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SCRIPT

SCENE 1

BETHLEHEM: OPENING NIGHT AT THE INN

Screen with Inn with OPENING NIGHT ON - music instrumental then a smash!

SFX: Smash (Crockery)

CD TRACK

15

SAM Oh dear, oh dear. It's all going wrong!

SAMANTHA (Calm down, dear, calm down. Everything will be

fine!

FREEZE

FEAR (Happily) Everything will be fine! (Suddenly nasty)

But not if we can helpit! Allow us to introduce

ourselves. I'm Fear! Children react - FEAR Would you

like to see someof the tools of my trade? (A hairy spider! SPIDER A scaly snake! SNAKE A... oh sorry

(BANANA), that's my lunch. A wriggly mouse!

MOUSE

DOUBT I'm Doubt! (Pause) Children react DOUBT Or am I?

(They all laugh) I love to whisper little niggling

questions in your ear, so you're just not sure what to

believe. It's such fun!

PANIC And I'm... Panic!! Children react PANIC!!

And we like nothing better than...

FEAR, DOUBT

up... trouble!

(Doing an exaggerated stirring action on each word) ... stirring...

& PANIC

FEAR (Pointing off) That young couple you just saw are

about to open their first inn. (With false sympathy) Our poor innkeeper friend is a little bit nervous. (Pause, smirking) So we think it's our job to keep him that way.

DOUBT I mean, is he really up to the job?

PANIC Or will he just give in and... panic!

All three run around screaming in panic for a count of three, then immediately stop.

FEAR Come, my frightful friends, let's see what mischief we can bring about

tonight.

Child runs on with plunger

SAM Now the toilet's not working!

FEAR I'm afraid you'll never have time to fix it now.

SAM I'll never have time to fix it now!

Thumbs up from Doubt and Panic.

DOUBT Do you really think anyone's going to want to stay at an inn that's in this

state?

SAM (Looking around) I doubt that anybody's going to want to stay here!

Oh dear!

SAMANTHA (Entering and standing, hands on hips) Right, Sam. Relax. Some of the

neighbours have offered to help and even the animals can do their bit. Never fear, if we all pull together, we'll get sorted in no time! There's really

no need to get in a state about it!

SAM You're right! What am I worrying about? It'll be all right on the night!

PANIC Nooo!

All on TRIMS and BARKER - ANIMALS

DEEFER Better get these to the kitchen, they must be for the guests' supper later.

PERCY (In a parrot voice) Pieces of cake! Pieces of cake! Bunches of grapes!

Bunches of grapes!

DEEFER They won't need to worry about getting a menu printed with you

around, Percy!

Percy and Deefer exit.

MR TRIM (Picking up the lamp) Where do you want this, Sam?

SAM &

SAMANTHA (Pointing in opposite directions) Over there! (They laugh)

SAM Sorry, we're both called Sam. Well, Samuel (indicating himself)

and Samantha (indicating his wife). It gets a bit confusing sometimes.

SAMANTHA Never mind. Let's get going. (Excited) It's opening night!

TRIMS AND BARKER OFF

SAM (Looking around, worried) Oh, don't remind me!

FEAR Stand by, Panic. I think we might still be in with a chance!

ANGELS TO THE BACK

SONG 1: OPENING NIGHT

CD TRACK 1/8

DOUBT It's awful when people encourage each other. Shouldn't be allowed!

PANIC (Patting Doubt on the back) There's still plenty of scope for a good

meltdown! (Pointing at Sam) See, he's not at all sure about the

decor.

Mrs Trim and Barker back on

MRS TRIM (Handing Mr Trim the scissors) Mr Trim, you've got a customer waiting;

wants a short back and sides, urgently. He tried to do a home-dye job and it turned out green. Looks a bit like a sprout at the moment, so I suppose looking like a neat lawn can only be an improvement. (Looking around)

Ooh, I say, I love your curtains. And this carpet looks ever so posh!

SAM Do you think so?

MRS TRIM Definitely. Very tasteful indeed.

SAM &

SAMANTHA (Smiling at each other) Thank you!

FEAR, DOUBT Grrrr!

& PANIC

Pigeon 'flies' - Dambusters

PIGEON Coo, coo!

SAMANTHA Oh my goodness, what's this?

MRS TRIM Looks like E.P.D. Express Pigeon Delivery.

Pigeon hands over a pile of postcards to Sam, salutes and exits.

SAM (Looking through them) These are all bookings! Sam, we're already full!

And we haven't even opened yet!

MR BARKER That'll be down to the ROMAN census. Everybody and their dog are

here! My petshop's nearly out of poo bags!

SAMANTHA Then we'd better make ourselves official. (Indicating red ribbon) Mr

Trim, would you do the honours?

MR TRIM ('Cutting' the red ribbon) No problem! I declare this inn open, so come

onin! Right, Mrs Trim, let's go and see to that sprout!

ALL EXIT _ MUSIC

FEAR Bah! Foiled again! (*Pause*) We don't want another mess-up like that one

about nine months ago. Remember, some guy called Joseph. We thought

we really had him! It would have been beautiful!

DOUBT (Remembering) Oh yeah! (Rubbing his hands) He was doubting, big time!

PANIC That's right. We came so close to a full-blown 'Panic!'. Where was that?

FEAR It was a little place called Nazareth. I remember it like it was

only yesterday...

They all walk backwards in slow motion during...

SFX: Back in time CD TRACK 16

SCENE 2

NINE MONTHS EARLIER: MARY'S HOUSE AND JOSEPH'S HOUSE

MARY (Beginning to sweep/dust) Let the spring-cleaning begin!

MUSIC FOR ANGELS ENTRANCE

GABRIEL and Angels Don't be afraid, Mary!

FEAR (Standing up, suddenly alert) Did someone say 'afraid'?

GABRIEL and Angels I have come to bring you good news. God wants you to be the mother of His

son!

MARY (Slowly lowering the broom) What? Me? But why me? I'm nothing special!

GABRIEL and angels You are special, Mary, because God has chosen you. Are you willing?

Mary paces a little, obviously thinking.

DOUBT (To Mary) Just coz he's an angel, doesn't mean you can believe what

hesays.

PANIC Oh no! What would people think, Mary? Probably that you'd gone mad!

Fear and Panic nod.

MARY (Pacing a bit more then, to Gabriel) If that's what God wants, then

ofcourse I'll do it!

MARY (Putting down broom/duster) Oh! I suppose I'd better tell Joseph.

(Exits) Joseph enters, looking worried and paces across his half of the stage.

JOSEPH Mary's going to have a baby... a baby! What am I going to do?

FEAR You might not be a very good father.

JOSEPH I'm not sure I'd make a good father...

DOUBT Are you ready for all that responsibility? Not to mention the sleepless

nights!

JOSEPH ... and I really like my sleep.

PANIC (Stressed) Think of the extra expense! You'll need to work day and night

making furniture to sell!

JOSEPH (Really worried) Oh! I don't know what to do!

Fear, Doubt and Panic rub their hands in glee.

JOSEPH (*Pause*) I'll sleep on it and decide in the morning.

He exits.

FEAR (Moving to the front of the stage) It could have been so cool, he

shouldhave left Mary high and dry! If only an angel hadn't appeared in his dreams and told him it would be all right! Pesky angelic beings!

Fear, Doubt & Panic move to the side

SONG 2: GOD HAS CHOSEN ME

CD TRACK 2/9

EXIT MUSIC for ANGELS and MARY

MARY I can't believe how quickly the time has gone. I can still remember so

clearly how I felt when the angel came.

FRANK Hi there Joseph – I've got your census letter! I've delivered thousands of these! I'm afraid you and Mary need to travel all the way to Bethlehem with Mary. Poor Mary – when is the baby due Joseph?

JOSEPH We are very excited the baby is due soon Frank. The census did you say? Oh dear we have no choice!

FRANK Those Romans like to count us – just to make sure they can collect all the right taxes!

JOSEPH Come on, Mary, let's go and fetch our Ferrari. (*Pause*)

He should be in the stable.

FRANK (*Pause*) Ferrari? That's a funny name for a donkey!

ALL EXIT TO JOLLY MUSIC

SCENE 3 JOSEPH'S STABLE

Ferrari, Daisy (a cow), Eugene (a sheep), Daphne (a duck), and Plucky (a chicken) are all gathered. Ferrari has a small bag. Fear, Doubt and Panic are seated at the side of the stage.

FERRARI Achoo! Achoo! Oh no, my hayfever is back! That's not good when you're

a donkey!

DAISY (Handing him a tissue) Here's a tissue. Have you got everything

elseyou need?

PLUCKY You could always give him a pat on the back! Coz you're a cow. Get it?

All groan.

EUGENE (Handing Ferrari some sweets) Here, have these for the journey. There

are some grass-flavoured ones, some carrot-flavoured ones and some minty-fresh-breath-flavoured ones. In case you meet a nice lady donkey!

DAISY Aw. That would be lovely!

FERRARI Thank you, Eugene!

DAPHNE Ker-wack! How are you feeling, Ferrari?

FERRARI A bit nervous, if I'm honest. I'm not sure I can do this, guys! I don't think

I've been in training long enough to carry Mary and a baby!

DOUBT That's true, donkey. You might be better off running away to join the

circus!

PANIC Think how awful it would be if you collapsed along the road! I bet they'd

just leave you there, all alone!

DAISY You'll be fine, my friend! Mary and Joseph are so kind.

PLUCKY It'll be exciting to see new places!

EUGENE When you get back, you can tell us all about it.

DAPHNE Just take one step at a time and you'll find yourself there in no time at all.

FERRARI Thanks everyone! You're the best. One step at a time. I think I can

manage that!

Mary and Joseph enter.

MARY

Come on Ferrari! No need to look so nervous. We're all in this together. We've got plenty of hay for you!

FERRARI Oh dear! Achoo!

The others exit, as Mary, Joseph and Ferrari get into position for Song 3.

FEAR Let's stick with this lot. I think this has potential for things to go horribly

wrong!



You might like to add a percussion accompaniment to this song, using claves, coconut shells, woodblocks or guiros to represent the plodding donkey.

KINGS AND CAMELS MOVE TO BACK DURING THIS SONG

SONG 3: WAY TO GO

CD TRACK 3/10

PLAY AGAIN ANIMALS EXIT TO EXIT

MARY AND JOSEPH WAIT AT THE BACK

SCENE 4 BETHLEHEM

Soldiers on first followed by innkeepers

SOLDIERS (Shouting) Come and get counted! Line up please!

SOLDIERS (Shouting) Census Census Census order order

Where do we go?

Who is counting us?

KNOCKING OIN DOORS AND CROWDED _ HENRY WATCHING

AT FOOT OF SOLDIERS

Mary and Joseph

MARY Oh my goodness! It seems very crowded.

DOUBT Where will you stay? Doesn't look like God thought this through, does it?

PANIC (In a panicked voice) You're going to have to have your baby in the street!

JOSEPH God won't let us down, Mary. We'll find somewhere to stay.

Mary and Joseph move towards the innkeepers who just hold up their 'Full' signs.

Deeferenters and stands near Ferrari.

FERRARI (*To himself, sounding worried*) Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear. All this way

andnow we're out in the cold with a baby on the way!

Fear, Doubt and Panic high-five each other.

DEEFER All right, mate? Listen, I belong to a new inn round the corner. We're full

up but there is a little stable at the back. My masters are really kind. I'm

sure they wouldn't mind you staying there. Just follow me.

Ferrari nudges Mary and Joseph.

MARY I think Ferrari wants us to follow him. Come on Joseph!

Deefer exits, followed by Ferrari, Mary and Joseph.

FEAR (Calling after them) A stable. A stable! Is that a good place for the son of

God to be born? (To Doubt and Panic, sniffing the air) Come on you two.

Ithink I can smell something interesting outside town. It could just be

cameldung, but I think it might be fear!

MUSIC TO EXIT TOWARDS THE STABLE

SCENE 5 ON THE ROAD OUTSIDE BETHLEHEM

BALTHASAR It is definitely a new star! I think we just have to keep going.

MELCHIOR We studied the prophecies for so long. I thought I'd feel more certain...

CASPAR It's all right sitting at home, poring over charts and papers. But when you

actually have to get up and do something about it, it's a bit scary!

DOUBT Very scary! Don't you think you should turn back?

PANIC What if you get lost? You could end up stranded forever in the wilderness!

BALTHASAR Caspar, Melchior, we have to trust our preparations. We've been studying

mysteries for so long. Now we get to be a part of one!

MELCHIOR I suppose there's no mistaking that star!

CASPAR It's just that we're such a long way from everything we know.

FEAR Who knows what you'll find when you arrive? If you do ever arrive ...

DOUBT Are you sure stepping into the unknown is such a good idea?

BALTHASAR (*Determined*) We've come too far to go back now. This is our destiny!

Besides, we don't want to waste the gold, frankincense and myrrh we've

bought. They were non-refundable!

MELCHIOR OK, let's keep our eyes on the skies!

CASPAR Following the most unique signpost ever!

SONG 4: AWAY FROM HOME

CD TRACK 4/11

They exit as they sing the end of the song.

PANIC Why is everyone being so positive tonight?! I'm beginning to panic that

we're never going to see another proper 'Panic'!

All three exit, screaming.

FOIELS SCENE MUSIC COMICAL FOR SHEEP

SCENE 6 OUT IN THE FIELDS

Fear, Doubt and Panic appear at the side of the stage.

CHIEF (*Through megaphone*) All present and correct, Number Two?

NO. 2 (*Through megaphone*) All present and correct, Chief!

SHEP. 3 It's like Fort Flocks around here! All this for a bunch of silly sheep!

No 2 Don't let the Chief hear you say that! These are sheep celebrities!

SHEP. 3 They're the temple sheep. They have to be perfect!

No 2 VIPs. Very Important, Precious sheep!

SHEEP 1 Year 1 Woollylicious!

SHEEP 2 Year 1 Be-ewe-tiful!

SHEEP 3 Year 1 Ya baa dab baa do!

A wolf creeps slowly on to the stage and stops for a moment at the side.

No 2 (Pointing his crook at it) Wolf at three o'clock, Chief!

Chief looks at his watch and looks puzzled. The Wolf takes one look at the set-up, shakeshis head and creeps across to the other side.

SHEP. 3 (Pointing his crook at it) Wolf now at nine o'clock, Sir!

CHIEF (Looking at his watch and tapping it) Make your mind

up! Wolf exits.

SHEP. 3 All clear, Chief!

NO. 2 Good job, chaps! Nothing can get through our defences!

CHIEF That's right, Number Two, de-fences are much too strong!

The first two verses of this song could be sung as solos by some of the shepherds, taking aline each. In the last two choruses, the Chief and/or No. 2 should speak the lyrics above the singing, through their megaphones.

SONG 5: SAVE OUR SHEEP!

CD TRACK 5/12

NO. 2 Don't worry sheep, we've got you covered from every angle!

DOUBT (Looking up) Are you sure about that?

SHEP. 3 (Panicked) Aargh! Except the sky! What's that up there? Chief

(Shielding his eyes) Help! I can't see, the light's too bright!

No 2 Quick, hide! They're coming for us!

SHEP. 3 Take cover everyone!

PANIC You're all going to die! Run! Run!

CHANGE SCREEN TO BURST OF LIGHT and ANGEL MUSIC

ANGEL 1 Shepherds! Stop! Don't panic!

The shepherds all freeze.

FEAR D'oh! Those pesky angelic beings are at it again. Always interfering!

ANGEL 2 We've come to bring you good news. Really good news!

ANGEL 3 A baby has been born in Bethlehem and He's God's son.

ANGEL 4 He will be the saviour of the world!

.ANGEL 1 You will find Him lying in a manger, in a stable.

ANGEL 2 Go there now and worship Him.

ANGEL 3 He's worth it!

DOUBT (Having a bright idea) Hey! Do you really think you should

abandonyour sheep?

ANGEL 4 And don't worry about your fleecy friends, I'll make sure they're safe.

FEAR, DOUBT & (Stamping) What! Really?!

PANIC

FEAR Come on you two, let's get out of here! I've had enough. All this positivity

is making me feel quite ill!

TRAVELLING MUSIC - SHEPHERD and KINGS

SCENE 7 ON THE ROAD OUTSIDE BETHLEHEM

BALTHASAR We must be very close now.

MELCHIOR The star is so bright!

CASPAR Nearly there. We're nearly there!

BALTHASAR (To Melchior) I've never followed a star before.

MELCHIOR This star will lead us to the saviour – a new king!

Chief I wish we'd had time to get changed. I'm a bit mucky!

No 2 If how we looked was important, the angels would have said.

SHEP 3 Anyway, you've only got the one outfit!

No 2 That's true!

TRAVELLING MUSIC - SHEPHERD and KINGS - EXIT

SAM and SAMATHA bring on 2 boxes – to WAY IN A MANGER – BLANKETS

SAM Thank you for bringing Mary and Joseph Angus this is a special

> family something amazing is happening here tonight. If only we had a room. But the animals are keeping Mary and the new baby warm -

well done (He gives a bone to Deefer and a carrot to Ferrari)

MR BARKER Animals are such wonderful creatures! They are all being so calm and

quiet too. There is something special about the beautiful child.

SAMANTHA It's been such a special night! And I don't think it's over yet. I can see new

visitors, I'll go and get more hot drinks and blankets SAM

SONG 6: ALL OF HEAVEN

CD TRACK 6/13

All children worship

ANGELS

KINGS

SHEPHERDS

SCENE 8 A STABLE IN BETHLEHEM

They exit.

The angels enter and stand around the edge of the stage. The shepherds also enter and stand at the side of the stage, somewhat hesitant, until Mary summons them over.

CHIEF We've made it! We've come to worship the new baby King!

Sam and Samantha re-enter with more stuff on trays, followed by Percy.

PERCY welcome, welcome welcome

Percy goes to join Deefer.

MARY (*To shepherds*) Come close. Don't be scared!

The shepherds kneel by the manger. The wise men enter.

BALTHASAR We did it We're here!

MELCHIOR We've brought gifts for the baby.

They place the gifts down by the manger.

CASPAR Gold...

BALTHASAR ... frankincense...

MELCHIOR ... and myrrh.

CASPAR (Looking into the manger) He's adorable!

SAM What a very special night - all these people here to WORSHIP this

special little baby

SAMANTHA Come let us worship too

MR TRIM I feel something inside my heart

MRS TRIM Me too I'm sure it is love

PIGEON I'll send the message all around the world Jesus is here!

PANIC Jesus – a child full of HOPE!

DOUBT Jesus a child full of JOY!

FEAR This is Jesus the PRINCE of PEACE!

Lets spread Hope Joy and Peace instead of FEAR and DOUBT!!

No need to Panic God is with us!!

SONG 7: GOD IS WITH US

CD TRACK 7/14

THE END