

THE TOY NATIVITY

[Show starts off like a normal service. At the front are a group of Carollers, dressed in Christmassy attire. They lead the first song with the congregation. Cue song 1: Oh Come All Ye Faithful.]

CAROLLERS

OH, COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL,
JOYFUL AND TRIUMPHANT!
OH, COME YE, OH, COME YE TO BETHLEHEM;
COME AND BEHOLD HIM
BORN THE KING OF ANGELS:
OH, COME, LET US ADORE HIM,
OH, COME, LET US ADORE HIM,
OH, COME, LET US ADORE HIM,
CHRIST THE LORD.

HIGHEST, MOST HOLY,
LIGHT OF LIGHT ETERNAL,
BORN OF A VIRGIN,
A MORTAL HE COMES;
SON OF THE FATHER
NOW IN FLESH APPEARING!
OH, COME, LET US ADORE HIM,
OH, COME, LET US ADORE HIM,
OH, COME, LET US ADORE HIM,
CHRIST THE LORD.

SING, CHOIRS OF ANGELS,
SING IN EXULTATION,
SING, ALL YE CITIZENS OF HEAVEN ABOVE!
GLORY TO GOD
IN THE HIGHEST:
OH, COME, LET US ADORE HIM,
OH, COME, LET US ADORE HIM,
OH, COME, LET US ADORE HIM,
CHRIST THE LORD.

[On applause, cue Song 2: Angels We Have Heard On High.]

CAROLLERS

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH
SWEETLY SINGING O'ER THE PLAINS,
AND THE MOUNTAINS IN REPLY
ECHOING THEIR JOYOUS STRAINS.

GLORIA, IN EXCELSIS DEO!
GLORIA, IN EXCELSIS DEO!

SHEPHERDS, WHY THIS JUBILEE?
WHY YOUR JOYOUS STRAINS PROLONG?
WHAT THE GLADSOME TIDINGS BE
WHICH INSPIRE YOUR HEAVENLY SONG?

GLORIA, IN EXCELSIS DEO!
GLORIA, IN EXCELSIS DEO!

COME TO BETHLEHEM AND SEE
CHRIST WHOSE BIRTH THE ANGELS SING;
COME, ADORE ON BENDED KNEE,
CHRIST THE LORD, THE NEWBORN KING.

GLORIA, IN EXCELSIS DEO!
GLORIA, IN EXCELSIS DEO!

[On applause, lights up. The setting is a toy store. All around are toys of all kinds. Four, in particular, stand out. They are a robot (Ribgy), a fairy (Felicity), a teddy bear (Ted), and a Raggedy-Ann doll (Annie). The Toymaker enters quickly, shooin' the CAROLLERs away.]

TOYMAKER

Go on, you lot! Get outta here! I don't want to hear your carols!

[The carollers look at each other.]

TOYMAKER

I said go away!

[The carollers exit.]

TOYMAKER

Carollers. Huh. Christmas. Double Huh. Nothing but an excuse for bad CAROLLERs to land on the doorstep of my toyshop and sing old songs.

[He goes to his workshop bench and picks up a wooden toy.]

Well, at least I get some extra business.

[He puts the toy on a shelf.]

And you, my toys, are all ready for the taking!

[A door bell rings and a customer enters.]

CUSTOMER

What a beautiful little shop!

TOYMAKER

May I help you?

CUSTOMER

I'm just looking for something special for Christmas.

TOYMAKER

Well, you've come to the right place. What are you looking for?

CUSTOMER

I'm not sure yet. I'll know it when I see it.

TOYMAKER

Feel free to look around.

CUSTOMER

Thanks.

[They walk around for a bit.]

CUSTOMER

Can I ask you a question?

TOYMAKER

Of course.

CUSTOMER

Where are your Christmas decorations?

[The toymaker walks away.]

TOYMAKER

I have to close now. Did you want to buy anything?

CUSTOMER

Er ...

TOYMAKER

Very well. Good night.

CUSTOMER

Good ... night. Merry Christmas?

[The customer exits.]

TOYMAKER

Merry whatever to you too. Why do I need decorations? Why do I need Christmas? Why I do need anything? *[Cue Song 3: Christmas Doesn't Mean A Thing To Me.]* I have my toys. And I have me. What else could I possibly need?

EVERYBODY TELLS ME I SHOULD CELEBRATE
ANOTHER SILLY SEASON'S HOLIDAY
PUT UP DECORATIONS AND A CHRISTMAS TREE
WELCOME EVERYBODY IN A MERRY WAY

BUT I DON'T SEE THE POINT IN ALL THE BOTHER WHEN
NOBODY EXPLAINS THE REASON WHY
ALL I SEE ARE PEOPLE RUSHING HERE AND THERE
BETTER OFF FOR ME IF I DON'T EVEN TRY

I CAN HEAR THE CHRISTMAS BELLS
AND ALL THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
BUT NONE OF IT BRINGS ANY JOY
FOR ALL OF IT SEEMS DULL AND TRITE

SO YOU CAN KEEP YOUR PRESENTS AND YOUR MERRINESS
YOU CAN KEEP YOUR JOLLY REPARTEE
NEVER MIND THE TINSEL AND NATIVITY
CHRISTMAS DOESN'T MEAN A THING TO ME
CHRISTMAS DOESN'T MEAN A THING TO ME

Good night, my toys. See you tomorrow.

[The toymaker switches off the lights and exits. There's a moment of silence, then ...]

Is he gone? RIGBY

I think so. FELICITY

Better make sure. TED

We're all clear. ANNIE

[The toys come to life, stretch and start to move around the shop.]

Our maker is a bit of a grump. RIGBY

I wonder why? FELICITY

Something about Christmas. TED

Christmas? What's Christmas? ANNIE

It's a celebration. TED

ANNIE

A celebration for what?

TED

Well ... um ... Hmmm. I'm not really sure. But it must be a BIG celebration.

RIGBY

Why do you say that?

TED

Because of the presents, and the lights, and the decorations. And everybody does it.

RIGBY

You're right. I've seen people walking past our store carrying all sorts of things! It's like the whole world is celebrating.

ANNIE

The whole world except one person...

FELICITY

Our maker.

ANNIE

Yes.

FELICITY

I think you guys haven't quite got what the meaning of Christmas is about.

TED

What do you mean?

FELICITY

Well, it's more than just presents and lights and all that. There's a deeper story to it.

RIGBY

What story?

FELICITY

A true story.

ANNIE

Do you know it?

FELICITY

Yes!

[Cue Song 4: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks.]

RIGBY/TED/ANNIE

Oooohh! What is it?

FELICITY

Well, it goes like this ...

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS BY NIGHT,
ALL SEATED ON THE GROUND,
THE ANGEL OF THE LORD CAME DOWN,
AND GLORY SHONE AROUND.
"FEAR NOT," SAID HE, FOR MIGHTY DREAD
HAD SEIZED THEIR TROUBLED MIND,
"GLAD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY I BRING
TO YOU AND ALL MANKIND."

"TO YOU, IN DAVID'S TOWN THIS DAY,
IS BORN OF DAVID'S LINE
THE SAVIOUR WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD,
AND THIS SHALL BE THE SIGN:
THE HEAVENLY BABE YOU THERE SHALL FIND
TO HUMAN VIEW DISPLAYED,
ALL MEANLY WRAPPED IN SWATHING BANDS,
AND IN A MANGER LAID."

(WITH CAROLLERS)
THUS SPAKE THE SERAPH, AND FORTHWITH
APPEARED A SHINING THROG
OF ANGELS PRAISING GOD AND THUS
ADDRESSED THEIR JOYFUL SONG:
"ALL GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH
AND ON THE EARTH BE PEACE,
GOODWILL HENCEFORTH FROM HEAVEN TO MEN
BEGIN AND NEVER CEASE."

TED

So it's about a baby.

ANNIE

And angels.

RIBGY

And cool Heavenly things.

FELICITY

Yes, it's about all of those. But also, it's about Him.

TED

Him?

ANNIE

Him who?

RIGBY

Is Him his name?

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No no no. FELICITY

Then who is Him? TED

Jesus. FELICITY

Who? ANNIE

Jesus Christ. The Son of God. FELICITY

Oh! The jolly fat man who rides the reindeer! RIGBY

[Laughing] No! Not Santa. Jesus. FELICITY

Oh, I'm so confused. TED

Okay, now listen. The angels in the story were all singing about God's son, a baby born in a manger, who would bring joy to everyone on the Earth. FELICITY

Ooooooh! TED/RIGBY/ANNIE

And that's why we celebrate Christmas: in fact, it's where we get the word Christmas from - it's Christ's Mass. It's a time of remembrance for Jesus Christ. FELICITY

[There's a moment of silence.]

Why was he born in a manger? What is a manger? TED

[The toys look at Ted.]

What?! I don't understand why the King of Kings - God's son - was born in a manger. He should've been born in a castle or something. TED

It's a good question. RIGBY

And a good point. FELICITY

TED

So why?

RIBGY

There's this song that the carollers have been singing out the front of the shop.

ANNIE

That's right! I've heard it too. That is, before our toy maker tells them to go away.

[Cue Song 5: What Child Is This?.]

TED

Do you remember how it goes?

ANNIE

WHAT CHILD IS THIS, WHO, LAID TO REST,
ON MARY'S LAP IS SLEEPING?
WHOM ANGELS GREET WITH ANTHEMS SWEET,
WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCH ARE KEEPING?
THIS, THIS IS CHRIST THE KING,
WHOM SHEPHERDS GUARD AND ANGELS SING:
HASTE, HASTE TO BRING HIM LAUD,
THE BABE, THE SON OF MARY.

TED

WHY LIES HE IN SUCH MEAN ESTATE
WHERE OX AND DONKEY ARE FEEDING?

FELICITY

GOOD CHRISTIAN, FEAR: FOR SINNERS HERE
THE SILENT WORD IS PLEADING.

RIGBY

THIS, THIS IS CHRIST THE KING,
WHOM SHEPHERDS GUARD AND ANGELS SING:
HASTE, HASTE TO BRING HIM LAUD,
THE BABE, THE SON OF MARY.

FELICITY

SO BRING HIM INCENSE, GOLD, AND MYRRH,
COME, PEASANT, KING, TO OWN HIM.
THE KING OF KINGS SALVATION BRINGS,
LET LOVING HEARTS ENTHRONE HIM

THE FOUR (WITH CAROLLERS)

THIS, THIS IS CHRIST THE KING,
WHOM SHEPHERDS GUARD AND ANGELS SING:
HASTE, HASTE TO BRING HIM LAUD,
THE BABE, THE SON OF MARY.

TED

So, Jesus was born in a manger because he was the king for everyone?