

Director's Notes

Ricky	Central character. Written as a boy, but could equally be a girl (Rikki!) Ideally needs to be capable of singing solo parts. At the outset comes across as precocious, selfish and greedy, though in a thoughtless rather than deliberate way. By the end of the play he/she is transformed, having learnt what Christmas is really about.
Charlie	Ricky's brother. Caring nature.
Tessa	Ricky's sister. Lively, sense of humour. Optional solo, verses of <u>A Perfect Day Tomorrow</u> .
Sam	Ricky's cousin. Slow, but amiable. Engrossed in electronic game.
Hannah	Ricky's cousin. Serious, thoughtful. Optional solo, v.1 <u>King of Kings</u> .
Aunt	Disapproving. Bossy.
Uncle	Jovial. Optional solo singing part, v.1 of <u>It's The Thought That Counts</u> .
Grandma	A character! Plays to the gallery.
Grandad	Kindly figure.
Mother / Father	Caring parents
Other children, as many as are available, to dress as various members of extended family, who form the choir.	

Costumes

All characters dress in ordinary clothes, but suitable for a Christmas party, and appropriate to the age of the character they play. The choir members (extended family) can choose whether to be adults or children, and may wear party hats, tinsel etc.

Props

Ricky needs a box of bits and pieces with which to pretend to construct a gift. He also needs 'one he made earlier!' The grandparents, Uncle, Aunt and cousins need presents to put under the tree when they arrive at the party. Sam needs a pocket electronic game. Hannah needs a doll suitable for later use as the baby Jesus; a shawl is also needed, to wrap the doll at that point.

Options : Dad may need drinks to hand out during the party, and Mum might hand out a tin of 'sweets' or something similar. Children in the choir might have party hooters, etc

Staging

A family home at Christmas. No complicated set is needed. Although elaboration would be straight-forward, the only essentials are a Christmas tree with presents under it, a few chairs, and a bed to one side, to indicate Ricky's bedroom.

Original Production Stage Set

