

SCRIPT

For this special outside broadcast, the stable has been set up with a dance floor lit by coloured lights. Everywhere there are signs of glitz and glitter. The judges' table and three chairs are set to one side.

OPENING INSTRUMENTAL

CD track 8

The floor managers Taran and Kgosi hold up their 'clap' and 'cheer' cards to the audience as the hosts walk on stage.

HOST Ezra Good evening and welcome to the BBC- Bethlehem Broadcasting Company for a very special show.

HOST Caleb As you can see, tonight we've decided to swap our studio for this stable, here in the middle of Bethlehem.

HOST Leo That's right, because not long ago something happened on this very spot.

HOST Olivia The birth of Jesus on that wonderful night.

HOST Ezra And, to help us celebrate His birth, we are joined by some celebrities, all ready to dance for us. But first, three people who our dancers must impress this evening. Let's meet the judges!

VOICEOVER Phenyò He carried the whole show, or at least he carried Mary all the way to the stable. It's the donkey!

The donkey does a few dance steps across the stage, bows and takes his seat at one end of the judges' table.

VOICEOVER Jaxon No stranger to a full house, she's the hostess with the mostess. Please welcome the innkeeper's wife.

The innkeeper's wife enters gracefully, acknowledges the applause, dances over to the judges' table and takes her seat in the middle.

VOICEOVER Jayden And finally, some say he has more census than sense, the Roman everyone loves to hate. It's Caesar Augustus.

The floor managers hold up their 'boo' cards to the audience as Caesar dances across the stage and takes his seat at one end of the judges' table.

ALL HOSTS

We've met the judges, so please make some noise and raise the roof for the stars of... 'Lights, Camel, Action!'

INCIDENTAL MUSIC

CD track 9

The floor managers Taran and Kgosi hold up their 'clap' and 'cheer' cards to the audience as the Nazareth townspeople come on stage.

HOST Ezra

Let's take our story right back to the beginning and talk to the townsfolk of Nazareth.

NAZARETH HUSBAND Humaid I remember it as if it were yesterday! We were all minding our own business in Nazareth when Caesar over there (*he points to Caesar*) sent out one of his famous decrees.

The floor manager Kgosi holds up the 'boo' cards to the audience.

NAZARETH WIFE Lowen-Mae

We were all told that we had to travel to the place of our birth to register for a census.

Of course, *my husband* couldn't have been born just down the road, could he? Oh no, one hundred and sixty-eight miles we had to travel!

HOST Leo

Well, I hope your feet have recovered, because it's time for you and all your friends to dance for the judges.

VOICEOVER Phenyo

Dancing a line dance, the people of Nazareth.

Song 1. WE MUST TRAVEL HOME

(Line dancers/Nazareth husband and wife)

INNKEEPER'S WIFE Lexi Bendigedig! I loved the way you all moved. A great dance to open the celebration.

DONKEY Eden-Rose

Well, you've all got great rhythm, but I'd like to have seen a little more hip action, especially from you on the end (*he points at the Nazareth wife*).

The Nazareth wife makes a pained expression and massages her back.

CAESAR Joey

Well darlings, it was a controlled performance. I thought it was terrific!

VOICEOVER Jaxon Judges, could we have your scores please?

CAESAR Joey *(Holds up a card and shouts his score)*

INNKEEPER'S WIFE LEXI *(Holds up a card and shouts her score)*

DONKEY EDEN-ROSE *(Holds up a card and shouts her score)*

HOST Leo Would you all please welcome Joseph and his beautiful wife Mary.

The floor managers Kgosi and Taran hold up their 'clap' and 'cheer' cards to the audience as Joseph leads Mary on to the stage.

HOST Ezra It's been an extraordinary time for you, hasn't it?

MARY Grace Yes it has! It all started when Gabriel, the angel, came to visit me and told me that I had been chosen to carry God's son. I'm just an ordinary girl, but to be chosen for something like that... well, it's amazing!

Song 2. LIFE HAS CHANGED Grace/Louie/Annabel

HOST Leo As we know, you were both on that journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

HOST Caleb And of course, you were heavily pregnant by then, weren't you Mary?

MARY Grace That's right. I was due any day, but we didn't really have a choice.

JOSEPH Louie When Caesar tells you to do something, you just have to do it, don't you?

CAESAR Joey Oh yes, you mustn't displease a Caesar! ****Evil laugh****

The floor managers hold up their 'boo' cards to the audience and Caesar responds with a look of mock shock.

HOST Ezra Well, you're both looking very fresh now – not too many sleepless nights up with your baby I hope!

JOSEPH Louie Oh no, he's very good really. See you all later.

HOST Olivia Next up we have a triple act for you.

HOST Caleb That's right. All the way from the East, please welcome the camels!

The floor managers Taran and Kgosi hold up their 'clap' and 'cheer' cards to the audience as the three camels boogie their way on to the dance floor.

HOST Ezra I know you've travelled a long way to be here tonight, but it's not the first time you've made this journey, is it?

CAMEL Aroua It certainly isn't!

CAMEL Mia-May We were in the desert and saw three important-looking men.

CAMEL Ruby W. They told us that they were very wise and that a king would be born soon.

CAMEL Aroua They wanted to go and worship Him and said that the brightest star in the sky would lead them.

CAMEL Mia-May They had gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to give to the newborn king!

CAMEL Ruby W. It all sounded very exciting and, the desert was getting pretty boring so we thought, why not?

HOST Caleb Well, we have a little surprise for you this evening.

HOST Leo You've not seen each other since that epic journey a while ago.

HOST Olivia Say hello to your old friends, the three wise men!

The wise men enter from the side of the stage and the camels rush over and greet them excitedly.

VOICEOVER Jayden Dancing the Camel Funk – the camels and the wise men.

Song 3. CAMEL FUNK

Aurora, Mia-May, Ruby W, Hamad and Chenula

CAESAR Joey I thought it was awful!

You were all over the place, darlings. Legs, humps and hooves flying all over the place. Like the staff on a night out!

DONKEY Eden-Rose He's always so miserable! I loved it. This dance is all about having a good time and you certainly put the FUN into funk!

INNKEEPER'S WIFE I agree with Donkey. It was fun, fresh and FUNKY!

VOICEOVER Pheny Judges, could we have your scores please?

CAESAR Joey *(Holds up a card and shouts his score)*

INNKEEPER'S WIFE *(Holds up a card and shouts her score)*

DONKEY *(Holds up a card and shouts her score)*

The floor managers hold up their 'clap' and 'cheer' cards to the audience (or the 'boo' ones depending on the scores chosen).

HOST Ezra High up in the hills some shepherds were minding their own business, watching their sheep happily grazing.

HOST Leo Suddenly the sky was filled with angels singing and dancing.

VOICEOVER Jaxon Ballet dancing for us – a host of heavenly angels.

The ballet music starts and the angels enter in a line from the side of the stage (Swan Lake style).

ANGELS' BALLET MUSIC Dancers: Isabela, Eira, Imogen, Florence, Olivia, Ella

CAESAR Joey
Well, for once I'm almost speechless! I loved the extension in the arms and the footwork was wonderful. You all look fab-u-lous!

INNKEEPER'S WIFE I agree. Ballet is the most beautiful kind of dance.

DONKEY Eden-Rose There's only one word for it: heavenly!

VOICEOVER Jayden Judges, could we have your scores please?

CAESAR Joey *(Holds up a card and shouts his score)*

INNKEEPER'S WIFE *(Holds up a card and shouts her score)*

DONKEY Eden-Rose *(Holds up a card and shouts his score)*

The floor managers hold up their 'clap' and 'cheer' cards to the audience (or the 'boo' ones depending on the scores chosen).

HOST Olivia The angels had a very important message to deliver.

HOST Ezra Yes, and who better to tell us all about that message than the very shepherds who were watching the angels sing?

The floor managers hold up their 'clap' and 'cheer' cards to the audience as the shepherds and sheep walk on to the stage.

HOST Leo Tell us a little about what happened that night.

SHEPHERD Vaughan Well, we were sitting on the hillside watching our flock.

SHEPHERD Paislee Pretty much a normal evening really.

SHEPHERD Marley Feeding sheep.

SHEPHERD Ashton Counting sheep.

SHEPHERD Finley Watching sheep.

SHEPHERD Melisa Our line of work is pretty much sheep-related!

HOST Caleb Something special happened, didn't it?

SHEPHERD Sonny Oh yes. We'd fed the sheep.

SHEPHERD Cayleb Counted the sheep.

SHEPHERD Logan We were watching the sheep.

SHEPHERD Delilah When all of a sudden the sky was filled with the most amazing light.

SHEPHERD Seb Angels everywhere, singing. It was amazing!

HOST Olivia And what were they saying?

SHEPHERD Orla They were telling us to travel to Bethlehem where we would find the Son of God lying in a manger!

SHEPHERD Cariad We weren't sure at first, to be honest.

SHEPHERD Freddie But the angels were quite persuasive.

SHEPHERD Maia So we checked that the sheep were all OK and then we set off for Bethlehem.

HOST Leo What an incredible experience!

VOICEOVER Jayden Dancing 'The Shepherds' Hey!' – the shepherds and their sheep.

Song 4. THE SHEPHERDS' HEY!

Y1 N/R Sheep Eddie, Thea, Miya, Zhavia, Charlie, Jenson

DONKEY Eden-Rose Well, you weren't the most elegant dancers we've seen this evening, but that was a lot of fun and I liked it!

CAESAR Joey What can I say? You looked a little out of your comfort zones

today – awkward and clumsy. Don't give up the day jobs!

INNKEEPER'S WIFE Lexi I think it had a real charm. I loved the bells and all you young men leaping around. It was great!

VOICEOVER Phenyò Judges, could we have your scores please?

CAESAR Joey *(Holds up a card and shouts his score)*

INNKEEPER'S WIFE *(Holds up a card and shouts her score)*

DONKEY Eden-Rose *(Holds up a card and shouts her score)*

The floor managers hold up their 'clap' cards to the audience (or the 'boo' ones depending on the scores chosen).

ALL HOSTS: Our next dancers are stars, literally!

The floor managers hold up their 'clap' and 'cheer' cards to the audience as the Stars enter wearing sunglasses.

HOST Caleb So Stars, please shed some light on your part in our story?

STAR Evelyn It was my job to guide the wise men to the place where the baby Jesus was to be born.

STAR Thomas Basically, I shone really brightly, as brightly as I possibly could.

STAR Alba *(She points upwards)* Right over this stable so that everyone could see me!

HOST Ezra Great! And are you ready to dance for us this evening?

STAR Oliver Oh yes, definitely!

VOICEOVER Jaxon Dancing disco – the Star of Bethlehem.

Song 5 DISCO STAR

Reina, Eliza, Evie, Everleigh-Sue, Jessie, Emmie, Max, Ffion

DONKEY Eden-Rose That was so groovin' I could hardly stop my hooves from movin'. Disco to the max!

INNKEEPER'S WIFE LEXI I'm completely with you, Donkey – foot-tapping, jive-talking fun!

CAESAR Joey Disco fever darling! Give me big hair and some glitter and I'm away.

VOICEOVER Jayden Could we have your scores please?

CAESAR Joey *(Holds up a card and shouts his score)*

INNKEEPER'S WIFE *(Holds up a card and shouts his score)*

DONKEY Eden-Rose *(Holds up a card and shouts her score)*

The floor managers hold up their 'clap' cards to the audience (or the 'boo' ones depending on the scores chosen).

HOST Ezra When Mary and Joseph reached Bethlehem, they needed to find a place to stay.

HOST Caleb Not an easy thing to do in a town packed with newly arrived visitors.

HOST Leo And if you need to find somewhere to stay, who do you call?

ALL HOSTS Please welcome the innkeepers!

The floor managers hold up their 'clap' and 'cheer' cards to the audience as the innkeepers enter. They are dressed smartly and are holding brooms, which they use as partners in the dance.

HOST Olivia So, it was a pretty busy time for you, I understand.

INNKEEPER CONNOR Busy? That wasn't the half of it! The place was absolutely heaving!

INNKEEPER ALANA People arrived from all over. We were swept off our feet

HOST Ezra Well, that all sounds very hectic, but I hope you're ready because it's time for our final dance of the evening.

VOICEOVER Phenyó Dancing a tango, the innkeepers of Bethlehem.

Song 6. THE INNKEEPERS' TANGO
Lexi, Connor, Alana

CD track 6/16

INNKEEPER'S WIFE LEXI Well, as my husband was one of the dancers I have to say I thought you were fabulous, honey! (Husband Connor blows her a kiss).

CAESAR Joey I'm a big fan of the tango, but the only bit I really enjoyed was when it stopped.

DONKEY Eden-Rose I don't agree at all. The way you moved, you literally swept your partners around the floor. That was a tango fandango!

VOICEOVER Jaxon Could we have your scores please?

CAESAR Joey *(Holds up a card and shouts his score)*

INNKEEPER'S WIFE *(Holds up a card and shouts her score)*

DONKEY Eden-Rose *(Holds up a card and shouts her score)*

The floor managers hold up their 'clap' cards to the audience (or the 'boo' ones depending on the scores chosen).

HOST Ezra *(To Innkeeper Connor)* But there was one special couple who had real trouble finding anywhere to stay, wasn't there? Can you tell us about that?

INNKEEPER CONNOR That's right. Mary and Joseph arrived quite late and they'd already tried everywhere else. I didn't have rooms left either, but I felt so sorry for them that I said they could stay here in my stable.

HOST Caleb And that was just the start of a remarkable night, wasn't it?

INNKEEPER Connor Oh yes, they'd really arrived just in the nick of time. Mary's baby was born soon after I'd settled them in.

HOST Leo And you had even more visitors soon after that, didn't you?

INNKEEPER Alana Yes, the wise men came with gifts.

INNKEEPER CONNOR And soon after that the shepherds arrived to see the baby.

HOST Ezra As we all now know, he is no ordinary baby, and the news of his birth is spreading fast!

Mary (Grace) and Joseph (Louie) join the hosts (Ezra, Olivia, Caleb, Leo) on stage. Mary is carrying baby Jesus.

HOST Caleb His name is Jesus and he has been born to bring God's love to all of us.

HOST Leo But it really is just the beginning. Jesus's presence will be felt on earth for thousands of years to come.

HOST Olivia And he will change all of our lives forever.

ALL HOSTS Thank you so much for joining us tonight. Let's celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus together with one more dance. *(To audience)* The moves are really simple and we hope you'll all join in.

**Song 7. SPREAD THE WORD
(BETHLEHEM HAND JIVE) All cast and Audience**

CD track 7/17

THE END