

# Director's Notes

## SUMMARY

A gentle, humorous take on the Nativity story, with lots of opportunities for children to shine.

Philip is always falling asleep during the day because his fascination with the stars keeps him up at night. The other children call him 'Stargazer'. They tell him to count sheep at night to help him get to sleep. That way he won't keep missing out on everything...

One night, when everyone in the village is asleep, Philip spots an unusual star in the sky, and it's moving! He decides to follow it. After a while he meets some Shepherds. Counting sheep makes them sleepy, so they ask him to help – but he falls asleep too! When he wakes up they've all gone.

Next he meets some Wise Men on camels and is amazed to learn that they are stargazers, following the same star, which has just stopped over a stable in Bethlehem. The Wise Men say it's very unwise for a little boy to be out alone so late at night. They decide it would be wise to take him home – as soon as they've visited the newborn King. They set off for the stable, and arrive to find it filled with shepherds and angels, all gazing at the baby in the manger.

Very tired by now, Philip falls asleep by the manger. Once they've given their gifts, the Wise Men are ready to take the Sleepy Stargazer home, so they wake him. He's sad that his friends will never believe what has happened, but everyone says: 'Oh yes they will! We'll tell them!' Everyone in the stable calls very loudly and the children arrive. 'See?' Philip tells them, 'I don't miss out on everything!'

## CAST LIST

10-14 individual speaking parts (5 parts in **bold** for the strongest actors)

<b>Philip</b>	Central part, lots of dialogue, + solo singing (opt.)
<b>Child 1, 2, 3, 4</b>	Philip's friends. Lines may be shared between more or less children
Angel 1	Minor speaking part, plus solo singing (opt.)
Angels	Group speaking and singing
<b>Shepherds 1, 2, 3</b>	Shepherd 1 is the leader, Shepherd 3 has least to remember
Sheep	6 or more, comic mime, 2 group spoken lines. Ideally good 'bleaters'!
Wise Men 1, 2, 3	Need to manage simple comic timing. Wise Man 1 is leader
Mary, Joseph, Donkey	Non speaking
Stars	(optional – to dance or sparkle during song)
Chorus	Extra stars, angels, shepherds, sheep, etc.
Chorus member 1, 2	Call out one line each

## PROPS

Traditional Nativity items:

Manger and doll to represent baby Jesus.

Stool or small chair for Mary.

Toy lamb for Shepherds to give Mary.

Crooks for Shepherds (optional).

Gold, frankincense and myrrh for Three Wise Men.

## STAGING

A bare stage is all that is required.

# Director's Overview

## SCENE 1 - WAKE UP PHILIP!

A group of children run in, calling for Philip, who is asleep – as usual!

**SONG            WAKE UP PHILIP!**

⦿ **Track 1 / 14**

Philip's nickname is 'Stargazer', because he stays up at night gazing at stars. His friends say he misses out on everything because he sleeps in the daytime. They begin a game of chase, and Philip is 'it'.

**INCID.           CHASE MUSIC**

⦿ **Track 2 / 15**

Tired, Philip goes home to sleep. The others give up and go home too.

Philip wakes up when the stars are out, gazes at the pictures they make in the sky.

**SONG            STARS PAINT PICTURES**

⦿ **Track 3 / 16**

He notices a moving star and decides to follow it.

**INCID.           STARS EXIT MUSIC**

⦿ **Track 4 / 17**

## SCENE 2 - SHEPHERDS

**SFX.            SHEEP – Sound Effect**

⦿ **Track 5 / 18**

Shepherds are counting sheep, but it's so boring it makes them sleepy and they keep losing count. Philip arrives, wide awake; they ask him to count the sheep...

**SONG            ONE SHEEP, TWO SHEEP...**

⦿ **Track 6 / 19**

...but Philip falls asleep, just as angels arrive with good news.

**SONG            DON'T BE AFRAID**

⦿ **Track 7 / 20**

The Shepherds and Angels leave for Bethlehem.

**INCID.           SLEEPING MUSIC**

⦿ **Track 8 / 21**

Philip wakes up, wonders where everyone's gone, remembers to follow the star.

## SCENE 3 - THREE WISE MEN

The Wise Men are following the star to Bethlehem; it stops over the stable. Philip, who is following the same star, overhears them talking about a newborn king. The Wise Men say it's very unwise for a boy to be out so late at night. They will take him home after they've taken their gifts to the baby.

**SONG            THIS IS THE NIGHT**

⦿ **Track 9 / 22**

**INCID.           WISE MEN MUSIC**

⦿ **Track 10 / 23**

## SCENE 4 - THE STABLE

The Nativity tableau is set: Mary, Joseph, Donkey and Angel enter. The Shepherds also arrive, and finally the Wise Men with Philip, who runs to kneel by the manger.

**SONG            ANGELS TOLD OF THE COMING KING**

⦿ **Track 11 / 24**

The Wise Men place their gifts by the manger.

Philip has fallen asleep! The Wise Men wake him up to go home. Philip is sad that his friends won't believe what's happened, but everyone in the stable calls very loudly for the other children to join them.

**SONG            WAKE UP CHILDREN!**

⦿ **Track 12 / 25**

Philip has proved that he doesn't miss out on everything – and he's glad that his friends haven't missed out on the excitement of this special night.

**SONG            STARGAZER**

⦿ **Track 13 / 26**