



# Magda the Straw Bearer



**A traditional Polish nativity story  
adapted by Lynn Brittney**

# **MAGDA THE STRAW BEARER**

## **CAST LIST**

**Pastor Janek (pronounced Yanek)**

**Magda**

**Magda's Mother**

**Magda's Grandmother**

**Mr. Noskowski (pronounced Nozkovsky) the carpenter**

**Mrs. Sembrich**

**Kaslu (Magda's friend) (girl)**

**Mr. Kurpinski**

**Jan (Magda's friend) (boy) (pronounced Yan)**

**A Dog**

**Villagers**

**(9 speaking parts (one woofing part!) and any number of singing villagers)**

## **MAGDA THE STRAW BEARER**

The play takes the form of one continuous scene, with one small scenery change.

*The play starts inside the village church. Centre stage is Baby Jesus in the manger filled with straw. The villagers are in two groups, either side of the stage, with candles (or lanterns) singing a carol. The Pastor stands by the manger.*

## **LULLABY CAROL**

*(Lulajże Jezuniu – music and Polish words supplied at end of play)*

Lullaby, little pearl,

Dear baby Jesu,

Lullaby, little pearl,

Dear baby sleeping

Lullaby, little one,

Dear baby Jesu

Mary is holding you,

Guarding and keeping.

Close your eyes, little one,

Your tears to cover,

Close your eyes little one

Heavy with crying,

Calm your lips little one  
Where joy should hover,  
Resting in Mary's arms,  
Hush all your sighing.

Bring for the little man  
Good things and pleasant,  
Bring for the little man  
Every sweet berry;  
Into the garden go,  
Where all is pleasant,  
Mary will comfort him,  
Keeping him merry.

Bread for his little mouth,  
With golden butter,  
Bread for his little mouth  
A loaf to feed him.  
Put in his cradle now  
Good bread and butter,  
If he should wake from rest,  
Mary will heed him.

Lullaby, lovely flower,  
Beautiful angel,

Lullaby lovely flower,  
Lily the fairest;  
Lullaby little one,  
Beautiful angel  
Mary is holding you,  
Rosebud the fairest.

Give to the little man,  
Raisins delicious,  
Give to the little man,  
Almonds to please him.  
Sweets from the little box,  
Raisins delicious,  
When Mary hears him wake,  
She will appease him.

Lullaby little love,  
Star kindly twinkling,  
Lullaby little love,  
Sun shining brightly.  
Lullaby little one,  
Star kindly twinkling,  
Mary is watching you  
O, Sweet and Sprightly.

*(The villagers finish the song and the Pastor steps forward to speak)*

**PASTOR JANEK**

Now our service has finished and we may all go home to wait for Christmas Day and the coming of The Lord. All that remains is to ask this year's Straw Bearer to step forward and receive the straw from the manger to distribute amongst the village. Please step forward Magda.

*(Magda steps out of the crowd and goes up to the Pastor)*

**PASTOR JANEK**

As you know, Magda, it is our tradition to give every person in the village a piece of the manger straw to bring them God's blessings in the coming year. I will now give you the straw that has been blessed today and it is your job to go to every house in the village this night and give everyone their piece of straw. Do you understand?

**MAGDA**

Yes Pastor Janek.

**PASTOR JANEK**

Good. Then take the straw and be about your work.

*(The Pastor gives Magda an armful of straw and he leaves. All the other villagers leave, except for Magda's mother.)*

**MOTHER**

Oh Magda! I'm so excited! To think, my daughter has been chosen as Straw Bearer! Now, make sure you wrap up warm. It's very cold tonight.

And, Magda...

**MAGDA**

Yes, mother?

**MOTHER**

...be careful as you go around the village. Oh, and, Magda...

**MAGDA**

Yes, mother?

**MOTHER**

Make sure you save some straw for us! We could do with some of God's blessings next year.

**MAGDA**

Of course, mother.

**MOTHER**

You're a good girl. Now off you go.

*(Her mother leaves. Magda pulls her shawl tightly around her and starts on her journey. There is a small scene change. See production Notes at the end of the play. )*

**MAGDA**

I'll go to Grandmother's house first. She's nearest to the church.