

ChristMAS

By Rod

This sketch is a 'two ways to live' version for Christmas. The first scene is supposed to illustrate a world view. The advertisement (based on the Marks and Spencer one for 2006) then draws out the true meaning of Christmas using prophecies from the OT (mainly Isaiah). If a powerpoint is available then suitable images should be found to show during voice-over advertisement.

CAST

A Male or female
B Male or female
C Male or female

A is seated at a table wrapping presents. He has nearly finished. There must be some spare wrapping paper (ideally Homer Simpson dressed as Santa, but the pattern will probably not be obvious to the audience), and some opened Christmas cards. Enter B and C. They are laden with boxes/bags of drink. They are singing – not very well. They may be slightly inebriated.

B and C “While shepherds washed their socks by night all watching BBC,
The angel of the Lord came down and switched to ITV.”

A Hi there guys. You sound cheerful

B We are. We’ve just finished our Christmas shopping.

C *(Placing bag of bottles on table. Ideally with name of an Off License on it)* At the off license.

A And at the pub by the look of you.

B We’ve got 2 dozen cans of lager, a dozen red and a dozen white bottles of plonk..

C A magnum of champagne.

B 2 bottles of brandy, some sherry and a bottle of Famous Grouse scotch whisky.

C And some cherry brandy.

B That’s right. How could I forget the cherry brandy? Christmas wouldn’t be Christmas without cherry brandy. So, as you see, we are all set for the mother of all booze ups on Christmas Day.

C Yeah, we’re going to get absolutely blotto.

A Well, I am ready for a celebration too. I’ve just wrapped my last present.

- B Good on yer mate.
- A What a marathon. I'm exhausted. I thought for an awful moment I was going to run out of wrapping paper but it just held out.
- B *(looking at the paper)* I like the design; Homer Simpson dressed as Santa.
- C Yes, very festive.
- B Do you reckon your presents will be well received?
- A I'm past caring. But at least Amazon has made the whole process a lot less painful this year. I haven't had to go to the shops at all.
- C Oh, don't you think you have missed out. After all Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without the hours of shopping .. listening to the sound of Slade pumping out 'Merry Christmas everybody' through the piped music system.
- B And Bing Crosby with that old favourite "White Christmas".
- B and C *(Singing)* "I'm dreaming of a White Christmas..."
- A No, I'd rather stay at home – as long as you two stop crooning.
- B Baah humbug.
- A Just because I don't enjoy present shopping doesn't mean I don't like Christmas; I love a Good Christmas dinner.
- C Me too. A nice big succulent turkey.
- A With sausage meat stuffing
- B Roast potatoes.
- C Brussels sprouts
- A Lashings of gravy.
- B Followed by Christmas pudding with brandy butter.
- C Mince pies.
- A Satsumas.
- B Walnuts.

- C And dates. It's the only time of year you eat dates.
- A Don't forget the crackers. Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without silly hats to wear and unfunny jokes not to laugh at.
- C So all that's left to do is to hang up our stockings.
- A And put up the last few Christmas cards; there are a few left to do. *(Points to pile)*
- B Are there any good ones? Let's have a look. *(They share them out)*
- C Here's one with a snow scene. That's really beautiful. I'll put it over the fireplace.
- A This one's got a robin on it – with a bright red breast.
- B And here's one with Santa being breathalysed. That always makes me laugh.
- C This has got a Christmas tree brightly decorated with baubles and lights. They're all very jolly. They'll brighten up the room.
- A This has got a baby in a manger. I don't think we need put it up. It's rather dull. It doesn't really fit in with the Christmas spirit.
- B No, you're right. *(Starts singing)* "Tis the season to be jolly.."
- A *(Singing)* "So get out your bright red broolly".
- A and B *(Singing)* "Trala la la lah, la la la lah"

(christMAS logo appears on screen)

- C *(Pointing to television/screen)* Hang on you two. Pipe down will you. It's my favourite advert; the one for M and S. *(Slightly confused)* Or at least I *think* it is.

(They freeze and look at screen)

Picture of baby in manger replaces christMAS logo)

This isn't just a baby in a manger.
 This is a royal baby – the Prince of Peace.
 The government will be on his shoulders.
 He will establish and uphold justice.
 He will reign on his throne for ever.
 He is our Wonderful Counsellor, our Everlasting Father.

He is our Mighty God.

Picture of Christmas dinner

This isn't just a Christmas dinner.
This is a great feast of rich food for all peoples.
A banquet of aged wines – the best of meats and the finest of wines prepared
for us on the mountain of the Lord Almighty.
He welcomes us into his home.
All our needs will be supplied.
All our tears will be wiped away.
Even death will lose its sting in the presence of our Father God.

Picture of a Christmas present

This isn't just a Christmas present.
This is the offering of a suffering servant.
A lamb led silently to the slaughter.
Crushed for us and bearing our iniquities.
This is the love gift of God.
He gives to us his most precious possession -
the gift to us of his one and only beloved Son.

Picture of Christmas party with people drinking

This isn't just Christmas spirit.
This is the Spirit of the Sovereign Lord,
proclaiming good news to the poor,
freedom for captives,
release for prisoners.
Offering us a crown of beauty,
the oil of his gladness,
a garment of praise.
This is God himself inviting us to join his party of celebration for the birthday of
his Son.

christMAS logo

This isn't just Christmas.
This is God's Christmas.
The birthday of the Christ child.

Are YOU going to join the party?