

# COPYRIGHT AND LICENSING

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  - Photocopy the script and score for the cast to learn lines, and musicians to play the songs.
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Tel: 01858 288081  
Email: [info@edgyproductions.com](mailto:info@edgyproductions.com)

## PERFORMANCE LICENCE APPLICATION FORM

For any performance of any part of ‘Stargazers’ 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:**

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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:** .....

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**Tel:** ..... **email:** .....

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

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(no admission charged and no tickets sold)

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

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



# INTRODUCTION

Stargazers is a lively nativity musical, focusing on the experiences of the three wise men and the part they play in the traditional story.

## Plot Summary

For many long years Balthazar, Melchior and Caspar, have been watching the night sky, studying the stars and waiting for them to reveal a sign of great importance. **(song – Stargazing)** Not knowing quite what this sign will be, or when they’ll see it, they have become rather impatient – after all, they are not as young as they used to be!

One night, however, far away in a land to the west, a young woman called Mary is visited by an angel. He tells her she will soon bear God a son – a son who will grow to be a saviour! **(song – The King Of All Kings)** Not long after, the three wise men suddenly see in the sky the sign they have been waiting for! **(song – A Brand New Star)** As the heavens come alive with the arrival of a new star, the wise men consult the scriptures and know they must follow it to where a new king will be born. **(song – Saddle Up - part 1)** Meanwhile, Mary and her husband-to-be, Joseph, must also leave their home town, and travel to Bethlehem to have their names included in a new register. **(song – Saddle Up - part 2)** Little do they all know that their paths are soon to meet!

As the star leads them westward, the wise men arrive at the palace of the cruel and selfish King Herod. He and his wife are, as usual, throwing a lavish knees-up for their many hangers-on! **(song – One Big Party)** The king and queen are shocked to hear that these visitors are seeking a new baby king, and worry how His birth might affect their extravagant lifestyle! Herod cunningly asks the wise men to find the baby then tell him of His whereabouts, so he too can ‘pay his respects’. He is, however, secretly planning to kill Him! In a dream the wise men are warned by angels not to return to tell Herod where the baby is, but to go straight home once they have found Him. **(song – Keep It A Secret)**

Mary and Joseph have now arrived in Bethlehem. Unable to find a proper room, they must make do with a stable in which to settle down for the night, and as the new star comes to rest overhead, Jesus is born. **(song – Heaven On Earth)** Shepherds soon come to visit, bringing the gift of a lamb and worshipping by the manger in which He is lying. Then, just as He opens His eyes, Balthazar, Melchior and Caspar, guided by the star, arrive to greet the new king! They solemnly present the gifts they have brought, explaining the significance of each one. **(song – Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh)**

Heeding the words of the angels, the wise men head straight home. Although glad to be back, they reflect on the excitement of their journey following the star, and wonder what further adventures lie ahead. But until then, they relax on their sumptuous cushions and carry on doing what they do best.....stargazing! **(song – Stargazing reprise)**

# ***CHARACTERS***

(Speaking parts in order of appearance)

## **3 Narrators**

**Balthazar**

**Melchior**

**Caspar**

**Gabriel**

**Mary**

**Joseph**

**Herod**

**Herod's Wife**

## **2 Party Guests**

## **2 Shepherds**

(Ensemble Characters – for featured songs and choreography)

## **3 Servants**

**Angels**

**Stars**

## **3 Camels**

**Donkey**

**Party Guests**

**Shepherds**

## **Scene 1**

*(As the backing track to the opening song plays (track 10) the cast take their seats. The main stage is strewn with exotic cushions and silks. The three wise men, Balthazar, Melchior (these two looking impatient) and Caspar, lounge around. They occasionally glance up at the sky through elaborate hand-held telescopes, rubbing their sore necks. Three servants stand in attendance. On a separate smaller stage to one side is a stable, typical of the usual school nativity set-up – see staging suggestions/ scenery. Three narrators stand on the other side of the main stage – they read their lines. Fade the music when ready.)*

- Narrator 1** Long ago, far away in eastern lands, there lived three wise men; Balthazar, Melchior and Caspar.
- Narrator 2** Their time was spent in comfortable surroundings, reading the scriptures and looking at the patterns the stars made in the night sky.
- Narrator 3** They had been waiting many years for these stars to show them a sign – a sign that something special was about to happen. But as time went on, two of them had grown bored and impatient.
- Balthazar** *(looking up through his telescope, rubbing his neck)* Will we ever see anything up there? This can't go on, Melchior! We're no spring chickens.....and my neck's sore!
- Melchior** I know, Balthazar. I was a young man when we started watching the stars. Now I have a grey beard!
- Caspar** Oh, it's not so bad. We lie around on cushions just stargazing, with servants bringing us anything we desire. It's a fine way to pass the time!

## **Song 1 – Stargazing** *(track 10, lyrics p13)* *(Wise men, supported by whole cast)*

*(As the song finishes, the servants collect up the cushions and exit after the wise men. The main stage is clear.)*

- Narrator 1** So, after another evening when nothing exciting had happened, these three old men went to bed.
- Narrator 2** They didn't know it yet, but before too long, exciting things **would** happen! For far away, in a town called Nazareth, a young woman called Mary had a visitor.

*(Mary enters and sits on a stool centre-stage. Gabriel then enters and stands at her side.)*

**Narrator 3** The news this visitor brought her would be the start of a wonderful journey, for her and the three wise men!

**Gabriel** Don't be afraid, Mary. I am Gabriel, an angel sent by God, with a very important message for you.

**Mary** But what does God want with me? I'm just a simple girl.

**Gabriel** He has chosen you above all others, to do something very special. Listen.....

*(The other Angels enter/stand, to join Gabriel in the next song.)*

## **Song 2 – The King Of All Kings** (track 11, lyrics p14) *(Angels, supported by the whole cast)*

*(The backing track is played again as Mary and the angels exit.)*

## **Scene 2**

*(The servants enter and replace the cushions. The three wise men then enter and lie on them, asleep. The servants then exit. Fade the music when ready.)*

**Narrator 1** Now, some months later, in the middle of a still, warm night, Balthazar suddenly woke up. He didn't know why, but he felt the need to look at the night sky.

*(Balthazar awakes, sits up and rubs his eyes. He picks up his telescope and looks to the skies.)*

**Narrator 2** And what he saw took his breath away! He excitedly woke Melchior and Caspar.

**Balthazar** Wake up! Wake up! It's happened! It's what we've been waiting for!

**Melchior** *(sitting up abruptly)* What? It's really happened? Where's my telescope?

*(As Melchior fumbles for his telescope, Caspar wakes up.)*

**Caspar** Oh, what is it? I was dreaming about eating a lovely big meal, and they were just about to serve pudding. This better be worth it!

**Balthazar** Look up there, Caspar! It’s happened! There’s a brand new star in the sky!

*(Caspar looks through his telescope, as the stars assemble at the front of the stage – see staging suggestions/costumes. One star is larger and differently costumed, and stands centrally.)*

### **Song 3 – A Brand New Star** (track 12, lyrics p15) *(Whole cast led by the Stars)*

*(As the song finishes the ‘smaller’ stars exit. The larger star remains. One of the servants hands Melchior a scroll. He opens it and the wise men look at it.)*

**Narrator 3** The wise men looked at the old scriptures, trying to find the meaning of a new star in the sky.

**Melchior** Yes! Here it is! *(reading)* ‘A new light in the heavens foretells of a new light on Earth, a saviour....a new-born king!’

**Narrator 1** And as the three of them gazed in wonder at the star, it began to move slowly across the sky, heading towards the west.

**Narrator 2** They knew immediately that they must follow, certain that it would lead them to where this new king would be born.

**Balthazar** *(to the servants)* Saddle-up the camels! We’re leaving right away!

**Caspar** But I was hoping for a snack first. Do we have to leave now?

**Balthazar  
& Melchior** Yes, Caspar! Right away!

*(As the next song starts the servants bring on three camels, and proceed to hang bags off them – see staging suggestions/costumes/props.)*

**Song 4 – Saddle-Up (part 1)** (track 13, lyrics p16)  
(Wise men, camels and servants, supported by the whole cast)

*(After one verse and chorus there is a long instrumental section in the song, during which the following narration and action happens – practice to get the timing right! After the narration the song will continue.)*

**Narrator 3** With their eyes firmly fixed on the moving star, the three wise men began their journey, uncertain of what lay ahead.

*(The wise men, camels, servants (carrying the cushions), and star all exit. Mary enters, followed by Joseph. They stand in front of the stage.)*

**Narrator 1** Meanwhile, back in Nazareth, the time for Mary to have her baby was close. However, her new husband Joseph had something important to tell her.

**Joseph** Mary, we must travel to Bethlehem, where I was born. Our names need to be added to a new register.

**Mary** But Joseph, the baby will be born any day now.

**Joseph** I’m sorry Mary, we must leave right away.

**Song 4 continued Saddle-Up (part 2)**  
(Whole cast)

*(As this narration finishes, Joseph fetches a donkey over which he hangs bags. During the repeated chorus Mary and Joseph, leading the donkey, slowly walk along the front of the stage, towards the ‘stable stage’, though they don’t enter it yet. Also during this final chorus the Star enters, leading the wise men and camels across the stage, all exiting at the other side. All should be clear of the stage when the song finishes. The backing track is played again as the stage is made ready for the next scene. Fade the music when ready.)*

**Scene 3**

*(An ornate throne stands centre stage, and a banqueting table to one side.)*

**Narrator 2** The wise men continued on their long journey, following the star by night, and resting by day. It eventually led them to the city of Jerusalem, and to the grand palace of Herod the king.



*(Herod enters and sits ‘slobbishly’ on the throne. His wife drapes herself on the arm, and an ensemble of party guests gathers around. They all drink from goblets and pick at the food on the table.)*

**Narrator 3** Herod was a cruel and selfish man, who wasted his wealth on drinking and feasting.....much to the delight of those around him.

**Herod’s Wife** *(adoringly)* What a generous king you are, my dear husband. You always look after your guests!

**Herod** Well, you know me – I do like a good party!

**Song 5 – One Big Party!** *(track 14, lyrics p17)*  
*(Herod and guests, supported by the whole cast)*

*(As the song finishes, Herod and his wife collapse exhausted on the throne, while the guests sit down to catch their breath.)*

**Party Guest 1** Phew! I’m having a great time!

**Party Guest 2** Oh yes! Nobody throws a party like King Herod!

**Narrator 1** Now, the wise men thought such a palace would be a good place to find out about a new king. So they asked to speak to Herod, and were taken to him.

*(The wise men enter and bow before the king. Caspar notices the banquet.)*

**Caspar** I’m glad we stopped off here! Look at all this food!

**Narrator 2** They politely told the king who they were, and where they came from. Herod, however, was rude to them.

**Herod** Stargazers, eh? Such a waste of time. As if the stars can tell you anything interesting.

**Narrator 3** But everyone soon paid attention when they announced they were here to find a new baby king.

**Herod’s Wife** *(worried)* A **new** king, here in these lands? *(to Herod)* That would mean no more parties! What would we do?

**Narrator 1** But Herod was clever, as well as cruel. He would find out where this baby was.....and kill him!

**Herod** *(slyly)* When you have found this king, come back here and tell me where he is so I too can kneel before him. Now, Stargazers, a drink before you leave?

**Caspar** Oh yes please, we’d love.....

**Balthazar** *(interrupting)* I’m afraid not your Majesty. We must be on our way.

*(All exit. The stage is cleared. The wise men re-enter with camels and lie down.)*

**Narrator 2** As they slept, the wise men were visited in their dreams by angels, who warned them not to return to Herod, but to go straight home once they had seen the baby.

*(As the wise men sleep, the angels enter.)*

## **Song 6 – Keep It A Secret!** *(track 15, lyrics p18)* *(Whole cast led by the Angels)*

*(As the song finishes the angels exit and the wise men wake up. They stand and look to the sky. The star enters and moves along the front of the stage.)*

**Narrator 3** The wise men knew they had to press on. The star seemed to be travelling faster now, as if it were telling them they needed to hurry!

*(As the backing track is played again, the star exits and the wise men follow, leading their camels. Mary and Joseph take their positions in the stable. Fade the music when ready.)*

## **Scene 4**

*(As **Soft music** plays (track 16) the star re-enters and positions itself near the stable. Alternatively, if possible, an identically-shaped star to the one on the costume could be placed above the stable where it will remain – see staging suggestions/ scenery. The soft music will continue under the following narration – fade it before the next song.)*

**Narrator 1** The reason why the wise men had to hurry was because Mary and Joseph had arrived in Bethlehem. But even though Mary was about to have her baby, they hadn’t been able to find a room for the night.

**Narrator 2** The town was so full of visitors, that the only place to stay was a stable behind an inn. Still, it was clean and it was quiet. And as the bright new star came to rest over the roof of that stable, Mary had her baby.

**Narrator 3** She called Him Jesus, just as the angel had told her to. She wrapped Him up and laid Him down in a manger filled with hay, then thanked God for the wonderful gift He had given to her, and to the world.

## **Song 7 – Heaven On Earth** *(track 17, lyrics p19)* *(Whole cast)*

**Narrator 1** Before too long, visitors began arriving at the stable. First came a group of shepherds, who had been looking after their sheep in the hills overlooking Bethlehem.

**Narrator 2** The angels had appeared to these shepherds, telling them to come to the stable over which a new star shone. They must kneel at the manger where the new baby king lay, and worship him.

*(The angels enter and form a ‘choir’ on the main stage. The shepherds then enter main stage. Two of them approach the manger, one carrying a lamb.)*

**Shepherd 1** We have come to worship the new king

**Shepherd 2** And we have brought him the gift of a lamb.

*(The two shepherds then re-join the others on the main stage. All the shepherds sit. **Soft music** begins again (track 18) - to be faded before the next song.)*

**Narrator 3** And then, just as the baby Jesus woke up, Balthazar, Melchior and Caspar arrived. Their long journey, like that of the star which had led them, had finally ended in this simple yet beautiful place.

*(The wise men enter, leaving their camels at the edge of the main stage. Carrying their gifts they approach the manger.)*

**Narrator 1** Their eyes full of wonder, each of them stepped forward and gave Jesus their special gifts – gold, frankincense and myrrh.

**Song 8 – Gold, Frankincense & Myrrh** (track 19, lyrics p20)  
(Whole cast led by the wise men)

**Narrator 2** Then, without making a sound, Balthazar, Melchior and Caspar, the three stargazers from afar, bowed once more to the baby in the manger, turned and left the stable.

**Narrator 3** Just as the angels had instructed, they did not return to King Herod, but set off on the long journey straight back to where they had come from.

**Narrator 1** They had done what they had set out to do; they had found the place where this special baby king was born, and welcomed him into the world with special gifts. Now, at last, it was time to go home.

*(The angels, the shepherds, the stars, the party guests, Herod and his wife, the donkey and camels all sit in front of the main stage. The three servants enter with cushions and place them as in scene 1, then stand in attendance as the three wise men enter and sit down centrally.)*

**Balthazar** (relaxing) At last, we’re back where we belong.

**Caspar** I’ve missed my little comforts – especially my food!

**Melchior** It is good to be home, I agree, *(taking out his telescope and looking skywards)* but I can’t help wondering what other adventures are on the horizon.....

**Narrator 2** And as the night sky twinkled once more with the promise of wonderful things to come, the three old men lay back on their cushions, doing what they did best.....stargazing!

**Song 9 – Stargazing (reprise)** (track 20, lyrics p21)  
(Whole cast)

# THE END



## **Stargazing**

### **Verse 1**

(All) Looking at the heavens, there's such a lot to see!  
(Caspar) It's a night-time hobby, for me...  
(Melchior) And me...  
(Balthazar) And me!  
(All) Many long years have been spent at this task.  
Something is coming, but **what**? You may well ask!

**Chorus** Stargazing, stargazing,  
Gazing at the starry, starry sky.  
Stargazing, stargazing,  
Gazing at the starry sky and.....  
Waiting for a sign!

### **Verse 2**

(All) Looking at the heavens, the stars are out tonight,  
Twinkling in the darkness, spreading silver light.  
Secrets they keep from the world down below.  
What are they hiding from us? We'd like to know.

**Chorus** Stargazing, stargazing.....

### **Verse 3**

(All) Looking at the heavens, the answers must be there.  
Why does nothing happen, however long we stare?  
Watching and waiting – our patience is thin!  
Something is coming but when will it begin?

**Chorus** Stargazing, stargazing.....

**Repeat Chorus** Stargazing, stargazing.....

## **The King Of All Kings**

### **Verse 1**

*(Gabriel)* You really must be wondering  
What I’m doing here.  
I come to you with joyful news –  
There’s nothing to fear.  
You’ll have a baby,  
You’ll bear God a son,  
And Jesus is the name  
You will call this holy one.

### **Chorus**

*(All)* Jesus will be *(clap, clap)* the light of the world! *(clap, clap)*  
He will be *(clap, clap)* the King of all Kings! *(clap, clap)*  
Jesus will be *(clap, clap)* the light of the world! *(clap, clap)*  
He will be... *(clap, clap, clap, clap)*  
The King of all Kings! *(clap, clap, clap, clap, clap)*

### **Verse 2**

*(All)* So, Mary you will serve the Lord.  
He has shown the way.  
And everything will come to pass  
As the angels say.  
You’ll have a baby,  
You’ll bear God a son,  
And Jesus is the name  
You will call this holy one.

**Chorus** Jesus will be.....

**Repeat Chorus** Jesus will be.....

**Repeat Chorus** Jesus will be.....

## **A Brand New Star**

**Verse 1** Look at what’s appeared,  
Like a spotlight in the sky!  
Hovering high, we’d love to know why,  
As it passes by.  
We’ve been waiting years,  
Then it suddenly arrives!  
Bigger than any other up there,  
It’s a fantastic surprise!

**Chorus** There’s a brand new star in the sky tonight,  
It’s a shining sign that the future’s bright.  
A brand new star that will light the way  
To a brand new dawn of a brand new day.

**Verse 2** Look at what’s appeared,  
How could anyone have guessed?  
We’re so impressed, it’s simply the best,  
Better than the rest!  
Sparkling, silver beams –  
They just take your breath away.  
Beautiful and spectacular too,  
Such an amazing display!

**Chorus** There’s a brand new star.....

**Instrumental**

**Chorus** There’s a brand new star.....

## **Saddle-Up**

**Verse 1**     *(All sing to the kings)*  
This is it! The time has come  
To follow that bright star!  
You will go the way it's leading,  
Whether near or far!  
Heading westwards, riding through the night  
And through the day.  
Are those camels ready?  
You will soon be on your way!

**Chorus**     Saddle-up, saddle up!  
The camels are waiting outside!  
Saddle up, saddle up!  
Get yourselves ready to ride!  
Get yourselves ready to ride!

***(Instrumental during which narration and action takes place –  
see page 8. The singing then continues.)***

**Verse 2**     *(All sing to Mary and Joseph)*  
This is it! The time has come  
To register your name.  
And the governor says that  
Everyone must do the same.  
So you're off to Bethlehem  
And you should go today.  
Is that donkey ready?  
You will soon be on your way!

**Chorus**     Saddle-up, saddle up!  
A donkey is waiting outside!  
Saddle up, saddle up!  
Get yourselves ready to ride!  
Get yourselves ready to ride!  
Get yourselves ready to ride!



## **One Big Party**

**Verse 1**    He is the King,  
              He eats and drinks all day!  
              And not much else is done round here  
              Because that is his way!

**Chorus**    They call him Herod  
              And he doesn’t care how much he spends.  
              Life is one big party  
              And it never, ever ends!

**Verse 2**    He is the King  
              His people are so poor,  
              Whilst he enjoys a life of comfort,  
              Taking more and more!

**Chorus**    They call him Herod.....

**Instrumental**    *(all dance energetically!)*

**Verse 3**    He is the King  
              And what *he* thinks is right!  
*(Herod)*        That means I’ll do just what I want!  
*(Herod’s wife)* And party every night!

**Chorus**    They call him Herod  
              And he doesn’t care how much he spends.  
              Life is one big party  
              And it never, ever ends!  
              Life is one big PARTY and it never, ever ends!  
              Life is one big PARTY and it never, ever ends!  
              YEAH!

## **Keep It A Secret!**

**Verse 1**    When you leave tomorrow morning,  
                 Make sure you remember one thing!  
                 Think about this, it’s a warning,  
                 As you try to find the new King.....

**Chorus**     Don’t tell Herod - *sh!* Don’t tell Herod - *sh!*  
                 Don’t tell Herod where you find the baby King - *shhh!*  
                 Keep it a secret - *sh!* Keep it a secret - *sh!*  
                 Keep it a secret and don’t tell him anything - *shhh!*

**Verse 2**    When you leave tomorrow morning,  
                 You must think of one other thing!  
                 Take this as a second warning,  
                 Go home when you’ve seen the new King.....

**Chorus**     Don’t tell Herod.....

**Repeat chorus**    Don’t tell Herod.....

**Repeat**        Keep it a secret and don’t tell him anything - *shhh!*

## **Heaven On Earth**

- Verse 1**    Tonight, in a stable, a baby is born.  
              He lies in a manger, so safe and so warm.  
              As choirs of angels rejoice in His birth,  
              The whole world gives thanks  
              For this little bit of heaven on earth.
- Verse 2**    Tonight, by the light of a star in the sky,  
              His mother is singing a sweet lullaby.  
              As choirs of angels rejoice in His birth,  
              The whole world gives thanks  
              For this little bit of heaven on earth.
- Verse 3**    Tonight we’ve been given a gift from above.  
              A saviour has come with a message of love.  
              As choirs of angels rejoice in His birth,  
              The whole world gives thanks  
              For this little bit of heaven on earth.
- Repeat**    The whole world gives thanks  
              For this little bit of heaven on earth.

## **Gold, Frankincense & Myrrh**

### **Verse 1**

*(All)* These three Wise Men have journeyed,  
From many miles away.  
Each has a gift for Jesus,  
To celebrate this day.

**Chorus** Gold to show He is a King.  
Frankincense for God’s own son.  
And myrrh to show He’ll give His life  
To prove His love for everyone.

### **Verse 2**

*(Melchior)* This gold is what I offer.  
*(Caspar)* Here’s incense, strong and sweet.  
*(Balthazar)* And I have myrrh to give Him.  
*(All three)* We lay these at His feet.

**Chorus** Gold to show He is a King....

### **Verse 3**

*(All)* We worship this new baby  
And honour our new King!  
Today it is His birthday,  
Let’s all give praise and sing!

**Chorus** Gold to show He is a King....

**Repeat Chorus** Gold to show He is a King....

## **Stargazing (reprise)**

### **Verse 1**

(All) Looking at the heavens, there's such a lot to see!  
(Caspar) It's a night-time hobby, for me...  
(Melchior) And me...  
(Balthazar) And me!  
(All) What an adventure they've had, to be sure!  
This one is over but who knows what's in store!

**Chorus** Stargazing, stargazing,  
Gazing at the starry, starry sky.  
Stargazing, stargazing,  
Gazing at the starry sky and.....  
Waiting for a sign!

### **Verse 2**

(All) Looking at the heavens, the stars are out tonight,  
Twinkling in the darkness, spreading silver light.  
Secrets they keep from the world down below.  
What are they hiding from us? We'd like to know.

**Chorus** Stargazing, stargazing.....

### **Verse 3**

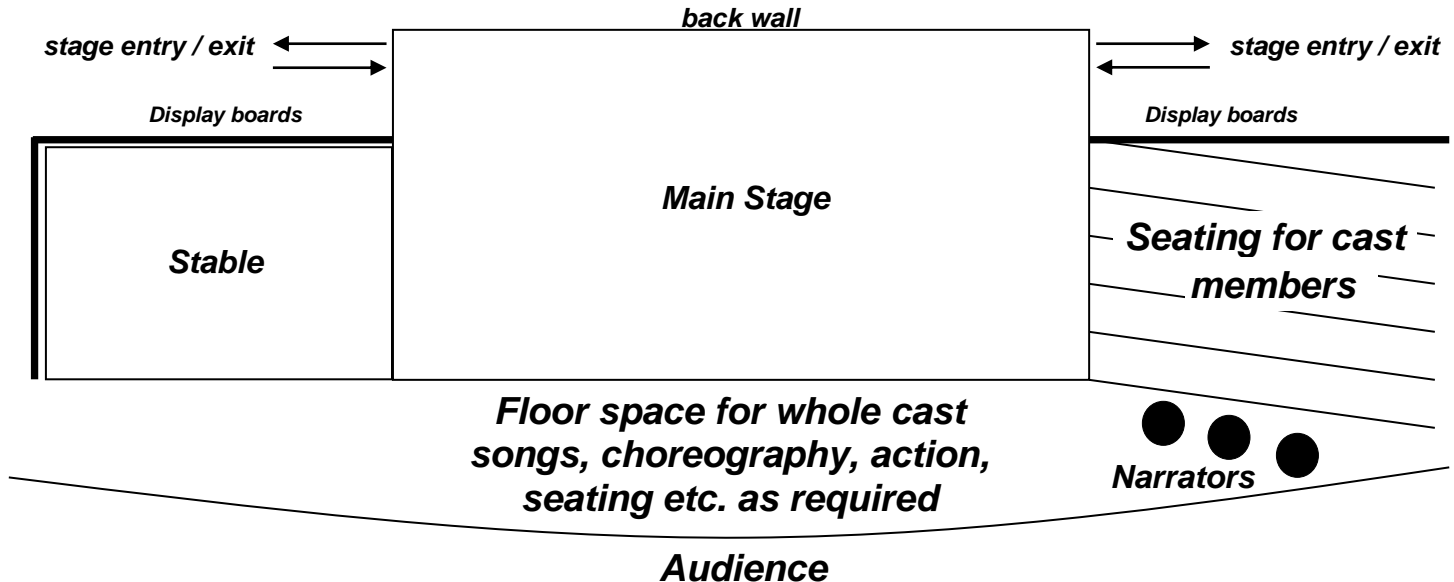
(All) Looking at the heavens, that's where the answers lie.  
Somewhere in the distance, way up there in the sky.  
They'll keep on watching and trying to see!  
What's going to happen? What will the next thing be?

**Chorus** Stargazing, stargazing.....

**Repeat Chorus** Stargazing, stargazing.....

## **STAGING AND PRODUCTION SUGGESTIONS**

Stargazers 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 both the flat and domed rooftops associated with biblical times, set against a starry sky – refer to the front cover for ideas. The display boards behind the seated area could display more stars in the night sky. Those boards around the stable stage could simply be backed in brown and given a wood-effect design, with perhaps a couple of small windows, to represent the stable walls.
- **Furniture** – If there's room, a couple of straw bales would be effective on the stable stage. Of course you will need a manger too. Decorative cushions and drapes/throws are all that are needed to represent the wise men's roof top. A simple stool is required for Mary to sit on at the end of scene 1. For Herod's palace, decorate a high-backed chair to make it throne-like, and if possible use a school dining table, covered with a throw, for the banqueting table.
- **Props** – The wise men will need hand held telescopes, which can be made from cardboard tubes and elaborately decorated with eastern designs. They will also need the traditional three gifts to present to the baby, which can be represented by two ornate bottles (for the frankincense and myrrh) and a small casket for the gold. A scroll is required for scene 2. A toy lamb is needed as a gift for from the shepherds, and the usual doll in a blanket to go in the manger in the manger! Travel bags/panniers can be slung around the shoulders of

the camels and donkey when the characters begin travelling in scene 2. Cups, goblets and jugs, and platters of food are needed for Herod’s banqueting table. The food items can be made from card, papier-maché or plasticene, and blackcurrant cordial will do nicely for the wine.

- **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. The star of Bethlehem could be differentiated from the rest by being larger, with more points. The child playing this star could wear silver or white instead of black. Herod should wear a crown, and regal tunic and robes, and his wife could wear something akin to a belly-dancer costume, with perhaps a see-through veil over her face and lots of jewellery. The three main characters, instead of crowns as is sometimes the case, could perhaps wear different style headdresses to complement their fine-looking robes – again, use the front cover for ideas.
- **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. 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 track list. 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.