

**The Little
Shepherd**
Junior Script
by
Malcolm Sircom

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CAST LIST

N.B. In the following list, the bracketed number shows the number of spoken lines each role has.

An asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.

Narrators

Narrator 1	(5)
Narrator 2	(5)
Narrator 3	(6)
Narrator 4	(6)
Narrator 5	(6)
Narrator 6	(5)
Narrator 7	(5)
Narrator 8	(5)

David's Family

* David	(54)
Mother	(3)
* Jacob	(27)

Sheep

* Leader Sheep (Sheep 1)	(12)
* Sheep 2	(4)
* Sheep 3	(5)
* Sheep 4	(3)

Shepherds

* Shepherd 1	(9)
* Shepherd 2	(8)
* Shepherd 3	(11)
* Shepherd 4	(8)
* Shepherd 5	(7)
* Shepherd 6	(7)
* Shepherd 7	(6)

Villagers

Villager 1	(1)
Villager 2	(1)
Villager 3	(1)
Villager 4	(1)
Villager 5	(1)
Villager 6	(1)
Villager 7	(1)
Villager 8	(1)
Villager 9	(1)
Villager 10	(1)
Villager 11	(1)
Villager 12	(1)

Women From Around The World

British Woman	(5)
Indian Woman	(4)
Red Indian Woman	(5)
Chinese Woman	(5)

Nativity Characters

* Mary	(22)
* Joseph	(23)
* Innkeeper	(2)
* Angel	(13)
* King 1	(16)
* King 2	(12)
* King 3	(11)
* Wise Man 1	(13)
* Wise Man 2	(10)
* Wise Man 3	(9)
Camel	(2)

In addition to the characters listed above a Choir and a Chorus of Sheep will be required. The Camel listed above is two people within a skin.

SPEAKING ROLES BY NUMBER OF LINES

N.B. In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has. An asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.

* David	54
* Jacob	27
* Joseph	23
* Mary	22
* King 1	16
* Angel	13
* Wise Man 1	13
* King 2	12
* Leader Sheep (Sheep 1)	12
* King 3	11
* Shepherd 3	11
* Wise Man 2	10
* Shepherd 1	9
* Wise Man 3	9
* Shepherd 2	8
* Shepherd 4	8
* Shepherd 5	7
* Shepherd 6	7
Narrator 1	6
Narrator 2	6
Narrator 3	6
Narrator 4	6
Narrator 5	6
* Shepherd 7	6
British Woman	5
Chinese Woman	5
Narrator 6	5
Narrator 7	5
Narrator 8	5
Red Indian Woman	5
* Sheep 3	5
Indian Woman	4
* Sheep 2	4

Mother.....	3
* Sheep 4	3
Camel.....	2
* Innkeeper	2
Villager 1	1
Villager 2.....	1
Villager 3.....	1
Villager 4.....	1
Villager 5.....	1
Villager 6.....	1
Villager 7.....	1
Villager 8.....	1
Villager 9.....	1
Villager 10.....	1
Villager 11.....	1
Villager 12.....	1

CAST LIST IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER (WITH LINE COUNT)

N.B. In the following list, the number shows how many spoken lines each role has. An asterisk (*) before the character's name indicates that this character ALSO has solo or featured sung lines.

* Angel	13
British Woman	5
Camel.....	2
Chinese Woman	5
* David	54
Indian Woman.....	4
* Innkeeper	2
* Jacob.....	27
* Joseph.....	23
* King 1	16
* King 2	12
* King 3	11
* Leader Sheep (Sheep 1).....	12
* Mary.....	22
Mother.....	3
Narrator 1.....	6
Narrator 2.....	6
Narrator 3.....	6
Narrator 4.....	6
Narrator 5.....	6
Narrator 6.....	5
Narrator 7.....	5
Narrator 8.....	5
Red Indian Woman	5
* Sheep 2	4
* Sheep 3	5
* Sheep 4	3
* Shepherd 1.....	9
* Shepherd 2.....	8
* Shepherd 3.....	11
* Shepherd 4.....	8
* Shepherd 5.....	7
* Shepherd 6.....	7

* Shepherd 7	6
Villager 1	1
Villager 10	1
Villager 11	1
Villager 12	1
Villager 2	1
Villager 3	1
Villager 4	1
Villager 5	1
Villager 6	1
Villager 7	1
Villager 8	1
Villager 9	1
* Wise Man 1	13
* Wise Man 2	10
* Wise Man 3	9

CHARACTERS IN EACH SCENE**Scene One**

Choir
 David
 Mother
 Narrators 1-8

Scene Two

Angel
 British Woman
 Chinese Woman
 Choir
 Chorus of Sheep
 David
 Entire Cast for Track 3
 Indian Woman
 Jacob
 Narrators 3-8
 Red Indian Woman
 Shepherds 1-7
 Villagers 1-12

Scene Three

Camel
 Choir
 David
 Kings 1-3
 Leader Sheep
 Narrators 1-8
 Sheep 2-4

Scene Four

Angel
 British Woman
 Chinese Woman
 Choir
 David
 Indian Woman
 Narrators 1-8
 Red Indian Woman
 Wise Men 1-3

Scene Five

Angel
 Camel
 Choir
 David
 Inn Keeper
 Jacob
 Joseph
 Kings 1-3
 Leader Sheep
 Mary
 Narrators 5-8
 Sheep 2-4
 Shepherds 1-7
 Wise Men 1-3

Scene Six

Choir
 David
 Entire Cast for Track 14
 Jacob
 Kings 1-3
 Narrators 1-4
 Shepherds 1-7
 Wise Men 1-3

LIST OF PROPERTIES**Scene One**

Cloth Covered Dish.....Mother

Scene Two

Playing Cards Jacob & Shepherds

Two Sheepskin Waistcoats (he wears one and has another smaller one with him)..... Jacob

Nine Coins Jacob & Shepherds

Cloth Covered Dish.....David

Star Scene Prop

Scene Three

Three Gold Coins.....Kings 1-3

Scene Four

Three Gold Coins.....Wise Men 1-3

Scene Five

Crib Mary & Joseph

Baby Doll (Jesus)..... Mary & Joseph

Gold King 1

Phial of Frankincense King 2

Jar of Myrrh..... King 3

Scene Six

No Properties Required

PRODUCTION NOTES

STAGING

This show is a joy to produce! Simplicity is its middle name! A general backdrop to the staging could show the rolling hills just outside Bethlehem.

The opening song takes place in the fields near Bethlehem and in addition to the basic set above could have a simple pile of twigs representing a camp fire set at centre of the acting area. On Mary and Joseph's entrance after Track 8, they bring the crib with the baby Jesus inside onto the acting area.

There are no other settings required.

CHOREOGRAPHY

Track 1 – 'While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night' is the traditional carol and needs no explanation other than that given in the stage directions.

Track 2– 'Learner Shepherd' is a perky, bouncy number sung by the Shepherds with the Sheep filling in as appropriate with the 'Baa! Baa!' lines at the end of the song. Don't play it too comically or the lyrics will be lost. The next number...

Track 3 – 'Star Of The Night' is a gentle ballad in a waltz or 3/4 time, sung by the whole cast. In complete contrast the next number...

Track 4 – 'Glad Tidings' is a steady blues rock number sung by an Angel, Shepherd, David and the Choir. There is the opportunity in the last chorus to 'swing it' with the Choir and Shepherds rocking and clapping in time. The Three Kings enter to...

Track 5 – 'Entry Of The Three Kings'. It has a distinct Arabian flavour that needs no explanation. The Kings enter pompously, pulling/pushing a very reluctant Camel to the music! This is followed shortly afterwards by the Camel performing a little dance to...

Track 6 – 'Camel Dance'. This is a short, tap-dance routine which should be played in a comical fashion.

Track 7– 'A Long, Long Road' is a western style piece with a distinctive 'cowboy' swing feel. It is sung by the Kings with the Choir providing a harmony if able to do so, and Doris the Camel interjecting some spoken lines. Plenty of comic movements from the Camel will enhance this number.

Track 8 – 'Let's Boogie!' is lead by the Sheep. There is a short, twelve bar, dance break for the Sheep to act up the comedy. They boogie off to the short musical number – **Track 9**.

The Wise men then come on the scene, **Track 10**, and sing their number...

Track 11 – ‘Brains!’. This is a steady musical comedy number which parodies the Wise men as one thing they are not is wise! Plenty of arm movements will suffice to develop the theme of the song and keep it within the capabilities of the younger members of the cast. Moving on to...

Track 12 – ‘Missing It All’, David sings this wistful ballad solo. If you haven’t got a strong soloist, the choir could assist, substituting ‘he’ for ‘I’ as appropriate.

Track 13 – ‘Boy Child’ is the penultimate number in this show and is sung by the entire cast who are gathered around the crib. It has a distinct lullaby feel throughout the number. And so we come to the Finale...

Track 14 – ‘The Son of God’. Everyone joins in this number which has a nice gospel-like swing. Simple movements in the first section then lead into the traditional carol ‘While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night’ and the final harmony of cast singing the main theme with the choir singing the counter-harmony above.

COSTUME

Bring out the tea-towels and tablecloths! Nativities have to be some of the easiest shows to costume using readily available items such as dressing gowns and dressing gown cords, stripy pyjamas, and striped or large square tea-towels.

The Narrators can be dressed in Middle Eastern dress such as tunics and sandals etc. or in school uniform.

David, as a Shepherd should be dressed in tunic or a full length smock bound with a girdle and wearing sandals.

David’s Mother could wear a full length smock and a simple headdress made from a head scarf or tea towel. Simple sandals or flip-flop footwear would complete the costume.

The Shepherds should be dressed in a similar manner to David – smocks or tunics and sandals. Their heads may be bare or dressed with a ‘tea-towel’ headdress. Jacob also wears a fine sheepskin coat.

The Indian Woman, Red Indian Woman, Chinese Woman and the British Woman should all wear traditional dress of their ethnic group.

The Villagers, Joseph and The Innkeeper all wear simple, plain tunics (men) full length smocks (women) and sandals. The Innkeeper could have a simple apron over his costume.

All Angels should be dressed in traditional style of white smock or tutu.

The Kings should be regal in their dress, wearing bold colours such as crimson, gold, violet etc. and could wear copes (large ceremonial cloaks) over a smock type undergarment. Crowns on their heads and, if possible, Arabian style footwear complete the costume.

Doris the Camel could be dressed panto style with two people wearing brown trousers and the front person wearing a head and body. If this is beyond the available resources then two people could wear brown, all-body suits and a suitable face-mask. They would then walk in close proximity to each other to represent the camel.

The Sheep could wear a simple white smock or shirt and trousers and suitable masks.

The Wise Men, in contrast to the Kings, could wear more traditional, middle-eastern costume with footwear akin to a genie with curled up toes. They should look different to the Kings to enhance the contrast between the two groups!

Joseph and Mary are traditionally dressed for their roles. Joseph as a carpenter would wear a plain smock or shirt and calf length trousers, sandals and an apron plus suitable headgear, whilst Mary is generally seen wearing a full length blue smock and headdress.

LIGHTING AND SOUND

Lighting (LX)

Whilst the use of lighting in any show adds mood, emotion, colour and focus it is not a pre-requisite to performing this nativity using any special lighting or effects. If you have the facilities and the ability to do so, the use of coloured lighting focussed on specific acting areas will obviously enhance the production. However, this show was written with limited facilities in mind and can be performed in the simplest setting with minimum or no special lighting. If resources are available, then keep it simple by using lighting to highlight specific acting areas such as the Shepherds in the opening scene with the backdrop dimly illuminated to indicate a dusk-time setting. The nativity would be lit with warm, soft colours. If you have the facility of a follow-spot, the entrance of certain characters such as the Wise Men and the Kings could be made through the auditorium using the follow-spot to track their route. Otherwise, the characters enter the acting area from the sides. The arrival of the star (after Track 2) could be illuminated, in a similar fashion, with a follow-spot, especially if the star is carried on by other members of the cast.

Sound (SFX)

No sound effects are required for this show.

SCENE ONE:**DAVID'S HOUSE****TRACK 1: WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT**

CHOIR: WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT,
ALL SEATED ON THE GROUND...

(They quietly 'Ah' the rest of the carol as eight Narrators step forward. The Narrators can be fewer than listed - or more - re-distributing the lines accordingly.)

NARRATOR 1: This is a story about a little boy called David.
NARRATOR 2: It is also the story of a little baby called Jesus.
NARRATOR 3: David's father was a Shepherd.
NARRATOR 4: One of many Shepherds who were watching their flocks...
NARRATOR 5: ...in fields outside the little town of Bethlehem.
NARRATOR 6: Now David always wanted to be a Shepherd, like his father...
NARRATOR 7: ...and one night...
NARRATOR 8: ...one very important night...
NARRATOR 1: ...when David was home with his mother...

(Enter David and his Mother.)

DAVID: Mum, when can I be a Shepherd?
MOTHER: Be quiet, and get on with your homework.
DAVID: Oh, mum!
NARRATOR 2: But a little later his mother said...
MOTHER: If you want to be a Shepherd you can start by taking your father's supper to him.

(She hands him a cloth-covered dish. David & Mother exit.)

SCENE TWO:**THE FIELDS**

NARRATOR 3: So David went out into the fields...

NARRATOR 4: ...where the Shepherds were hard at work...

(Enter eight Shepherds (Shepherds 1-7 and Jacob). They start playing cards. David's father - Jacob - wears a fine sheepskin coat, and has another smaller sheepskin waistcoat with him.)

SHEPHERD 1: I bet one shekel. *(Puts coin on ground)*

SHEPHERD 2: *(Throws his cards down)* I'm out.

SHEPHERD 3: I call your shekel. *(Puts coin on ground)*

JACOB: I bet your shekel *(Puts coin on ground)* and raise you two more. *(Puts two coins down)*

SHEPHERD 1: I'll see you. *(Puts two coins down)*

SHEPHERD 3: Me too. *(Puts two coins down)*

SHEPHERD 4: Let's see what you've got, lads.

SHEPHERD 1: *(Putting cards down)* Two Queens.

SHEPHERD 3: *(Putting cards down)* I can beat that. Pair of aces.

JACOB: *(Putting cards down)* Full house, sevens on Jacks.

(All groan as Jacob collects the money.)

SHEPHERD 2: Jacob has all the luck.

SHEPHERD 5: His sheep never get tics.

SHEPHERD 6: His shears never break.

SHEPHERD 7: His wife never nags.

SHEPHERD 1: And he's got the best sheepskin coat.

JACOB: That's because I've got the best sheep.

(The Shepherds laugh. David enters, carrying the supper dish.)

DAVID: Here's your dinner, father.

JACOB: And what has your good mother prepared for me tonight?

SHEPHERD 2: Shepherd's pie!

(All laugh.)

SHEPHERD 3: *(Taking the plate and looking under the cover)* Mutton stew!

(All laugh.)

SHEPHERD 4: *(Sniffing it)* Smells more like sheep dip!

(All laugh.)

JACOB: You'll have to get used to their feeble jokes if you want to be a Shepherd, son.

SHEPHERD 5: Yes, there's lots of things you'll have to learn...

TRACK 2:

LEARNER SHEPHERD

SHEPHERDS: WHEN YOU'RE A LEARNER SHEPHERD,
YOU DO JUST WHAT YOU'RE TOLD.
SHEPHERD 1: YOUR FIRST TASK IS TO GUIDE THE SHEEP
IN AND OUT THE FOLD.
SHEPHERD 2: YOU KEEP YOUR EYE UPON THEM,
YOU NEVER LET THEM STRAY.
JACOB: AND THEN, MY SON, YOU'LL BE
A GROWN-UP SHEPHERD ONE DAY!

SHEPHERDS: WHEN YOU'RE A LEARNER SHEPHERD,
YOU'LL EARN MORE KICKS THAN GOLD.
SHEPHERD 3: FOR IF YOU MAKE A BLUNDER,
WE'LL CURSE AND CUFF AND SCOLD!
SHEPHERD 4: WHEN WOLVES AND FOXES GATHER
YOU CHASE 'EM ALL AWAY!
JACOB: AND THEN, MY SON, YOU'LL BE
A GROWN-UP SHEPHERD ONE DAY!

SHEPHERDS: SOME DAY IN THE FUTURE
WHEN YOU'VE LEARNT THE JOB,
YOU'LL BE A BIG-TIME SHEPHERD,
WITH YOUR VERY OWN SHEPHERD DOG!

(Chorus of Sheep enter and join last chorus, with high kicks and 'Baa-baa-bop-Showaddy-wa's.)

SHEPHERD 5: 'TILL THEN, YOU'RE A LEARNER SHEPHERD.
DOING AS YOU'RE TOLD.
SHEPHERD 6: TOILING WHEN THE DAYS ARE HOT,
AND WHEN THE NIGHTS ARE COLD.
SHEPHERD 7: UNTIL THAT GREAT DAY COMES ALONG,
WHEN ALL OF US WILL SAY...
SHEPHERDS: WELCOME TO THE CLUB, OLD SON,
YOU'VE PASSED YOUR TEST TODAY! – TODAY! – TODAY!

JACOB: David, if you're to be a Shepherd, it's about time you were dressed for the job.

(Takes out a sheepskin waistcoat from under his coat and gives it to David. All applaud.)

JACOB: Well, what do you say?

DAVID: Cor! Thanks! *(He puts it on)* Father - on the way up here, I noticed something strange. Have you seen the new star?

SHEPHERD 1: Nothing strange about that. It's been there for a month now.

DAVID: Yes - but look at it now.

(He points upwards. All look up. If practical a star appears - possibly held by other members of the cast.)

SHEPHERD 2: Well, I never.

SHEPHERD 3: It's directly overhead!

SHEPHERD 4: And see how it glows - brighter than ever!

DAVID: The whole village has come out to look at it.

JACOB: More than the whole village, David - the whole world must be watching it, wondering what it means...

NARRATOR 5: Indeed, all over the world, all kinds of people...

NARRATOR 6: ...came out to gaze at the star.

NARRATOR 7: Watching and wondering...

NARRATOR 8: ...wondering and watching...

(An Indian Woman, in a sari, enters.)

INDIAN WOMAN: *(Looking at sky)* A great star is in the West. It is a sign from the Gods, a blessing on our houses and our oxen.

(A Red Indian Woman enters, in costume.)

RED INDIAN: *(Looking at sky)* A great star is in the East. It is a sign from the Gods. The Navaho and the Irapohoi will make peace, the maize will grow high and the buffalo will be abundant.

(A Chinese Woman enters, in costume.)

CHINESE WOMAN: *(Looking at sky)* A great star is in the West. It is a sign from the Gods. The War Lords will tire of fighting, and the rice harvest will be greater than ever before.

(A British Woman enters, in fur skins.)

BRITISH WOMAN: *(Looking at sky)* They say there is a great star in the East. But here in Britain, all we can see is rain and clouds. Maybe the star will make the rain stop.

(The rest of the cast enter and all sing, in wonderment:-)

TRACK 3:**STAR OF THE NIGHT**

CAST: STAR OF THE NIGHT, SHINING SO BRIGHT,
 WHAT IS THE MESSAGE IT'S BRINGING?
 NIGHT TURNS TO DAY; UNDER ITS RAY
 DAWN BIRDS ARE STARTING THEIR SINGING.
 LOOMING SO LARGE OVERHEAD,
 WILL IT BRING TERROR AND DREAD?
 OR WILL IT SHINE IN THE HEARTS OF MANKIND
 WITH A NEW AND WONDERFUL LIGHT?
 STAR OF THE NIGHT, STAR OF THE NIGHT.

(Choir sing the lyrics in brackets as counter-melody.)

STAR OF THE NIGHT,
 (STAR OF THE NIGHT,)
 SHINING SO BRIGHT,
 (SHINING SO BRIGHT,)
 WHAT IS THE MESSAGE IT'S BRINGING
 (AH.)
 NIGHT TURNS TO DAY;
 (NIGHT TURNS TO DAY,)
 UNDER ITS RAY
 (UNDER ITS RAY,)
 DAWN BIRDS ARE STARTING THEIR SINGING.
 (AH.)
 LOOMING SO LARGE OVERHEAD,
 (SO LARGE OVERHEAD,)
 WILL IT BRING TERROR AND DREAD?
 (TERROR AND DREAD.)
 OR WILL IT SHINE
 (OR WILL IT SHINE?)
 IN THE HEARTS OF MANKIND
 (HEARTS OF MANKIND,)
 WITH A NEW AND WONDERFUL LIGHT?
 (AH.)
 STAR OF THE NIGHT, STAR OF THE NIGHT.
 (STAR OF THE NIGHT, STAR OF THE NIGHT.)

(All of the cast, except Bethlehem Villagers and Shepherds, exit.)

VILLAGER 1: It seems to hang right over the village.
VILLAGER 2: Why Bethlehem? What harm have we done?
VILLAGER 3: Well, I think it's a good sign.
VILLAGER 4: I think it means trouble.
VILLAGER 5: More trouble we don't need.

VILLAGER 6: We've got enough already.
VILLAGER 7: The cost of living...
VILLAGER 8: ...the taxes...
VILLAGER 9: ...I wish it would go away!
VILLAGER 10: Look at the star now!
VILLAGER 11: It's coming down on top of us!
VILLAGER 12: Run, everyone - back to your homes!

(All the Villagers run off, leaving the Shepherds and David on their own. David starts to run after them.)

JACOB: Where do you think you're going? *(David stops)*
DAVID: I'm going home.
SHEPHERD 5: A Shepherd must guard his sheep.
DAVID: But I'm only a little Shepherd, and I'm scared.
JACOB: Did I raise my son to be a coward?
SHEPHERD 6: Don't be too hard on him, Jacob. Take your example from us, lad - we're brave...
SHEPHERD 7: Fearless...
JACOB: Afraid of nobody...
SHEPHERDS: Afraid of nothing...

(An Angel appears as dramatically as practical! The Shepherds cower - all except David, who looks on in wonder.)

DAVID: Cor! Isn't she smashing? What's the matter with you lot? Nothing to be afraid of.
ANGEL: Right on, man... Now listen to me everyone...

(The Shepherds sit up from their cowering postures as the Angel sings.)