

Director's Notes

MAIN CHARACTERS

Anya Russian lady
Peter Russian man, Anya's husband
Crystal The snow child. Solo singing (optional)

MINOR PARTS

Child 1,2,3,4 Children of the village (small speaking parts)
Villager 1,2,3,4 Small speaking parts (and dancing - Russian Dance)

NARRATORS

Written as Narrator 1 and 2, but more children could share these.

OTHER PARTS

Children of the village (non-speaking) as many as are available to form the chorus
Cossack dancers during 'Days Grow Cold'
Four Seasons dancers either soloists or small groups for each season
Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Wise Men, Ox, Ass (if creating a nativity tableau)

MUSICIANS

Suggestions are given for simple percussion parts to several songs

STAGING SUGGESTIONS

Staging can be very simple indeed. You could show a Russian village or wintry scene, but a simple white backdrop is sufficient. Stage Left is set as Anya and Peter's home.

PROPS

Model crib, to be set up by the actors at the end of the play, outside Anya and Peter's home.
Free-standing snowmen made from card and covered in wadding/cotton wool.
Snow buildings: free-standing card cut-outs (covered as above) - cottage, castle and city.
Russian dance: garlands are effective - dance hoops cut in half, decorated with flowers.
A large white blanket of wadding or similar (set Stage Right during the snowman scene) from which Crystal will emerge, and on which, later, she can sleep.
Large coloured woollen blanket for Anya to use when preparing a bed for Crystal.

COSTUMES

Anya Peasant blouse, colourful skirt, apron, shawl
Peter Thick shirt, jerkin/waistcoat, trousers tucked into boots
Crystal Long white gown with sparkly accessories, white fur trim on cuffs/hem.
Village children As Peter and Anya, or with bright jumpers, scarves and hats.
Cossacks White shirts, trousers (school or others) tucked into boots (possibly sprayed white, trimmed with fur effect), white hats (made from fur-covered card).
Russian Dancers Girls: bright full skirts, peasant style blouses or similar.
Boys: white shirts, trousers tucked into long coloured socks, waistcoats.
Seasons Dancers Leotards with chiffon or other light material made into a cloak to swirl around in dance. Suitable colours: Spring = Green, Summer = yellow, Autumn = brown, Winter = white.

DANCE SUGGESTIONS (All dances are short, and can be kept simple.)

Russian Dance Needs to be done in a structured way, folk dance style, for full effect. Children need to step with the beat if possible, in circle/line groupings.

Seasons Dances
Cossacks

Very simple expressionistic moves - twisting, turning, free movement.
Strong striding to the beat, swirling their cloaks to represent snow.
They can use cloaks to hide Crystal's return, then move away to reveal her.

Girl Of The Snow

Line-dance style. For the reprise, add extra children.

Director's Overview

It is Christmas time. The village children are disappointed because Anya and Peter haven't made a crib as they usually do. Anya and Peter let them make snowmen in their garden.

Building Snowmen (☉ Track 1 / 16)

The children go home.

Building Snowmen (instrumental only) (☉ Track 16)

The couple have been watching the children and decide to build their own snow child. Anya makes a wish that the snow girl was alive. She kisses the snow child, who begins to move. Peter and Anya are delighted. They all dance together.

Girl Of The Snow (☉ Track 2 / 17)

Anya begins to make a warm bed for Crystal in the house, but Crystal tells her she must sleep outside where it is cold. Anya and Peter sing her a lullaby.

Lullaby (☉ Track 3 / 18)

All through the winter, Crystal plays with the village children, showing them how to build beautiful buildings out of snow. They think she's magical.

Magic (☉ Track 4 / 19)

Winter draws to an end. The children welcome Spring with a dance.

Russian Dance (☉ Track 5)

The weather is warmer, and Crystal appears to be ill. Anya and Peter are worried about her. She tells them sadly that she has to leave them and go to the land of cold and snow.

I Must Go (☉ Track 6 / 20)

Crystal waves goodbye and leaves. Anya and Peter are devastated. Spring, Summer and Autumn pass, and then with the first snowflakes Winter begins to return.

The Seasons Change (☉ Tracks 7,8,9,10,11)
7) Crystal Leaves 8) Spring 9) Summer 10) Autumn 11) Winter

Cossack dancers herald the return of Crystal. Dressed in winter white, they march strongly, and she appears behind them.

Days Grow Cold (☉ Track 12 / 21)

Anya and Peter are delighted to see her again. Everyone dances to celebrate her return.

Girl Of The Snow (reprise) (☉ Track 2 / 17)

Crystal explains that she must leave every spring, but promises to return every winter.

Come To The Crib (☉ Track 13 / 22)

Anya and Peter invite all the children to share their joy. They set up their crib.

[OPTION: Simultaneously, the village children set up their own nativity scene, centre stage.]

Away In A Manger (☉ Track 14 / 23)

This year, and every year to come, Christmas time will be even more special for Anya and Peter, as they have their own child with whom to share it.

Come and Celebrate (☉ Track 15 / 24)