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PERFORMANCE LICENCE APPLICATION FORM

For any performance of any part of ‘Stable Boy’ 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
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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:

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or

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Please ensure they receive their dues.**



INTRODUCTION

In the opening song (***All Work, No Play***), we meet James, who longs to escape his dull life tending to the animals in the stable behind an inn. The innkeeper, his wife and the maid only add to James’s woes, criticizing his work and calling him a ‘lazy good-for-nothing’! Though fed-up with their harsh words, James finds comfort in his dream of one day becoming a fisherman, like those who visit the inn after a long but thrilling day aboard their boats on the Sea of Galilee (***song – A Fisherman’s Life***).

One morning James is told by the excited innkeeper that he needs to double his efforts around the stable, as Bethlehem is full of visitors all looking for a place to stay and to rest their donkeys after their long journeys (***song – Knock! Knock! Knock!***). James has to forget his day-dreaming for a while, and concentrate on seeing to all the four-legged arrivals (***song – Donkey Work***)!

As James sleeps soundly, exhausted from his busiest day ever, the stable animals notice that the night sky seems far brighter than usual. They realise that, as the stars dance, it must be a sign that something wonderful is about to happen (***song – Song Of The Stars***). As the largest star settles overhead, the innkeeper ushers in a woman (who is soon to have a baby) and a man. He explains that he can only offer them the stable, as the inn is full. He roughly wakes up James, telling him to tend to the couple’s donkey. The woman and man speak kindly to James, and he knows they must be very special people indeed. As a host of angels watches over the scene, James takes the donkey and leaves the couple to have their baby in peace (***song – Jesus Is Born***).

And the visitors just keep coming! First, some shepherds arrive with a lamb, much to the annoyance of the maid, who instructs James to stop the animal chewing her washing! Next come three royal visitors on camels (to which James must tend), with gifts for the baby. Soon the stable is full to bursting, as everyone gathers round the manger on which the baby is laid, and gives thanks for his birth (***song – Kneel At The Manger***). When James is invited by the woman to come closer and see the baby, he is filled with a with a feeling of hope, believing his life can change for the better and that great things lie ahead for him.

We learn, as a postscript from the narrators, that James’s dreams of becoming a fisherman do indeed come true. One day he is greeted from his fishing boat by a gentle young man, whose eyes James recognises as those of the baby he met in the stable many years before. The man invites James to join Him, leading him on the biggest adventure of his life! (***song – Dreams Can Come True***).

CHARACTERS

(Speaking parts in order of appearance)

Narrator/s – *this part could be divided between as many children as you’d like.*

Innkeeper

Innkeeper’s Wife

Maid

James

Fisherman

4 Visitors

A Horse

A Cow

A Sheep

A Goat

2 Chickens

Joseph

Mary

3 Wise Men

(Ensemble Characters – for featured songs and choreography)

Fishermen

Visitors

Donkeys

Stars

Angels

Shepherds

3 Camels

Scene 1

*(As the **Intro music** (‘All Work-No Play’ backing) plays (track 9) the cast members take their seats – fade the music when ready. The main stage is set up to show a stable, with bales of straw (if possible) and empty pens – see staging suggestions. A manger full of hay and a water trough stand in front of the pens. A line of washing hangs across one corner of the stage. James, the stable boy, sits on a bale, holding a pitch fork and/or a broom. He looks glum!)*

Narrator James was a stable boy. He looked after the animals that lived in a small stable, in a small yard, behind a small inn, in the small town of Bethlehem. His days were spent grooming the horse, milking the cow, collecting eggs from the chickens and stopping the goat and the sheep eating the washing on the line! He had to keep the trough full of water and the manger full of hay. But the worst job of all was cleaning up all the.....well, you-know-what!

(The animals enter; a cow, a horse, two chickens, a sheep and a goat – see staging suggestions/costumes. James stands centre-stage for the opening song, with the animals around him. During verse 2 James uses the pitchfork/broom to clear up.)

Song 1 – All Work - No Play *(tracks 1 & 10, lyrics p12)* *(James and animals, supported by the whole cast)*

(As the song ends, the animals go to the back of the stage and into the pens. James sits back down on the bale, exhausted.)

Narrator And if James ever stopped to catch his breath, there was always someone telling him to work harder.....like the innkeeper.

(The innkeeper enters, trailing a finger along the surfaces of the trough and manger, and inspecting it for dust. He stands over James wagging the finger!)

Innkeeper I don’t pay you to sit down all day! This stable is filthy! Get it cleaned properly, you lazy good-for-nothing!

(The innkeeper exits, and his wife enters. She wags her finger at James.)

Narrator Or the innkeeper’s wife.....

Wife I’ve got guests to feed, you know! Hurry up and bring me the milk and eggs, you lazy good-for-nothing!

(The wife exits and the maid enters. She inspects the washing on the line, then wags her finger at James.)

Narrator Or the maid.....

Maid Have you been letting that goat and sheep nibble my washing again? Control them, you lazy good-for-nothing?

(She exits and James stands up. He leans on his broom, day-dreaming)

James One day my life will change....one day soon.

Narrator For James had a dream. He longed to be a fisherman on the great Sea of Galilee, just like the ones who would visit the inn to sell their fish and enjoy a drink and a meal with their friends. James would listen to their stories, as they filled the inn with laughter and song.

(The Fishermen enter and gather on the floor in front of the stage.)

Fisherman Let's drink to the salty sea! May she always be generous in her gifts to us!

Song 2 – A Fisherman's Life (tracks 2 & 11, lyrics p13) *(Fishermen, supported by the whole cast)*

(The Fishermen exit and James lies on the bale, pulling a blanket over himself.)

James Their lives seem so exciting. I'd love to be a fisherman!

Narrator And with thoughts of sea spray and fishing boats filling his head, James settled down for the night. Little did he know that tomorrow he would have to work harder than he'd ever done in his life!

*(To **Intro Music** (track 12) the lights fade.)*

Scene 2

(The lights come up. The innkeeper, his wife and maid enter, and stand over the sleeping James.)

Narrator In the morning James was awoken by a very excited innkeeper, his wife and the maid.

Innkeeper Wake up, you lazy good-for-nothing! There's work to do. Lots of visitors have arrived in Bethlehem, and they all want somewhere to stay!

Wife And they all want feeding, so get that cow milked and collect those eggs, you lazy good-for-nothing!

Maid And they all need clean sheets on their beds, so bring in this washing, you lazy good-for-nothing!

Narrator Sure enough, many people had come to Bethlehem – more than ever before! They were people who had been born there, and had been told to return to sign a large register. Whatever their reason for coming, one thing was for sure, James was in for a busy day!

(Lots of visitors enter, in couples. Each couple has a donkey on a rope – see staging suggestions/costumes. During the song, the innkeeper, wife and maid fuss round the visitors.)

Song 3 – Knock! Knock! Knock! *(tracks 3 & 13, lyrics p14)* *(Visitors, supported by the whole cast)*

(When the song finishes, as they exit each visitor hands their donkey’s rope to James, who is soon surrounded by the animals!)

Visitor 1 There you are, young man. Take good care of her – she’s walked a long way. *(S/he exits.)*

Visitor 2 Make sure you give her lots of hay. She’s got a big appetite! *(S/he exits.)*

Visitor 3 Give this one a good rub-down. He’s a bit hot and sticky after his journey. *(S/he exits.)*

Visitor 4 He needs a bit of TLC, this one. He likes his ears tickling, and his belly patting. Oh, and if it’s not too much trouble, he likes a bedtime story last thing at night. *(S/he exits.)*

Narrator James may have had dreams of becoming a fisherman, but for now there would be no time for anything else but stable-work.....well, ‘donkey-work’!

(During the song James attends to the donkeys – grooming, patting, tickling and feeding them!)

Song 4 – Donkey-Work *(tracks 4 & 14, lyrics p15)* *(Donkeys, supported by the whole cast)*

(To Intro Music (track 15) James leads the donkeys off-stage, then he returns and again lies on the bale, pulling a blanket over himself. The lights fade.)

Scene 3

Narrator Later that night, as James slept soundly, the stable animals woke up. Something felt strange.....

*(As **Soft Music** plays (track 16) the animals come from their pens to the front of the stage, looking nervously around. Fade this music before the next song.)*

Horse There’s something in the air tonight! It’s giving me the shivers. Brrrrrrrr! *(tossing head and whinnying)*

Chicken 1 I’m a *(clucking)* bock...bock...bock...bit nervous. There’s definitely something ruffling my feathers!

Cow And look at the sky. The moooooooooon and stars seem so much brighter than usual!

Goat What does it me...ee...ee...an? *(bleating the word ‘mean’)*

Sheep I hope it’s nothing baaaaaaaaaaaaad!

Chicken 2 Of course it isn’t. A bock...bock...bock...beautiful sky like that is a sign that something wonderful is on its way.

(To the opening bars of the next song the Stars enter, and stand in formation in front of the stage. One star is noticeably bigger than the rest – see production suggestions/costumes. To the first 16 bars of the song a simple piece of choreography should be performed, with the larger star as the central figure. A further 16 bars in the middle of the song should contain a repetition of this sequence, or a new piece of choreography if you’d prefer.)

Song 5 – Song Of The Stars *(tracks 5 & 17, lyrics p16)* *(Stars supported by the whole cast)*

Narrator The animals looked on as the largest, brightest star settled right above their stable.

(As the rest of the stars exit, the largest star – the Star of Bethlehem – takes a prominent position on, or to the side of, the main stage.)

Narrator Just as he was enjoying a dream of bulging nets filled with silvery fish, James was again awoken by the innkeeper and his wife.

(The innkeeper and his wife enter, followed by Mary, Joseph and a donkey.)

Innkeeper *(To Mary and Joseph)* I’m sorry there’s no room inside, but this stable is...*(running finger along manger)*...quite clean.

Joseph Thank you so much. We didn’t know what to do. Everywhere in town is full, and my wife is going to have a baby very soon!

Wife *(shaking James)* Wake up you lazy good-for-nothing! We have more guests. See to their donkey, sort out that manger, then wait outside.

(The innkeeper and wife exit. James takes the donkey’s rope from Joseph, and begins fluffing up the hay in the manger.)

Mary What is your name, young man?

James James, but everyone just calls me ‘lazy good-for-nothing.’

Mary Well James, thank you for making this stable so comfortable and clean. It’s perfect.

Narrator And when that lady smiled at him, James felt warm and happy for the first time in a long while. He knew she had to be a very special lady, and that the baby inside her was special too. Quietly, he led the donkey away, leaving the couple to have their baby in peace.

(James exits with the donkey. Joseph brings the manger to the centre of the stage and Mary places the baby in it.)

Narrator As the stable animals looked on, the lady – whose name was Mary – had her baby. It was a boy, and she named Him Jesus. She wrapped Him up and laid Him in the manger. Then the glorious sound of angels singing filled the sky, as they thanked God for this new-born child.

(The Angels enter.)

Song 6 – Jesus Is Born *(tracks 6 & 18, lyrics p17)* *(Whole cast led by the Angels)*

(The Angels exit.)

Scene 4

Narrator And the visitors just kept coming! First it was a group of shepherds, who had been told by the angels that a new baby king had been born. They came to the stable to kneel before Jesus, bringing Him the gift of a lamb.

(The Maid leads on the shepherds, one of whom carries a lamb. James follows.)

Maid This way please. Quietly now. *(to James)* And you, you lazy-good-for-nothing, make sure that lamb doesn't eat my washing!

(The shepherds kneel by the manger and the Maid exits. To one side, James holds the lamb, away from the washing!)

Narrator And later on, three very royal-looking visitors arrived!

(The innkeeper leads on the 3 Wise Men, who in turn lead 3 camels on ropes!)

Innkeeper Here we are, gentlemen. The boy will see to your camels. *(to James)* Make sure those camels are well looked-after, you lazy good-for-nothing.

(The innkeeper exits. James takes the camels to one side, from where he watches the scene at the manger.)

Narrator These three men had followed the bright star which now shone above the stable. They knew it would lead them to the place where a new king was born, and they'd travelled a long, long way to kneel before Him with precious gifts.

Wise Man 1 I have brought gold.

Wise Man 2 I have brought frankincense.

Wise Man 3 I have brought myrrh.

Narrator And as they knelt at the manger, everyone gave thanks for this baby boy.

Song 7 – Kneel At The Manger *(tracks 7 & 19, lyrics p18)* *(Whole cast)*

Scene 5

(Soft Music plays (track 20) – fade this before the final song.)

Narrator James watched from the shadows. He didn't think it was right that he, a poor stable boy, should go near this special child. Then Mary spoke to him.

Mary James, don't be shy. Come and see the baby. Come and hold His hand.

James Who, me? Really?

Mary Yes, James. Really!

Narrator So James came to the manger, and knelt by the baby Jesus. When he held His hand it was the most wonderful feeling he'd ever had. He felt that he could be anything he wanted to be, and he knew at once that exciting things lay ahead.

James did grow up to become a fisherman, and it was everything he could have wished for. He loved being on the open water, casting his net and pulling in huge catches of fish. He didn't think life could get any better, then one evening a young man was waiting for him as he sailed his boat into shore after a long day's fishing. Straight away James recognised the man's eyes as those belonging to the baby whose hand he had held in that stable so many years ago. It was Jesus. "Leave your fishing nets," He said to James, "and come with me." Without thinking, James said, "Yes." He followed Jesus to begin the biggest adventure of his life, and became part of the most wondrous story ever told.

James So you see.....dreams can come true!

Song 8 – Dreams Can Come True *(tracks 8 & 21, lyrics p19)*
(Whole cast)

THE END



All Work - No Play!

Verse 1

(James) Here I am, a stable boy.
Not a life that I enjoy!

(All) It's a job, James, don't complain,
Even if it is a pain!

Chorus All work - no play!
Same things happening every day!
Early start and finish late –
Nothing much to celebrate!

Verse 2

(All) He grooms horses! He milks cows!
Fetches eggs from the hen-house!
He clears up their mess and smiles,
'Til he sees the next big piles!

Chorus All work - no play.....

Verse 3

(James) Fill the manger, fill the troughs –
No real thanks, just grunts and coughs!

(All) Animals don't say a lot,
Just be pleased with what you've got!

Chorus All work - no play.....

Repeat chorus

A Fisherman’s Life

Verse 1

(All) When we were little we wanted to be
Earning our living by fishing the sea.
We’re next to Galilee, as you all know,
Which means that we never have too far to go!

Chorus Oh, a fisherman’s life, a fisherman’s life
Is all that we want, you and me!
Just give us a boat to keep us afloat
And a net to catch fish for our tea!

Verse 2

(Fisherman 1) I caught a fish which was that big, it’s true!
(Fisherman 2) I caught one bigger, that’s better than you!
(Fisherman 3) Mine was the biggest, I’m sure you’d all say!
(Fisherman 4) I caught a tiddler, but he got away!

Chorus Oh, a fisherman’s life.....

Verse 3

(Fisherman 5) Hauling the nets gives you muscles like mine!
(All) You must be tough when you work on the brine!
We love fresh air and excitement and fun
But best is the friendship, when all’s said and done!

Chorus Oh, a fisherman’s life.....

Repeat chorus

Knock! Knock! Knock!

Verse 1 Knock! Knock! Knock! Rat-a-tat-tat!
Have you room inside?
Knock! Knock! Knock! Rat-a-tat-tat!
We’ve come from far and wide.
And what is more, we’re saddle-sore
From such a bumpy ride!
So....Knock! Knock! Knock! Rat-a-tat-tat!
Have you room inside?

Verse 2 Knock! Knock! Knock! Rat-a-tat-tat!
Have you room to spare?
Knock! Knock! Knock! Rat-a-tat-tat!
We’re quite prepared to share.
We need a place to wash our face,
And change our underwear!
So....Knock! Knock! Rat-a-tat-tat!
Have you room to spare?

Verse 3 Knock! Knock! Knock! Rat-a-tat-tat!
Have you room to rent?
Knock! Knock! Knock! Rat-a-tat-tat!
We’ve money to be spent.
You see, unless someone says ‘Yes’
We’ll have to pitch a tent!
So....Knock! Knock! Rat-a-tat-tat!
Have you room to rent?

So....Knock! Knock! Rat-a-tat-tat!
Have you room to rent?

So....Knock! Knock! Rat-a-tat-tat!
Have you room to rent?

Donkey-Work

Verse 1

(All) Fetching this and fetching that,
Carry a rider, thin or fat!
Doing donkey-work all day,
Happily we just bray away....

Chorus Ee-aw! Ee-aw!
And let's 'ee-aw' some more!
That's what you'll hear if you are near,
Ee-aw! Ee-aw! Ee-aw!

Verse 2

(Donkeys 1 & 2) All we need is hay to eat,
(Donkeys 3 & 4) Water to drink – a carrot treat!
(All) Doing donkey-work all day,
Happily we just bray away....

Chorus Ee-aw! Ee-aw.....

Verse 3

(All) Being grumpy's not our style -
Tickle our chins to make us smile!
Doing donkey-work all day,
Happily we just bray away....

Chorus Ee-aw! Ee-aw.....

Repeat chorus

Song Of The Stars

Instrumental intro - *during which the stars dance*

Verse 1

(All) There's something in the air,
 Sending shivers down our spine.
 The stars are so much brighter,
 Just look how they all shine!

Chorus Sleep well, the world below.
 Do not worry, have no fear.
 The story of this night
 Will soon become quite clear!

Verse 2

(Stars) We twinkle in the dark,
 Lighting up the jet-black sky.
 We shine with joy - we sparkle!
 But Earth does not know why!

Chorus Sleep well.....

Instrumental - *during which the stars dance again*

Verse 3

(All) There's something in the air,
 Sending shivers down our spine.
 The stars are so much brighter,
 Just look how they all shine!

Chorus Sleep well.....

Repeat chorus

Jesus Is Born

Verse 1

(Angels)

Praise to the Lord – let everyone sing!
Join with us now and let the skies ring!
Guided this night by one shining star,
Praise to the Lord - sing, 'Halleluiah!'

Chorus

Jesus, Jesus is born! Jesus, Jesus is born!
Jesus is born to be King over all the Earth!

Verse 2

(All)

Praise to the Lord – let everyone shout!
Lift up your hearts and spread joy about!
Guided this night by one shining star,
Praise to the Lord – sing, 'Halleluiah!'

Chorus

Jesus, Jesus is born....

Verse 3

(All)

Praise to the Lord – be glad and rejoice!
Worshipping Jesus all with one voice!
Guided this night by one shining star,
Praise to the Lord – sing, 'Halleluiah!'

Chorus

Jesus, Jesus is born....

Kneel At The Manger

Verse 1

(Shepherds) We’ve left our sheep on the hillside tonight,
Hurrying here to see this wondrous sight!
Bringing a lamb as our gift to the child,
Peacefully sleeping, so meek and so mild.

Chorus

(All) Kneel at the manger and worship the King,
Lay before Jesus the presents we bring.
Give praise to God and let’s all, for our part,
Show Him our love and offer our heart!

Verse 2

(Kings) Riding our camels, we’ve come from afar!
Led here to Bethlehem by a bright star.
(King 1) Our gifts are gold....
(King 2) From the woods I have myrrh.
(King 3) I have brought frankincense, fragrant and pure!

Chorus

(All) Kneel at the manger.....

Verse 3

(Mary & Joseph) Welcome to everyone, we have to say,
We’re pleased to see you on this holy day.
We thank the Lord for the gift of our boy,
Bringing such happiness, giving such joy!

Chorus

(All) Kneel at the manger.....

Repeat

Give praise to God and let’s all, for our part,
Show Him our love and offer our heart!

Dreams Can Come True

Chorus Dreams can come true!
 You can do anything you want to do.
 When someone believes in you,
 Dreams can come true!

Verse 1 Well, now and then somebody comes along,
 Who turns your whole world upside-down.
 They make you see you can achieve
 What your heart desires!

Chorus Dreams can come true.....

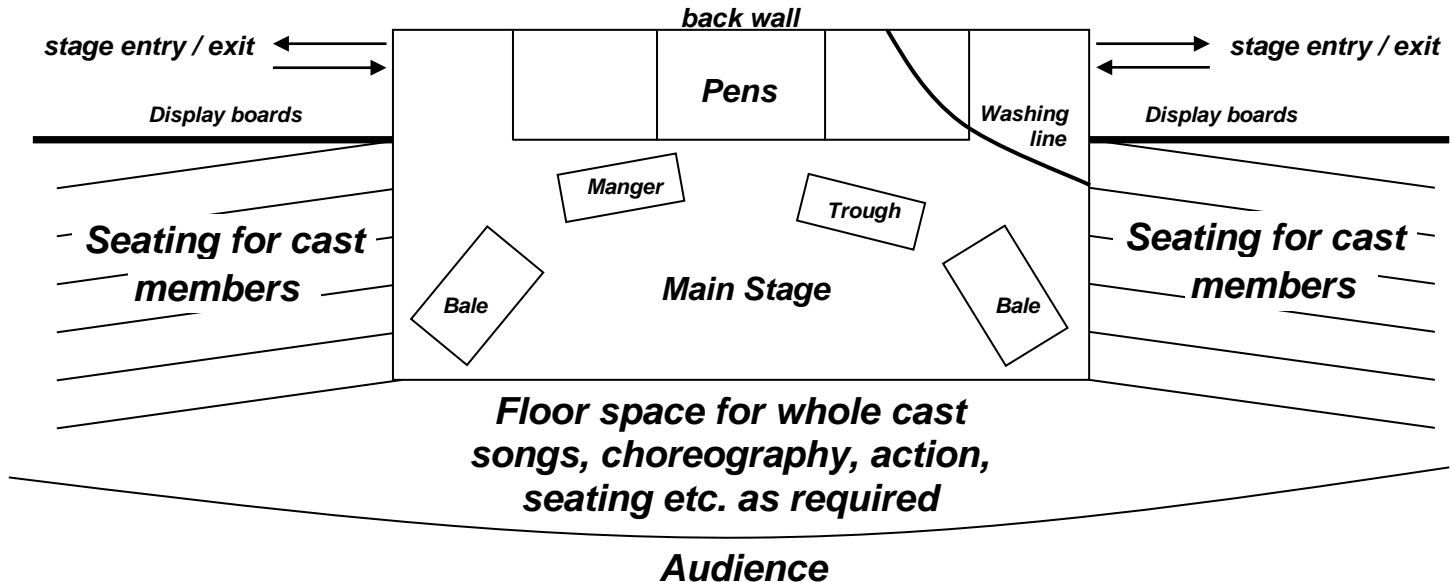
Verse 2 We all have days when clouds fill up the sky,
 It seems the sun will never shine.
 But now and then you find a friend
 Who helps you see the light!

Chorus Dreams can come true.....

Repeat chorus

STAGING AND PRODUCTION SUGGESTIONS

Stable Boy has been written to be adaptable to most school hall set-ups, whether you have a stage or not. Below is just one representation of a possible staging layout.



- **Scenery** – The back wall behind the main stage could display the wall and roof of a simple wooden stable, set against a starry night sky. Though not necessary, bales of straw could be placed either side of the stage (one of which James sleeps on) to add to the stable effect. Pens for the animals could be created at the back of the stage, using lengths of wood secured together in a simple fence formation, low enough for the animals to be able to step over. A short line of washing should span one corner of the stage, overlapping the pen in which the goat and sheep stand. The display boards either side of the stage could depict rolling hills, or buildings representative of biblical times.
- **Furniture** – Aside from the straw bales, all that is required is the manger and a box representing a water trough. A small table and a few stools could be brought on to the floor in front of the stage by the fishermen, to represent the inn during their song.
- **Props** – James will need a long-handled broom/yard brush or pitchfork. The wise men will need the traditional three gifts, a toy lamb is needed as a gift for from the shepherds, and the usual doll in a blanket will need to be adored in the manger! Cups or tankards for the fishermen to wave during their song would add to the jovial atmosphere created by the lyrics, as would some card cut-outs of differently sized fish. Skipping ropes will be required, out of which to

fashion tethers for the assorted donkeys and camels which make an appearance.

- **Costume** – Simply recycle those traditional nativity outfits to which we’re all accustomed, using tea-towels, white sheets, old curtains, tinsel etc! For the animals, appropriately-coloured leotards, leggings and tee-shirts topped off with some creative masks will be simple and effective. The stars could wear black, with silver foil and tinsel star-shaped head-dresses. James himself should wear a grubby, holey tunic with perhaps an apron over the top. The fishermen could wear cloth hats resembling sou’westers.
- **Use of Space** – The whole cast will probably want to be involved in the performance of most of the songs. A space on the floor in front of the main stage could be used to accommodate extra bodies. In this space, for some songs, the cast could perform dance routines or act out the lyrical content. A seating area for resting performers could be allocated to one side of the stage. This lets them enjoy the performance as part of the audience, allows easy movement on and off the stage, and of course eliminates the need for back-stage supervision.
- **Content** – You can personalise your performance by adding characters, and re-writing any parts of the script to make them more appropriate to your particular school. Different songs that the children know and enjoy could replace, or be added to those on the CD. Don’t feel restricted; make the show your own.
- **Audience seating** – The audience could be in one block facing the stage, or maybe in two blocks separated by an aisle wide enough for perhaps the entrance of some characters from the back, or to allow some of the drama and choreography to be performed on the floor.
- Our final suggestion, as always, is to have fun and enjoy your Christmas at school!