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Family Plays

The Elves and the Shoemaker: A Musical Holiday Fable



Book by
Patty Carver

Music and lyrics by
Patty Carver and
Leo P. Carusone

The Elves and the Shoemaker: A Musical Holiday Fable

Interactive musical. Book by Patty Carver. Music and lyrics by Patty Carver and Leo P. Carusone. Cast: 3 to 4m., 2 to 3w. (3 to 6 either gender optional). This fun-filled musical holiday tale based on the well-loved classic retells the traditional story with a unique twist. Written with sing-alongs, dance-alongs and lots of audience participation, *The Elves and the Shoemaker* will delight children of all ages. Meet Mr. Twinkle, whose dream is to open a cobble shop. The problem is that he doesn't know how to make shoes! Enter Nate and Natalie, elves who make midnight visits to Mr. Twinkle's cobble shop creating the most wonderful shoes ever seen. When Mr. and Mrs. Twinkle discover the shoes, they make a sale, and business begins to boom. But business goes well only as long as Nate and Natalie make their secret midnight visits. In the end, the elves find out that the best gift isn't making shoes for Mr. and Mrs. Twinkle, but something else entirely. *The small-cast option is suitable for touring. Unit set. Optional rehearsal CD available. Study guide available. Approximate running time: 60 minutes. Code: E82.*

Cover: Connecticut Children's Theatre, Essex, Conn., featuring (l-r) David Dotterer, Denise Johnson and Javier Juarez. Photo: Kim Tyler. Cover design by Jeanette Alig-Sergel.

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An interactive musical

Book by

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and

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IMPORTANT BILLING AND CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

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The Elves and the Shoemaker: A Musical Holiday Fable originally premiered at the Shea Center at William Paterson University in Wayne, N.J., December of 2005.

The Elves and the Shoemaker: A Musical Holiday Fable was later produced in holiday tours by Connecticut Children’s Theatre in Essex, Conn., in December of 2005, 2008 and 2011.

CAST

Nate Corey West
Natalie Julia Hirsh
Mr. Twinkle David Dotterer
Mrs. Twinkle Denise Johnson
Customers Christopher D’Amato

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director Jerry Goehring
Artistic Director Patty Carver
Technical Assistant William Surette

The Elves and the Shoemaker: A Musical Holiday Fable

CHARACTERS

NATE an elf
NATALIE an elf
MR. TWINKLE a cobbler who doesn't know how to make shoes
MRS. TWINKLE Mr. Twinkle's faithful wife
CUSTOMERS 1 – 3
VILLAGERS
SHOPPERS

CHARACTER NOTES

The Customers may be played by the same or separate actors. The Villagers may be expanded in the opening musical number and Shopper crossovers may occur throughout.

Audience participation is encouraged for group musical numbers and sing-along throughout.

SETTING

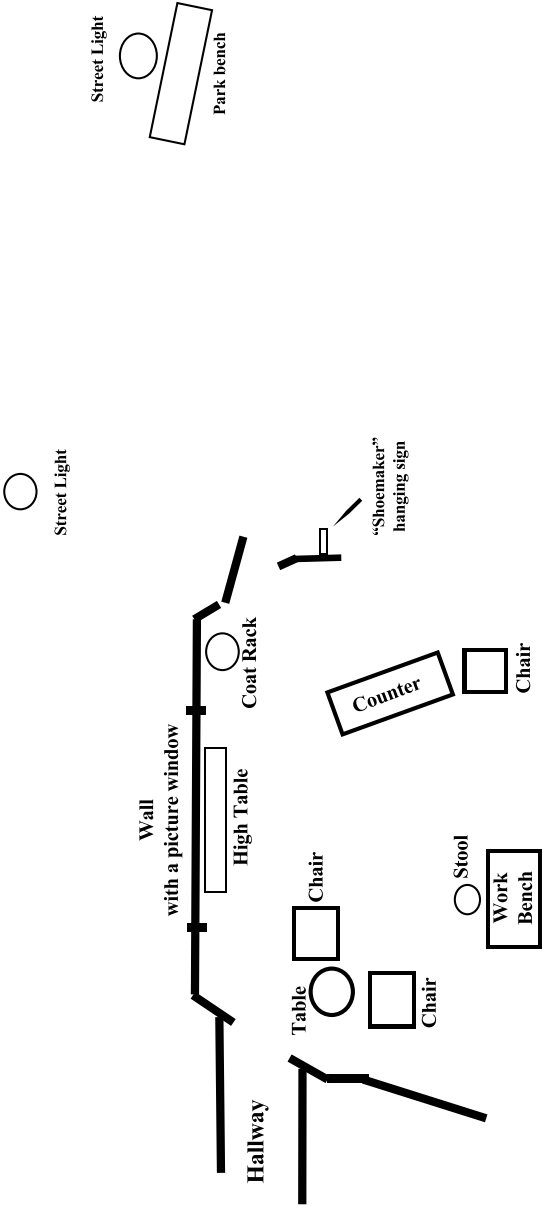
There is one setting that includes an interior set of Twinkle's Cobble Shop and an exterior set of Main Street in Merryville outside of Twinkle's Cobble Shop.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

1. Elves and the Shoemaker Overture	9
Instrumental	
2. It's Happy Holiday Time	10
Nate, Natalie, Mr. Twinkle, Mrs. Twinkle, Shopper	
3. The Art of How	12
Nate, Natalie	
4. Twinkle's Story.....	13
Nate, Natalie	
5. Jingle Bells Sing-Along.....	14
Mr. Twinkle (Audience)	
6. Deck the Halls Sing-Along.....	15
Mr. Twinkle, Mrs. Twinkle (Audience)	
7. The Art of How (Reprise #1).....	18
Nate, Natalie	
8. Twinkle's Cobble Shop Theme	19
Mr. Twinkle, Mrs. Twinkle	
9. Disgruntled Customer.....	21
Customer 1	
10. The Art of How (Reprise #2).....	21
Nate, Natalie	
11. Get to Work	23
Nate, Natalie	
12. Happy Customer.....	25
Customer 1	
13. We Sold a Shoe.....	26
Mr. Twinkle, Mrs. Twinkle	
14. The Twelve Days of Christmas Sing-Along.....	28
Nate, Natalie (Audience)	
15. Get to Work (Reprise).....	32
Nate, Natalie	
16. Twinkle's Cobble Shop Theme (Reprise #1).....	33
Mr. Twinkle, Mrs. Twinkle	
17. Up on the Housetop Sing-Along	34
Customer 2 (Audience)	

18. We Sold a Shoe (Reprise).....	35
Mr. Twinkle, Mrs. Twinkle	
19. The Elves’ Discovery	35
Nate, Natalie, Mrs. Twinkle, Mr. Twinkle	
20. Twinkle’s Cobble Shop Theme (Reprise #2).....	40
Mr. Twinkle, Mrs. Twinkle	
21. The Elves’ Discovery (Reprise).....	43
Nate, Natalie	
22. We Sold a Shoe Finale.....	44
All	

English Village Town Drop



Floor plan: Jerry Goehring, Connecticut Children's Theatre, Essex, Conn.

COSTUME & ACCESSORY SUGGESTIONS

NATE: Knickers, a button-down shirt with long sleeves (puffy sleeves), a vest, a pointed elf hat or Bavarian cap, knee socks and leather shoes or boots. He is rustic but colorful.

NATALIE: A short skirt or knickers, a long-sleeved blouse, a vest, a pointed elf hat or Bavarian cap, tights or knee socks and flats. Her outfit should be similar to Nate's in style and color.

MR. TWINKLE: Dark slacks, an earth-toned, button-down shirt with long sleeves, a vest, a leather work apron, brown leather shoes and an overcoat.

MRS. TWINKLE: A long, dark skirt, a blouse, a bib apron, a mop cap, modest heels and an overcoat.

CUSTOMER 1: A suit, a button-down shirt, a tie, an overcoat and-stocking feet.

CUSTOMER 2: A colorful sport coat, a wig and shoes without soles.

CUSTOMER 3: Slacks, a sweater and bare feet.

If Customer 1, 2 and 3 are played by the same actor, they should be distinct from one another. But each is clearly in need of shoes!

VILLAGERS/SHOPPERS: Dressed in overcoats, hats, scarves, etc. They are out doing holiday shopping.

PROPERTIES

shopping bags

holiday parcels

holiday decorations for Twinkle's Cobble Shop

wreath

stool

workbench or chest with Mr. Twinkle's tools to make shoes:

leather

needles

thread

string

hammer

scissors

little podium to display shoes in the big picture window

terrible-looking pair of shoes (the first pair Mr. Twinkle makes)

dinner tray

Super Duper High-Top Holiday Sneakers

(two pairs of red Ked's high-top sneakers)

money to pay for the shoes

holiday packages and from the mall

stacks of other holiday packages

gifts for Nate and Natale in holiday bags

mittens from Macy's

scarves from Sears

gift cards from J.C. Penny

brightly-wrapped present with book inside

Super Duper Wonderful Winged-Tipped Work Shoes

The Elves and the Shoemaker: A Musical Holiday Fable

(#1: “Elves and the Shoemaker Overture”)

AT RISE: During the music, VILLAGERS cross the stage, illustrating the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. NATE and NATALIE enter. They are elves. They talk to the audience.

NATALIE. Hello, everyone!

NATE. Good morning, everybody!

NATALIE. How are you today?

NATE. It's great to be here!

NATALIE. Oh! Nate! We really should introduce ourselves! I'm Natalie!

NATE. And I'm Nate. We're elves.

NATALIE. It's true!

NATE. Yup, we're elves.

NATALIE. You're probably wondering why we're here. Well, we're here because ...

NATE. We're here because we have the most wonderful ...

NATALIE. Nate.

NATE. The most fabulous!

NATALIE. Nate!

NATE. The most incredible ...

NATALIE. NATE!

NATE. ... story to tell. What's the matter, Natalie?

NATALIE. You interrupted me.

NATE. I did?

NATALIE. Yes.

NATE. Oh.

NATALIE. It's not polite to interrupt.

NATE. Oh, yeah ... sorry.

NATALIE. That's quite all right. Now, where was I?

NATE. The story.

NATALIE. Yes. We have a story to tell.

NATE (*very excited*). The most wonderful, fabulous and incredible story!

NATALIE. Nate, take it easy.

NATE. I'm very excited about this.

NATALIE. I can see that. Now, this is a story about a shoemaker who lived in a town called Merryville.

(Music. MRS. TWINKLE enters from UL with shopping bags and enters the cobble shop. She is decorating for the holidays.)

NATE. I love Merryville! It's so ... merry!

NATALIE. Yes, it's a very merry little village ... especially during the holidays!

(A SHOPPER enters from UR carrying a shopping bag.)

NATE. Everybody's getting ready!

NATALIE. The air is filled with holiday magic!

(MR. TWINKLE enters from R into the cobble shop and putters.)

NATE. They're selling holiday cookies at the bakery ...

NATALIE. Candy canes at the candy shop ...

SHOPPER. And eggnog!

(MR. TWINKLE helps MRS. TWINKLE hang a wreath.)

NATE. The town is lit up with decorations like you've never seen!

NATALIE. And there's Twinkle's Cobble Shop! Looks like Mr. and Mrs. Twinkle are decorating, too!

NATE. I love this time of year!

(#2: "It's Happy Holiday Time")

NATE *(cont'd)*.

THERE'S A CHILL IN THE AIR,
AND FOLKS EVERYWHERE
ARE ALL HAPPY IT'S HOLIDAY TIME.
IT'S THE HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON,
IT'S TIME TO SPARKLE AND SHINE!

SHOPPER.

PEOPLE ALL OVER TOWN
ARE BUSTLING AROUND.
IT'S TIME TO GET READY FOR FUN!

IT'S THE HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON,
HOLIDAY TIME HAS BEGUN.

NATALIE.

IN THE CITY OR TOWN,
I HEAR A SOUND THAT ECHOES THROUGH HOLIDAY TIME.
LAUGHTER SOUNDS THROUGH THE SEASON,
IT'S TIME TO SPARKLE AND SHINE!

The city's shopping!

MR. TWINKLE. The garland's sparkling

MRS. TWINKLE. The tinsel's twinkling!

SHOPPER. The eggnog's bubbling!

NATE. I love this time of year!

ALL.

EVERYWHERE YOU GO,
MUSIC PLAYS AND CANDLES GLOW.
PEOPLE EVERYWHERE
FEEL THAT WINTER MAGIC IN THE AIR!

I LOVE THIS TIME OF YEAR,
FILLED WITH HOLIDAY CHEER.
IT'S AWESOME,
IT'S COOL,
IT'S DIVINE.

IT'S THE HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON,
IT'S TIME TO SPARKLE AND SHINE,
IT'S THE HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON,
IT'S TIME TO SPARKLE AND SHINE.

(The TWINKLES and the SHOPPER exit.)

NATALIE *(to audience)*. Let's get back to our story. Now, as we were saying, this is Twinkle's Cobble Shop, owned and run by Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Twinkle! Mr. Twinkle makes the finest shoes in all the land!

NATE. Yup, the finest shoes in all the land!

NATALIE. Wanna know a secret? Twinkle's Cobble Shop didn't always sell the finest shoes in all the land.

NATE. Nope.

NATALIE. In fact, when the shop first opened, Mr. Twinkle couldn't sell a shoe to save his life.

NATE. It's true.

NATALIE. Would you like to hear the story of Mr. Twinkle, the shoemaker?

NATE. I can't hear you!

(#3: "The Art of How")

NATALIE.

LISTEN, CHILDREN, LISTEN.
LISTEN TO ME NOW.
LISTEN TO MY STORY
ABOUT THE ART OF HOW.

LISTEN, CHILDREN, LISTEN.
AND IF YOU DO I VOW
THAT YOU WILL LEARN THE SECRET
ABOUT THE ART OF HOW.

NATE. For instance ...

WITH A HAMMER, NAILS AND WOOD
I'D BUILD SOMETHING VERY GOOD

NATALIE.

WHERE I COULD SIT AND COMB MY HAIR.
WITH THESE THINGS, I'D MAKE A CHAIR.
BUT HOW?

NATE.

BUT WHAT TO DO WITH NAILS AND WOOD?
TO BUILD A CHAIR, THAT'S VERY GOOD.

NATALIE.

THE ANSWER IS I'LL TELL YOU NOW:
YOU MUST LEARN THE ART OF HOW.

Here's another example ...

WITH SOME FLOUR, SUGAR SWEET, EGGS AND MILK
I'D MAKE A TREAT.
GUESS WHAT I COULD TRY TO MAKE?
WITH THESE THINGS, I'D BAKE A CAKE.
BUT HOW?

NATE.

BUT WHAT TO DO WITH SUGAR SWEET?
EGGS AND MILK TO MAKE THAT TREAT?

NATALIE.

THE ANSWER IS I'LL TELL YOU NOW:
YOU MUST LEARN THE ART OF HOW.

NATE. All right, Natalie, here's one more ...

WITH SCISSORS, LEATHER, LACE AND GLUE
I'D MAKE SOMETHING BRIGHT AND NEW.
WHILE I'M AT IT, WHY NOT TWO?
WITH THESE THINGS, I'D MAKE A SHOE.
BUT HOW?

NATALIE.

WHAT TO DO WITH LACE AND GLUE,
LEATHER AND THE SCISSORS, TOO?

NATE.

THE ANSWER IS I'LL TELL YOU NOW:
YOU MUST LEARN THE ART OF HOW!

NATALIE. The "Art of How," you may wonder ... Well, we mean exactly that ... how.

NATE. As in who, what, when, where and how. Learning how is a very important thing.

NATALIE. And that was Mr. Twinkle's problem ... He didn't know how.

NATE. And that is what our story is all about!

NATALIE. There's more to it than that, Nate. Why don't we start at the beginning!

NATE. Good idea, Natalie!

NATALIE. Thank you.

(#4: "Twinkle's Story")

NATE & NATALIE.

ONCE UPON A WINTERTIME,
THERE LIVED A MAN AND HIS WIFE.
MISTER AND MISSUS ALVIN TWINKLE.
THEY WERE VERY NICE!

NATALIE. They had a lovely little cottage on Main Street in Merryville. Even though they didn't have much money, they were happy ... especially during the holidays.

NATE. Mr. Twinkle was always happily singing holiday songs as he pattered around his little cottage.

(NATE and NATALIE watch as MR. TWINKLE enters, singing to himself as he patters.)

MR. TWINKLE.

OH WHAT FUN IT IS TO RIDE
IN A ONE HORSE OPEN SLEIGH!

(#5: “Jingle Bells Sing-Along”)

(MR. TWINKLE notices the audience and he talks to them. Music plays under the following dialogue.)

MR. TWINKLE *(cont'd)*. Oh! Hello, everyone! It’s so nice to see you today! I was just singing a little holiday song ... It’s called ... Oh, what is the name of that song ... ?

AUDIENCE. “Jingle Bells!”

MR. TWINKLE. Oh, that’s right ... silly me! Let’s sing it together!

MR. TWINKLE & AUDIENCE.

DASHING THROUGH THE SNOW,
IN A ONE HORSE OPEN SLEIGH,
O’ER THE FIELDS WE GO,
LAUGHING ALL THE WAY,

BELLS ON BOB TAILS RING,
MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT,
WHAT FUN IT IS TO RIDE AND SING
A SLEIGHING SONG TONIGHT.

OH! JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS,
JINGLE ALL THE WAY.
OH WHAT FUN IT IS TO RIDE IN A ONE HORSE OPEN SLEIGH.

OH! JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS,
JINGLE ALL THE WAY.
OH WHAT FUN IT IS TO RIDE IN A ONE HORSE OPEN SLEIGH.

MR. TWINKLE. That was grand, just grand! Oh! Where are my manners! Let me introduce myself ... I am Mr. Alvin Twinkle. *(Calls offstage.)* Maryanne!

(MRS. TWINKLE enters from R.)

MRS. TWINKLE. Yes, dear? (*Sees the audience.*) Oh, my goodness!

There are so many people!

MR. TWINKLE. Maryanne, these are my new friends. Everyone, this is my wife, Mrs. Maryanne Twinkle. Say hello, Maryanne!

MRS. TWINKLE (*not enthused, shy in front of people.*) Hello. Well, I better get back to my embroidery.

MR. TWINKLE. Oh, Maryanne, stay and sing a song with us!

MRS. TWINKLE. But I get nervous in front of a lot of people ...

MR. TWINKLE. Oh, come on.

MRS. TWINKLE. Well, I ...

MR. TWINKLE. Please?

MRS. TWINKLE. Well ... How about “Deck the Halls”?

(MRS. TWINKLE leads the following song, encouraging the audience to sing along.)

(#6: “Deck the Halls Sing-Along”)

MR. & MRS. TWINKLE & AUDIENCE.

DECK THE HALLS WITH BOUGHS OF HOLLY,

FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA.

’TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY,

FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA.

DON WE NOW OUR GAY APPAREL,

FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA.

TROLL THE ANCIENT YULETIDE CAROL,

FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA.

SEE THE BLAZING YULE BEFORE US,

FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA.

STRIKE THE HARP AND JOIN THE CHORUS,

FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA.

FOLLOW ME IN MERRY MEASURE,

FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA.

WHILE I TELL OF YULETIDE TREASURE,

FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA.

FAST AWAY THE OLD YEAR PASSES,

FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA.

HAIL THE NEW YE LADS AND LASSES,

FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA.

SING WE JOYOUS ALL TOGETHER,

FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA.

HEEDLESS OF THE WIND AND WEATHER,
FA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA.

MRS. TWINKLE. Oh, my goodness! That was fun! Well, if you'll excuse me ... I better get back to my embroidery.

(MRS. TWINKLE exits R.)

NATALIE. And we better get back to our story!

NATE. Absolutely!

NATALIE. Let's see, where were we ... Oh, yes! One winter day, Mr. Twinkle was puttering around the cottage and Mrs. Twinkle was making dinner.

NATE. Suddenly, and without warning, Mr. Twinkle dropped what he was doing and hollered to his wife ...

MR. TWINKLE. Maryanne!

MRS. TWINKLE *(offstage)*. Yes, Alvin?

MR. TWINKLE. I have a dream!

(MRS. TWINKLE enters from R.)

MRS. TWINKLE. What's your dream, dear?

MR. TWINKLE. My dream is to be a shoemaker!

MRS. TWINKLE. A what?

MR. TWINKLE. A shoemaker!

MRS. TWINKLE. Why?

MR. TWINKLE. Well, everyone needs shoes. I've always wanted to make shoes and shoes are a wonderful gift idea! I think shoe making would be a very good business to be in, so I will become a shoemaker.

MRS. TWINKLE. But, darling ...

MR. TWINKLE. I will make the finest shoes!

MRS. TWINKLE. But, honey ...

MR. TWINKLE. The handsomest shoes ...

MRS. TWINKLE. Dear ...

MR. TWINKLE. We're gonna be rich!

MRS. TWINKLE. Alvin!

MR. TWINKLE. What?

MRS. TWINKLE. Alvin Twinkle, you don't know how to make shoes!

MR. TWINKLE. A minor obstacle.

MRS. TWINKLE. You can't become a shoemaker if you don't know how to make shoes.

MR. TWINKLE. How hard can it be to make shoes?

MRS. TWINKLE. You have to learn how to make shoes.

MR. TWINKLE. I'll be fine.

MRS. TWINKLE. I'll be in the kitchen.

(MRS. TWINKLE exits R. During the following narration, MR. TWINKLE creates Twinkle's Cobble Shop.)

NATALIE. Mr. Twinkle was determined to become a shoemaker. He was so determined that he turned his little cottage on Main Street into a shoe shop. He called it Twinkle's Cobble Shop. He even put in a great big picture window facing Main Street!

(MR. TWINKLE has finished his new shop.)

MR. TWINKLE. There! It's beautiful! Maryanne!

(MRS. TWINKLE enters from R.)

MRS. TWINKLE. Yes, Alvin?

MR. TWINKLE. What do you think of my big picture window?

MRS. TWINKLE. What's the great big picture window for, dear?

MR. TWINKLE. To display all my shoes.

MRS. TWINKLE. Oh, I see. The great big picture window is to display all the shoes that you don't know how to make.

MR. TWINKLE. Yes! I mean, no! You'll see. Twinkle's Cobble Shop will be the grandest in the land!

MRS. TWINKLE. So, when's your grand opening?

MR. TWINKLE. Well, the shop is ready. I've got my leather, scissors, needle, thread ... I'll open tomorrow! Tomorrow morning!

MRS. TWINKLE. Alvin Twinkle, you have no shoes to sell!

MR. TWINKLE. Then I will make a pair. *(Gets to work.)*

MRS. TWINKLE. But, Alvin, how are you going to make a pair when you don't even know the first thing about ...

MR. TWINKLE. I'm going to be a great shoemaker! I'm going to be rich! I'm going to be famous!

MRS. TWINKLE. I'm going to bed.

NATALIE. So, Mrs. Twinkle went to bed and Mr. Twinkle sat down to make his first pair of shoes.

(MR. TWINKLE sits at his workbench and begins. He has no idea what he's doing. NATE and NATALIE watch the following.)

MR. TWINKLE *(talking to himself)*. How hard could this be? Let's see ... I'll just cut out some leather for a sole ... *(Cuts out a crooked piece of leather.)* Oh! I need another! People have two feet ... so I'll need two of everything to make a pair! *(Cuts another really crooked piece.)* I'll fix that later. Let's see ... I need more leather for the sides and the top ... *(Cuts more crooked pieces.)* I'll put some holes in to lace it up ... *(Pokes holes in the leather.)* I need laces! *(Looks around and finds a piece of string.)* Aha! I'll use this string for the laces! *(Laces them up.)* And now for a few finishing touches!

(MR. TWINKLE fumbles with the leather and laces. Then he stands back to admire his work. The shoes are really terrible.)

MR. TWINKLE *(cont'd)*. There! Not bad at all for my first pair of shoes. I'll get better as I go along. I'll just display them in my big picture window for my grand opening tomorrow. *(Does so.)* There. *(Gets very tired.)* Oh! I'm pooped! I think I'll go to bed. Maybe I'll make some more shoes tomorrow.

(MR. TWINKLE goes to bed, exiting R.)

NATE. So, Mr. Twinkle went to bed. And that night he dreamed of Twinkle's Cobble Shop. The grandest shoe shop in all the land!

(#7: "The Art of How" [Reprise #1])

NATALIE.

OH, POOR MISTER TWINKLE,
IT'S VERY CLEAR BY NOW.
HE REALLY DIDN'T DO HIS BEST
TO LEARN THE ART OF HOW.

NATE.

DEAR, DEAR MISTER TWINKLE,
HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.
YOU HAVE TO LEARN THE ART OF HOW
TO BE THE BEST IN THE LAND.