

BETHLEHEM



B & B

SHORTER SCRIPT SAMPLE

Scene 1

Bethlehem town square

*(As the **intro music** plays (track 9) the cast enters and all sit to the sides of the empty stage.)*

Narrator #1 Welcome to Bethlehem, a town that you have all heard of. Our story is one you will all know too....well, sort of! It begins 2000 years ago, when Bethlehem was about to get rather busy!

(A town crier enters, carrying a hand bell and a scroll. S/he rings the bell and unrolls the scroll.)

Town Crier Hear ye! Hear ye! Innkeepers and landlords, gather round! Bethlehem is about to get rather busy!

(All the innkeepers enter and excitedly swamp the town crier. They fire questions along the lines of, "What's happened?" / "What's this about?" / "What do you mean 'busy?'" / "Tell us more!")

Town Crier QUIET! *(handing the scroll to Innkeeper #1 and exiting)* It's all in here. I'm off for a lie-down!

Innkeeper #1 *(reading)* It says Bethlehem is going to get lots of visitors!

Innkeeper #2 *(snatching the scroll and reading)* They're coming for the census!

Innkeeper #3 *(snatching the scroll and reading)* Hundreds of them!

Innkeeper #4 They'll want to rent our rooms!

Innkeeper #5 Only if our inns are up-to-scratch!

All Innkeepers TIME TO GET BUSY!

(As the song's intro plays, the innkeepers fetch brooms, cloths, tools and paint brushes.)

Song **Good As New**

*Track 1 - vocal demo
Track 10 - backing track
Lyrics p15*

Narrator# 2 Guests would pay top prices for the best rooms in town, so the innkeepers all hurried off to do a little spring-cleaning.

*(The innkeepers exit as the **intro music** plays (track 11). The stage is made ready for the next scene.)*

Scene 2

The 'Bethlehem B&B Bulletin' office

(Fade the music when ready. Three officers sit at a table, reading letters.)

Narrator# 3 So, 2000 years ago, when people travelled, they liked to leave reviews about the places they stayed at, like you do on Trip Advisor these days.
Narrator #1 And when people stayed in Bethlehem, they would send their reviews to the 'BBBB' - the Bethlehem B&B Bulletin. *(pointing to the stage)* This is their office.

Officer #1 *(sifting through the pile of letters)* Look at all these reviews!

Officer #2 Listen to this one: *(reading a letter)* 'Caesar's Palace Guesthouse is THE best place to stay in Bethlehem!' They've given it five stars!

Officer #3 *(reading a letter)* This one isn't so friendly: 'The Happy Donkey Inn is RUBBISH. I'd rather sleep in a stable!' One star – oh dear!

Officer #1 *(writing on a scroll)* I'll add those two to the list of reviews, then...*(finishing writing and holding up the scroll)*...IT'S READY TO GO PUBLIC!

(The town crier enters, takes the scroll and exits. The three officers stand.)

All 3 Officers Lunchtime!

*(As the **intro music** plays (track 12), the stage is cleared.)*

Scene 3

Bethlehem town square

(Fade the music when ready. The town crier enters, carrying the hand bell and the scroll. S/he rings the bell and unrolls the scroll.)

Town Crier Hear ye! Hear ye! The latest reviews of your inns have gone live!

(All the innkeepers enter and excitedly swamp the town crier. They fire questions along the lines of, "How many stars do we have?" / "Who's come out on top?" / "Did anyone mention our rats?)

Town Crier QUIET! *(handing the scroll to Innkeeper #6 and exiting)* It's all in here. I'm off for a lie-down!

Innkeeper #6 *(reading)* Humph! As usual, guess which inn got all the good reviews....

Innkeeper #7 (snatching the scroll and reading) Caesar's Palace Guesthouse! Surprise, surprise!

Innkeeper #8 (snatching the scroll and reading) While the rest of us got bad reviews...again!

(One innkeeper, Silas, and his wife, Sapphira, arrogantly step forward. Silas takes the scroll and gleefully reads it.)

Silas 'Caesar's Palace Guesthouse is THE best place to stay in Bethlehem!'

Sapphira And that's why we're always fully-booked!

Narrator #2 Silas and Sapphira, who owned Caesar's Palace Guesthouse, always received rave reviews in the BBBB. And boy, how they liked to sing about it.....

Song **Our Inn's Better Than Your Inn**

Track 2 - vocal demo
Track 13 - backing track
Lyrics p16

(The other innkeepers exit, leaving Silas and Sapphira looking pleased with themselves.)

Silas Sapphira, my dear, our plan is working!

Sapphira Yes, Silas! Soon we're going to be rich!

(Both exit with a sinister 'Mwa-ha-ha!')

Narrator #3 You see, for months Silas and Sapphira had been writing fake reviews and sending them to the BBBB, pretending they were from real visitors!

Narrator #3 They wrote glowing reviews for their own inn and really nasty ones for the other inns!

Narrator #1 Everyone coming to Bethlehem would see these reviews and want to stay at Caesar's Palace. Silas and Sapphira were cashing-in!

(As the **intro music** plays (**track 14**), the stage is made ready for the next scene.)

Scene 4

Mary's house

(Fade the music when ready. Mary sits alone on a stool.)

Narrator #1 Now, many miles away in the village of Nazareth, there lived a young woman named Mary.

Narrator #2 God sent his angel, Gabriel, to visit her with some important news...

(To the opening bars of the next song, Gabriel enters and stands by Mary. As verse 2 begins, Joseph enters.)

Song Side By Side

Track 3 - vocal demo
Track 15 - backing track
Lyrics p17

The song contains spoken narration and dialogue, as well as sung lyrics, which tell of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

(As the song finishes, Joseph fetches the donkey. He takes Mary's hand.)

Joseph We're off to Bethlehem, Mary. I hope there's somewhere nice to stay!

*(As the **intro music** plays (track 16), Joseph and Mary exit and the stage is made ready for the next scene.)*

Scene 5

The Happy Donkey Inn

(Fade the music when ready. Samuel and Sarah sit centre stage. They look glum.)

Narrator #3 Back in Bethlehem, Samuel and Sarah, owners of a little inn called The Happy Donkey, were down in the dumps.

Samuel I don't understand, Sarah? The people who have stayed here have always seemed happy with our inn.

Sarah I know, Samuel. But these rotten reviews are driving guests away!

Narrator #1 If things carried on like this, pretty soon The Happy Donkey Inn would have to close down!

Song An Innkeeper's Life

Track 4 - vocal demo
Track 17 - backing track
Lyrics p18

*(As the song finishes, Samuel and Sarah exit, heads bowed. As the **intro music** plays (track 18), the stage is made ready for the next scene.)*

END OF SCRIPT SAMPLE

Please note, this shorter, simpler version of the script is included in your production pack. Also, an editable version (MS WORD doc.) is included in the download and CD-ROM formats of this musical. If you buy the book format, the editable version can be emailed to you on request, free-of-charge.