

# HAY PRESTO

## ***SCENE THREE***

*Action shifts to the stable with a fine array of furry animals and a good number of hay bales.*

- Ox 1                      Honestly, who do these foreign animals think they are?
- Ox 2                      I know! Coming into our town, nicking our hay.
- Ox 3                      They've got a right nerve.
- Ox 4                      A right nerve, a left nerve. And lots more nerves too, I imagine.
- Ox 1                      They're full of nerves.
- Ox 2                      They're nervous!
- Ox 3                      Precisely. I say we make a stand.
- Ox 4                      What kind of stand? A hat stand?
- Ox 1                      I lost my hat.
- Ox 3                      No, not that type of stand. A different type of stand.
- Ox 2                      A bandstand?
- Ox 3                      No, that's far too noisy. No, we'll put all of our hay into the corner of the stable and keep watch over it at all times.
- Ox 1                      What about when we're asleep? I'm asleep a lot.
- Ox 2                      We'll ask the ass to help out. And those tiny little white rats too.
- Ox 3                      I think you mean the mice.
- Ox 4                      Oy, ass, wake up. We've got a job for you.
- Ox 1                      You too, little mice. Stop nibbling and come over here.

*The ass and the mice move forwards to the oxen.*

**Mouse 1** Is it dinner time?

**Mouse 2** Has anyone seen my cheese?

**Ox 2** Listen. We're running out of hay.

**Ass** Are we?

**Ox 1** Well, not yet. But we might do. We all need to protect it.

**Ass** Protect it from whom?

**Ox 2** From the other animals. The outsiders.

**Mouse 2** I was an outsider once.

**Mouse 1** Were you? What happened?

**Mouse 2** I was invited in.

**Ox 3** Well we're not inviting anyone in. And we're not sharing our hay with anyone.

**Mouse 2** Not even if they're hungry?

**Ox 4** Of course not. If they're hungry, they'll eat even more of it.

**Ox 3** That's a good point. We'll only share it with the ones who aren't hungry.

**Ox 1** Great. Come on then, let's get stacking.

*They start to move the bales of hay upstage into a corner as the narrators come forwards.  
The backing track to These Three Kings could be played.*

**Narrator 1** To the east, a caravan was moving across the desert.

**Narrator 2** Did it have its own kitchen?

**Narrator 3** How many beds?

**Narrator 2** What's its payload?

**Narrator 1** No beds at all actually. Nor a kitchen. And I don't even know what a 'payload' is. This caravan was just three kings, plenty of camels, and some rather confused helpers.

**Narrator 2** Huh. Doesn't sound very comfortable to me.