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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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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**

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.

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.

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 'It's Chr-i-i-i-stmas!' 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 a 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)

☐ * Tick if you are performing outside your school premises, for example in a local theatre, as further conditions apply – see 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.**

PLOT SUMMARY

As final preparations are made for the Christmas Chart Show, in the TV studio the directors prep the assembled crowd to be loud and energetic as the show's theme tune kicks in! It's then over to hosts Tim Tinsel, Holly Bush and Sam Frost, who welcome the audience and tell us about the show's format. The acts performing on stage tonight will all be characters from a very special story, and their songs will tell of the roles they played in that story. The hosts chat to members of the crowd, then introduce the first act, Gabriel's Soul Patrol, who are on stage talking to the show's roving host, Chris Cracker.

Gabriel tells Chris how he visited a woman called Mary, to give her the news that she would be doing a special job and having God's baby. Mary joins the band on stage to tell how this news frightened her, but how Gabriel reassured her and made her realise how honoured she was. Gabriel's Soul Patrol (with Mary) then perform their Motown-inspired song '**The One God's Chosen**'.

The hosts then introduce the next band, The Landlords. Chatting to Chris Cracker on stage, they tell how their home town, Bethlehem, had become very busy after lots of visitors arrived to sign a new census. Trade for these landlords and innkeepers was brisk, as all their rooms soon filled up. However, one innkeeper and his wife had found it a struggle to keep on top of the rush and were overwhelmed with requests for a room, leading them to fall out with each other in comical fashion. Events are retold in their vibrant folk song '**The Streets Of Bethlehem**'.

After some studio chat and banter, the hosts introduce the act Don Kee & the Animals. In their on-stage chat with Chris Cracker, we learn how Mary (now expecting her baby) and her husband Joseph had travelled to Bethlehem. Unable to find a room, they had been allowed to stay in the innkeeper's stable where, surrounded by the animals, Mary had given birth to her baby boy, whom she named Jesus. The details are explained in the band's 60s retro-styled number, '**There Is A Stable**'.

Following some more inter-host banter, it's time for a bit of glam rock, as The Crooks, a band of platform-heeled shepherds, take to the stage! During their chat with Chris and in their song '**Peace And Love To All Mankind**' we learn how an ordinary night on the hillside, counting sheep, became a little more eventful with the arrival of a heavenly host of angels! After that, the studio audience goes crazy with the arrival of boyband trio, The Wise Guys! Once the squealing and wolf-whistles have died down, we hear how these three had followed a bright star from the east, carrying special gifts for the baby they knew they would find at the end of their journey. Their 80s-inspired pop song '**The First Christmas**' gives the audience a chance to swoon! There follows some big-band swing, with the arrival on stage of Herod & the King's Swingers! Their brassy number '**Bad King Herod**' tells a darker side to the story, as we discover to what lengths a king will go, just to hang onto his crown!

Once all the acts have performed, it's time to find out who has reached the coveted top spot in the Christmas chart. Following a tense run down, we hear of a new entry in at number one; it's The Yuletiders, a super group made up of all the acts we've previously heard from on the show. Their single '**Everybody Sing Along**' delivers an important message about Christmas and brings the show to an up-beat, pop-tastic finale that will get your audience dancing in the aisles!

CHARACTERS

(47 speaking parts in order of appearance – easily increased or decreased)

Director

Assistant Director

show hosts

Tim Tinsel

Holly Bush

Sam Frost

Chris Cracker

in the studio audience

14 Girls and Boys

from the band 'Gabriel's Soul Patrol'

Gabriel

Angel Backing-Singer

Mary

from the band 'The Landlords'

The Innkeeper

His Wife

3 Landlords

from the band 'Don Kee & the Animals'

Don Kee

3 Animals

from the band 'The Crooks'

5 Shepherds

from the band 'The Wise Guys'

3 Wise Men

3 Camels

from the band 'Herod & the King's Swingers'

Herod

3 'Swingers'

(Ensemble characters for featured songs and scenes)

Studio audience / dancers

Angels – singers and backing band

Landlords – singers and backing band

Animals – singers and backing band

Wise Guys' backing band

King's Swingers – singers and backing band

**For a
character
line-count &
costume
suggestions
see p25**

Scene 1

*(If using our digital backdrops, select 'backdrop 1 – Chart Show' or see **staging suggestions/scenery - p22** for alternative ideas.)*

(Through the excited studio crowd, the Director and Assistant Director come to the front of the stage. They are dressed in black, carry clipboards and, if possible, wear microphone headsets or headphones. The show hosts, Tim Tinsel, Holly Bush and Sam Frost, stand on a raised platform/podium to one side of the main stage, holding microphones. The Director addresses the audience and crowd.)

Director Ok, I need silence on the studio floor! I said SILENCE! We're on air in less than thirty seconds! Is everyone in position?

(Those taking part as the studio crowd, spread out on, around and in front of the stage, ready to wave, cheer and dance to the show's theme tune.)

Assist. Director Remember people, you're on TV, so lots of energy, lots of cheering, lots of DANCING! Right, cameras ready? Here we go....we're live in 5....4....3.... *(s/he mimes the 2...1.... with her/his fingers then points at your CD/sound operator.)*

*(The **Theme Tune intro (track 8)** begins. Tim Tinsel speaks over the applause at the beginning – **alternatively, use track 9** which has the speaking already recorded.)*

Tim Tinsel We're here.....we're live.....and we're LOUD, counting down the hits on the CHR-I-I-I-STMAS CHART SHOW!

(The studio crowd dances enthusiastically. A group of dancers can perform a short, rehearsed piece of choreography, to be repeated each time the theme tune is played during the show. As the music ends, the crowd leaves the stage and most sit down. A select few excitedly join the hosts on and around their podium.)

Tim Tinsel Welcome everyone to television centre. My name's Tim Tinsel....

Holly Bush I'm Holly Bush....

Sam Frost And I'm Sam Frost! We're all excited here in the studio, as I'm sure you are at home, to find out who is going to be number one in the Christmas pop chart. And this year, it's a chart with a difference!

Tim Tinsel All the artists on tonight's show are important characters from a special story which you might recognise! And the songs they'll be performing are all about how they fit into that story.

Holly Bush And whether you like your motown, glam rock, folk, big-band swing or a nice slice of cheesy pop, we've got something for everyone! *(to one of the crowd gathered round)* So tell me, who are you most looking forward to seeing tonight?

Girl 1 *(squealing!)* I've got a real crush on that band 'The Emperors'. I love that whole roman-vibe-thing they've got going on!

Boy 1 *(butting in)* Naaah! That image is so ancient! I can't wait to see 'The Gift-Rappers' – they wear their Christmas bling with such style!

Holly Bush Well, maybe those acts will have made it into the charts – we'll have to wait and see! But first on tonight's show, in at number seven it's.....Gabriel's Soul Patrol!

(As the crowd cheers and applauds, Gabriel's Soul Patrol enter and take their positions on the main stage. As well as a miming band (see below), Gabriel has a group of angel backing-singers. They are all joined by another presenter, Chris Cracker.)

Note - as there will be a number of acts taking to the stage in succession, if possible a drum kit, a couple of keyboards and some microphones on stands should remain on stage throughout the show. Guitarists and brass players etc, along with a drummer and keyboard players for each act, can mime to the backing tracks as the featured lead and backing singers (including your choir/ensembles of course) sing the songs.

Sam Frost And before they perform, Gabriel's Soul Patrol are going to have a little chat with our own Chris Cracker! Over to you, Chris.

Chris Cracker Thanks Sam. So Gabriel, in at number seven – you must be delighted with that chart position. Tell me a bit about the song.

Gabriel Thanks Chris. This song is about how I visited a young woman called Mary at her home in Nazareth, and told her about a special job she was being given.

Backing Singer In fact, Mary's here tonight! Why don't we bring her on stage?

Chris Cracker Great idea! Mary, please come and join us! *(Mary enters to applause.)*
Mary, great to see you. Tell me, what was this 'job' you were given?

Mary I was told by Gabriel that God wanted me to be the mother of His son.
I was to call Him Jesus and He would grow up to be a great man!

Chris Cracker Wow! And how did you feel about that, Mary?

Mary Are you serious?! How do you think I felt? I was absolutely terrified!
But Gabriel put me at ease and told me how honoured I was to be given the job.

Chris Cracker And we're honoured to have you on tonight's show! So everyone, with their special guest Mary, singing their hit 'The One God's Chosen', it's.....Gabriel's Soul Patrol! *(Chris exits.)*

(The crowd cheers and stands off-stage to dance. Mary stands next to Gabriel as the song is sung to her. If using our digital backdrops, select 'backdrop 2 – Gabriel's Soul Patrol')

Song The One God's Chosen

(tracks 1 & 10, lyrics p16)

(Gabriel's Soul Patrol, supported by whole cast)

(The crowd cheers as the Theme Tune (track 11) then plays and the singers and musicians exit. Select 'backdrop 1 – Chart Show'. The crowd spreads out on, around and in front of the stage and all dance, while the directors move round encouraging everyone to keep the energy up!)

Scene 2

(As soon as the theme tune ends, the directors step to the front.)

Director Great energy people! Let's keep that up throughout the whole show!
Ok, clear the stage.

(The crowd leaves the stage and most sit down. A different select few gather round the hosts.)

Assist. Director And we're back to our hosts in 5....4....3.... *(s/he mimes the 2...1.... with her/his fingers then points at the hosts' podium.)*

Tim Tinsel So, that was Gabriel's Soul Patrol, in at number seven with 'The One God's Chosen'. *(to the crowd gathered round)* So, what did you think of that performance?

Girl 2 What can I say? It was heavenly! Their voices are so angelic!

Boy 2 A bit too clean-cut for me. I like something with more of an edge!

Holly Bush Something with more of an edge? Hmmm, well maybe our next act will be more up your street. Ladies and gentlemen, straight into our chart at number six, with their new song 'The Streets Of Bethlehem' it's everybody's favourite folk-punk band.....The Landlords!

(As the crowd cheers and applauds, The Landlords enter and take their positions on the main stage. As well as a miming band, there are two main singers, the Innkeeper and his wife. They are all joined again by Chris Cracker.)

Sam Frost And Chris is on stage with the band now, to find out a bit about them and about the song they're performing.

Chris Cracker The Landlords! Great to have you on the show. So, this song, 'The Streets Of Bethlehem', is all about your home town.

Landlord 1 That's right, Chris. Bethlehem got pretty busy right after Caesar Augustus issued a decree that every man had to travel to his birthplace, with his family, for a census.

Landlord 2 It was great news for us! Our guesthouses and inns did a roaring trade with all the visitors who arrived. Profits went through the roof!

Landlord 3 We were turning people away left, right and centre. Every place in Bethlehem was full, you see. If I'd known we'd be that busy I'd have put my prices up!

Chris Cracker But I gather it wasn't fun for all of you. *(to the Innkeeper and his wife)* You two didn't cope too well under the pressure I hear.

Wife You can say that again! Of course, it didn't help with his nibs here lying around our inn, not lifting a finger to help!

- Innkeeper** Ah, come on! That's not fair! I did my bit to help you! You know how tired I get!
- Wife** Tired?! Bone idle more like! I couldn't cope on my own. Those visitors just kept coming and your only job was to stand at the door and turn them away once we got full. But you couldn't even do that properly!
- Landlord 1** Yeah, he even let a couple stay in the stable behind his inn! Talk about a soft touch!
- Innkeeper** But I felt sorry for them. They were desperate for a place to stay and they seemed such nice people. The stable was the only option.
- Wife** Yes, but it was me who had to sweep the place out, while you sat on your bottom!
- Chris Cracker** Come on you two, let's not argue on live TV! I reckon it's time you sang for us. Everybody, with their song 'The Streets Of Bethlehem', give it up for....The Landlords! (*Chris exits.*)

(The crowd cheers and stands off-stage to dance. On stage, the Innkeeper, his wife and the Landlords perform the song. Select 'backdrop 3 – The Landlords')

Song The Streets Of Bethlehem

(tracks 2 & 12, lyrics p17)

(The Landlords, supported by whole cast)

(The crowd cheers as the Theme Tune (track 13) then plays and the singers and musicians exit. Select 'backdrop 1 – Chart Show'. The crowd spreads out and all dance.)

Scene 3

(As soon as the theme tune ends, the directors step to the front.)

- Director** I know we said keep the energy up, but during that last song some people were getting a bit too rowdy! Remember, there are children watching, so let's just calm it down!

(The crowd leaves the stage and most sit down. Another select few gather round the hosts.)

- Assist. Director** And we're back to our hosts in 5....4....3.... (*s/he mimes the 2...1.... with her/his fingers then points at the hosts' podium. The hosts however are chatting amongst themselves!*)
OI! YOU THREE! YOU'RE ON!

- Tim Tinsel** What! Oh, right! Sorry about that, we were just discussing the innkeeper and his wife – I hope they make up soon!

- Holly Bush** Well, our studio audience certainly seemed to be enjoying the sparks flying between those two singers – what a performance!

(A girl next to the hosts is waving at the audience. Sam Frost brings her forward.)

Sam Frost Are you having a good time young lady?

Girl 3 Yeah – it's epic! Can I give a shout out to my mum and dad at home?
Hi Mum, hi Dad! Look, I'm on the telly!

Boy 3 *(butting in)* Hello to all my mates watching! I bet you're dead jealous I got tickets to this!

(All of the crowd gathered round the hosts start waving and giving shout-outs!)

Tim Tinsel Ok! Ok! That's enough! We've a show to do! Now, Holly, tell us who's got the number five spot on our Christmas chart?

Holly Bush Well, we're going a bit 60s retro with this next act, who've had a bit of a revival this Christmas. With something for our older viewers, performing their new hit 'There Is A Stable', it's.....Don Kee and the Animals!

(As the crowd cheers and applauds, Don Kee and the Animals enter and take their positions on the main stage. As their name suggests, they are farm animals; sheep, cows, goats, chickens etc, with lead-singer, Don, the nativity donkey.)

Sam Frost Wow! That's a first for our show! Performing beasts! Let's go over to Chris who's with them on stage.

Chris Cracker Thanks Sam. Yes, Don Kee and the Animals, tell me, what's the vibe with this song?

Don Kee Well Chris, my master Joseph had just married Mary, whom you met earlier. She was now about to have her baby, but the couple still had to travel to Bethlehem for the census.

Chris Cracker And Don, you were the one who carried her there, were you?

Don Kee That's right Chris. It was a long, difficult journey. When we arrived, there was no place for them to stay in the town.

Animal 1 So the innkeeper who owns the stable where we all hang out, let Mary, Joseph and Don stay there for the night.

Animal 2 And what a magical night it turned out to be. As a bright star shone down, Mary had her baby and laid Him down to sleep in the manger.

Animal 3 It was a wonderful scene to be a part of. We all watched quietly from the side and gave thanks for the special gift that had been given.

Chris Cracker And your song is all about that evening. Everybody, performing their number five hit, 'There is A Stable', please make some noise for.....Don Kee and the Animals! *(Chris exits.)*

(The crowd cheers and stands off-stage to dance. On stage, Don Kee and the Animals perform the song. Select 'backdrop 4 – Don Kee and the Animals')

Song **There is A Stable**

(tracks 3 & 14, lyrics p18)

(Don Kee and the Animals, supported by whole cast)

*(The crowd cheers as the **Theme Tune (track 15)** then plays and the singers and musicians exit. Select 'backdrop 1 – Chart Show'. The crowd spreads out and all dance.)*

Scene 4

(As soon as the theme tune ends, the director steps to the front. The assistant director fusses round the hosts with a powder-puff and mascara stick!)

Director Ok, take a moment everyone. We just need to touch up the hosts' makeup. These studio lights are playing havoc with Holly's foundation – she looks like she's melting!

(The crowd leaves the stage and most sit down. Another select few gather round the hosts.)

Assist. Director *(stepping down from the podium)* There, she's all sorted. I can't do anything with these other two though – there are some things makeup just can't fix! Ok, and we're back in 5....4....3.... *(s/he mimes the 2...1.... with her/his fingers then points at the hosts.)*

Sam Frost Some things makeup just can't fix?! What a cheek!

Tim Tinsel I know! That's taken the sparkle right out of my evening. How rude!

Girl 4 Oh Tim, don't worry, you're still the dishiest pop presenter in my eyes!

Boy 4 Ha, with that look maybe you could form your own band and call it 'The Zombies'!

Tim Tinsel Well, I've never been so insulted in my life. Will someone get my agent on the phone!

Holly Bush Oh, come on guys, take a joke! Anyway, our next act should bring a bit of glitter back to proceedings. Yes, it's time for some stomping, 'cause in at number four with their new hit single, 'Peace And Love To All Mankind', it's those glam-rocking shepherds.....The Crooks!

(As the crowd cheers and applauds, The Crooks enter and take their positions on the main stage. They are joined by Chris Cracker.)

Sam Frost *(grumpily)* And the band are on stage chatting to Chris who, in my opinion, could also do with a bit of a touch-up on the makeup front!

Chris Cracker Yeah, whatever Sam! So, The Crooks, great to have you here!

Shepherd 1 Hey, thanks man. So cool to be here on your groovy show.

Chris Cracker And your song is called 'Peace And Love To All Mankind'.
(*glaring over at Sam*) I think we could do with a bit of that in the studio at the minute. So tell me, what inspired it?

Shepherd 2 Well, it's all about this far-out experience we had one night, when we were up in the hills over Bethlehem, looking after our sheep.

Shepherd 3 The sky was like crazy, man, with thousands of sparkling stars. There was this one totally awesome star, bigger than the rest, shining over the town.

Shepherd 4 Then things got totally psychedelic, man! Out of nowhere there was like this heavenly host of angels, just kinda like hovering in front of us. Man, we were totally freakin' out!

Shepherd 5 But the angels told us to just chill and be cool. They said that a special baby king had been born in a stable in Bethlehem, and that we should head down there and like worship the little dude!

Shepherd 1 And then these angels started singing this totally awesome song, praising God and saying loads of cool stuff about peace and love! So that's basically what our song is about.

Chris Cracker And those angels are joining you on stage now to perform the song! Let's give it up for the angels!

(To applause, angels enter and take up their backing-singer positions.)

Everyone, it's time to stomp those platform heels! With 'Peace And Love To All Mankind', it's.....The Crooks! (*Chris exits.*)

(The crowd cheers and stands off-stage to dance. On stage, The Crooks and the angels perform the song. Select 'backdrop 5 – The Crooks')

Song Peace And Love To All Mankind

(tracks 4 & 16, lyrics p19)

(The Crooks and angels, supported by whole cast)

(The crowd cheers as the Theme Tune (track 17) then plays and the singers and musicians exit. Select 'backdrop 1 – Chart Show'. The crowd spreads out and all dance.)

Scene 5

Director Ok people, an important announcement before we move on: if you have earplugs with you, put them in now. If you don't have earplugs, well....tough luck!

(The crowd leaves the stage and most sit down. Another select few gather round the hosts.)

Assist. Director *(inserting earplugs)* One second, nearly done. I'm so glad I brought these. *(patting ears)* There, sorted. And we're back to our hosts in 5....4....3.... *(s/he mimes the 2...1.... with her/his fingers then points at the hosts' podium.)*

Tim Tinsel Earplugs? Why do we need earplugs? Nobody told me about earplugs!

Boy 5 *(putting fingers in ears)* Oh, I see what's coming. There's only one reason you'd need earplugs in a TV studio during a chart show!

Girl 5 *(realising what's happening)* You don't mean.....? It can't be true....can it? They're actually here, in this room?! Oh, I'm going to faint!

Sam Frost *(inserting earplugs)* Good! That'll be one less girl screaming in my ear!

Tim Tinsel Whatever are you talking about?

Holly Bush *(inserting earplugs)* Ha! You'll see, as we introduce the act who are number three on our Christmas chart. They're young and they're very, very cute! With their festive smash, 'The First Christmas', it's the boyband of the moment.....The Wise Guys!

(The girls go crazy, screaming at the tops of their voices, as the three Wise Guys, plus their three dancing camels, enter and take their positions on the main stage. They are joined by Chris Cracker. The girls scream each time a Wise Guy speaks!)

Chris Cracker Wow, what a reaction you guys have received!

Wise Guy 1 Well, we've been on tour a while now, travelling westward, city by city. We've kind of got used to this sort of reaction from the ladies!

Wise Guy 2 But we would like to clear one thing up. We're not just pretty faces, you know. Like the name of our group says, we're wise. We study astronomy and ancient scriptures, and we're keen mathematicians!

Camel 1 You can say that again. We're the ones who have had to carry all their telescopes and mathematical equipment everywhere!

Camel 2 That's right. We're actually trained dancers but they treat us more like roadies, which gives us the right hump!

Chris Cracker And it's these studies which started you on your journey to Bethlehem, am I right? And that's what your song is about?

Wise Guy 3 Yes. I know we have baby-faces, but we had, in fact, been waiting many years for a sign that a new king had been born. That sign eventually came in the shape of a new star in the sky.

Wise Guy 1 We knew we had to follow wherever that star led. It led us to Bethlehem and to the baby Jesus.

Camel 3 And tell everyone what you brought with you. You know, that extra 'luggage' we had to carry.

Wise Guy 1 Well, we each brought the baby a gift. I gave Him gold, to show He would grow up to be a king.

Wise Guy 2 My gift was frankincense, to recognise that He was the son of God.

Wise Guy 3 And I gave Him myrrh, because He would one day give His life to save us all.

Chris Cracker Fascinating! Ok, well I guess we'd better put this crowd out of its misery. Everybody, with their number three chart smash, 'The First Christmas', go crazy for.....The Wise Guys! *(Chris exits.)*

(The crowd cheers and stands off-stage to dance. On stage, The Wise Guys perform the song. Select 'backdrop 6 – The Wise Guys')

Song The First Christmas

(tracks 5 & 18, lyrics p20)

(The Wise Guys, supported by whole cast)

*(The crowd cheers as the **Theme Tune (track 19)** then plays and the singers and musicians exit. Select 'backdrop 1 – Chart Show'. The crowd spreads out and all dance.)*

Scene 6

(As soon as the theme tune ends, the crowd leaves the stage and most sit down. Another select few gather round the hosts. The directors step to the front.)

Director I've never heard screaming like that! *(patting ears)* I've gone deaf!

Assist. Director Well, it got pretty loud there at one point.

Director Oh, yes – two sugars please.

Assist. Director What?! No, I said...oh never mind. And we're back to our hosts in 5....4....3.... *(s/he mimes the 2...1.... with her/his fingers then points at the hosts' podium.)*

Tim Tinsel Ok, after that treat for the youngsters, it's time once more for something that maybe you older ones might find more to your liking.

Girl 6 You mean something really boring? Something totally uncool?

Boy 6 Something that you can't dance to? Something that'll put us to sleep?

Holly Bush Absolutely not! Our next act is as cool as anything we've had on the show so far, and far more sophisticated.

Sam Frost However, this band's lead singer has certainly had his fair share of bad press over the years, because of his off-stage antics!

Tim Tinsel But nowadays this lot prefer to let their music do the talking. In at number two, the original smooth criminals, it's.....Herod and the King's Swingers!

(To muted applause, Herod and the King's Swingers enter and take their positions on the main stage. They are joined by Chris Cracker.)

Chris Cracker So, King Herod, a chart entry at number two for your band. You're very controversial, so this must have been a surprise?

Herod You're not kidding, Chris. Let's face it, after some of my behaviour in the past, I wasn't sure the public would go for this song.

Swinger 1 Yeah, most of us in the band were all for kicking him out and getting ourselves a new lead singer!

Swinger 2 But then we thought about it and realised he was such an important part of this story we're telling, it just wouldn't be the same without him.

Swinger 3 He's certainly the man we all love to hate, and this song is an honest account of the reasons why!

Herod And it's a pretty catchy tune too!

Chris Cracker Well let's hear it! Everybody, with their autobiographical smash hit 'Bad King Herod', it's.....Herod and the King's Swingers! *(Chris exits.)*

(The crowd cheers and stands off-stage to dance. On stage, the band performs the song. Select 'backdrop 7 – Herod and the King's Swingers')

Song **Bad King Herod**

(tracks 6 & 20, lyrics p21)

(Herod and the King's Swingers, supported by whole cast)

*(The crowd cheers as the **Theme Tune (track 21)** then plays and the singers and musicians exit. Select 'backdrop 1 – Chart Show'. The crowd spreads out and all dance.)*

Scene 7

(As soon as the theme tune ends, the crowd leaves the stage and most sit down. Another select few gather round the hosts. The directors step to the front.)

Director Ok everybody, we're into the last section of the show. Let's bring that energy back up for a big finale!

Assist. Director And we're back to our hosts in 5....4....3.... *(s/he mimes the 2...1.... with her/his fingers then points at the hosts' podium.)*

Tim Tinsel Well, it's the moment we've all been waiting for, as we count down the chart to see who's this year's Christmas number one! Any guesses?

Girl 7 Oh, I've no idea! Has Cliff Richard come out of retirement and started releasing Christmas singles again?

Boy 7 My Dad says he was number one every Christmas for the whole of the twentieth century! I'm glad I wasn't around then!

*(The **Theme Tune (track 22)** starts to play. As each act is named in the countdown, they enter the stage to applause and cheers until a nativity tableau is formed. NB – Mary, now accompanied by Joseph and carrying a baby, should enter with Gabriel.)*

Holly Bush Well, let's find out shall we. Here's the countdown from seven to one. At number seven it's Gabriel's Soul Patrol.....in at number six are The Landlords.....holding the number five spot it's Don Kee and the Animals.....The Crooks are at number four.....those gorgeous Wise Guys are at number three.....and with a surprise entry at number two, it's Herod and the King's Swingers! *(fade the music)*

Sam Frost So, who does that leave at number one? Well, a couple of weeks ago, all the acts you see on stage got together at a secret location to record a brand new Christmas song! This super-group has called itself The Yuletiders, and Chris is with them now.

Chris Cracker The Yuletiders! That's a great name and this is a great song! Mary, why don't you tell us about it?

Mary Well, we all decided that together we should put out a joyous, uplifting song for this wonderful time of year. It's a song that reminds us to enjoy Christmas, to cherish the ones we love and also to celebrate the birth of Jesus and keep alive the message he brought to the world.

Chris Cracker And it's certainly hit the spot, because it's number one! And what better way could there be to bring this show to a close, than by introducing everybody to our final act? So, performing their song 'Everybody Sing Along' please make as much noise as you can for.....The Yuletiders!

*(Everyone cheers and all stand to perform the song. Select '**backdrop 8 – The Yuletiders**')*

Song Everybody Sing Along!

(tracks 7 & 23, lyrics p21)

(Herod and the King's Swingers, supported by whole cast)

Holly Bush And that just leaves us with one thing left to say.....

All MERRY CHRISTMAS!

*(The **Theme Tune (track 24)** plays and all dance. Select '**backdrop 1 – Chart Show**').*

THE END

The One God's Chosen

performed by 'Gabriel's Soul Patrol'

Intro

(Gabriel)

I am Gabriel, from heaven. Now, Mary, do not fear!
Let me put your mind at ease and explain why I am here.
I have brought good news to tell. Pay attention, listen well;
There's a job to do and the one God's chosen...is you!

Verse 1

(All)

Are you ready? Here we go then!
God's watched you day by day,
He thinks you're kinda special,
So He's put some work your way.
You are going to have a baby!
That's kind of scary news
And yes I understand it's
Not quite the job you'd choose!
But you're going to be a mum,
His highly-honoured chum!
Take my word, it's true!
Yes, the one God's chosen...is you!

Bridge

(All)

And all the stars are shining, sparkling everywhere!
The sound of angels singing fills the evening air.
And the world rejoices, you can hear those happy voices!
Mary, you're the perfect one
To be the mother of God's son!

Verse 2

(All)

You must call the baby Jesus,
A name to fit a king!
And to the world a message
Of peace and joy he'll bring.
Mary, are you ready then?
Breathe deeply, count to ten!
There's a job to do
And the one God's chosen...is you!
And the one God's chosen...is you!
And the one God's chosen...is you!
It's you!

The Streets Of Bethlehem

performed by "The Landlords"

Verse 1

(Innkeeper and wife)

It was Christmas Eve, Dear,
Though we didn't know it yet,
And that's 'cause Christmas
Hadh't been invented yet!
So many travellers
Looking for a place to stay,
Our little inn was full –
We had to turn them all away!

Verse 2

(Wife to innkeeper)

Turn them away! Turn them away!
I just can't cope with more people today!
Get off your bottom and do as I say,
Make yourself useful and turn them away!

(Innkeeper to wife)

Give it a rest! I'm doing my best!
Stop with your nagging, it's making me stressed!
It's not my fault, how could I have guessed
All of these strangers would find our address?

Chorus

(All)

*And as the stars in the evening sky
Were shining down on them,
The streets were filling up
In Bethlehem.*

Verse 3

(Innkeeper)

When will the knocking cease?
I need a little peace,
Half an hour's sleep at the very least!

(Wife)

What right have you to moan?
I've done this on my own!
That's it, I've had enough!
I've worked my fingers to the bone!

Chorus

And as the stars in the evening sky.....

Repeat Chorus

And as the stars in the evening sky.....

There is A Stable

performed by 'Don Kee & The Animals'

Verse 1 *(optional solo by Don Kee)*
There is a stable in Bethlehem,
Beneath the setting sun,
Where tonight the greatest gift of all
Was given to everyone.

Verse 2
(All) Well, Mary and Joseph had journeyed far,
They found nowhere to stay.
But a friendly innkeeper and his wife
Would not turn them away.

Verse 3
(All) And in the stillness, as we looked on,
The gift from God was made.
Then the baby Jesus was wrapped in bands
And in a manger laid.

Instrumental – *the animals dance*

Verse 4
(All) His mother sang him a lullaby,
Which told of tender love,
And the brightest star there had ever been
Shone down from up above.

Peace And Love To All Mankind

performed by 'The Crooks'

Verse 1 We were hanging out just watching our sheep,
Trying hard to stay awake, not fall asleep!
When a heavenly host of angels
Appeared before our eyes,
And the song they sang, it really rocked the skies!

(The angels step forward for the chorus)

Chorus *Go to the stable beneath a star,
A baby you will find.
Glory to God on high
And peace and love to all mankind!*

Verse 2 We were shaking, we were trembling with fright
At the wonderful yet terrifying sight
Of a heavenly host of angels,
A shining choir with wings,
Who were singing of extraordinary things!

Chorus *Go to the stable beneath a star.....*

Middle So we headed down into the town,
To find the baby boy, a-ha!

Verse 3 So, we found him and we knelt down where he lay
In a lowly, humble manger full of hay!
As the heavenly host of angels
Continued with their song,
And it felt so good we had to sing along....

Chorus *Go to the stable beneath a star.....*

Repeat *Go to the stable beneath a star,
A baby you will find.
(shout) (A BABY!)
Glory to God on high
And peace and love to all mankind!*

The First Christmas

performed by 'The Wise Guys'

Verse 1 The first Christmas we travelled so far,
We were guided at night by the light of a star.
Three guys, incredibly wise,
With gifts for a babe so special
The first Christmas we travelled so far,
We were guided at night by the light of a star
(*light of a star*).
Three guys, incredibly wise,
With gifts for a babe so special (*special*).

Instrumental – *the Wise Guys and Camels throw some 80s shapes!*

Verse 2

(*Wise Guy 1*) I've brought the gift of gold,
Bling for a king,
Even though he's not that old.
(*Wise Guy 2*) My gift is Frankincense,
Posh perfume
With a fragrance that's quite intense!
(*Wise Guy 3*) This is myrrh, a sign that He
Will give his life
For all so selflessly.
(*All three*) These gifts to honour Him
Are what we bring today.....

Verse 3 The first Christmas we travelled so far,
We were guided at night by the light of a star.
Three guys, incredibly wise,
With gifts for a babe so special
The first Christmas we travelled so far,
We were guided at night by the light of a star
(*light of a star*).
Three guys, incredibly wise,
With gifts for a babe so special (*special*).

Instrumental – *more shapes to finish!*

Bad King Herod

performed by 'Herod & The King's Swingers'

Verse 1

(All)

Bad King Herod lost the plot, he was hardly sleeping!
Lying there at night, he got pretty close to weeping!
Into deep despair he sank, filled with fear and worry,
'Cause to lose his wealth and rank, he was in no hurry!

Verse 2

(Herod)

Three Wise Men have brought me news; seems I have a rival,
There's a new King of the Jews, threatening my survival!
Keeping hold of this estate has to be my mission,
So I must eliminate all the competition.

Verse 3

(Herod)

Where might this usurper be hiding undercover?
His exact locality I need to discover,
'Cause I'm running out of time, and my mind is raging!
All this stress just means that I'm prematurely ageing!

Verse 4

(All)

So he hatched a plot, which seemed worthy of an Oscar!
Very delicately themed – TAKE OUT THIS IMPOSTER!
If you're wondering what went on, it's no pretty picture,
Not a subject for a song – go and read your scripture.

Verse 5

(All)

Still King Herod's in despair since his plans have crumbled.
Jesus, He was taken where He could not be rumbled.
Safe in Egypt 'til the day He was out of danger,
Boy, He's come a long, long way since He left the manger.

Everybody Sing Along!

performed by 'The Yuletiders'

Verse 1 Here's to the tinsel and the decorated tree,
And here's to having a ball.
Here's to the crackers and the presents we receive,
Here's to the best day of all!
And as we wave the old year goodbye,
Wear a smile and lift your voices high.....

Chorus *Everybody sing along,
Come together, come together
Everybody sing as one -
It's Christmas!
Hold the hand of someone dear,
Keep them warm and keep them near,
Everybody sing along
'Cause Christmas time is here!*

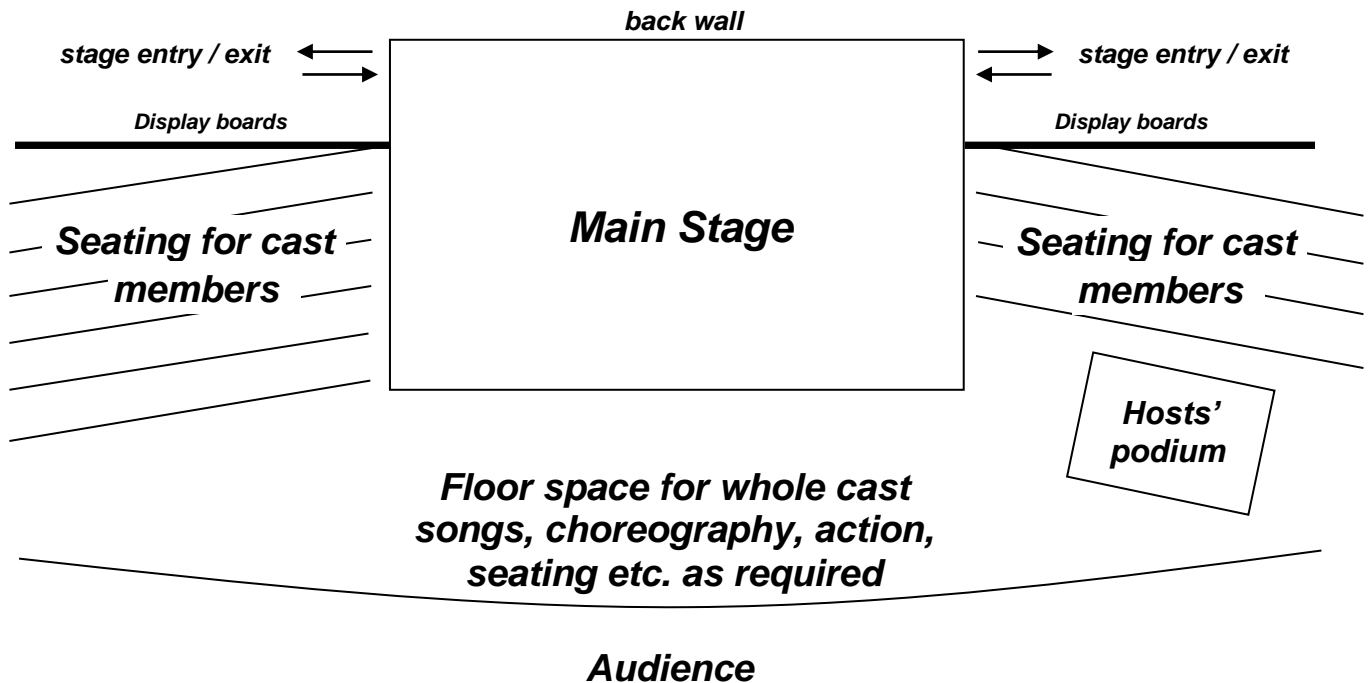
Verse 2 But don't forget, behind the laughter and the fun
There is a story to share,
Of how a father gave His one and only son
To teach the world how to care.
Today His message still rings true:
Do to others as you'd have them do to you...

Chorus *Everybody sing along,
Come together, come together
Everybody sing as one -
It's Christmas!
Hold the hand of someone dear,
Keep them warm and keep them near,
Everybody sing along
'Cause Christmas time is here!*

Repeat Chorus x3

STAGING AND PRODUCTION SUGGESTIONS

‘It’s Chr-i-i-i-stmas!’ 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**

Decorate the back wall behind the stage, as well as the display boards behind the seated areas, with as much glitter and sparkle as possible! We recommend using our digital backdrops (see website for details), but if not, paint a central glitter ball hanging down, beneath which you can display the words ‘The Christmas Chart Show’ in bright letters. Painted beams of different coloured lights can cross over, picking out silhouettes of dancing figures. On a large piece of card, create a logo for each band that performs and display it during their featured scene.

- **Furniture**

All that is needed is a podium or separate section of staging for the hosts to stand on. You may want to stand a couple of decorated Christmas trees at the sides of the stage to add to the festive feel.

- **Props**

2 clipboards for the directors.
Hand held microphones for the hosts.
A drum kit.
2 keyboards on stands.
3 or 4 microphones on stands.
A selection of guitars, percussion and brass instruments.

- **Costumes**

For individual character suggestions, **see page 25.**

The studio crowd should wear party clothes with festive accessories.

Angels, shepherds, innkeepers etc. should all wear traditional nativity costumes, but with added tinsel and glitter. Animal characters can either wear animal onesies, or leggings and t-shirts (patterned or coloured as per their animal characteristics) and an animal mask. Extra members of the King’s Swingers should wear tuxedos and bow ties.

- **Use of Space** – The studio crowd will be involved in the performance of all the songs, so make spaces to the sides of and in front of the main stage for singing and dancing ensembles. These can double as seating areas whilst the various bands are being interviewed by Chris Cracker on the main stage.
- **Audience seating** – The audience could be in one block facing the stage, or in two blocks separated by an aisle wide enough for the entrance and exit of some characters to and from the back.

Of course, should you have any questions, or if you want further advice about putting on this musical, please email **info@edgyproductions.com** and we’ll be happy to give you all the information you need.

NB - a spoken line is defined as each time a character speaks, usually between 1 & 5 actual lines of text.

Speaking Character	Spoken Lines	Singing Solo	Costume Suggestions
Director	8		Black t-shirt & trousers, microphone headset
Assistant Director	8		Black t-shirt & trousers, microphone headset
Tim Tinsel	13		Christmas jumper, jeans, festive hat/headpiece
Holly Bush	11		Christmas jumper, jeans, festive hat/headpiece
Sam Frost	10		Christmas jumper, jeans, festive hat/headpiece
Chris Cracker	20		Christmas jumper, jeans, festive hat/headpiece
Girl 1	1		Festive party outfit/'going-out' clothes
Boy 1	1		Festive party outfit/'going-out' clothes
Gabriel	1	1 verse	White suit, halo & wings
Angel Backing-Singer	1		White gown, halo & wings
Mary	3		Traditional nativity outfit with tinsel trim
Girl 2	1		Festive party outfit/'going-out' clothes
Boy 2	1		Festive party outfit/'going-out' clothes
Innkeeper's Wife	3	2 verses	Trad. nativity outfit, apron with tinsel trim
Innkeeper	2	2 verses	Traditional nativity outfit with tinsel trim
Landlord 1	2		Traditional nativity outfit with tinsel trim
Landlord 2	1		Traditional nativity outfit with tinsel trim
Landlord 3	1		Traditional nativity outfit with tinsel trim
Girl 3	1		Festive party outfit/'going-out' clothes
Boy 3	1		Festive party outfit/'going-out' clothes
Don Kee	2	1 verse (opt.)	Donkey 'onesie' with added tinsel
Animal 1	1		Animal 'onesie' with added tinsel
Animal 2	1		Animal 'onesie' with added tinsel
Animal 3	1		Animal 'onesie' with added tinsel
Girl 4	1		Festive party outfit/'going-out' clothes
Boy 4	1		Festive party outfit /'going-out' clothes
Shepherd 1	2		Glam headdress & robes. Platform heels
Shepherd 2	1		Glam headdress & robes. Platform heels
Shepherd 3	1		Glam headdress & robes. Platform heels
Shepherd 4	1		Glam headdress & robes. Platform heels
Shepherd 5	1		G lam headdress & robes. Platform heels
Girl 5	1		Festive party outfit/'going-out' clothes
Boy 5	1		Festive party outfit/'going-out' clothes
Wise Guy 1	3	2 lines	Crown, white shorts & t-shirt with word 'Gold' on front
Wise Guy 2	2	2 lines	As above with word 'Frankincense'
Wise Guy 3	2	2 lines	As above with word 'Myrrh'
Camel 1	1		Camel onesie
Camel 2	1		Camel onesie
Camel 3	1		Camel onesie
Girl 6	1		Festive party outfit/'going-out' clothes
Boy 6	1		Festive party outfit/'going-out' clothes
Herod	2	2 verses	Sharp suit and crown
Swinger 1	1		Black tuxedo and bow-tie
Swinger 2	1		Black tuxedo and bow-tie
Swinger 3	1		Black tuxedo and bow-tie
Girl 7	1		Festive party outfit/'going-out' clothes
Boy 7	1		Festive party outfit/'going-out' clothes

‘It’s Chr-i-i-i-stmas!’ by Andrew Oxspring & Ian Faraday

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