

SETTING: *Santa's Workshop at the North Pole. On the center of the upstage wall is a long, narrow horizontal window which looks into the Assembly department. We might just be able to see the tip of an Elf hat or two as they work in that area. On either side of the window is a square opening, through which a table projects downstage. The stage right table is the Receiving department. Boxes of toy parts are brought into this area, unloaded onto the table, and shoved through the opening into Assembly. The stage left table is the Gift Wrap department. The completed toys are passed through that opening and wrapped. Sign denoting each department are hung above each workspace. Downstage right is a huge grandfather clock. Around the space we see stacks of old toys from Christmases past – "has-beens," if you will – including a red wagon, a hula hoop, and a basketball.*

AT RISE: *Two weeks before Christmas. Sparkles enters, pushing a dolly stacked with boxes. She crosses to her station and begins to unload them. GLITZY enters opposite carrying wrapping paper. She quickly crosses to her station where she begins wrapping presents. TICK-TOCK enters with a tool and kneels before the Clock. He opens up the side panel and begins tinkering inside. SANTA enters, carrying a clipboard.*

#1 Workshop (Underscoring)

SANTA

Sparkles! Have those parts come in for the Quantum Leap game?

SPARKLES

Got the first shipment right here, Boss. Just about to unload 'em.

SANTA

Time is of the essence, Sparkles.

SPARKLES

Yes, sir!

(SPARKLES starts unloading the boxes on one of the work tables, reciting the “Unloading Mantra” as he does so.)

SPARKLES (cont.)

*Lift and move
Lift and move
Use your back to
Lift and move*

(He continues as SANTA turns to GLITZY.)

SANTA

Glitzy! How are things in Gift Wrap?

GLITZY

Busy, Boss – the busiest it’s ever been.

(She shows him the wrapped gift.)

SANTA

Hang in there, Glitzy. We can’t afford to get behind.

GLITZY

Yes, sir!

(GLITZY starts to wrap another present, reciting the “Gift Wrap” mantra as she does so.)

*Crease and fold
Crease and fold
Tape in place and
Add the bow*

(She continues. TICK-TOCK closes the side panel of the clock. SANTA notices and hurries over to him.)

Tick-Tock! Were you able to fix the Christmas Clock?

TICK-TOCK

Good as new, Boss.

SANTA

What a relief! What’s the official time?

(TICK-TOCK looks at the clock.)

TICK-TOCK

It is exactly two weeks until Christmas.

SANTA

Holy Hot Chocolate! Did you hear that, everyone? Just two weeks 'til Christmas! Let's make some magic!

#2 Jingle All the Way

SPARKLES

*Christmas is coming
It's two weeks away
Magic to make, there's no time for delay
Build the toys
Fill the shelves
We are Santa's elves
We are part of something greater than ourselves!
Christmas is coming
It's just two weeks away...*

(He continues to unload boxes, etc. GLITZY holds a present aloft.)

GLITZY

*Christmas is coming
It's two weeks away
I've wrapped ten thousand plus presents today
Tie the bows
Nice and tight
Colors bold and bright
Only have ten thousand left to wrap tonight!
Christmas is coming
It's just two weeks away*

SPARKLES

*When you're a little kid
Counting down to Christmas day
Minutes drag along like hours in disguise*

GLITZY

*But when you are Santa's Elf
Building toys for Santa's sleigh
Hours seem like minutes...*

GLITZY/SPARKLES

How time flies!

SANTA

*Christmas is coming
It's two weeks away
Jolly St. Nick's keeping panic at bay
One point nine
Billion kids
Writing me their list
Trusting me with every single Christmas wish
Christmas is coming
It's just two weeks away...*

SPARKLES

*Christmas is coming
It's just two weeks away...*

GLITZY

*Christmas is coming
It's just...*

SANTA/SPARKLES/GLITZY

Two weeks away!

(TICK-TOCK crouches down and starts putting his tools away.)

SANTA

Glitzy, let's get those wrapped gifts to shipping!

GLITZY

Yes, sir!

SANTA

Sparkles, where's the rest of that shipment?

SPARKLES

On my way, Boss!

SANTA

Hurry everyone – hurry! There's no time to waste!

(SPARKLES wheels the empty dolly off. DOLLY wheels off the dolly with stacked presents. SANTA takes off his hat and wipes his sweaty brow, muttering to himself, oblivious to TICK-TOCK's presence.)

SANTA

Holy Holly Berries...

TICK-TOCK

You okay, Boss?

SANTA

(Startled)

Tick-Tock! What are you doing down there?

TICK-TOCK

Putting my tools away. Ever since the Accident, I'm not as fast as I used to be.

(He stands up and picks up the tool box with his good hand. It starts to slip.)

SANTA

Here, let me help...

TICK-TOCK

That's okay. I got it.

(TICK-TOCK rights the tool box. SANTA starts to pace.)

Why you so jumpy, Boss? There a problem?

SANTA

No, no, everything's fine! Everything is under control!

(He stops and pats his pockets, looking for something.)

I need a peppermint. Peppermints make everything better. Where did I put them...? Ah!

(He pulls a pack of peppermint out of his pocket and pulls one out. He offers the pack to TICK-TOCK.)

Want one?

TICK-TOCK

No thanks – I quit.

SANTA

Of course you did, I knew that. Sufferin' Sleigh Bells – what was I thinking?

(He hastily puts the pack away and once more wipes his brow with his hat.)

TICK-TOCK

Boss, I've known you a long time now. Something's wrong. Spill it.

(SANTA considers a moment then hands TICK-TOCK the clipboard.)

SANTA

These are today's production numbers.

TICK-TOCK

(Reading the page)

Whoa! This can't be right.

SANTA

I ran them myself this morning.

TICK-TOCK

But according to this, the workshop is running *over* maximum capacity and we're still behind schedule.

SANTA

That's right.

TICK-TOCK

We'll never be ready for Christmas if this keeps up! This isn't good, Boss. How did this happen?

(GLITZY and SPARKLES enter, pushing their respective dollies. GLITZY's is empty, SPARKLES's is full of new boxes. They go to their respective work stations. SANTA pulls TICK-TOCK downstage.)

SANTA

It's that new electronic game – Quantum Leap. Every kid on the planet wants one. But our workshop isn't equipped for the new technology. It takes five elves to put together one Quantum Leap game board – five! Everybody's overworked, every department's understaffed...

(A special comes up on SPARKLES and GLITZY frantically reciting their mantras as they unload/wrap.)

SPARKLES

*Lift and move
Lift and move
Use your back to
Lift and move*

GLITZY

*Crease and fold
Crease and fold
Tape in place and
Add a bow*

SANTA

I don't know how much longer we can hold out...

(We hear a scream through the window. One of the Elf hats disappears.)

SPARKLES

Elf down! Elf down!

(GLITZY crosses to the intercom system and turns it on.)

GLITZY

Attention First Aid – We got an Elf down in Assembly. Repeat – Elf down in Assembly.

(She turns off the intercom.)

Come on, Sparkles!

(She starts off. SPARKLES follows her.)

SPARKLES

Elf down! Elf down!

(They are gone)

SANTA

See what I mean?

TICK-TOCK

(Looking at his crippled hand)

I wish I could be more help.

SANTA

Nonsense. *You* fixed the Christmas Clock.

TICK-TOCK

I made some minor adjustments – it was no big deal.

SANTA

No big deal?! Without that clock, there's no Christmas!

TICK-TOCK

Santa...

SANTA

You know it's true, Tick-Tock!

#3The Gift of Time (underscoring only)

This clock was the first Christmas present ever received – a gift from Father Time. Every Christmas Eve, on the stroke of midnight, the Christmas Clock chimes... Then, and only then, can Christmas begin.

TICK-TOCK

Yes, but what good does a chiming clock do if there are no presents for the kids...?

(Music out. SPARKLES and GLITZY enter carrying a stretcher between them with an unconscious elf stretched upon it. They cross in front of SANTA and TICK-TOCK.)

SPARKLES

Elf down! Elf Down! Elf Down! Elf Down!

(They exit with the stretcher.)

TICK-TOCK

What we need is more Elf power.

JINGLE (O.S.)

Hurry up, Jangle!

(JINGLE enters downstage, carrying a big binder with the words "Elf Training Manual" written on the cover. She looks behind her)

JINGLE

We're gonna be late for class!

(JANGLE enters.)

JANGLE

I'm coming, I'm coming...

(They exit. SANTA snaps his fingers.)

SANTA

Wait a minute! What about the E.I.T.'s? The Elves-in-Training?

TICK-TOCK

The Elves-in-Training? Santa – you can't do that! Only those who have earned the Big Pointy Hat can set foot in Santa's Workshop!

SANTA

Who made that rule?

TICK-TOCK

You did!

SANTA

Well, now I'm breaking it.

TICK-TOCK

But there's so much to learn – they'll need time...

SANTA

Time is a luxury we can't afford!

TICK-TOCK

Boss, trust me – you can't rush a thing like this. You rush things and accidents happen. I know what I'm talking about. I'm a clockmaker who forgot to take his time – now look at me!

SANTA

There were extenuating circumstances in your case, Tick-Tock.

TICK-TOCK

I know, but...

(GLITZY suddenly grabs her index finger and screams in pain.)

GLITZY

Aaaaggghhhhh!

SANTA

Jumpin' Gingerbread!

TICK-TOCK

Glitzy! What happened?!

(TICK-TOCK and SANTA rush to her.)

GLITZY

I was trying to wrap faster, and my finger slipped on the razor sharp edge of that tape dispenser...

(She holds it up. Here finger is covered in blood. They all gasp in horror.)

SANTA

Look at that cut! Ugh – I can't stand the sight of blood...

(Suddenly SPARKLES grips his back and screams in pain.)

SPARKLES

Aaaghhh!

TICK-TOCK

Sparkles! Are you all right?

SPARKLES

My back! I was trying to lift the boxes, move them faster and my back seized up!

TICK-TOCK

Santa, what should we do?

SANTA

It's time to call in the E.I.T.'s!

GLITZY/SPARKLES

No!?!Not the E.I.T's!//Anything but that! Etc.

SANTA

We have no choice!

(TICK-TOCK crosses to the intercom system and turns it on.)

TICK-TOCK

Attention E.I.T.'s – please report to Santa's Workshop. Repeat – Elves-in-Training! Report to Santa's Workshop.

(GLITZY and SPARKLES groan in pain.)

GLITZY/SPARKLES

Oh my finger, it hurts!// Oh, my back, my back...