



Nativity Play

By Ian M Butterfield



WWW.LIFELINES-STOCKPORT.ORG.UK

Lifelines

c/o Ian M. Butterfield
2 Tennyson Close, Bank Hall, Heaton Mersey
STOCKPORT, Cheshire. SK4 2ED
Telephone: 0161-431 5508
Email: drama@lifelines.org.uk
WWW: <http://www.lifelines.org.uk>

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Characters (in order of appearance)

3 (2 Male; 1 Female)

SIMON, 7 years old

JAMES, 7 years old

SALLY, 7 years old

Biblical Reference

Luke 2:8-20 - The shepherds and the angels.

Synopsis

This sketch sends up children performing a scene from a nativity play, but in so doing tries to bring out the message behind the story.

Notes

The school nativity play is a traditional part of Christmas in schools. We can all remember either being in one or seeing one. I believe there is a danger with these plays. The 'aren't they sweet' factor of seeing children performing makes us forget the message behind the play.

The author strongly advises that this script is memorised by the cast. This sketch is not designed to be performed "script-in-hand".

For the send up to work it **MUST BE** performed by adults, dressed and acting as small children. Try to get the mannerisms of the children, including the nose picking, waving to mummy and being somewhat over awed by the situation.

Costume

The characters should be dressed as children, short trousers etc. They should have to hand their costumes for the play. 'Dressing gown and tea towel type' shepherd costumes for the boys, **SALLY** should put a white dress over the top of her costume and have a coat hanger and tinsel halo that she can wear. Angel wings on the back of her costume would help.

Props

Prop	Start Location	Notes/Description
A chair and a couple of blocks or small table that the children can sit on	On Stage	

Sound Effects

No sound effects are required for this sketch.

Scene

A performance of an extract from a school nativity play

Script

SIMON: (*Enters, he is a bit shy at first but soon over comes this*). Hello, I'm Simon and... er... Father Christmas has brought me an Action Man, and a train set, and a computer game, and... and... the bestest box of chocolates and sweets in the whole wide world and...

JAMES: Psst...!

SIMON: What..?

JAMES: You're going to get in trouble off miss. 'cos you're supposed to be introducing the play not boasting about your Christmas presents... and in any case you didn't get the bestest box of sweets, 'cos I did...

SIMON: Didn't.

JAMES: Did so. Mine's got 6 bars of chocolate and...

SIMON: Well mines got 10 bars of chocolate and 22 packets of fruit pastilles!

JAMES: Well mines got 53 million billion zillion quillion trillion smarties - so there!

SIMON: Hasn't

JAMES: Has!

SALLY: If you two don't do this proper - I'm going to tell miss of you. I'm Sally and what they should have told you is that we're here to perform our school nativity play.

SIMON: Yeah that right, we were going to do the whole thing, but miss said that would take too long and besides which there's only three of us 'cos the rest of the class has gone down with measles.

JAMES: Were going to do the bit with the shepherds and angels in the fields and...

SALLY: I know there's only three of us and there was lots more shepherds and there was tons and tons of angels... so you'll have to use your imagination a bit.

SIMON: We'll make it easy for you. We'll tell you who we are when we change parts.
(*The boys put on the dressing gowns and tea towel*).

SALLY: I wanted to play Mary but miss said I wasn't good enough to play Mary and was only good enough to be an angel. So I said that angels were more gooder than Mary and miss said she didn't mean it like that and (*To the boys who are just about dressed*). are you ready yet?

SIMON: Yeah.

JAMES: Right.

SALLY: Ladies, gentlemen, Mums and Dads - the Nativity Play, well some of it any how.

SIMON: It was a cold night on a hillside outside of Bethlehem...

JAMES: You haven't said who you are.

SIMON: Oh yeah. I'm the natterer.

SALLY: Narrator.

SIMON: No it's the natterer, 'cos the natterer is the person who does all the talking and my mum says I'm a natterer 'cos I never stop talking. She said that I could talk the hind legs off...

SALLY: Just get on with it or I'm going to tell on you.

SIMON: Right I'm the natterer: It was a cold night on a hillside outside of Bethlehem. There woz some shepherds there that night looking after their sheep.

JAMES: (*Singing*). While shepherds washed their socks at night all seated round the telly, the angel of the Lord came down and turned to ITV!

SALLY: If you don't do it properly I'm going home.

JAMES: Spoilsport. (*Sings*). While shepherds watched their flocks by night all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around.

SIMON: I'm a shepherd now, right? Look at that star up there I wonder what it means.

SALLY: (*Jumps onto the chair*). I'm the star. Twinkle twinkle twinkle...

JAMES: I don't like the look of that star

SIMON: No I don't either. (*They both giggle*).

SALLY: Stop laughing. I'm the angel now. (*Jumps down off chair*).
(Both JAMES and SIMON scream).
(Trying to keep her halo on throughout the speech). Do not be afraid I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. And then the angel went away again. (*Throws halo away in disgust*).

SIMON: Erm... er.. (*He has obviously forgotten his line*).

JAMES: (*Whispering line to him*). "What shall we do?"

SIMON: I don't know... I can remember my line.

SALLY: That is your line, silly.

SIMON: Oh... What shall we do?

JAMES: Lets go to Bethlehem to see what the angel has told us about.

SIMON: I'm the natterer again. And so the shepherds went to Bethlehem to see what the angel had told them about and Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus all lived happily ever after. The End.

SALLY: No... no.. that's not right.

SIMON: It is. That's what the script says.

SALLY: Yes but it's not right. They didn't live happily ever after. It's not a fairy story, this really truly happened. And baby Jesus grew up to be a very special person. My mum told me that he was God and that a lot of people hated him so much that they killed him.

JAMES: What d'they wanna do that for?

SIMON: I went to Sunday School once and the teacher told me that because we were naughty and did bad things the only way we could go to heaven was because Jesus died.

SALLY: But he didn't stay dead, right? 'cos God brought him back to life again, so that we'd know what he'd done.

JAMES: Cor, that's a better story than one about some silly shepherds in a field. Eh, this Jesus sounds brill! (*Running off*). Miss, Miss, why didn't you tell us that bit of the story?

SIMON: (*Running after him*). and Miss can we have a proper birthday party for Jesus?
(SALLY, has been picking up the costumes and props).

SALLY: (*Walking off, then stops and looks up*). Thanks for coming at Christmas, Jesus. You're really ace!
(Runs after the others).

Revision Information

24 May 2000 – Layout updated.

29 April 1999 - Converted to WORD format.

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