

ALL THE LEGENDS OF HOLY NIGHT (VERSION 1) (SAMPLE)

A play about the Nativity

CAST

Shepherd 1

Shepherd 2

Shepherd 3

Sheep 1

Sheep 2

Balthazar

Melchior

Caspar

Innkeeper

Innkeeper's wife

Mary

Joseph

Ox

Donkey

Camel 1

Camel 2

Camel 3

Wild cat

4 Cats (dancers)

Robin

4 Robins(dancers)

Olive Tree

Palm tree

Holly bush(old)

Holly bush(new)

(20 speaking parts. 11 non-speaking but mime/dancing parts. Others could be added.)

ALL THE LEGENDS OF HOLY NIGHT

(Version one)

(The play is in one continuous scene)

(The curtains open to reveal Mary sitting on a stool, cradling Jesus in her arms. Joseph is standing behind her. On one side of the stage is a stall containing the ox and the donkey. The innkeeper and his wife come on from opposite sides of the stage and address the audience.)

INNKEEPER

It was such a strange night – *(looking at his wife)* wasn't it my dear?

WIFE

Oh a very strange night. There were so many people in Bethlehem.

INNKEEPER

All here for the census. All looking for beds.

WIFE

We were full. Couldn't pack another body into the inn. People sleeping on the floors.

INNKEEPER

Then this couple came to the door. They were very tired and had tried everywhere else.

WIFE

And she was about to have a baby any minute. I said to my husband 'We can't turn them away'.

INNKEEPER

But what were we to do?

WIFE

Let them stay in the stable, I said. It's warm and peaceful.

INNKEEPER

So we let them stay in the stable and she had her baby that night.

(The innkeeper and his wife move over to either end of the manger and move it over to Mary and Joseph. The innkeeper tidies the straw in the manger while the wife gently takes the baby and lays him on the straw.)

WIFE

Such a lovely boy. He'll be warm there. And my husband will light you a fire to keep you and your husband warm through the night.

MARY

Thank you. You are very kind.

JOSEPH

Yes. Thank you.

(The innkeeper and his wife separate to either side of the stage. The innkeeper goes offstage and comes back with an armful of twigs and proceeds to build a fire by Mary.)

WIFE

Then all the strangers started coming. To see the baby. I'd never seen anything like it.

(The Shepherds enter and they have rope tied around the neck of each sheep and are leading them like dogs.)

SHEPHERD 1

(Kneeling) An angel came and told us of the baby and we have come to worship him.

(All the shepherds kneel)

INNKEEPER

Quite amazing. Quite amazing. *(indicating the shepherds)* There they all were, kneeling before this baby and the mother seemed to take it all very calmly.

WIFE

And these shepherds brought some sheep as a gift. So we had to find room for them too.

(She goes over to the sheep and leads them over to the stall with the other animals.)

SHEPHERD 2

We shall sleep outside here tonight and return to our flocks in the morning.

(The shepherds come down off the front of the stage and form a group and settle down for the night.)

INNKEEPER

(Coming to the front of the stage) As if that were not enough – another group arrived!

WIFE

Very wealthy men, they looked like. From far off countries, judging by their dress. They came on camels, approaching from the east, and laden with gifts.

(The three wise men enter, leading their camels. They leave the camels by the animal stall. The camels promptly sit down. The wise men approach Mary with their gifts.)