

Playstage

Junior

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LITTLE MOUSE AND THE STARRY NIGHT



A little mouse discovers that the stable in Bethlehem,
where he lives, has some special visitors one starry night.



Written by
Helen Nelson

CAST

Little Mouse

Mummy/Daddy/ Sibling Mouse

Inn Keeper

Mary

Joseph

Shepherds (3)

Sheep (3)

Angels (2)

Kings (3)

Camels (3)

The Star

Farmyard animals (hens, cats, dogs, chickens, cows)

8 speaking parts and unlimited singing and miming parts. 22 parts listed above plus the Farmyard Animals, which could be any number. Please note that if you have very young children or disabled children and you would prefer them to mime most of the parts, then all the verses could be spoken by just the 2 Angels (perhaps older children who could read the verses) or by a teacher or adult leader.

RUNNING TIME: Approximately 30 minutes. Can be shortened by removing some of the carols.

MUSIC

The following carols/songs are part of this play:

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Little Donkey

Once in Royal David's City

Away in a Manger

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Love Shone Down

LITTLE MOUSE AND THE STARRY NIGHT

The setting is a stage that looks like the inside of a barn (SEE PRODUCTION NOTES) with two pens for animals, a manger, with straw, perhaps some hay bales, a wooden stool and a bucket. The carol is sung as the ANIMALS make their way onto the stage and gather in their pens. ANGELS enter the stage, after the carol, to speak the first verses. They stand either side of the stage, out of the way.

CAROL (Offstage to start) O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Oh, little town of Bethlehem

How still we see thee lie

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep

The silent stars go by

Yet in thy dark streets shine

The everlasting light

The hopes and fears of all the years

Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary

And gathered all above

While mortals sleep the angels

Keep their watch of wondering love

Oh, morning stars together

Proclaim thy holy birth

And praises sing to God the king

And peace to men on earth

Oh, little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by

Yet in thy dark streets shine
The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

(A group of MICE come onstage and sit in the centre. The smallest MOUSE pretends to push a little seed around the floor, like a ball, but then gets bored during the following verse, sits down, then his mother sends him to bed in some straw in the corner.)

ANGEL 1

There once was a mouse, who lived in the hay.
Today, he was having, an uneventful day.
Little mouse felt quite bored, with nothing to do.
So, he was sent to his bed, by his mum, "Shoo shoo!"

ANGEL 2

Little mouse scuttled into his little straw bed.
He snuck in the hay and laid down his head.
He went straight to sleep, while his parents sang.
When all of a sudden, he awoke with a bang.

(During the next verse the INN KEEPER comes across the stage to 'open the door'. LITTLE MOUSE runs forward to watch. Enter DONKEY, MARY and JOSEPH.)

ANGEL 1

It came from the door, with a knock, knock, knock.

The inn keeper came to open the lock.

Little mouse hurried forward, until he could see.

At the door was a man, a girl and a donkey.

(Whilst the carol is being sung, by everyone on the stage, MARY and JOSEPH mime talking to the INNKEEPER. The ANGELS leave. JOSEPH begins unpacking the DONKEY and takes it over to the manger, where the DONKEY mimes eating some oats. (SEE PRODUCTION NOTES))

CAROL: LITTLE DONKEY

Little donkey, little donkey on the dusty road

Got to keep on plodding onwards with your precious load

Been a long time, little donkey, through the winters night

don't give up now, little donkey,

Bethlehem's in sight

Ring out those bells, tonight

Bethlehem, Bethlehem

Follow that star tonight

Bethlehem, Bethlehem

Little donkey, little donkey, had a heavy day

Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way

Little donkey, little donkey, journey's end is near

There are wiseman waiting for a sign to bring them here

Do not falter little donkey, there's a star ahead

It will guide you, little donkey, to a cattle-shed

Ring out those bells, tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem
Follow that star tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem
Little donkey, little donkey, had a heavy day
Little donkey, carry Mary, safely on her way
Little donkey, carry Mary, safely on her way

LITTLE MOUSE

They asked the inn keeper, if they could stay.
As the girl was expecting a baby that day.
They wanted a safe place, to stay and to sleep.
‘Though it was there with the mice, cows and sheep.

(During the next verse the INN KEEPER brings MARY a stool to sit on, by the manger. JOSEPH shakes his hand and the INNKEEPER goes offstage and returns with a ‘fire’ made of twigs. (SEE PRODUCTION NOTES). Settles them into the barn.)

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The inn keeper said ‘yes’, with a smile on his face.
And cleared out some hay, to make them a space.
He brought them clean water, and something to eat.
And made them a fire to warm the girl’s feet.

DONKEY

Little mouse kept watching, as I ate my hay.
I was hungry from carrying the girl a long way.
They were in Bethlehem, to be counted they said.
Little mouse kept listening, though he should be in bed.