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- by post – please check website for current address details
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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.
- 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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PLOT SUMMARY

Why are a cat, a dog, an ox, a donkey, a sheep and three camels all sitting outside a stable on a chilly, starry night? Well, the innkeeper’s wife has a bee in her bonnet and has declared her stable ‘out-of-bounds’ to all animals! Something very curious is happening behind the closed door (**song – *Behind The Stable Door***) and the evicted animals want to find out what it is! As they discuss the events leading to each of them being here, they start to piece together clues in the hope of finding an answer.

The cat and dog tell us how all the innkeepers of Bethlehem, and their wives, have recently been in a state of panic (**song – *Bustling About***). They have heard that the town will soon be full of visitors looking for comfy and clean rooms, so beds need making, pillows need plumping and all domestic animals need to be put out! That explains why they’re not allowed inside the inn, but not why the stable is off limits to them...very strange! Next, the donkey explains his presence in the group. Some months ago, his house in Nazareth was visited by an unusual character who gave some news to his mistress, Mary. The donkey hadn’t quite heard what the visitor said, but it led to a long journey which brought them here. The flustered innkeeper’s wife allowed Mary and her husband, Joseph, to come inside, but told the very tired donkey that tonight ‘this stable is no place for animals’! (**song – *Dozy Donkey***). Along with the resident ox, the poor old donkey is made to sit outside!

Next, the sleepy sheep tells how, up on the hillside that evening, she was rudely awoken from a very pleasant dream, in which she recalls lots of happy voices singing (**song – *Wake Up!***), how she was picked up by the excited shepherds and brought to the stable. While the shepherds were allowed inside, she was not! Most annoyed by the situation are the three camels. They tell how they were laden with heavy boxes and bundles and made to travel from their luxurious home in the east, all on the whim of their three ‘wise’ masters who were following a new star that led them here. (**song – *Grumpy Camels***). The camels are extremely upset that the innkeeper’s wife has made them wait outside the stable with these other ‘common’ animals!

Still at a loss, confused and very tired, the animals give up trying to work out the reason for their situation and decide their time would be best spent catching up on some much-needed sleep. However, as they snooze, the stable door is opened to reveal the wonder that has occurred on this special evening. (**song – *Gifts Of Love***). As Mary talks to her visitors and hears about their journeys to the stable, she realises that there are some important characters missing from this special gathering. On Mary’s request, the innkeeper’s wife wakes the animals from their slumber and invites them to come and see the baby. Everything now becomes clear to the animals, as they learn exactly what has been happening behind the stable door and take their celebrated parts in the events of that very first Christmas. (**song – *Get Up!***).

CHARACTERS

(25 speaking parts in order of appearance)

3 Narrators

Innkeeper's Wife

A Cat

A Dog

An Ox

3 Camels

A Sheep

A Donkey

Innkeeper

The Angel Gabriel

Mary

Joseph

3 Shepherds

3 Angels

3 Kings

(Ensemble characters for featured scenes and songs)

Innkeepers

Shepherds

Sheep

Angels

Scene 1

*(As **intro music** plays (**track 8**) the cast enters and opening positions are taken. Centre stage stands a stable door - **see staging suggestions/scenery p20**. As the music ends, a voice shouts ‘GET OUT!’ To the **chasing music** (**track 9**), the cat and dog run out from behind the door and cower at the side of the stage. The innkeeper’s wife follows them, angrily waving a broom!)*

Innkeeper’s Wife Clear off!

(She goes back behind the door. The cat and dog join the line of other animals already sitting at the front of the stage – an ox, a donkey, a sheep and three camels. They all look fed-up.)

Narrator 1 One cold evening in Bethlehem, an innkeeper’s wife had decided that tonight no animals were allowed inside the stable behind their inn.

Cat But a stable is for animals!

Dog So why are we out here?

Ox It’s very curious!

Camels *(snootily)* Humph! And inconvenient!

Sheep I’m baaa-fled!

Donkey What is going on behind that stable door?

Song **Behind The Stable Door** *(tracks 1 & 10, lyrics p12)*
(Animals supported by the whole cast)

Narrator 2 Now, the innkeeper’s wife was very house-proud and liked everything ‘just so’.

(The innkeeper’s wife pops her head round the stable door.)

Innkeeper’s Wife I can’t have any mess in here. Not tonight! *(She pops back.)*

Narrator 3 But what was so special about tonight? The animals tried to think.

(The animals scratch their heads with a thoughtful ‘Hmmmmm?’)

Narrator 1 They each thought about what had happened to them in the months, weeks, days and hours before now. Maybe this would give them some clues?

Dog Well, a few days ago she *(pointing at the stable)* started giving me a really hard time!

Cat Me too, her favourite cat! I remember feeling quite upset.....

*(We hear **harp music (track 11)** to signify a step back in time, and the animals exit to the side seats. The innkeeper and his wife enter, carrying a mop, bucket and cloth.)*

Narrator 2 Earlier that week, the innkeeper and his wife had heard that Bethlehem would soon be full of visitors, needing somewhere clean to stay.

Innkeeper’s Wife Look at the state of this inn!

Innkeeper But you only cleaned this morning!

Innkeeper’s Wife Well, now there’s cat and dog hair everywhere! That’s it, I’m kicking those two out!

(The other innkeepers enter, all carrying cleaning products.)

Narrator 3 Every innkeeper in Bethlehem had the same idea – they had to get cleaning!

Song Bustling About *(tracks 2 & 12, lyrics p13)*
(Innkeepers supported by the whole cast)

*(As **intro music** plays (track 13), the innkeepers exit and the animals return to the front of the stage. Fade the music when all are in position.)*

Scene 2

*(We hear the **harp music** again (track 14), bringing the action back to the present.)*

Dog OK, I understand why we were thrown out of the inn, but why aren’t we allowed in that stable.

Narrator 1 Again, the animals tried to think.

(The animals scratch their heads with a thoughtful ‘Hmmmmm?’)

Donkey Well, we had a visitor at our house a while ago. Things got a little strange after that.....

*(Again we hear **harp music (track 15)**. The Donkey stands to one side of the main stage as the other animals exit to the side seats, **all except the ox who goes behind the stable door**. Mary enters and sits on a stool, then the Angel Gabriel enters and stands by her. The donkey watches, cocking its ear to hear what is being said.)*

Narrator 2 Some months before, in a village called Nazareth, a young woman, Mary, had been visited by Gabriel, an angel sent by God. The donkey had only heard the end of their conversation.....

Mary But I’m so afraid. Why has He chosen me to do this?

Gabriel Fear not, Mary. God will be watching over you.

(Gabriel exits. Joseph enters and huddles in conversation with Mary. The donkey strains to listen, but to his frustration can't hear anything!)

Narrator 3 Mary's husband, Joseph, was shocked when he heard what the angel had said. He also had some news for Mary.

Joseph Mary, we will soon have to go to Bethlehem, where I was born. It's a long way so you must ride on our donkey. *(The donkey pricks up his ears at this!)*

Narrator 1 So the day came for them to leave Nazareth and go to Bethlehem. The donkey soon became tired and longed for a warm, cosy stable.

Song Dozy Donkey *(tracks 3 & 16, lyrics p14)* *(Whole cast)*

IMPORTANT STAGE DIRECTION

(Throughout the first half of the song, Joseph, Mary and the donkey walk back and forth. In the second verse, the innkeeper and his wife enter and Mary and Joseph stop and mime a conversation with them. The donkey dozes on its feet at this point. The innkeeper shakes his head while Mary and Joseph clasp their hands together, pleading. The innkeeper shrugs and points at the stable and, as the song finishes, they all go behind the door.)

Narrator 2 But all the inns were full in Bethlehem. After begging the innkeeper and his wife for a place to stay, Mary and Joseph were offered the stable. Their reason for needing somewhere so urgently got the innkeeper's wife very excited!

Innkeeper's Wife *(pushing the donkey out from behind the door with her broom)*
Out you go! *(She goes back behind the door, then comes out pushing the ox.)* You too!

Narrator 3 The ox was very put out, and it didn't look like the donkey would be getting any rest after his long journey.

*(We hear the **harp music** again (track 17), bringing the action back to the present. All the animals resume their places at the front of the stage.)*

Ox That stable is my home. Why would she throw me out?

Donkey I've no idea. *(to the sheep)* How about you? Why are you out here?

Sheep Well now, mine's a very strange story.....

*(Again we hear **harp music** (track 18). As the other animals exit, the sheep moves to the side of the stage and falls asleep. It is joined by more sheep who stay awake/upright. The shepherds enter and sit in a semi-circle centre stage.)*

Scene 3

Narrator 1 Earlier that evening, a group of shepherds had been watching over their sheep. They were too tired from their busy day to notice how unusually starry the sky was.

All Shepherds YAWN! *(They all lie down to sleep)*

Narrator 2 Suddenly, a host of angels appeared to the shepherds, singing God’s praises and telling of something special that was happening!

(The angels enter and the surprised shepherds sit bolt upright. The sheep also stand to attention, showing amazement...all except the one sheep who sleeps throughout.)

Song **Wake Up!** *(tracks 4 & 19, lyrics p15)*
(Angels supported by the whole cast)

Angel 1 Are you awake?

All Shepherds *(in shock)* Oh yes....we’re wide awake!

Angel 2 Then hurry to Bethlehem and find the stable where the baby is born.

Angel 3 Take Him a gift, kneel by His side and worship Him.

(The angels exit.)

Shepherd 1 Come on!

Shepherd 2 What about a gift?

Shepherd 3 All we have is sheep!

Shepherd 1 Then grab one! Hurry!

(Shepherd 3 approaches the flock, who bleat in fear and scatter – all except the one sheep who is still asleep. In a comic chase sequence the shepherds try to round up the fleeing sheep, but they escape and exit. Noticing the one remaining sleeping sheep, Shepherd 3 prods it to wake it up. It gives a big yawn, then a bleat of surprise as the shepherd pulls it to its feet. The Shepherds and the sleepy sheep exit.)

Narrator 3 So the shepherds took the very sleepy sheep and headed down the hillside to find the stable.

(The shepherds re-enter and knock on the stable door. The innkeeper’s wife beckons them in and they go behind the door. However, she bars the sheep’s entrance with her broom!)

Innkeeper’s Wife *(pushing the sheep!)* Not you! No animals tonight!

*(She goes back behind the door. We hear the **harp music** again (**track 20**), bringing the action back to the present. All the animals resume their places at the front of the stage.)*

- Sheep** So, all I know is I was woken up and brought here. I have no idea why!
- All** It's all so confusing!
- Ox** *(to the camels)* Why are you three here?
- Camel 1** *(snootily)* That's what we'd like to know!
- Camel 2** *(snootily)* We are from a fine, luxurious palace, far away.
- Camel 3** *(snootily)* We shouldn't have to sit here it with common animals!
- Camel 1** Goodness knows what our masters were thinking of.....
- (Again we hear **harp music (track 21)**. As the other animals exit, the camels move to the side of the stage. The three kings enter, carrying telescopes, charts and maps.*
- Narrator 1** In a far-off eastern land, three wise and clever kings had waited patiently for years for the stars to give them a sign that something wonderful was about to happen.
- King 1** *(suddenly pointing)* There! A bright new star!
- King 2** It's moving! We must follow it!
- King 3** This could be a long journey, so we'll need tents, rugs and cushions.....
- King 1**pots, pans, plates and water flasks.....
- King 2**our charts, maps and telescopes.....
- King 3**and quite a few changes of clothes!
- Narrator 2** The only way they could carry so much baggage was by camel!
- (The kings lead the camels to the centre of the stage where they start loading them with bags and bundles of all shapes and sizes - **see staging suggestions/props p21**. With every bag added, the camels' shoulders slump and they look extremely fed up!)*
- King 1** What about the presents?!
- (The kings look around the floor and pick up the only three boxes remaining.)*
- King 2** These are too precious to pack. We'll carry them instead.
- Camels** Phew! That really would have been the straw that broke the camel's back!

(As the song begins the kings lead the camels around the stage. Throughout the song the camels get wearier and grumpier!)

Song Grumpy Camels *(tracks 5 & 22, lyrics p16)*

(Camels supported by the whole cast)

(As the song finishes the kings lead the camels to the stable door and knock. The innkeeper’s wife pops her head out, invites the kings inside but shakes her broom at the camels.)

Narrator 3 But it was the same old story – no animals allowed inside the stable, not even posh ones!

*(Again we hear **harp music (track 23)**. The animals resume their places at the front of the stage and are joined by the camels, who have wearily shrugged off their bundles.)*

Scene 4

Camel 3 So we don’t get to find out the reason why we travelled all this way!

Sheep Well, I’m past caring. I’m going back to sleep!

All Animals Good idea!

Narrator 1 The animals each gave a big yawn, closed their eyes and nodded off. But this long and tiring day wasn’t quite over yet!

*(As we hear **soft music (track 24)** the animals lie down on the floor in front of stage. The stable door is then ‘opened’ - **see staging suggestions/scenery p20** – to reveal the nativity tableau. The nativity characters can move forward towards the front of the stage at this point. Mary sits centrally by the manger with Joseph standing at her shoulder. The shepherds and three kings kneel either side. The innkeeper and his wife stand further away to one side. The angels enter and form a line at the back. The music continues, under the narration, until the next song.)*

Narrator 1 If the sheep had been awake on the hillside that evening, s/he would have heard the angels tell the shepherds that a baby boy named Jesus, the son of God, was born in the stable.

Narrator 2 Mary wrapped Him up and laid Him down to sleep in the manger.

Narrator 3 The shepherds kneeled and worshipped the baby, who one day would bring His message of love, hope and peace to the world.

Narrator 1 And the three Kings offered Jesus the gifts they had brought to honour Him; gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Narrator 2 Looking on from the side were the innkeeper and, of course, his wife. She was very happy that she had provided a comfy, clean and animal-free place for this wonderful event to happen!

Narrator 3 And as the angels watched over them all, they gave thanks to God for the gifts He had given....gifts of love. *(Fade the **soft music**.)*

Song Gifts Of Love (tracks 6 & 25, lyrics p17)
(Whole cast)

(As the song finishes, the kings, the shepherds, the innkeeper and his wife stand and gather closer round the manger to look at the baby. Mary and Joseph mime a conversation with them all.)

Narrator 1 After all the excitement inside the stable, Mary and Joseph could now relax. They listened as everyone told them about their different journeys to get here.

Mary I couldn't have wished for a better place or for better company. There's just one thing that would make it perfect.....

(She beckons to the innkeeper's wife, who leans in as Mary whispers something.)

Innkeeper's Wife (surprised) Well...if you insist!

(The innkeeper's wife takes her broom and comes to the front of the stage, where she stands over the sleeping animals. She begins prodding them all!)

All Animals (each expressing annoyance at being woken up) What the...? / Hey, what's happening? / What now? / But I was sleeping! etc etc....

Innkeeper's Wife Come on! Up you get! You should all be in there....in the stable!

All Animals (confused) But we thought....

Innkeeper's Wife (beckoning with her broom) HURRY UP!

(The yawning animals stand and follow the innkeeper's wife to the manger. They each gaze in wonder at the baby. They then look at each other, then at the audience.....)

All Animals (smiling) So, that's what's been going on behind the stable door!

Song Get Up! (tracks 7 & 26, lyrics p18)
(Whole cast)

THE END

Behind The Stable Door

Chorus *What's going on behind the stable door?
Something peculiar, that's for sure!
We haven't got a notion
What this commotion's all about.
We want to find out!*

Verse 1 We have no idea
Why we're sitting here
Out in the cold,
We want to be told.
We should be inside,
Is there something to hide?
Come on, someone
Just spill the beans and tell us....

Chorus *What's going on behind the stable door?
Something peculiar, that's for sure!
We haven't got a notion
What this commotion's all about.
We want to find out!*

Verse 2 It's all so confusing,
Really not amusing!
What's all the fuss?
And why is it us
Waiting outside?
Is there something to hide?
Come on, someone
Just spill the beans and tell us....

Chorus *What's going on behind the stable door?
Something peculiar, that's for sure!
We haven't got a notion
What this commotion's all about.
We want to find out!*

Repeat *We want to find out!*

Bustling About

Chorus *Bustling about in Bethlehem,
Rushing to and fro,
Always on the go!
Bustling about in Bethlehem,
‘Cause visitors are on their way!*

Verse 1 Busy going upstairs,
Busy coming down,
Busy, busy innkeepers
All about the town.
Busy sweeping floors and
Busy making beds,
Busy plumping pillows
For the travellers’ weary heads! (Yawn!)

Chorus *Bustling about in Bethlehem,
Rushing to and fro,
Always on the go!
Bustling about in Bethlehem,
‘Cause visitors are on their way!*

Verse 2 Busy keeping dogs out,
Busy chasing cats,
Busy getting rid of those
Pesky little rats!
Busy mopping paw prints,
Busy making clean
Every nook and cranny
Where an animal has been! Eurgh!

Chorus *Bustling about in Bethlehem,
Rushing to and fro,
Always on the go!
Bustling about in Bethlehem,
‘Cause visitors are on their way!*

Dozy Donkey

Chorus *Dozy donkey
Dreaming of a stable.
Tired old donkey
Rest a while tonight.*

Verse 1 You have had a long day,
Now relax and eat hay!
You have travelled far
And now you’re feeling weary.
You have had a long day,
Now relax and eat hay!
Take a break!
Have a rest!
Time to sleep the night away....(yawn!)

Chorus *Dozy donkey
Dreaming of a stable.
Tired old donkey
Rest a while tonight.*

Verse 2 You came by a long road,
Now it's time to unload,
Mary's off your back
And now you're feeling sleepy.
You came by a long road,
Now it's time to unload,
Catch your breath!
Take a nap!
Time to sleep the night away...(yawn!)

Chorus *Dozy donkey
Dreaming of a stable.
Tired old donkey
Rest a while tonight.*

Wake Up!

Chorus *Wake up and shout it out!*
Sing a loud Hosannah!
Wake up and spread the news,
A special babe is born!
Wake up and shout it out!
Sing a loud Hosannah!
Wake up and spread the news,
A special babe is born!

Part 1 In the town of Bethlehem
A king is born tonight
And angels come to spread the news,
A wonderful sight!

Chorus *Wake up and shout it out!*
Sing a loud Hosannah!
Wake up and spread the news,
A special babe is born!
Wake up and shout it out!
Sing a loud Hosannah!
Wake up and spread the news,
A special babe is born!

Part 2 And He brings joy and He brings hope
And He brings peace on Earth,
And He brings joy and He brings hope
And He brings peace on Earth,

Chorus and Part 2 together

Wake up and shout it out!
Sing a loud Hosannah!
Wake up and spread the news,
A special babe is born!
Wake up and shout it out!
Sing a loud Hosannah!
Wake up and spread the news,
A special babe is born!

And He brings joy and He brings hope
And He brings peace on Earth.
And He brings joy and He brings hope
And He brings peace on Earth.
And He brings joy and He brings hope
And He brings peace on Earth.
And He brings joy and He brings hope
And He brings peace on Earth.

Grumpy Camels

Verse 1 Long, long ago our journey began,
Mile after mile over desert sand.
Hardly the life of luxury –
It’s given us the hump, and we’re not happy!

Chorus *Grumpy camels carrying the kings,
Grumpy camels carrying the three kings.
Grumpy camels carrying the kings,
Grumpy camels carrying the kings.*

Verse 2 Why all the bundles? Why all the sacks?
Why all the boxes upon our backs?
Don’t have a clue, we’re at a loss –
It’s given us the hump, and we’re really cross!

Chorus *Grumpy camels carrying the kings,
Grumpy camels carrying the three kings.
Grumpy camels carrying the kings,
Grumpy camels carrying the kings.*

Verse 3 Travelling westward, led by a star,
Night after night we’ve been pushed so far!
A long way from home and sleeping rough –
It’s given us the hump, and we’ve had enough!

Chorus *Grumpy camels carrying the kings,
Grumpy camels carrying the three kings.
Grumpy camels carrying the kings,
Grumpy camels carrying the kings.*

Gifts Of Love

Verse 1 Baby sleeps in the dark of night,
 Gift of love like a shining light.
 Baby sleeps, he’s a sign so small
 Of a gift of love given for us all.

Chorus *Shining bright (shining bright)*
 In the night (in the night)
 Gifts of love.
 Shining bright (shining bright)
 In the night (in the night)
 Gifts of love.

Verse 2 Mother’s kiss in the dark of night,
 Gift of love like a shining light.
 Mother’s kiss, it’s a sign so small
 Of a gift of love given for us all.

Chorus *Shining bright (shining bright)*
 In the night (in the night)
 Gifts of love.
 Shining bright (shining bright)
 In the night (in the night)
 Gifts of love.

Verse 3 Father’s hug in the dark of night,
 Gift of love like a shining light.
 Father’s hug, it’s a sign so small
 Of a gift of love given for us all.

Chorus *Shining bright (shining bright)*
 In the night (in the night)
 Gifts of love.
 Shining bright (shining bright)
 In the night (in the night)
 Gifts of love.

Get Up!

Verse 1 Get up!
 Come see the baby!
 Get up!
 His life’s begun!
 Get up!
 We’re celebrating
 No time for sleeping,
 Christmas has come!

Verse 2 Get up!
 Join in the music!
 Get up!
 Come bang the drum!
 Get up!
 We’re celebrating
 No time for sleeping,
 Christmas has come!

Instrumental *(lots of dancing!)*

Verse 3 Get up!
 Let’s have a party!
 Get up!
 It’s time for fun!
 Get up!
 We’re celebrating
 No time for sleeping,
 Christmas has come!

Repeat Verse 1 Get up!
 Come see the baby!
 Get up!
 His life’s begun!
 Get up!
 We’re celebrating
 No time for sleeping,
 Christmas has come!