

I'm Gonna Shine

Scene 1: Heaven

Storyteller 1 *Florence* I expect that once upon a time you've all been on a long journey, or at least a journey that felt long.

Children *Luca and Sammy* (*popping head round side of stage*) Are we there yet?

Storyteller 2 *Henry* We'd like to tell you a story now about some people who made journeys that weren't easy. But they knew that at the end of their journeys, they'd find something that made it all worthwhile

Storyteller 1 *Florence* Our story begins 'once upon a starry night' when a plan begins to unfold. It's a plan that had been made long ago and this is just the right time for it to be put into action!

Storyteller 2 *Henry* A sign is about to be placed high in the blue velvet sky to guide those who are willing to look up and see, especially some very wise men who've been waiting for this night for a very long time.

Storyteller 1 *Florence* As you might have guessed, it being a starry night, the sign is a star, bigger and brighter than any before, ready to link heaven and earth with her golden beams.

Storyteller 2 *Henry* Her name is Gloria, but I think we'll let the other stars introduce her.

The stars enter in pairs, speak, then separate so that they go to each side of the stage, with the first couple forming the widest point of a 'V' shape, with each subsequent pair being less far apart, thus forming the 'V'. They should move gracefully and with style. The whole sequence should flow smoothly, with lines being spoken as the previous stars move into place.

Stars 1&2 *Anaya Anastasia* We not only glisten, our songs fill the sky. We croon to the morning and lilt lullabies.

Stars 3&4 *Etta Erin* Though we are so many, each one has a name.

Stars 5&6 *Sophie Chanel* All different in size, shape and colour of flame!

Stars 7&8 *Bella Marta* We form constellations, we light up the sky.

Stars 9&10 *Sesen* A divine guidance system to navigate by.

Stars 11&12 *Lara Caroline* Aloof and mysterious, we're said to grant wishes, So please don't confuse us with satellite dishes

All Stars and the best! There's one lovely star who outshines all the rest, Our wonderful Gloria, the brightest

Gloria *Anna* TA-DA! (*Bowing*) Thank you so much! This is such a privilege. I promise I'm gonna shine like no other star before!

SONG 1 - I'M GONNA SHINE!

Joe, Maudie, customers 1-4 and the seller, on stage

Scene 2: Oasis Retail Park

There are signs reading 'Oasis Retail Park', 'Joe's One-Stop Camel Shop' and 'Maudie's Bargain Bitz'. Joe and Maudie stand near their shops. Customers 1-4 mime window shopping/chatting to Joe or Maudie. The seller stands at the side of the stage, looking shifty. If there is a central aisle, the wise men could enter that way.

Storyteller 1 *Gwilym* On this hot and dusty road, a colourful procession from the East has been winding it's weary way along.

Storyteller 2 *Henry* (*Very animated*) They had set off, rippling with excitement as soon as they had seen Gloria, the star they'd been looking for. She was a glowing signpost for them; she was going to lead them to a very special person, a newborn King.

Storyteller 1 *Gwilym* (*Slow and weary*) But now they have blisters on their blisters and the camels don't even have the energy to spit any more!

The wise men enter, along with the camels and any optional attendants, looking very weary. When they reach the stage, the camels and attendants could sit at the front of the stage.

Storyteller 2 *Henry* Desperately tired, they arrive at the rather grandly named Oasis Retail Park.

Joe *Saeed* (*Market-trader style*) 'Ello, 'ello, 'ello, welcome to Joe's One-Stop Camel Shop. We've got it all here! State-of-the-art camels; four-foot drive, turbo spit, spare hump.

Caspar *Mimi* (*Tempted*) Ooh! (*Camel nudges him*) Perhaps not!

Customer 1 *Sofia* Where are you off to?

Melchior *Tom* Bethlehem. But we're not sure exactly where yet.

Balthasar *Ruben* We're following a star that is lighting the way for us.

Customer 2 *Lara* What are you going *there* for?

Caspar *Mimi* We're going to meet a king!

Melchior *Tom* The Anointed One!

Caspar *Mimi* We're going to take Him some precious gifts.

Customer 3 *Leon* I'm not sure you'll get what you want in Maudie's shop then! It's more Primark than Chanel.

Customer 4 *Orla* And the only 'precious' thing in there is her silly dog!

Maudie *Sammy C* (*Cuddling her dog*) Don't you talk about my little Chutchykins like that!

Melchior *Tom* Don't worry, we've already packed out gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Seller *Sophie* (*Moving forward in a shifty manner*) That all sounds a bit odd.

The seller opens his raincoat to reveal lots of little boxes.

Seller *Sophie* Are you sure you wouldn't like some (*Name of head teacher/current celebrity*) aftershave? 110% genuine. All the rage among your upper classes, you know! Or a nice little sundial?

Balthasar *Ruben* Thank you, but I think we just need to freshen up. Are there facilities here?

Seller *Sophie* Afraid not, but there's a little pond over there and some handy bushes that way!

Caspar *Mimi* Then I suppose we'd better just keep going.

Melchior *Tom* (*pointing up*) Our star seems to be getting even brighter!

Balthasar *Ruben* Then that probably means we're getting close!

Melchior *Tom* It'll be worth it in the end.

SONG 2 – WISE MEN, WISE MEN

Wise men, camels and entourage sing this song. They all exit the stage singing as the track fades.

Scene 3: Herod's Palace

The palace is set. Herod's throne is placed to one side of the stage on a slight diagonal to allow room for the dancers to dance without having their backs to the audience. The dancers enter and look around, shrugging and looking bemused. They are dressed in classical ballet outfits. Two guards stand one either side of the throne.

Storyteller 1 *Florence* Following their disappointment at the Oasis Retail Park, the wise men from the East *did* find facilities – very pleasant ones in fact – at King Herod's palace.

Storyteller 2 *Henry* In their excitement, they told Herod all about the newborn King and promised to let him know when they found out exactly where the baby was.

Storyteller 1 *Florence* They thought Herod would be as thrilled as they were about this new King...

Storyteller 2 *Gwilym* But that wasn't quite the case!

Herod and the servant enter followed by a nervous-looking jester and any extra guards. Herod paces angrily across the stage. The jester stands at the opposite side of the stage to the dancers.

Herod *Elias* (*Furious*) New King? New King?

Servant *Penny* Your Majesty! Please don't upset yourself. (*Gesturing towards throne*) Why not sit here and be entertained?

He points to the dancers, who could now be warming up and stretching in a balletic way.

Servant *Penny* We have a visiting troupe of dancers from a faraway land! Dance for His Majesty!

Herod sits on his throne reluctantly.

Everyone's expecting some ballet to be performed, but instead the dancers complete a short rock dance sequence e.g. 'Pogo' or general head-banging style, to appropriate rock music, for instance 'Eye of the Tiger'

Herod *Elias* (*Putting hands over his ears*) Enough!

The dancers move back to the side of the stage, shrugging.

Servant Penny Perhaps a joke or two to cheer you up?

The servant summons the jester.

Jester Sofia B Why was the cat afraid of the tree? Because of it's bark!

The others begin to laugh but stop when they see Herod looking grim.

Jester Sofia B Did you hear about the calendar thief? He got twelve months!

Herod remains stony-faced.

The servant signals to the jester to leave quickly, which he does.

Servant Penny Forget about those visitors from the East and their talk of a new baby king.

Herod Elias *(standing up suddenly)* They were idiots! *(In a mocking voice)* Talking about 'hope and promise'. Ha! *(Moving stealthily around the stage)* Don't they know that being a king means having to have eyes in the back of your head? To be always *(turning suddenly, making everyone jump)* looking over your shoulder! Trusting no one! You have to be ruthless!

Servant Penny I've never known anyone with less ruth than you, sire!

Herod Elias I need to make a plan to get rid of this new King. There's not room for two kings here and I was here first.

SONG 3 I'M THE KING

King and his court leave the stage.

Scene 4: One the road again

Storyteller 1 Gwilym Meanwhile, a far cry from the luxury of Herod's palace, a young couple travel on a ling and dusty road.

A group of angels, including Gabriel, enter and stand at the back of the stage. Mary, Joseph and donkey enter.

Mary Emma I'm so tired! And you and donkey must be too.

Joseph Alex It's not too much further now. Keep your chin up! You too donkey!

Mary Emma I know we can do it. I think Gabriel knew it wasn't going to be easy. He was so encouraging. And we're not alone; God is with us every step of the way!

Joseph Alex Then I expect He's got sore feet too!

Mary Emma Oh Joseph, what are you like?

SONG 4 – DON'T BE AFRAID

During the instrumental verse of Song 4, Gabriel says the following:

Gabriel *Lachlan* Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call Him Jesus. He will be great and He will be called Son of the Most High and His kingdom will never end!

Gabriel and the other angels exit at the end of the song.

Mary *Emma* Don't worry, Donkey, our journey is almost over.

Donkey *Nico* *(To audience)* I'd say it's just about to begin!

Mary, Joseph and donkey exit

Scene 5: Bethlehem

The stage fills up with innkeepers and their partners

Storyteller 1 *Florence* Over in Bethlehem, the wily local innkeepers and their lovely friends are not letting the census get them down.

Storyteller 2 *Henry* In fact, they are pulling out all the stops to make their visitors feel at home.

Innkeeper 1 *Hettie* Willkommen!

Innkeeper 2 *Jack F* Bienvenue everyone!

Innkeeper 3 *Ioan* Welcome to Bethlehem! Have a nice day!

Inn. Friend 1 *Lamia* We're filling up fast!

Inn. Friend 2 *Ailsa* Only one room left!

Visitors and Posh visitors enter

Visitor 1 *Jack* Excuse me do you happen to have...

Inn. Friend 3 *Zachary* Right no more vacancies at ours now!

Visitor 3 *Lukas* Pardon me, I wonder if...

Innkeeper 2 *Jack F* Full house for us too!

Posh visitor 1 *Nell* What ho, I say old chap...

Innkeeper 1 *Hettie* Sizeable double with an ensuite

Visitors go to an inn

Inn. Friend 1 *Lamia* Ensuite? An ensuite bucket!

Joseph *Alex* Excuse me, do you know where we could get a room? My wife's about to have a baby!

Inn. Friend 1 *Lamia* I'm sorry love, but we're completely full. Everyone is.

Mary *Emma* Oh Joseph, I don't want to have a baby out on the street!

Joseph *Alex* Remember what Gabriel said: everything will be alright.

Inn. Friend 1 *Lamia* If you're happy with just a bit of privacy, we do have a stable.

Joseph *Alex* I'm sure it will be perfect. Thank you!

Mary *Emma* Come on donkey. At last you can have a lie down.

Mary. Joseph and donkey exit

Scene 6: In the fields

The sheep and the six shepherds enter and sit on the ground.

Storyteller 2 *Gwilym* Out on the hillside some hard-working shepherds are thinking up ways to pass the time.

Shepherd 1 *Manuel* I spy with my little eye, something beginning with 'S'.

All Sheep!

Shepherd 1 *Manuel* Oh!

Shepherd 2 *Luca* I spy with my little eye, something beginning with 'Gr'.

All Grass!

Shepherd 2 *Luca* No!

All What then?

Shepherd 2 *Luca* Grrrr! It's a wolf!

All What?

Shepherd 2 *Luca* Only joking!

Shepherd 3 *Patrick* Does anyone know a good story? I love a good story.

Shepherd 4 *Leo* I like the one about David and Goliath the Giant!

Shepherd 5 *Matthew* So do I, 'cause David was a shepherd before he killed Goliath and became king!

Shepherd 6 *Bennie* You tell the story and we'll act it out!

Shepherd 1 *Manuel* Wait a minute, look up there! What's that bright light?

Shepherd 2 <i>Luca</i>	It's a really bright star and it's shining right over Bethlehem town.
Shepherd 1 <i>Manuel</i> everyone!	No, not that one. Hey it might be a meteorite. It's dropping out of the sky! Duck
All shepherd	Aargh!
Shepherd 1 <i>Manuel</i>	Phew! It's not a meteorite. Its angels!
Gabriel <i>Lachlan</i>	Don't be afraid. We have good news! Today in Bethlehem a savior has been born! You will find Him in a stable, wrapped up and lying in a manger. He's come to save the whole world!
Angels	Glory to God in the highest! And peace to all people on earth!
Gabriel <i>Lachlan</i> good story.	Go and find the baby, meet Him for yourselves. That journey will be the start of a very
Shepherd 3 <i>Patrick</i>	Wow! We'd best be off then"
Shepherd 4 <i>Leo</i>	Do you think it's okay to leave the sheep?
Shepherd 5 <i>Matthew</i>	Yeah! The fire will put off any big bad wolves.
Shepherd 6 <i>Bennie</i>	They're so dopey, they probably won't even notice we've gone.

SONG 5 – OFF WE GO

Sheep 1 <i>Freddie</i>	Wakey-wakey everyone! It's party time!
Sheep 2 <i>Lila</i>	I'm gonna dance with ewe and ewe and ewe!
Sheep 3 <i>Luke</i>	Everyone go and get secret supplies. Don't forget the baaarley water!
Sheep 4 <i>Siudy</i>	And then meet back here in ten.
Sheep 5 <i>Alejandra</i>	This flock's gonna rock!
<i>All sheep and shepherds exit</i>	
Caspar <i>Mimi</i>	I rather hoped we'd be there by now.
Melchior <i>Tom</i>	You are sure we're going the right way aren't' you?
Balthasar <i>Ruben</i>	Those tree look a bit familiar...
<i>Gloria enters</i>	
Caspar <i>Mimi</i>	Hey look! There's our star again and it's even brighter!

SONG 6 - REPRISE: I'M GONNA SHINE

Curtains close

Scene 7: The Stable

Star 1 *Anaya* Well done Gloria! You really shone girl

High fives Gloria

Gloria *Anna* Thank you! I'm just glad it's all worked out so well.

Shepherd 1 *Manuel* We've come to worship the baby.

Shepherd 2 *Luca* Some angels told us about Him!

Shepherd 3 *Patrick* So we ran as fast as we could.

Caspar *Mimi* Greetings one and all! We have travelled many miles to see this baby.

Balthasar *Ruben* To kneel before Him and offer gifts.

Melchior *Tom* Gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Mary *Emma* Thank you so much!

Joseph *Alex* Welcome, everyone! What a night it's been! It seems like we've all been on quite a journey.

SONG 7 – WE'VE ALL COME TOGETHER

Joseph *Alex* It looks like it's going to be a real night of celebration!

Mary *Emma* Look! Baby Jesus is wagging His arms and legs. If He could, I reckon He'd be up dancing!

Storyteller 1 *Florence* So on this starry night, the celebrations begin in honour of the birth of the baby Jesus.

Storyteller 2 *Henry* We hope you've enjoyed our story and that all of your festive journeys will be peaceful and safe.

Storyteller 1 *Gwilym* May the stars shine brightly to light your way.

Storyteller 2 *Henry* And the angels' song fill your hearts with joy as you celebrate this special time.

SONG 8 – CAN YOU HEAR THE ANGELS SINGING?

Everyone on steps or stage