

Director's Overview

Please note: the full 'Jesus' Christmas Party' script appears at the beginning of this book, and a simplified one for younger children starts at page 45.

Instr. - FANFARE

Ⓢ Track 1

The cast – crowd, choir, animals etc. – can move into their positions after the fanfare and before and during the opening song. The movement and improvised dialogue of the people arriving in Bethlehem, and the 'business' suggested, should finish before the singing of the last verse of the first song. Alternatively, the play can start with the singing of the first song, with everyone already in place.

Song - THEY CAME TO A CHRISTMAS PARTY Ⓢ Track 2 / 10

The innkeeper and his wife go to bed after a busy day.

Song - EVERYONE'S ASLEEP

Ⓢ Track 3 / 11

Mary and Joseph arrive at the inn, waking the innkeeper and his wife, who tell them that there is only room in the stable. They go round the back to the stable taking a couple of blankets. The innkeeper and his wife go back to bed.

Song - SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THE LIGHT Ⓢ Track 4 / 12

Three shepherds arrive at the inn, also waking the innkeeper and his wife. They are looking for Mary and Joseph, the Innkeeper sends them round the back to the stable, and grumpily returns to bed.

Song - THREE KINGS FROM THE EAST

Ⓢ Track 5 / 13

Three kings arrive, also looking for Mary and Joseph. By this time the Innkeeper is thoroughly fed up with being disturbed, and is rather abrupt with them to say the least. He and his wife settle down to sleep again, hoping that's it for the night.

Song - HAVING A PARTY

Ⓢ Track 6 / 14

Jesus has been born and everyone in the stable is celebrating. The Innkeeper is furious to be woken yet again, and storms out towards the stable, shouting. Everyone shushes him, in case he disturbs the baby. Seeing the baby, the innkeeper softens. He and his wife join everyone in celebrating the birth.

Song - SHINE AWAY

Ⓢ Track 7 / 15

Two carols, one modern and one traditional, are included as additional resources:

Song - BABYJESUS

Ⓢ Track 8 / 16

Song - AWAY IN A MANGER

Ⓢ Track 9 / 17

Director's Notes

Main speaking parts

Innkeeper

Innkeeper's Wife

Minor speaking parts

Joseph

Mary

3 or more Shepherds (share out lines accordingly)

3 Kings

Roman Soldiers

Non-speaking parts

A crowd for the party at the end. Optional for opening scene: Roman soldiers, extra innkeepers. You may also add as many angels, musicians, 'Arabian dancers', pages and camels for the Kings, animals etc. as you choose. Some chickens may be used ad lib for comic effect 'round the back', as they are referred to in the script.

Costumes

Traditional nativity costumes, for all traditional roles

Innkeeper can wear a nightshirt and night cap

Innkeeper's Wife can wear a nightgown and perhaps have her hair in curlers for comic effect.

Costumes for members of the crowd can be based on oversize shirts or plain tabards tied around the waist, similar to shepherd costumes but without the head gear.

Roman Soldiers need tabards, sandals, swords / helmets / armour made of card or similar

Props

Calendar – very large, so the audience can read the dates. Woodblocks (if using) for clock sound.

Clipboard and pencil for each Roman Soldier. 'Vacancies' and 'Sorry No Vacancies' signs for inn.

Clipboard and pen for Innkeeper, set behind the door. Two blankets for Mary and Joseph, set behind the door. A smaller blanket for Jesus, set behind the door.

A baby (!) set behind the stable. Sunglasses for the Shepherds.

Crib, set centrally in the stable area. Ideally, some kind of light source (powerful torch / flashlight perhaps) to place in the crib so that the Innkeeper's face will light up when he looks into it.

Gifts for the three Kings.

Staging

A bedroom area for the Innkeeper and his wife. An actual bed, or an 'upright' bed as shown below, or simply two cushions and a blanket. Above the bed, a large calendar with the date on it.

Stage Set Suggestion

