

HAY BALE HOTEL

SAMPLE SCRIPT

SCENE ONE

As the song comes to an end, we find ourselves in the Stable in Bethlehem. An ox, a cow, a donkey, a horse, a ewe, a cockerel, three goats and a couple of mice and are sat on or amongst a number of hay bales. To one side, there is a manger full of straw.

Hen enters.

Hen My goodness, Bethlehem is busier than a henhouse at feeding time.

Ox You know why, don't you?

Hen No? Why?

Ox I don't know. That's why I was asking you.

Hen Oh. No, I don't know.

A voice comes from the back of the stage.

Ewe I know why.

Ox Who said that?

Hen Ewe did.

Ox No, I didn't.

Donkey No, Ewe did.

Ox No, I didn't! I think I'd know if I'd said something.

Cockerel Not 'you'. 'Ewe'.

Ox Huh?

Donkey Perhaps you should step forward, Ewe, it takes Ox a long time to turn around.

Ewe comes forward. Ox sees her and understands.

Ox Oh, 'Ewe'.

Ewe Yes, me! I know why it's busy.

Ox Go on then. Why is it busy?

Ewe It's because of the 'census'. Emperor Augustus wants to count everyone in the entire Roman World.

Mouse 1 Wow, that could take him a while.

Ewe So everyone has been asked to go to their family town in order to be registered.

Mouse 2 Do we need to be registered too?

Ewe No, you're a mouse.

Mouse 2 Phew, that saves a journey.

Goat 1 What about goats?

Ewe No, only people.

Goat 2 What about sheep?

Goat 3 Yes, sheep love being counted.

Ewe That's true, we do. But not on this occasion.

There is a hoot from offstage. Everyone turns to see Owl gliding in.

Owl I say, it's getting busy out of there. I wonder why?

Cow Ewe knows.

Owl I knows?

Cow No, Ewe knows.

Owl Who knows?

Ewe I knows. No, I know! It's because of the census. Everyone has been asked to ... oh, I'm not going to repeat it.

Horse Have a rest, Ewe. We'll take it from here ...

Music starts.

STABLE HOEDOWN

**They're all here for the census,
They're getting in a tiz.
There's pushing and there's shoving.
You know just how it is.
Some people start to worry,
Some people start to fret.
The signs all say 'no vacancies'
And everyone's upset.**

**They're here for a Census,
But it makes no sense.
Things are getting heated,
Things are getting tense.
All we hear is arguing and lots of fuss,
And it makes no sense to us.**

**The inns are getting busy,
The keepers satisfied.
With late-comers arriving,
A little bleary-eyed.
And now it's getting darker,
And still they're piling in.
But ev'ry answer is the same,
There's no room at the inn.**

**They're here for a Census,
But it makes no sense.
Things are getting heated,
Things are getting tense.
All we hear is arguing and lots of fuss,
And it makes no sense to us.**

**All we hear is arguing and lots of fuss,
And it makes no sense to us.**

Hen All this singing has given me an idea.

Cockerel What's that?

Goat 1 It's a thought or a suggestion for a possible course of action.

Cockerel I know that! But what's Hen's idea?

Hen Well ... you know how Bethlehem is buzzing with people ...

Owl It certainly is.

Hen And you know how they're all looking for a place to stay ...

Donkey They certainly are.

Hen And you know how we have a nice, warm stable full of hay...

Horse Lovely and warm.

Mouse 1 Oh, I've got it. I know what your idea is! You want us to put hay out in the streets for the people to eat.

Hen No, that's not it at all. That would be ... weird. No, my idea is ... to turn the stable into a hotel.

Goat 2 What's a hotel?

Ox It's a place where people stay when they're away from home. Hen, that's a great idea! We'll turn the stable into a hotel, and we'll all have jobs to ensure it runs smoothly.

Mouse 2 Jobs? What are jobs?

Horse It's what people do to earn money.

Mouse 2 What's money?

Horse Money is a medium of exchange in which ...

Ewe Er, I think we might be getting sidetracked.

Hen You're right, Ewe. Come on, everyone. Let's get tidying. If we're going to open a hotel, we need it to look as welcoming as possible.

They immediately busy themselves around the stage as the lights fade and music starts:

Incidental music: 'Stable Hoedown – Interlude'