

DIRECTOR'S OVER-VIEW

- SCENE 1 Kate, who is homeless, walks slowly across the stage with her bags, pausing centre before leaving.
- SCENE 2 At their home, Nicky, Paul and their friends Sam and Lee are decorating the tree, and getting excited about Christmas.
FOUR DAYS TO GO (☉ Track 1 / 14)
Mum bursts in because of the noise, and tells them to clear up. Sam & Lee leave. Paul & Nicky decide to go shopping to keep out of Mum's way.
- SCENE 3 The Street. Traders set up 'stalls'. Shoppers mill about.
STREETS ARE BUZZING (☉ Track 2 / 15)
Carol singers arrive.
CAROLS MEDLEY (☉ Track 3 / 16)
Among the shoppers, homeless Kate falls to the ground, ignored by everyone except Paul & Nicky.
SHOPPING BAGS (☉ Track 4 / 17)
Nicky and Paul help Kate up to a bench. They discover that she is homeless.
WHAT HAPPENS? (☉ Track 5 / 18)
Nicky and Paul say goodbye to Kate, who climbs into her cardboard box.
- SCENE 4 At home, Nicky & Paul tell their mother about Kate. Mum is horrified that they've been talking to a vagrant. The children want to help Kate; Mum says she's got enough to do already for Christmas.
WHAT CAN YOU DO? (☉ Track 6 / 19)
While Mum gets on with jobs, Nicky & Paul plan to give Kate the contents of their money boxes.
- SCENE 5 Jack, Jill, Fred & other homeless people gather and have a laugh. Police try to move them along.
MOVIN' ALONG (☉ Track 7 / 20)
All the homeless people leave. Kate emerges from her box. The police officers are kindly towards her.
HOME (☉ Track 8 / 21)
- SCENE 6 Nicky and Paul try again to persuade Mum that Kate needs their help. Mum is exasperated. She tells them not to go near Kate, and that it's up to the social services to help her.
- SCENE 7 Jack, Jill, Fred & Kate pass the time by having a pretend posh tea-party, and all have a good laugh.
LIVING IN A BOX (☉ Track 9 / 22)
Their humour begins to disappear as they come back to reality after the song. Nicky and Paul arrive, with the money from their money-boxes for Kate. To their surprise, she tells them she can't take money from children. Abruptly, she tells them to go. They are confused and upset.
THINK OF YOU (☉ Track 10 / 23)
Fred storms off, and Jack and Jill show their nasty side. Kate says the children were the only ones to help her when she fell in the street. It's a good job not everyone is as unpleasant as Jack & Jill.
- SCENE 8 Christmas morning at Nicky and Paul's house. They open presents.
CELEBRATE! (☉ Track 11 / 24)
Under the wrapping paper of their biggest present is a large cardboard box. They are reminded of Kate. When Mum comes in, she can't believe they look so glum on Christmas Day. She's furious to discover that they disobeyed her and went back to see Kate, but asks them to tell her everything. She explains why Kate wouldn't take their money, despite needing it - because she still held onto principles. Having seen things from Kate's point of view, she decides to risk meeting her.
- SCENE 9 Kate is wary at first, pointing out that she's not a beggar. She tells Mum that she should be proud of her children, because they are kind, unlike most people. Mum asks how Kate came to be homeless, and she explains. Mum sympathises with her, and then asks if they could give her a cup of tea and something to eat, seeing as it's Christmas. Astonished, Kate accepts.
HOME FOR CHRISTMAS (☉ Track 12 / 25)
- SCENE 10 At home Paul, Nicky and Mum get tea things ready, while Kate cleans herself up. Paul can't believe the change in Kate when she appears clean and in clothes borrowed from Mum - "Cor! I thought you were an old lady!" They apologise for his rudeness. Kate can't believe that she's there at all. Mum says sometimes you have to let people help you, and asks Kate if she'd like to stay for Christmas. Paul and Nicky are delighted.
AMAZING CHRISTMAS (☉ Track 13 / 26)

Director's Notes

Characters

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|-----------------------|--|
| Nicky | Sensible, thoughtful and mature. SOLO SINGER |
| Paul | Nicky's younger brother. Speaks first, thinks later. Not subtle! SOLO SINGER |
| Mum | Nicky & Paul's mother. Harassed single parent. SOLO SINGER |
| Lee | Paul's friend |
| Sam | Nicky's friend |
| Kate | Homeless woman. Puts on a cheerful front. SOLO SINGER |
| Police officers (1/2) | Sympathetic towards Kate. |
| Fred | Homeless man. SOLO SINGER |
| Jack | " " SOLO SINGER |
| Jill | " " SOLO SINGER |
| Street Traders 1,2,3 | Small speaking parts |
| Shopper 1,2,3,4,5,6 | Small speaking parts |
| 8 Further Shoppers | for the 'Shopping Bags' song - or some could be the same children. |
| Homeless 1,2,3,4 | Small speaking parts |

Other parts (optional) Carol singers, extra traders, extra shoppers, extra homeless people.

Costumes

Ordinary clothes for all characters, apart from homeless people (ragged, obviously!) and police officer(s).

Staging

Up Stage, i.e. at back, at least one large cardboard box (eg. fridge size) for homeless 'home'. Stage Left: to suggest the street. The only essential is a bench, to Stage Left. Also useful: a lamp-post beneath which carol-singers could sing. Otherwise, whatever else is available to suggest a street scene. Stage Right: to suggest the children's sitting room. Essentials: Christmas tree, small table.

Prop Settings

On-Stage: Paul & Nicky's coats and plastic tray on/by table. Box of decorations by tree. Presents under the tree including 2 each for Nicky and Paul to open.

Off-Stage: Rolling pin / apron / rubber gloves for mum. Tea-tray with 4 mugs and plate of biscuits.

Traders' props: holly, tinsel and soft toys in three boxes. Wrapping paper on a rack. Trader-style aprons.

Paul/Nicky: 2 money boxes with coins. Large cardboard box (present) wrapped in Christmas paper.

Jack: old newspaper, and metal tin lid + paper cups for tramps' tea-tray.

Kate: two carrier bags with contents - representing all that she owns.

Carol Singers: carol sheets. Nicky: purse or plastic bag (with money) in coat pocket.

Police officer: cereal bar or similar in shirt/trouser pocket.

Carrier bags + shopping for speaking shoppers, inc. hair rollers for Shopper 3, & sweater for Shopper 1.

For 'Shopping Bags' singers you might want to have: chocolates/sweets, blanket/sheets, teddy/doll,

Whoopie cushion, CDs etc. for the soloists to hold, but it's not essential, apart from the 'pearls' for Posh.