

The Bethlehem Bootee Company

Junior Script

by

Dave Corbett

Ideal Cast Size 40

Speaking Roles 31

Minimum Cast Size 23

Duration (minutes) 25

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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	(3)
Narrator 2	(3)
Narrator 3	(3)
Narrator 4	(2)
Narrator 5	(3)
Narrator 6	(3)

Market Traders

*Marcus Gefril	(26)
*Selina Gefril	(24)
Granny Gefril	(13)
Fig Seller	(1)
Oil Seller	(1)
Bread Seller	(2)

Kings and Camels

King 1	(4)
King 2	(4)
King 3	(4)
*Camel 1	(3)
*Camel 2	(2)
*Camel 3	(1)

Shepherds and Sheep

Shepherd 1	(6)
Shepherd 2	(4)
Shepherd 3	(3)
Shepherd 4	(2)
Sheep 1	(1)

Angels

Angel 1	(1)
Angel 2	(1)
Angel 3	(1)

Other Nativity Characters

Innkeeper	(3)
Wife	(4)
Mary	(15)
*Joseph	(7)
Donkey	(5)

N.B In addition to the above characters a Chorus of Merchants and Sheep will be required.

SPEAKING ROLES BY NUMBER OF LINES

N.B. In the following list, the 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.

* Marcus Gefril.....	26
* Selina Gefril.....	24
Mary.....	15
Granny Gefril	13
* Joseph.....	7
* Shepherd 1.....	6
Donkey	5
King 1	4
King 2	4
King 3	4
Wife	4
* Shepherd 2.....	4
* Shepherd 3.....	3
* Camel 1	3
Innkeeper.....	3
Narrator 1	3
Narrator 2	3
Narrator 3	3
Narrator 5	3
Narrator 6	3
Narrator 4	2
* Shepherd 4.....	2
Bread Seller.....	2
* Camel 2.....	2
Sheep 1	1
Angel 1	1
Angel 2	1
Angel 3	1
* Camel 3.....	1
Fig Seller	1
Oil Seller	1

SUGGESTED CAST LIST FOR 23 ACTORS

N.B. In the following list, the 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.

* Marcus Gefril.....	26
* Selina Gefril.....	24
Mary.....	15
Granny Gefril	13
Donkeyalso plays Innkeeper.....	8
* Joseph.....	7
Fig Seller also plays *Shepherd 1	7
Bread Seller..... also plays *Shepherd 2.....	6
Oil Seller..... also plays both *Shepherd 3 & *Shepherd 4 (combined lines).....	6
Narrator 2 also reads Narrator 5's lines	6
Narrator 3 also reads Narrator 6's lines	6
Narrator 1 also reads Narrator 4's lines	5
King 1	4
King 2	4
King 3	4
Wife	4
* Camel 1..... also plays Angel 1.....	4
* Camel 2..... also plays Angel 2.....	3
* Camel 3..... also plays Angel 3.....	2
Sheep 1 also plays one of the non-speaking Merchants.....	1

Non-speaking Roles: 3 Merchants who also play Chorus of Sheep.

CHARACTERS IN EACH SCENE*(In order of appearance)***Prologue**

Narrator 1
 Narrator 2
 Narrator 3
 Narrator 4
 Narrator 5
 Narrator 6

Scene One

Chorus Of Merchants
 Marcus
 Selina
 Fig Seller
 Granny
 Oil Seller
 Bread Seller
 Narrators 5, 1 and 2

Scene Two

Mary
 Joseph
 Donkey
 Marcus
 Granny
 Selina

Scene Three

Marcus
 Selina
 Granny

Scene Four

King 1
 King 2
 King 3
 Camel 1
 Camel 2
 Camel 3
 Marcus
 Selina
 Granny
 Narrators 1, 2 and 3

Scene Five

Shepherd 1
 Shepherd 2
 Shepherd 3
 Shepherd 4
 Chorus Of Sheep
 Sheep 1
 Granny
 Angel 1
 Angel 2
 Angel 3
 Narrators 4, 5 and 6

Scene Six

Mary
 Joseph
 Innkeeper
 Wife
 Marcus
 Selina
 Granny
 Shepherd 1
 Shepherd 2
 Shepherd 3
 Shepherd 4
 King 1
 King 2
 King 3
 Entire Cast for final song

LIST OF PROPERTIES

Prologue

No properties needed

Scene One

Stalls (table/chairs) Scene Props
 Gefril Stall Stage Prop
 Merchant Wares Bread Seller, Fig Seller, Oil Seller, etc.
 Bootees Marcus, Selina & Granny Gefril
 Knitting Needles and wool Granny Gefril
 Gefril Cart Marcus & Selina Gefril

Scene Two

Gefril Cart with bootees Marcus and Selina Gefril
 Knitting Needles and wool Granny Gefril
 Red Bootees Selina
 Money Joseph
 Bootees Granny Gefril

Scene Three

Gefril Cart with bootees Marcus and Selina Gefril
 Knitting Needles and wool Granny Gefril
 Bootees Granny Gefril

Scene Four

Fire Scene Prop
 Gefril Cart with bootees Marcus and Selina Gefril
 Gold King 1
 Frankincense King 2
 Myrrh King 3
 Knitting Needles, wool and more bootees Granny Gefril

Scene Five

Large Cardboard Scissors Shepherd 1
 Bag Shepherds

Scene Six

Manger With Baby Jesus Stage Prop
 Pillow Wife
 Special Posh Bootees..... Selina Gefril
 Woolly Fleece Shepherd 1
 Gold King 1
 Frankincense King 2
 Myrrh King 3

HELPFUL HINTS AND TIPS

Give your children their words to learn first – enlist the help of parents here. Set a date by which they should know them; you cannot hope to rehearse movement or introduce props until words and cues have been learned.

If sending home words to learn, send cues (the preceding line or two) as well, so children not only know what to say but when to say it!

Songs are best learned separately (it helps to keep the blood pressure down for all concerned).

Once rehearsing begins on stage, introduce any flats (free standing scenery) as soon as possible, so that children have their positions correct from the start. And don't forget to have one or two rehearsals with props, microphones (and lights if using) before the official dress rehearsal to allow time for children to get used to them.

Finally – this may seem obvious but is often forgotten – don't forget to practise your cast bows (arms across tummies or not?) and the order in which they should lead off stage. All too often a super show ends in foot shuffling embarrassment because no one knows quite what to do when the applause ends.

PRODUCTION NOTES

STAGING

Depending on the facilities available this show can be as simple or complex as you want. Just remember, this is not supposed to be a West End production. All most parents want to see is their child on stage. All most teachers want is to survive unscathed. So feel free to add, subtract or completely change the ideas below. And don't forget to send your comments and pictures to kate@musicline-ltd.com.

Prologue:

All cast assembled on stage for the opening song, arranged in a line or rows. No need to worry about anything else. The Narrators could then sit at the side of the stage or somewhere prominent, without being in the way of the action.

Scene One: The Bethlehem Bootee Company

Use tables/chairs to create the idea of a busy market. Have the Merchants mime the actions of selling their wares in the background whilst the scene takes place. If possible, have a form of cart or seller's tray at the side of the stage for the Gefril family to take during Track 2.

Scene Two: Customers

Dead easy. No special staging needed.

Scene Three: Name Calling

Again, easy. A short scene that needs no special staging.

Scene Four: No Sale Today

Make two clearly distinct areas of the stage: one for the Kings to sleep in by a simple fire made of card and paper, whilst the Camels march around the other during the song. If possible, place mats for the Kings to use as beds.

Scene Five: Supplies and Angels

Have your Chorus of Sheep group together on one side of the stage whilst the interaction between the Shepherds and Granny takes place. During Track 5 the Shepherds 'shear' the Sheep one by one. During Track 6 all the characters form a tableau in the centre of the stage.

Scene Six: Presents

This scene is the typical nativity scene. In the centre of the stage have some sort of manger with a doll to represent the baby Jesus. If possible, set the stage to imply the setting of a stable but remember that all the cast will soon be assembled on the stage, so ensure you have enough space to accommodate them all.

BACKDROPS

You may have the facility for changing backdrops, in which case go to town – a backdrop of a Roman-era Middle Eastern town in the background for Scenes One, Two and Three. A backdrop of a setting just outside the town for Scene Four. A backdrop of a field setting for Scene Five, and a stable backdrop for Scene Six.

If this is not practical, a backdrop of a Roman-era Middle Eastern town will be suitable throughout.

COSTUMES

Marcus, Selina, Granny, the Shepherds, the Innkeeper and his Wife should all wear full length smocks tied around their waist. Have the Shepherds carry crooks and the Innkeeper and his Wife wear aprons to make them distinct.

The Merchants should also wear smocks. Have them carry or wear a belt holding some of the wares to distinguish their trade.

The Kings should wear a cape or robe over a brightly-coloured tunic or smock. Crowns on their heads would complete the effect.

The Angels should wear long white gowns, and, if possible, wings and halos.

Mary should wear a white smock and headdress with a blue outer garment over the top.

Joseph should wear a thigh-length smock and calf-length trousers. He could also wear some sort of apron over the top to hold carpentry tools to show his trade.

Animals can wear colour-appropriate tights and tops, with headdresses or masks to show who they are. If budget allows, whole costumes can be purchased online. The Sheep should have lengths of cotton wool taped onto their costume (this could be on a sugar paper tabard) for the Shepherds to pull off when 'shearing'.

The Narrators can either dress in smocks to match the cast, or smart attire to make them distinct.

MUSIC

All the music required to stage this production is on the high quality Backing Tracks and Vocal Tracks CDs (both also available as mp3 downloads). An Easy Play Score is also available for purchase (see our website). These products are not only invaluable for performance, but can assist with the teaching of the songs too.

In addition, a brand new product: a CD-ROM or download of all the songs called **Sing it!** is also available. This CD-ROM or download can teach the songs to the children without any teacher input. Children can use it at school or at home - think of the time it will save you! Most schools use it in class on an interactive white board or in the school hall on the overhead projector to allow full cast practice.

CHOREOGRAPHY

Track 1: What Was It Like?

Have all the cast assembled in a line or rows on the stage. There is no need for any movement or dancing during the song.

Track 2: Bootees

Have the Merchants mime the selling of their wares. During the song Marcus and Selina can hold up their bootees to show other characters and the audience. Granny could perform a twisting action during the chorus.

Track 3: Sleep Tight

During the song Mary and Joseph can lead the Donkey around the stage before settling down to sleep in the centre of the stage.

Track 4: Sore Feet

Whilst the Kings sleep, the Camels can march around the stage whilst singing. During the chorus they sit and rub their feet.

Track 5: Snip, Snap and Tidy

During the song Shepherd 1 pretends to cut wool from the sheep and the other shepherds pull off lengths of cotton wool (lightly taped onto the sheep costume) and stuff it into a bag. During their lines the Sheep could click their fingers from side to side. At the end of the song they give the bag to Granny.

Track 6: Hear The News

During the song all characters form a tableau in the centre of the stage.

Track 7: What I Have

All the cast assemble on stage around the manger for this song.

PROLOGUE**TRACK 1:****WHAT WAS IT LIKE?****ALL:**

WHAT WAS IT LIKE IN BETHLEHEM,
SO LONG AGO, THAT VERY FIRST CHRISTMAS DAY?
WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO SEE THE CHILD,
SO MEEK AND MILD, THAT VERY FIRST CHRISTMAS DAY?
I WISH I'D BEEN THERE.

BABY BORN IN BETHLEHEM,
BORN A CHILD, BORN A SAVIOUR.
BABY BORN IN BETHLEHEM,
BORN A CHILD,
BORN TO BRING US LOVE.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE IN BETHLEHEM,
SO LONG AGO, THAT VERY FIRST CHRISTMAS DAY?
WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO SEE THE CHILD,
SO MEEK AND MILD, THAT VERY FIRST CHRISTMAS DAY?
I WISH I'D BEEN THERE.

HERE FOR US IN BETHLEHEM,
BORN A PRINCE, BORN A SAVIOUR.
HERE FOR US IN BETHLEHEM,
BORN A PRINCE,
BORN TO BRING US LOVE.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE IN BETHLEHEM,
SO LONG AGO, THAT VERY FIRST CHRISTMAS DAY?
WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO SEE THE CHILD,
SO MEEK AND MILD, THAT VERY FIRST CHRISTMAS DAY?
I WISH I'D BEEN THERE.

SEE THE CHILD IN BETHLEHEM,
BORN A KING, BORN A SAVIOUR.
SEE THE CHILD IN BETHLEHEM,
BORN A KING,
BORN TO BRING US LOVE.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE IN BETHLEHEM,
SO LONG AGO, THAT VERY FIRST CHRISTMAS DAY?
WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO SEE THE CHILD,
SO MEEK AND MILD, THAT VERY FIRST CHRISTMAS DAY?
I WISH I'D BEEN THERE.

NARRATOR 1: What was it like that very first Christmas?**NARRATOR 2:** Well, we really don't know...

NARRATOR 3: ...but we can have a good guess.
NARRATOR 4: No computers for a start.
WHOLE CAST: What?
NARRATOR 5: No TV, radio or mobile phone.
WHOLE CAST: What?
NARRATOR 6: They didn't even have chips.
WHOLE CAST: No chips?
NARRATOR 6: No, but they did have markets.

SCENE ONE: THE BETHLEHEM BOOTEE COMPANY.

(There is a lot of bustle as the market takes form. Merchants start shouting out their wares. Figs, leavened bread, olive oil, fish etc. The Gefril family set up their stall in a prominent position onstage. Granny sits behind the stall knitting. Marcus is holding up bootees for passers-by to see and touch. Selina is behind the stall.)

MARCUS: *(Shouting)* Buy my bootees, buy my lovely soft bootees!
SELINA: Marcus, if they buy your bootees what will you wear?
MARCUS: *(Looks down at his feet)* From the stall, Simple Selina, from the stall. *(Shouts)* Buy my bootees *(Looks pointedly at Selina)* from the stall!
FIG SELLER: Trade not very good, Marcus?
SELINA: Not enough babies in town.
MARCUS: And that new Tescosum on the high street doesn't help.
GRANNY: Another pair!

(She gives Marcus a pair of bootees and settles down to knitting again.)

MARCUS: Thanks, Granny.
OIL SELLER: You could try selling stuff from off a trolley, Marcus.
SELINA: He's off his trolley already!
BREAD SELLER: I tried that once. Thought I might make more dough. *(Holds up bread)* Turns out the idea was half-baked.
SELINA: *(Aside)* Like your bread, probably.
MARCUS: No, that sounds like a good idea. Selina, let's get mobile.
NARRATOR 5: Hang on, they didn't have mobiles 2000 years ago.
NARRATOR 1: Get mobile, not get a mobile.
NARRATOR 2: Have bootees will travel?
GRANNY: Another pair!

(She gives Marcus a pair of bootees and settles down to knitting again.)

MARCUS: Thanks, Granny.

TRACK 2:

BOOTEES

(During the song the Gefrils collect a cart, (or as near to one as feasible), and start to pack the bootees onto it.)

MARCUS & SELINA: BOOTEES, BUY MY LOVELY BOOTEES.
 BOOTEES, BUY MY LOVELY BOOTEES.
 GREEN ONES, GREEN ONES,
 GOT TO BE THE BEST YOU'VE SEEN ONES;
 SHORT ONES, SHORT ONES,
 GOT TO BE THE BEST YOU'VE BOUGHT ONES.
 BOOTEES, BUY MY LOVELY BOOTEES.

GRANNY'S ON THE GO, GRANNY'S ON THE GO,
 GRANNY'S ON THE GO FOR BABY FEET;
 GRANNY'S ON THE GO, GRANNY'S ON THE GO,
 GRANNY'S ON THE GO, SHE KNITS A TREAT.

BOOTEES, BUY MY LOVELY BOOTEES.
 BOOTEES, BUY MY LOVELY BOOTEES.
 WARM ONES, WARM ONES,
 GOT TO BE THE BEST YOU'VE WORN ONES;
 RED ONES, RED ONES,
 GOT TO BE THE BEST IN BED ONES.
 BOOTEES, BUY MY LOVELY BOOTEES.

GRANNY'S ON THE GO, GRANNY'S ON THE GO,
 GRANNY'S ON THE GO FOR BABY FEET;
 GRANNY'S ON THE GO, GRANNY'S ON THE GO,
 GRANNY'S ON THE GO, SHE KNITS A TREAT.

BOOTEES, BUY MY LOVELY BOOTEES.
 BOOTEES, BUY MY LOVELY BOOTEES.
 BROWN ONES, BROWN ONES,
 GOT TO BE THE BEST AROUND ONES;
 BLUE ONES, BLUE ONES,
 GOT TO BE THE BEST FOR YOU ONES.
 BOOTEES, BUY MY LOVELY BOOTEES.

GRANNY'S ON THE GO, GRANNY'S ON THE GO,
 GRANNY'S ON THE GO FOR BABY FEET;
 GRANNY'S ON THE GO, GRANNY'S ON THE GO,
 GRANNY'S ON THE GO, SHE KNITS A TREAT.

BOOTEES, BUY MY LOVELY BOOTEES.
BOOTEES, BUY MY LOVELY BOOTEES.

GRANNY: **(Shouts)** Another pair!

(All exit.)

SCENE TWO:

CUSTOMERS

(Mary and Joseph enter with the Donkey trailing behind.)

JOSEPH: Come on donkey, you're supposed to be carrying Mary.

DONKEY: I'm puffed out.

MARY: Oh Joseph, donkey needs a bit of a rest every now and then. I *am* rather heavy. **(Pats her tummy)**

JOSEPH: Well, I suppose the baby *is* quite big now. I hope it waits until Bethlehem to be born.

(Enter the Gefrils with their cart. Granny is still knitting.)

MARCUS: Ah Sir, Madam, I don't suppose I could interest you in some baby bootees?

DONKEY: You could interest me... my hooves are killing me!

MARY: Well I am going to have a baby soon.

JOSEPH: I don't suppose you sell swaddling clothes as well, do you?

SELINA: I'm afraid not mate, but we've got some lovely red bootees. **(Holds them up)**

MARY: How much are they?

MARCUS: Fifteen denarii to you madam.

SELINA: A bargain if you ask me.

JOSEPH: Well we didn't, but it seems a fair price. We'll take them.

(The transaction takes place.)

MARCUS: Now, could I interest you in anything for the donkey?

(Donkey pricks its ears up.)

MARY: You don't sell saddles do you? This donkey's ever so bony.

DONKEY: Bony? Bony? Well, that's the thanks you get.

SELINA: Sorry lady, we only sell bootees.

MARY: Well, they're all very nice. Thank you.