

The Famous Freston Mummers

present

# The Chadlington Mummers' Play

cast in order of appearance

Father Xmas  
King George  
Bull Slasher  
Jack Finney  
The Doctor  
Jack Straw  
Big Head  
Mally Masket

*[The play starts with the whole cast singing...]*

*[Chorus]*

Come, come, throw a penny on the drum,  
A penny for the passing of the day,  
Run, Run, see the rising of the sun,  
Come and see the changing of the way.

Songs of hope and tunes of glory,  
Half remembered Albion hymns,  
Rise up King George and tell the story,  
This is where your song begins.

*[chorus]*

Leave the drunkard to his bottle  
Leave the prophet to his doom,  
Let the critic sneer and prattle,  
Give King George some fighting room.

*[chorus]*

*[Enter Father Christmas - reciting while walking round]*

*Father Xmas*

Here comes I, old Father Christmas,  
Christmas comes but once a year,  
When it comes it brings good cheer.  
Roast beef and plum pudding  
and lots of good old English beer.

Last Christmas time I turned the spit,  
I burnt my finger and can't find of it;  
Then a spark fled over the table,  
Saucepan got up and beat the ladle.  
Said the gridiron "Can't you too agree ?

I am the justice, bring them both to me."  
I brought the broom to sweep the room,  
I brought a brush, so pick him up  
And all my jolly company.

Good master and good mistress, I hope you are all within,  
For I come this merry festive time to see you and your kin.  
I hope you won't be fronted, not still take any offence,  
For if you do, prey tell to me  
And I'll be gone before I commence.

Oh, room for a gallant soldier!  
Oh, room to give him a rise!  
I'll show you the very best activity  
As ever of Christmas-tide.  
Activity of youth, activity of age.  
I'll show you the very best activity  
That's shown on the common stage.

If you don't believe me in what I say,  
Step in King George and clear the way.

*[Enter King George]*

*King George*                    I'm King George, this notable knight,  
I shed my blood for England's right.  
England's right and England's glory all maintain.

*[Enter Bullslasher]*

*Bullslasher*                    I am the gallant soldier,  
Bullslasher is my name;  
Sword and buckle by my side,  
I mean to win the game.  
First I draw my sword,  
Then thy precious blood.

*King George*                    Don't thou be so hot, Bullslasher !  
Don't thou see in the room another man  
Thou has got to fight.

*Bullslasher*                    A battle, a battle betwixt thee and I  
To see which on the ground dead first shall lie.  
Mind the lists and guard the blows  
Mind thy head and thy poor old soul.

*[King George and Bullslasher fight - King George falls to the ground]*

*[Enter Father Xmas]*

*Father Xmas*                    Come in Jack Finney.

*[Jack Finney stays out of the main performing arena and says]*

*Jack Finney*                    My name is not Jack but Master Finney.  
Do you know I am a man of great faith !  
Do as much as....or any other man.

*Father Xmas*                    Then come in Master Finney.

*[Jack Finney now enters the main stage]*

<i>Father Xmas</i>	Now cure this man.
<i>Jack Finney</i>	The case is now as it was before. Rise up King George and fight once more.
<i>[King George gets up off the floor and the fight recommences only to be killed once again by Bullslasher]</i>	
<i>Father Xmas</i>	Oh Doctor ! Doctor, haste away ! Don't thou no longer make delay. For our best mas is sorely wounded Through the heart and through the knee. Ten thousand pounds, I fear, will not cure he.
<i>Jack Finney</i>	What will you give for a good doctor ? Ten pounds ?
<i>Father Xmas</i>	No such money !
<i>Jack Finney</i>	Five pounds then ?
<i>Father Xmas</i>	No such money, but five farthings will I give, But no more.
<i>Jack Finney</i>	Then let the doctor come in.
<i>[Enter the Doctor]</i>	
<i>Doctor</i>	Here comes I, the notable doctor. I'm a man of noble vein, I can cure more than thee or any other man.
<i>Jack Finney</i>	What can'st thou cure ?
<i>Doctor</i>	Oh ! I can cure...
<i>Jack Finney</i>	Well, what can'st thou cure ?
<i>Doctor</i>	I can cure a pig with the murrain ?
<i>Jack Finney</i>	How dost thou ?
<i>Doctor</i>	Cut off his head and bury'un.
<i>Jack Finney</i>	Well, is that all thou can'st cure ?
<i>Doctor</i>	No, that 's not all I can cure ?
<i>Jack Finney</i>	Well, what else can thou cure ?
<i>Doctor</i>	I can cure a magpie with a stitch.
<i>Jack Finney</i>	Oh ! How dost that ?
<i>Doctor</i>	Cut off his head and throw the body in the ditch.
<i>Jack Finney</i>	Is that all thou can'st cure ?
<i>Doctor</i>	No, that's not all I can cure.

<i>Jack Finney</i>	I thought not, Well what else can'st thou cure ?
<i>Doctor</i>	A horse with the gout.
<i>Jack Finney</i>	And how dost that ?
<i>Doctor</i>	Cut off his head and kick it about.