

ACT TWO
SCENE 1

The interior of the Chung Fu Palace Christmas Eve. It is early evening. All of the customers are dressed as Santa Claus since each is now an out-of-work department store or Salvation Army street-corner Santa. They pick at their food and commiserate.

FAKE SANTA #1

This is one Christmas season I thought would never end.

FAKE SANTA #2

It gets longer every year.

MANAGER

You're telling me. I got a bruise on my thigh in the shape of a kid's butt!

Another bedraggled Santa walks in.

FAKE SANTA #3

Am I too late?

FAKE SANTA #2

Nah, we still got chow mein, moo goo guy pan...

FAKE SANTA #3

Oy, may I never put on this suit again.

FAKE SANTA #1

Tough year.

FAKE SANTA #3

What a meshugena Christmas.

The FAKE SANTAs clink glasses. Upstage, we see a despondent BUDDY, in his elf outfit, peering through the window. The WAITRESS notices him and waves him in.

BUDDY

Is this a Chinese restaurant?

WAITRESS

No. I got a thing for dragons.

BUDDY

Sorry. I'll keep looking...

WAITRESS

Oh, you too depressed for sarcasm, huh? Come on in, honey, we've got a special on for out of work Christmas temps. You like hot and sour soup?

BUDDY

(disgusted)

No!

MANAGER

Hey! That's the crazy elf I was telling you about.

FAKE SANTA #1

The guy that beat up Larry Spinoli?

MANAGER

Hey! Buddy. Come sit next to Santa Claus.

BUDDY joins them.

BUDDY

I know none of you are real Santas. But don't worry, I'm not going to hit you. Mom explained to me that you guys pretend to be Santa for the kids who can't make it to the North Pole to see the real Santa. I get it now. You make a lot of kids happy.

FAKE SANTA #2

Not anymore.

FAKE SANTA #1

Years ago kids would light up when they saw you. You felt special, you know?

MANAGER

Now they just sit on your lap and text each other.

FAKE SANTA #1

People got no respect.

FAKE SANTA #3

No respect at all.

WAITRESS

No respect.

BUDDY

No respect for Santa Claus.

#9 - Nobody Cares About Santa

FAKE SANTA #1

USED TO BE

I'D STAND ON THE BUSIEST CORNER