

1. JEAN/NARRATOR ~~ MEN'S ENSEMBLE

This is the opening of the show, and the set up for what the narrator's job will be. He Introduces, he persuades, he charms, he tells a story...Jean brings the audience back with him to the 1940s to experience the joy and wonder of that Christmas season.

JEAN: On my way into the studio, in the spanking December breeze, I passed by a Salvation Army Santa Claus listlessly tolling his bell, and remembered another Christmas, in another time, in another place, and . . . a gun.

I take you back to the exotic city of -- Hohman, Indiana -- where the state line ends abruptly in the icy, detergent-filled waters of Lake Michigan. Back in the day, Lake Michigan was so polluted you could run halfway to Milwaukee before you sank to the bottom.

Any-the-how, it was there in Hohman, back in 1940, that I experienced my most important Yuletide season. Now when I say the word "I," I don't mean me, necessarily. It's a universal "I." And the "I" in this particular story is Ralphie Parker. So sit back, turn up the volume and let's go!