



The Director's Cut A Christmas Play

By Deborah Wassenberg



Introduction:

This interactive play is not intended to replace your Christmas lesson but to supplement your Christmas program. When I wrote it the crew and narrator roles were played by teenage volunteers but children made up the cast. The role of the Director was key to the comedy with a lot of adlibbing, bossily moving actors around and demanding more emotion using the script as a guide. Only the Narrator needs to read lines and can use the script. The costumes were sourced from home (e.g. dressing gowns) and the Kid's Church costume cupboard. The makeup artist had to run after cast members who did not want to be powdered or spritzed. This interactive play had the children in stitches!

Setting: A Movie Set

Characters:

Crew:

Movie Director

Costume Designer

Makeup Artist and Hair Stylist

Clapperboard Loader

Costume/Props:

Script/Megaphone/Director's
Chair/Neckerchief/Beret

Measuring tape/Costumes for each
character on a rack

Cross body bag holding a water spray
bottle + powder puff + flour (or powder)

Clapperboard

Cast:

Narrator:

Joseph

Mary

Donkey

Inn Keeper

Cow

Baby Jesus

Chicken

Shepherds

Sheep

Angel

Wise Men

Star

Costume/Props:

Podium + script + torch for Act 4

Man's dressing gown + beard

Woman's dressing gown + headscarf +
pillow bump

Mohawk wig + donkey ears + tail

Apron + beard

Horns + cowbell + tail

Doll + swaddling clothes + cradle

Feathers on a headband (or duster)

Towel headdresses + rods + beards

Ears and woollen blanket

White gown + wings + haloes

Crowns + dressing gowns + gifts

Gold t-shirt (or star shaped sandwich board)

Notes:

- If you have more children than roles simply add more shepherds or animals, although some children prefer to sit and watch.
- Hanging the costumes on a rack makes them easily accessible in this fast-moving drama, but you could set them out on chairs or the floor.
- The makeup powder puff can be a small round cushion or a large bathing scrubbing sponge/pouf.
- The 'makeup' is plain flour or talcum powder. **Use caution! Some children may be allergic or have asthma in which case a simple light tap on the head with the powder puff sponge will be adequate!**
- I made the clapperboard from thick cardboard but I have since seen them at a cheap shop or they can be purchased online. But a hand clap will do!

Script:

Act 1 The Journey

The Director arrives on the set.

Director: Right, people.
 Is everyone here?
 Costume Designer?

Costume: *(Points to costumes)*
 Ready!

Director: Makeup and hair?

Makeup: *(Holds up powder puff and spray bottle)*
 Ready!

Director: Clapperboard loader?

Director: *(Snaps clapperboard)*
 Ready!

Director: Narrator, where are you?

Narrator: *(clears throat)*
 Ahem.
 (Performs some lip exercises and blows a raspberry)
 I'm here.

Director: Okay.
 Places everyone.

C/board: The Christmas Movie
 Act 1 Take 1

Narrator: And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered everyone to his own City. And Joseph...

Director: Joseph! Joseph?
Where's Joseph?
(Choose a boy)
You'll make a great Joseph.
Wardrobe!

Wardrobe: Here you go.
(Puts costume on the boy)

Director: Great look, kid.
Makeup!

Makeup: *(Hits boy on the head with a powder puff and spritzes face with water)*

Director: Great!
Take it from the top!
Rolling. Action!

C/board: The Christmas Movie
Act 1 Take 2

Narrator: And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered everyone to his own city.
And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, because he was of the house of David, to be registered with his betrothed wife, Mary.

Director: Mary! Mary?
Where's Mary?
(Chooses a girl)
Don't be nervous, you'll be great!
Wardrobe!

Wardrobe: Here you go.
(Puts costume on the girl)

Director: Beautiful.
Makeup!

Makeup: *(Hits girl on the head with a powder puff and spritzes face with water)*

Director: Let's keep filming...rolling. Action!

C/board: The Christmas Movie
Act 1 Take 3

Narrator: ...because he was of the house of David,
to be registered with his betrothed wife, Mary...

Director: CUT!
(Looking at Mary)
Something doesn't look right!
Wardrobe!
Mary is pregnant!

Wardrobe: Whoops!
(Grabs a pillow and readjusts the costume)

Director: Hang on a minute.
Where's the donkey?
There's supposed to be a donkey!
(Chooses a child)
You look like you've got what it takes to be a donkey.
Let me hear you bray.

Donkey: *(Child brays)*

Director: You got it, kid.
Wardrobe!

Wardrobe: *(Adds mohawk wig, ears and tail)*
There you go.

Director: Makeup!

Makeup: On the donkey?
(Shrugs)
Okay
(Hits child on the head with a powder puff and spritzes face with water)

Director: Rolling. Action!

C/board: The Christmas Movie
Act 1 Take 4

Director: Okay, Joe, you need to help Mary climb up on the donkey.
(Joseph helps Mary sit on the donkey)
That's great!
Cut! Print!

Act 2 At the Inn

Director: Places everybody.
 (Pulls Joseph, Mary and the donkey into position)
 Are we ready?
 Rolling. Action!

C/board: The Christmas Movie
 Act 2 Take 1

Narrator: When Joseph and Mary reached Bethlehem the city was bustling with
 travellers who had come to register for the census.
 As they were turned away from one place after another,
 Mary began to feel that the baby was on the way!
 When Joseph and Mary arrived at the inn, the innkeeper said...

Director: Innkeeper! Innkeeper?
 Where's the innkeeper?
 (Chooses a child)
 Show me how you'd open a door.
 (Child mimes opening a door)
 Give me more, kid.
 Your inn is full to the brim.
 You're run off your feet.
 Now someone's knocking at your door and you have to stop what
 you're doing to answer it.
 Try it again.
 (Child mimes opening the door)
 Again.
 Give me more emotion!
 (Child mimes opening the door)
 You got it!
 Wardrobe!

Wardrobe: Here we are.
 (Dresses child as the inn keeper)

Director: Makeup!

Makeup: *(Hits child on the head with a powder puff and spritzes face with water)*

Director: Take it from the top.
 Rolling. Action!

C/board: The Christmas Movie.
 Act 2 Take 2

Narrator: When Joseph and Mary reached Bethlehem the city was bustling with
 travellers who had come to register for the census.
 As they were turned away from one place after another,

Mary began to feel that the baby was on the way!
When Joseph and Mary arrived at the inn, the innkeeper said there's
no room at the inn.

Director: Now innkeeper, shake your head, there's no room.
(Innkeeper shakes his head)
Good, good.
Joseph and Mary, let me see disappointment.
(Joseph and Mary slouch over)

Narrator: 'I don't have a single room to spare,' said the innkeeper, 'but you're
welcome to shelter in my stable if you don't mind the animals.'

Director: Cut! Print!

Act 3 The Stable

Director: Everybody! This is an epic scene!
What's wrong with this stable?
I need atmosphere.
I need animals!
Cow! Cow?
Where's the cow?
(Choose a child)
Let me hear a moo, kid.
(Child moos)
Give me more, do it again.
(Child moos)
Louder!
(Child moos)
Great!
Wardrobe!

Wardrobe: Here we are!
(Dresses child in cow costume)

Director: Makeup!

Makeup: Okay.
*(Shrugs and hits child on the head with a powder puff and spritzes face
with water)*

Director: I'm not getting enough from this scene.
Chicken! Chicken?
(Chooses a child)
Let me hear you cluck, kid.
(Child clucks)
Louder!
(Child clucks)
You got it, kid!

Wardrobe!

Wardrobe: Coming!
(Dresses child in chicken costume)

Director: Makeup!

Makeup: A chicken now? Okay.
(Shrugs and hits the child on the head with a powder puff and spritzes face with water)

Director: Rolling. Action!

C/board: The Christmas Movie
Act 3 Take 1

Narrator: Joseph accepted the innkeeper's stable gratefully and it was there, with the cow...

Director: *(Points at cow and cow moos)*

Narrator: ...and the chicken...

Director: *(Points at chicken and chicken clucks)*

Narrator: ...and the donkey...

Director: *(Points at the donkey and the donkey brays)*

Narrator: Mary gave birth to the baby boy who was to be the Saviour of the world.

Director: Cut!
Bring in the baby!

Wardrobe: *(Takes away Mary's pillow and hands her the baby doll wrapped in cloth)*

Makeup: *(The makeup artist goes to use the powder puff and spritz but backs off shaking head)*
Nope, not going to do that!

Director: Rolling. Action!

C/board: The Christmas Movie
Act 3 Take 2

Narrator: Mary wrapped him in clothes and nestled Him in a manger full of straw.

Director: Cut! Print!

Act 4 The Shepherds in the Field

Director: Here we are on location.
Rolling. Action!

C/board: The Christmas Movie
Act 4 Take 1

Narrator: In the surrounding countryside, shepherds were watching over their
sheep.

Director: Sheep! Sheep?
Shepherds need sheep, people!
I need sheep!
(Grabs children)
Let me hear you bleat.
(Children bleat)
Give me more!
It's night-time, you want your shepherd to know where you are.
(Children bleat again)
Great! If you're not sure where to stand just follow each other, okay?
Wardrobe!

Wardrobe: On it!
(Dresses children in sheep costumes)

Director: Makeup!

Makeup: *(Hits the children on the head with a powder puff and spritzes faces
with water)*

Director: Take it from the top!

C/board: The Christmas Movie
Act 4 Take 2

Narrator: All at once the starry night blazed as bright as day.
The shepherds shielded their eyes as an angel appeared high
overhead.

Director: Cut!
Where's the blazing light?
Where's our special effects?
Is the CGI going to be added later?

Narrator: Um, I don't think we have the budget for special effects.

Director: What?
How am I supposed to make a blockbuster movie without special effects?
I can't work under these conditions!
(Throws down script)

Narrator: Excuse me.
I have a torch!
(Brings out the torch and shines it in the Director's face)

Director: *(Calming down)*
Alright, that will work.
Take it from the top.

C/board: The Christmas Movie
Act 4 Take 3

Narrator: All at once the starry night blazed as bright as day.
The shepherds shielded their eyes...

Director: Shepherds! Shepherds?
Where are the shepherds?
(Chooses children to be shepherds)
Wardrobe!

Wardrobe: Shepherd costumes coming up!

Director: Makeup!

Makeup: *(Hits the children on the head with a powder puff and spritzes faces with water)*

Director: Take it from the top.
Rolling. Action!

C/board: The Christmas Movie
Act 4 Take 4

Narrator: In the surrounding countryside, shepherds were watching over their sheep.
All at once the starry night blazed as bright as day.
(Shines the torch at the shepherds)
The shepherds shielded their eyes as an angel...

Director: Angel! Angel?
I need an angel!
(Chooses a child and looks sceptical)
Can you look angelic?
Okay, we're running out of daylight.
You'll have to do.

Wardrobe!

Wardrobe! Here you go, angel.
(Dresses child)

Director: Makeup!

Makeup: *(Hits child on the head with a powder puff and spritzes face with water)*

Director: Take it from the top.
Rolling. Action!

C/board: The Christmas Movie
Act 4 Take 5

Narrator: In the surrounding countryside, shepherds were watching over their sheep.
All at once the starry night blazed as bright as day.
The shepherds shielded their eyes as an angel appeared high overhead.
'Don't be afraid!

Director: Cut!
No, no, no, no, no!
Shepherds!
You are supposed to be afraid!
You're just standing there.
Show some emotion!
(Children act afraid)
That's better!
Rolling. Action!

Narrator: The angel said, 'Don't be afraid!

Director: Okay shepherds, you can stop being afraid now.

Narrator: Listen carefully for I bring you wonderful news.
Wonderful news for everyone on Earth.
This very night a child has been born who will be the Saviour of all people.
He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you:
You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.'
So it was when the angel had gone away from them into heaven that the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the lord has make known to us.'
So they came with haste...

Director: Come on, shepherds.
The script says with haste...I need you to hustle!
Faster! Faster!

Great!
Cut! Print!

Act 5 The Wise Men Visit

Director: This is it folks, the final scene.
I need you to give me everything you've got.
Rolling. Action!

C/board: The Christmas Movie
Act 5 Take 1

Narrator: Now, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod
the king, behold wise men...

Director: Wise Men! Wise Men?
I need Wise Men...three of them!
(Chooses children and looks them over)
Wise men, hum?
Oh well, we've got to get this movie in on time.
Wardrobe!

Wardrobe: Woah. Big job!
(Dresses Wise Men and gives them their gifts, too)

Director: Makeup!

Makeup: *(Hits children on the head with a powder puff and spritzes faces with
water)*

Director: Take it from the top.

C/board: *(Exhausted)*
The...Christmas...Movie
Act...5 Take...2

Narrator: Now, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod
the king, behold Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem saying,
'Where is He that has been born King of the Jews?
We have seen His star...'

Director: Cut!
Star! Star?
I need a star!
(Chooses a child)
Stick with me kid I'll make you a star!
Wardrobe!

Wardrobe: Coming!
(Dresses child as a star)

Director: *(As the Makeup artist approaches)*
 No! No, makeup is necessary.
 Just be yourself, baby, you're a star!
(Makeup artist leaves feeling deflated)
 Rolling. Action!

C/board: *(Even more exhausted and near tears)*
 The...Christmas...Movie...
 Act...What is it? 204?
 Take 63...

Narrator: 'We have seen His star in the East...'

Director: *(To the child dressed as the star)*
 A little more to the east baby.
 Amazing!

Narrator: And behold the star which they had seen in the east went before them...

Director: *(To the child dressed as the star)*
 Go before them, baby.
 Amazing!

Narrator: Till it came and stood over where the young child was.
 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy...

Director: Live it up, Wise Men!
 Where's the joy?
 There you go!

Narrator: And when they had come into the house they saw the young child with Mary His mother, and fell down.

Director: *(Asks Narrator)*
 Stunt doubles?
 Is there anything in the budget for stunt doubles?

Narrator: *(Shakes head sadly)*
 They saw the young child with Mary His mother and fell down and worshipped Him.
 They presented gifts to Him.
 Gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Director: Gifts?
 That's a wrap!
 Cut! Print!
(All the crew are exhausted and fall over!)