

September 23, 2011
Final Script with Cues
Dramatics Magazine

THE CHRISTMAS DOLL

A TIMELESS STORY OF COURAGE AND LOVE

Adapted from the book
The Christmas Doll by
Elvira Woodruff

Book, Music & Lyrics by
Joan Cushing

A Musical in Two Acts
Minimum Cast of 11
Large Cast works
90 Minute Version

World Premiere Production
Children's Theatre of Charlotte, Charlotte, NC
Directed by Alan Poindexter

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SCENE:

PROLOGUE

Time: 1848

Place: London

ACT I

Time: December, 1853

Place: Grimstone Union, a London Workhouse
The Streets of London

Intermission

ACT II

Time: Week before Christmas

Place: The Streets of London
Thimblebee's Doll Shop

EPILOGUE

Time: Christmas Day

Place: Number Fourteen Mulberry Lane

Cast of Characters

Lucy Wolcott - 10 year old orphan girl (soprano)

Glory Wolcott - 7 year old girl orphan girl (soprano)

Nick Button - 10 year old beggar boy (tenor) (can play other roles)

Matron Wick - Strict, no-nonsense overseer at Grimstone Union (alto/mezzo)

Mistress Branch - Assistant to Matron Wick (alto/mezzo))

Mrs. Thimblebee - Owner of Thimblebee's Doll Shop, sweet and very proper (soprano)

Bess - Assistant to Mrs. Thimblebee, all business, slow to soften (mezzo/soprano)

Florrie Nuggins Feisty Proprietress of Nuggins Rag and Bone Shop

Mr. Nuggins – Crusty Proprietor (role of husband and wife played by same male actor)

Mr. & Mrs Wolcott - Well-dressed parents of Lucy and Glory

Emma & Iris – Shop girls at Thimblebee’s Doll Shop

Chorus of 8

(4 m, 4 f)

Londoners

Orphan Girls

Beggars & Vendors

Mud-Larkers Customers at
the Doll Shop and multiple
roles

including:

Aggie Crofter, Sarah Hemley, Nora Cooperwait, Emma Waverly.

Muffin Man, Soup Woman, Doctor, Older Girl, Two Custodians, Constable, Washerwoman, Beggar Woman, Chestnut Vendor, Crossing Sweeper, Shopkeeper, Proper Lady, Proper Daughter, Pie Seller, Old Woman Mudlarker, Sailcloth Seller, Tobacco Seller, Matchseller, Birdseller, Rum Seller, Ghost of Charlotte, Spoiled Brat Customer, Father of Spoiled Brat, High-Born Lady, Royal Footman, Lamplighter, Queen’s Gardener’s Daughter

Minimum Cast of 11*

*In a small cast production, all cast members play multiple roles,
except the two actresses playing Lucy and Glory

MUSICAL NUMBERS

PROLOGUE

Long Ago in London Town #1 Ensemble

ACT I

Grimstone Union Orphan Girls
The Keeping Room Matron Wick & Mistress Branch
Anywhere But Here Orphan Girls
Long Ago in London Town #2 Chorus
Long Ago in London Town #3 Chorus
One Kiss for Love, One Kiss for Luck Mr. & Mrs. Wolcott
The Streets of London* Ensemble
I Get By Nick Button
The Mudlarkers' Song Mudlarkers, Lucy & Glory
Morning Glory Glory & Lucy
It's a Cruel, Cruel World Florrie Nuggins & Orphans

ACT II

Mrs. Thimblebee's Doll Shop Ensemble
Long Ago in London Town #4 Lucy & Chorus
I Get By Reprise Nick Button & Glory
If I Were a Well-Born Girl* Lucy
If I Had a Present Nick, Lucy & Glory
Mrs. Thimblebee's Doll Shop Reprise Ensemble
Long Ago in London Town #5 Ensemble

**Streets of London* could be cut, just keep all inner dialogue, and underscore the scene with Streets of London music.

**If I Were a Well-Born Girl* can be cut for school shows, but should be kept, if possible, for public shows. Lucy is the main character, and her song of envy, and then realization of her true blessings, is important to the story and for the audience, children and adults, to experience.

PROLOGUE

THE STREETS OF LONDON, 1848

*The CHORUS enters, including the MUFFIN MAN, with a tray of crumpets.
MUSIC CUE #1 - "Long Ago in London Town #1" – begins in blackout. A fog rolls in.*

"LONG AGO IN LONDON TOWN" #1

MALE #1

(Sings)

LONG AGO IN LONDON TOWN,
WHEN THE DAY BEGAN
WITH THE MUFFIN MAN
CRYING

MUFFIN MAN

MUFFINS, MUFFINS,
FRESH FROM THE BAKER.

LADIES

A DEADLY FEVER CAME AROUND.
AND STRUCK WITH SUCH A VENGEANCE

MEN

HALF THE POPULATION
WENT EARLY TO THEIR MAKER.

ALL

AND HISTORY WASN'T KIND
TO THOSE IT LEFT BEHIND.

ORPHANS

CHILDREN WHO WERE ONCE WELL FED,
HAD TO MAKE THEIR WAY

Add MEN

WHILE THEIR PARENTS LAY
DYING.

MALE #2

EVERYWHERE THE
SOUNDS OF MOURNING.

LADIES & MEN

AS PRECIOUS LOVED ONES DID SUCCUMB
TO THE DEADLY FEVER.

ALL (except ORPHANS)

SOMETHING IN THE WATER
ATTACKED WITHOUT A WARNING.

ALL
AND HISTORY WASN'T KIND
TO TWO YOUNG GIRLS IT LEFT BEHIND.

(LUCY and GLORY enter.)

LADIES & ORPHAN GIRLS

LUCY.
GLORY.
HARD TIMES BEFELL.

ALL
'TIS THE STORY
WE HAVE COME TO TELL.

MALE #2

AND SO THE ORPHAN GIRLS WERE BROUGHT
TO THE BLEAK COLD SHELTER
OF A PUBLIC WORKHOUSE

LADIES & ORPHANS
TO EARN THEIR BED AND BOARD.

MEN
WHERE THEY DAILY PINED
FOR WHAT THEY LEFT BEHIND.

ALL
FOR HISTORY WASN'T KIND
TO SOME OF THOSE IT LEFT BEHIND.

ACT I

SCENE 1.

**GRIMSTONE UNION PUBLIC WORKHOUSE, 1853
DAYTIME**

The LIGHTS COME UP on SIX ORPHAN GIRLS: THEY are sitting on a hard wooden bench, sewing rag pieces in a cheerless, dank workroom.

MISTRESS BRANCH oversees their work.

MISTRESS BRANCH

Lord, we pray for the souls of those who have gone to join you in your heavenly kingdom, and for the privilege of living here at Grimstone Union. *(SHE sings)* Amen.

(MUSIC CUE #2 - "Grimstone Union.")

ORPHAN GIRLS

Amen.

"GRIMSTONE UNION"

GIRLS

(Sing, while sewing in rhythm with the music)

KNITTING STOCKINGS, STITCHING SACKS
'TIL OUR HANDS ARE ACHING.
MENDING SWEATERS BY THE STACKS,
WHILE OUR HEARTS ARE BREAKING.
AND WE ARE MOTHERLESS AND FATHERLESS.
AND FROM NOW ON,
THE WORKHOUSE IS OUR HOME.

AGGIE

SEWING RAGS AND BITS OF LACE
UPON OUR WOODEN BENCHES.

SARAH

IN THIS DANK AND CHEERLESS PLACE,
WHERE *WHO* KNOWS WHAT THAT STENCH IS.

GIRLS

AND WE ARE DESTITUTE
AND PENNILESS,
ALL COMFORTS GONE.
THE WORKHOUSE IS OUR HOME.

ALL

GRIMSTONE UNION.
NOTHING COULD BE GRIMMER
NOT A SMILING FACE TO GREET US.

NORA

GRIMSTONE UNION.
WHERE WE'RE GROWING SLIMMER.

ALL

FROM THE SO-CALLED FOOD THEY FEED US.

LUCY

CAREFUL, HERE COMES MATRON WICK.
BETTER SAY A PRAYER.

GLORY

EVERY TIME SHE SMACKS HER STICK,
WE ARE FILLED WITH TERROR.

NORA

WHEN WHAT WE NEED IS TENDER LOVING CARE.

ALL
BUT LOVE IS GONE.
THE WORKHOUSE IS OUR HOME.
LUCY
YES, WHAT WE NEED IS TENDER LOVING CARE,
BUT LOVE IS GONE
ALL
NOW THAT GRIMSTONE UNION IS OUR HOME.

(MATRON WICK enters, carrying her birch rod.)

MATRON WICK
Smack! Be still! There had better be some progress! Right, Mistress Branch?

MISTRESS BRANCH
Right, Matron Wick.

MATRON WICK
(When called upon, each GIRL stands up to answer.)
Aggie Crofter! What have you done today? I said, what have you done today?

AGGIE
I've mended a sweater and two pairs of socks.

MATRON WICK
Is that all?

AGGIE
Yes, Matron Wick. *(SHE starts coughing.)*

MATRON WICK
Stop that coughing! Right this instant! There isn't time for coughing. This is a workhouse. Not a hospital ward. Isn't that right, Mistress Branch?

MISTRESS BRANCH
It certainly is, Matron Wick.

MATRON WICK
(To AGGIE) Get to work! (MATRON WICK moves on to the next girl, followed by M. BRANCH.)

MATRON WICK
Sarah Hemley!

SARAH
Three pairs of socks and two rags, Matron Wick.

MATRON WICK
Not enough. You see this birch rod? There's nothing it likes to do more than administer a flogging to little girls' knuckles who haven't done their work. *Smack!*

MATRON WICK

Nora Cooperwait. What have you to say for yourself?

NORA

I've mended a pair of socks, mum, and I'm working on a blanket.

MATRON WICK

A disgrace! Emma Waverly.

EMMA

A sweater and some rags.

MATRON WICK

An outrage! Lucy Wolcott!

LUCY

A blanket, two sweaters, a shawl, and four pairs of socks.

MATRON WICK

Better.

LUCY

Thank you, Matron Wick.

MATRON WICK

I'm not through yet. Is there some reason your sister is so behind? *(To GLORY)* Up with you! Speak up!

GLORY

(In a barely audible voice) I've mended a pair of socks, Matron Wick.

MATRON WICK

A pair of socks. Rubbish!

MISTRESS BRANCH

Rubbish indeed.

MATRON WICK

It's always the same with little miss Glory Wolcott. Never keeping up with the others.

LUCY

She's only six years old, mum.

MATRON WICK

Quiet! I will not tolerate insolence! If your precious little sister can't get her work done, then you will be expected to do *her* share of the sewing, as well. IS THAT CLEAR?

LUCY

Yes, Matron Wick. *(LUCY and GLORY sit down.)*

MATRON WICK