

Holly and the Christmas Circus Cast List

Holly – Circus visitor / Holly

Nicki / Nicole Claus – Ringmaster's daughter / Santa's daughter

The Ringmaster – Circus Ringmaster / Santa Claus

Ellie – Circus Elephant / Santa's new Christmas carrier

Clara – Lion Tamer / Mrs. Claus

- **Goldie** – Circus Lion / Gold
- **Belle** – Circus Lion / Christmas Bells
- **Star** – Circus Lion / Christmas Star

Rudy – Human Cannonball / Rudolph

- **Danny** – High Flyer / Dancer
- **Prue** – High Flyer / Prancer
- **Vicky** – High Flyer / Vixen
- **Cole** – High Flyer / Comet
- **Cooper** – High Flyer / Cupid
- **Donna** – High Flyer / Donner
- **Blitz** – High Flyer / Blitzen

Maeve – Tinsel Troupe acrobat / Toy Soldier

Josie – Tinsel Troupe acrobat / Toy Soldier

Millie – Tinsel Troupe acrobat / Toy Soldier

Lucy – Tinsel Troupe acrobat / Toy Soldier

Sophie – Tinsel Troupe acrobat / Toy Soldier

Sylvie – Tightrope performer / Sugar Plum Fairy

Pearl – Tightrope performer / Sugar Plum Fairy

Pippa – Tightrope performer / Sugar Plum Fairy

Stew – Juggler / Merry Maker

Finn – Juggler / Merry Maker

Milo – Juggler / Merry Maker

Snowflakes – Reserved for Mini's/Coaches

ACT REHEARSAL SCHEDULE 10/10 to 11/14

FRIDAYS (Starting 10/30)

- 6:30 - 7:30
 - **Scene 4 - Red Cast, 5 pts (Rara)**
 - Holly & Nicki (When Needed)
 - Tinsel Troupe, Merry Makers, Sugar Plums, Clara & Lions, Ellie, Rudy & Reindeer
 - **Scene 5 - White Cast, 3 pts (Ashley)**
 - Holly + Nicki (When Needed)
 - Tinsel Troupe
 - **Scene 11 - Both Casts, 2 pts (Kara)**
 - Holly + Nicki (When Needed)
 - Rudy & Reindeer
- 7:30 - 8:30
 - **Scene 4 - White Cast, 5 pts (Rara)**
 - Holly & Nicki (When Needed)
 - Tinsel Troupe, Merry Makers, Sugar Plums, Clara & Lions, Ellie, Rudy & Reindeer
 - **Scene 5 - Red Cast, 3 pts (Ashley)**
 - Holly + Nicki (When Needed)
 - Tinsel Troupe

SATURDAYS

- 8:00 - 9:00
 - **Scene 3 - Both Casts, 1 pt (Rara)**
 - Holly + Nicki
 - **Scene 6 - Both Casts, 3 pts (Ashley)**
 - Holly + Nicki (When Needed)
 - Plum Sisters
- 9:00 - 10:00
 - **Scene 12 - Both Casts, 3 pts (Rara)**
 - Clara Clause
 - Goldie, Belle, Star
 - **Scene 15 - Both Casts, 2 pts Winch (Katie)**
 - Holly + Nicki (When Needed)
 - Santa
 - **Scene 9 & 10 - Red Cast, 5 pts (Kara)**
 - Holly + Nicki (When Needed)
 - Circus Performers (Group 1 & Group 2)
- 10:00 - 11:00
 - **Scene 16 - Both Cast (air cast only to start, bring in floor later) 5 pts (Rara)**
 - Air: Ellie + Santa + Merry Makers + High Flyers + Rudy
 - Floor: Full Company
 - **Scene 7 - Both Cast, 2 pts (Katie)**
 - Holly + Nicki (When Needed)
 - Rudy

- **Scene 8 - Both Cast, 2 pts (Kara)**
 - Holly + Nicki (When Needed)
 - Stew, Finn, Milo
- **11:00 - 12:00**
 - **DANCE NO REHEARSALS**
- 12:00 - 1:00
 - **Scene 2 - Red Cast, 2 pts (Ashley)**
 - Snowflakes
 - **Scene 9 & 10 - White Cast, 5 pts (Kara)**
 - Holly + Nicki (When Needed)
 - Circus Performers (Group 1 & Group 2)
 - **Scene 1 & 17 - Both Cast, 1 pt (Katie)**
 - Holly
- 1:00 - 2:00
 - **Scene 13 - Both Casts, 1 pt (Ashley)**
 - Holly + Nicki
 - Circus Performers
 - **Scene 14 - Both Cast, 1 pt (Katie)**
 - Holly + Nicki (When Needed)
 - Ellie

RUN THROUGH SCHEDULE

- 11/20 6:30 - Tech (Rigging Only)
- 11/21 Run Through (No air)
 - 9AM - Red Cast
 - 12PM - White Cast
- 11/28 Run Through
 - 9AM - Red Cast
 - 12PM - White Cast
- 12/5 Dress Rehearsal (Costume Only)
 - 9AM - Red Cast
 - 12PM - White Cast
- 12/17 Full Dress Rehearsal (Costume & Makeup)
 - 5PM - Red Cast
 - 7:30PM - White Cast
- 12/18 SHOW DAY
 - 5PM Red Cast
 - 7:30PM White
- 12/19 SHOW DAY
 - 11AM White Cast
 - 1:30PM Red Cast

ACT I

1. Holly's Christmas List

- **Air:** Holly
- **Apparatus:** Silks
- **Head Coach:** Katie Skiba
- **Floor:** NA
- **Focus:** Holly's List

It's Christmas Eve, and Holly's family is watching their favorite Christmas circus special on TV, a tradition they watch every year. Holly is only half watching because she's busy perfecting her enormous Christmas list. As the night winds down, she falls asleep with the list wrapped around her. The TV continues playing as her bedroom fades away and the Christmas circus begins to come alive around her.

2. The First Snow

- **Air:** Snowflakes
- **Apparatus:** Trapeze
- **Head Coach:** Ashley Purser
- **Floor:** Holly asleep
- **Focus:** Dream transition

As Holly sleeps beneath her enormous Christmas list, the first snowflakes begin to fall. More and more snowflakes appear, swirling around her as the snowfall grows and her bedroom slowly transforms. The snowflakes become part of the magic, revealing lights, moving pieces of the room away, and bringing the Christmas Circus to life. As the last snowflakes disappear, Holly wakes to find that her bedroom is gone.

3. Nicki: A Little Courage

- **Air:** Nicki & Holly
- **Apparatus:** Rope/Spanish Web
- **Head Coach:** Sara Agar
- **Floor:** Holly
- **Focus:** Nicki

Start with Holly finding Nicki outside the circus. Holly offers to go in with her. Nicki's solo can physically show the hesitation, climbing and retreating, then finally committing. Holly could briefly join the apparatus at the end, giving us the visual of them entering together. Nicki's name disappears.

4. Welcome to the Christmas Circus

- **Air:** Large aerial ensemble + Holly and Nicki occasionally joining
- **Apparatus:** Circus (Silks, Sling, Lyra, Sling, Silk)
- **Head Coach:** Sara Agar
- **Floor:** Tinsel Troupe, Merry Makers, Plum Sisters, Lions, Ellie, Rudy
- **Focus:** The world

This is our giant circus reveal. Almost everybody can be involved without everyone needing a featured skill. Holly and Nicki travel through it together.

5. The Tinsel Troupe: One More Try

- **Air:** Maeve, Josie, Millie, Lucy, Sophie
- **Apparatus:** Trapeze
- **Head Coach:** Ashley Purser

- **Floor:** Holly + Nicki
- **Focus:** Tinsel Troupe

The Tinsel Troupe performs a synchronized aerial act with sharp, precise movement, matching shapes, partner skills, and group formations. One difficult aerial sequence keeps falling apart. Holly and Nicki watch from below as the girls reset and try again. Holly starts cheering them on and gets the audience behind them. One more try, and this time they hit it. The Tinsel Troupe finishes their act together, and their name disappears from the list.

6. The Plum Sisters: A Reason to Laugh

- **Air:** Plum Sisters
- **Apparatus:** Sling
- **Head Coach:** Ashley Purser
- **Floor:** Holly + Nicki
- **Focus:** Plum Sisters

The sisters get a genuine trio feature, an aerial trio/parallel or three aerialists staged to evoke tightrope. Holly and Nicki interact only at the beginning/end. The act itself belongs to Sylvie, Pearl and Pippa.

7. Rudy: A Little Patience

- **Air:** Rudy
- **Apparatus:** Spanset on Winch
- **Head Coach:** Katie Skiba
- **Floor:** Holly + Nicki + Cannon Crew (maybe)
- **Focus:** Rudy

Another near-solo. Holly interacts at the beginning while Rudy is impatient. Then Holly backs off and **Rudy owns the act**. Cannon launch is the payoff. Holly/Nicki return at the end when the list changes.

8. The Merry Makers: A Little Help

- **Air:** Holly + Nicki
- **Apparatus:** Mini Lyra's
- **Head Coach:** Kara Watson
- **Floor:** Stew, Finn, Milo
- **Focus:** Merry Makers

This is a fun place for Holly and Nicki to physically help. The jugglers are overwhelmed on the floor, and eventually Holly/Nicki start receiving, passing or transporting props **to and from the air**. Suddenly their juggling act becomes floor-to-air object manipulation. That makes "help" visual instead of another conversation.

9. Act I Finale: Where Is the Ringmaster?

- **Air:** Holly & Circus Performers (Group 1)
- **Apparatus:** Circus (Silks, Sling, Lyra, Sling, Silk)
- **Head Coach:** Kara Watson
- **Floor:** Circus Performers (Group 1)
- **Focus:** Holly/Nicki

Characters and images from the first half can return around them. Holly is watching names vanish and trying to understand what the list wants. End with Holly/Nicki suspended above the circus looking for the Ringmaster, or Holly alone in the air holding the list as everything goes dark.

ACT II

10. Entr'acte: Back to the Circus

- **Air:** Holly & Circus Performers (Group 2)
- **Apparatus:** Circus (Silks, Sling, Lyra, Sling, Silk)
- **Head Coach:** Kara Watson
- **Floor:** Circus Performers (Group 2)
- **Focus:** Circus Performers

Rather than a generic opening number, I'd use this to introduce the flying world. Holly and Nicki enter from the audience/floor while the circus is already alive overhead.

11. The High Flyers: A Little Faith

- **Air:** Danny, Prue, Vicky, Cole, Cooper, Donna, Blitz + eventually Rudy
- **Apparatus:** Triple Trapeze
- **Head Coach:** Kara Watson
- **Floor:** Holly + Nicki
- **Focus:** High Flyers/Rudy

Keep Holly grounded here. She sees the missing position, finds Rudy and **physically drags her toward the ring**. Then Holly gets out of the way. Rudy joins the High Flyers and the entire act happens overhead.

12. Clara and Her Lions: A Little Trust

- **Air:** Clara, Goldie, Belle, Star
- **Apparatus:** Cubes
- **Head Coach:** Sara Agar
- **Floor:** Clara, Goldie, Belle, Star
- **Focus:** Clara + Lions

Clara could be aerial while the lions work beneath/around her. Then the power dynamic shifts and she comes down to work *with* them while they go up. Holly and Nicki don't need to fix anything, just encouragement from the audience.

13. Santa's Circus

- **Air:** Holly + Nicki
- **Apparatus:** Straps
- **Head Coach:** Ashley Purser
- **Floor:** Circus Performers
- **Focus:** Holly's realization

Holly and Nicki fly together while familiar characters return and Holly finally connects their Christmas identities. This is Santa's circus. The celebration is interrupted when the Merry Makers announce that **Santa's sleigh is broken** and can't be fixed in time. Everyone scatters to find another solution.

14. Ellie: A Little Confidence

- **Air:** Ellie
- **Apparatus:** Pole
- **Head Coach:** Katie Skiba
- **Floor:** Holly + Nicki
- **Focus:** Ellie

Ellie feels too big and different from the other performers and questions whether she really belongs in the circus. Her solo begins sad and uncertain, but as she performs, she starts to recognize her own strength and power. By the end, Ellie isn't trying to be like everyone else. She is proud of what makes her different and leaves the act with a new confidence, still unaware that those exact qualities are about to save Christmas.

15. The Ringmaster: Santa

- **Air:** Santa
- **Apparatus:** Tippy Spiral
- **Head Coach:** Katie Skiba
- **Floor:** Holly + Nicki
- **Focus:** Santa / Holly

Nicki finally brings Holly to the Ringmaster, revealing Santa. Holly returns the list, but Santa explains it was never a list of things people were supposed to get. Santa gets his own aerial solo while Holly considers everything that happened that night. When he returns, Holly realizes everyone had something to give, including her. Her name disappears.

16. Ellie Carries Christmas

- **Air:** Ellie + Santa + Elves + High Flyers + Rudy
- **Apparatus:** Silk, Cube, Silk, Silk, Silk
- **Head Coach:** Sara Agar
- **Floor:** Full Company
- **Focus:** Ellie / full company

Holly realizes they don't need another sleigh. They need someone strong enough to carry Christmas. The gifts are loaded onto Ellie while Holly and Nicki help from the air. The High Flyers and Rudy take their places and lift Ellie, Santa, and the gifts. Ellie realizes the thing that made her feel different is exactly what Christmas needed. Her name disappears.

17. What I Can Give: Finale

- **Air:** Holly
- **Apparatus:** Silks
- **Head Coach:** Katie Skiba
- **Floor:** Full company
- **Focus:** Holly / full company

Holly wakes up Christmas morning wondering if the circus was real. Before diving into her presents, she turns over her enormous Christmas list and writes **WHAT I CAN GIVE**. The circus returns around her for one final full-company aerial production and bows.

Holly

Holly loves Christmas. She loves the lights. She loves the music. She loves the cookies. She loves waiting. She loves the feeling that something magical is about to happen. And more than anything, Holly loves making her Christmas list. Every Christmas Eve, Holly and her family watch the same Christmas circus special on television. It has become a tradition. Holly knows the performers, the music, and practically every moment of the show. Usually, she watches every second. This year, however, Holly is distracted. Her Christmas list needs work. It is enormous. Holly has added things, crossed things out, squeezed things between other things, and taped on extra pieces of paper when she ran out of room. She insists it isn't actually that long. She just wrote really big. As the circus plays on the television, Holly keeps writing. Eventually, the house grows quiet. Her family heads to bed, but Holly stays curled up with her list, watching the performers fly across the screen. Before long, she falls asleep with the enormous list wrapped around her. And the circus keeps playing.

The First Snow

As Holly sleeps, the snow outside begins to fall harder. One snowflake drifts into the room. Then another. And another. Soon, snowflakes are swirling all around Holly. They move through the room, carrying pieces of the world she knows away with them. The Christmas lights seem to grow brighter. The glow from the television stretches across the room. Her furniture disappears. Circus lights appear in its place. The snowflakes swirl faster until Holly is surrounded by a sparkling Christmas Eve snowstorm. Then, one by one, they disappear. The room is quiet again. But it isn't Holly's room anymore.

The Other List

When Holly opens her eyes, her bedroom is gone. Somehow, she has landed outside the entrance to an enormous Christmas circus. Lights glow everywhere. Music drifts from inside. Performers fly above the tents. But before Holly can enter, she discovers something strange. A list. Not her list. A much smaller one.

- Nicki – A Little Courage
- The Tinsel Troupe – One More Try
- The Plum Sisters – A Reason to Laugh
- Rudy – A Little Patience
- The Merry Makers – A Little Help
- The High Flyers – A Little Faith
- Clara – A Little Trust
- Ellie – A Little Confidence
- Holly – _____

Holly knows immediately what it must be. Santa's list. And somehow, he has lost it. Holly decides she has to find Santa and return it.

Nicki

Outside the circus, Holly meets a girl named Nicki. Nicki desperately wants to go inside, but she is afraid. Everyone in the circus seems so talented, confident, and certain that they belong there. Nicki isn't sure she does. Holly doesn't give her a speech. She simply offers to go in with her. Together, they enter. And when Holly looks at the mysterious list again, she discovers that Nicki's name has disappeared.

The Christmas Circus

Inside is unlike anything Holly has ever seen. Aerialists soar overhead. Acrobats fill the ring. Jugglers send objects flying through the air. Lions prowl beneath sparkling lights. Everywhere Holly looks, another impossible thing is happening. Nicki tells Holly that if anyone can help her find Santa, it would probably be the Ringmaster. Unfortunately, finding the Ringmaster inside this circus is easier said than done. So Holly and Nicki begin searching. Along the way, Holly starts meeting the people from the list.

The Tinsel Troupe

Maeve, Josie, Millie, Lucy, and Sophie are known as the Tinsel Troupe. They move with perfect precision, matching one another in the air with sharp movements and synchronized shapes. Except for one sequence. Again and again, it falls apart. Holly becomes completely invested. She cheers. She yells. She gets the audience behind them. One more try. This time, they hit it. When Holly checks the list, the Tinsel Troupe is gone.

The Plum Sisters

Next, Holly meets Sylvie, Pearl, and Pippa. The Plum Sisters are elegant, polished, and determined to make every moment of their performance perfect. Until something goes wrong. A wobble becomes another wobble. Perfect timing disappears. And Holly laughs. Pearl laughs. Then Pippa. Eventually, even Sylvie can't hold it together. Instead of ruining their performance, the mistake changes it. For the first time, the sisters stop worrying about being perfect and start enjoying themselves. Their name disappears.

Rudy

Then there is Rudy. Rudy wants one thing. To fly. Immediately. Preferably out of a cannon. Rudy has very little interest in waiting for rehearsals, preparation, safety checks, instructions, or anything else standing between her and being launched across the circus. Holly and Nicki have to convince her that being brave doesn't mean rushing into something before you're ready. Eventually, Rudy listens. She waits. She prepares. The cannon fires. Rudy flies. And another name disappears.

The Merry Makers

Stew, Finn, and Milo are the Merry Makers, and they are trying to do absolutely everything themselves. Props. Equipment. Costumes. Rehearsal. Every time someone offers to help, the answer is the same. They've got it. They do not, in fact, have it. Their act becomes increasingly chaotic until they finally begin asking one another, Holly, and Nicki for help. Once everyone starts carrying part of the load, the impossible suddenly becomes possible. The Merry Makers disappear from the list.

Where Is the Ringmaster?

By now, Holly knows something strange is happening. Everywhere she goes, someone from the list seems to need exactly what was written beside their name. And every time they find it, their name disappears. Holly still believes the list belongs to Santa. She just doesn't understand what kind of list it is. As the circus continues around her, Holly and Nicki keep searching for the Ringmaster.

The High Flyers

The High Flyers are one of the biggest acts in the circus. Danny. Prue. Vicky. Cole. Cooper. Donna. Blitz. But when it is time to perform, they are missing someone. Without another flyer, part of their act cannot happen.

Then Holly spots Rudy. Rudy insists she is a Human Cannonball, not a High Flyer. She hasn't rehearsed with them. She doesn't know what she's doing. But Holly reminds her that she has spent the entire night wanting to fly. So Rudy takes a chance. This time, she doesn't rush. She listens. She waits for her cues. She trusts the people around her. And she flies without a cannon. The High Flyers had faith in Rudy. Rudy had faith in them. And Holly had faith in Rudy. Their name disappears.

Clara and Her Lions

Clara is the circus's Lion Tamer. Her lions, Goldie, Belle, and Star, are magnificent. Clara is confident and capable, but she likes being in control. She expects the lions to trust her while struggling to give that same trust back to them. During their performance, the lions begin taking the lead. Clara has a choice. Control every moment, or trust them. She chooses trust. The performance becomes something completely different. Not a tamer controlling her lions, but partners working together. Clara's name disappears. Then Nicki appears. And Holly learns that Clara is Nicki's mother. Clara Claus. Nicki's full name is Nicole Claus. Holly looks around the circus. Rudy. The High Flyers. The Plum Sisters. The Merry Makers. Clara. Nicki. Suddenly, all the pieces click into place.

Santa's Circus

The Plum Sisters aren't just circus performers. They're Sugar Plum Fairies. The Merry Makers are elves. The High Flyers are reindeer. Rudy is Rudolph. Clara is Mrs. Claus. Nicole Claus is Santa's daughter. This isn't simply a Christmas circus. **This is Santa's circus.** And if everyone keeps talking about the Ringmaster... Holly has a pretty good idea who she has been looking for. But before she can find him, the Merry Makers rush in with terrible news. Santa's sleigh is broken. They can't fix it in time. The presents are ready. The High Flyers are ready. Christmas Eve is here. But Santa has no way to carry Christmas.

Ellie

Away from the commotion, Holly and Nicki find Ellie. Ellie has spent the night watching everyone else perform and wondering whether she really belongs among them. She feels too big. Too heavy. Too different. Ellie's performance begins quietly and uncertainly. But as she moves through the air, something changes. She begins to see what everyone else can see. She is strong. She is powerful. She doesn't need to make herself smaller to belong. By the end of her performance, Ellie isn't trying to look like anyone else. For the first time, she is proud to be Ellie. She still has no idea that Christmas desperately needs exactly what she has. But Holly does.

Ellie Carries Christmas

Holly looks at Ellie. Then at the mountain of presents. Then at the High Flyers. They don't need another sleigh. They need someone strong enough to carry Christmas. Ellie. The circus springs into action. The Merry Makers load the gifts. Holly and Nicki help. The High Flyers take their places, with Rudy among them. And Ellie carries Santa and his mountain of presents into the air. The very thing Ellie once believed made her wrong for the circus is exactly what Christmas needed. Ellie's name disappears. Holly looks down at the list. There is only one name left. **HOLLY - _____.**

The Ringmaster

Nicki finally brings Holly to the Ringmaster. Her father. Santa Claus. Holly can hardly believe it. She has spent the entire night trying to find Santa, and now she can finally return his list. But Santa tells her there is one problem. It was never a list of what anyone was supposed to get. Courage couldn't be wrapped. Neither could laughter, patience, help, faith, trust, or confidence. Those were things the people in the circus had to find, and

things they could give to one another. Holly watches Santa perform and thinks about everything that happened that night. Santa didn't create all of the magic by himself. Everyone did. Nicki found courage because Holly walked beside her. The Tinsel Troupe tried again because someone believed they could do it. The Merry Makers learned to accept help. Holly believed Rudy could fly. And when Christmas itself needed saving, Holly saw something extraordinary in Ellie before anyone else did. Holly looks at the blank beside her own name. For the first time, she understands. She has something to give. And her name disappears.

Christmas Morning

Holly wakes up in her bedroom. The television is off. Her enormous Christmas list is still wrapped around her. For a moment, she wonders whether the circus was real. Then she sees the presents under the tree. And Holly is still very interested in the presents. Holly has grown. She has not become insane. But before she dives under the tree, Holly picks up her enormous Christmas list. She turns it over. And on the blank side, she writes: **WHAT I CAN GIVE** Because Christmas magic isn't only something that happens to us. Sometimes, we're the ones who make it happen.