

The Good, The Bad And The Donkey

Junior Script

by

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Published by

Musicline Publications

P.O. Box 15632

Tamworth

Staffordshire

B78 2DP

01827 281 431

www.musiclinedirect.com

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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 (14)
 Narrator 2 (12)
 Narrator 3 (12)
 Narrator 4 (12)

Angels (female)

* Chief Angel (31)
 Angel 1 (17)
 Angel 2 (20)
 Angel 3 (18)
 Angel 4 (16)
 Angel 5 (16)
 Angel 6 (16)
 Angel 7 (16)
 Angel 8 (16)

Devils (male)

Chief Devil (36)
 Little Devil (22)
 Devil 1 (12)
 Devil 2 (15)
 Devil 3 (14)
 Devil 4 (16)
 Devil 5 (14)
 Devil 6 (12)
 Devil 7 (11)
 Devil 8 (10)

Caesar's Court

Caesar (6)
 Caesar's Wife (3)
 Courtier 1 (2)
 Courtier 2 (1)

The Road to Bethlehem

* Mary (40)
 * Joseph (51)
 Doris Donkey (1)
 David (18)
 Tax Inspector (28)

The Inn

Innkeeper (9)
 Innkeeper's Wife (14)
 * Reveller 1 (5)
 Reveller 2 (2)
 Reveller 3 (2)
 Reveller 4 (4)
 Reveller 5 (1)
 Reveller 6 (1)
 Reveller 7 (2)
 Reveller 8 (2)

Wise Men

Wise Man 1 (8)
 Wise Man 2 (6)
 Wise Man 3 (6)

Shepherds

Shepherd 1 (7)
 Shepherd 2 (5)
 Shepherd 3 (9)
 Shepherd 4 (4)
 Wife 1 (3)
 Wife 2 (2)
 Wife 3 (3)
 Wife 4 (2)

Non-Speaking

Placard Boy or Girl (0)

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.

* Joseph	51
* Mary	40
Chief Devil	36
* Chief Angel	31
Tax Inspector	28
Little Devil	22
Angel 2	20
Angel 3	18
David	18
Angel 1	17
Angel 4	16
Angel 5	16
Angel 6	16
Angel 7	16
Angel 8	16
Devil 4	16
Devil 2	15
Devil 3	14
Devil 5	14
Innkeeper's Wife	14
Narrator 1	14
Devil 1	12
Devil 6	12
Narrator 2	12
Narrator 3	12
Narrator 4	12
Devil 7	11
Devil 8	10
Innkeeper	9
Shepherd 3	9
Wise Man 1	8
Shepherd 1	7
Caesar	6

Wise Man 2	6
Wise Man 3	6
* Reveller 1	5
Shepherd 2	5
Reveller 4	4
Shepherd 4	4
Caesar's Wife	3
Wife 1	3
Wife 3	3
Courtier 1	2
Reveller 2	2
Reveller 3	2
Reveller 7	2
Reveller 8	2
Wife 2	2
Wife 4	2
Courtier 2	1
Doris Donkey	1
Reveller 5	1
Reveller 6	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 1.....	17
Angel 2.....	20
Angel 3.....	18
Angel 4.....	16
Angel 5.....	16
Angel 6.....	16
Angel 7.....	16
Angel 8.....	16
Caesar.....	6
Caesar's Wife.....	3
* Chief Angel.....	31
Chief Devil.....	36
Courtier 1.....	2
Courtier 2.....	1
David.....	18
Devil 1.....	12
Devil 2.....	15
Devil 3.....	14
Devil 4.....	16
Devil 5.....	14
Devil 6.....	12
Devil 7.....	11
Devil 8.....	10
Doris Donkey.....	1
Innkeeper.....	9
Innkeeper's Wife.....	14
* Joseph.....	51
Little Devil.....	22
* Mary.....	40
Narrator 1.....	14
Narrator 2.....	12
Narrator 3.....	12
Narrator 4.....	12

* Reveller 1	5
Reveller 2.....	2
Reveller 3.....	2
Reveller 4.....	4
Reveller 5.....	1
Reveller 6.....	1
Reveller 7	2
Reveller 8.....	2
Shepherd 1	7
Shepherd 2	5
Shepherd 3	9
Shepherd 4	4
Tax Inspector	28
Wife 1	3
Wife 2.....	2
Wife 3.....	3
Wife 4.....	2
Wise Man 1	8
Wise Man 2.....	6
Wise Man 3.....	6

Non-speaking role: Placard Boy or Girl.

CHARACTERS IN EACH SCENE**Scene One**

Angels 1-8
 Chief Angel
 Chief Devil
 Devils 1-8
 Little Devil

Scene Two

Caesar
 Caesar's Wife
 Courtiers 1-2
 Narrators 1-4

Scene Three

Angels 1-8
 Chief Angel
 Chief Devil
 David
 Devils 1-8
 Doris Donkey
 Joseph
 Little Devil
 Mary
 Narrators 1-4
 Placard Boy/Girl
 Tax Inspector

Scene Four

Angels 1-8
 Chief Angel
 Chief Devil
 Doris Donkey
 Innkeeper
 Innkeeper's Wife
 Joseph
 Little Devil
 Mary
 Narrators 1-4
 Placard Boy/Girl
 Revellers 1-8

Scene Five

Angels 1-8
 Chief Angel
 David
 Narrators 1-4
 Shepherds 1-4
 Shepherds' Wives 1-4

Scene Six

David
 Doris Donkey
 Innkeeper
 Innkeeper's Wife
 Joseph
 Mary
 Narrators 1-4
 Placard Boy/Girl
 Revellers 1-8
 Shepherds' Wives 1-4
 Shepherds 1-4
 Tax Inspector
 Wise Men 1-3

Scene Seven

Angels 1-8
 Caesar
 Caesar's Wife
 Chief Angel
 Chief Devil
 Courtiers 1-2
 Devils 1-8
 Doris Donkey
 Innkeeper
 Innkeeper's Wife
 Joseph
 Little Devil
 Mary
 Narrators 1-4
 Placard Boy/Girl
 Revellers 1-8
 Shepherds' Wives 1-4
 Shepherds 1-4
 Tax Inspector
 Wise Men 1-3

LIST OF PROPERTIES

Scene One

Row of cut-out cardboard clouds, including: Scene Prop
 Large white (cardboard) cloud, stage right Scene Prop
 Large grey/black (cardboard) cloud, stage left Scene Prop

Scene Two

Shopping Bags Caesar's Wife
 Pair of socks, in one of the shopping bags Caesar's Wife

Scene Three

Clouds as in Scene One Scene Prop
 Signpost with the distance to Bethlehem written on it (see stage direction).. Placard Boy/Girl
 Sign reading 'Angels 1, Devils 0' Placard Boy/Girl
 Paper on a clipboard, and a pencil Tax Inspector
 Sign reading 'Angels 1, Devils 1' Placard Boy/Girl
 Sign reading 'Angels 2, Devils 1' Placard Boy/Girl

Scene Four

Clouds as in Scene One Scene Prop
 Money bag Reveller 7
 Sign reading 'Angels 2, Devils 2' Placard Boy/Girl
 Sign reading 'Angels 3, Devils 2' Placard Boy/Girl

Scene Five

Clouds as in Scene One Scene Prop
 Playing cards Shepherds

Scene Six

Baby doll (Jesus) Mary & Joseph
 Crib Scene Prop
 Gold Wise Man 1
 Frankincense Wise Man 2
 Myrrh..... Wise Man 3
 Coins..... Tax Inspector
 Waistcoat David
 Sign reading 'Angels 3, Devils 3' Placard Boy/Girl

Scene Seven

Clouds as in Scene One Scene Prop
 Sign reading 'The End' Placard Boy/Girl

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. To this could be added various items such as cut-outs, furnishings etc. to create certain specific sets e.g. a throne could be brought on for Caesar's Court (Scene Two). In most cases, the scenes can be changed by various characters bringing on or removing set items to create the scene. This is simply a suggestion to keep the show moving smoothly. The show can be performed in any school hall or church venue without difficulty.

Scene One – Prologue.

This is set somewhere up in the clouds. The stage is set with a number of cut-outs in cloud shapes, painted white on one side of the acting area and thundery grey/black on the other.

Scene Two – The Court of Caesar Augustus.

The previous scene can remain throughout as the clouds are required for the Angels and Devils to lie down behind. As the Courtiers enter they bring a few items of scenery, e.g. a throne etc., on with them to create the court scene. At the end of the scene, the Courtiers remove the items that they brought on with them.

Scene Three – The Road To Bethlehem requires only the light and dark clouds from behind which the Angels and Devils emerge, as in Scene One.

Scene Four – The Inn At Bethlehem.

The clouds remain. The Innkeeper and his Wife can enter carrying a table and chairs whilst the Narrators introduce the scene. At the end of this scene either the Revellers can take off the tables and chairs or the Narrators could remove them to transform the set to:

Scene Five – The Shepherds' Fields.

No specific scenery is required for this scene. The Shepherds enter and take up their positions to play their game of cards, whilst the Narrators introduce them at the end of the previous scene.

Scene Six – The Stable.

This is the only scene that cannot be set easily by the characters acting in the scene. It could be set permanently throughout the show, to one side of the acting area. As an alternative, the scene could be set by placing a few straw bales and the crib in the acting area during the Narrators' closing lines of Scene Five.

Scene Seven – The Epilogue.

This scene is essentially the same as the opening Scene One. It needs only the clouds to be present on the acting area.

CHOREOGRAPHY

Track 1 – Band of Angels, the opening number, is a simple, short, lively number to introduce the Angels. Simple, angelic movements are all that is required. By contrast...

Track 2 – Devils introduces the Devils. The music and lyrics speak for themselves - nice impish movements that all parents will recognise in their little ones!

Track 3 – Angels and Devils is merely a combination of the two previous numbers sung in harmony. The movements will be the same as for the individual numbers.

Track 4 is a dramatic chord to which the court all gasp and adopt a shock-horror pose.

Track 5 – This Time Tomorrow is a bright number with a calypso-type feel and gospel undertones at times. It is sung by Mary and Joseph accompanied by the Angels as a gospel choir - simple swaying movements from the Angels, whilst Mary and Joseph are more or less static taking the centre stage roles.

Doris the Donkey steals the stage in the next number...

Track 6 – Donkey Dance. This number has a distinctly western feel to which Doris dances. It is only a short number so as not to task little ones too much but it is a great opportunity for some real comedy, especially if Doris is costumed like a pantomime horse: i.e. two person costume.

Track 7 is another dramatic chord to which the action freezes.

Doris dances off at the end of Scene Three to a reprise of the dance –**Track 8**.

The Inn at Bethlehem is the next scene and in...

Track 9 – Let's Bop! we see the Revellers enjoying themselves to a lively bright rock and roll style number. This number has a break for a short rock and roll section (unsung eight bars) before returning to the lyrics - a great opportunity to teach this classical dance move! At the end of the song they all exit to...

Track 10 – Conga. This is self-explanatory.

Joseph and Mary next sing the ballad...

Track 11 - No Room At The Inn. This is a poignant moment as they realise that they are homeless and will be sleeping on the streets. Nothing in the way of major movement should distract from the moment.

The crowd of Revellers shortly appear still dancing the conga to...

Track 12 – Conga (Reprise). Again this is self-explanatory.

And so we move to the Shepherds' Field and...

Track 13 – New Star In The Sky, sung solo by the Chief Angel. This is a gentle ballad and could be accompanied by the other Angels dancing, especially during the underscored dialogue. Nothing, however, should detract from her dialogue so the choreography should be subtle.

Once again the music switches to a Conga...

Track 14 – Conga (Second Reprise) to introduce the Revellers and Guests at the Inn as they arrive at the crib-side.

The Wise Men, Mary and Joseph all sing the ballad...

Track 15 – This Little King. Mary and Joseph are seated at the crib-side and the Wise Men are kneeling, so very little choreography is required for this number.

Track 16 is a dramatic chord.

Track 17 – The Nativity Story is the finale song. This is a lively number with a rock feel and is sung by the entire cast. There is a break at bar 37 where Doris enters to her western-style music. This is followed by a few bars of the traditional number 'Ding Dong Merrily On High', and then the Devils enter to their distinctive, impish piece. Following this the song separates into the main theme underscored with the Gloria section of 'Ding Dong Merrily On High'. This song is a great opportunity to bring all the cast on at different times to their own theme and sing. You might want to repeat this number when the entire cast has assembled.

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 Angels should be as angelic looking as possible with white dresses or smocks and (optional) wings.

The Devils should be as devilish looking as possible, either dressed in black or crimson red costumes with (optional) tails, horns and tridents.

The Narrators can be dressed in costume of the period or school uniform or something smart.

Caesar Augustus is generally seen in a white tunic with a brightly coloured toga draped over one shoulder. He could wear a laurel wreath about his head if wished.

Caesar's Wife could wear traditional Roman costume which consisted of three simple garments: TUNICA (underdress), STOLA (overdress), and PALLA (wrap). The Tunica would be a simple, straight ankle length dress in white, the Stola would be a pleated, brightly coloured overdress and the Wrap a complimentary coloured stole thrown over the shoulder.

The Placard Boy or Girl should wear a simple tunic.

Doris, the Donkey, could be dressed in a costume comprising grey or brown trousers for each of the legs and a head and body suit for the front person. Alternatively, if resources are limited, a simple mask and ears for one person and a grey or brown full-body costume would suffice.

Joseph, as a carpenter, would probably have some plain, brown-coloured pyjama bottoms with a large belt over a large, loose fitting, cream coloured shirt.

Mary is traditionally seen dressed in blue. Joseph and Mary each wear a simple headdress like a head-scarf.

David is a Shepherd boy and would probably wear a simple tunic and headscarf (tea-towel).

The author suggests that the **Tax Inspector** is dressed in traditional middle-eastern costume plus a bowler hat. A long stripy robe with a waist sash, finished with a pair of sandals would be suitable.

The Innkeeper and His Wife would be found wearing plain, hessian-type tunics, sandals and possibly aprons.

The Shepherds require tunics or smocks and, of course, the tea-towel headscarves. If tunics are not available, stripy pyjamas can be suitably modified by shortening the legs to mid-calf etc. They also require sandals.

Similarly, the **Shepherds' Wives** *would be dressed in long 'night-dress' style smocks.*

The Wise Men could be dressed in distinct Middle Eastern costume with, perhaps, Arabian trousers tight at the ankles, loose, blouse-like tops and turban headdress.

The Chorus, Courtiers, etc. should be dressed in traditional Middle-eastern costume using everyday items as mentioned previously.

LIGHTING AND SOUND

Whilst the use of lighting in any show adds mood, emotion, colour and focus it is not a prerequisite to perform 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.

SCENE ONE:**THE PROLOGUE**

(To either side of the set is a row of cut-out cardboard clouds. Stage Right is a white cloud, large enough for the Angels to be hidden when they go to sleep. Stage Left is a dark, thunderous cloud. Enter, from behind the white cloud, 8 Angels dressed in white.)

TRACK 1:**BAND OF ANGELS**

ANGELS: WE'RE A BAND OF ANGELS, A BAND OF ANGELS,
FOLLOWING A BRIGHT NEW STAR,
AND WE'RE HERE TO TELL YOU A SIMPLE STORY.
GLORY ALLELUJAH.
WE TRY TO BRING PEACE ON EARTH,
READY FOR OUR SAVIOUR'S BIRTH.
WE'RE A BAND OF ANGELS, A BAND OF ANGELS,
TRA, LA, LA, LA, LA, LA, LA.
FOLLOWING A STAR, ALLELUJAH.
A BAND OF ANGELS, TRA, LA, LA!

CHIEF ANGEL: Good evening (*or afternoon*) and welcome. I'm the Chief Angel.

ANGEL 2: You'll never guess what her name is.

ANGEL 1: Angela!

ANGEL 4: Well, it isn't really...

ANGEL 5: But we do like to have our little jokes.

ANGEL 6: Do you know what our favourite drink is?

ANGEL 1: Harp!

CHIEF ANGEL: As you can see, they're an unruly lot.

ANGEL 7: But nice with it.

ANGEL 8: What we really like doing is making people happy.

CHIEF ANGEL: In very subtle ways.

ANGEL 2: For example, when Dad has a mountain of washing-up to do...

ANGEL 3: We make some of the plates extra slippery.

ANGEL 4: So he drops them and breaks them.

ANGEL 5: Less for him to do.

ANGEL 6: And when Mum gets cross...

ANGEL 7: And calls him useless...

ANGEL 8: And says "I'd better do it".

CHIEF ANGEL: We get the kids to say...

ALL ANGELS: Never mind, Mum, we'll do the washing up.

CHIEF ANGEL: That doesn't happen very often.

ANGEL 2: It's what we call a 'miracle'.

ANGEL 3: It's very exhausting doing miracles.
ANGEL 5: We've all just done a big miracle.
ANGEL 1: We've got a teenager to tidy his room.
ANGEL 6: So we're all very tired.
ANGEL 7: So we're going to have a rest on our favourite cloud.
ANGEL 8: We call it Cloud Nine.
CHIEF ANGEL: And any Angel who can't get to sleep lies on the edge of the cloud.
ANGEL 2: Why?
CHIEF ANGEL: Because they'll soon drop off!
ANGEL 3: Another joke.
ALL ANGELS: No way!
CHIEF ANGEL: All right, that's enough. Settle down, all of you.

(All go behind the white cloud and, except for the Chief Angel, lie down, go to sleep - and start snoring!)

CHIEF ANGEL: I bet you never knew angels snored. Well, you won't catch me doing it. After all as Chief Angel, I have to set an example.

(She lies down, goes to sleep - and snores louder than the rest of them! Their snores quieten to nothing as the Devils, dressed in red or black, enter from behind the black cloud.)

TRACK 2:

DEVILS

DEVILS: WE'RE A BEASTLY BUNCH OF DEVILS,
 UP TO MISCHIEF ALL THE TIME.
 WE'RE HAPPY AND CONTENTED
 FOLLOWING A LIFE OF CRIME!
 WE COME FROM A VERY HOT PLACE,
 AND WE TRY TO MAKE IT HOT FOR YOU!
 WE'RE A BEASTLY BUNCH OF DEVILS,
 WALLOWING IN MUD AND TAR.
 ALL OF US ARE MAD, AND THOROUGHLY BAD!
 HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

CHIEF DEVIL: Right lads, form a line. *(They do so)* From the left, number!

DEVIL 1: One.

DEVIL 2: Two.

DEVIL 3: Three.

DEVIL 4: Four.

DEVIL 5: Five.

DEVIL 6: Six.

DEVIL 7: Seven.

LITTLE DEVIL: *(The smallest of the group)* Seven and a half.

CHIEF DEVIL: What do you mean, seven and a half?

LITTLE DEVIL: Well, I'm only a Little Devil.

CHIEF DEVIL: Well lads, I'm the Chief Devil and I have to tell you that the Boss isn't pleased at your progress. What have you been up to?

DEVIL 1: Floods.

DEVIL 2: Famine.

DEVIL 3: Plague.

DEVIL 4: Pestilence.

DEVIL 5: Earthquakes.

DEVIL 6: Tornadoes.

DEVIL 7: Salmonella.

CHIEF DEVIL: And you - Seven and a Half. What have you been doing?

LITTLE DEVIL: Nothing. It's my day off.

CHIEF DEVIL: Well the boss isn't satisfied. He says we must think of something big. Something bigger than big. Something...

DEVIL 4: Something mega.

CHIEF DEVIL: That's the word.

DEVIL 3: Yes - but what?

DEVIL 6: Can't we just stick to hurricanes?

DEVIL 8: And swarms of locusts?

LITTLE DEVIL: How about a big snowstorm? I love sledging and snowball fights.

(All laugh.)

DEVIL 1: You're not supposed to enjoy yourself. Seven and a half.

DEVIL 2: Some mothers do have 'em.

CHIEF DEVIL: That's it! That's brilliant, Number Two.

DEVIL 2: What did I say?

CHIEF DEVIL: Not some mothers, but one particular mother. Mary. She's going to have a baby.

DEVIL 5: A very important baby.

CHIEF DEVIL: If we can somehow stop the Nativity, the Boss will be over the moon. He'll probably give us a bonus.

ALL DEVILS: Hooray!

DEVIL 4: I can start the ball rolling. I can have a word in the ear of King Herod. He's a friend of mine.

DEVIL 5: He's a really nasty bit of work.

DEVIL 4: That's why he's a friend of mine.
CHIEF DEVIL: That's what I like to hear - dedication. Right men, we're going to wreck the Nativity. Let's hear it from everyone. What are we going to do?
ALL DEVILS: *(Softly)* Wreck the Nativity.
CHIEF DEVIL: I can't hear. What are we going to do?
ALL DEVILS: *(Shouting)* Wreck the Nativity!

(The Chief Angel gets up.)

CHIEF ANGEL: I heard that!
OTHER ANGELS: We all heard that!

(They get up.)

CHIEF DEVIL: Oh, no, it's the opposition!
CHIEF ANGEL: We all know you like to cause a spot of bother, but this time you go too far!
CHIEF DEVIL: Just you try and stop us!
CHIEF ANGEL: We will - won't we girls?
ALL ANGELS: Yes.
CHIEF DEVIL: Very well. It will make our task all the more entertaining.
ANGEL 2: Ooh - you're nothing but a bunch of hooligans.
ALL ANGELS: Hooligans! Hooligans!
DEVIL 2: And you're nothing but a bunch of goody-goodies!
ALL DEVILS: Goody-goodies! Goody-goodies!
ANGEL 3: We don't like you!
ALL ANGELS: Yes!
DEVIL 3: And we don't like you!
DEVILS 1-7: Yes!
LITTLE DEVIL: I rather like them!
CHIEF DEVIL: Seven and a half! Behave yourself! As for you Angels, you'd better face the facts. There'll be no nativity, because we Devils will win!
CHIEF ANGEL: You don't stand a chance. Angels for ever!
ALL ANGELS: Angels for ever!
CHIEF DEVIL: Devils rule O.K!
ALL DEVILS: Devils rule O.K!
ALL ANGELS: Angels!
ALL DEVILS: Devils!
ALL ANGELS: Angels!
ALL DEVILS: Devils!

TRACK 3:**ANGELS AND DEVILS**

(The Angels sing Track 1: Band of Angels whilst the Devils simultaneously sing Track 2: Devils. N.B Retaining their own vocal line whilst another is being sung may be a little difficult for some junior singers, but it is a good exercise in mental discipline.)

ANGELS:

WE'RE A BAND OF ANGELS,
A BAND OF ANGELS,
FOLLOWING A BRIGHT NEW STAR,
AND WE'RE HERE TO TELL YOU
A SIMPLE STORY.
GLORY ALLELUJAH.
WE TRY TO BRING PEACE ON EARTH,
READY FOR OUR SAVIOUR'S BIRTH.

WE'RE A BAND OF ANGELS,
A BAND OF ANGELS,
TRA, LA, LA, LA, LA, LA, LA.
FOLLOWING A STAR,
ALLELUJAH.
A BAND OF ANGELS, TRA, LA, LA!

DEVILS:

WE'RE A BEASTLY BUNCH OF DEVILS,

UP TO MISCHIEF ALL THE TIME.
WE'RE HAPPY AND CONTENTED

FOLLOWING A LIFE OF CRIME!
WE COME FROM A VERY HOT PLACE,
AND WE TRY TO MAKE IT
HOT FOR YOU!
WE'RE A BEASTLY BUNCH OF DEVILS,

WALLOWING IN MUD AND TAR.
ALL OF US ARE MAD,
AND THOROUGHLY BAD!
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

(At the end of the song all exit, except Little Devil, who takes the wrong turn, and comes back on stage.)

LITTLE DEVIL: *(Finding himself alone)* Wait for me! Wait for me! *(He runs off after them)*

SCENE TWO: THE COURT OF CAESAR AUGUSTUS

(Enter four Narrators.)

NARRATOR 1: Our story begins in the court of Caesar Augustus.

NARRATOR 2: The Emperor of Rome.

(Enter two Courtiers.)

COURTIER 1: Here comes Caesar now.

COURTIER 2: Let's prepare a welcome.

NARRATOR 3: Caesar was respected throughout the land.

NARRATOR 4: And particularly by his court.

NARRATOR 1: He was given the same respect our teachers have.

(Enter Caesar Augustus. The Courtiers boo him. Caesar raises his hand for silence.)

CAESAR: Friends, Romans, Countrymen...

(Courtiers moan.)

COURTIER 1: He's off again!

NARRATOR 2: Caesar was a troubled man.

NARRATOR 3: He was much vexed by events both abroad and at home.

NARRATOR 4: Particularly at home.

NARRATOR 1: Where his Wife was very fond of shopping.

(Caesar's Wife enters carrying shopping bags.)

CAESAR'S WIFE: Now, don't be cross my dear. You know I can't resist a bargain.

CAESAR: One bargain, yes - but that's a bargain mountain!

CAESAR'S WIFE: Well, the sales are brilliant. I got lots of designer frocks - and look, I even bought you a present. *(She takes out a pair of socks from a bag.)*

CAESAR: A pair of socks! That does it! Mrs Caesar, I can't keep up with your extravagance. There's only one thing for it. I hereby officially announce...

(Groans from the Court)