

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

Book & Lyrics
by

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Music
by

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DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Hannah

Richard

Jenny

Paul

John

Alice

Light 1 - 8

Shepherds 1 - 3

Traveller 1 - 4

Mary

Joseph

Innkeeper 1

Innkeeper 2

Cracker 1 - 4

King 1 - 3

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Scene One

(The show starts with the children making a birthday card. The scene can be anywhere: in a classroom, in a bedroom, at the kitchen table, on the lounge floor, it doesn't matter. Centre stage is a large frame that represents a giant version of the birthday card. It is made from white card and folded like a card would be. As the play progresses, the children will be placing items on this with sticky tape or blue tac, so that the audience can see them. Several children are either lying face down on the floor working with bits of paper and card etc, or could be sitting at a table doing the same.)

Hannah: How do you spell Birthday?

Richard: B-E-R-F-D-A-Y, I think.

Jenny: No it isn't. It's got a "th" in it

(John and Alice enter and see the other children working.)

John: What are you doing?

Hannah: Making a birthday card.

Richard: Well we would if we could spell birthday.

Alice: Whose birthday is it?

Jenny: Jesus's.

Paul: That's why we have a Christmas holiday - 'cos it's His birthday.

John: How old is he?

Richard: Two thousand years.

John: **(Wide eyed)** Wow! My dad's thirty six and I thought he was old.

Jenny: My grandad's fifty four. I thought that he was ancient.

Hannah: Jesus was born two thousand years ago and we're making a card for His birthday.

Alice: Can we help?

Richard: Yes.

John: What are you going to put on the card?

Hannah: Christmas things of course.

Alice: Come on then.

Song One – Happy Birthday Jesus

Make a card for Jesus' birthday
Make the card from me and from you
Sing a song for Jesus' birthday
Sing a song and make a card too

'Cos it's your birthday, happy birthday
Happy birthday to you
It's your birthday, happy birthday
Happy birthday Jesu.

On the card for Jesus' birthday
We'll draw a donkey on a dusty road
On the card for Jesus' birthday
Mary, Joseph on a dusty road.

'Cos it's your birthday, happy birthday
Happy birthday to you
It's your birthday, happy birthday
Happy birthday Jesu.

Wise men trav'ling, shepherds are watching
They all see a twin-kl-ing star.
On the road to Bethlehem's stable
Bringing gifts, they travel afar-

'Cos it's your birthday, happy birthday
Happy birthday to you
It's your birthday, happy birthday
Happy birthday Jesu.
Happy birthday Jesu.
Happy birthday Jesu.

- John: What shall we put on the card?
Alice: How about Happy Birthday?
Richard: No, let's do some pictures first.
Hannah: I like doing pictures. Let's draw a christmas tree.
John: Why a christmas tree.
The others: 'Cos it's Christmas! (**Together**)

John: I know that, but why have we got to draw a tree.
Jenny: Well, the stable was made from wood.
Paul: And wood comes from trees.
Hannah: And the manger was made from wood.
John: What's a manger?
Richard: The crib that they put the baby in.
John: Come on, then let's draw a tree.

(They draw and then fix a large christmas tree onto the card. Then they sing song two.)

Song Two - Christmas Trees

Christmas trees, we're Christmas trees
To put your presents around
We're Christmas trees, we're Christmas trees
Our branches reach down to the ground.
Cover us in twinkling lights
Baubles shining bright
An angel placed upon my brow
Ev'ryone knows it's Christmas now.
We're Christmas trees, we're Christmas trees
Our branches reach down to the ground
Christmas trees, we're Christmas trees
To put your presents around
We're Christmas trees, we're Christmas trees
With branches spiky and brown.
Cover us in twinkling lights
Baubles shining bright
An angel placed upon my brow
Ev'ryone knows it's Christmas now.
We're Christmas trees, we're Christmas trees
Our branches reach down to the ground
Christmas trees, we're Christmas trees
We grow so tall from the ground
We're Christmas trees, we're Christmas trees
For you to put your presents around.
For you to put your presents around.
For you to put your presents around.

Hannah: That looks good, doesn't it?
Richard: Ace! What shall we put on the card, now?

John: If we've got a christmas tree we should have some lights on it.

Jenny: We call them fairy lights at home.

Hannah: We put them round the window and on the tree.

Paul: They look like stars twinkling in the sky.

Alice: There were lots of stars in the sky when Jesus was born.

Richard: Yes. A star guided the wisemen to the stable, didn't it?

Hannah: And a star shone over the stable so that the shepherds could find their way.

Richard: Let's draw some stars then.

Alice: Let's pretend they're fairy lights.

(Music to song three starts as the fairy lights enter. These dancers could be dressed to look like miniature christmas lights or stars and hold hands for the dance routine, like a string of lights. They dance for a short routine then all sing the song.)

Song Three - Starlight

Way up in the sky tonight
See our starlight shining bright
Twinkling in the cold night air
To guide you on your way.

Way up in the sky tonight
See our starlight shining bright
Twinkle, twinkle little star
To guide you on your way.

Way up in the sky tonight
See our starlight shining bright
Calling you to follow me
We'll guide you on your way.
Guide you on your way.
Guide you on your way.

Light 1: Twinkle, twinkle, little star

Light 2: Way up in the sky tonight

Light 3: Twinkle, twinkle, little star

Light 4: Shining with your light so bright.

Light 5: Twinkle, twinkle, pretty star
Light 6: Guide shepherds on their way
Light 7: Twinkle, twinkle, pretty star
Light 8: Above the place where Jesus lay.
Light 1: My name is Orion.
Light 2: And I am Virgo
Light 3 & 4: We are the Gemini twins.
Light 5: We light up the sky at night.
Light 6: We guide people on their journeys.
Light 7: We turn night into day.
Light 8: I don't like being a star.
Light 1: Pardon?
Light 2: What do you mean, you don't like being a star?
Light 8: I'm afraid of the dark!

Song Four - Starlight Reprise

Way up in the sky tonight
See our starlight shining bright
Twinkling in the cold night air
To guide you on your way.

Way up in the sky tonight
See our starlight shining bright
Twinkle, twinkle little star
To guide you on your way.

Way up in the sky tonight
See our starlight shining bright
Calling you to follow me
We'll guide you on your way.
Guide you on your way.
Guide you on your way.

(After the song the lights exit, except for one who moves about the stage. A group of shepherds enter.)

Shepherd 1: The sky is very bright tonight.
Shepherd 2: It's all these stars.
Shepherd 3: Look that one is moving. Let's follow it.

Shepherd 1: It looks like it's shining over Bethlehem.
Shepherd 2: Let's hurry down there and see why.
Shepherd 3: What about our sheep?
Shepherds 1&2: Never mind them! Come on!
Shepherd 3: I'll bring this young lamb with me. I can't leave him here.

(The three Shepherds exit, Shepherd 3 carrying a small lamb.)

Hannah: I want to draw a donkey.
John: Why a donkey?
Jenny: Why not? A donkey carried Mary to Bethlehem.
Richard: You can't have a donkey on a birthday card.
Alice: A christmas card is a sort of birthday card, isn't it?
Paul: It's a card for Jesus's birthday
Jenny: You have donkeys on christmas cards.
Richard: I suppose so.
Hannah: A donkey carried Mary all the way to Bethlehem, didn't it?
John: Why didn't they catch a bus?
Hannah: Buses hadn't been made then.
Paul: What did they do then?
Hannah: They walked.
Richard: I hate walking. Mum makes me walk to school every morning.
Jenny: Why did they walk to Bethlehem?
Alice: They had to do the register.
Hannah: **(Busily drawing throughout this conversation)** Do donkey's ears stick up, or flop down?
John: Up!
Richard: **(At the same time)** Down!
Hannah: I wish they'd gone by bike, I can draw one of them! **(She screws up the piece of paper and throws it away)**