



A Musical for Young Voices

by John Jacobson and Walter Jack

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Production Guide

Scenario: The musical is a retelling of the story of Pandora's Box. In this case, a panda opens a gift box that was supposed to be saved for Christmas, or a birthday if you want to perform the musical a different time of year. Feel free to adjust the dialog to reflect the difference. Out fly all of the woes of the world causing chaos and pandemonium. Everything seems to be going wrong until we discover that there is one thing left in the box, hope.

The Set: The only real prop you need is a big box or package center stage. It supposedly is big enough to hold several human beings. If you built the box upstage center and flanked it with curtains or screens and left the back open, the "woes" characters could come from behind as though they were in the box all along but were actually behind it. The box needs to be able to open in the front so the woes can escape.

The Cast

A Postal Worker

As many Pandas as you wish. They could come up with their own names if they wish instead of being numbered. (Penny Panda, Patty Panda, Paolo Panda, etc.) We simply numbered them. If you have a smaller cast some pandas could have more lines.

The Woes: We've included these suggestions. You could delete any you wanted to or add more. (If you wanted to be contemporary you might include Tik Tok, Artificial Intelligence, Facebook and so on.) The characters could be creative with their costume, but most simply could wear a sash across their chest with their vice written on it.



Hip hip hooray! It's a wonderful day!
Special delivery heading our way!
Something great we can't wait to see.
Special delivery,
Special delivery,
Special delivery just for me.

Postal worker: Sign here please!



Scene 2

Panda 1: (signing for the package) For sure! Here's my "paw"tograph! Heh heh! Get it? "Paw"tograph.

Postal worker: (rolling their eyes) Yeah, I get it. I get it. Sign here. And don't forget it says right on the package "DO NOT OPEN UNTIL CHRISTMAS DAY!"

(Postal worker exits.)

Panda 2: Let's open it!

Panda 3: I don't think we should. It says right on it "Do Not Open Until Christmas Day!"

Panda 4: Oh, nobody will ever know. Besides, I can't wait any longer.

(The box moves. All the pandas jump back.)

Panda 5: (shocked) Did that box just move?

Panda 6: It couldn't have.

(It moves again.)

Panda 7: It's alive!

Panda 8: Maybe it's a puppy! I always wanted a puppy!

Panda 9: You're a panda. Pandas don't have puppies.

(The box moves again.)

Panda 10: Well, something is in there and I say we get it out.

Panda 11: But it says "DO NOT OPEN UNTIL CHRISTMAS DAY!"

Panda 10: I'm a panda. I can't read.

(Panda 10 unties the ribbon. The lid comes off and one side of the box collapses. Out tumble cast members that each represent one of the woes of the world- sadness, disease, vice, lying,

deceit, laziness. They proceed to run all over the stage, even through the audience as song 2 begins. The pandas quickly close the box after the WOES are out.)

Panda 11: Oh, my goodness! Oh, my goodness! All the woes of the world coming out of one box!

Panda 12: Sadness, disease, vice!

Panda 13: Lying, deceit, laziness! This is the worst present ever!

Song 2 Pandamonium

Oh dear! Oh no! What a wacky world of woe! Trouble, trouble everywhere, on the ground and in the air. Trouble, trouble through and through. What are we supposed to do? Ahh!

Oh yikes! Oh wow! We are all in danger now! Panic! Panic all around.

In the air and on the ground.
Panic! Panic makes me sad,
everything is looking bad.
Ahhh!

One woe is a bragger!
Naughty as can be.
One woe is a bully
And he's coming after me.

That woe is so greedy.
That one full of fear.
Lazy, no one caring.
Get me out of here!
Panda Pandamonium!
Panda Pandamonium!
Panda Pandamonium!
Panda Pandamonium!
Panda Pandamonium!



Panda Pandamonium! Panda Pandamonium! Pandamonium

One woe is a bragger!
Naughty as can be.
One woe is a bully
And he's coming after me.

That woe is so greedy. That one full of fear. Lazy, no one caring. Get me out of here!

Panda Pandamonium!
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Panda Pandamonium!
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Panda Pandamonium!
Panda Pandamonium!
Pandamonium.
Pandamonium.
Pandamonium.



Scene 3

(The Woes are lined up across the front of the stage. Their "woe" costume could be as simple as a sash across their chest with their woe written on it. They could then add to their costume to emphasize their malady.)

Sadness: I am the woe of sorrow!

And if you are feeling glad,
I'm the one to fix that.
I'm here to make you sad. (Sobs)

Panda 12: (deadpan, to the audience) I don't see how this is going to work out well.

Disease: Not feeling well?

A little out of sorts?

I'm the woe of sickness,

I'm happy to report. (Laughs an evil laugh)

Song 2 Pandamonium

Music by John Jacobson and Walter Jack







