ELF

the musical

Thursday 16th November @ 2-30

ACT 11 introduction notes

Welcome back to the second half of this wonderful production of Elf. I am Veryan your describer for this half. There are a few of new scenes in this act, which I will describe for you now.

The action begins with a prologue from Santa who's standing in front of the ELF backdrop sipping from a mug of hot chocolate as he reads from the chunky green book - he's then joined by Buddy once again dressed in his elf suit again. As Santa fades away the lights come up on a Chinese restaurant, the Chung Fu Palace. The center of the stage is now framed by a huge red circle of intricately carved wood set within red papered walls. Within the circle is the Chinese restaurant set with a number of small tables and chairs. At the back, facing the audience is a similar, but smaller carved frame with enormous green dragons entwined around the frame on either side - this framework contains the windows and door into the restaurant. Through the glass we can see Chinese shops on the other side of the narrow street.

It is early evening on the 24th - Christmas Eve and all the restaurants customers are dressed as Santa Claus complete with bulging red sacks - each being a now out-of-work department store or Salvation Army street-corner Santa. Apart from the Santa's there is a waitress wearing a tightfitting Chinese yellow brocade dress, her red hair piled untidily on top of her head.

The story then moves to the outside of the Tavern on the Green, where a forlorn Jovie waits and waits. She's made a huge effort to look glamorous for her date with Buddy and is wearing a purple dress glimpsed beneath a striking orange coat and high-heeled shoes.

The Tavern on the Green is represented by the restaurant entrance - a domed awning supported by slender poles with potted date palms on either side. Towering behind the Tavern stands a leafless tree, its gnarled trunk and spreading, twiggy branches entwined with festoons of glowing lights.

The story then returns to The Hobbs Apartment - it is evening and the New York skyline is silhouetted against a night sky complete with a huge moon is visible through the picture window. Then we move back to the Greenway press office before shifting to dark woodland near a boathouse and finally to Central park. Here the magical landscape becomes one of moon-it trees and frosty grass glinting under a dark star studded sky.

The epilogue and finale will take place back at the North Pole with everyone, men and women alike dressed in costumes of snowy white with a backdrop of huge snowflakes falling around a spectacular Christmas surrounded by gift wrapped presents.

The next audio described performance at this theatre will be Nativity on Saturday 9th December @2.30pm