

# COPYRIGHT AND LICENSING

## PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION BEFORE PLANNING YOUR PERFORMANCE

Under the Copyrights, Designs and Patents Act (1988), it is a legal requirement for schools to comply with copyright law, and ensure they hold the correct licences for performing musicals. As experienced teachers ourselves, we understand that time restraints and lack of advice can sometimes mean this aspect of your production is not dealt with, or that the details and requirements are not fully understood. We therefore try to make the process of licensing your performances as simple as possible.

### General Guidelines

You are free to use any of our material for all classroom teaching purposes and for performances within school to only pupils and staff. However, if our musicals are to be performed to an audience other than pupils and staff from your school (eg. parents or other people from the wider community) then a performance licence must be obtained directly from Edgy Productions.

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### Performance of Musicals

The performance of works involving drama, movement, narrative or spoken dialogue requires a title and date specific licence from the copyright holder/publisher – in this case Edgy Productions. The requirement for a licence is irrespective of admission charges. **Your PRS, PPL, CCLA or any equivalent local authority-issued licences do not cover you for such performances.**

A performance licence from us 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.

\* **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](http://www.edgyproductions.com/licences)**

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### Audio and Video Recordings

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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### File Sharing

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.

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

## PERFORMANCE LICENCE APPLICATION FORM

For any performance of any part of ‘It’s A Nativity’ 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](mailto:info@edgyproductions.com)

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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.
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**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)

☐ \* Tick if you are performing outside your school premises, for example in a local theatre, as further conditions apply – see [www.edgyproductions.com/licences](http://www.edgyproductions.com/licences)

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.**

## ***INTRODUCTION***

Of course, this story needs no introduction! Unlike most nativity musicals available (and we include many of our own here) this is not a ‘twist’ on the story; it isn’t told from the viewpoint of one of its well-known characters, or indeed a fictional character added to give it an extra dimension.

It’s A Nativity conforms more to the traditional ‘readings and carols’ approach to telling us how the first Christmas happened, though adapted for younger children. Told through narrations, a simple script and seven delightfully-catchy and easy-to-learn songs, the events leading up to and including the birth of Jesus are recounted in the way all of us remember.

All the familiar characters are represented, playing their integral parts exactly how we expect them to. Narrators keep the story moving along at an easy pace, and the regularly-placed songs mean there is never a lull as events unfold.

And that’s it in a nutshell! Perfect for a younger cast or for those who, perhaps for a change, want to present Christmas in a more traditional way, It’s A Nativity is everything you could ask for!

# **CHARACTERS**

(Speaking parts in order of appearance)

## **4 Narrators**

*These parts can be divided between as many children as your numbers allow. If you have a small or particularly young cast, the narrations could be read by teachers or by older KS2 children.*

Mary

Gabriel

Joseph

4 Innkeepers

4 Visitors

3 Shepherds

3 Angels

3 Wise men

(Ensemble characters for featured songs and choreography)

Angels

Donkey

Visitors

Stable animals

Stars

Shepherds

## **Scene 1**

*(The whole cast enters and positions are taken for the opening song.)*

### **Song 1 – It’s A Nativity** *(tracks 1 & 8, lyrics p11)* *(Whole cast)*

*(As the song ends, the children sit down either side of the stage – see staging suggestions. The narrators stand in prominent positions, reading their words which sit on decorated music stands. Mary is alone on stage, sweeping the floor. A small stool is placed slightly off-centre.)*

**Narrator 1** Long ago, in a hot and dusty land far away, there lived a young woman named Mary. She was good, kind and very hard-working.....

**Mary** *(sweeping)* What a lot of dust! Never mind, at least it keeps me busy.

**Narrator 2** God had been watching Mary. He had a very special job for her to do and sent Gabriel, his angel, to tell her all about it.

*(Gabriel enters as Mary sweeps. She turns and sees him, and sits down on the stool in shock!)*

**Gabriel** Don’t be afraid, Mary. I have wonderful news for you. Listen.....

*(The other angels join Gabriel for the next song.)*

### **Song 2 – Mary, Mary** *(tracks 2 & 9, lyrics p12)* *(Angels, supported by the whole cast)*

*(As the song finishes all the angels exit.)*

## **Scene 2**

*(Joseph enters and stands by Mary)*

**Narrator 3** Mary was engaged to be married to a carpenter named Joseph. He too was good and kind, and didn’t turn his back on Mary when she told him she would be having God’s baby.

**Joseph** *(puffing his cheeks in surprise!)* Well, I can’t say it’s not a shock, Mary! But don’t worry, I shall look after you.

**Narrator 4** Now, Joseph also had some important news of his own. The emperor who ruled their land had ordered that every man must return to the town of his birth, with his family, to sign a new register.

**Narrator 1** So some months later, not long before Mary's baby was to be born, it was time to travel the long and dusty road to a town called Bethlehem.

**Narrator 2** Nervously they got ready to leave. It would be a difficult journey, but Mary and Joseph knew that God would be with them every step of the way.

### **Song 3 – Fetch The Donkey** *(tracks 3 & 10, lyrics p13)* *(Whole cast)*

*(During the song, Joseph leads on the donkey – see staging suggestions/ costumes. After the music finishes he leads the donkey and Mary off stage.)*

### **Scene 3**

*(4 innkeepers enter and stand across the stage holding placards which read 'Guest House – Sorry, No Vacancies'. Lots of visitors enter and approach the innkeepers, enquiring about rooms to rent.)*

**Narrator 3** Now Bethlehem, where Joseph and Mary were travelling to, had suddenly become a very busy town! Lots of other visitors had arrived to sign the register, and soon all the inns and guesthouses were full up.

**Visitor 1** *(to innkeeper 1)* But we've been on the road for days! Surely you can squeeze us in?

**Innkeeper 1** I'm really sorry Sir, but we're full!

**Visitor 2** *(to innkeeper 2)* Look, we're happy to pay a little more than the going rate. Please give us a room.

**Innkeeper 2** No-can-do I'm afraid, Madam. We're already bursting at the seams!

**Visitor 3** *(to innkeeper 3)* Look here, I'm a very important person in my home town. There must be a room free for me.

**Innkeeper 3** I don't care if you're the Queen of Sheba, there's no room at my inn!

**Visitor 4** *(to innkeeper 4)* We're tired, we're dirty and we're hungry. All we want is a little something to eat, a hot bath and a comfy bed.

**Innkeeper 4** Well you won't get it here! How many more times must we say it? Now clear off, the lot of you!

**All Visitors** *(turning to the audience)* Charming!

**Song 4 – Full To The Brim** *(tracks 4 & 11, lyrics p14)*  
*(Visitors, supported by the whole cast)*

*(As the song finishes, all exit.)*

**Scene 4**

*(Mary and Joseph enter, looking tired.)*

**Narrator 4** That evening, after many days travelling, Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem. They knew the baby would be born very soon.

**Narrator 1** But every inn and guesthouse was full. They had searched all over town asking for a room for the night, but had been turned away from each place they had visited.

**Mary** Joseph, we must find somewhere. It won't be long before the baby is born!

*(Innkeeper 4 re-enters, carrying a bucket which he prepares to empty.)*

**Innkeeper 4** *(annoyed)* Those donkeys certainly produce a lot of.... mess. Look at all this lot! *(noticing Joseph and Mary)* Oh, good evening.

**Joseph** Please, do you have a spare room at your inn? We're so tired, and my wife is about to have a baby.

**Narrator 2** The innkeeper looked at Mary and Joseph, and he took pity on them.

**Innkeeper 4** I have no spare rooms, but I do have a stable.

**Narrator 3** Mary and Joseph had no choice, so they accepted the innkeeper's offer. He showed them to the stable and they made themselves as comfortable as possible.

*(The innkeeper brings on a manger in which is 'hidden' a doll. Donkeys and cows then enter and gather at the back. Mary kneels by the manger and Joseph stands by. The stars enter and line up in front of the stage to perform some simple choreography during the next song. One star is visibly 'larger' than the rest and stands centrally – see staging suggestions/costumes.)*

**Narrator 4** A bright new star came to rest over the stable – a special sign that something wonderful was about to happen. As the animals looked on, Mary had her baby, whom she named Jesus, just as the angel had told her. She wrapped Him up safely and laid Him down to sleep in the manger.

## **Song 5 – She Lays The Baby Down** *(tracks 5 & 12, lyrics p15)* *(Whole cast)*

*(As the song finishes, the smaller stars exit. The large star takes a prominent position on the stage.)*

## **Scene 5**

*(The Shepherds gather in front of the main stage, or in another part of your hall that can be seen by the audience.)*

**Narrator 1** Now, that same night, in the hills above Bethlehem, shepherds were tending to their flocks of sheep. They weren't sure what it was, but something was making them feel uneasy.

**Shepherd 1** Tonight the sky seems brighter than usual.

**Shepherd 2** Look, a new star is shining over the town. What can it mean?

*(The angels enter and stand before the shepherds, who crouch down and shield their eyes in fear.)*

**Narrator 2** All of a sudden a host of angels appeared before the shepherds, singing God's praises. The shepherds were afraid and hid their eyes.



**Angel 1** You have nothing to fear. We come with wonderful news for you.

**Angel 2** Tonight, in Bethlehem, the son of God is born.

**Angel 3** Leave your sheep and go to the stable lit by a star, where you will find the baby. Kneel by Him and give thanks.

**Shepherd 3** What are we waiting for? Come on brothers, let’s hurry to Bethlehem!

**Song 6 – Leave The Sheep** *(tracks 6 & 13, lyrics p16)*  
*(Shepherds and angels, supported by the whole cast)*

*(The Angels take their places in the nativity tableau on the main stage.)*

**Scene 6**

*(The Shepherds approach the manger.)*

**Narrator 3** So the shepherds came to the stable, and approached the manger where Jesus slept.

**Narrator 4** As Mary smiled kindly at them, they knelt by the baby and worshipped Him, laying before Him the gift of a new-born lamb.

**Narrator 1** Now, it wasn’t just the shepherds who had spotted the bright new star in the sky. For many months this star had been watched by three wise men, who lived far away in an eastern land.

*(The three wise men enter at the back of your hall.)*

**Narrator 2** The star had begun moving across the sky towards the west, and the wise men knew they must follow where it led.

*(They begin to walk slowly through the audience.)*

**Narrator 3** They understood it was a sign from God that a new king had been born, and they must find Him and worship Him.

*(During the following song the wise men should reach the stage.)*

**Song 7 – Three Gifts For The Baby** *(tracks 7 & 14, lyrics p17)*  
*(Wise men, supported by the whole cast)*

**Narrator 4** Each of the wise men knelt by the manger and gave a special gift to Jesus.

**Wise Man 1** I have brought gold for a new king.

**Wise Man 2** And I have frankincense for the son of God.

**Wise Man 3** This is myrrh, for the life He will give to save us all.

*(An optional extra song could be added here, perhaps something like 'Away In A Manger', or another seasonal favourite which your children know and enjoy.)*

**Narrator 1** And as the bright star shone down on that little stable, every one said thank you to God for the beautiful gift He had given them.

**Narrator 2** And with the birth of baby Jesus, in that far off land so very long ago, that's how Christmas came to be. Many wonderful things would happen as this baby grew to be a man.....but that's another story, for another time.

**Narrator 3** Until then, from all of us to all of you.....

**All** MERRY CHRISTMAS!

**Song 8 – It's A Nativity - reprise** *(tracks 1 & 15, lyrics p11)*  
*(Whole cast)*

**THE END**

## **It's A Nativity**

**Chorus**     Here's a story, a very special story.  
                 If you're sitting comfortably we'll  
                 Tell a story, a very special story,  
                 It's a nativity!

**Verse 1**     With angels, shepherds and wise men,  
                 A bright star over Bethlehem,  
                 Camels, donkeys, cows and sheep  
                 Watching while a baby sleeps.

**Chorus**     Here's a story.....

**Verse 2**     We've practised hard, we've learned our lines,  
                 And sung these songs a hundred times!  
                 To do the best that we can do,  
                 That's our Christmas gift to you!

**Chorus**     Here's a story.....

## **Mary, Mary**

**Verse 1**    Gabriel was the angel of the Lord,  
              He came to visit Mary one day.  
              She sat down with a bump  
              'Cause he really made her jump,  
              But spoke to her in such a gentle way. He said.....

**Chorus**     Mary, Mary, I know it must be scary,  
              But you're going to have a baby boy!  
              He'll be the king of kings,  
              He'll do wonderful things,  
              And fill the world with joy!

**Verse 2**     *(repeat verse 1)*  
              Gabriel was the angel of the Lord,  
              He came to visit Mary one day.  
              She sat down with a bump  
              'Cause he really made her jump,  
              But spoke to her in such a gentle way. He said.....

**Chorus 2**    Mary, Mary, I know it must be scary,  
              But you'll be the mother of God's son!  
              And Jesus is the name  
              That you will give the baby.  
              Let God's will be done.

## **Fetch The Donkey**

**Chorus**     Fetch the donkey from the field,  
                 You're going on a journey.  
                 Pack your bags then get some sleep,  
                 You're setting off bright and early!

**Verse 1**     A long dusty road  
                 Will lead you from home,  
                 And take you to Bethlehem.  
                 And when you are there,  
                 This city is where  
                 Your baby will be born, so...

**Chorus**     Fetch the donkey.....

**Verse 2**     Together you'll be  
                 In God's company,  
                 He's watching over you.  
                 He'll keep you safe  
                 Till you reach the place  
                 Your baby will be born, so...

**Chorus**     Fetch the donkey.....

**Repeat**     You're setting off bright and early!

## **Full To The Brim**

- Verse 1** We've looked here, we've looked there,  
We've been looking everywhere,  
Asking for a place to stay,  
But all they say is, "Go away!"
- Chorus** We're full to the brim, full to the brim!  
We're very, very sorry but you can't come in.  
We're full to the brim, full to the brim!  
We're very sorry but you can't come in.
- Verse 2** We've looked left, we've looked right.  
Looks like we'll be up all night,  
Asking for a place to stay,  
But all they say is, "Go away!"
- Chorus** We're full to the brim.....
- Verse 3** We've looked up, we've looked down,  
We've looked all around this town,  
Asking for a place to stay,  
But all they say is, "Go away!"
- Chorus** We're full to the brim.....

## **She Lays The Baby Down**

- Verse 1**    She lays the baby down,  
              She lays the baby down.  
              And as he sleeps, Mary keeps  
              Her little one safe and sound,  
              Her little one safe and sound,
- Verse 2**    A bright and silver star,  
              A bright and silver star,  
              Appears in the night, shining light  
              Where mother and baby are,  
              Where mother and baby are.
- Verse 3**    The angels' voices sing,  
              The angels' voices sing,  
              Of peace on Earth, and the birth  
              Of Jesus our new-born king.  
              Of Jesus our new-born king.

## **Leave The Sheep**

**Verse 1**     Shepherds watching flocks of sheep,  
                  Trying not to fall asleep!  
                  Suddenly they're wide awake,  
                  Hearing the commotion that the angels make!

**Chorus**     Leave the sheep, leave the sheep.  
                  Go to where that star is shining.  
                  Leave the sheep, leave the sheep  
                  Go to Bethlehem.

**Verse 2**     Shepherds don't know what to do,  
                  So amazed, but frightened too!  
                  How they tremble, how they shake,  
                  Hearing the commotion that the angels make!

**Chorus**     Leave the sheep.....

**Repeat Chorus**   Leave the sheep.....



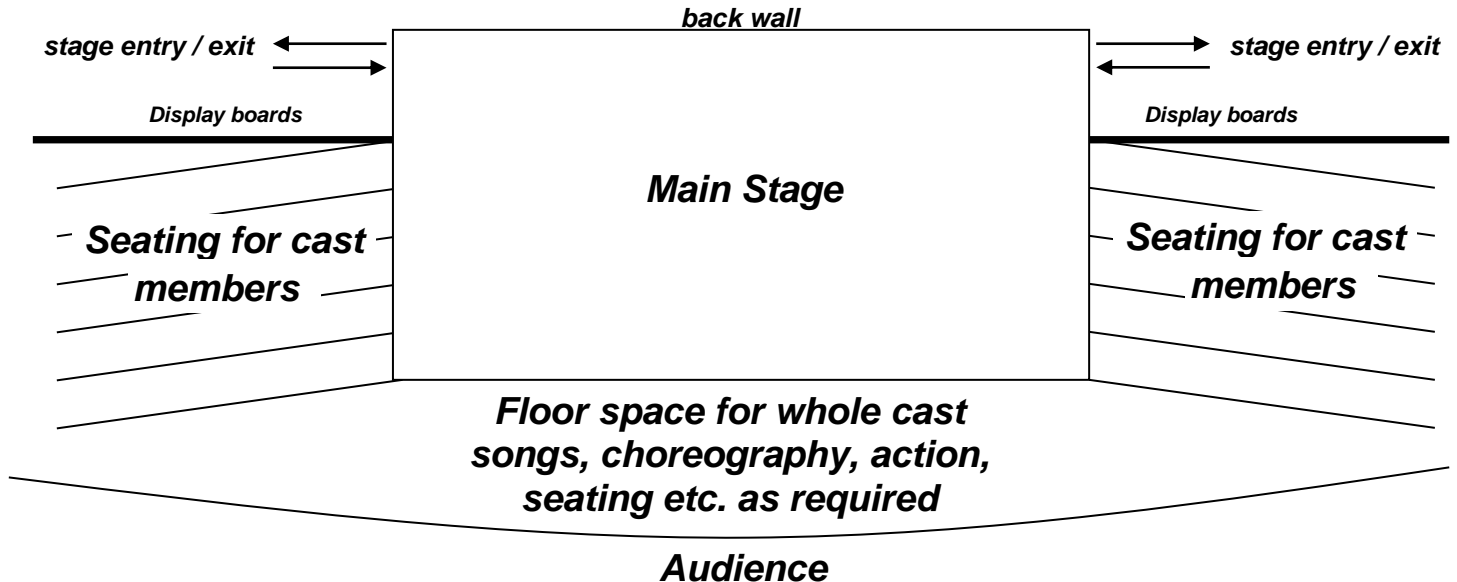
## **Three Gifts For The Baby**

**Verse 1** We're three wise men and we've come so far,  
Riding on our camels following a star.  
We're three wise men, come a long, long way,  
Travelling by night and sleeping through the day, hey!  
We've carried a precious load,  
On a long and dusty road.  
Myrrh, frankincense and gold.  
Three gifts for the baby.

**Verse 2** We're three wise men from a far-off land,  
Riding over mountain plain and desert sand.  
We're three wise men from far away,  
Come to find the son of God, and celebrate, hey!  
We've carried a precious load,  
On a long and dusty road.  
Myrrh, frankincense and gold.  
Three gifts for the baby.

## STAGING AND PRODUCTION SUGGESTIONS

It's A Nativity 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 walls and roof of a simple wooden stable, set against a starry night sky. Alternatively, biblical rooftops and buildings under a starry sky will give a more general backdrop to the story. The display boards either side of the stage could depict rolling hills or dusty plains, with tracks and roads in perspective disappearing into the distance.
- **Furniture** – A small stool is required for scene 1. For the stable scene, perhaps use a couple of straw bales (if available) as a seat for Mary and also to add to the feel. A simple manger filled with hay is the only other piece of furniture needed.
- **Props** – Narrators could read their lines from decorated music stands, or from a large old book. Mary will need a broom for scene 1. The inn keepers will need 'No Vacancies' placards, while the visitors will need travelling bags. Innkeeper 4 should have a bucket, and the shepherds could carry crooks. One shepherd will need a toy lamb. The three wise men could carry their gifts for Jesus in decorative bottles and caskets. And of course, don't forget the obligatory doll in the manger!
- **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.

- **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. Different songs that the children know and enjoy could replace, or be added to, those on the CD.
- **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!