

## The Christmas Tree Dwarfs

Music	Rob van den Berg
Dance	Maria Speth
Time	4/4 and 2/4 (bringing down the tree)
Intro	4 bars
Formation	front circle and open space
Target group	suggested 4-8 years

### Background Information

- This dance is actually limited in use, winter and Christmas! However, for the fanatical amongst us it also has potential during Carnival...
- The Christmas Tree Dwarfs live in the “FAREST FAR” Christmas Tree Forest. They make sure that people all over are able to get their Christmas tree on time for Christmas. When Alber Tross flies in with a new order, the work begins immediately... and today we get to help!
- The rap is simple and is repeated; only the 3<sup>rd</sup> line is always changing in order to tell what is happening at each step of the task.
- It is advised to listen to the music together with the pupils beforehand. Can they identify the different parts of the music? Especially in the 3<sup>rd</sup> verse, when the tree is being pulled down? This might need extra listening time!
- The music in this dance is divided over 3 tracks. This enables the various parts of the dance to be studied separately.

### Dance Exploration

- We all know how cold it can be in the “FAREST FAR” Christmas Tree Forest. So, we must dress warmly.
- The **dress-up game** is a fun introduction for young pupils. Allow the pupils to suggest the steps to getting dressed to go out in the cold weather. Begin with nothing on and develop movements for acquiring each piece of clothing. A little guidance can make for fun! For example, putting on gloves (10 fingers) before you get your shirt on...oops! Then you must take off the gloves (all 10 fingers) and put on the shirt first. Have you ever wondered how much movement and effort is involved putting on a turtleneck pull over with an extra-long neck? Or a scarf from 3 meters long? Or a jacket with lots and lots of buttons? Or long underwear or large boots? Try them all!
- We are ready to go out. But first we must **shovel the snow**. Use large movements, or smaller movements in faster tempo. Forwards, but also towards the sides. This is how we can make a path through to the forest. You could also create a shovelling rhythm with the pupils in an alternating tempo with slower and faster movements. And, instead of shovelling the snow, discover many different ways to make a path into the forest. For example, stamping the snow, rolling huge snowballs; shuffling, jumping, pushing your way through the snow, etc.
- In the forest you will find branches heavy with snow, these need to be **shaken**. What kind of movement is that? Sometimes you need to use two arms to shake the larger trees, but you may wish to shake two trees at the same time, one with each arm. We are surrounded by trees, large and small, thick and thin, some branches are so high that you need to reach way, way up standing on your toes, if you wish to shake them clean of snow.

- Now we are going to **pull the tree down**. Pulling is very hard work and the tree is so high. Here is a good place to play with rhythms when pulling the tree down.



- When we are finished with our work, we can enjoy a good **snowball fight!** Bending and stretching, good aiming, and once in a while shaking the snow out of our hair and clothing.

## Dance Structure

Bars

Intro

1-4 the pupils walk around in the circle, through the deep snow

A

a1

1-4 the pupils sing the rap standing in the circle

Bridge 1

Open

the pupils find a place in the space and scrape and shove the snow away from around them

B

b

1-11 the pupils plow a path to the forest.

Interlude 1

1-4

the pupils come back to the circle

A

a2

1-4 repeat a1

Bridge 2

Open

the pupils find a place in the space

C

c

1-17 the pupils shake the snow from the trees and from themselves

Interlude 2

1-4

the pupils come back to the circle

A

a3

1-4 repeat a1

Bridge 3

Open

the pupils remain standing in a circle around the tallest tree

D

d

1-16 the pupils pull the tree down, end with a large jump backwards as the tree falls!

Interlude 3

1-4

the pupils come back to the circle

A a4  
 1-4 repeat a1

E e  
 1-22 the pupils have a snowball fight

Exit  
 1-4 the pupils go back home (the circle or back to class)

**Rap text**

Off to work, come along  
 Together we are very strong  
*Push it, push it*, Oh what fun,  
 Look, you see! We're almost done.

*...shake it, shake it... ...pull it, pull it... ...throw it, throw it...*

Intro: 4 bars

rap

Off to work, come a- long, to ge- ther we are ve- ry strong.

Push it, push it, oh what fun. Look, you see! We're all- most done.

**Tips**

- A nice variation on the second verse (shaking the tree) is the following: wherever you hear the snow falling in the music, allow the pupils to shake the snow from themselves, this is a shaking movement, but in another form
- An alternative to snowball throwing is collecting pinecones that fall while shaking the tree. We can pick them up from all over the room.