

SCENE 1 - NAZARETH ENCLOSURE

MARY enters, walks to front center. ANGEL enters behind her and walks next to her.

ANGEL

Mary!

MARY

(jumps away)

Ah!

(Beat)

Oh, I thought you were that owl.

ANGEL

Who?

(shakes their head)

Never mind. I have a message from God.

MARY

I am God's humble servant.

ANGEL

You will give birth to a baby boy. He will be the Son of God and you will name him Jesus.

MARY

You're lion.

ANGEL

Nope, I'm an angel.

MARY

I will do as my God wishes.

Angel exits. JOSEPH enters with a small cage.

JOSEPH

Mary, I found a new animal for Herod's zoo! It's orange and sounds like a parrot.

MARY

Oh, an exotic bird?

JOSEPH

(turns cage around)

A carrot!

MARY

(to the audience)
He's a keeper.

(to Joseph)

Joseph, I have some big news to tell you.

Mary whispers in his ear as they start to walk out.

JOSEPH

A baby!

Mary and Joseph exit.

SCENE 2 - HEROD'S OFFICE

HEROD and ASSISTANT enter, laughing.

HEROD

Alright, enough joking around. Let's get to some monkey business. How many gorillas do I have?

ASSISTANT

Gorillions!

HEROD

How many orangutans?

ASSISTANT

Orangu-tons!

HEROD

How many chimpanzees?

ASSISTANT

About 6.

HEROD

We don't know exactly? Hmm, we should count all the animals.

ASSISTANT

That makes census.

HEROD

Have all the zoo keepers return to their original enclosures.

Herod and Assistant exit.

SCENE 3 - WISEMEN'S ZOO

WISEMEN enter down center aisle. They each hold a notebook, observing the animals around them.

WISEMAN 1

(looking at the back of the audience)
Hmm, those ones hiding back there must be afraid of us.

WISEMAN 2

I like listening to the frogs. They're ribbiting.

WISEMAN 3

Huh, is that a new star by Herod's zoo?

WISEMAN 1

I thought you were counting bats.

WISEMAN 2

Yeah, a star seems irr-elephant.

WISEMAN 3

No, look. It's a new star. Must mean a new king is to be born.

WISEMAN 2

Rhino what to do. Let's go see this new king!

Wisemen exit.

SCENE 4 - NAZARETH ENCLOSURE

MARY enters, reading a piece of paper. JOSEPH enters.

JOSEPH

I tried to find the panda's dinner, but I was bamboo-zled.

MARY

Joseph, there's a census.

JOSEPH

One of those horse-human things?

MARY

No, not a centaur. We have to go back to the Bethlehem Enclosure to count all the animals. And the baby is due any day now.

JOSEPH

We'll get through this. Alpaca the bags.

Mary and Joseph exit.

SCENE 5 - SHEPHERD'S ENCLOSURE

SHEPHERDS and SHEEP enter.

SHEPHERD 1

Did you hear about the census?

SHEPHERD 2

Yeah. At least we can stay here and watch our sheep.

SHEPHERD 1

I think Herod just throws whatever he wants into our field.

(lean into Shepherd 2)

I think one of these "sheep" is a tiger.

"SHEEP"

Rawr!

Shepherds back away.

SHEPHERD 2

Yeah, let's be careful.

Shepherds and sheep exit.

SCENE 6 - HEROD'S OFFICE

HEROD enters, brushing himself off.

HEROD

That monkey was angry. More like furious George.

WISEMEN enter.

WISEMAN 1

Herod, we are wisemen from the-

(looks around)

East.

HEROD

Wisemen? What are your koala-fications?

WISEMAN 2

I took care of a blue whale.

(beat)

Cheered him up.

WISEMAN 3

(sighs)

We've come to see the new king.

HEROD

New king? I'm the only king around here.

WISEMAN 1

This baby will be a heavenly king. We saw his star.

WISEMAN 3

He is to be born soon, near the Bethlehem enclosure.

HEROD

(to the audience)

Another king trying to take over my zoo? Well, toucan play at that game.

(to the Wisemen)

When you find this baby, can you return and tell me where he is?

WISEMAN 2

I bear-ly know where I am now.

WISEMAN 1
(to Wiseman 2)
Shh.

(to Herod)
Of course, sir.

HEROD
(grins evilly)
Excellent. I will take care of him.

WISEMAN 3
(pulling the others away)
We should hurry off then.

WISEMAN 2
See you later, alligator!
Wiseman 1 and Wiseman 3 pulls Wiseman 2 away.

WISEMAN 1
Shh. You're embarrassing us.

WISEMAN 2
Oh, was he a crocodile?
Wisemen exit. Herod exits.

SCENE 7 - TRAVELING

MARY and JOSEPH enter, walking across.

JOSEPH

Oh no, I forgot my wrinkly grey khakis.

MARY

Is that important?

JOSEPH

They're my ele-pants.

Mary and Joseph exit. WISEMEN enter, walking across.

WISEMAN 1

Maybe we should have ridden our horses?

WISEMAN 2

To be or not to be a horse rider, that is equestrian.

Wisemen exit. MARY and JOSEPH enter again.

JOSEPH

Are you doing okay, Mary?

MARY

I'm zoo-per.

Mary and Joseph exit. WISEMEN enter, walking across. Wiseman 3 reads a book.

WISEMAN 2

Ah, that's why flamingos stand on one leg.

WISEMAN 3

Why?

WISEMAN 2

If they stood on no legs, they'd fall over.

Wisemen exit. MARY and JOSEPH enter again.

MARY

I think we've passed this same place 3 times now.

JOSEPH

Yeah, we're in a traveling montage.

Mary and Joseph exit. WISEMEN enter, walking across.

WISEMAN 3

I didn't think I'd walk so much in this lion of work.

WISEMAN 1

They already made a lion pun.

WISEMAN 3

(huffs)

Nobody complained about Joseph making a second elephant pun.

Wisemen exit.

SCENE 8 - BETHLEHEM ENCLOSURE

MARY and JOSEPH enter.

JOSEPH

Now, to find somewhere for you to rest.

Joseph looks around. KEEPER enters.

MARY

Hey, you! Are you an inn-keeper?

KEEPER

Yep, I'm all the keepers. Inn-keeper, zoo-keeper, goal-keeper.

JOSEPH

Do you have a room to spare?

KEEPER

Sorry, everywhere to stay is full.

MARY

Please, I'm going to have my baby soon.

KEEPER

Well, there I do have a barn inside the enclosure.

MARY

We'll take anywhere safe and warm.

KEEPER

Follow me.

SCENE 9 - SHEPHERD'S ENCLOSURE

SHEPHERDS and SHEEP enter.

SHEPHERD 2

I tried to get that pony to talk, but it wouldn't.

SHEPHERD 1

Why not?

SHEPHERD 2

It was a little horse.

ANGEL enters.

ANGEL

Hark!

SHEPHERD 1

A giant moth!

SHEPHERD 2

No, it's that owl.

ANGEL

Shh. I bring you good news. On this night was born a child, the son of God. He has come for the forgiveness of our sins.

SHEPHERD 1

Where is this baby, oh giant egret?

ANGEL

He was born in the barn just over in the Bethlehem Enclosure. You will find him wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.

SHEPHERD 2

Hurry! Let's go see this baby!

Shepherds, Sheep, and Angel exit.

SCENE 10 - BARN

MARY enters with baby Jesus. JOSEPH enters with manger. Joseph places the manger down at center stage, then Mary places the baby in the manger.

SHEPHERDS and SHEEP enter and stand stage left (audience right) of the manger.

SHEPHERD 1

A baby! That goose was right.

MARY

Goose?

WISEMEN enter and stand stage right of the manger. They each step forward to give their gift, then step back.

WISEMAN 1

We come bearing gifts for the infant king.

(steps forward)

I bring him gold, as a reminder of his gifts to us on earth.

WISEMAN 2

(steps forward)

I bring him frankincense, as a reminder of his gifts to us in heaven.

WISEMAN 3

(steps forward)

I bring him myrrh, as a reminder of his sacrifice for all.

ANGEL enters.

ANGEL

Hark! Behold the-

WISEMAN 3

Ah! It's that owl!

ANGEL

Why does everyone think I'm an owl?

(focusing)

Never mind. Hark! Behold, the son of God is born for all this night.

Sing *Silent Night*.

All bow and exit down center aisle after applause.

THE END