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- Perform a musical up to 5 times in one academic year, to a public audience, within your school.*
- Reproduce song lyrics on paper or for display on interactive whiteboards or similar screens.
- Photocopy the script and score for the cast to learn lines, and musicians to play the songs.

* **If you are performing outside of your school premises, for example in a local theatre, please contact us as further conditions apply. For more information, visit www.edgyproductions.com/licences**

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If you wish to make an audio or video recording of the performance of any of our musicals, you will need an additional **recording and duplication licence** from Edgy Productions. This will also allow you to make and sell copies of your recordings if you wish to do so. We no longer request that you pay a commission to us on the money you raise from the sale of recordings.

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You are not permitted to share any of our copyrighted material, either in printed form, on disc or in digital file format, with anyone who is not a pupil or teacher within your school or organisation. We will take immediate action should an incident of illegal file-sharing be reported or discovered.

You can, of course, phone or email us for advice – we are more than happy to discuss all your licensing needs.

Tel: 01858 288081
Email: info@edgyproductions.com

PERFORMANCE LICENCE APPLICATION FORM

For any performance of any part of **Baa...Baa...Bethlehem** to an audience other than staff and children (eg. to parents), a valid performance licence from Edgy Productions must be held. Please note, your PRS, MCPS, CCLI or similar local authority-issued licence does not cover you for this. **Unless you purchased an instant performance licence and/or a recording & duplication licence when you bought this production pack, please ensure you complete and return this form at least 28 days before your first performance:**

- by post – Edgy Productions, 8 Roman Way, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7PQ
- by FAX – 0845 833 33 49
- by email – info@edgyproductions.com

The performance licence will permit the holder to do the following:

- Perform a musical up to 5 times in one academic year, to a public audience, within your school.*
- Reproduce song lyrics on paper or for display on interactive whiteboards or similar screens.
- Photocopy the script and score for the cast to learn lines, and musicians to play the songs.

Contact name:

Name of school / organisation:

Address:

..... **Postcode:**

Tel: **email:**

Number of performances: **Performances Dates: from** **to**

By ticking, select one of the performance licence options below:

Standard Performance Licence ☐ **£30.00** (including VAT)
(no admission charged and no tickets sold)

or

Performance Licence with charges ☐ **£36.00** (including VAT)
(admission is charged and/or tickets are sold)

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If you are recording any performance, and/or selling copies of the recording, you will **also** need a recording and duplication licence.

Recording and Duplication Licence ☐ **£30.00** (including VAT)

By ticking, select one of the payment options below:

☐ **I enclose a cheque for £..... made payable to Edgy Productions Ltd**

☐ **Please send me an invoice for £.....** (payment terms 30 days)

**Writers rely on payments from public performances for their livelihoods.
Please ensure they receive their dues.**

Plot Summary

Life is quiet and relaxed for the shepherds and sheep living on the hillside above the town of Bethlehem. **(song – ‘Baa...Baa...Bethlehem’)**. However, for the youngest shepherds, Daniel, Rachel, Naomi and Eli, it’s not much fun. They are envious of the older shepherds who get to take the sheep to market and sit in the seats closest to the fire on cold evenings – these are treats they can’t hope to experience until they’re much bigger and more ‘important’. It’s the same for the young lambs, who have to watch the older, woollier sheep grazing on the sweetest, lushest patches of grass, while they make do with bitter leaves from thorny bushes. **(song – ‘Bottom Of The Heap’)**. Nevertheless, the youngsters are convinced that for them there’s something special on the horizon – they just need to sit tight and wait. **(song – ‘We’ll Shine Through’)**.

In Bethlehem’s busy market, the older shepherds work hard to sell their sheep and, with lots of visitors to the town, business is brisk. **(song – Market Day)**. A tired-looking man and woman arrive, urgently looking for a room as their baby will be born very soon. **(song – ‘A Place To Stay’)**. They are told there is nothing available and are sent in the direction of another part of town. Thinking no more of it, the shepherds return to the hillside at the end of the day.

That evening the shepherds are restless. Two lambs are missing, and so Daniel, Rachel, Naomi and Eli are sent to look for them. They wander alone, further into the night and notice how beautiful the sky has become. Amongst the sparkling, dancing stars, a magnificent new star has appeared, shining down on the town! **(song/dance – ‘A Marvellous, Magical Sky’)**. As they stumble upon the missing lambs, who’ve found some lush grass to munch on, the young shepherds are then struck by the spectacle of a host of angels praising God! The angels tell them not to be afraid **(song – ‘Don’t Be Afraid’)**, as they deliver the wonderful news about the birth of Jesus and tell them to hurry to the stable lit by the star, to worship the new baby king lying in a manger.

Taking the lambs as a gift for Jesus, they find the stable and, in a traditional nativity tableau, kneel and present them to Him. The arrival of three elegant wise-men adds to the importance of the event, and Daniel, Rachel, Naomi and Eli realise that the special thing they had been waiting to be a part of for so long has now arrived. **(song – ‘God’s Gift’)**

On returning to the hillside, the four youngsters now have a glowing air of confidence and joy. Strangely, the older shepherds are now respectful towards them and invite them to sit by the fire. As they listen to the amazing story of their night at the stable and the part they have played in these wonderful events, they realise there is now a definite change in the ‘pecking order’. Things on the hillside will never be the same again.....! **(reprise– ‘Baa...Baa...Bethlehem’)**.

CHARACTERS

(Speaking parts in order of appearance)

4 Narrators

5 Older Shepherds

An Older Sheep

Young Shepherds: Daniel, Naomi, Rachel & Eli

2 Lambs

Mary

Joseph

3 Wise Men

(Ensemble Characters – for featured songs and choreography)

Sheep

Shepherds

Bethlehem Townsfolk and Visitors

Stars

Angels

Stable Animals

Scene 1

*(As the backing track to the opening song plays (track 9) the cast members take their seats. On and in front of the main stage, the sheep and lambs are grazing. There's a distinction between the older, bigger sheep and the smaller lambs, by way of size, horns etc. – **see staging suggestions/costume**. Centrally on the main stage, the shepherds sit round a fire, the older ones closer to the flames than the younger ones – **see staging suggestions/scenery/costume**. Again, the older shepherds are distinguishable by their beards, size of crooks, head-dresses etc. To one side, four narrators stand slightly forward of the main stage. Fade the music when all are ready.)*

Narrator 1 In Bethlehem there was always a lot going on. The busy, bustling streets were full of people – some working, some shopping and some just having a good gossip.

Narrator 2 But outside the city walls, high up on the hillside, Bethlehem was home to a quieter and more relaxed group of people.....shepherds.

Narrator 3 And just as you'd expect, wherever you find shepherds, you will always find.....

All SHEEP!

(All shepherds and sheep stand for the opening song.)

Song Baa...Baa...Bethlehem *(tracks 1 & 9, lyrics p14)* *(Shepherds and sheep, supported by whole cast)*

(As the song finishes, the shepherds sit by the fire again and the sheep go back to their grazing.)

Narrator 4 Now, there's one thing you should know about shepherds, and about sheep – there's a 'pecking order'.

Narrator 1 Which means the bigger, older ones get to boss the smaller, younger ones about!

(A younger shepherd tries to edge closer to the fire to get warm. An older shepherd pushes him/her back!)

Older Shep. 1 Oi! Get back! You'll be allowed nearer the fire when you're older....a lot older!

(The older shepherds all get closer to the fire, pushing all the younger ones back. A lamb starts grazing near one of the older sheep, who gets annoyed!)

Older Sheep Oi! Get back! You'll be allowed to graze on the sweet, green grass when you're older....a lot older!

Narrator 2 And this is how it was; cold feet for the younger shepherds and bitter leaves from thorny bushes for the younger sheep. They knew their place, and their place was at the bottom of the heap!

(All shepherds and sheep stand again for the next song.)

Song Bottom Of The Heap *(tracks 2 & 10, lyrics p15)* *(Shepherds and sheep, supported by whole cast)*

(As the song finishes, most of the sheep move to one side and lie down, and most of the shepherds return to the fire and nod off. Four young shepherds, Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli, move away from them and sit together. Two lambs also move away from the flock and sit together.)

Narrator 3 Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli were four young shepherds who were definitely fed up with being at the bottom of the heap.

Daniel I'm fed up with being at the bottom of the heap!

Naomi Me too. I'd love to feel important, just once.

Rachel Wouldn't it be nice if we were allowed to take the sheep to market.

Eli Ha! *(pointing to the older shepherds)* They won't let us do that until we're much older. Going to market isn't a job for us youngsters.

Narrator 4 It was true. Only the older, more experienced shepherds got to leave the hillside once a week, to take some of the flock to sell at market.

Narrator 1 And the sheep they took were the ones with the biggest, heaviest fleeces, as these would fetch the most money.

Lamb 1 The hustle and bustle of the market must be so exciting!

Lamb 2 Well, we won't be taken until we're much bigger, and with more wool on our backs.

Lamb 1 But that won't be for such a long time. Oh, I can't wait 'til we're the important ones, 'til something special happens to us.

Song We'll Shine Through *(tracks 3 & 11, lyrics p16)* *(Young shepherds and lambs, supported by whole cast)*

(As the backing track is played again, the shepherds and sheep move to the side, leaving the main stage clear. Fade the music when ready.)

Scene 2

(The main stage becomes busy with visitors and Bethlehem townsfolk, some selling from baskets and others inspecting the wares. Four older shepherds enter and stand centrally, with four older sheep for sale.)

- Narrator 2** Everyone enjoyed market day in Bethlehem. The sights, sounds and smells were truly something to behold!
- Narrator 3** But today it was much busier than usual. Lots of visitors had suddenly arrived in the town, which all made for a very lively atmosphere!
- Narrator 4** And for the shepherds and sheep lucky enough to be at market, it was an exciting break from their quiet lives on the hillside.

Song **Market Day** *(tracks 4 & 12, lyrics p17)* *(Whole cast)*

- Older Shep. 2** *(shouting)* FINE SHEEP FOR SALE!
- Sheep** *(proudly)* Baaaa!
- Older Shep. 3** FED ON THE GREENEST GRASS!
- Sheep** *(licking their lips)* Mmmmm! Baaaa!
- Older Shep. 4** *(patting the sheep's backs)* EXCELLENT FOR WOOL.....
- Sheep** *(proudly again)* Baaaa!
- Older Shep. 5** *(behind hand so the sheep don't hear)* OR FOR THE POT!
- Sheep** *(they do hear!!)* Baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!
- (A local woman examines a sheep, pats it a few times, hands over some coins to Shepherd 2, and leads the sheep off.)*
- Older Shep. 2** *(nodding at the woman in appreciation)* Thank you, Madam.
- (Joseph and Mary then enter with their donkey and stand by the shepherds.)*
- Older Shep. 3** Sir, Madam, perhaps I could interest you in a sheep?
- Joseph** I'm sorry, but what we need is a room for the night. My wife is expecting her baby very soon!
- Mary** Please, do you know of anywhere? Every place we've tried so far is full.

Narrator 1 Like most of the other visitors who had turned up in Bethlehem, this man and woman, whose names were Joseph and Mary, had travelled a long way.

Narrator 2 Exhausted from their journey, they had searched everywhere in town for somewhere to stay, but without any luck.

Narrator 3 With their baby on the way, time was running out.....

Song A Place To Stay *(tracks 5 & 13, lyrics p18)* *(Whole cast)*

Narrator 4 The shepherds suggested they look for a room in another part of town. So Joseph and Mary wearily led their donkey away in the direction the shepherds had pointed, hoping they'd find somewhere soon.

(Joseph and Mary exit wearily.)

Narrator 1 And as the evening closed in, the streets of Bethlehem became empty. The market sellers and locals headed home, and visitors went to their lodgings. The shepherds, along with the sheep they hadn't sold, returned to their hillside.

Narrator 2 It had been a busy and exciting day.....but for some it was going to be an even busier and more exciting night!

(As the backing track to the previous song is played again, all exit. Fade the music when ready for the next scene.)

Scene 3

(The two young lambs are grazing.)

Narrator 3 Back on the hillside, the young lambs had found a quiet, grassy spot to do some grazing, far away from the rest of the flock.

Lamb 1 *(with a mouthful of grass)* Better eat up quickly, before the old lot come and push us out of the way!

Lamb 2 *(looking up)* Look at the sky. I've never seen the stars shining so brightly!

Lamb 1 *(still feeding)* Never mind what's going on up there, it's what's here on the ground that I'm interested in!

Lamb 2 But it's wonderful! Just stop eating for one moment and look!

(Lamb 1 stops grazing and they both stare in wonder at the sky. The Stars enter, and spread around the stage. The large star stands centrally.)

Narrator 4 It certainly was the most wonderful sky imaginable with every star twinkling like a precious jewel. But there amongst them, shining twice as brightly as all the rest, was a star they had never seen before.

Narrator 1 As they watched, it seemed to move across the sky and settle over Bethlehem, bathing it in light. Looking down from on the hillside, the city had never appeared so beautiful....or so magical!

Song/Dance **A Marvellous, Magical Sky** *(tracks 6 & 14, lyrics p19)* *(Stars, supported by whole cast)*

(During the instrumental section, the stars perform a dance. As the song finishes, the Stars exit, leaving the lambs alone on stage.)

Narrator 2 Now, at the shepherds’ camp, all was not well. They had counted the sheep before settling down for the night and realised that two of the lambs were missing.

Narrator 3 Because the older shepherds didn’t want to leave their places by the warm fire, they sent Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli out into the night to look for the lambs.

(Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli enter and sit by the lambs.)

Daniel *(patting a lamb)* Here you are! We’ve spent ages looking for you.

Naomi You wandered a long way from the flock.

Rachel I can see why – it’s lovely up here! Just look at the sky!

(They all look up in wonder.)

Eli *(whispering)* I just know something special will happen tonight.....

Narrator 4 Then, without warning, a host of God’s angels appeared in front of these four young shepherds, their songs of praise filling the night sky.

Narrator 1 The angels had gentle faces and such sweet, heavenly voices, but still Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli were afraid.

Narrator 2 They fell to their knees, holding the lambs close. Then the angels spoke to them....

Song Don't Be Afraid *(tracks 7 & 15, lyrics p20)* *(Angels, supported by whole cast)*

Narrator 3 The young shepherds took their lambs and hurried down the hillside. As the angels had told them to, they would look for a stable lit by a star, and inside kneel before a special baby who lay in a manger.

(As the backing track to the previous song is played again, all exit. Fade the music when ready for the next scene.)

Scene 4

(The main stage now represents the nativity stable. Mary sits by the manger, Joseph standing at her shoulder. The stable animals watch from one side. Soft music plays through this scene (track 16) – fade this before the next song.)

Narrator 4 After much searching, Mary and Joseph had found a place to stay. A kind innkeeper had taken pity on them and offered them his stable, which was clean and had a manger of fresh hay.

Narrator 1 And as the magical new star shone down on them and the stable animals stood quietly by, Mary had her baby boy. She wrapped Him up gently and laid Him down to sleep in the manger.

Narrator 2 She had been told many months before, by an angel called Gabriel, that the baby she was going to have was God's son, whom she must call Jesus. He would grow up to do wonderful things, and bring joy and peace to the world.

(The four young shepherds and the two lambs cautiously approach.)

Narrator 3 And into this simple, lowly stable, came the four simple, lowly shepherds. As Mary smiled at them, Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli quietly approached the manger. They knelt before Jesus, presented Him with a gift of the two lambs and gave thanks to God.

Narrator 4 This was that special 'something' they had waited so long for. They knew they were part of a wonderful night that would be remembered forever.

(The three Wise Men enter and approach the manger.)

Narrator 1 And what made it even more wonderful was the arrival of three graceful and elegant men, who'd travelled many, many miles just to find the baby.

Narrator 2 Some months before, these three wise men from eastern lands had seen the new star in the sky. They had been waiting a long time for it to appear, and knew it was a sign that a new king had been born.

Narrator 3 They had followed as it guided them to Bethlehem and to this baby in the manger. They each knelt before Jesus and gave Him a precious gift

Wise Man 1 I bring gold for a king.

Wise Man 2 I bring frankincense for the son of God.

Wise Man 3 And I bring myrrh for His life that will be given to save us all.

Song **God's Gift** *(tracks 8 & 17, lyrics p21)* *(Whole cast)*

(As the backing track to the previous song is played again, the Nativity tableau characters exit and the older shepherds and sheep take centre stage again. Fade the music when ready.)

Scene 5

Narrator 4 Back on the hillside, the older shepherds were still waiting for the four youngsters to return with the missing lambs.

Older Shep. 1 Where are they? They should be back with those lambs by now. They'll be lying around day-dreaming, I'll bet!

(Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli enter.)

Narrator 1 As Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli arrived back at the camp, they were greeted with angry questions.

(The older shepherds stand up, shouting questions at them – ‘Where have you been?’ ‘Where are those lambs?’ etc. However, one by one they fall silent.)

Narrator 2 But as the young shepherds approached, the older ones noticed there was something different about them. They walked taller, with a new-found confidence and seemed to shine with joy.

Narrator 3 Without thinking, the older shepherds stood back, inviting them to sit in the seats closest to the fire! They brought them bread and water, then gathered round to listen to them speak.

(Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli sit in pride of place and are handed food and drink. The other shepherds kneel around them.)

Narrator 4 Eyes wide, they listened as the events of that night were told to them; of how angels had visited their friends and sent them to the stable and to the manger where the new baby king lay.

Narrator 1 Of how these youngsters from 'the bottom of the heap' had rubbed shoulders with three fine, rich men from afar, who had also come to visit Him.

Narrator 2 And of how they had knelt by Jesus and worshipped Him and so became an important part of the most wonderful story ever told.

(The older shepherds then huddle together, whispering.)

Narrator 4 Daniel, Naomi, Rachel and Eli had at last made their mark, which meant some pretty big changes to that 'pecking order'! Never again would they be made to sit away from the fire on cold nights, or be made to feel less worthy than anyone else. And best of all.....

Older Shep. 2 *(To the 4 youngsters)* We've decided; it's your turn to take the sheep to market next week....only if you want to of course.

Older Shep. 3 So.....do you want to?

D, N, R & E Do we want to? *(punching the air)* YOU BETCHA!

Song Baa...Baa...Bethlehem *(tracks 1 & 9, lyrics p14)*
(Whole cast)

THE END