

# Christmas/Hanukah Play 2014!!

*Sitcom style: recorded audience laugh at certain parts*

*Radio sounds and picture of radio on screen*

(audia - Radio sounds)

Introduction: Om Sri Sairam! This broadcast is brought to you from the studio of Radio CSJ. Thanks for joining us today. We're taking a break from our usual program to bring our viewers something special tonight. A story about both Hanukkah and Christmas and the coming together of 2 families. But before we get started, I have a few questions for you. If you know the answer, give us a call and if you're caller number 108, we'll put you in the drawing to one free trip to Parthi. Conditions apply. Please see website for offer details. (quickly)

Question 1: What do people light every night of Hanukkah?

Question 2: What was the name of the angel who came to Mary and Joseph?

Okay, we'll take callers during the program. Let's get started.

*INTRO MUSIC*

( iTunes) - Frosty the snowman

## Introduction

*Setting: Apartment complex. Christmas family is speaking.*

Gloria: Lizzie! Have you wrapped your presents and put them under the tree yet? Hurry up so that we can get started on dinner.

Lizzie: Yes, mom! I'm bringing them downstairs right now! I can't wait to open my presents tomorrow!

(Sound of her running down the stairs) (audia) → Lizzie staircase

Lizzie: Oh Hey Grandma! I didn't know you were here already! How was the drive?

GRANDMA: Hmmph, too many young fellas these days driving like they are in a nascar race. Forget that Lizzie dear. Here, I brought you some fruit cake. Look at you! You've grown so thin since the last time I saw you. You need some fattening up!

Lizzie: (Groan) Grandma!...I'll put it in the kitchen.

Grandma: Alright dear...and don't run around. It's not lady like.

Lizzie: (yelled while walking away) Sure, Grandma. Hey mom, grandma brought fruitcake again! Hmmm, is this for eating or playing frisbee with?

*AUDIENCE LAUGH*

(audia)

(audience laugh 1)

Gloria: Lizzie, be nice! (Pause) You know, we've been so busy with the Holidays, we haven't had a chance to say hello to the new neighbors yet.

Lizzie: Hm, you're right. Wanna go now? We can also get rid of some of this fruitcake that way!

Goria: Why not? What better time than now? Go upstairs and get your dad

Lizzie: (yelling like a teenager) Dad! Mom says we need to meet the neighbors now.

GRANDMA: For god's sake, Lizzie, nice young ladies don't yell! (pause) Going to meet the neighbors are you? Take some cake! Only barbarians go empty handed! Back in my day you weren't very welcoming if you didn't at least bring a pie to a new neighbor.

Gloria: So, you're coming with us?

GRANDMA: What, go out again in the cold? These creaky old knees need some rest

**Sound of door shutting** (anda) - door shutting (3 continuous)

GRANDMA: (yelling) Don't make us look bad!

AUDIENCE LAUGH - (anda - audience laugh) + wind howling + - - .  
2:40

### *Walking in a Winter Wonderland*

Sleigh bells ring, are you listening,  
In the lane, snow is glistening  
A beautiful sight,  
We're happy tonight.  
Walking in a winter wonderland.

Gone away is the bluebird,  
Here to stay is a new bird  
He sings a love song,  
As we go along,  
Walking in a winter wonderland.

In the meadow we can build a snowman,  
Then pretend that he is Parson Brown  
He'll say: Are you married?  
We'll say: No man,

But you can do the job  
When you're in town.

Later on, we'll conspire,  
As we dream by the fire  
To face unafraid,  
The plans that we've made,  
Walking in a winter wonderland.

In the meadow we can build a snowman,  
And pretend that he's a circus clown  
We'll have lots of fun with mister snowman,  
Until the other kids knock him down.

When it snows, ain't it thrilling,  
Though your nose gets a chilling  
We'll frolic and play, the Eskimo way,  
Walking in a winter wonderland (3x)

[ Sounds of steps and a knocking sound/door bell, door opening ] - Wind / door bell

(3)

(Start: Light Jewish music till Sewiwon) (Havenu Shalom)

Aaron: Hello?

Gloria: Hi; we're the Smiths from next door. We just wanted to introduce ourselves and say Merry Christmas! I'm Gloria, this is my daughter Lizzie, and my husband Peter.

Ladd: Hi! Great to meet you guys. I'm Ladd Rosenberg, this is my wife Rebecca, and my son Aaron.

Aaron: And that's Grandpa in the wheelchair. Grandpa, want to meet our neighbors? They brought fruit cake.

GRANDPA: Fruitcake huh? Ain't nuthin like your grandma's kugel but it'll do.

AUDIENCE LAUGH (anda) — al 1

Lizzie: Aaron, what's that in your hand?

Aaron: Oh this? It's a dreidel. It's the last day of Hanukkah so we're celebrating by playing some traditional Jewish games. Here, I'll show you how to spin the dreidel.

Song: [<http://users.grummel.net/willi/hazorea/chag/sewiwon.html>] — Stop havenu shalom

C# Minor  
Sewiwon sow sow sow,  
Chanuka hu chag tov.  
Chanuka hu chag tov,  
Sewiwon sow sow sow.

Spinning top, turn turn turn,  
Chanuka is a good holiday.  
Chanuka is a good holiday,  
Spinning top, turn turn turn.

Chag simcha hu la'Am,  
Nes gadol haya sham.  
Nes gadol haya sham,  
Chag simcha hu la'Am.

It is a day of joy for the people,  
A big wonder happened there.  
A big wonder happened there,  
It is a day of joy for the people.

(Continue: Light Jewish music till end of scene) — start Havenu Shalom

Grandpa: Doesn't he have the sweetest voice? Sounds just like me when I was a boy.

Gloria: Yes sir and Aaron, that's such a fun song! Hey, we're cooking dinner for Christmas Eve and I'm sure we're going to have way too much food. Why don't you come over? It'll be a nice way to get to know each other and celebrate the holidays together!

Lizzie: Yeah, that will be so much fun! At least you can distract Grandma. Otherwise, the conversation inevitably becomes, (*imitating Grandma*) Lizzie dear, I knew how to make 20 dishes for dinner when I was your age...

Aaron: Oh, I know exactly what you mean. With Grandpa it's always, (*imitates Grandpa*) when I was little boy we would ...

→ AL 2

Ladd: (*Interrupting and scolding*) Aaron! (*pause*) Gloria, sounds like a great idea! We're also making Hanukkah dinner so we'll bring some food over!

Gloria: Great! You guys can come over around 7.

[Door Slamming] → Jewish door slamming [after 4 seconds]

[Clock rings 7] → clock rings

Back in the Smith House

Sounds of cooking → Kitchen sound

Christmas (Joy to the world) background → houses

Gloria: Hey! It's almost time for the Rosenbergs to come over. Lizzie, I can finish up dinner. Why don't you go set the table and give your grandma some company?

[Walking]

— Lizzie Walking - 2

Pause so Lizzie can walk over

Grandma: Lizzie, there you are! Come sit with me for some time. Are you still taking those voice lessons? Why don't you sing a nice carol for me?

Lizzie: Sure Grandma! Can you play the piano? Let's sing Joy to the world.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
 Let earth receive her King;  
 Let every heart prepare Him room,  
 And Heaven and nature sing, (Men Echo)  
 And Heaven and nature sing, (Men Echo)  
 And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.  
 Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
 Let men their songs employ;  
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
 Repeat the sounding joy, (Men Echo)  
 Repeat the sounding joy, (Men Echo)  
 Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.  
 He rules the world with truth and grace,  
 And makes the nations prove  
 The glories of His righteousness,  
 And wonders of His love, (Men Echo)  
 And wonders of His love, (Men Echo)  
 And wonders, wonders, of His love. (Up)

(Continuing the Joy to the World piano)

Door Bell rings → Talking Jews.

(5)

Aaron: Dad, they're singing, maybe we should also greet them with a song?

Ladd: Okay sure!

*Knocking* Door open sounds → knock

[<http://hebrewsongs.com/?song=hevenushalomaleichem>]

Hevenu shalom aleichem, [Men Start]

Hevenu shalom aleichem,

Hevenu shalom aleichem,

Hevenu shalom, shalom

Shalom aleichem.

4 Speeds

Aaron: Shalom Lizzie! We wish peace upon you and thought it was best said with a song during this festive season.

Gloria: Aaron, Ladd, Welcome! What wonderful voices you have! We love singing carols too - it really brings out the joy of Christmas!

Lizzie: Let's get started with dinner shall we? I'm starving!

(Dinner table noises, slides showing different foods eaten during Hanukkah and Christmas) → Dinner Table

Gloria: That was an amazing dinner.

Lizzie: I'm so full! That brisket you brought was so delicious.

Aaron: It's a tradition to make brisket during Hanukkah. And latkes too - those are my favorite!

Grandpa: Mazel Tov!

Gloria: Would you guys like to stay for a bit? We usually like to listen to the Christmas story on Christmas eve.

Grandma: Oh yes, Lizzie usually does it, don't you dear?

Grandpa: When I was a boy...

Aaron: Grandpa!

AUDIENCE LAUGHS - (Audience Laughs)

Grandpa:...my mother would tell us the Hanukkah story on the last day as well. Aaron is an excellent storyteller! Why not, lad? For your old 'pa.

Lizzie: I don't think I actually know that story. Aaron, if you'll share, I can tell the Christmas story too.

Aaron: That sounds like fun. I'll start:

## Part 1: Background

### Hanukkah

(Medieval/Jewish sounding music)

Aaron: A long long time ago, Israel, the land of the Jews, was ruled by a king named Antiochus. Unlike many Greeks, Antiochus was a cruel tyrant! Under his reign, he forced the Jews to REJECT their God, religion and culture, imposing Greek customs on them. Over time, things got worse. He replaced the Jewish priest with one of his people and took over their sacred temple. He defiled the temple and also used its treasury to fund his wars. Some Jews obeyed the King's rule. But a small group of them wanted to take back their land and their way of life. They prayed peace for Israel. (Shalu shalom yerushalaim)

2x Slow, 1x Fast

Shalu Shalom Yerushalayim (4x)

Pray for the peace of Israel

Pray for the peace of Ishmael

Pray for the peace of all the worlds

That all the world shall live in peace

Shalom Shalom (3x)

Shalu Shalom Yerushalayim

(2x)



### Hanukkah Story

Nigun Rikud  
Kontzot Station

[Stop music]

Lizzie: That's so interesting! The Christmas story is also about Jewish people being oppressed by others!

Grandma: Lizzie dear, perhaps you should explain?

Lizzie: Okay...

### Christmas

(Christmasy music)

### Christmas

— We Three Kings

Lizzie: Well, just like the Hanukkah story, the Christmas story also happens in Israel. But 2000 years ago it was ruled by King Herod. Herod was a cruel King and treated his Jewish subjects pretty badly. Under his rule, Jewish traditions were being neglected and greed and gluttony were taking over! The Jews prayed and were told a savior would come to free them but none expected what would happen next.

In the tiny hamlet of Nazareth, there lived a young woman named Mary. Mary was a simple, pious Jew who was engaged to Joseph. Soon after the betrothal, God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary and her fiance Joseph in a dream. The angel Gabriel told Mary that she would become pregnant with the son of God and that he would be named Jesus.

[Stop — background]

7

Aaron: Wow! Wasn't Mary scared? How did she trust angel Gabriel?

Lizzie: Although both Joseph and Mary were scared, they accepted God's will. In fact, the Bible says Mary responded to the angel by saying "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done unto me according to your word"

~~Grandma: Lovely job, dear. This part reminds me of the song about Mary...what's that song again?~~

Holy Mary, Mother of Love  
Holy Mary, Teach us devotion and love  
(2x)

Grandpa: Mazel Tov! That was beautiful! Aaron, want to get back to the Hanukkah story? We were just getting to my favorite part.

## Part 2: Plot/problem

**Hanukkah**  
*Background Hanukkah Music*

*Hanukkah Song —  
Nigun Rikad  
Mahzot Nigunay*

Aaron: So, as I said, some Jews fought back against the tyranny of Antiochus. One of them was Judah Maccabee. Judah formed an army to drive the Greeks out of Israel and began fighting.

After three long years of war, Judah and his Army finally won!!!! (Pause) Victorious, they went to their sacred Temple to restore its former glory and worship within. In spite of their exhaustion, their joy knew no bounds and they all gathered to serve the Lord. Sing: Ev du hashem ba sim ha

[stop - background]

Ev du hashem ba sim ha (4x)

(2x)

Come and serve the holy one with joy (4x)

(2x)

Yai dai da dai dai Yai dai da dai dai dai

Yai dai da dai dai Yai dai dai

Yai dai da dai dai Yai dai da dai dai dai

Yaiii da dai dai dai dai

(2x)

Fast: Yai Dai (1x)

*Hanukkah Song — Nigun Rikad*

The final step was to light the N'er Tamid, an eternal light that is not meant to go out. But for that, they needed lots of oil! The Jews searched and searched for clean oil. After such a long war, oil was scarce and most of what they found was not pure enough for the sacred fire. At the end, they only had enough for one day. Reluctantly, they poured whatever little oil they found and lit the lamp. And as the sun set that day, they waited for that light to extinguish.

[stop - background]

Lizzie: And then what? Did the light go out? Did they find more oil?

Aaron: Aha! You're going to have to wait! I want to hear the next part of your story!

Grandpa: No No! This is my favorite part! Don't stop here!

~~Audience laugh~~

Ladd: Wait Dad, I want to know what happens to Mary and Joseph. Is that all or is there more to their story?

Gloria: Lizzie, why don't you jump in and share more of the Christmas story? I have to say, I'm actually enjoying the back and forth. It's really changing my perspective.

Ladd: Yeah, me too.

Grandpa: Hmmph, its because Aaron is such a great storyteller.

Grandma: It's Lizzie's eloquence that's making it so interesting.

~~AUDIENCE LAUGH~~

~~Audience laugh~~

Grandma: Dear, please continue.

Christmas — *Christmas — we three kings*.

Lizzie: Well, so, just as the angel had promised in the dream, Mary found herself pregnant. Although Mary and Joseph believed in the word of the angel, others were not so trusting. Many were suspicious of Mary's pregnancy, especially before marriage. Some even wanted to stone her to death. Mary and Joseph endured it all to protect the Holy Son of God.

Time passed by and Mary was getting closer and closer to her due date when a mandate came down from the Roman Empire. The Emperor ordered every family to go back to their native village to register their names for the census. Unfortunately, Joseph was from Bethlehem, a long ways away from their home in Nazareth.

[Map of nazareth and bethlehem]

So, with a donkey and a few weeks' supply of flat bread, Joseph and Mary made the long trip to Bethlehem to register. The trip wasn't an easy one. They crossed rivers and valleys, spent cold nights under the stars, and conserved their food. But finally, after weeks of travel, Joseph could see his hometown of Bethlehem. And at that moment, Mary tapped Joseph on the shoulder to tell him, the baby was coming.

The First Noel

[stop background]

### The First Noel

The First Noel, the Angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel

Born is the King of Israel!

They look-ed up and sa-aw a star  
Shining i-in the East be-yond them far  
And to-o the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

And by the light of tha-at same star  
Three Wi-ise men ca-ame from cou-ountry far  
To se-ek for a King was the-eir intent  
And to follow the sta-ar wherever it went.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel (up)  
Born is the King of Israel!

Aaron: And? What happens next?

Lizzie: I thought you should finish your story now.

Ladd: Oooh...another cliff hanger! Very dramatic place to stop. Aaron, you ready for this?

Aaron: I was born ready...

AUDIENCE LAUGH — [audience laugh]

### Part 3: Resolution

Hanukkah — [Iunes Nigun Rikud]

Aaron: So, when we left the Jews, they were trying to light the N'er Tamid, the eternal light, but they only had enough oil for a day. So they poured whatever little oil they had into the lamp, lit it, and waited. The sun was setting and inside the temple, the Jews were silently watching the lamp, expecting the oil to run out any minute. The sun was soon replaced by the moon and the stars, yet the lamp still glowed. Hours passed and exhausted by the days of hard work, the Jews let their eyes close with the image of the burning lamp.

When morning came, they rose from sleep, sure that the oil would have run out by now. Yet there the lamp was, burning ever so brightly. They were taken aback. "Perhaps", they said to themselves, "we just had more oil than expected". That night, again, the Jews went to sleep, expecting a dark temple in the morning. But the lamp remained lit for not just 2, 3, 4 days but for 8 days. The lamp stayed lit for 8 whole days!

[stop background]

Lizzie: 8 whole days? Wait, is that why the menorah has 8 candles? Oh, nevermind, it has 9...

Ladd: Ah, smart girl! You're close sweetie. Every night of Hanukkah we light one more candle. The ninth candle is lit every night and is used to light all the other candles. That's why there's 9, and not just 8.

(a)

Grandpa: Oh, but what a wonderful miracle it was! The little lamp defiantly glowing for 8 whole days reaffirmed the faith of the Jews and reminded them of God's love for his people. They rejoiced in his glory and vowed to celebrate the miracle every year! Hava Nagila!  
[Hava Nagila]

Hava nagila, hava nagila  
Hava nagila ve-nis'meha  
(2x)

Hava neranena, hava neranena  
Hava neranena venis'meha  
(2x)  
Uru, uru ahim  
Ur ahim belev same'ah (2x)  
Ur ahim belev same'ah (2x - higher)  
Ur ahim ur ahim (2 beats) belev same'ah

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x2

Grandma: Hava Nagila! And who thought that with all my years, I could learn something new.

Lizzie: Well, I guess its time for me to finish my story now.

Christmas — [Carol of the Bells] (Christmas Story 2)

Lizzie: So, Mary was ready to have her baby but Joseph wasn't about to let her give birth in the middle of a field. They quickly made their way into the city and tried to find a room to stay in. But every single inn they went to had the same answer: sorry, we're full. People were pouring in from all over the country for the census, so all the rooms in the town had been taken and no one would take pity on poor Mary.

At the edge of town, and out of options, Joseph looked to the sky, searching for an answer to their problem. And at that moment, a farmer passed by. Joseph ran after the farmer, desperate for just a roof over their heads. The farmer took one look at Mary and immediately ushered them to his home. He told them that he had a stable, and while it wasn't a room, it was clean. And it was there, in that humble manger with straw-strewn floors and only the moon to light the way, that Jesus the Savior was born. That day, only animals and angels were there to celebrate his birth but in the centuries to come, the whole world would rejoice in his coming and the peace and joy that his life brought to the world.

Hark the Herald?

[stop background]

Hark the herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King! Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled" Joyful, all ye nations rise	Hail the incarnate Deity Pleased as man with man to dwell Jesus, our Emmanuel Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!" (up)
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<p>Join the triumph of the skies      With the angelic host proclaim:      "Christ is born in Bethlehem"      Hark! The herald angels sing      "Glory to the newborn King!" (up)</p> <p>Christ by highest heav'n adored      Christ the everlasting Lord!      Late in time behold Him come      Offspring of a Virgin's womb      Veiled in flesh the Godhead see</p>	<p>Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!      Hail the Son of Righteousness!      Light and life to all He brings      Ris'n with healing in His wings      Mild He lays His glory by      Born that man no more may die      Born to raise the sons of earth      Born to give them second birth      Hark! The herald angels sing      "Glory to the newborn King!" (up)      Hark! The herald angels sing      "Glory to the newborn King!" (down)</p>
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#### Part 4: Conclusion and take-away

Grandma: (*Sniffle*) Oh, that story always brings tears to my eyes.

Ladd: The miracle of birth! What a beautiful story!

Gloria: Yes, but for me, this holiday is about more than that. Beyond the miracle of his birth, it is also a celebration of the selfless life he led, restoring faith and hope in the hearts of so many people. And for centuries to come! That is the true miracle here.

Ladd: In that way, both these stories are so similar aren't they?

Aaron: Really? True, both stories are about people struggling to achieve something but how else?

Gloria: I think I know what you mean. Both stories are about a group of people who struggled against all odds for the greater good. In spite of great difficulties, they worked to uphold the word of God and at the end, they needed a miracle to restore their joy, to reaffirm their faith. And God gave them that miracle. Whether it was keeping the lamp lit, or sending his son down to save us, these were both miracles.

Ladd: Exactly. At the end of the day, these two stories are about faith and believing in Him even when times get tough.. And celebrating these holidays is about remembering that when you have that faith and when you work selflessly to spread God's love he will take care of you. I think that's a great lesson to take away from these holidays.

Grandma: (*crying*)

Grandpa: Are you crying? Are you okay?

Grandma: (*sniffles*) I just...I just love the holidays. And I'm so proud of our kids - they've really brought out the true meaning and beauty of these stories.

~~AUDIENCE LAUGH~~

Grandpa: Aren't we all. Well, it's time to call it a night!

Gloria: Why don't we end it on a light note? After all, it is almost time for Santa Claus to come!

Lizzie: Wait, where is Dad?

*Santa Claus is Coming to Town*

You better watch out  
You better not cry  
Better not pout  
I'm telling you why  
Santa Claus is coming to town  
He's making a list,  
He's checking it twice;  
He's gonna find out who's naughty or nice.  
Santa Claus is coming to town (3x)  
He sees you when you're sleeping!  
He knows when you're awake!  
He knows if you've been bad or good!  
So be good for goodness sake!

O! You better watch out!  
You better not cry.  
Better not pout, I'm telling you why.  
Santa Claus is coming to town.  
You better watch out!  
You better not cry.  
Better not pout, I'm tellin' you why.  
Santa Claus is comin' to town (3x)

*Hanukkah oh Hanukkah*

Lai lai laa (4x –Men start, alternate)

(1x – Men, 1x – Women )  
(Men) Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah  
Come light the menorah  
Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah  
Come light the menorah  
Gather 'round the table  
And lets have a treat  
Happy songs we'll sing and latkes to eat

(Women) Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah...

(All) And while we are singing  
 The candles are burning bright  
 One for each night, they shed a sweet light  
 and remind us of days long ago (Up)  
 One for each night, they shed a sweet light  
 and remind us of days long ago (Down)

Lai lai lai (4x – Women start, alternate)

(1x – Women, 1x – Men )  
 (Women) Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah  
 A festival of joy  
 A holiday, a jolly day  
 For every girl and boy  
 Gather 'round the table  
 And lets have a treat  
 Happy songs we'll sing and latkes to eat  
 (Men) Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah...

And while we are singing  
 We'll think of those days long ago  
 And then we'll tell the story of the miracles, glory  
 And dance by the candles burning low (Up)  
 And then we'll tell the story of the miracles, glory  
 And dance by the candles burning low (Down)

Lai lai lai (4x – Women start, alternate) Laaaai

*Wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy Hannukah!*  
 We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
 We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
 We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah  
 Good tidings we bring to you and your kin;  
 Good tidings for Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah

(Come back to Radio) — *radio* — conclusion  
 Presenter: Alright folks. Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah!