

If this document is not displaying pages correctly, simply click ‘View’ and select ‘Edit Document’, then save to your preferred location.

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.

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, CLA 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.

PERFORMANCE LICENCE APPLICATION FORM

For any performance of any part of ‘**Behind The Stable Door**’ 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 – please check website for current address details
- 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 ☐ **£36.00** (including VAT)
(no admission charged and no tickets sold)

or

Performance Licence with charges ☐ **£42.00** (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 ☐ **£36.00** (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

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)

**For a
character
line-count &
costume
suggestions
see p22**

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 And don’t try sneaking in here again! 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, in a stable behind an inn, the innkeeper’s wife had a bee in her bonnet! For some reason, which the animals did not understand, she had decided that tonight not one of them was allowed inside.

Cat But it’s a stable! It’s supposed to have animals in it!

Dog Why are lots of people in there, and why are we out here?

Ox It’s a very curious situation!

Camels (*snootily*) Humph! And rather inconvenient!

Sheep It’s got me baaa-fled!

Donkey What exactly is going on behind that stable door?

All We’d really like to know.....

Song **Behind The Stable Door** (*tracks 1 & 10, lyrics p13*)
(*Animals supported by the whole cast*)

Narrator 2 Now, the innkeeper’s wife was very house-proud and liked everything ‘just so’. But throwing the animals out of the stable seemed a little harsh, even by her standards!

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

Innkeeper’s Wife It may seem a little harsh, but I can’t have any mess in here. Not tonight! (*She pops back again.*)

Narrator 3 But what was so special about tonight? The animals scratched their heads and 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, it was a few days ago when ‘her indoors’ (*pointing at the stable*) started giving me a hard time. Talk about a dog’s life!

Cat I got it in the neck too! Me, her favourite cat! I remember feeling quite upset at the way I was being treated.....

*(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 news that Bethlehem would soon be full of visitors. These visitors would need somewhere to stay.....somewhere clean.

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

Innkeeper But you only cleaned this morning! It’s spotless!

Innkeeper’s Wife It was spotless, but now there’s cat and dog hair everywhere! That’s it, I’m kicking those two out! Oh, and I saw a rat in the kitchen – as the man of the house, you might want to deal with that!

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

Narrator 3 Every innkeeper in Bethlehem had the same idea – they had to get cleaning. With lots of visitors on their way, beds had to be made, floors had to be scrubbed, cushions had to be plumped and all animals had to be.....evicted!

Song **Bustling About** *(tracks 2 & 12, lyrics p14)*
(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 sort of understand why we were thrown out of the inn, but I still can’t see why none of us are allowed in that stable.

Narrator 1 Again, the animals scratched their heads and tried to think.

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

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, but it had sounded very exciting!

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

Gabriel Fear not, Mary. God loves you and 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. And to add to that, he also had some news for Mary, news which worried the old donkey.

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!)* I know you’ll find it difficult, but I’ll take care of you.

Narrator 1 So the day came for them to leave Nazareth and go to Bethlehem. The donkey didn’t enjoy the journey one bit, as Mary seemed heavier than he remembered! He soon became tired and longed for a warm, cosy stable to rest in.

Song Dozy Donkey *(tracks 3 & 16, lyrics p15)* *(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 With so many visitors to Bethlehem, all the inns were full. 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 was what put that bee in the innkeeper’s wife’s bonnet!

Innkeeper’s Wife *(pushing the donkey out from behind the door with her broom)*
Out you go! This stable is no place for you! *(She goes back behind the door, then comes out pushing the ox.)* You too, you big old beast!

Narrator 3 The ox was very put out at being, well, ‘put out’! As for the donkey, it didn’t look like he 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 has been my home for years. Why would she throw me out?

Donkey Well something’s ruffled her feathers, that’s for sure! I just wish I knew the reason. *(to the sheep)* So, 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, on the hillside overlooking Bethlehem, a group of shepherds had been watching over their sheep. When the sun set, the sky came alive with the light of a thousand stars. The shepherds, however, were too tired from their busy day to really notice.

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

Narrator 2 But they didn’t stay asleep for very long! Suddenly, a host of angels appeared to the shepherds, singing God’s praises and telling of something special that was happening in Bethlehem!

(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 p16)*
(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 We must do as the angels have said. Come on!

Shepherd 2 What about a gift? They told us to take one for Him.

Shepherd 3 Well, what else can we give Him but a sheep? It’s all we have!

Shepherd 1 Then grab one and let’s be on our way! 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, along with a very sleepy and slightly confused sheep, headed down the hillside to find the stable they had been told about.

(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! This stable is no place for a sheep, thank you very much. Not 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 during a very pleasant dream...lots of happy voices singing, I seem to recall...and brought here. I have no idea why!

All It’s all so confusing!

Ox *(to the camels)* What about you three? Why are you here?

Camel 1 *(snootily)* I’ve been asking myself that very same question!

Camel 2 *(snootily)* We are from a fine, luxurious palace, far away. That woman is correct - a grubby stable is no place for us!

Camel 3 *(snootily)* And to have to sit outside it with common animals, *(to the others)* no offence, it just won’t do!

Camel 1 It’s all our masters’ fault. Goodness knows what they 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 For a long time, in a far-off eastern land, three kings had been watching the skies. They were wise and clever men who had waited patiently for the stars to give them a sign that something wonderful was about to happen on earth.

- King 1** (suddenly pointing) There! A bright new star in the western sky!
- King 2** At last! But look, it’s moving! We must follow where it leads!
- King 3** Well, what are we waiting for? We need to get packing! 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** There was only one way the kings could make such a journey with so much baggage....and that 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** Now, have we forgotten anything?
- Kings 2 & 3** The presents! What about the presents?!

(The kings look around the floor and pick up the only three boxes remaining.)

- Camels** (protesting) No more, surely?!
- King 1** Hmmm....these are too precious to pack with the rest. 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 p17)

(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! After travelling for hundreds of miles, following the star that led them to Bethlehem, the poor camels were left out in the cold.

*(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 after making us work like donkeys, *(to the donkey)* no offence, we don’t even get to find out the reason why!

Sheep Well, I’m past caring. They’re not going to let us in there to see what’s happening, so I’m going back to sleep!

All Animals Good idea!

Narrator 1 And with that, the animals each gave a big yawn, closed their eyes and nodded off. But little did they know that this long and tiring day, which they would be happy to see the back of, 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 exactly what was happening behind the stable door. Mary had given birth to a baby boy, the son of God, whom she had named Jesus.

Narrator 2 There in the stable, she wrapped Him up and laid Him down to sleep in the manger, as Joseph stood by keeping them both safe.

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 The three Kings, who had waited many years for that star to lead them to Him, 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, most importantly, an 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 p18)
(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 how they came to be here, about their different journeys and about everything that had happened to make this night so wonderful.

Mary Thank you, each and every one of you. 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...I just thought that...you know...this might not be the time and the place. But 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! I don't know what you're all doing out here! 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 p19)
(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!

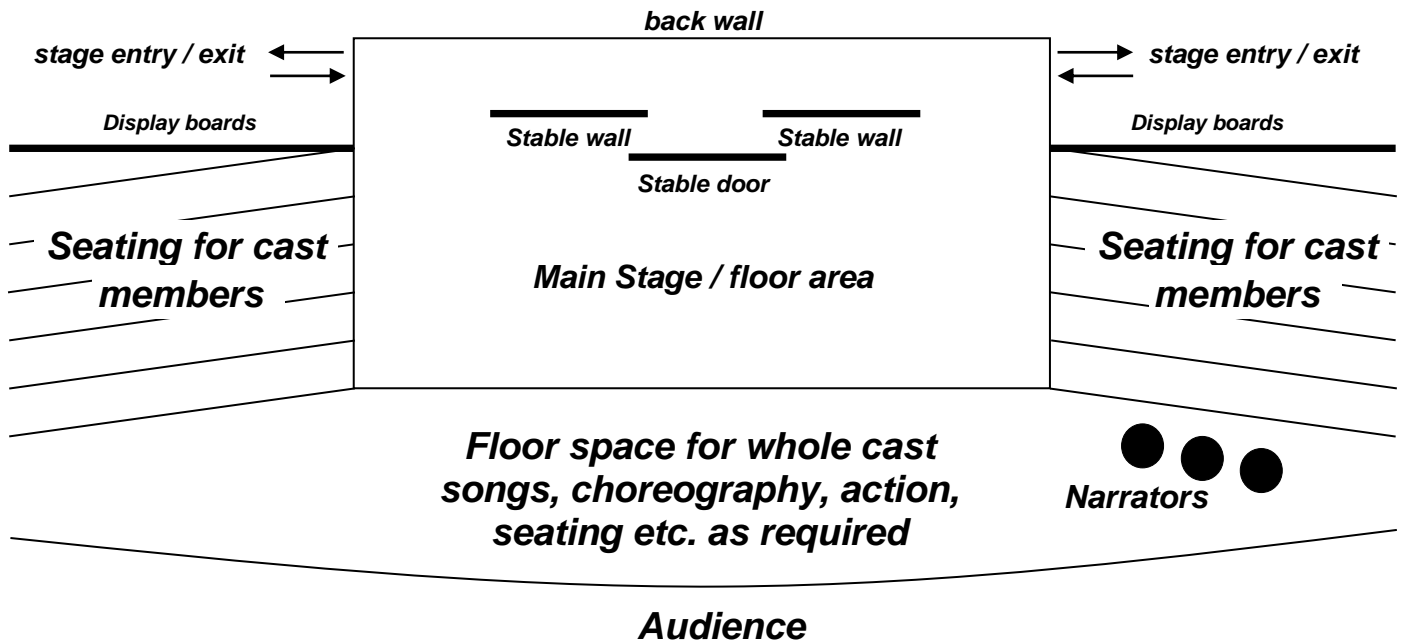
Instrumental *(lots of dancing!)*

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!

STAGING AND PRODUCTION SUGGESTIONS

Behind The Stable Door 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 a biblical town scene, with white flat-roofed houses and wooden stables and barns. This can be repeated on the display boards behind the two seating areas either side of the stage. For the **stable** and the **door**, we suggest three more display boards arranged as in the diagram above. The board standing forward of the other two should be decorated to represent a wooden door, while the two boards behind should represent stable walls. The gap between the boards allows movement in and out of the stable without the door having to actually be opened and closed. For the reveal of the nativity tableau, adults can simply slide the three boards to the side of the stage to represent the opening of the stable door.
- **Furniture** – Straw bales (if available) in front of the stage would be ideal for the animals to sit on, or else use a PE bench covered with a dark throw or blankets. Again, a bale for Mary to sit on would be effective, although a wooden stool, which she'll need in scene 2, would be just as good. A wooden or cardboard box can be decorated to represent the manger, with four wooden legs attached at the bottom.

- ***Props (listed by scene)*** **Scene 1:** a broom and a selection of mops, buckets and cloths for the innkeepers. **Scene 2:** N/A **Scene 3:** telescopes (made from card tubes), maps, star charts, 3 finely-wrapped gift boxes (to be held) and sacks/bundles (paired and tied together panier-style) to be draped over the camels’ shoulders. **Scene 4:** if you feel it appropriate (and it’s not frowned upon by your school’s H&S policy), party-poppers could be let off on the final beat of the last song.
- ***Costume*** – For individual character suggestions, **see page 22.**
- ***Use of Space*** – Large groups can be involved in the performance of most of the songs. A space on the floor in front of the main stage could be used to accommodate extra bodies. In this space, for some songs, the cast could perform dance routines. A seating area for resting performers could be allocated either 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.
- ***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 of some characters from the back, or to allow some of the drama and choreography to be performed on the floor.

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

Character	Number of spoken lines	Costume Suggestions
Narrator 1	9	White gown with tinsel trim
Narrator 2	9	As Narrator 1
Narrator 3	8	As Narrator 1
Innkeeper's Wife	9	Long tunic, headdress & apron
Cat	8	Black or brown leotard/onesie, ears on an Alice-band, tail & face-paint
Dog	9	Brown or spotty leotard/onesie, ears on headband, tail & face-paint
Ox	9	Brown onesie, long horns on a head-band, tail & face-paint
Camel 1	11	Beige onesie with hump/s, ears on a head-band, tail, face-paint & long lashes
Camel 2	10	As Camel 1
Camel 3	11	As Camel 1
Sheep	10	Woolly fleece with hood, black leggings, tail & face-paint
Donkey	9	Grey onesie, long ears on a headband, tail, & face-paint
Innkeeper	1	Tunic & apron
Gabriel	1	White gown with tinsel trim, tinsel halo & silver wings
Mary	2	Traditional blue tunic & headdress
Joseph	1	Traditional tunic, cloak & headdress
Shepherd 1	4	Traditional tunic, cloak, headdress, a beard, & crook
Shepherd 2	3	As Shepherd 1
Shepherd 3	3	As Shepherd 1
Angel 1	1	White gown with tinsel trim, tinsel halo & silver wings
Angel 2	1	As Angel 1
Angel 3	1	As Angel 1
King 1	4	Elegant gown & turban or crown
King 2	3	As King 1
King 3	3	As King 1

Ensemble Characters	Costume Suggestions
Innkeepers	Tunics and aprons
Shepherds	Tunics, cloaks, headdresses, perhaps beards, & crooks
Sheep	Woolly fleeces with hoods, black leggings, tails & face-paint
Angels	White gown with tinsel trim, tinsel halo & silver wings