

“The Live Nativity”

by
Skit Guys Studios

What Things don't go as planned when a local church presents its annual live nativity. But in the midst of the chaos, we're reminded that God invited imperfect people to the very first nativity, and that He continues to use flawed people to do His work on earth.

Themes: Christmas, Nativity, Church, Imperfect People, God's Plan

Who Marty Bob
Laura Sarah
Jim Several passersby

When Present

**Wear
(Props)** Life-size Nativity Creche (optional)
Angel costume
Wise Man costume
2 shepherd costumes for Bob and Marty
Mary costume
Manger
Sound effect of a baby crying
Applebee's coupon
Handheld fan
Box for myrrh filled with pecans

Why John 1:14

How For ideas on how to perform this script, watch The Live Nativity at SkitGuys.com.

Time Approximately 4 minutes

*Bugler is playing Silent Night...badly (*optional). Marty, Laura, Jim, Bob, and Sarah are all posed for the nativity. They are frozen when Marty says...*

Marty: Aaaaanndd unfreeze...shake it out for a few. Good job guys!

Laura: It's a thousand degrees out here! No thanks to global warming.

Laura is holding a handheld fan and has it in front of her face.

Marty: Again. Global warming and hot flashes are two different things.

Laura shoots him a "look".

Jim: I'm starving. Can we please take a snack break already?

Marty: You ate a whole bag of cheese puffs fifteen minutes ago.

This is the first time we've seen a full glimpse of Jim's face. He has Cheeto dust around his mouth.

Jim: *(wipes Cheeto fingers across his costume)* And?

Bob: Look Marty, we've been at this thing day in and day out for an entire week. We're exhausted. Besides, it's not really a live nativity. We have stuffed animals.

Jim, completely oblivious to everyone else's plights, opening his box of Myrrh (that has "myrrh" stamped on the side) and fingering and sniffing the sap-like substance. Next to him Laura is checking her cuticles and batting away a wayward angel wing. Bob's sniffing against an allergy attack. Sarah, knelt down by the manger, tries to soothe the restless baby, who is getting a little fussy.

Marty: Look, we make do with what we've got. But look, this is our final performance of the nativity and we have been entrusted with the esteemed honor of carrying—

Bob: —esteemed honor of carrying on a hundred-and-three-year-old tradition for the oldest church in Corncatcher County. We get it! We got your little pep talk about ten pep talks ago.

Laura: Amen to that. Can anyone even see me back here?

Bob sneezes.

Bob: I have hay fever, Marty. Do you know what activates hay fever? *(Beat)* HAY!

Marty: I'm sorry Bob. I tried to find hypoallergenic hay, but the guys at the feed store just laughed at me.

Jim: *(sniffing the myrrh)* What is this stuff?

Marty: We make do with what we've got. Now let's—freeze!

Everyone freezes, but, with the exception of Sarah, they're all in frightfully wrong Nativity poses, including Bob, who is working hard to hold in a sneeze, but his expression says, "I'm about to be murdered."

Man walks by, uninterested. After a few seconds, they release their poses.

Bob: —CHOO! I'm literally sweating through my sackcloth.

Laura: Why am I in the back? Did I mention I was a stand-in for Touched by an Angel?

Jim: *(licks the myrrh)* Highway to Heaven trumps Touched by an Angel every time, sister.

Bob: Clearly you never saw a single episode of Charlie's Angels.

Marty: Not the same thing, Bob. Not even close.

Jim: *(still taste-testing)* I'm sensing an undertone of hazelnut. No, wait. Yep, definitely hazelnut.

Jim eats the pecan, but makes a face.

Sarah: I think it's plastic.

Laura starts shoving her way to the front.

Laura: Nobody puts Angel in a corner!

Marty: Audience! Three o'clock! Freeze!

Everyone freezes. Jim is in mid-lick. Laura's elbowing Bob in the face. Passersby walk by without interest. The cast unfreezes.

Marty: Unfreeze!

Bob: Look Marty we didn't sign up for this.

Marty: You did! You all literally signed up for this!

Bob: My wife signed me up. I'm out.

Laura: I signed up to play Mary.

Marty: And nobody's gonna believe that.

Laura: *(following suit)* Yeah? What about making do with what we've got, Marty. *(Sighing, under her breath)* It's so hard for people like Helen Mirren and me to get work.

Jim: Let's go, cast. These Applebees coupons don't use themselves. *(Sings the Chili's commercial)* I want my baby back baby back baby back...

Everyone, except for Marty, joins in singing with Jim.

Marty: That's not even the same restaurant!

Marty grabs the coupons, rips them up and shoves **Jim**. **Jim** stumbles and knocks against **Bob**. **Bob** turns abruptly and accidentally breaks one of **Laura's** wings off. Showdown. All Herod breaks loose! BICKERING! ARGUING! SOBBING OVER A BROKEN WING! These four duke it out under the Nativity Hut. Then a CRY. And another CRY. It's getting louder. First **Laura** notices. Then **Jim**. And **Marty**. Then **Bob**. **Sarah**, who plays **Mary**, grasps the side of the manger and looks adoringly at the Child. For the moment, it's just she and this little baby, whom she is comforting.

Note: Feel free to create your own chaos blocking.

Sarah: It's okay. Shhhh. Look at you...so tiny, so peaceful and perfect. A lot like baby Jesus. He deserved so much more. But this was God's plan. And He gave Jesus a mommy to take care of him and chose shepherds to tell everyone. Wisemen came to honor Him. He even gave Jesus an earthly daddy. A bunch of imperfect people, to be sure... *(looks up at Marty)* but God always makes do with what He's got. And that perfect little baby grew up and saved us all. He showed us what real love looks like. A love that cost him everything. *(Beat)* I just adore Him.

(Optional) As lights fade, Bugler plays the last notes of Silent Night (Christ the Savior is born...Christ the Savior is born). This could also be done with a piano underscoring the last bit of dialogue from Sarah.