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Dramatic Publishing

The 12 Days of Christmas

Comedy by Renee Calarco.

Adapted from the traditional Christmas song.



The 12 Days of Christmas

Comedy by Renee Calarco. Adapted from the traditional Christmas song. Cast: 2 to 6m., 3 to 7w., 1 to 8 either gender. Christmas is just around the corner, and Shirley the Partridge is nervous because it's her first time carrying out the ancient family tradition—gathering the French Hens, the Calling Birds and ... oh ... everyone—for the official singing of “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” With strict instructions to guard the Five Golden Rings, Shirley sets off on her quest. But there are bumps in the road. The Turtledoves get injured during their mating dance. The Calling Birds decide to postpone Christmas until spring. The Six Geese a-Laying have flown south for the winter, taking most of the Seven Swans a-Swimming with them. Just when things can't get any worse, the evil Christmas Hoarder steals the Five Golden Rings for his growing holiday collection. But things begin looking up when a super-cool steampunk swan befriends Shirley and joins her on her quest. Will they be able to save Christmas? With fresh dialogue and vivid characters, *The 12 Days of Christmas* is a playful, modern interpretation of the classic Christmas song. *Area staging. Approximate running time: 55 minutes. Code: TU5.*

Cover design: Jeanette Alig-Sergel.

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The 12 Days of Christmas

Adapted for the stage by

RENEE CALARCO



Dramatic Publishing Company

Woodstock, Illinois • Australia • New Zealand • South Africa

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(THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS)

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The 12 Days of Christmas had its world premier performance on Nov. 15, 2013, at Adventure Theatre MTC in Glen Echo, Md.

DirectorMichael Dove
Artistic Director Michael Bobbitt
Assistant Director..... Renana Fox
Choreographer..... Michael Bobbitt
Set Designer Steven Royal
Lighting Designer Jason Arnold
Sound Designer Thomas Sowers
Props Designer Andrea “Dre” Moore
Costume Designer Chelsey Schuller
Stage Manager Donna R. Stout

CAST:

Shirley Deidra LaWan Starnes
Alyssa, et al. Megan Graves
Samantha, et al. Katherine Turner
Christmas Hoarder, et al. Danny Pushkin
Nick, et al. Jaysen Wright
Understudies Haely Jardas, Paul Lysek, Jr

The 12 Days of Christmas

CHARACTERS

SHIRLEY (w): a partridge.

CHORUS (2m., 2w.) play the following:

DOT (w): a turtledove

RICKY (m): a turtledove

MOM PARTRIDGE: a bird hand-puppet played by one actor

GRAMMY and GREAT-GRAMMY PARTRIDGE: two
bird hand-puppets played by one actor

CLOTHILDE (w): a French hen

SOLANGE (w): a French hen

HENRI (m): a French rooster who has been pressed into
service as a hen

FARMER (m): voice over

CALLING BIRDS (2m., 2w.): four of them

CHRISTMAS HOARDER (m)

ALYSSA (w): a steampunk swan

HOST (m): a comedy club emcee

TYLER (either gender): a drummer

FRANCES (w): a milkmaid

SAMANTHA (w): a lady (plays all 9 ladies)

NICK (m): a lord (plays all 10 lords)

Time: Now

Place: A beautiful, festive world where everything is possible.

For Alyssa, Nick, Frances and Samantha, with love.

(Light shift. Music. Maybe some office sounds: ringing phones, copiers, printers, etc.)

SHIRLEY approaches the CALLING BIRDS' office. They're all on their phones and are quite manic.)

CALLING BIRD 1. Uh-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh ...

CALLING BIRD 2. ... whaaat?

CALLING BIRD 3. That's prePOSTerous!

CALLING BIRD 4. Yeah-yeah-yeah, riiight.

SHIRLEY *(to the birds)*. Um, excuse me.

CALLING BIRD 1. Uh-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh ...

CALLING BIRD 2. ... whaaat?

CALLING BIRD 3. That's prePOSTerous!

CALLING BIRD 4. Yeah-yeah-yeah, riiight.

SHIRLEY. Excuse me!

(A moment as the CALLING BIRDS give SHIRLEY the once-over. Then: back to their phones.)

CALLING BIRD 1. Gotta call ya back!

CALLING BIRD 2. Gotta call ya back!

CALLING BIRD 3. Gotta call ya back!

CALLING BIRD 4. Yeah-yeah-yeah, riiiiight.

CALLING BIRD 1 *(to SHIRLEY)*. Hello!

CALLING BIRD 2 *(to SHIRLEY)*. Hello!

CALLING BIRD 3 *(to SHIRLEY)*. Hello!

CALLING BIRD 4 *(into the phone)*. Yeah-yeah-yeah, riiiiight.

SHIRLEY. Can I talk to you all for a minute, please?

CALLING BIRDS 1, 2 & 3 *(to SHIRLEY)*. Your call is very important to us!

SHIRLEY. No, but, see, I'm not on a phone—I'm right here! Hello?!

CALLING BIRD 1. Hello!

CALLING BIRD 2. Hello!

CALLING BIRD 3. Hello!

CALLING BIRD 4 (*into the phone*). Yeah-yeah-yeah, riiight. Yeah-yeah-yeah, riiiight. Yeah-yeah-yeah, riiight. (*Sees that everyone's giving him the stink-eye.*) Gotta call ya back. (*Hangs up.*)

SHIRLEY. I'm Shirley. The new Christmas Partridge.

CALLING BIRD 4. Shirley-baby! Nice to see ya!

CALLING BIRD 3. Nice to see ya, nice to see ya, nice to see ya!

SHIRLEY. It's nice to see you, too.

CALLING BIRD 2. Hello!

SHIRLEY. Uh ... hello.

CALLING BIRD 1. Hello!

CALLING BIRD 2. We know why you're here.

CALLING BIRD 1. We got the heads-up. We're on the ball.
We're in the know.

CALLING BIRD 3. It's time for The Song, right? Time for
The Song, right? Time for The Song, right?

SHIRLEY. Yes! Yes! Thank goodness you remembered!

CALLING BIRD 2. Of course we did!

CALLING BIRD 1. Course we did!

CALLING BIRD 3. It's that time of the year!

CALLING BIRD 4. Time of the year!

CALLING BIRD 1. Oh, but—

Never mind.

(The CALLING BIRDS go still and silent.)

SHIRLEY. What? What's the matter?

CALLING BIRD 1. I just remembered: We've got a scheduling problem.

CALLING BIRD 3. Oh, that's right.

CALLING BIRD 4. Yeah-yeah-yeah, riiiiight.

CALLING BIRD 2. I guess we overbooked ourselves. Our bad. Sorry.

SHIRLEY. Don't tell me that you can't do The Song this year.

CALLING BIRD 1. We can't do The Song this year.

CALLING BIRD 2. Well, not right now, anyway.

CALLING BIRD 3. But we can do it in the spring!

CALLING BIRD 4. We're busy-busy-busy!

CALLING BIRD 2. Gotta lotta work to do!

CALLING BIRD 3. Too many phone calls! Too many phone calls!

CALLING BIRD 1. Plus. We've got a big meeting at Calling Bird Headquarters.

CALLING BIRD 2. Big meeting!

CALLING BIRD 3. Twelve-day retreat!

CALLING BIRD 4. Lotta talkin', lotta talkin', lotta talkin'!

CALLING BIRD 2. Lotta new rules coming down from the big boss!

SHIRLEY. But ... it's Christmas. It's The Song. We do this every year. You know that.

CALLING BIRD 1. Oh.

CALLING BIRD 2. Oh.

CALLING BIRD 3. Ohhh ... nobody told you.

SHIRLEY. Nobody told me what?

(The birds go still and silent again.)

SHIRLEY *(cont'd)*. Guys ... what's going on?

CALLING BIRD 1. Our company is moving Christmas to the spring.

SHIRLEY. What?

CALLING BIRD 2. It's just too expensive to do it in the winter.

CALLING BIRD 3. There's shipping costs ...

CALLING BIRD 4. Fuel costs ...

CALLING BIRD 1. And extra food to keep us plump and feathery in the cold.

(The CALLING BIRDS try to get all plump and feathery.)

CALLING BIRD 2 *(to CALLING BIRD 3)*. You look a little thin.

CALLING BIRD 3. I know, right?

SHIRLEY. But that's silly! You can't have Christmas in the spring!

CALLING BIRD 1. We're really sorry. But there's not much we can do.

CALLING BIRD 2. We can bring it up in the meeting.

CALLING BIRD 3. That's true.

CALLING BIRD 4. We'll talk about it, talk about it, talk about it!

CALLING BIRD 1. It's too bad, though.

CALLING BIRD 2. Yeah. We like Christmas in the winter.

CALLING BIRD 3. We really like the snow.

CALLING BIRD 4. Yeah-yeah-yeah, riiiiight.

CALLING BIRD 1 *(to SHIRLEY)*. There's not much we can do. But we'll give you a call once we figure it out. We're not cancelling Christmas. Just postponing it.

SHIRLEY. You can't postpone Christmas!

CALLING BIRD 2. Don't you worry, Shirley. We'll give you a call!

CALLING BIRD 3. Give you a call!

CALLING BIRD 4. Give you a call!

(They pick up their phones and speak into them.)

CALLING BIRD 1. Uh-huh, uh-huh, uh-huh ...

CALLING BIRD 2. ... whaaat?

CALLING BIRD 3. That's prePOsterous!

CALLING BIRD 4. Yeah-yeah-yeah, riiight.

ALL BIRDS. Goodbye, Shirley!

SHIRLEY. But ...

ALL BIRDS. Your call is very important to us!

SHIRLEY. Wait a minute!

(The CALLING BIRDS disappear. Lights shift. SHIRLEY is back in her world. She sits.)