

# Yuletide Feaste: What a Tangled Web

## Cast of Characters

5-7 male, 4-6 female. Several characters can be doubled up, including the Town Crier and Herman as the Ram and Wizard, or Grizelda and Hazel as the two Megs.

**Lord of the Manor** - A clear demeanor of being in charge, but tempered by a touch of humor and deference to the Lady. Preferably tall, with a commanding voice.

**Lady of the Manor** - Strong personality, allows Lord to be in charge, but unafraid to exert enough influence to get her way when she wishes. Doesn't always "catch on" as quickly as others.

**Jester** - typical jester - larger than life, overdoes everything, loves bad jokes, unafraid to test how far he can go with the Lord, but will back off when he goes too far.

**Grizelda** - a woman with some appearance of age, but not so much that the Lord finds her unattractive, but enough that the Lady feels no threat from her. She is very simple and matter-of-fact, without any apparent sense of humor. She has difficulty getting some consonants out, much like Michael Palin's character in *A Fish Called Wanda*.

**Herman** - a large, hairy, muscular man, dressed in a wench costume. He walks and acts with a decidedly masculine swagger.

**Wench Hazel** - buxom and saucy, clever - able to take control of the situation with ease.

**Dorothy "Dot" Com** - replica of Oz's Dorothy.

**Megan 1 and 2** - suggestive of the Scarecrow in looks and movement (but human). In a takeoff on the scarecrow, their costumes may be stuffed with tear-off edges from continuous pin-feed computer paper. They should constantly be touching or near one another. Meg 1 is bright, self-assured and more forceful; Meg 2 is easily confused and scared. They have lost their memory.

**PewterMan** - costumed much like the Tin Man, but color more like pewter (darker), and perhaps with a touch of some computer peripherals or markings. Carries big floppy knife. Brave but a little bit dense; hindered by constant pain. Has a large key hanging down from the back of his belt.

**Seedy Ram** - sheep outfit, possibly with some hint of the cowardly lion. Head covering with horns (the "Tim the Enchanter" hat from Monty Python's Holy Grail, found in costume catalogs, works well). Tattered, soiled, wool falling off. Lethargic, doesn't want to do anything, but will go if prodded.

**World Wide Wizard** - nerdy but otherwise typical wizard dressed in traditional decorated robe & pointed hat. More like a geeky self-assured Merlin than Oz's wizard. Eyeglasses taped in the middle add a nice touch.

**Town Crier** - Typical town crier with a strong, projecting voice.

**Serving Wenches and Pages** (non-speaking)

*Note: it is important not to "telegraph" the names of some of the characters (e.g. PewterMan, Seedy Ram) by placing their names in the program. Instead, they could be listed by their initials, or simply as "Dorothy's friends."*