

Director's Notes

Cast List

(In order of appearance)

Narrators	Scripted for two narrators, but may be shared out between more.
Babushka	Large speaking part. SOLO singer required
Fly, Mouse, Spider	Small speaking parts, Scene 1. Could be two of each.
Star	Non-speaking part, Scene 1
Cloud	Non-speaking part, Scene 1
Angel(s)	Small speaking part. SOLO singer(s) required – or group
Kings 1,2,3	Medium speaking part. TRIO singers required
Camels 1,2,3	Small speaking part. TRIO singers required
Angels	Non-speaking parts, as many as required, Scenes 1, 2 & 3
Cattle/Donkeys/Sheep	As many as required. Group singing, Scene 1
Mother, Child	Small speaking parts, Scene 2
Old Woman (or Man)	Small speaking part, Scene 2
Shepherd Boy	Small speaking part, Scene 2
Mary	Small speaking part, Scene 3. SOLO singer required
Donkey	Small speaking part, Scene 3
Joseph	Small speaking part, Scene 3

Props

To be set before the play begins:

Chair (ideally a rocking chair) in which Babushka sleeps (to be taken off after Scene 1)

Cleaning equipment for Babushka: duster, polish, rubber gloves.

Candlesticks for Babushka to polish.

Star on stick to be held by 'Star' performer.

Basket for Babushka.

Placed in three different locations in Babushka's 'house': small rag doll, clown, shawl, bottle.

Doll to be Baby Jesus in the crib scene.

Manger.

To be carried on by performers:

Broom for Babushka. Enormous hankie for Girl

Walking stick for old woman. Lamb for Shepherd Boy

'Glass' for Joseph Gold, frankincense and myrrh for camels.

Staging Suggestions

Scenery is not essential, as most scenes can be suggested by the use of props.

If painted scenes on flats are to be used, they should be as follows:

Scene 1 Rustic kitchen scene – cooker, cupboard, window with cloud in view, allowing child to be seen behind it.

Scene 2 Outdoor scene, trees, flowers, etc.

Scene 3 Stable – traditional nativity backdrop

If scenery changes are not possible, one side of the stage could be set as Babushka's house and the other side could be set as the stable.

Director's Overview

Scene 1 Outside Babushka's House

The villagers meet and greet each other. Babushka is too busy to dance. [Choreography p. 5/6]

DANCE Dance Of The Russian Villagers Ⓞ **Track 1 / 14**

Scene 2 Inside Babushka's House

Babushka's house is the cleanest in Russia. She shoos away Fly, Mouse and Spider.

CHANT You'll Never Find A Mouse Ⓞ **Track 2 / 15**

Babushka cleans so much because she has an empty place in her heart. She's unhappy.

SONG Babushka (Empty Heart) Ⓞ **Track 3 / 16**

Babushka is so busy cleaning that she doesn't notice a bright new star in the sky. The star hides behind a cloud. An angel appears outside her window, telling her he brings good news. She is more concerned about her clean floor, telling him to wipe his feet. Three kings knock on the door, having arrived with their camels. Babushka is worried about the dirt, telling them to wipe their feet. The camels run away and the kings chase after them.

SONG Wipe Your Feet Ⓞ **Track 4 / 17**

Babushka is tired after all the fuss. She goes to sleep. While she sleeps, the angel returns and sings to her about the stable in which a baby has been born.

SONG There's A Stable Ⓞ **Track 5 / 18**

Babushka wakes when the star shines in through the window. She remembers what she heard while she was sleeping. She's disgusted at the thought of a new baby in a dirty old stable and sets off for Bethlehem with a basket of gifts and cleaning equipment.

INSTR. Babushka Packs Her Basket Ⓞ **Track 6 / 19**

SONG To Bethlehem Ⓞ **Track 7 / 20**

Scene 3 Babushka's journey

On the way to Bethlehem, Babushka meets a mother and child. The child is crying because she has lost her doll. Babushka cheers her up by giving her the toy clown, and then continues on her journey.

SONG To Bethlehem (reprise) Ⓞ **Track 8 / 21**

The next person Babushka meets is an old woman who is struggling to walk because she is tired and thirsty and her legs are aching. Babushka gives the old woman the cordial to drink, and immediately she feels much better. Babushka continues on her journey.

SONG To Bethlehem (reprise) Ⓞ **Track 9 / 22**

Then Babushka comes across a shepherd boy who is shivering with cold. She gives him the warm shawl. As she continues on her journey Babushka realises that she has given away all the gifts and has nothing to give the baby. She turns for home.

INSTR. Babushka Turns Back Ⓞ **Track 10 / 23**

Scene 4 In The Stable

Mary calls Babushka back. Babushka goes into the stable and is disgusted to see all the dirty animals there. However, she quickly forgets this when she sees that the things she gave away have mysteriously arrived at the stable. Mary explains how this happened.

SONG Everything You Give Ⓞ **Track 11 / 24**

Babushka realises that the empty place inside her heart has been filled with peace.

SONG Babushka (Full Heart) Ⓞ **Track 12 / 25**

The kings and camels arrive at the stable. Joseph welcomes them in. Babushka apologises for her rudeness to them. The kings give their gifts to the baby and – like Babushka – are filled with peace. Babushka suddenly feels like dancing! They all dance.

SONG My Feet Want To Dance Ⓞ **Track 13 / 26**

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