Character Breakdown: Buddy

Buddy is the perfect elf! He s good-natured, he means well, and he s happy& all the time. There s only one problem. He s not an elf he s an adult human. This role is perfect for a young man who is an excellent actor and good singer who has the energetic earnestness and comedic timing that Buddy needs. It s helpful to cast an actor who is taller than the other Elves. This will help differentiate Buddy and adds to the humor of the show.

Vocal Range

B3 - G5

**BUDDY**

Santa? Is it true what they said? Am I human?

**SANTA**

Good question.

(SANTA walks over to BUDDY.)

Once upon a time there was this young woman, Susan Welles, she had a baby, but she passed away soon after he was born. That baby was put in an orphanage, and one Christmas night he crawled into my toy sack, and I brought him back here by mistake. The elves took him in, raised him as one of their own.

**BUDDY**

Really? Where is he? Is it Charlie?

**SANTA**

Buddy, it s you! It s your story!

**BUDDY**

I m not an elf; I m a human. And I m an orphan. Just like Annie.

**SANTA**

Not exactly. You have a human father, but he never knew that you were born. He lives in a faraway land called New York City.

(SANTA takes out a New York City snow globe and hands it to BUDDY.)

And he works

(pointing to the globe)

Right there, in the Empire State Building.

(BUDDY tries to give the snow globe back, but SANTA stops him.)

**SANTA**

Keep it. It s a gift from me.

**BUDDY**

Thank you, Santa. What s my dad like?

**SANTA**

He s an executive. He publishes children s books.

**BUDDY**

Oh!

**SANTA**

But I should tell you, he, uh... well, he s on the Naughty List.

**BUDDY**

No! What did he do? Did he wet the bed?

**SANTA**

No, he just doesn t believe in me anymore. He s lost the Christmas spirit.

**BUDDY**

But Christmas spirit is what makes your sleigh fly!

**SANTA**

I know. Buddy, it s time you went there to meet him.

**BUDDY**

Okay. Which direction is New York?

**SANTA**

It s south. We re at the North Pole, Buddy; everything is south.

(BUDDY starts to leave.)

**BUDDY**

Oh, hey, what s my dad s name?

**SANTA**

Hobbs. Walter Hobbs.

**BUDDY**

Hobbs? Then I must be Buddy Hobbs!

(uncertain)

Yay!

Character Breakdown: Walter Hobbs

Walter Hobbs, Buddy s real father, is so focused on keeping his job that he is not making time for his family. He can be stern and unemotional at times, but ultimately he learns to recommit to his family. Cast a great actor with a strong, authoritative presence, but be sure they can also show his softer side

Vocal Range

B3 - E5

### Script: Walter- Emily – Michael Hobbs

**BUDDY**

All fixed!

**MICHAEL**

Yay, Buddy!

(hugs BUDDY)

You re the man!

**EMILY**

Nice going, Buddy.

(EMILY hugs BUDDY too. The door opens, and WALTER enters. WALTER stops short upon seeing BUDDY, MICHAEL and EMILY all happily hugging each other.)

**WALTER**

What in the devil is going on here?!

**BUDDY**

Hi, Dad!

**MICHAEL**

Look, Buddy fixed my wind machine!

**EMILY**

He s stayin with us!

**WALTER**

Staying with us? What do you mean, Emily, he s staying with us?

(EMILY grabs WALTER s arm and moves him away from BUDDY and MICHAEL. EMILY picks up an envelope from the table.)

**EMILY**

Walter, I ve been, uh, very busy the last couple of days. You see, I took a strand of Buddy s hair, and a few strands of your hair from the sink, then I had my cousin at Beth Israel Hospital compare the two and...

**WALTER**

(worried)

And?

**EMILY**

(hands WALTER the envelope with a DNA report)

You have an elf for a son.

**WALTER**

Oh, no.

(During the above, we see BUDDY and MICHAEL move closer to eavesdrop. BUDDY races to hug WALTER. MICHAEL follows right behind BUDDY.)

**BUDDY**

Yay! I knew it! I knew it! Dad!!! Dad!!! Dad!!!

**MICHAEL**

I got a big brother! This is so cool! I can t believe it!

**BUDDY**

I planned out our whole first day, Dad. Just you and me. Tomorrow we will...

**WALTER**

Tomorrow I ve got to go to work...

**EMILY**

(interrupting)

Tomorrow, your father will take you to work with him.

**WALTER**

All right, but if you re coming with me you ll have to lose that costume. We ll stop at Brooks Brothers on the way and get you a suit.

**BUDDY**

Oh! Can it be red like Santa s?

**WALTER**

No.

Character Breakdown: Emily Hobbs

Emily Hobbs is Walter s devoted wife who would prefer her husband to spend a little more time at home. She is a problem solver and an excellent mother who is doing everything she can to provide a positive family dynamic. Cast an excellent actress and singer who effortlessly conveys a sense of maturity and warmth.

Vocal Range

G3 - D5

Character Breakdown: Michael Hobbs

Michael Hobbs is the smarter-than-average 12-year-old son of Walter and Emily. He quickly befriends his new adult brother, Buddy, and does everything he can to make sure Buddy becomes a permanent part of the family. Look for a solid young actor and singer with an unchanged voice.

Vocal Range

G3 - D5

Character Breakdown: Deb

Deb, Walter s secretary, has the big responsibility of keeping her boss and the whole office happy. She does this by sharing her positive attitude with everyone. This is a plum role for a young woman with a pleasant demeanor, yet efficient work ethic, who is a solid actor with a good speaking voice

### Script: Deb- Walter- Mr Greenaway

**WALTER**

You have to work on Christmas Eve, tough luck, so do I. Get it through your heads, Greenway s on his way and if he doesn t buy our pitch, we re all fired.

**DEB**

May I make a suggestion?

**WALTER**

Anything.

**DEB**

Whenever we visited my grammy in Budapest, she would tell us the story of little Palko, the one-legged boy. He wished and he wished every year for a leg and then one Christmas morning there it was, under the tree. From Santa.

**WALTER**

A leg?

**DEB**

Yes. A leg.

**WALTER**

A human leg?

**DEB**

Yes, because he d been a very good boy.

**WALTER**

That s the most disgusting story I ve ever heard.

**DEB**

Well, it s incredibly touching when you hear it in Hungarian.

Character Breakdown: Mr. Greenway

Mr. Greenway is one of the crankiest businessmen around. He is the big boss, so look for an older student with a commanding presence to tackle this acting role.

Script Mr Greenaway Walter

**MR. GREENWAY**

Hobbs! My phone has been ringing off the hook. Angry mothers, kids crying, What happened to Jingles, the jolly Christmas puppy?

**WALTER**

It was an unfortunate oversight, Mr

**MR. GREENWAY**

Hobbs, you re out of a job unless you can come up with a blockbuster idea for a new Christmas book. I mean a through- the-roof national bestseller!

**WALTER**

Well, sir, that s easier said than done

**MR. GREENWAY**

Yes, it is. So you better get your top writers on it, because I will be back in New York on the evening of December twenty- fourth. At that time, you will present to me, in exact detail, your plans for the book! Happy holidays, Hobbs.

Character Breakdown: Jovie

Jovie works as a store elf at Macy s, but don t be mistaken she doesn t quite exude the Christmas spirit. She s kind of cynical, a bit tough around the edges, and now the target of Buddy s complete adoration. This is a fantastic role for a young woman with a strong singing voice and acting chops.Vocal Range

G3 - Db5

### Script: Jovie

**SIDE 1**

**BUDDY**

How did you like your dinner?

**JOVIE**

Greasy souvlaki on a stick is not dinner.

**BUDDY**

But it s the world s best souvlaki...

**JOVIE**

Look, how about we just call it a night?

**BUDDY**

No! We ve still got so much to do on our date. It s too early to take you home. Hey, did I tell you? You look miraculous.

**JOVIE**

Miraculous, huh? Okay, well you look miraculous too. That elf getup made you look incredibly dorky.

**BUDDY**

Thanks!

**JOVIE**

That wasn t a compli

**BUDDY**

I know! Let s do something Christmas-y! Oh! Let s go skating!

**JOVIE**

I m not a very good skater

**BUDDY**

That s okay, neither am I. Santa says I m a hazard. He calls me Edward Scissorfeet.

**JOVIE**

Stop. Let s make a pact. If you try to be less elf-y, I ll try to be less witchy.

**BUDDY**

Okay. I d like it if you d be less witchy.

**JOVIE**

I came to Rockefeller Center last year too, my first Christmas in New York.

**BUDDY**

Oh, where d you come from?

**JOVIE**

L.A. Christmases there are surreal. No snow.

**BUDDY**

No snow?!?

**JOVIE**

I ve never even seen snow. I ve always wanted to.

**BUDDY**

That s the saddest thing I ve ever heard.

**JOVIE**

Yeah, I ve been here for almost two years and it hasn t snowed once. You know, when I was a kid I dreamed of having a snowy Christmas Eve dinner at Tavern on the Green with Billy Crystal. That sounds so stupid.

**BUDDY**

No it doesn t! Who s Billy Crystal? He sounds magical.

**JOVIE**

He s an actor.

**BUDDY**

You know what? We are going to have Christmas Eve dinner at Tavern on the Green!

**JOVIE**

I don t think so. For one thing, it s been closed for months. It just re-opened, now it s even harder to get in.

**BUDDY**

My dad can get us a table! He can do anything!

**JOVIE**

Buddy, don t promise things you can t deliver.

**BUDDY**

Jovie, I will make your dream come true. I promise.

**JOVIE**

Wow, I might actually have a real Christmas.

**BUDDY**

You see? You do have Christmas spirit!

**JOVIE**

I guess I do. A little.

**BUDDY**

Now you have to spread it around and remember the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear.

Character Breakdown: Fake Santa

Fake Santa is a poor replacement for the real Santa. He s an employee of Macy s who is a bit rough around the edges. Fake Santa should be played by a performer who is unafraid of being a little over-the-top and has good physical control of his body.

**FAKE SANTA script**

(in a heavy New York accent)

Ho, ho, ho! Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!

(The first MOTHER in line leads a small CHILD to FAKE SANTA as BUDDY rushes over.)

**BUDDY**

Santa! Yeah! Yeah! It s me, Buddy! It s me!

**FAKE SANTA**

Yo, Buddy, how ya doin ?

(SANTA S HELPER places the CHILD on FAKE SANTA s lap.)

**BUDDY**

It s me! Who the heck are you?

**FAKE SANTA**

Whadda ya talkin about? I m Santa Claus.

**BUDDY**

No, you re not.

**FAKE SANTA**

Yes, I am.

**BUDDY**

 No, you re not.

**FAKE SANTA**

(to the CHILD)

What can I get you for Christmas?

**BUDDY**

(whispers to CHILD)

Don t tell him what you want, he s a liar!

**FAKE SANTA**

Let the kid talk.

**BUDDY**

(to FAKE SANTA)

You don t smell like Santa. You smell like beef and cheese.

**FAKE SANTA**

Just cool it, Zippy.

**BUDDY**

You re a fake.

**FAKE SANTA**

I m a fake? How d you like to be dead?

**BUDDY**

(pulling off FAKE SANTA s hat with the white hair attached)

Look, he s not really Santa!

(BUDDY holds the hat high in the air and begins to run.)

Santa s a fake! Santa s a fake! Santa s a fake!

(FAKE SANTA chases BUDDY, trying to get his hat back. The CHILDREN scream as their PARENTS try to comfort them.)

SONGS FOR AUDITIONS FOR PRINCIPLES

BUDDY THE WORLDS GREATEST DAD

JOVIE NEVER FALL IN LOVE WITH AN ELF

EMILE HOBBS I BELIEVE IN YOU

MICHAEL HOBBS THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS