

CAST

KING HEROD – an angry conniving man	11 LINES
STEWART , the King's steward – (this could be a shepherd or Avery who steps into this role for a moment)	0 LINES
THREE MAGI (at least three – more are OK – some lines can be split if you have more)	
MAGI I	13 LINES
MAGI II	11 LINES
MAGI III	10 LINES
FOUR KING's CREW	
CHIEF , the Chief priest – very snooty and sophisticated.	21 LINES
ERIN – Probably would suit a girl best, but could be Aaron, a very excitable teacher – talks fast	17 LINES
DANIEL/DANIELLE – the level headed one, very kind and calm	18 LINES
AVERY , a temple guard, very small and timid, carries a backpack and a sword or bow and arrow	7 LINES
THREE SHEPHERDS (at least two – more would be better – lines can be combined or split as needed)	
BENJAMIN	5 LINES
JORDAN	5 LINES
GABRIEL/GABRIELLA	4 LINES
INNKEEPER	6 LINES
INNKEEPER'S WIFE	5 LINES
ANGEL (2 OF THESE LINES ARE VERY LONG) If you need some non-speaking parts, the angel could have an entourage of angels with him	6 LINES
MARY	0 LINES
JOSEPH	0 LINES
BABY JESUS (could be a doll or child up to age 18 months)	0 LINES

STAGING

STAGE LEFT: Throne with table nearby – Herod’s Throne room (SCENE ONE)

STAGE RIGHT: Shepherd’s field (SCENE THREE)

STAGE CENTER: A CITY (Jerusalem in Scene two and Bethlehem in Scene Four, Five & Six) – need two doors (one for the Inn on the right and one for the House on the left) The door for the Inn can face the audience, the door for the house should be able to open so the audience can see what’s in the house – could have a market throughout the rest of the Center Stage. Need to have at least one place that an angel can “hide” behind so he can “appear” at the appropriate time

PROPS

SCENE ONE

Large chair that looks like a throne

Table or Lectern

A couple of big old books

SCENE TWO

Three Old BackPacks – two should be prefilled with anything the final one will have:

Old map (paper rolled into a scroll will work)

Two Small oil lamps

Two Bibles

Three Shirts or Pants

“Stuff”

SCENE THREE

Not much required. A fake fire and a few lambs would be a nice addition

A star in the sky – this could be on a power point screen

SCENE FIVE

Two chairs inside the “House” you could have a small table between them and even a cradle

PRODUCTION NOTES

COSTUMES can be traditional Bible Time costumes as fancy or as simple as you'd like to make them.

LIGHTING - Minimal lighting is required – in places where “Lights up” are mentioned, the scene can just move to that place. You might consider back lighting the angel.

CASTING - If you have a small cast all of the parts except the MAGI and KING'S CREW can be doubled. For instance, King Herod could easily be the ANGEL and/or a SHEPHERD. This play can be done with as few as 10 cast members and as many as 17+. If you have more, you can have extra shepherds or an entourage of angels with the main angel.

The magi came to find Jesus sometime after He was born. It may have been a few weeks, but it could have been up to two years, so “baby” Jesus doesn't necessarily have to be a baby. You may want to keep Him tiny for tradition's sake, but it's not necessary.

SCENE ONE

SCENE ONE OPENS WITH “WE THREE KINGS” PLAYING SOFTLY IN THE BACKGROUND AND MAGI STANDING MAJESTICALLY, ALMOST AT ATTENTION, IN FRONT OF AN EMPTY THRONE WAITING PATIENTLY. THE KING’S STEWARD IS STANDING QUIETLY BESIDE THE DOOR. THERE IS A TABLE OR A LECTERN BETWEEN THE DOOR AND THE THRONE

KING HEROD: *(MUSIC FADES as Herod enters quickly with little patience – pretending to respect these foreign kings)* Good afternoon, gentlemen. Now, where did my attendant tell me you were from?

MAGI I: *(slightly bows out of respect)* We’re from the East, sir.

KING HEROD: *(sitting on his throne, straightening his robes, paying very little attention to the Magi)* Oh yes, that’s right. And they said something about a star, so you gentlemen are star gazers?

MAGI II: *(slightly bows out of respect but he and his friends are somewhat insulted)* No sire, not really star gazers, but we do study the sky and ancient writings, and are consultants to kings and rulers in our country.

MAGI III: *(slightly bows out of respect)* And recently, we have seen one quite remarkable star. It appeared in the sky several months ago.

MAGI I: We believe that your God put it there to mark the birth of a King. The ancient books of your country tell all about it.

MAGI II: We assumed because your ancient books foretold this event hundreds of years ago, you would know where we might find this baby.

KING HEROD: *(getting angry because HE is the King)* What do you mean a baby born to be king? *(all of a sudden he realizes being angry in front of these guys might not be such a good idea, so he acts like he’s not mad)* What I mean is, I can’t believe I haven’t heard about this. You are right. I want to know where this impost . . . uh . . . , I mean, King is too. *(to the steward)* Stewart, go get Chief and a couple of the teachers, someone who knows the scrolls. I need to find out if this really is in the old books.

(Stewart exits)

KING HEROD: *(sounding a little sinister)* Yes, we’ll get to the bottom of this, *(the Magi look at each other confused)* but when you find the baby, will you be sure to come let me know where he is? *(King Herod realizes he should probably sound a bit more pleasant)* After all, I want to worship this King that God sent, too.

(Stewart enters with the CHIEF, ERIN and DANIEL carrying a couple of big books)

CHIEF: *(sounds a bit snooty)* Your majesty, how can we help you? *(bowing deep, the three lay the books on table or lectern)*

KING HEROD: These gentlemen are looking for a baby who supposedly has come to take over, uh, I mean, whom God sent to be King. What do you know about it?

MAGI III: Yes, we’d really like to see him. We’ve brought gifts for Him!

ERIN/AARON: *(begins flipping through one of the books very quickly) (talks excitedly)* Oh wait, I know exactly what you're talking about! We've been reading about him all of my life. Let me look. Where is that? Oh, I can't remember where it is!

DANIEL/DANIELLE: *(the most level headed of the three)* Aaron/Erin, perhaps I can help. *(gently flips one page, and shows ERIN/AARON the place to find what he/she is looking for)* I think this is it.

ERIN: *(always talking very fast)* Thanks, Daniel! Yep, that's it! Oh, I'm so excited!!! There it is! It's right here! I can't believe this day has finally arrived! Can you imagine, Chief? All of these years, we've read about it and now it's . . . *(Herod interrupts)*

KING HEROD: *(angrily)* Enough! *(then calmer so he won't scare the Magi)* Chief, what is your flunky talking about?

CHIEF: *(always snooty):* Yes, sire. It says here in the writings of the prophet Micah, *(reading)* "Out of Bethlehem will come the one who will rule over Israel." *(looking at the MAGI)* I think, gentlemen, it would be good for you to start your quest in Bethlehem.

KING HEROD: *(under his breath)* Hmmm. Bethlehem

MAGI I: *(slightly bows out of respect)* Thank you for your help! *(to Herod)* We will report back if we find anything. *(MAGI exit)*

ERIN: *(to chief)* I can't wait! This is so exciting! Finally, after all these years! My grandfather would have loved to have seen this. Sir, can I . . .

KING HEROD: *(interrupting Aaron/Erin and showing the full extent of his anger now that the MAGI are gone)* SILENCE! This can NOT be happening! I AM THE KING! No baby is going to take away my throne. Chief, we need to stop this as soon as possible.

CHIEF: Yes, sire, but how?

KING HEROD: I don't trust those foreigners to bring me back any word. I want you three to follow them!

ERIN: Yippee! *(immediately covers mouth because knows the King won't like his/her excitement)*

CHIEF: Out in the wilderness, sire? *(beginning to add a little whine to his snootiness)* Sir, perhaps you'd like to send some temple guards.

KING HEROD: NO! You three will go!

DANIEL/DANIELLE: Sire, it might be wise if we took someone with a little muscle on this kind of trip.

KING HEROD: Oh, all right, but remember, Chief, if I'm not King, you'll lose your power in Jerusalem too! We have to stop this traitor, and we have to stop him now! Hurry up, get out of here, GO!

ALL THREE EXIT – KING SITS IN HIS THRONE AND SULKS AS THE LIGHTS FADE

SCENE SIX

AS THE CAROL ENDS THE KING'S CREW GET UP AND WALK BACK TOWARD TOWN
ALL BUT AVERY NOW CARRY PACKS ON THEIR BACK

CHIEF: *(no snootiness at all)* That was the most amazing moment of my life. Who'd have thought that a baby could make me feel this way?

DANIEL/DANIELLE: I know what you mean, Chief. I feel as though I've been in the presence of the Creator of the Universe.

ERIN: *(much more subdued, but still excited)* I think I need someone to pinch me. Did I, Little 'ole me, really just meet the One that God sent to save all of Israel?

AVERY: *(walking with his head high like a soldier, speaking with extreme confidence)* Erin, I have a feeling that baby is going to save a lot more than just the small country of Israel.

THE FOUR EXIT STAGE OPPOSITE THE ANGEL
AS THE ANGEL COMES BACK OUT AND LIGHTS SHINE ALL AROUND HIM

ANGEL: But you, O Bethlehem,
 though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
 one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old
 from ancient times.

The people walking in darkness
 have seen a great light;

For unto us a child is born
 to us a son is given,
 and the government will be on His shoulders

And He will be called
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

Of the greatness of His government and peace
 there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne
 and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
 with justice and righteousness
 from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty
 will accomplish this