

The School Nativity Play

Prop: one big knife

Note to Director: a complete collection of music and sound effects will be provided by the author before your tech rehearsal.

Cast of Characters

<u>Actor 1:</u>	Sally (King Balthasar), Fire Fighter
<u>Actor 2:</u>	Leo, Lenny (Gabriel, Donkey, Angel, King Melchior)
<u>Actor 3:</u>	Catherine, Gina (Captain, Joseph, Shepherd)
<u>Actor 4:</u>	Ms. Dewey, Daphne (Mary, Innkeeper, King Caspar)

ACT I

Scene 1: Welcome

In black, we hear the first few lines of a beautiful rendition of Angels We Have Heard On High by a soaring and angelic children's choir. The music fades out as the lights come up on Sally, a sexually mature six year old with an endearing lisp. She stands center stage in front of a closed curtain, wearing the same (bath)robe that all children appearing in the play will wear. Sally has been chosen to play the Narrator in our School Nativity Play. She is picking her nose diligently, unaware of the audience in front of her, lost in thought.

There are two empty seats in the front row of the audience.

After some time, Catherine, Sally's beautifully prude and religious mother, enters the auditorium and finds her seat in the front row. She is texting.

Ms. Dewey, Sally's stern first grade teacher peeks out from behind the curtain and whispers across the stage to Sally.

MS. DEWEY
Sally.

Sally is busy.
Sally!

SALLY
Oh! Uh, uh... a long long long time ago...

MS. DEWEY
No! The introduction!

SALLY
What?

MS. DEWEY
Start with the introduction!

SALLY
Oh! OK!

Thinks for a moment. Forgets what she's doing and returns to picking her nose.

MS. DEWEY
Oh forget it.

(CONTINUED)

Ms. Dewey comes out from behind the curtain to address the audience.

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the Saint Patrick Suzuki School for the Gifted's annual Nativity Play.

Before she can finish her sentence, the curtain begins to open and the Nativity music begins to play.

No! Not yet! We haven't started yet!

SOUND TECHNICIAL

Oops.

The music stops and the curtain slowly closes while Ms. Dewey composes herself.

At the same time, Leo, a fun-loving and proud father swiftly enters the auditorium.

LEO

Excuse me. Sorry. Sorry. Excuse me.

He finds his seat next to Catherine.
Have I missed anything?

CATHERINE

Not really.

LEO

Your kid in this?

Sally has a sneaky pick.

CATHERINE

... yes.

LEO

My son is, too.

Catherine fakes a smile.

MS. DEWEY

Look, let's just get this ball rolling, shall we? Featuring Ms. Sally Slackley as tonight's Narrator, I am proud to present our first grade production of The Nativity.

Ms. Dewey disappears behind the curtain as Sally proudly waves to her mother in the front row.

The curtain opens and heavy metal music blares out of the speakers for a couple of seconds before stopping.

SOUND TECHNICIAL
Sorry!

Scene 2: The Annunciation

Beautiful Nativity music begins and plays softly under the play.

NARRATOR

A long time ago, in a town far far away... called Nazareth, there lived a girl called Mary.

Daphne, a delicate six year old who is frightened of most things, enters and sits on the ground center stage. Daphne will play the role of Mary in the Nativity Play, and is played by the same actress who plays Ms. Dewey. She mimes sewing.

She was beautiful and full of love, and she wanted to love God a lot.

LEO

Uh oh. That burrito. I'll be right back!

Leo quickly exits holding his stomach.

NARRATOR

One day, while Mary was sewing her dress, an angel appeared to her. It was the Angel Gabriel.

Lenny, a nervous six year old who is constantly nauseous, enters. Lenny will play the role of Gabriel in the Nativity Play, and is played by the same actor who plays Leo.

GABRIEL

Hail Mary, full of grace.

NARRATOR

Mary was a little frightened when she saw the angel. Seeing this, the angel said:

GABRIEL

Don't be afraid, Mary. I have great news for you. God has sent me to tell you that you are going to have a child and he will be called Jesus.

Lenny burps something rancid. Sally smells sausages.

MARY

But how can that happen when I am not married?

GABRIEL

You will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

MARY

I am happy to do what God wants.

NARRATOR

And the angel left her.

Lenny exits.

NARRATOR

Some time later, Mary got married to Joseph, a carpenter who lived in the same village, and they settled down to live together.

Daphne exits.

Leo returns from the bathroom to his seat in the audience.

LEO

Have I missed anything?

CATHERINE

I think your son was just on.

LEO

Oh no!

CATHERINE

At least I think it was your son. He looked just like you.

Catherine's phone rings. She looks to see who it is.

Shit!

Catherine runs off to answer her phone.

Scene 3: The announcement of the census

Military march music begins and plays softly under the play.

NARRATOR

A few days later, the Roman soldiers, lead by a captain, had come to make an important announcement.

Gina, a six year old who enjoys burning ants with a magnifying glass, marches onto stage with a big knife as a sword held high. Gina will play the role of the roman Captain, and is played by the same actress who plays Catherine.

CAPTAIN

Quick march! Left right, left right, left right, troops halt!

(CONTINUED)

Ms. Dewey launches herself onstage and grabs the knife from Gina.

MS. DEWEY

What have I told you about this?

Ms. Dewey exits with the knife.

CAPTAIN

[Under his breath] Bitch.

MS. DEWEY

[from offstage] What was that?!

CAPTAIN

Hear ye, hear ye. The Emperor, Caesar Augustus, wants to know how many people are living in this land, so everyone is to go to the town where they were born to be counted. Anyone disobeying the emperor will be punished! Soldiers, ready march! Right left, right left, right left.

Gina marches off the stage

LEO

Uh oh.

Runs off holding his stomach.

Scene 4: The Journey to Bethlehem

Beautiful Nativity music begins and plays softly under the play.

NARRATOR

Now Joseph was from a town which was miles away from Nazareth, so that meant that he and Mary had to set off on a long journey to Bethlehem.

Mary (played by Daphne) and Joseph (played by Gina) ride on stage atop a donkey (played by Lenny). Lenny makes the occasional donkey noises. Making donkey noises makes Lenny feel sick. Gina thinks Daphne is hot.

It was winter time and it was very cold. Even the little donkey that carried Mary was feeling cold.

Lenny sneezes.

JOSEPH

Oh Mary, I wish we didn't have to go to Bethlehem at this time of the year, especially now that you are expecting a baby. I'm so worried about you. I hope you don't catch cold. You so fine.

MARY

Don't worry Joseph. Wait till you see, everything will work out fine. God will look after us.

*Song: (Little Donkey)
Little donkey, little donkey walking along the
dusty road
Carrying Mary and her new baby
All along that dusty road.
He's got a long way to go.
Following a star, high above the road
I feel sorry for the donkey
Because he carries a heavy load.
(Daphne, Gina, and Lenny exit)*

Scene 5: The Innkeepers'

Convention

Beautiful Nativity music begins and plays softly under the play.

NARRATOR

But when Mary and Joseph arrived at Bethlehem, there were so many other people there to be counted that all of the hotels and inns seemed to be full up. There was no room anywhere.

Innkeeper, played by Daphne, walks onto stage

Leo returns to his seat in the audience.

LEO

[to random audience member behind him] Have I missed anything?

INNKEEPER

Gosh, it's busy these days. We're completely booked up. I'm glad Caesar wanted to find out how many people were living here - it has been great for business.

Then there's a knock at the door and Gina comes on stage as Joseph. He's shivering with the cold.

JOSEPH

Excuse me. I was wondering would you have a room where my wife and I can stay for the night.

INNKEEPER

Absolutely!

Gina smacks Daphne across the head. Leo laughs a little too loud.

I mean, sorry, we're all booked up. There's no room. You'll have to go somewhere else.

(CONTINUED)

JOSEPH

But we have tried every inn in Bethlehem. You are our last hope. Please help us. My wife is going to have a baby very soon. She can't stay out in the cold.

INNKEEPER

Sorry, that's your problem.

Flinches, anticipating another smack.
You'll have to go now.

Gina looks very upset, and turns to leave.

INNKEEPER

No wait - I think I can help you. There's a stable at the back of our house. It's not much, but at least you'll be out of the cold. You can go there immediately.

JOSEPH

Oh, thank you! May God reward you for your kindness.

Scene 6: The Shepherds and Angels

Beautiful Nativity music begins and plays softly under the play.

NARRATOR

Now, around Bethlehem there were lots of little hills, where sheep used to graze.

Sheep noises are heard from backstage.
The shepherds who looked after them had to sleep out in the open at night.

A shepherd, played by Gina, steps out on stage but stops immediately.

NARRATOR AND SHEPHERD

At night!

SOUND TECHNICIAN

Sorry!

Lights go out and Daphne runs on with a hand-held light, holding it as high as she can to represent a star.

DAPHNE

[trembling, to herself] I don't like the dark!

LEO

Oh Jesus...

Leo rushes to the bathroom again.

SHEPHERD

The sky looks really lovely tonight. I've never seen so many stars and they're so bright.

NARRATOR

As he is admiring the stars, suddenly an angel appears in the sky, and the whole sky seems to be lit up with the light that comes from him.

The Angel, played by Lenny, fumbles his way onstage, knocking over Daphne and the star and tripping over Gina in the process. Gina is about to punch him when the lights come up.

The shepherd jumps up with a fright. This wakes up the other shepherds, who look up at the angel with great fear.

Lenny swallows a burp.

ANGEL

Do not be afraid. I have great news for you. Today Jesus has been born. He is the saviour of the world. You will find him lying in a manger in a stable in Bethlehem. Just follow the star and it will take you there. And don't worry about your sheep because God will look after them.

SHEPHERD

I'd better go quickly to find Jesus. I'll bring him this little baby lamb as a gift.

*Song: (Angels we have heard)
Glory hole, an excellent day-o (X2)
(The shepherds and Angel hurry off the stage.)*

Scene 7: The Three Wise Kings

Beautiful Nativity music begins and plays softly under the play.

NARRATOR

Meanwhile, some way off, three kings were making their way through the night... I said, the night!

SOUND TECHNICIAN

Gotcha!

Lights go out. Sally holds up the star light.

NARRATOR

They had been traveling for months, riding their camels, thousands of miles. They came from different parts of the world and had met by chance, following a bright star which had appeared in the sky. Because they were wise men, they realised that the star was a sign that the King of the world had been born.

Lenny comes riding on as King Melchior.

KING MELCHIOR

I'm so tired. How much longer do we have to travel before we find him?

Daphne comes riding on as King Caspar.

KING CASPAR

Let us not give up hope. It can't be too much further now.

Gina, from backstage, refuses to come on as King Balthasar. The other kings are still riding their camels.

GINA

Forget it!

NARRATOR

Gina, you're supposed to play King Balthasar!

GINA

I wanna be the star.

NARRATOR

[thinks about it] Fine. You can be the stupid star!

Gina runs on and takes the star light from Sally. Sally takes her place next to the other two kings and starts riding her camel as King Balthasar.

KING BALTHASAR

I think the star is getting lower in the sky. Maybe we are getting closer. Come on - let's hurry up.

*Song: (We Three Kings)
Oh, oh, Stevie Wonder, Michael Night
Star of karaoke night,
Hair receding, necks are bleeding,
Victims of a vampire bite*

Lenny, Gina, and Daphne exit. Lights come up.

Scene 8: The Stable at Bethlehem

Beautiful Nativity music begins and plays softly under the play.

NARRATOR

Just as the angels had said, baby Jesus had been born in the stable at Bethlehem.

Daphne and Gina enter with the baby Jesus. Gina also enters with the big knife in her hand because she thinks it would be funny.

(CONTINUED)

Daphne snatches the knife from Gina.

MARY

Not funny.

Daphne throws the knife off stage.

LENNY

[offstage] Ouch!!

NARRATOR

Mary, his mother, wrapped him up in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger. And then both she and Joseph gazed at him with love. They could hardly believe their eyes. Jesus, the saviour of the world, had been born, and he was going to be living with them.

*Daphne and Gina kneel before the baby Jesus.
And then the shepherd arrived.*

After a moment, Gina looks around and then darts off stage and re-enters immediately as the shepherd.

SHEPHERD

Oh, this must be it. Look there's that baby! Wow, the saviour of the world!

The shepherd falls on his knees before the baby.

MARY

We are happy you are here to share our joy. This is a day that we will always remember.

*Song: Away in a Manger
(The music begins but the children tell the sound technician to turn it off before the singing begins.)*

MARY AND SHEPHERD AND NARRATOR

[adlibs] OK, that's enough! No more songs! Please! Really, another one?? Come on!

NARRATOR

And then the three wise kings arrived and they too kneeled before the baby Jesus.

Lenny rides in on his camel and immediately kneels, suffering from motion sickness.

KING MELCHIOR

At last we have found you. Our search was not in vain. Here is my gift for the saviour - a casket of gold.

Daphne stands, darts off, and comes right back on riding her camel and immediately kneels.

KING CASPAR

I bring you a gift from my native land - frankincense. I give it to you, Jesus, with all my heart.

Sally begins riding her camel around the manger and eventually kneels.

KING BALTHASAR

And here is my gift - myrrh, a precious spice from the orient. We want to give you these gifts on behalf of all of the people of the world, to say that you are the only king.

Sally runs back to her Narrator position.

NARRATOR

And then the shepherd said...

Sally runs to King Balthasar position as Gina runs to shepherd position, arriving at the same time.

SHEPHERD

And I brought you a gift too - a little lamb, on behalf of all the children of the world - to say that you are welcome to our land.

Daphne runs to Mary position as Sally runs to Narrator position, arriving at the same time. Lenny feels very sick.

MARY

I am sure that baby Jesus is very happy with all of your gifts, but most of all because you have given him your hearts as well.

Sally runs from her Narrator position, realized that the Narrator is the last to speak, and then returns to the Narrator position.

NARRATOR

Baby Jesus brings the light of love into the world, a love that touches each one of us. So now we light a candle to symbolise the birth of his love within us. Let us bring this light out into the world to each person we meet.

Silent Night has begun to play as each child, now surrounding the baby Jesus, lights a candle and exits one at a time to the wings. The music continues as we hear a horrible fire begin to blaze backstage. The sound of a fire engine in the distance grows louder and louder and we hear the children panicking backstage until a fire fighter, played by the same actress that plays Sally, runs out into the audience and shouts over the deafening siren, blaze, and screams.

FIRE FIGHTER
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE!!!...

All sounds stop.
Have a very Merry Christmas.

Black out