

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



# The Kid 'A' Project

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by Scott Hatcher

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EXTRACT

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# **\*THE KID ‘A’ PROJECT**

A MODERN CHRISTMAS TALE

## **CHARACTERS:**

VOULA – A CLEANING LADY

GAB – ANGELS  
THORA  
BARRY

MEG - KID A’S MOTHER

JACK - KID A’S FATHER

MICHAEL - ARCHANGEL

MRS BEEK - OWNER OF HOTEL  
SHANIAH - HER DAUGHTER

ANDERSON - HOBO

WOMAN - KID A AS ADULT  
CHILD - KID A AS ADOLESCENT

BLUNT - ADVERTISING AGENTS  
SOLAS

MOTHER - MEG’S PARENTS  
FATHER

MICK - BUILDERS  
MACCA  
WAZZA

BUSINESSMAN

MR SHEPHERD  
MRS SHEPHERD

SHOP ASSISTANTS 1, 2, 3

... and heaps of others.

Act 1

Scene 1

*Empty stage. Two workers slowly walk out with a counter. Take their time trying to get it perfectly lined up. Then floor manager, in business suit, walks in and looks at them disapprovingly. They look back nervously. Then an elevator bell rings. All freeze for a moment, before the business manager speaks.*

FLOOR MANAGER: Incoming!

*The workers rush off. More workers rush on and begin creating a floor of a department store. As they work, they dance. The main item they bring is a boxed item – The X5000 ADHD in great numbers. Half-heartedly the three shop assistants dance on to stage and assume their positions at their counters. They stand there bored and sullen. About three-quarters the way through the dance, a worker drops a box and an X5000 ADHD smashes on the floor. The music abruptly stops as do the workers. Everyone looks at the FLOOR MANAGER.*

FLOOR MANAGER: Cleaner!

*VOULA enters and begins sweeping up the mess. The music starts up again and the dance continues around VOULA. The FLOOR MANAGER gives each of the shop assistants a stern look as she exits. They reply with sarcastic smiles/sneers. Eventually the music stops. The workers exit hastily, except for four of them who have paired off and go to opposite sides of the stage. VOULA also stays onstage, cleaning.*

*First pair drop a sheet slowly to reveal crowded elevator arriving.*

*Light appears on ELEVATOR GIRL.*

ELEVATOR GIRL: Third floor. Glassware, Men's shoes, Household appliances, Electricals and Gifts.

*Second pair drop a sheet slowly to reveal second elevator arriving.*

*First bell sounds. Crowd in elevator 1 look at each other. Then second bell rings and crowd in second elevator look at each other. Then both crowds rush out noisily and bustle around shop. Among them is the CHILD, who walks around the stage throughout the scene, observing. Also on an elevator is GAB, who watches the CHILD. The moment VOULA spots the CHILD, she also follows her from a distance. The shop assistants suddenly perk up. A customer approaches one of them.*

SHOP ASSISTANT 1: Merry Christmas sir. How may I serve you today?

CUSTOMER 1: I'm looking for a...

SHOP ASSISTANT 1: *holding an X5000 ADHD* The X5000 ADHD?

CUSTOMER 1: The X...?

SHOP ASSISTANT 1: X5000 Auto-Digitized Hyperreality Device, sir.

CUSTOMER 1: What does...?

SHOP ASSISTANT 1: The X5000 Auto-Digitized Hyperreality Device enables you, sir, to automatically run your favourite games, play your favourite films and songs, all while you're taking pictures of your favourite things and calling your favourite people. And it does all of this without you needing to press a single button!

CUSTOMER 1: Wow. So it's voice-operated then?

SHOP ASSISTANT 1: No sir. Thought-operated.

CUSTOMER 1: Wow! I'll take...

SHOP ASSISTANT 1: 2 sir? One for your son and one for yourself?

CUSTOMER 1: Yes. How did you...?

SHOP ASSISTANT 1: The X5000 ADHD is already reading your thoughts. *She passes two wrapped boxes over to CUSTOMER 1.* Over-sized plastic bag?

CUSTOMER 1: Yes please.

SHOP ASSISTANT 1: There you go sir.

SHOP ASSISTANT 2: Merry Christmas madame. How may I serve you today?

SHOP ASSISTANT 1: The very best for the festive season!

CUSTOMER 2: I'm looking for a...

CUSTOMER 1: Thankyou.

SHOP ASSISTANT 2: *holding an X5000 ADHD* The X5000 ADHD?

CUSTOMER 2: The X...?

SHOP ASSISTANT 2: X5000 Auto-Digitized Hyperreality Device, madame.

CUSTOMER 2: What does...?

SHOP ASSISTANT 2: The X5000 Auto-Digitized Hyperreality Device enables you, madame...

SA 3: Merry Christmas madame.

SA 2: to automatically run...

SA 3: How may I serve you today?

SA 2: your favourite games, play your favourite films and songs...

C 3: I'm looking for a...

SA 2: all while you're taking pictures of your favourite things...

SA 3: The X5000 ADHD?

SA 2: and calling your favourite people...

C 3: The X...?

SA 2: And it does all of this

SA 3: The X5000 Auto-Digitized Hyperreality Device, enables you madame...

SA 2: Without you needing to press a single button!

SA 1: Merry Christmas Sir.

CUSTOMER 2: Wow.

SA 3: to automatically run...

SA 1: How may I serve you today?

CUSTOMER 2: So it's voice-operated then?

SA 3: your favourite games...

C 4: I'm looking for...

SHOP ASSISTANT 2: No madame. Thought-operated.

SA 3: play your favourite films...

SA 1: The X5000 ADHD?

CUSTOMER 2: Wow!

SA 3: And songs...

C 4: The X?

CUSTOMER 2: I'll take...

SHOP ASSISTANT 2: 2 madame?

SA 1: The X 5000 Auto –

SA 3: All while you're taking pictures...

SA 1: Digitized...

SHOP ASSISTANT 2: *Holding two wrapped gifts* One for your son and one for yourself?

SA 1: Hyperreality...

SA 3: Of your favourite things...

SA 1: Device...

CUSTOMER 2: Yes.

SA 1: Madame.

SA 3: and calling your favourite people...

CUSTOMER 2: How did you...?

C 4: What does...?

SA 3: And it does all this without you...

SA 1: The X 5000...

SHOP ASSISTANT 2: The X5000 ADHD is already reading your thoughts.

SA 1: Auto-Digitized...

SA 3: Needing to press a single button!

SA 1: Hyperreality...

SHOP ASSISTANT 2: Oversized plastic bag?

SA 1: Device...

CUSTOMER 2: Yes please.

SA 1: Enables you madame...

C 3: Wow. So it's voice operated then?

SA 1: To automatically run...

SHOP ASSISTANT 2: There you go madame.

SA 1: Your favourite games...

SA 3: No madame. Thought operated.

SA 1: Play your favourite films...

SHOP ASSISTANT 2: The very best for the festive season.

SA 1: And songs...

C 3: Wow!

SA 1: All while you're taking...

CUSTOMER 2: Thankyou.

SA 1: Pictures of your...

C 3: I'll take...

SA 1: Favourite things...

SA 3: 3 madame?

SA 1: And calling your favourite people...

SA 3: One for your son, daughter and yourself?

SA 1: And it does all this...

C 3: Yes. How did you...?

SA 1: Without you needing to press...

SA 3: The X5000 ADHD is already reading your thoughts.

SA 2: Merry Christmas madame.

SA 1: A single button!

SA 2: How may I be of service to you?

SA 3: Oversized plastic bag?

C 3: Yes please.

C 4: Wow!

C 5: I'm looking for...

SA 3: There you go madame.

C 4: So it's voice-operated?

SA 2: The X 5000 ADHD?

SA 3: The very best for the festive season.

C 5: The X..?

SA 1: No sir. Thought-operated...

C 3: Thankyou.

SA 2: The X 5000...

C 4: Wow! I'll take...

SA 2: Auto- Digitised...

SA 3: Merry Christmas sir...

*(By this stage, the individual sales are barely distinguishable from each other. The dialogue between sales assistant and customer continues until all the customers are served. When customers are finished, they stand and wait for an elevator.)*

*CUSTOMER 1 and CUSTOMER 2 stand by elevator 1.*

C 1: What did you get? The X5000 ADHD?

C 2: Absolutely. Why? Didn't you?

C 1: Of course. It does automatically run your favourite game...

C2: Play your favourite films and songs...

C 1: All while you're taking pictures of your favourite things...

C 2: And calling your favourite people.

C 1: All without needing...

C 1 and 2: *together* To press a single button! Ha,ha,ha!

C 2: I'd hate to be the parent who doesn't get one for their kid!

C1: The kid will be damaged for life!

*Light appears on ELEVATOR GIRL.*

ELEVATOR GIRL: Third floor. X5000 Auto-Digitized Hyperreality Devices and some other less important things.

*Enter BUSINESSMAN from elevator 2. He rushes to counter of the SHOP ASSISTANTS. As he does so, the workers return and begin disassembling the shop. Half of the CUSTOMERS also exit in the elevator.*

BUSINESSMAN: I've been everywhere looking for the X5000 Auto-Digital thingy device...

SA 3: The X5000 Auto-Digitized Hyperreality Device?

BUSINESSMAN: Yes. Have you got one?

SA 2: I'm sorry sir. We're all sold out.

BUSINESSMAN: Sold out! What do you mean you're sold out?

SA 1: Can we interest you in an oversized plastic bag?

BUSINESSMAN: No! I want an X 5000 auto- digi... whatever... for my kid. How much do you want? I'll pay you anything!

SA 2: I'm sorry sir.

BUSINESSMAN: But my kid...

SA 3: Will be ostracized? My advice would be to pull him out of school for a year.

BUSINESSMAN: What?

SA 2: Otherwise there will be permanent scarring.

SA 1: And remember, next year...

SA 2: Don't leave your shopping to the last minute.

SA 3: Goodbye sir.

BUSINESSMAN: Nooo!

*SHOP ASSISTANTS exit.*

*ELEVATOR 1 bell rings.*

*ELEVATOR: Third Floor. Oversized plastic bags.*

*THE remaining customers move into the elevator. Then the BUSINESSMAN rushes towards the elevator.*

BUSINESSMAN: Hold that elevator!

*The BUSINESSMAN and the CHILD enter the elevator. The elevator crowd freeze.*

VOULA: VOULA: Did ya... did ya see that girl? I was there when she came into the world. The only time I was ever there for the miracle of childbirth. Besides my own of course. And lucky I was there too. So I could perform a minor miracle of my own. Because when she did come into the world, she left quite the mark. Right on Mrs Beek's carpet. You see, if it wasn't for me and the blessed trinity for those sort of stains: Diluted ammonia, paper towels and a brick, that carpet would've been a goner.

# Stand Up

from *The Kid 'A' Project: A Modern Christmas Tale*

Music by Taran Carter  
Lyrics by Scott Hatcher

Moderate Folk Rock ♩ = 154

Am Em

Tell the lead - ers the gov - ern - ments de - liv - er - ing West ern in - struc - tion.

Am Em

Tell them I've found them, these wea - pons of mass de - struc - tion If they

D Am

pull their heads out from the sand - bags and out of the ground and

C D11 Cm

stick 'em out of the win - dow they will see for them - selves as these wea - pons drive by.

## Chorus

G D Am C

So stand - up you peo - ple get off your floors.

G D Am C

It's war now so out of your doors stand up for your cause. and

G F Eb F

1. G C G

come stand up you peo - ple Stand Up Go

## Verse Two

Go tell all the preachers the day of our judgement's upon us  
and it's time that their flocks spread the good news all over the world

Don't let them just pray and drop coins in collections for naught  
There'll be nothing left for the saving unless we first save this good Mother Earth

2.

### Instrumental solo

34

G D Am C G D Am C G F

### Slightly slower Swing Blues Tempo ♩ = 120

44

E<sup>b</sup> F

G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup> G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup> G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup> G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup> G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup> G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup> G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup> G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup>

50

G G<sup>6</sup> G G<sup>6</sup> G G<sup>6</sup> G G<sup>6</sup> D D<sup>6</sup> D D<sup>6</sup> D D<sup>6</sup> D D<sup>6</sup> D D<sup>6</sup>

Tell all the peop - le we need to re - cyc - le

54

C C<sup>6</sup> C C<sup>6</sup> C C<sup>6</sup> C C<sup>6</sup> G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup> G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup> G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup> G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup>

Buy sec - ond - hand clo - th - ing

58

G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup> G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup> G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup> G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup> D D<sup>6</sup> D D<sup>6</sup> D D<sup>6</sup> D D<sup>6</sup> D D<sup>6</sup>

Tell 'em they need to in - vest in re - new - ab - le en - er - gy

62

C C<sup>6</sup> C C<sup>6</sup> C C<sup>6</sup> C C<sup>6</sup> G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup> G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup> G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup> G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup>

Stop driv - ing cars Get

66

G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup> G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup> G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup> G<sup>5</sup> G<sup>6</sup> D D<sup>6</sup> D D<sup>6</sup> D D<sup>6</sup> D D<sup>6</sup> D D<sup>6</sup>

out of their show - ers Turn off their plas - mas Switch off their switch - es stop cut - ting down trees, and

70

C C<sup>6</sup> C C<sup>6</sup> C C<sup>6</sup> C C<sup>6</sup> C C<sup>6</sup> C C<sup>6</sup> C C<sup>6</sup> C C<sup>6</sup> C C<sup>6</sup>

no more pap - er cup pic - nics no pol - lu - ting our oceans and stop buy - ing plas - tic that fills up holes in the ground

74

so stand up Stand up

78

Stand up

82

So stand up Stand up

86

Stand up stand up

90

Stand up Stand up

94

So stand up Stand up Stand up

100

So stand up Stand up Stand up