

(Intoxicated by MAME's enthusiasm, they decorate one another with the trimming of Christmas past. The dance climaxes with an explosive polka)

PATRICK

Can I try on my long pants now, Auntie Mame? Right now?

(Music continues under dialogue)

MAME

Right now.

(PATRICK bounds off)

AGNES

But we don't have any presents for you.

MAME

Oh, Agnes.

(AGNES whispers to ITO, who scampers into the kitchen)

AGNES

Yes, we do. I hope you won't be angry about what we've done.

(ITO rushes back in with a spindle of bills)

ITO

Merry Christmas, Missy!

(Reluctantly, MAME takes the spindle of bills)

We pay bills -- now butcher no give nasty look with lamb chops.

AGNES

Ito had some money put by -- and so did I -- for a rainy day. But it can't get much wetter than it is right now.

MAME

(Touched)

You're both so dear to me. I'll try to pay you back -- someday.

(PATRICK enters in his long pants)

PATRICK

Look!

MAME

Wow!

PATRICK

Hold out your wrist.

(Slipping a bracelet on her out-
stretched arm)

With Christmas coming so quick, I didn't have time to wrap it.

MAME

(Marveling at the bracelet)

Where did you get the money?

PATRICK

Well, I sort of made a trade at the pawnshop. I haven't been playing my bugle much, anyhow. I got a smooth one -- so you won't get hooked again!

(Kissing her cheek, gently)

Merry Christmas, Auntie Mame.

ITO & AGNES

Merry Christmas.

AGNES, ITO & PATRICK

(Sing)

FOR WE NEED A LITTLE MUSIC

NEED A LITTLE LAUGHTER

NEED A LITTLE SINGING

(MAME joins in)

RINGING THROUGH THE RAFTER

AND WE NEED A LITTLE SNAPPY

"HAPPY EVERAFTER"

NEED A LITTLE CHRISTMAS NOW.

(The doorbell chimes)

MAME

If that's Santa Claus, tell him we've already had it!

(PATRICK plops a Santa Claus cap
on her head and she slips the
beard onto her chin.ITO goes to the door and ushers
in the apologetic BEAU)

BEAU

Miss Dennis? Miss Dennis, I'm delighted to see you again!

MAME

(Quickly pulling off the Santa
Claus beard and cap)

After I sawed you up!

BEAU

Little lady, I'm the one to apologize. I'm afraid you lost your position on my account.

MAME

Oh, no, I'm very good at getting fired -- all by myself.

BEAU

The instant you took my hand, I sensed that you were not the kind of person who -- what shall I say? --takes people's hands -- uh -- commercially.

MAME

(Sympathetically)

Oh, how is your hand?

BEAU

(Revealing bandaged fingers)

Healing like a house-afire. I'll be able to get a glove on in a day or two.

MAME

(Flustered)

My goodness. Family, I want you to meet -- Mr. Beauregard Jackson Pickett Burnside.

BEAU

That's a remarkable memory, Miss Dennis. I sometimes forget part of it myself.

(They laugh)

MAME

We've been having Christmas. It's a little early, but we're free-thinkers.

BEAU

I like that. I feel like Christmas, too. And I want to take all of you-all to dinner to celebrate. You go get your coats on while I tell that cab to wait.

(BEAU goes out)

PATRICK

He's nice.

(Music starts)

AGNES

(Emphatically)

Marry him. The minute he asks you.

(They rush for coats)

ITO

(Re-entering)

Me never believe in Santa Claus. Me beginning to change mind.

MAME

(Dazed, as she is helped into her coat)

Well, I never expected Santa Claus to look so much like Rhett Butler.

(BEAU reappears. The whole family is lined up waiting for him. BEAU takes MAME's arm. The other three link arms and they start off)

10A

REPRISE: WE NEED A LITTLE CHRISTMAS

MAME, AGNES, ITO & PATRICK

(Singing)

FOR WE'VE GOT A LITTLE CHRISTMAS
RIGHT THIS VERY MINUTE
GOT A LITTLE CHRISTMAS NOW.

(Now they are on the Streets of Manhattan as a traveler of multi-colored windows closes behind them)

(BEAU joins others)

YES, WE'VE GOT A LITTLE CHRISTMAS
RIGHT THIS VERY MINUTE
CANDLES IN THE WINDOW
CAROLS AT THE SPINET
YES, WE'VE GOT A LITTLE CHRISTMAS
RIGHT THIS VERY MINUTE
GOT A LITTLE CHRISTMAS NOW.

(The lights fade.)

Music continues for scene change)