

TRUNCATED SAMPLE SCRIPT

This is a series of excerpted scenes from the full script, which runs to 7 pages--about 10 minutes in performance (with songs).

If you purchase the rights to the play, I will send you a full script—as a PDF—from which you can make as many copies as are needed by your cast & crew. There is no per-script-fee.

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THE NATIVITY PLAY

(Pageant version - Narration only)

Written by

Anthony E. Palermo

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TRUNCATED SAMPLE SCRIPT
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Billing shall be in the following form:

(name of producer)
presents

THE NATIVITY PLAY
(Pageant version)

Written by
ANTHONY E. PALERMO

Short bio:

ANTHONY E. PALERMO (PLAYWRIGHT) is an Audie Award-winning performer, dramatist, composer and educator who has produced dramas and workshops for broadcast, stage, and schools. Tony hosts the RuyaSonic website, offering info on writing, directing, scoring, engineering, and sound effects. www.RuyaSonic.com

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The Nativity Play

(Pageant version - Narration only)

CAST

Without doubling roles: 15 actors: 1 male, 2 female, 12 male-or-female

NARRATOR The Biblical-style narrator (Male or Female)

Costumed performers:

MARY	16 year-old farm girl (F)
JOSEPH	20 year-old carpenter (M)
LAMB #1	Bleating sheep (M/F)
ANGEL #1	Angel messenger(Gabriel) (M/F)
INN-KEEPER	Crusty inn-keeper (M/F)
RACHAB	Inn-keeper's kindly slave (F/M)
ANGEL #2	Angel messenger (M/F)
BO'AZ	Old, wizened shepherd (M/F)
EFRAYIM	Cynical shepherd (M/F)
TAVEE	Young shepherd (M/F)
SHEEP #1	Bleating sheep (M/F)
MALKIOR	Persian Magi (M/F)
GASPAR	Indian Magi (M/F)
BALTAZAR	Assyrian Magi (M/F)

-Also-

TRAVELERS in Bethlehem, other SHEPHERDS

ANGELS

SHEEP, GOATS, OXEN, DONKEYS, other farm animals

Suggested Songs to be interwoven with narration:

- 1) God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
- 2) Ave Maria (verse 1 only. Sung by Angel #1 only)
- 3) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
- 4) O Little Town of Bethlehem
- 5) The Coventry Carol [verse 1 only. Sung by Mary only]
- 6) Away in A Manger
- 7) The First Noel (verse 1 only)
- 8) Angels We Have Heard On High
- 9) The First Noel (verses 2 & 3 only)
- 10) O Come All Ye Faithful

Lyrics for these carols are included in the appendix to this script.

NOTE: Songs may easily be skipped or other songs substituted.

PLOT SYNOPSIS:

I offer three stage-play versions of *The Nativity Play*—a 70-minute, 30-minute and 15-minute and two different pageant versions--one with dialogue and narration and one with just narration. All dramatize Mary and Joseph's life, leading to the birth of Jesus--mixing reverence and humor to make for an uplifting and entertaining show.

The Pageant version -- (narration only) begins with a welcoming, then proceeds through The Annunciation, then--9 months later--the Journey to Bethlehem, No Room at the Inn, The Birth of Jesus, the shepherds and the Host of Angels, the Adoration of the Magi and a final blessing. This features 9 familiar Christmas carols, interspersed between scenes.

The Pageant version -- (with narration and some dialogue) begins with several shepherds lamenting life after The Fall and wishing for a Redeemer, then shifts to Nazareth, where a pious and charitable Mary receives the Annunciation, then--9 months later--the Journey to Bethlehem, No Room at the Inn, the Birth of Jesus, the shepherds and the Host of Angels, the Adoration of the Magi, and a final blessing. This pageant version features 9 familiar Christmas carols, interspersed between and amidst the narration and dialogue.

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The 15-minute play version features longer dialogue and several extra scenes not depicted in the pageant versions. It begins with several shepherds lamenting life after The Fall and wishing for a Redeemer, then shifts to Nazareth where a pious and charitable Mary receives the Annunciation, then--9 months later--the Journey to Bethlehem, No Room At The Inn, the Birth of Jesus, the shepherds and the Host of Angels, the Adoration of the Magi, Herod's fury, the Slaughter of the Innocents, The Flight to Egypt and the Return from Egypt.

The 30-minute version begins with several shepherds lamenting life after The Fall and wishing for a Redeemer, then shifts to Nazareth, where a pious and charitable Mary receives the Annunciation. Then, Mary's visit to Elisabet and Zakarais, Mary's return home, Joseph's dilemma, his angel dream, and a reconciliation between Joseph and Mary. Act 2 includes the Journey to Bethlehem, No Room At The Inn, the Birth of Jesus, the shepherds and the Host of Angels, the prophecies of Simeon and Anna, the Adoration of the Magi, Herod's fury, the Slaughter of the Innocents, The Flight to Egypt and the Return from Egypt. This version has trimmed versions of the canticles from Luke: Mary's "Magnificat" and Simeon's "Nunc Dimittis"--all in English, of course. (Optionally this version inserts 10 carols into the drama.)

For information about the 70-minute, 30-minute and 15-minute stage-play versions of *The Nativity Play*, visit www.ruyasonic.com/stageplay-the-nativity-play-script.html

For a full listing of Anthony E. Palermo's plays, including *Christmas Carol, It's a Wonderful Life!* and *Auntie Scrooge - a BACKWARDS Christmas Carol*, visit www.ruyasonic.com

SCENE 1 - THE WELCOMING
EXT. THE HOLY LAND - (LATE MARCH)
(NARRATOR)

THE NARRATOR ENTERS to introduce the story.

NARRATOR: Welcome, one and all, to our recounting of The Nativity; How--amidst darkness and despair--there came a Light from Heaven; A Light of salvation, a light of forgiveness, of peace... And a Light of joy!...the birth of Jesus Christ. A birth into the world and a birth within our hearts...

SONG: [CAROL-01] “GOD REST YE, MERRY GENTLEMEN” (VERSE 1)
SUNG BY ALL PERFORMERS
(OPTIONALLY INCLUDING AUDIENCE)

SCENE 2 - THE ANNUNCIATION
EXT. OLIVE GROVE - NIGHT (LATE MARCH)
(NARRATOR, MARY, ANGEL #1)

NARRATOR: Over two-thousand years ago, in the Holy Land, near the village of Nazareth, a pious young woman named Mary came unto a verdant olive grove--a place of great peace and contemplation...

MARY and LAMB ENTER.

ANGEL #1 ENTERS.

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(several pages later...)

NARRATOR: And thus, through a simple farm girl, the Lord’s divine plan for the Salvation of Human-kind was set forth: The Son of God would become... The Son of Man!

During the song, MARY rises slowly and EXITS.

SONG: [CAROL-03] “O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL” (VERSE 1 & 2)
SUNG BY CHORUS

SCENE 3 - COME UNTO BETHLEHEM
EXT. BETHLEHEM - NIGHT (DECEMBER 24TH)
(NARRATOR)

During narration and song, JOSEPH and the now 9-months pregnant MARY quietly ENTER, optionally with donkey.

NARRATOR: Months later--as Winter neared--there came a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed--each returning unto their tribal village. And so it was, Mary’s husband, Joseph--being a Bethlehem-ite--went out from Galilee. And he took with him his young wife, who was now great with child.

SONG: [CAROL-04] “OH LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM” (VERSE 1)
SUNG BY CHORUS
(OPTIONALLY, AUDIENCE JOINS)

SCENE 4 - NO ROOM AT THE INN
EXT. BETHLEHEM INN - NIGHT (DECEMBER 24TH)
(NARRATOR, JOSEPH, INN-KEEPER, MARY, RACHAB)

Many other TRAVELERS mill about Bethlehem. JOSEPH and MARY cross towards the doorway of the Inn.

NARRATOR: And--at the end of nine days travel--they did arrive at the tiny village of Bethlehem. But it was crowded with other travelers, there--also--to be counted. Joseph and Mary came unto the only inn to be found in the village.

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(several pages later...)

SCENE 5 - THE BIRTH OF JESUS**INT. CAVE/STABLE - AFTER MIDNIGHT (DECEMBER 25TH)****(NARRATOR, INFANT JESUS, MARY, JOSEPH)***SETTING:*

The Stable/Cave can be just some wooden poles with a cross-beam, and perhaps, even a peaked roof--like a traditional Christmas crèche. It is open-faced-- with a manger. Straw can litter the stable floor. (OPTIONALLY, many animals are there--Oxen, sheep, goats, donkeys, chickens, etc.)

MARY follows the actions described by the narration.

NARRATOR: While a rustic stable was hardly where one imagined the Savior of man-kind to come into the world, this was all the poor couple could provide. (PAUSE) Yet... just after midnight, it came to pass that Mary gave birth to her child...

NARRATOR: And she named him, Jesus--thereby fulfilling the prophecy of the angel of the Lord.

SONG: [CAROL-05] “THE COVENTRY CAROL” (VERSE 1)

SUNG BY MARY ONLY

NARRATOR: Then Mary washed the Holy Child. And did take a small vial of olive oil, and dabbed some upon his head, and kissed him. A new light had come unto a weary world. And it was good...

ANGELS ENTER, surrounding the stable area.

SONG: [CAROL-06] “AWAY IN A MANGER” (VERSES 1 & 2)

SUNG BY ANGELS, ANIMALS & CHORUS

SHEPHERDS--quietly ENTER into “pasture area.”

SHEEP and GOATS graze nearby.

SCENE 6 - THE SHEPHERDS COME**EXT. BETHLEHEM HILLSIDE - 3 AM (DECEMBER 25TH)****(NARRATOR, SHEPHERDS, ANGEL #3, ANGELS, MARY, JOSEPH, INFANT JESUS)**

NARRATOR: Later--upon a nearby hillside--“certain poor shepherds” were keeping watch over their flocks of sheep and goats. In those times, shepherds were outcasts, wanderers, the poorest of the poor...

SONG: [CAROL-07] “THE FIRST NOEL” (VERSE 1)
SUNG BY SHEPHERDS & CHORUS
(OPTIONALLY, AUDIENCE JOINS)

NARRATOR: And an angel of the Lord appeared unto the shepherds and announced:
 “Behold, shepherds! I bring you good tidings of great joy!

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(several pages later...)

NARRATOR: And Joseph and Mary did openly welcome these lowly shepherds.

MARY beckons a shepherd to hold the child. When he does, the child cries and the panicky shepherd quickly returns the child to Mary. Shepherds, Joseph & Mary all laugh..

NARRATOR: The poor shepherds realized that if this humble infant can be the Messiah, then, surely, any of us may enter... the Kingdom of Heaven. Their joy came from full hearts.

SHEPHERDS withdraw, EXITING.

NARRATOR: And it came to pass, that there arrived from the East, three Magi (“MADGE-eye”)--skilled in the arts of astrology and ancient lore.

SONG: [CAROL-09] “THE FIRST NOEL” (VERSES 2 & 3)
SUNG BY MAGI & CHORUS
(OPTIONALLY, AUDIENCE JOINS)

SCENE 7 - THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI

INT. STABLE - DAY (FEBRUARY)

(NARRATOR, MARY, JOSEPH, GASPAR, MALKIOR, BALTAZAR, INFANT JESUS)

MALKIOR, GASPAR & BALTAZAR ENTER and present gifts as described in the narration.

NARRATOR: They followed a new star in the heavens, that led them here--to the Messiah. And they did bring offerings unto him!

NARRATOR: Gold dust... That he may transmute the baseness of man-kind into the gold of Heaven!

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JOSEPH, MARY--holding the child--stand, facing the audience--joined by all performers.

NARRATOR: (PAUSE) And as the prophet Isaiah foretold: “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: And they that dwell in the shadow of death..., upon them hath the light shined.”
(PAUSE) Thus... did a new chapter in the life of Man-kind open; One with endless promise, divine mercy and eternal gain! (PAUSE) Rejoice, all people! The Savior had come--for now and ever-more!

SONG: [CAROL-10] “OH, COME ALL YE FAITHFUL” (VERSES 1 & 2)
SUNG BY ALL PERFORMERS
(OPTIONALLY, AUDIENCE JOINS)

==THE END==

The full script runs 7 pages, about 10 minutes long (with songs).

Music listing with publishing info

Most songs are to be sung by the whole cast--and optionally, with the audience joining in. Two songs are intended for solo performers: #2 "Ave Maria" and #5 "The Coventry Carol."

- 1) God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
Traditional (1833) public domain
- 2) Ave Maria (verse 1. Sung by Angel #1 only)
by Franz Schubert (1825) public domain
- 3) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verse 1 only)
Traditional Latin hymn, translated by John M. Neal (1851) public domain
- 4) O Little Town of Bethlehem
by Phillips Brooks (1868) public domain
- 5) The Coventry Carol (verse 1 only. Sung by Mary only)
Robert Croo (1534) public domain
- 6) Away in A Manger (there are two different melodies—choose one)
Words by unknown (1885) public domain
Melody 1 by William J. Kirkpatrick (1897) public domain "The Cradle Song"
Melody 2 by James R. Murrey (1887) public domain "Mueller"
- 7) The First Noel (verse 1)
Traditional (1833) public domain
- 8) Angels We Have Heard On High (verse 1)
by James Chadwick (1862) public domain
- 9) The First Noel (verses 2 & 3)
Traditional (1833) public domain
- 10) O Come All Ye Faithful
John Francis Wade, ca 1743
Translator: Frederick Oakely, 1852 (public domain)

All these carols are in the public domain and sheet music can be found in a variety of keys--often on-line.

For full lyrics, MIDI files and history of these carols, see:

http://www.hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com/HTML/full_index_of_hymns_and_carols.htm

SONG #1 - God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

God rest ye merry gentlemen; let nothing you dismay.
Remember, Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.

CHORUS:

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy!

SONG #2 - Ave Maria [SUNG BY ANGEL ONLY]

Ave Maria Gratia plena
Maria Gratia plena
Maria Gratia plena
Ave, ave dominus
Dominus tecum

Benedicta tu in mulieribus
Et benedictus
Et benedictus fructus ventris
Ventris tui Jesus

Ave Maria!

SONG #3 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (VERSE 1 ONLY)

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice, rejoice, O Israel
To thee shall come Emmanuel

SONG #4 - O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,
The silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

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(several pages later...)

SONG #10 - O Come All Ye Faithful

O come all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels.

CHORUS:

O come, let us adore Him (3x)
Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choir of angels,
Sing in exultations,
Sing all ye citizens of Heaven above:
Glory to God in the Highest.

CHORUS:

O come, let us adore Him (3x)
Christ, the Lord.

CASTING EVALUATION: The Nativity Play Pageant

Date: _____

15 performers: 1 Male, 2 Female, 12 Male-or-Female)

_____ NARRATOR Biblical-style narrator (Male or Female)

COSTUMED PERFORMERS:

_____	MARY	16 year-old farm girl (F)
_____	JOSEPH	20 year-old carpenter (M)
_____	LAMB #1	Bleating sheep (M/F)
_____	ANGEL #1	Angel messenger(Gabriel) (M/F)
_____	INN-KEEPER	Crusty inn-keeper (M/F)
_____	RACHAB	Inn-keeper's kindly slave (F/M)
_____	ANGEL #2	Angel messenger (M/F)
_____	BO'AZ	Old, wizened shepherd (M/F)
_____	EFRAYIM	Cynical shepherd (M/F)
_____	TAVEE	Young shepherd (M/F)
_____	SHEEP #1	Bleating sheep (M/F)
_____	MALKIOR	Persian Magi (M/F)
_____	GASPAR	Indian Magi (M/F)
_____	BALTAZAR	Assyrian Magi (M/F)

-Also-
TRAVELERS in Bethlehem,

other SHEPHERDS

HOST OF ANGELS

SHEEP, GOATS, OXEN, DONKEYS, other farm animals

CASTING MONOLOGUES: *The Nativity Play*

All actors are asked to read some lines, called “sides,” aloud, to audition. The director will cast the roles in our production based upon these readings. Please take a moment to read the lines below several times, both silently and aloud.

NARRATOR: I am the Narrator and I speak in a measured style, often using a biblical syntax. For example: But--on the shore of the Great Sea--Joseph did now labor on Herod’s palace. He served the old carpenter of Nazareth, Esdras (“EHZ-druhs”), who, while he had lost the sharpness of his sight, had lost not the sharpness of his tongue...

NARRATOR: Over two-thousand years ago, in the land Holy Land, near the village of Nazareth, a pious young woman named Mary came unto a verdant olive grove--a place of great peace and contemplation...

NARRATOR: An angel of the Lord came unto her and said:
“Rejoice, Mary! The Lord is with thee! Bless-ed art thou among women! Fear not, Mary. Rejoice! For thou hast found favor with The Lord. Behold! Thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son!--the anointed one--the Christ! And thou shalt call his name... Jesus.”

NARRATOR: Months later--as Winter neared--there came a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed--each returning to their tribal village. And Mary’s husband, Joseph--being a Bethlehem-ite--went out from Galilee. And he took with him his young wife, who was now great with child.