

SCRIPT v4

SCENE 1: HEAVEN

The narrators are standing or sitting at the front of the stage, to one side. They remain on stage throughout. All the angels (except for the Late Angel) are miming chatting and holding sheet music/papers at the centre of the stage.

S 1. NARRATOR 1

Welcome to you all and thank you for coming. We are your narrators today and we really hope you enjoy the show.

S 2. NARRATOR 2

Yes, Fr John may have a few grey hairs, but we hope you agree that it will have been worth it!

S 3. NARRATOR 3

But it's not just us who have felt the pressure of rehearsals.

S 4. NARRATOR 4

Over 2000 years ago there were rehearsals going on to prepare for an even more important event.

Gabriel enters with a music stand and baton and brings the angels to order.

S 5. GABRIEL

Quiet now, quiet all of you! Let's have some order. This might be one of our final rehearsals before we do this for real, so I need maximum effort from you all.

S 6. ANGEL 1

Do we have any idea when the special baby will be born?

S 7. GABRIEL

All the signs suggest it will be very soon, so this Hallelujah chorus must be perfect. We must all be ready to fly when the time comes.

S 8. ANGEL 2

I've been practising loads.

S 9. ANGEL 3

Me too – listen! *(Sings some tuneless 'la la la's)*

S 10. ANGEL 4

(Looking pained) Promise me you won't stop practising yet!

Gabriel taps his stick on the music stand and all the angels stand in a line with a gap in the middle.

S 11. GABRIEL

1, 2, 3... wait... *(pointing to the gap)* we're missing one. Where is she?

All the angels look around helplessly and begin to make some vague suggestions when the Late Angel rushes in, clutching her wings.

S 12. LATE ANGEL

I'm so sorry! My watch stopped and I was in a rush and I got my wing caught in the door and have been hanging around for ages until someone opened it!

S 13. GABRIEL

(Shaking his head) There is always an excuse with you! When the time comes we will not be waiting for you and you won't get a second chance!

S 14. LATE ANGEL

It won't happen again. I promise! I've got a new clock. *(To Angel 1)*

What did I miss?

S 15. ANGEL 1

We're practising again.

S 16. ANGEL 2

We'll be doing it again very soon, for real! *(Looks really excited)*

S 17. ANGEL 3

And I for one can't wait!

S 18. ANGEL 4

This is going to be the most amazing angel chorus ever! We are so lucky to have been chosen.

S 19. LATE ANGEL

I have a feeling this will be the most amazing thing ever!

S 20. GABRIEL

Are we ready? *(Starting to conduct them with baton)*

All exit.

SCENE 2: A BUSY STREET IN BETHLEHEM

Townspeople and people with luggage are all rushing to and fro, carrying 'No Room', 'No Vacancy' and 'Full' signs. Some street sellers and/or innkeepers are talking and gesturing, including the Innkeeper who is standing by a small table with a 'Full' sign on it, to depict their inn.

S 21. NARRATOR 1

Meanwhile, people were rushing to Bethlehem because the Emperor had ordered a census.

S 22. NARRATOR 2

This was a way of working out how much tax everyone would need to pay and meant that everybody had to return to the place where they were born.

S 23. NARRATOR 3

So, lots of people were busy travelling, but there were not many places left to stay in Bethlehem.

S 24. NARRATOR 4

S 25. There were lots of people arriving and some were getting quite tired and cross about everything!

Mary and Joseph enter with Donkey 1. They all come to the front of the stage to rest. Donkey 1 stretches and rubs back. Donkey 2, Cow and Sheep 1 are waiting to one side of the stage, by the stable.

S 26. MARY

(Holding stomach) How much further, Joseph? I don't think I can keep going.

S 27. JOSEPH

I'm sorry, Mary – we've tried everywhere, but there's just no room.

Someone said there might be space up here.

S 28. DONKEY 1

(Hee-hawing in a most whingey tone) Are we nearly there yet?

Donkey 1 follows Mary and Joseph as they knock on a door.

S 29. INNKEEPER.

Can't you read the sign? *(Pointing to it)* My head is banging with all this knocking.

S 30. JOSEPH

We're very sorry to disturb you, but we were told you might have space.

S 31. INNKEEPER.

Who told you that? *(Looking furtively up and down to see if she can find someone to blame)*

S 32. MARY

The innkeeper on the corner. They said you might have a stable

S 33. INNKEEPER.

(With arms crossed) Stable? Stable? How rude! This is a high-quality inn!

We are not animals.

S 34. DONKEY 1

Speak for yourself.

S 35. INNKEEPER.

(Looking at Mary) Well, you look exhausted. Alright, you can have the stable

(glancing about) but make sure you don't tell anyone!

As Mary and Joseph are led through to the stable, the animals outside it watch the visitors with interest.

SONG 1. WE'VE GOT A FEELING

CD TRACK 3/10

All exit.

SCENE 3: HEAVEN

A siren or bell could be ringing as the angels rush in, with excited urgency. Angel 5 ticks their names off in his/her pad. They should all be straightening one another's halos and wings.

S 36. ANGEL 1

I can't believe it has really happened!

S 37. ANGEL 2

The baby we've been waiting for has been born!

S 38. ANGEL 3

And we get to tell the world. Thank goodness we had all those rehearsals!

S 39. ANGEL 4

I just can't believe we've been chosen to tell the news to all these people.

S 40. ANGEL 1

I'm glad I polished my halo

S 41. ANGEL 2

My wings are whiter than white! *(Turning around to show wings)*

S 42. GABRIEL

(With clipboard and military demeanour) Right angels, it is time!

We have our instructions and we know where we're going. This is the mission we have trained for and our job is to make sure all the right people are told about the baby's birth.

S 43. ANGEL 3

Sorry, can I just check? Is this baby THE baby, the son of God?

S 44. ANGEL 4

Yes! But, Gabriel, are you sure that the people we need to tell will be in fields and on dusty roads and not in palaces?

S 45. GABRIEL

(Looking at clipboard) The instructions were very clear.

S 46. ANGEL 5

(Enthusiastically with pad) I've written them all down.

S 47. ANGEL 3

I'm just so happy that out of all the angels in heaven, WE were chosen to tell people the wonderful news! *(Gesturing to all angels present)*

S 48. GABRIEL

Right, angel chorus, make sure your voices are warmed up. We need to tell all the people on our list that the baby has been born. We are leaving now and we can't wait for anyone!

Gabriel marches out. The angels start warming up their voices (perhaps by singing 'la, la, la, la, la' up and down a scale) and collecting their things. All leave the stage except Angel 5, who is feverishly making notes.

S 49. ANGEL 5

(Looking round worriedly) Oh, the Late Angel is going to miss this and we can't hang around! We've got to fly!

The Late Angel rushes in rubbing her eyes, shaking an alarm clock and wearing a dressing-gown but minus a halo.

S 50. LATE ANGEL

What did I miss? Where has everyone gone in such a hurry? And what was

all that noise?

S 51. ANGEL 5

(Looking up briefly) Oh, are you looking for the angel chorus? They've gone.

Very important business they said. They said 'it was time'!

S 52. LATE ANGEL

What? Where? I can't believe I was late... again. I think I might have missed something really important this time. Oh my goodness!

S 53. ANGEL 5

(Sympathetically) Look, they said something about a field outside Bethlehem.

If you are quick then you might just catch them for a few 'la la la's!

S 54. LATE ANGEL

(Wiping eyes) Right, I have to catch them up... where did I leave my halo?

(Searching the stage)

The Late Angel sings the first verse of the following song and then continues to search for her halo. She can have an actual alarm clock, toothbrush and flannel or can mime the actions. The rest of the angels sing verse 2 from off stage.

At the end of the song, the Late Angel rushes off stage.

S 55. NARRATOR 1

The angel chorus had been preparing for this special baby for ages and when they found out the time had come, they went first to a hillside outside Bethlehem.

S 56. NARRATOR 2

They needed to tell the shepherds that the baby everyone had been waiting for had been born.

S 57. NARRATOR 3

And that they needed to travel to Bethlehem to worship Him.

S 58. NARRATOR 4

Their message had quite a big effect on those shepherds!

SCENE 4: A HILLSIDE NEAR BETHLEHEM

Gabriel and all other angels are on stage, except for the Late Angel. The shepherds and sheep (except for Sheep 1) enter and hide behind the angels. The angels have their backs to the audience and then when the scene begins they turn around, blocking the audience's view of the characters behind.

S 59. ANGEL 1

That was amazing!

S 60. ANGEL 3

I enjoyed that soooo much!

S 61. ANGEL 2

I know you did! *(Wincing, holding his/her ears and then turning to angel standing further away)* Can we swap places next time?

That angel shakes head violently.

S 62. ANGEL 4

And Gabriel was really good. He gave the news really clearly... great work!

All nod and clap.

S 63. GABRIEL

(Looking at clipboard, embarrassed) So, we've told the shepherds and they know the baby has arrived.

S 64. ANGEL 1

Now we have to make sure those wise men are heading in the right direction!

S 65. ANGEL 2

But this time we need to do it very quietly.

S 66. ANGEL 3

They have to think they've done it all by themselves! *(Rolls eyes and shakes head)*

S 67. GABRIEL

Right, let's check where they are. I hope they're still following that star.

All angels creep off from the front, exposing a line of shocked-looking shepherds. The Late Angel rushes on, out of breath and holding a halo.

S 68. LATE ANGEL

Did I make it? (*Looking around*) Oh no – they’ve gone! I tried so hard to get here quickly, but I got cramp in my wings and then I went to the wrong hillside and spent ages trying to describe angels to a herd of goats! (*Head in hands*) I’ve missed them! (*Sniffing, she turns to see open-mouthed and stunned-looking shepherds. She pulls a large handkerchief from a sleeve and rubs her eyes*)

The shepherds shake their heads as if suddenly coming round and then turn to one another and begin to talk in wonder, looking shocked and amazed.

S 69. SHEPHERD 1

Did you just...?

S 70. SHEPHERD 2

Did we just...?

S 71. SHEPHERD 3

Oh my goodness!

S 72. SHEPHERD 1

There were so many lights...

S 73. SHEPHERD 2

And angels singing...

S 74. SHEPHERD 3

And they told us the most wonderful news!

The shepherds sing the verses of the following song and the sheep stand up to sing the echoes. The shepherds bob down on to their knees as the sheep stand up, so they can be seen. The Late Angel watches the song, trying to get the shepherds’ attention, but failing.

SONG 2. DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS? CD TRACK 5/12
Filipino

S 75. SHEPHERD 1

Right, we need to gather our flocks and go to meet this baby. This is a very special night.

The shepherds leave the stage. Their departure exposes a row of stunned-looking sheep. Unlike the shepherds, they all look at the Late Angel.

S 76. SHEEP 2

(*Bleating*) Well, that was a specta-a-a-cular show – well done!

The sheep applaud the Late Angel.

S 77. LATE ANGEL

(Looking crestfallen) Oh, it wasn't me...

S 78. SHEEP 3

Well, we are bl-e-ssed amongst sheep!

S 79. SHEEP 4

Yeah, not many she-e-e-p can say they've seen anything like that!

The sheep all nod and baa.

S 80. SHEEP 2

Did you pra-a-a-ctise all that singing?

S 81. LATE ANGEL

(Wailing) Oh, why wasn't it me? I overslept, and then I got lost and I really don't speak goat very well! I so wanted to spread the news, but it's all going wrong! *(Starts loudly sobbing again)*

S 82. SHEEP 3

Now, don't cry. You can still catch them.

They sympathetically huddle together. The Late Angel wipes her eyes on Sheep 4's wool.

S 83. SHEEP 4

(Looking a bit disgusted) They said they were going to check on some men from the East. If you follow that road then you mi-i-i-ght find them.

S 84. SHEEP 2

We'd better go and check those shepherds are heading the right way to B-e-thlehem. They'll get totally lost without us!

All nod.

S 85. SHEEP 3

(To Late Angel) Good luck.

The sheep exit. The Late Angel waves and pulls a map and/or compass out of her pocket.

S 86. LATE ANGEL

OK *(listing on fingers)*, wise men, star, angels – they can't be hard to find!

The Late Angel goes to leave the stage one way, then checks her map/compass and quickly exits in the opposite direction.

S 87. NARRATOR 1

The wise men from the East had been travelling to Bethlehem, following a star.

S 88. NARRATOR 2

They had read that a baby would be born to save mankind and they wanted to be there to worship Him.

S 89. NARRATOR 3

They brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to give to Him.

S 90. NARRATOR 4

But they found it quite hard to follow the star in the daytime!

SCENE 5: A DUSTY DESERT ROAD

The three wise men (carrying gifts) and the three camels walk on to the stage, plus the star (gesturing to try to get the wise men to follow, but they don't see). Camel 3 sneezes occasionally. The wise men scan the sky, looking at maps and generally looking lost and frustrated. Balthasar signals for them all to stop. There is lots of stretching, looking at maps and beard-stroking.

S 91. BALTHASAR

(Pointing) It's got to be this way!

S 92. MELCHIOR

You said that at the last hill!

S 93. CASPAR

We could have asked for directions.

S 94. BALTHASAR

Nonsense – we have our instructions. We are wise men.

We MUST know the way.

S 95. MELCHIOR

I came top of the class for stargazing!

S 96. CASPAR

But following the star is tricky in the daytime! *(Squints up at the sky and puts on sunglasses)*

The star waves at him but is not seen.

S 97. BALTHASAR

I am exhausted and those camels are really uncomfortable! *(Rubs bottom and stretches again)*

S 98. BALTHASAR

We have to be there to worship the baby! We can't just sit around and wait for it to get dark.

S 99. ALL WISE MEN

If only we hadn't lost the sign!

During the next song, the angels enter to watch the star and the camels try to get the wise men's attention. The camels can see the angels and the star, but the wise men can't. In between verses, the angels and camels attempt to steer the wise men in the direction of the star, but they are ignored. The actions become more frantic as the song progresses.

SONG 3. WE'VE TRAVELLED FOR DAYS CD TRACK 6/13

The wise men shake their heads and sit down. The camels talk amongst themselves and the star, with hands on hips, looks thoroughly exhausted. The angels exit.

Finally, Camel 1 taps Balthasar on the shoulder. He turns around and spots the star.

S 100. BALTHASAR

(Shouting) There it is! It's this way! Thank goodness I noticed. *(Camel 1 looks outraged)*

S 101. MELCHIOR

Well done Balthasar. They don't call us wise men for nothing!

S 102. BALTHASAR

It's because I notice everything!

S 103. CASPAR

Come on, wake those snoozing camels and let's get moving. Tonight will be a very special night!

The star leads the wise men off stage and the camels follow, shaking their heads. As they exit, the Late Angel arrives holding a map upside down.

S 104. LATE ANGEL

Did I miss it? Oh no! Wait – please. *(Shouting after them)* Where are you going? What am I going to do now? I went to the wrong dusty road and then my map blew away, and a couple of donkeys panicked when they thought I said leopards, not shepherds! I've missed them again!

I've missed it all! *(Sobbing)*

S 105. NARRATOR 1

The Late Angel had no one else to ask, so she decided to follow all the crowds heading to Bethlehem.

The Late Angel wanders aimlessly around for a while, then sets off purposefully towards the front of the stage.

S 106. NARRATOR 2

The census meant that the roads were busy, even at night, and there were lots of people travelling, but no angels to be seen.

S 107. NARRATOR 3

When she arrived in Bethlehem, the hustle and bustle was too much for the Late Angel, so she looked for somewhere quiet to sit and think about what she had missed.

The Late Angel moves to sit at the front of the stage, looking dejected.

S 108. NARRATOR 4

There weren't many quiet places left in the city, but eventually she found herself drawn to a small courtyard outside a lowly cattle shed.

SCENE 6: OUTSIDE THE STABLE

Sheep 1, Donkey 1 and Cow come forward to look at the Late Angel sitting at the front of the stage. Mary, Joseph and the manger with baby Jesus in are behind them.

S 109. LATE ANGEL

I'm sitting here with only a few animals for company. No sign of any angels.

I've missed it all!

She sobs quietly and dabs her eyes throughout the following dialogue.

S 110. SHEEP 1

(Bleating) Where did sh-e-e-e come from?

S 111. DONKEY 1

(Hee-hawing) Not sure, I was snoozing by the manger and when I woke up I heard her sobbing out here.

S 112. SHEEP 1

She looks pr-e-tty miserable.

S 113. COW

(Mooing) Shall we ask if we can help?

S 114. DONKEY 1

I could offer her some hay.

S 115. COW

I can hear more people arriving. Why all the interest in our lowly cattle shed?

Start playing track 10 'We've Got A Feeling' backing quietly as the whole cast arrives at the

stable, following the star. If you have a central aisle, they could process up to the stage from the back of the hall.

S 116. SHEEP 1

I may only be a she-e-e-p, but I think that what has happened here tonight is very special.

S 117. DONKEY 2

If all of these people (*gesturing to the arrivals*) are here to see that baby then He must be very important!

The angel chorus congregates behind the Late Angel and one angel taps her on the shoulder.

S 118. LATE ANGEL

(Joyfully) Oh my goodness, is He here? *(The angels nod)* This is what the angel choir have been doing. Jesus is here! And I didn't miss it! I'm not late – I'm right on time!

S 119. ANGEL 1

(To Late Angel) I'm really glad you made it!

S 120. ANGEL 2

(To Late Angel) It wasn't the same without you.

S 121. ANGEL 3

(To Late Angel) The chorus will definitely sound better with you in it!

S 122. MELCHIOR

(To Caspar) Well, I think our directions were excellent!

S 123. SHEPHERD 1

(To Shepherd 2) I don't know how we're going to explain all this!

S 124. SHEEP 2

(To Sheep 3, pointing to the accompanying shepherds) I'm glad we managed to h-e-rd them here too!

Mary lifts baby Jesus out of the manger as everyone approaches to worship the baby. They surround the manger and some kneel in front.

S 125. COW

This IS a very special night!

S 126. ANGEL 1

This baby is here to teach the world about love and peace.

S 127. ANGEL 2

And to save us all.

S 128. LATE ANGEL

The Son of God has arrived and I'm here in time for us all to sing His praise!

SONG 4: We wish you a merry Christmas....

THE END!