Intro notes for The Santa Claus Show 2022

These intro notes will give character and set descriptions, and a full summary of the performance including visual moments.

**Character Descriptions**

**Elfie** is tall and gangling, dressed in green velvet, knee length shorts with a gold buttons and straps over his shoulders like overalls. Golden scrollwork decorates the straps. He wears striped knee socks and a striped red shirt. He has a pointed red cap that comes to a tall curl at the back of his head, and pointed elven ears sticking through his hat.

**Twitty** and **Twiddly** are small elves who are dressed just like Elfie, but with green curly caps instead of red. There are two casts of two children each.

**Kelly** wears a pink shirt with a rainbow on the front, a flouncing rainbow skirt, and white sneakers. Her brown pigtails are tied with ribbons. The character is six years old, but she is played by an adult. At the North Pole Kelly is given a pink fluffy dressing gown and pink slippers, to wear over her blue and pink unicorn patterned pyjamas. The elven cloak she is given is purple, shiny and has a collar encrusted with jewels.

**Alana** wears a blue polka dot dress with yellow pockets and trim. She wears sneakers and has brown pigtails. The character is five years old, played by an adult.

**Kelly's Dad** is a tall man wearing a short sleeved green plaid shirt and dark trousers with black shoes. He has short black hair and a jolly smile.

The **Balloon Seller** is a bearded man wearing a Christmas tree outfit made from hoops of green tinsel, over blue shorts and shirt. On his head is a glowing white star on a tinsel headband with a chin strap. He holds a large bunch of colourful balloons.

**Ruby** is a girl in khaki shorts and a grey and white striped top. She wears sandals and has dark brown hair. The character is five years old and is played by an adult.

**Ruby's Father** is wears jean shorts, a blue patterned top, and jandals. He has brown hair and kind eyes, and he carries a bag of vegetables and reads a bus timetable.

The **Mail Elf** is dressed like Elfie. Over his striped red and white top he wears a red velvet jacket with “Mail Elf” written on the back. He carries a red velvet mail bag.

**Santa Claus** wears a rich red velvet jacket and trousers trimmed with luxurious white fur. A wide black belt is buckled around his waist, and he wears black fur topped boots. His fur trimmed cap sits atop white curly hair which matches his full white beard.

**Teddy Bear** resembles a life-sized stuffed bear with a brown body, round yellow belly and a bow tie with blinking fairy lights.

**Pierrot Clown** wears a billowing yellow top with big black pompoms down the front, tights, and a curly red wig with a spotted party hat.

**Raggedy Ann** wears a blue and white plaid dress and had a wig of bright red yarn in two pigtails, with a puffy white mob cap on her head.

**Rubik's Cube** wears a black T-shirt, black trousers and a black baseball cap. Suspended by rainbow straps on his shoulders is a box painted like a Rubik's Cube with green, blue, red and yellow sides.

**Prancer** the reindeer has brown dappled fur across his whole body, with furry shorts with embroidered suspenders and a white stripe across his furry, antlered head. Black cuffs at his wrists and ankles to look like hooves. He stands upright, rather than on all fours.

**Set Descriptions**

**The North Pole**: Flowing white curtains are closed across the stage. The space in front of the curtain shows black stage floor with a scatter of large white painted snowflakes.

**Kelly’s Bedroom**, behind the white curtains, is created by a pink wall with a colourful opaque window. Pastel bunting hangs across the wall. A white four poster bed on the left has a pink rainbow duvet. To the right is a white Christmas tree trimmed in pink and purple tinsel, with silver and pink ornaments and fairy lights. A white toy box with ‘Kelly’ written in pink wooden letters across the front is in the middle. The floor is scattered messily with toys, dolls, and games.

**The Shopping Mall** is created by the white curtains and three large vertical fabric banners hanging from the ceiling. The red, white and black banners are printed with Buy Buy Buy and Sell Sell Sell in capital letters. Slogans like Buy One Get One Free, Interest Free Credit, Selling Out, and 95% Off cover the banners. The babble of a shopping centre can be heard.

**Santa’s Toy Shop** is giant white present with a red ribbon and bow, revealed by rotating Kelly’s bedroom wall. Three large wooden rectangular green, blue, silver, and red present boxes on wheels stand on either side. Two smaller gold present boxes are in front of the giant present. Black curtains at the back of the stage are opened to reveal silhouettes of presents topped with bows. Fairy lights glitter from the bows on the present boxes.

**Story Summary**

Warning- spoiler alert. The following gives a summary of the entire performance, including scenes which rely on pantomime and visual moments.

**The North Pole**: Elfie struggles to get through a white curtain. With a loud ripping, Elfie steps through with a piece of curtain tangled on his arm. Elfie hides the curtain, introduces himself, and begins his Christmas checklist.

Santa’s hand reaches through the curtain to wave Elfie over, to remind him to tell the audience about *Gift a Seat*™. Elfie ticks off his checklist, and the show is ready to start. Elfie tells the audience that this show tells the story of the first time Santa chose someone from Auckland to be his special Christmas helper. Twitty and Twiddly run in to open the white curtain.

**Kelly’s Bedroom**: Kelly and Alana play hide and seek.​ Kelly finds Alana by her bed. Kelly decides they should practice their Christmas play instead. Kelly and Alana use toys and costumes from Kelly’s bedroom to pretend to be different Christmas characters. At the end of the Christmas play, Kelly’s Dad enters to take the girls shopping.

**Shopping Mall**: This scene is done mostly with pantomime.

A Balloon Seller enters with a bunch of balloons. Kelly, Alana, and Dad enter with shopping bags, followed by Ruby and Ruby’s Father. Alana and Ruby admire the balloons. Alana buys a white balloon, and Ruby asks her Father for one. Ruby’s Father opens his wallet, but doesn’t have enough money. Ruby is very sad, and leaves looking longingly at the balloons. ​The banners are taken down and the white curtains open.

**Kelly’s Bedroom**: Kelly decides she and Alana should write to Santa Claus. Kelly gives Alana a notebook while she uses her Dad’s iPad. ​Kelly sings a song, *All The Things I Want*.  During the song, Kelly picks up toys from her bedroom floor and hands them to Alana. At the end of the song, Alana’s arms are piled high with toys. Alana only wants one thing- a white balloon. Alana goes home and Kelly goes off to show her Dad her Christmas list.

**The North Pole**: This scene begins with no dialogue. The white curtains close, and letters from children to Santa Claus drift down from above.​ A Mail Elf enters, running back and forth to catch letters in the sack. He summons a letterbox on wheels that rolls out onto stage. The Mail Elf drops most of the letters dashing across the stage to the letterbox. He manages to deliver one letter, and he proudly dances off.
 With a ripping sound, Elfie steps out from the white curtain, with another piece of ripped curtain on his arm. ​Elfie makes the North Pole magically appear by tossing a rolled up pole into the air that pops into place with a snap. He tries to stand the Pole up, but it falls onto his head. Elfie talks about the letters for Santa Claus, and finds Kelly’s long letter.
 Twitty and Twiddly arrive, and Twitty picks up the piece of white curtain, shaking her head. Elfie quickly takes the ripped curtain and hands Twitty and Twiddly a stack of letters. Elfie decides he will choose Kelly to be Santa’s special helper for Christmas Eve. Elfie tries to magically disappear but his magic trick doesn’t work, so he walks off with the letterbox.

**Kelly’s Bedroom**: The white curtains open. Kelly is preparing for Santa to come. Dad comes in to put Kelly to bed. ​The lights grow dim, and Elfie sneaks into Kelly’s bedroom with tinkling footsteps. Elfie begins to recite a magic poem, when suddenly he thinks he sees a mouse- and he jumps in fright. Elfie falls onto his back and then springs up.  ​At the end of the magic poem, the bed lifts up into the air, and Kelly flies with Elfie as the white curtains close.

**The North Pole**: Kelly and Elfie land in front of the curtains. Twitty and Twiddly run in with a dressing gown and slippers for Kelly to wear.  Elfie tells Kelly that he has brought her to the North Pole to help Santa. ​Jingle bells are heard. Santa enters, coming down the stairs of the theatre. Santa sings *I’m Here*, a song about the joy of giving. He signs in New Zealand Sign Language as he sings, coming down the steps.​ During the song, the white curtains open to reveal Santa’s Toy Shop.

**Santa’s Toy Shop**: Santa welcomes Kelly to the North Pole. Kelly shows Santa her long list, and talks to Santa about his worry that he won’t be able to give presents to all children.

*The Toyshop Song* begins. As each new toy is mentioned, a present box turns around to reveal that toy inside. ​At the end of the song, Santa, Kelly, and Elfie play hide and seek. ​At the end of the game, all the toys jump out to surprise Santa. After hide and seek, the toys go back inside the present boxes and roll away.

Elfie brings out the golden sleigh to polish it. Silly Elfie first shakes himself, then the cloth, then finally the bottle of polish. Santa and Kelly arrive with the sack of presents and Elfie leaves to fetch Prancer.  ​

Prancer gallops across the stage, followed by Elfie. Elfie chases Prancer until Santa finally commands Prancer, “Stop!”. Prancer stops, but Elfie goes flying off stage, and there is a crashing sound.

Elfie tells Santa it’s time to deliver presents. Santa waves his hand, and pretty stars and fairy lights turn on in the theatre as the song *The Magic of Christmas* begins.  ​As they sing, Prancer leads Santa and Kelly flying on the sleigh as Elfie follows them in Kelly’s flying bed. The wall rotates to reveal Kelly’s bedroom as they fly high above Aotearoa on their way to Auckland. Santa lands the sleigh as Elfie parks the bed back into her bedroom with a thump.​

**Kelly’s Bedroom**: Kelly, Elfie, and Prancer go to sleep while Santa visits Kelly’s house. Kelly’s dog Harry is heard barking out of sight. Santa casts a spell and the dog is soon asleep. Santa delivers Kelly’s presents and returns to wake Kelly ​and Elfie.

Santa tells Kelly he is going to deliver Alana’s white balloon. Elfie explains that Alana asked for a white balloon to give to Ruby from the shopping mall. Santa leaves to deliver Alana’s present, and Kelly finally understands: giving is better than getting. She decides to give away her toys too.

Santa and Kelly sing the Finale song, as Santa flies away on the sleigh.  ​Kelly is joined one by one by characters from the show. Kelly gives each character one of her presents. Santa enters holding a white balloon, which he gives to Kelly. Kelly gives the balloon the Alana, who finally hands it to Ruby, who is very happy to get her Christmas wish. Santa steps forward, and with a magic spell balloon fall from the ceiling onto the audience.

This is the end of the intro notes.