

Lights On in Puerto Rico

by

Gabe Templin and Orlando Segarra

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JustPressPlayhouse@gmail.com

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1 OPENING

1

(1) NARRATOR/
ABUELO

In the midst of the blue Caribbean Sea
There's an enchanted island special to me

PUERTO RICAN FOLK MUSIC BEGINS

It was once called Borinquen, but if you must know
Today we call it Puerto Rico

In Borinquen you are family, related or not
The empanadas are warm, the arroz con pollo is hot
All our beautiful beaches go on for days
And fireflies dance when la radio plays

The brightest time is Christmas. La navidad.
A month full of parandas and felicidad
There's dancing, maracas, and Cuatro guitars
As the Coqui frogs sing carols under the stars

FOLK MUSIC CROSSFADES TO SOMBER
MUSIC

But this year Borinquen is just a bit dark
A terrible storm has taken our spark
Our felicidad has gone down un poquito
The storm blew the lights out in Puerto Rico.

2 SCENE 1

2

MUSIC BECOMES RADIO MUSIC

(2) CARMELITA

But abuelo, with the lights all out, how will Santa find us?

(3) NARRATOR/
ABUELO

Santa isn't coming this year, Carmelita. Washington canceled Christmas.

(4) CARMELITA

Christmas is cancelled???

FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING

(5) MAMA Ven, Carmelita, time for bed. Let Abuelo be a cranky old man by himself.

(6) NARRATOR/
ABUELO It's the truth!

(7) MAMA Give it a rest, Pa. Es Navidad. Come, Carmelita

FOOTSTEPS WALKING AWAY3 SCENE 2

3

(8) CARMELITA Is Navidad canceled, Mami?

(9) MAMA Of course not, don't listen to Abuelo. He's loco.

(10) CARMELITA But how will Santa find us without any lights?

(11) MAMA Ave Maria, no seas ridicula! Santa will find us. You'll see.

(12) CARMELITA But what about the Presents??

(13) MAMA Listen, presents ain't everything. We got food. We got water. We got each other. Some kids don't even have that. We should be grateful.

(14) CARMELITA Do you think Santa would bring all the kids water if he could?

(15) MAMA Haha. Of course he would. Santa's really cool like that.

(16) CARMELITA But the lights!

(17) MAMA Don't you worry about that, Santa can figure it out. Besides, I hear Rudolph got GPS now. Time for bed, ok?

(18) CARMELITA K.

(19) MAMA And don't forget to say your prayers.

(20) CARMELITA I won't.

(21) MAMA Te amo, princessa.

(22) CARMELITA Te amo Mami.

(23) MAMA Muah.

FOOTSTEPS LEADING AWAY AND DOOR
CLOSING

(24) CARMELITA Dear God, if you can hear me, please don't forget us. We could use a little felicidad, so if you could turn the lights on for Santa, that would be cool. Oh, and tell him to bring water. And food. Maybe a pizza. Thanks. Amen.

4 SCENE 3

4

(25) NARRATOR/
ABUELO They say there's an hour between midnight and one
When animals can talk like you and I can
And on this Christmas eve with the magic in air
A Coqui named Paquito heard Carmelita's sweet
prayer

(26) PAQUITO Co-Qui! Co-Qui! Oh boy! Oh girl! Poor Carmelita!
Poor Ninos! Santa! She's right! How can he see if
there aren't any lights? I must tell Lucina! She'll know
what to do! Co-Qui! Co-Qui!

SNORING

(27) PAQUITO Co-Qui! Lucina! Wake up! Wake up!

SNORING STOPS

(28) LUCINA (Yawn)

Go away, Paquito, us fireflies need our beauty sleep.

(29) PAQUITO Co-Qui! Co-Qui! Listen! We's in BIG trouble.

(30) LUCINA Have you been hitting the coquito hard this year?

(31) PAQUITO Look! We have no lights in Borinquen!

(32) LUCINA I know... isn't it amazing? I can sleep like a bug in a rug.

(33) PAQUITO Ay, Lucina! This is serious! Carmelita's really worried.

(34) LUCINA Worried? Why, what's wrong?

(35) PAQUITO What if Santa can't find his way? He needs the lights to guide his sleigh.

(36) LUCINA Que lights ni que lights? What do you think he got Rudolph for?

(37) PAQUITO Yes, but we're a small island in the middle of the sea, he might miss us. Besides, it ain't like Rudolph got GPS.

(38) LUCINA So? What can we do about it?

(39) PAQUITO Well... I was kinda hoping you could shine your light as bright as you could, and maybe Santa can see it from the sky!

- (40) LUCINA What? You crazy! My light isn't strong enough for Santa to see.
- (41) PAQUITO But--
- (42) LUCINA Enough with this foolishness, Paquito. Go home and let me sleep. (Yawn) I'll talk to you manana.
- (43) PAQUITO B-but... Carmelita... she is so sad. Abuelo said they canceled Christmas this year.
- (44) LUCINA What? Christmas is canceled?? Who says?
- (45) PAQUITO Abuelo.
- (46) LUCINA You don't think... Santa wouldn't do that, would he?
- (47) PAQUITO All I know is Santa needs light to show him the way to all the boys and girls on Christmas Day. And if there ain't no luces, not even a spark, then Christmas in Borinquen will be sad and dark.
- (48) LUCINA Well that wont do! We gotta help Santa!
- (49) PAQUITO But how? You just said your light wasn't strong enough!
- (50) LUCINA One lowly light can't do much on its own, but if we all shine our lights together, then it can be done!
- (51) PAQUITO How will you get all your friends to wake up?
- (52) LUCINA Easy! I'll just shake my taillight!

BELL RINGING

- (53) LUCINA Wake up! Wake up! Turn on your lights! We need to help Santa find his way to Borinquen tonight!

MANY MORE BELLS START RINGING,
UNTIL THE ENTIRE FOREST IS ALIVE
WITH SOUND.

(54) PAQUITO You did it! Lucina! The whole forest is bright with the light of a thousand fireflies on this Christmas Eve Night. But how will we know if it works?

(55) LUCINA You'll know it when you hear him coming, of course!

SLEIGH BELLS AND HO HO HO'S FADE IN

(56) LUCINA See? What did I tell you? Sleigh bells! And Ho Ho Hos! That must be him! It's Santa Claus!

(57) PAQUITO Look! He heard us! He's coming this way!

SLEIGH LANDS, BELLS STOP,
BOOTSTEPS CLIMB OUT OF SLEIGH

(58) SANTA Ho-Ho-Ho! Feliz Navidad Paquito! Feliza Navidad Lucina!

(59) PAQUITO You know our names??

(60) SANTA Of course I do! I know all the magical creatures on Christmas. You two made the entire island shine so bright, it nearly blinded poor Rudolph! Ho! Ho! Ho! Ho!

(61) LUCINA Eh... sorry, Santa.

(62) SANTA Not to worry, Lucina. His eyes ain't what they used to be. That's why I got him GPS! ...You two were so concerned I wouldn't make it, you lit the entire forest up for me. You must have had a really good reason for doing that.

(63) PAQUITO

Carmelita was worried. And we didn't want the children of Borinquen to go without a Christmas this year.

(64) SANTA

Well, thanks to your help, they won't. But I'll let you in on a little secret. Everyone's got a special light hidden inside your heart that helps me find my way. And all you have to do to make it shine is to LOVE one another. Every time you show affection for your family, friends, even strangers in need, every time you pick charity over greed-- if you spread your love, no matter how dark, Your light will shine brightly within your heart. Ho! Ho! Ho! Ho! Ho!

(65) NARRATOR/
ABUELO

...And those of you listening at home can help too. You can make a child's Christmas miracle come true. Find someone in need, donate un poquito. And help keep the lights on in Puerto Rico.

NOCHE DE PAZ (SILENT NIGHT) PLAYS
OVER CREDITS

FIN.