

CHRISTMAS IN HAWAII

by Jill M. Krupela



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Christmas in Hawaii

A children's play with
a tropical twist

by Jill M. Krupela



CAST OF CHARACTERS

In order of appearance

Mom: She is a professor who took a semester-long, visiting teaching assignment at the University of Hawaii.

Katie, Michael, Liv: The three Smith siblings are ready to return home. They miss their dad, family, and friends. They are longing for a traditional Christmas.

Luau Cast

Greeter: Welcomes and seats the kids at the luau

Keoni: Master of ceremonies at the luau

Liko: Male cast member

Alana: Female cast member

Makani: Comedian cast member

Ikaika: Luau chef

Cast 1, Cast 2, Cast 3: These parts have limited speaking roles. Feel free to combine these roles or add as many roles as you need.

Mary, Joseph: These can be cast members or smaller children.

Dad, Grandma, Grandpa: These three make a short appearance at the end of the play.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Synopsis

Imagine spending Christmas in Hawaii! However, for the siblings in this show, it isn't very exciting. They miss their dad, their friends, and the snow. But as they experience Christmas through a traditional Hawaiian luau, they begin to realize that Christmas is about Christ. This fun program features all the tropical trimmings, including instructions for a papier mâché pig.

Costumes

Buy plenty of inexpensive leis and dig out your Hawaiian shirts, shorts, hats, flip-flops, and sunglasses. Ikaika may wear a chef's hat and white bib apron. You can order inexpensive grass skirts for the girls in the luau cast. Mary and Joseph will need typical biblical robes, headpieces, and sandals.

Set

This play is fun to stage! Purchase some Hawaiian decorations at a party store or Internet site. Inflatable palm trees, tiki torches, fresh pineapples, shell garlands, lei garlands, hibiscus fringe for tables, fish nets, surfboards, party lanterns, beach balls, fake parrots, beach umbrellas, and artificial flowers are good choices. You will need one table and three chairs placed on the side of the stage for the siblings. Set the table for a meal. You can make a "Surf Shack" sign as well as other beach signs. A banner with the words "Mele Kalikimaka" should be displayed. A Christmas tree is important. A poster of Santa on an outrigger canoe will be shown. A manger draped in a beautiful white lei will add a nice touch. As you begin work on this play, think of the whole room as one big luau that the siblings happened to get the "one table left up front." Your set can be as elaborate or as simple as you wish.

Props

Fake snow may be made from shredding paper. A newspaper may be mocked up to include the Christmas tree story. Cups and plates with a tropical design are nice, as are small drink umbrellas. You will need three plates of food — rice, pork, and pineapple. A doll can serve as the baby Jesus. The papier mâché pig is a big hit with the audience and cast. Place the pig off to the side of the stage and place real or fake palm branches over it as if it is really buried in a pit at a luau.

Here's a simple way to make the pig. First find a papier mâché recipe. Typically it's one part flour to two parts water. Get a piece of white Fome-Cor and some old newspapers. Make two crumpled balls (large and small) out of the newspaper. The bigger ball will be the body of the pig, and the smaller ball will be the head. Loosely tape these onto the middle of the Fome-Cor board. Tape a plastic cup at the end of the head to represent the snout. Cut strips from brown wrapping paper for the papier mâché. (Using brown wrapping paper will give the luau pig its color so you won't have to paint it.) Dip the strips in the papier mâché recipe and cover your pig. You can create feet and ears by allowing a little excess paper in those areas. Your pig may take a couple of days to dry. The foam board will act as a large platter. If you have two long poles (dowel rods or PVC pipe work great), attach them under the Fome-Cor so that the cast can carry the pig with the poles. When you are ready to perform, place an apple on a skewer and stick it through the end of the cup so that it looks like the pig has an apple in its mouth.

Music

Most of these songs are familiar Christmas tunes and can be found in various Christmas songbooks. They may be sung by the whole cast or by solos or various small groups within the luau cast. A beautiful arrangement of the song "Simple Gifts" is entitled "The Journey." It is arranged by Joseph M. Martin, © 1997, 2005 published by Malcolm Music, A Division of Shawnee Press, Inc., New York, NY 10010. It may be ordered through most music stores. Feel free to make musical substitutions to fit your needs.

Please feel free to personalize your production. Add your home state when the siblings are talking about where they are from. Change names and parts to fit your group, and make this play your own.

Verses from Luke 2 are the author's paraphrase.

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1 (MOM, KATIE, MICHAEL, and LIV enter.)

2 MOM: Why the long faces, kids? Come on — don't look so
3 down. I want to see some of that Christmas cheer! (*She*
4 *touches each CHILD.*) Do you know how lucky you are to
5 spend Christmas in Hawaii? There are a lot of people
6 who would love to be in your shoes — I mean, flip-flops.
7 (*SIBLINGS groan.*) Guess what? I made reservations for
8 you at the Honolulu Lights Christmas Luau!

9 KATIE: I think I'm homesick.

10 MICHAEL: I'm ready for some snow.

11 LIV: I never thought I'd say this, but I want to go back to
12 _____. (*Insert home state.*)

13 MOM: Oh, you guys. You know I have to finish grading these
14 papers. I meet with the college dean in four days, and
15 then we leave for home. I know it hasn't been easy this
16 past month without your dad, but you know it's his
17 busy season at work. Besides, hasn't it been great to
18 have a semester here in Hawaii while I took this
19 visiting teaching position?

20 SIBLINGS: (*Ad-lib*) Yeah, I guess, sort of.

21 MOM: All right then. Let's adjust our attitudes and make the
22 most of our Christmas in Hawaii. Run along. I'll be
23 there as soon as I get through this stack of papers. Love
24 you!

25 SIBLINGS: (*Ad-lib*) Bye, Mom; See ya; Later; etc.

26 KATIE: It's the day before Christmas, and Mom is *still*
27 working!

28 MICHAEL: Well, at least we're on Christmas break, and *we*
29 don't have homework.

30 LIV: I miss Dad and Grandma and Grandpa.

31 KATIE: It just won't seem like Christmas without them.
32 (*SIBLINGS walk up to the luau. GREETER, CAST 1-3,*
33 *KEONI, LIKO, ALANA, and MAKANI enter.*)

34 GREETER: (*Walks up to the SIBLINGS.*) Welcome to the
35 Honolulu Lights Christmas Luau! (*Places a flower lei over*
36 *the heads of KATIE, MICHAEL, and LIV.*)

37 CAST 1: We're happy you're with us on this very special
38 night.

- 1 **CAST 2:** We have one table left up front and close to the
2 stage.
- 3 **LIV:** Thanks. (*SIBLINGS take a seat. They are given tropical cups*
4 *with umbrella straws.*)
- 5 **MICHAEL:** (*Whispering to his sisters*) No eggnog or hot cocoa
6 here. (*The luau show begins.*)
- 7 **KEONI:** Welcome to the Honolulu Lights Christmas Luau.
8
- 9 **SONG:** “Mele Kalikimaka” (*All LUAU CAST MEMBERS stand*
10 *on stage and sing. A few people can hold a large banner that*
11 *says “Mele Kalikimaka!”*)
12
- 13 **KEONI:** Mele Kalikimaka, everyone! In Hawaii, that means
14 Merry Christmas! Honolulu Lights is one of the biggest
15 Christmas celebrations on the Islands. I’m Keoni, and
16 all of us here at Honolulu Lights are so glad you’re
17 spending your Christmas Eve with us.
- 18 **KATIE:** I’d rather be washing my hair.
- 19 **LIKO:** Tonight we’ll sing some familiar Christmas favorites
20 while enjoying the gentle tropical breezes and the
21 beautiful Pacific Ocean.
- 22 **ALANA:** While we enjoy this near-perfect weather, we must
23 remember that there are some people who are a little
24 chillier than we are. Take it away ...
25
- 26 **OPTIONAL SONG:** “Let It Snow” or another Christmas
27 number about snow (*Music continues lightly in the*
28 *background.*)
29
- 30 **LIV:** (*Sighs.*) I wonder what Josh is doing back home. You
31 know, this was the first year that our class could attend
32 the Winter Snow Dance. (*Sigh*) I hope he didn’t take
33 someone else.
- 34 **KATIE:** I *knew* you had a crush on him!
- 35 **MICHAEL:** (*Daydreaming*) Snow! Do you remember that year
36 we built that fort? It must have snowed a foot that
37 Christmas day.
- 38 **MAKANI:** Snow! Did someone want snow? (*Throwing around*

1 *fake snow)*

2 **MICHAEL:** (*Looks, touches, tastes.*) Yuck! This isn't snow.

3 **KEONI:** I hope you're enjoying this Christmas luau. Now I
4 must introduce a dear friend, Makani.

5 **MAKANI:** Hello, everyone! Mele, mele Kalikimaka! I was
6 born and raised right here in beautiful Hawaii. Let's
7 take a few minutes to get to know some of you. This
8 group right here. (*Points to the SIBLINGS.*) What about
9 you? Where are you from?

10 **LIV:** _____. (*Insert name of your state.*)

11 **MAKANI:** Oh, yes, _____. That's somewhere in the _____,
12 (*Insert a direction*) right? Well, here's a song for you.
13 (*Sings, changing first two lines.*) I won't be home for
14 Christmas. Don't you count on me. (*LUAU GROUP*
15 *laughs. KEONI steps forward.*)

16 **KEONI:** Hey, hey... you're supposed to make our guests feel
17 good about being here.

18 **MAKANI:** Oops! Seriously, we know what it's like to be
19 missing home. Please feel free to join in on this next
20 song. It's dedicated to all of those folks, including our
21 service men and women, who are dreaming of another
22 place tonight.

23

24 **OPTIONAL SONG:** "White Christmas," "I'll Be Home for
25 Christmas," or another song about home (*ALANA comes*
26 *forward reading the newspaper.*)

27

28 **KEONI:** Excuse me, but we're in the middle of a show. Why
29 are you reading the newspaper?

30 **ALANA:** I'm reading about a very special part of our
31 Christmas celebration.

32 **KEONI:** But you're reading a newspaper dated October
33 twenty-fifth!

34 **ALANA:** Yes, that's when we first got word about (*Pointing*)
35 our tree.

36 **KEONI:** Oh, yes! Our Christmas tree. We certainly do not
37 take Christmas trees for granted here in Hawaii. Please
38 tell them all about it.

ALANA: (*Reading from a newspaper*) “An October twenty-fifth headline in a Honolulu newspaper declares, ‘Christmas tree ship to arrive on Thanksgiving Day.’ The article reads: ‘It’s still a week to Halloween and a month to Thanksgiving, but Matson Navigation Company has announced the arrival date for its annual Christmas Tree Ship ... most trees for Oahu residents will go on sale the day after Thanksgiving.’ Every year hordes of residents line up at the appointed hour to watch Christmas trees being unloaded from refrigerated containers. They wait for their chance to pick the best of the islands’ limited supply of grand firs, nobles and other popular varieties.”

I remember picking this one. We knew it would be just what we needed for our Christmas Luau. Let’s rock around our Christmas tree!

We need some volunteers for this number. (*Motions KATIE and LIV forward. Hands them grass skirts to put on. They join the rest of the FEMALE CAST MEMBERS as they dance and sing.*)

SONG: “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree,” “Jingle Bell Rock,” or any upbeat secular number

KEONI: You know, Hawaiians are very flexible when it comes to Christmas trees.

LIKO: Palm trees are also used, especially outdoors.

CAST 3: Technically Hawaii is in the Northern Hemisphere, and it *is* our winter season. It’s just that our winter season may look a little different than the winter season on the mainland. Either way, the season is spectacular, and it’s great to see a winter wonderland.

OPTIONAL SONG: “Winter Wonderland”

KEONI: I know what you’ve been waiting for ... It’s time to introduce our master chef. Here’s Ikaika! (*IKAIKA enters.*)

- 1 **IKAIKA:** In Hawaii, the luau is a popular celebration
 2 tradition. Just look across the island tonight. You'll see
 3 streams of smoke coming from backyards everywhere.
 4 In Hawaiian celebrations, the food is a very important
 5 part of the party. Drum roll, please ... (*ALL drum hands*
 6 *on laps.*) All right, everyone, it's time to dig the pig!
 7 (*Cheering from all*) Over to the pit! (*Two or three CAST*
 8 *MEMBERS go get the roasted pig from the pit. In a dramatic*
 9 *fashion, they lift the palm branches from the papier mâché pig*
 10 *and then lift the pig high in the air and take it Off-stage.*)
 11 **KATIE:** (*In a disgusted tone*) Ewwww! Did you see that? They
 12 put a whole pig into the ground!
 13 **LIV:** What are they going to do with it?
 14 **MICHAEL:** And what's up with the apple in its mouth?
 15 Gross!
 16 **KEONI:** Now, that's a beautiful sight! And after we feast, I
 17 know some of you will set sail on our special cruise,
 18 Sunset Sails and Whale Tails. It should be spectacular!
 19 But I must tell you ... If you go on the cruise, don't stay
 20 out too late, because you don't want to get in Santa's
 21 way.
 22 **LIKO:** That's right! In Hawaii, Santa comes on an outrigger
 23 canoe riding the ocean waves. (*MAKANI shows a poster of*
 24 *Santa on the canoe.*)
 25 **KEONI:** All right, everyone. Let's feast. Enjoy!
 26 **LIV:** Oh, I'm starving! Remember Grandma's big feast on
 27 Christmas Eve? (*CAST MEMBERS bring in plates of food for*
 28 *the siblings.*)
 29 **KATIE:** Where's the turkey and mashed potatoes? (*The CAST*
 30 *MEMBERS shrug their shoulders.*)
 31 **MICHAEL:** What's this?
 32 **CAST 1:** It's that pig we just dug up.
 33 **SIBLINGS:** (*Ad-lib moaning*) Yuck. Augh.
 34 **KEONI:** As we enjoy our food and look around, I can't help
 35 noticing the beautiful starry sky. Did you know that
 36 Hawaii is the best place for amateur stargazing in the
 37 United States?
 38 **MAKANI:** Hawaii offers more publicly accessible world-



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