

CHRISTMAS UNPLUGGED
Production Notes

Characters:

Alex – a teenaged boy who is obsessed with video games

Offstage voices #1, #2

#1 – A pleasant sounding female voice

#2 – A male with a Middle Eastern accent

“In the Zone” Soldiers – 4 or 5 guys or girls dressed in military attire are the chorus for the song “In The Zone”

Dickens Carolers – a small ensemble of singers dressed in Victorian period costumes. Can sing the traditional style of the carol “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”.

Cable Guy/Vision #1 – A guy who takes cable repair seriously

Christmas Icons – sugar plum fairies, snowmen, elves, wooden soldiers, etc. for
“Fa-la-la-la-la Land”

Hayley /Vision #2– Alex’s girl friend

Catherine/Vision #3– Alex’s younger sister

Mom – loving and protective

Dad – direct but a little distant

Island/Beach Characters - 5 or 6. Could be a few chorus members dressed in tropical attire.

Medical Personnel:

Doctor – could be a little like a “mad scientist”

Nurse – stern but trying not to upset the “patients”

Orderlies/EMTs – dressed in white hospital uniforms or scrubs

Bethlehem Characters:

Villagers - a small group (at least five or six) or whole choir dressed in biblical attire

Innkeeper - male or female

Mary - female

Joseph - male

Roman Soldiers (2) – male; one speaks, the other does not

SONG: WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS (Choir/company)**SCENE 1**

Instrumental segue: GAME THEME (before lights up)

(Game Theme continues when lights come up on stage)

(Scene opens with Alex energetically playing a video game on TV or computer screen. He is using a joystick or other controller when suddenly the game music stops video)(Alex, frustrated, talks to the screen.)

ALEX: Oh come on. You're kidding me right? Reset. Menu. Okay let's try this: Off. On. Uggghhh! *(reading from the monitor)* "Error 50786 has occurred. Please call your Internet provider." Okay.

(Alex grabs his cell phone and starts to dial)

(SFX: dialing)

Offstage VO #1: Hello, this is your Internet provider. Please listen to the following options as they have changed. For billing press 1, for outages in your area press 2.

ALEX: That's me. Outages. Press 2. *(presses a key on his phone)*

Offstage VO #1: But before you press 2, press star, pound, 9916, then pound again.

ALEX: What? Okay. Star, pound, 99, 2.

Offstage VO #1: We're sorry. That is not one of our options. Please listen carefully to all the following options as they have changed. For billing press 1, for outages in your area press 2, for customer service press 3...

ALEX: *(silently shakes his head)*

Offstage VO #1: I said for customer service press 3.

ALEX: Okay! *(presses a key on his phone)*

Offstage VO #1: I'm sorry you have pressed an incorrect key.

ALEX: *(yelling at his phone)* I didn't press any key! I was about to but I was waiting for you to tell me to press star, pound, whatever, whatever...

Offstage VO #1: Your call is important to us. Please stay on the line for the next available representative.

ALEX: Finally.

Offstage VO #2: Hello, deez eez Sam. How do I help you?

ALEX: *(talking into his phone)* Well, Sam. You can help me by turning my Internet service back on.

Offstage VO #2: Okay. A technician will arrive between 8 o'clock and 5 o'clock. Please have person at home for technician.

ALEX: Eight and five? Wait a minute. Is that between 8 and 5 here in my country or wherever you are outsourced from?

Offstage VO #2: Please. Have nice day. Goodbye.

ALEX: Wait, Sam. Sahib. Oh never mind. I'll call Jake to see if I can come over and play on his game system. Jake...what a goof. I can beat him with my eyes closed.

SONG: IN THE ZONE (Alex solo with "soldiers")

SCENE 2

(Scene opens with Alex in his living room talking on his cell phone)

ALEX: Hey, Jake. It's Alex. How's it going man? Merry Christmas. Hey, I was wondering...uh, Jake uh Jake...are you there? Jake...

(SFX: battery low signal)

ALEX: Oh man, low battery? Okay, I just plug it in, right? Great. So here goes...and...and...

(SFX power out - LIGHTS OUT)

ALEX:...great. Power outage. That's just great.

(Alex grabs a flashlight)(Add a few stage lights)

CATHERINE: *(calling from offstage)* Alex. Alex. It's dark. Alex? *(enters from stage right)* The electricity must have gone off. I'm gonna call Mom.

(Alex hands Catherine flashlight)

ALEX: Oh yeah? Well, good luck with that.

CATHERINE: What do you mean?

ALEX: Well, “a” we don’t have a landline, “b” my cell phone is dead and “c” we don’t have electricity to recharge it.

CATHERINE: Oh yeah. Well, it’s getting dark outside and I’m kind of scared. Can we light candles?

ALEX: Sure, it’s Christmastime and there’s got to be a million candles sitting around somewhere. *(lighting some candles)* There. Does that help?

(Add some soft stage lights)

CATHERINE: Yeah, a little.

(SFX: knock on door)

ALEX: What’s that?

CATHERINE: What’s what?

ALEX: That sound. That knocking sound.

(SFX: knock on door.)

ALEX: There is it again.

CATHERINE: Maybe it’s the washing machine. Sometimes when it’s over balanced it kind of knocks.

ALEX: Really? Washing machine. Catherine, we have no electricity.

CATHERINE: Oh yeah.

(SFX: another knock)

CATHERINE: Wait, I heard it that time. Sounds like it’s coming from the front door.

ALEX: You think? *(Crosses to the door and opens it)* *(It’s Hayley)* Oh, hi Hayley.

HAYLEY: Alex, I’ve been trying to call you and text you for like forever and finally just drove over to check on you. I rang the doorbell like eighty times.

ALEX: Sorry ‘bout that.

HAYLEY: *(noticing the candles)* Hey, what’s with the candlelight vigil? Somebody die?

CATHERINE: Yeah.

HAYLEY: Oh no. Really?

CATHERINE: Yeah, the electricity died.

ALEX: As did my cell phone.

HAYLEY: So did you call the power company?

(Catherine and Alex look at her with disbelief)

HAYLEY: Oh yeah. Well, it's kind of nice...and cozy...and Christmas-y, you know with the candles. It's...it's

ALEX: ...tragic?

CATHERINE: Oh, Alex!

ALEX: Listen people! I...need...power!!!

HAYLEY: I think you need a nap.

ALEX: Do you have any idea what's at stake here? I am at level 60 on Duty Calls. I was heading toward Prestige Level and from there I could start getting medals. Might even get a Navy Cross, which is the ultimate! But no, I'm living in the Dark Ages...literally!

CATHERINE: Okay. Hayley, speaking of the Dark Ages wouldn't it be fun to go back in time and see what Christmas was like before electricity and video games and stuff?

HAYLEY: Yeah, like in my mom's Dickens Village. Carolers dressed in bonnets and hoop skirts.

ALEX: Oh please. Come on electricity! Come on cable! It's not Christmas without you!

HAYLEY: Well, isn't he just the scrooge? Hey, Catherine. Are you going to the dress rehearsal for the pageant at church?

CATHERINE: Yeah, and Ebenezer here is supposed to go, too.

HAYLEY: Well, that's why I'm here. I wanted to see if you guys needed a ride. You know how the director gets when her angels and her main shepherd are late.

CATHERINE: Yeah, I'll go get my costume and we'll go. Think we could stop and get a burger on the way? I'm starved and we can't nuke even leftovers without power. I'll be right back.

(Catherine exits stage right)

HAYLEY: Okay. Alex, are you coming?

ALEX: No, I'm not coming! The Christmas pageant is ridiculous. It's so last decade.

HAYLEY: It's a tradition. Students have been putting on the pageant at the church since my mom was a kid.

ALEX: Mine, too. Well, I still say it's a trick to get guys like me to put on a dress and act like I'm "sore afraid."

HAYLEY: Okay. Well, then. What shall I tell Mrs. Anderson about why you're not a rehearsal?

ALEX: I don't know. Tell her I'm out in a field keeping watch over my flocks by night.

HAYLEY: All righty then.

(Catherine re-enters with her angel costume on a hanger)

CATHERINE: Okay. Got my costume. Ready to go?

HAYLEY: Sure, let's leave ol' bah humbug to eat gruel in the dark. Hey, grab his phone and we can charge it in my car.

CATHERINE: Okay.

(As they exit)

HAYLEY: I love our new costumes this year. The wings are just...luminous.

CATHERINE: Luminous. Oooooo, good word.

SONG: GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN (Ensemble or Choir/company)