and Maurice.

AL Yes. They want to talk to you about the lumps of coal you left in their stockings last Christmas. Apparently they've been very good this year and they want to make sure you're aware of that.

SANTA Oh, I know they've been good. I've been watching and I've been very impressed.

AL Yeah, well personally I think you should give them the coal again this year just to make sure they get the message.

SANTA Well, that's why I'm Santa Claus and you're not. What's next?

AL All right, let's see here. From Paris you go to Thailand...

SANTA Oh, I love Thai food.

AL Uh-huh. And then to Switzerland...

SANTA Mmmmm, schnitzel.

AL Yeah. And then it's back here to spend some time in the workshop.

SANTA Well, that sounds like another full day.

The phone rings. AL picks it up.

AL Santa's office. Al Gladstone here.... You'd like to speak to Santa Claus? Yeah, you and a billion others like you.... Well, I'm sorry but Santa's in a meeting right now.

SANTA Al?

AL No, he really can't be disturbed. I'm sorry.... That's right.... Well, I'll tell him you called but I wouldn't count on him getting back to you anytime soon. Okay. Bye-bye. (*AL hangs up telephone.*) Call your wife when you get a chance. (*looking over his notes*) Now, what else have we go here? Oh! I spoke with the Tooth Fairy yesterday. She was trying to set up a speaking tour for the two of you for next summer in South America. But here's the funny part. She wants top billing. Yeah, she wants to call it the "Tooth Fairy and Santa Claus Get Silly in Chile Tour." So I said to her, I said, "Tooth, come on. You visit maybe eight million people in a year. Santa does the whole world in one night. No way you should get top billing." So anyway, she's going to think about it and have her people get back to me. Yeah, like the Tooth Fairy needs people.

No problem. Oh, listen, can I ask you a tiny favour, Santa?

SANTA Certainly, what is it?

AL Can I hitch a ride with you on Christmas Eve? I need a lift to the Cayman Islands. That's where I'm spending Christmas this year.

DEAR SANTA

SANTA Oh. All right. Are you spending it with friends, relatives?

AL No, just me.

SANTA Al, you're not spending Christmas alone again, are you?

AL Hey, I've done it every other year. Why should this year be any different?

SANTA Why? Because Christmas is a time to be sacred with loved ones, that's why.

AL Yeah, well I don't have any loved ones, Santa, and you now what? I like it that way. I'd much rather relax on a beach on Christmas morning than spend my time opening presents that people felt they had to buy for me.

SANTA Algernon, that is entirely the wrong attitude to take towards Christmas. Christmas is a time of joy and if I were you, I would appreciate Christmas for the way it brings people together. For the way it makes each one of us feel towards one another.

AL Well, that's why I'm Al Gladstone and you're not.

BOZIDAR enters from outside.

BOZIDAR Santa Claus? Excuse me for interrupting, but I need to be beating your eardrum.

SANTA What was that?

AL He wants to talk to you.

SANTA Oh, certainly, Bozidar. Come right in. What can I do for you?

BOZIDAR Well... (*He sees the hat.*) Oh, did you pull hat gag on Al again?

SANTA Yes.

BOZIDAR And it works?

SANTA Like a charm.

NORM FOSTER

BOZIDAR I love that bit.

SANTA and BOZIDAR laugh.

SANTA It is a good one, isn't it?

BOZIDAR I'm sorry I miss it.

AL Yeah, okay, get on with your business, Bozidar. Santa and I have a schedule to keep.

BOZIDAR Oh, right. Well, Santa, I am bringing good news. The North Pole Special just pulled in with rest of toy-making supplies.

SANTA Oh, that is good news. Excellent news!

BOZIDAR I know. I was so happy I had to pinch my elf to make sure I wasn't dreaming.

SANTA Well, you see that the supplies get over to the workshop as quickly as possible, Bozidar. And make sure they shipped everything we asked for. All the wood, the wood glue, the nuts and bolts, the dolls eyes, everything.

BOZIDAR You got it. I will check, double check and bodycheck.

AL Hey, there should be a case of scones there too. See that it's sent to my cabin, will you?

BOZIDAR Okey donkey. What is scones?

AL Well, it's like a big biscuit and they go great with a cup of tea.

SANTA All right, Bozidar, just go please.

BOZIDAR That's for sure. I am gone before you can say "Hit the road, Jack Frost."

BOZIDAR exists to outside.

SANTA All right, let's head off to breakfast, shall we? We'll stop at the workshop on the way and let the elves know that the supplies are in.

DEAR SANTA

AL Oh, no. You want me to go to the workshop with you?

SANTA What's wrong with the workshop?

AL Oh, it's those elves. I mean, they're so cheerful all the time. And they're always singing, and they whistle while they work.

SANTA That's the seven dwarfs.

AL Elves, dwarfs.

SANTA You're coming with me, Al. I think you could use a little cheerfulness. (*AL picks up the hat.*) Oh, no. Leave the hat. I'll need it again next year.

SANTA laughs. AL puts the hat on SANTA's desk and they exit to outside. Lights down. Music up. An up-tempo pop or rock song of the day.

Scene 2

Time: A few minutes later.

Place: Santa's workshop.

Lights up on the workshop. SANTA's ELVES are working and bopping to the music. SKIFFLE stands watch near a window.

SKIFFLE He's coming! He's coming!

SKIFFLE throws some pixie dust at the radio and the music stops. All of the ELVES begin to sing a Christmas song.

SANTA and ALGERNON enter.

AL Oh, I knew it.

The ELVES continue to sing another verse.

SANTA (*applauding*) Very nice. Very nice.

SKIFFLE Oh, Santa, you surprised us.

NORM FOSTER

ELVES Good morning Santa Claus!

SANTA Good morning my elves.

ELVES Good morning Mr. Gallstone!

AL It's Gladstone! (*to SANTA*) They're doing that on purpose you know. They're making fun of me.

SANTA Oh, piffle.

PIFFLE Yes, Santa?

SANTA Oh, no, I wasn't talking to you, Piffle. I was just... never mind. Al, the elves would never make fun of you.

SKIFFLE Did you get him with the hat gag yet, Santa?

SANTA Oh, yes. You should have been there.

SANTA and the elves laugh.

AL All right, all right, quiet down! Santa's got some news for you. (*to the shortest elf*) That goes for you too, short stack. Pay attention.

SANTA Well, the news is good this morning, everyone. The North Pole Special has just arrived with our supplies. (*The ELVES cheer.*) And that means that we'll be able to make the Christmas Eve deadline again this year.

The ELVES cheer.

AL Santa, you always make the deadline. When have you never made the deadline?

SANTA Well, nineteen forty-seven was close. We had a blackout that year. Couldn't see a thing in here. Oh, what a mess that was. Dolls were going out with three noses. We had toy soldiers wearing evening gowns. It was a fiasco.

OCTAVIA enters the workshop carrying a laundry basket.

DEAR SANTA

OCTAVIA All right, this is it. I am not going to tell you elves again. The laundry hamper is not a basketball hoop. No more jump shots with your underwear. Your bathroom is littered with elf shorts.

SANTA Good morning, Octavia.

OCTAVIA Oh, good morning, Santa Claus. Good morning, Algernon.

AL Octavia.

SANTA Oh, Octavia, when you get a moment I've got a hole in the elbow of my other suit that needs to be sewn up, and my Christmas Eve pants need to be pressed as well.

OCTAVIA Oh, Santa, come on, what am I, your housekeeper?

SANTA ...Yes, you are.

OCTAVIA Oh, right. I am. Okay, I'll get right on it.

SANTA Thank you. Now, let's see how our work is progressing here. (*moving to one of the ELVES at a workbench*) Oh, this is very nice. Very nice indeed.

OCTAVIA moves to ALGERNON.

OCTAVIA How are you this morning, Algernon?

AL Oh, I'm good. You know, busy.

OCTAVIA Uh-huh.

AL But, that's the way I like it, you know? Gotta keep busy. Otherwise, what is there to do up here? I mean, how many times can you play flashlight tag with Rudolph?

OCTAVIA Right.

AL And how are you doing?

OCTAVIA Oh, I'm busy too. Being the North Pole housekeeper is almost like having a full-time job.

AL It is your full-time job.

NORM FOSTER

OCTAVIA Oh, right. So, are you coming to the wrap party on Christmas Eve?

AL The wrap party?

OCTAVIA Yeah, you know, when we wrap all the gifts?

AL Oh the wrap party. Yes. Well, I'm going to have a million things to do on Christmas Eve, Octavia. I've got to pack and everything, so...

OCTAVIA Oh, are you going away again this year?

AL Yeah. Yeah.

OCTAVIA Heading down south?

AL Well, I would have to, wouldn't I?

OCTAVIA I beg your pardon?

AL This is the North Pole. South is the only direction from here.

OCTAVIA Oh, so it is. You'd think I'd know that by now, but no. So, you won't be coming to the party then?

AL No, I don't think so.

OCTAVIA Oh, that's too bad.

AL Why?

OCTAVIA Oh, no reason. It's just that you're one of the few people up here that I can talk to face to face.

AL Oh, I see.

OCTAVIA I talk to the elves for too long and I'm hunched over for a week. Well, I'd better get over to Santa's office and pick up that suit and those pants.

AL Yeah, sure.

DEAR SANTA

OCTAVIA Maybe I'll see you at breakfast.

AL Maybe.

OCTAVIA Oh, and just a word of warning. Watch out for that hat gag. I think Santa's going to pull it on you again this year.

AL I'll be ready.

OCTAVIA exits out the rear. As she is leaving, BOZIDAR enters from the outside.

BOZIDAR Morning, Octavia.

OCTAVIA Morning, Bozidar.

OCTAVIA exits.

BOZIDAR Santa?

SANTA Yes, Bozidar?

BOZIDAR Santa, we've got problem at train station.

SANTA Problem? What kind of problem? Did they forget the supplies?

BOZIDAR Uh... well... no. Supplies are fine. Supplies are in good supply. You don't have to worrywart about that.

SANTA Well, what's the problem then?

BOZIDAR Well, now is not big problem. It is nothing to get your blouse in a sheepshank about.

SANTA My what?

AL Your shirt in a knot.

SANTA Oh.

BOZIDAR Right. Is smaller problem. Well, not real small. Is somewhere between small and big. Smig, I guess.

NORM FOSTER

SANTA Bozidar, get to the point please.

BOZIDAR Well, I can explain to you better in your office. Can you meet me there in time it takes to prepare minute rice?

SANTA I beg your pardon?

AL Five minutes.

SANTA Oh, of course. Certainly. We'll be right over.

BOZIDAR Good. I see you there in two shakes of a Lamborghini.

BOZIDAR exits out the rear.

SANTA All right, Al, let's go. *(to the ELVES)* Now, don't forget to stop for breakfast everyone. It's the most important meal of the day, you know.

ELVES We will, Santa.

SANTA *(to the ELVES)* Goodbye now.

ELVES Goodbye Santa! Goodbye Mr. Flintstone!

AL It's Gladstone!

AL exits. SANTA begins to exit, then stops and turns the radio back on. We hear the up-tempo music again. SANTA exits. The ELVES begin working and bopping.

Scene 3

Time: Five minutes later.

Place: SANTA's office.

As the lights come up, SANTA and AL enter the office.

AL No, I don't go in for those resort-type places. I mean, that's not roughing it. I want to get back to the land when I'm on vacation. Back

DEAR SANTA

to basics. No, this is a little grass hut right on the beach. No television, no phone, no bathroom.

SANTA No bathroom?

AL Nope.

SANTA Well, what do you do when you need a bathroom?

AL Oh, there's a resort right next door. I use theirs. And sometimes I go there if there's something on TV that I want to watch.

SANTA Or if you need to use the phone?

AL Yeah.

OCTAVIA enters from SANTA's living quarters. She is carrying a pair of SANTA's pants.

OCTAVIA Santa?

SANTA Yes, Octavia?

OCTAVIA Oh, hello again, Algernon.

AL Yeah, hi.

OCTAVIA Are these the pants you wanted ironed, Santa?

SANTA Yes, those are the ones.

OCTAVIA Fine. Oh, and can I make a suggestion? I don't think red is your colour. It's not a slimming tone, if you know what I'm saying. If I were you I'd be looking at blacks and navies.

SANTA Santa Claus wearing black? I don't know about that, Octavia

OCTAVIA Why not? I mean, it's not like you're known for your red suit.

AL Actually, he is known for his red suit.

OCTAVIA Oh. *(to SANTA)* Forget I mentioned it. *(to ALGERNON)* So,

NORM FOSTER

we meet again.

AL Yeah, so we do.

OCTAVIA Strange, huh? Sometimes I don't see you for days, and this morning I see you twice in a matter of minutes. Do you think its fate or is it just destiny?

AL Fate is destiny.

OCTAVIA It is? Well, shut my mouth.

BOZIDAR enters with KIT BISHOP. He is pulling her by the arm.

KIT Hey, let go of me you big goon. Let go!

BOZIDAR This is the problem I was telling you about. She is a stone's throw away.

SANTA A what?

BOZIDAR A stone's throw away.

SANTA I'm sorry. A what?

AL A stowaway.

SANTA Oh.

BOZIDAR Yes. She was on North Pole Special. She was hiding in Boxcar Willie.

SANTA Well now, young lady. The North Pole Special is not a passenger train. It's for supplies only. What's your name?

KIT Kit. What's yours?

AL Hey, don't be a wisenheimer.

SANTA Never mind, Al. I can handle this. I'm Santa Claus, Kit. And this is Octavia, Bozidar and Algernon.

KIT What is this, the North pole or the land of stupid names?

DEAR SANTA

BOZIDAR Well, isn't that the pot calling the kettle of fish?

SANTA All right, Bozidar, Octavia, you two can go on about your work, please.

BOZIDAR Are you sure, Santa? Are you sure you'll be all right here with this one?

SANTA Oh, I think I'll be fine, Bozidar, don't worry.

BOZIDAR All right, but if she is giving you any trouble, you just call my name and I'll be coming in a hurry. You no having to worry. 'Cause baby ain't no mountain peaking high enough.

BOZIDAR exits outside. OCTAVIA exits to SANTA's living quarters.

SANTA So, which Kit are you?

KIT What do you mean, which Kit?

SANTA Well, I have a lot of Kits on my list. Thousands in fact.

KIT I'm Kit Bishop.

SANTA The Boston Kit Bishop or the Windsor Kit Bishop?

KIT Windsor.

SANTA All right, now we're getting somewhere. And tell me Kit Bishop, why did you travel all the way up here to the North Pole?

KIT I had to bring you something. *(She takes an envelope out of her coat and hands it to SANTA.)*

SANTA What's this? A letter?

KIT No, it's a ceiling fan. What does it look like?

AL Hey, Orphan Annie, save the attitude for your schoolteachers. This is Santa Claus you're talking to here.

SANTA It's all right, Al. It's all right. *(to KIT)* So, you came all the way up here to deliver a letter, did you?

Vocal Score

This Is My Christmas

Lyrics by Norm Foster
Music by Steve Thomas

Happy, Joyous and Christmas-ee

Kit

I

II

III

5 **Verse 1** *mp*

Kit

Kit Snow fal-ling soft-ly on neigh - bour - hood trees Child - ren ex - ci - ted a - bout Christ - mas Eve

I

II

III

