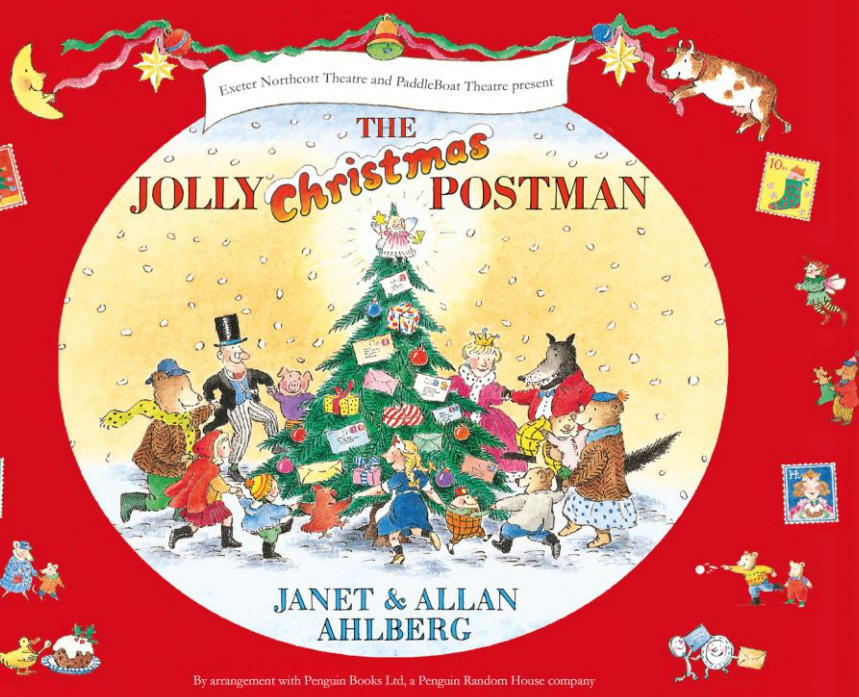


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# VISUAL STORY

# Introduction

This visual story will let you know exactly what happens in our show The Jolly Christmas Postman.

We'll be going over:

- The cast (page 3)
- The characters (pages 4 – 5)
- The set (pages 6-7)
- Show times (page 8)
- The story (warning: this section contains spoilers!) (pages 9 – 11)
- Any moments in the show that may be a little bit brighter, louder or more unexpected than others. There aren't many, but we want you to know when they are (page 12)
- Relaxed performances (page 13)

If you would like to visit the Northcott, see the set and meet the company before you come to the show, please call us on 01392 72 63 63 or email us at [access@exeternorthcott.co.uk](mailto:access@exeternorthcott.co.uk) and we'll do our best to make this happen.

If there is anything else that you would like to know about the show that we don't cover in this visual story, please get in touch at [boxoffice@exeternorthcott.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@exeternorthcott.co.uk) and we'll try to help as best we can.

## The Cast

There are 3 actors in *The Jolly Christmas Postman*: Izzie, Andrew and Michael.

The actors and dancers are supported by the Barnfield's technical team. Our technicians make sure that the show runs safely and smoothly, but you probably won't see them on stage. Some of our technicians sit in the technical box, behind your seats, where they operate the lights and the sound. Other technicians will be above and at the sides of the stage, move scenery and help actors change costumes during the show.



**Izzie Harding-Perrott**  
Actor



**Andrew Armfield**  
Actor



**Michael Smith**  
Actor

## The Characters

The 3 actors play many different characters in *The Jolly Christmas Postman*. They will be wearing lots of different costumes and sometimes speaking in different accents.

You can learn more about the main characters that each of the actors play in *The Jolly Christmas Postman* below.

## The Jolly Christmas Postman Characters



Andrew Armfield plays the Jolly Postman - the central character and heart of the story. He is cheerful, dedicated, and deeply committed to his job of delivering letters across the magical land of Far Away. He embarks on a Christmas Eve journey to deliver letters and parcels to beloved fairy-tale characters.



Izzie Harding-Perrott portrays Stamp the dog using a cute puppet. Stamp is The Jolly Postman's dog and is full of warm energy, personality and humor.



Michael Smith plays the wolf in the story. The wolf is not well liked in the land of Far Away because he plays tricks on the others. However, beneath the mischief, he admits to being lonely and misunderstood.



You'll also spot lots of famous fairy tale characters throughout the show including The Three Bears, Red Riding Hood, Humpty Dumpty and many more!

As well as The Wolf, **Michael Smith** plays The Gingerbread Boy, Frog King, Daddy Bear, Doctor Foster, a postie and an elf.

**Izzie Harding-Perrott** plays Red Riding Hood, Humpty Dumpty, Mrs Claus, a postie, Wee Willy Winky, Baby Bear, a nurse and a king!



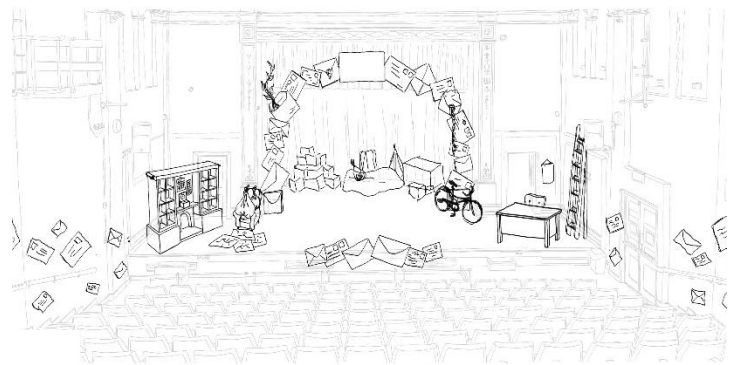
# The Set

The *The Jolly Christmas Postman* set was designed by Fi Russell.

The stage will be decorated with lots of giant envelopes. Some of these envelopes have items inside that the actors take out and use. One of the envelopes will display some text to help tell the story.

During the show some other set pieces are brought on and off stage to help set the scene.

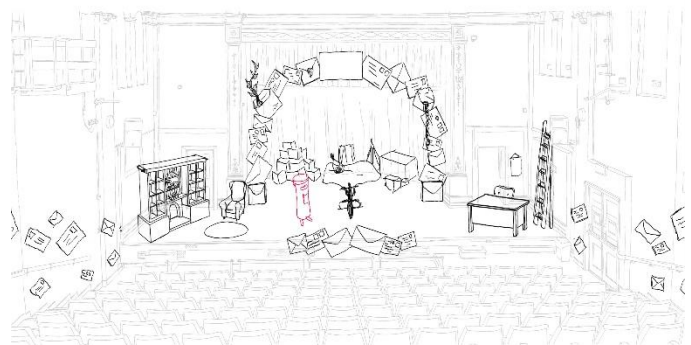
Below are some sketches (drawn by Fi Russell) and photos (taken by Craig Fuller) of the set.



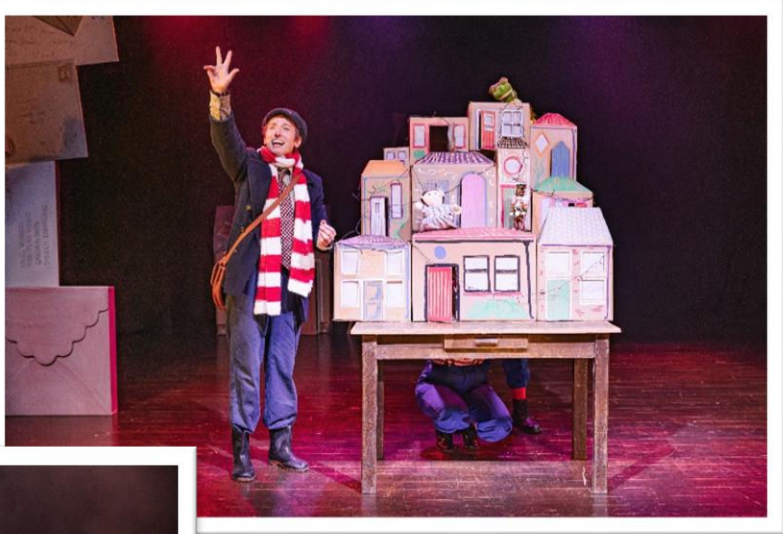
*Prologue - Clocking Off -*



*Scene 2 - Bears Decorating*



*Travel 1 Post Box*



## **About the show**

### **How long is *The Jolly Christmas Postman*?**

*The Jolly Christmas Postman* is performed in one part that lasts 50 minutes.

### **How do we tell the story of *The Jolly Christmas Postman*?**

The story of *The Jolly Christmas Postman* is mainly told by acting out the story between the characters on stage. At points a narrator will speak directly to the audience to help explain the story. At moments, the actors invite the audience to join in. They may ask the audience questions or ask you to join in with some actions. The posties might give you some letters that will form part of the story – make sure you look after these! You are under no obligation to join in if you don't want to. You can read more about what to expect below.

# **The Jolly Christmas Postman – Scene by scene**

We warned you! The following section contains spoilers for *The Jolly Christmas Postman*. If you would like to keep the show a surprise, do not read any further.

## **The Post Office**

The play opens in a sorting office where two regular posties chat about finishing their rounds and enjoying Christmas. The Jolly Postman enters and reveals he still has an enormous delivery to make—bags and bags of letters for the magical land of Far Away. Unlike the others, he’s thrilled about his task, explaining that these letters carry Christmas hopes and dreams.

## **Scene 1 – The Jolly Postman’s House**

At the Jolly Postman’s home, we meet his joyful dog who doesn’t want their owner to leave. The Jolly Postman promises his dog that he’ll be back from his delivery round soon to have a cosy night in together. The Jolly postman sets off on his delivery round on his bright red bike and sings a lovely song. He arrives at his first stop – the Four Bears Cottage. A bit different from the more famous 3 bears cottage!

## **Scene 2 – The Four Bears Cottage**

The cottage is warm but chaotic as Daddy Bear and Baby Bear struggle to decorate for Christmas. They select a Mummy Bear from the audience to come onto the stage and help decorate.

The Jolly Postman delivers a letter from Goldilocks and a magical honey pot, bringing a moment of harmony to the family. He leaves with mince pies and a letter for Santa.

## **Scene 3 – Red Riding Hood’s Garden**

At his next stop, the Jolly Postman finds Red Riding Hood hiding in a bush, on high alert for Mr Wolf. She teaches the audience a silly “Wolf Spotters Guide”

song, full of fun actions.

Red Riding Hood gives The Jolly Postman a parcel for her grandma, and the Jolly Postman gives Red Riding Hood her delivery. It turns out to be a prank from Mr Wolf - it's a can with a large wriggly worm inside! Red Riding Hood vows revenge and disappears back into the bushes, leaving The Jolly Postman amused and slightly wary as he cycles on.

#### **Scene 4 – The Hospital**

The next stop is Cock Robin Memorial Hospital, where The Jolly Postman meets the comical Doctor and Nurse. Humpty Dumpty appears - he's in pieces again! The doctor and nurse ask the audience to help find his missing parts hidden around the theatre, and The Jolly Postman assists in reassembling him. The Jolly Postman gives Humpty Dumpty a great wad of letters addressed to him before setting off with Humpty Dumpty's letter to Santa.

#### **Scene 5 – Toy Town**

JP arrives in tiny Toy Town, and delivers letters to the Gingerbread Boy, Wee Willy Winky and the Frog King. They sing their Christmas anthem and invite The Jolly Postman to join their party. Together, the Jolly Postman and the audience count down and turn on the Toy Town Christmas lights.

The Jolly Postman collects their letters for Santa and cycles away, feeling appreciated but exhausted.

#### **Scene 6 – The Wolf's Den**

It's The Jolly Postman's most nerve-wracking stop! He knocks on Mr Wolf's door and finds "Santa"...but something seems off. The Jolly Postman quickly realizes it's the Wolf in disguise. Instead of a scary showdown, we discover the Wolf is lonely and just wants to be part of Christmas. The Jolly Postman shares some pizza with him and encourages him to write a letter to Santa.

The Jolly Postman notices the time and hurries off to his final stop.

### **Scene 7 – Santa’s Workshop**

Battling a blizzard, The Jolly Postman stumbles into Santa’s workshop, where Mrs Claus and the elves are finishing toys. The Jolly Postman delivers the mountain of letters, and Mrs Claus gives him a magical Christmas card. She reminds the Jolly Postman how grateful the whole of Far Away are for him.

Mrs Claus whisks The Jolly Postman away to take him home in Santa’s sleigh.

### **Scene 8 – The Surprise Party**

Back at The Jolly Postman’s house, all the characters gather to decorate and prepare a surprise party. The audience is invited to hide and jump up to shout “Surprise!” when The Jolly Postman gets home. Everyone celebrates the Jolly Postman together.

### **The End**

At the end of the show our actors join hands and bow. Audience members usually clap and whoop or whistle. There is no obligation to join in.

## **Moments in *The Jolly Christmas Postman* you might want to know about**

### **Audience participation:**

Here's all the ways the audience can join in with the show. There is no obligation to join in if you don't want to.

- At the start of the show, a few audience members will be asked what they are hoping to receive for Christmas and whether they have any letters to Santa.
- At the Four Bears' cottage, one person from the audience is selected to come on stage and play the role of Mummy Bear. Mummy Bear helps the family decorate the Christmas tree. The actors will only select audience members who want to come on stage.
- Red Riding Hood teaches the audience some "wolf-spotting" actions to do from your seats.
- At the hospital, the audience is invited to help the doctor and nurse find Humpty Dumpty's missing parts hidden around the auditorium and bring them to the stage. The doctor and nurse also ask members of the audience if they have any ailments and how they might fix them. They often use toilet roll for bandages!
- The Jolly Postman invites the audience to count down with him to turn on the Toy Town lights.
- In the final surprise party, the audience is invited to hide or duck down ready to reveal yourselves and shout 'surprise!' when the Jolly Postman enters.

## ***The Jolly Christmas Postman* relaxed performance**

There will be a relaxed performance of *The Jolly Christmas Postman* on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 12pm and on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 10.30am. Relaxed performances are a lot more casual than a regular theatre performance:

- You are welcome to leave the auditorium and re-enter as needed.
- Our house lights (which illuminate our auditorium seating area) will be dimmed, but not completely darkened, to allow you to see and move around more easily.
- The performance will be tailored to accommodate those who may be sensitive to sound or lighting. The volume of the performance will be lower than usual, and there will be no lighting blackouts, loud noises or loud bangs.
- Performers will have a more relaxed attitude to audience behaviour. There is no expectation for audience members to remain silent or still during the performance.

You can familiarise yourself with the Barnfield Theatre building before you arrive at <https://exeternorthcott.co.uk/your-visit/getting-around-the-barnfield-theatre/>

You can read more about access performances at the Northcott at <https://exeternorthcott.co.uk/your-visit/access-performances/>

If you have any access requirements, please contact us via email at [access@exeternorthcott.co.uk](mailto:access@exeternorthcott.co.uk), or by phone on 01392 72 63 63, and we'll gladly assist.

### **Chill-out spaces**

If you need to take a break from the show for any reason, you're welcome to step outside the auditorium doors into the foyer at the top of the stairs. You can also take a break in the Café or foyer area downstairs.