

a script from
skitguys.com

“One Holy Night”

by
Skit Guys Studios

SYNOPSIS

Stuart recounts a busy night when he had no room for a young couple but let them stay in the barn. He talks with a traveler, a shepherd, and a wise man (all of whom saw a star above his barn) and eventually realizes that the Messiah has been born there.

CAST

Stuart, the Innkeeper
Actor 2 plays three different characters

PROPS

Coffee Cup
Plate w/bagel
Briefcase
Business Card
TicTacs

COSTUMES

Stuart wears casual clothes and a work apron with pockets.
Patron wears casual clothes, a fake mustache that can be easily removed, and glasses.
Shepherd wears a flannel shirt or jacket and a baseball cap.
Reuben, the Wiseman, wears a suit jacket and a blonde wig.

*Costumes for Actor 2 are just recommendations to change up the look. Do what works best for you and the characters. Actor 2 should be able to change really fast, possibly even having someone to help him on either side.

SET

No set is required. If you'd like to have a backdrop, you can have an image of a hotel sign on your screen with a sign that says, "No Vacancies" or you can build a sign yourself. You can also use sound effects, like crickets, to indicate nighttime.

HOW

This short play can be fast paced at times and needs quite a bit of rehearsal to hit those entrances and exits. Actor 2 will have a short amount of time to switch characters, so begin working with costumes and props as soon as possible. Since the dialogue is oftentimes a fast-paced back-and-forth, the lines will need to be carefully memorized. We recommend watching the video, "One Holy Night" at SkitGuys.com, for ideas on how to play each character.

Stuart is the storyteller who switches back and forth between the audience and other characters. Give yourself time to process thoughts and take the audience on the journey with you. Also, be sure to use your space. Don't pace back and forth! But plan out your steps during rehearsal so you're not stuck in one spot the whole time.

TIME

Approximately 12 minutes

Stuart enters and addresses the audience.

Stuart: It has been complete chaos outside Bethlehem all week. I have never seen anything like this before. You see, Caesar has issued a decree that everyone must go back to their hometown and register for the census. This has turned commerce on its head! I think it would take a complete miracle to top what I've seen in Bethlehem today, a complete miracle!

Before I get ahead of myself, my name's Stuart and this is my inn. I was going to call it the Holiday Inn, but I didn't think it would catch on. *(Sighs)* So many people tonight. So many people that I had to say "no" to. But there was this couple, they came later on and they asked for a room and I said the same thing that I've said to everyone, "I'm sorry. There's just no room in the inn." And the woman...she said, "Please. We've been traveling for over 90 miles and we are so tired." And there was something that gave me pause and made me reconsider, but my solution was still the same, I had no place for them to stay. But I could see that the woman was pregnant. And the solution that I had would have made my mother roll over in her grave, but I offered it to them. I said, "You can have the barn. It's all I have. It's no place for a human. It's full of hay and manure and animals."

And this couple...they were thankful. The husband Joe, I think, he looked at me and he said, "Thank you and God bless you." And then he put his hand on his wife's stomach and he said, "Because He's about to bless us."

I wish you could have seen this couple. There was something so different about them...the way they treated each other...the way he treated her. I've been trying to come up with a word, but it just escapes me. All I can say is they were just...set apart.

Yes, I wish I just had the words to describe.

Patron enters. He's just an everyday guy, looking for a place to stay. This character is originally done with a New York style accent.

Patron: Describe your rooms for me, please.

Stuart: Excuse me?

Patron: Your rooms. I need a place to stay.

Stuart: Oh, I'm so sorry. No vacancies.

Patron: Oh, you are tellin' me. I mean, this whole census thing has things crazy around here. I mean, I wasn't even gonna come but my CPA said I had to go so here I am.

Stuart: I hear ya, but you're out of luck here, sir.

Patron: Come on, friend, I've got money and I know I didn't misread that sign!

Stuart: No, no my sign says, "No Vacancies".

Patron: No, no, no, not that sign. I'm talking about that star right there. *(Points up and they both look)* I've been following that star for about a half an hour, ya know? And I thought it meant vacancies, but apparently it means UN-vacancies! *(Chuckles)* I mean, you have to admit, that star is right over your inn! *(Looks closer and has a realization)* Ahhh it's not over your inn! It's over your barn! And you wouldn't put people in your barn!

Stuart: Not even a pregnant lady.

Patron: Huh?

Stuart: Nothing, keep talking.

Patron: So, you got anything for me, my friend?

Stuart: *(picks up a coffee cup)* I don't have a room, but I can offer you this *(hands him the coffee cup).*

Patron: Ah! No, no, no, caffeine makes me jittery.

Stuart: No, it's decaffeinated, drink up.

Patron: All right. *(Takes a drink)* Mmm. Are you sure this is decaffeinated?

Stuart: That is the secret to new Pharaoh's Naturally Brewed Decaffeinated Coffee. It tastes like regular, but it's decaffeinated.

Patron: That is a good cup of joe! I tell ya, my friend, what I'd love to have with this cup of coffee is—

Stuart: *(picks up a plate with a bagel and cream cheese and offers it to Patron)* Bagels?

Patron: Ah! Don't mind if I do! *(Takes a bite of the bagel)* Man-na! That is good bread!

Stuart: I got it down at Old Man Moses' Deli down the street. You can pick some before you register tomorrow.

Patron: I better not. I'm trying to watch my weight, I don't need all that butter.

Stuart: That's a butter substitute!

Patron: That's not butter?

Stuart: It has half the calories of regular butter or margarine.

Patron: Tastes like butter.

Stuart: Not butter!

Patron: Huh! I can't believe it's not butter! *(Hands the cup and bagel back to Stuart)* Well, listen my friend, would you happen to have any suggestions on where I might lay my head to rest this evening?

Stuart: You know what, there's a motel down the street there it's the fourth, no it's the sixth motel.

Patron: Motel... *(looking offstage and mentally counting)* six!

Stuart: Yep, the one with the light on.

Patron: Ah! Well, thank you so much and Merry Census to ya!

Stuart: Wait, wait, what did you say?

Patron: I said, "Merry Census". This census is the biggest thing to happen to this town in years! It's turned commerce on its ear! So, I coined this phrase, "Merry Census". It's my own intellectual property. I'm hoping it catches on. Hey! Merry Census to ya.

Stuart: Merry Census.

Patron: You owe me a dollar.

Patron exits.

Stuart: Okay. *(Looking out and up at the star once more, completely lost in thought and wonder)* Hmm...that star. It is right over my barn. That's where the couple is. He thinks that star has some meaning. It is unusually bright. Maybe there is a meaning for that star. *(Shaking it off)* No, no, no, Stuart get a hold of yourself. Stars don't have meaning. That's just crazy...that's just crazy!

Shepherd comes running in full of excitement! He's freaking out! He's convinced he's had an alien encounter and he's...well...let's just say he comes across as a "few sheep shy of a herd."

Shepherd: This is crazy, this is crazy, this is crazy!

Stuart: Pardon me?

Shepherd: I know what's goin' on inside your barn! I've seen inside your barn!

Stuart: You smell like my barn!

Shepherd: Oh, that's just the sheep dip. I'm a shepherd.

Stuart: How do you know about my barn?

Shepherd: Because that star and them alien angel things. *(Cries nervously, he's terrified)* We were just there! Just mindin' our own sheep and they were like "baaaa" *(sheep sound)*, you know? And then all the sudden in came these alien angel things and they were all like *(singing)* "aaahhh!" And then we were all like *(screaming!)* "aaahhh!!" And then that alien angel thing was like, "Fear not!"

Stuart: And then what?

Shepherd: What?

Stuart: After the *(sheep sound)* "baaa" and the *(angel singing)* "aaahhh!" and the *(screaming!)* "aaahhh!"

Shepherd: And then they downloaded it into my brain.

Stuart: They downloaded what into your brain?

Shepherd: *(very fast, looks off somewhere else as if he's in a trance)* Fear not! Behold, I bring you great news of a great joy that shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David, which is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find the babe wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

(Out of trance, talking to Stuart again) And then all the sudden there's a bunch of them alien angel things! And they were all singing and praising and everything and we were scared and then we look at each other and said, "Let's go see if what they said is true!" And we went inside your barn and then all the sudden, *(makes a popping noise with his finger inside his cheek—pop!)* out came that baby just like they said. JUST LIKE THEY SAID!

Stuart: How do you know all this?

Shepherd: It's etched in my brain! I gotta tell everybody. EVERYBODY! *(Gasp)* Did you hear that? *(Looks around nervously.)*

Stuart: *(confused)* No. No, I did not.

Shepherd: I gotta go.

Shepherd runs off stage!

Stuart: *(calling after him)* Merry Census!

Patron: *(offstage)* Now you owe me TWO dollars!

Stuart: *(looks around to see where that came from; shrugs; back in thought; speaking once again to the audience)* And so it begins. The girl had a baby. And that shepherd thinks an angel led him to my barn. That shepherd sees and hears about a miracle...and he believes. Me? I keep looking for one. But I cannot escape what's happened tonight. Maybe God has a purpose for that star. Maybe that star does mean something. Maybe it's guiding some weary traveler tonight.

I think it would take a very wise man to answer that question, and where are you going to find a wise man in this place?

Rueben, the Wiseman, enters. He comes across like a no-nonsense, to the point, "just the facts, ma'am" FBI agent investigating an event. He is carrying a briefcase.

Reuben: Is this the place?

Stuart: The place?

Reuben: Yes, yes, the place. The place. Come on, I haven't got time to waste.

Stuart: All right, all right. Don't be in such haste. What's in the case?

Reuben: The case?

Stuart: The case.

Reuben: *(looks around)* I guess this is the place.

Stuart: Your name?

Reuben: Rueben King. *(Shakes hands with Stuart)*

Stuart: King. Stuart.

Reuben: You can call me Ru.

Stuart: You can call me Stu.

Finger guns at each other.

Reuben: *(hands business card to Stuart)* Here's my card. I deal with impossibilities.

Stuart: Impossibilities?

Reuben: That's my job.

Stuart: All right, all right. What's in the case?

Reuben: A barrage.

Stuart: A barrage of what?

Reuben: Of bulk.

Stuart: What kind of bulk?

Reuben: Expensive bulk.

Stuart: For whom?

Reuben: For the baby.

Stuart: The baby?

Reuben: The baby in the barn.

Stuart: How did you know about the baby in the barn?

Reuben: I followed the star.

Stuart: You followed the star?

Reuben: I followed the star to the baby in the barn.

Stuart: You followed the star to the baby in the barn in Bethlehem?

Reuben: Basically.

Stuart: *(putting it all together)* The star...the baby...impossible!

Reuben: That's my job.

Stuart: Okay, no more babbling around. What's your beef?

Reuben: Can I bounce a secret off you, Stu?

Wiseman and Stuart lean in toward each other to tell secret. Wiseman freezes.

Stuart: *(to audience)* As he leaned in closer to me, I could only think of one thing. *(Reaches into apron. Pulls out Tic Tac container)* Tic Tac?

Reuben: *(unfreezes and takes one)* Ah thank you, and only one and a half calories per mint.

Stuart: Bingo!

Reuben: Alright Stu, I'm not gonna lie to you. I'm going to be straight with you. I'm going to be frank. I'm going to be candid, I'm going to be curt, I'm going to be Captain Kirk. I'm not going to pull the wool over your eyes. I'm just going to lay all my cards on the table.

Stuart: Get on with it, Ru.

Reuben: All right, Stu. The baby in the barn.

Stuart: What about the baby in the barn?

Reuben: The baby in the barn is the Son of God.

Stuart: The baby in the barn is the Son of God? Impossible!

Reuben: That's my job.

Stuart: Alright, I'm just trying to wrap my head around this. How did all of this happen?

Reuben: *(takes a deep breath)* She said "yes". She said "yes" and the impossible became possible.

Stuart: And to think I left the Messiah out in the cold last night.

Reuben: I'd hate to be you. Listen, I have two associates joining me tonight. When they get here, would you direct them to your barn?

Stuart: Sure.

Reuben: Oh, yes, and also there's a drummer boy.

Stuart: Wait, wait, wait...a drummer boy?

Reuben: A little drummer boy.

Stuart: A little drummer boy?

Reuben: Yes.

Stuart: And what does he do?

Reuben: He bangs on his drums.

Stuart: He bangs on his drums? Beautiful! What ballad?

Reuben: Pa rum pa pum pum.

Stuart: Pa rum pa pum pum? Hmm, well, you tell him to play his drums for Him.

Reuben: Oh, he'll play his best for Him.

Stuart: Pa rum pa pum pum.

Reuben: Rum pa pum pum.

Both: *(singing)* Rum pa pum pum!

Stuart: Catchy!

Reuben: I think so. Alright! I'm off to the barn.

Stuart: Merry Census!

Reuben: Excuse me?

Stuart: Merry Census! It's the biggest thing to hit Bethlehem, so Merry Census!

Reuben: *(knowing chuckle)* My friend. The biggest thing to hit Bethlehem and the world is what happened in your barn tonight. You don't need to be telling people Merry Census. You need to be saying..." Merry Mary-had-the-Christ-Child-in-a-barn-after-following-the-star-all-day, Day!"
(Mumbling to himself) I didn't even get the shepherds in there! And it's way too long. I've got to work on that. *(To Stuart)* What a day. A day that will change the world.

Reuben exits. Stuart contemplates before speaking, the wonder of what's taken place.

Stuart: And to think I almost missed this...even in my own home. They named Him Jesus. Yes...rest Child...rest. For Your work is about to begin. *(Back to business)* Speaking of work, I might as well be getting on myself, there's a lot to do! So Merry Cen—

No, Stuart, don't make this about money and things...don't miss this. It's about the Christ-child. Yes. *(Back to audience)* Merry Christmas.

Merry Christmas.

Lights fade.