

# SCRIPT

*The townspeople stand in a crowd chatting to each other noisily. As the Emperor enters, the townspeople hush each other and everyone immediately goes quiet as they look at the Emperor, who holds his head high and looks very important.*

**NARRATOR** Two thousand years ago the Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus made a very big decision.

**EMPEROR** *(In a loud voice)* I have decided to conduct a census. All the people in my empire should return to the place where they were born so that their names can be recorded.

*Emperor exits the stage.*

**NARRATOR** Very soon across the land of Judea the streets were filled with the hustle bustle of people getting ready for their journeys.

*During the following song the townspeople act out the preparations for a long journey: loading carts, packing possessions and setting out.*

## **Song 1. HUSTLE BUSTLE**

**CD track 1/8**

*After the song, the townspeople exit the stage and sit at the side to become the choir. The shepherds and sheep enter. The sheep lie down and graze.*

**NARRATOR** But not everyone was rushing about. As night fell on a hilltop just outside Nazareth, some shepherds were watching their flock grazing quietly in the twilight. Although it was late, the smallest, youngest sheep just could not settle down. She could sense that something was going on and she was feeling rather curious.

## **Song 2. SOMETHING'S GOING ON**

**CD track 2/9**

*(The flock of sheep should get more and more irritated with the Curious Sheep as she goes on throughout the song)*

**NARRATOR** Eventually the Curious Sheep managed to settle down, but just as she was starting to feel drowsy, she noticed a man leading a donkey on the road far beneath her.

*Mary, Joseph and the donkey walk slowly backwards and forwards in front of the stage in view of the Curious Sheep.*

**CURIOUS SHEEP** Now that really is curious! I wonder where they are going so late at night.

**NARRATOR** The donkey looked tired and the Curious Sheep could just make out the shape of a young woman sitting on the donkey's back.

**CURIOUS SHEEP** They all look exhausted. I'm sure the others will be interested to see this.

**NARRATOR** But the other sheep were all snoring loudly now (*they snore*) and she thought she'd better not wake them. So the Curious Sheep went back to lie down and watched the couple and their donkey as they made their way along the road far below.

**CURIOUS SHEEP** (*Fidgeting excitedly*) From up here I can see the whole world. There's so much to look at and so much to do. I just can't keep still.

*Mary, Joseph and the donkey stop for a rest at the side of the stage. The sheep yawn and they start to snore even louder than before.*

**NARRATOR** (*Shouting over the sheep's snoring*) To her the world was new and everything was exciting. But the rest of her flock were tired after a long day grazing.

**SHEEP 1** (*To the narrator, crossly*) Can you please be quiet? Some of us are trying to get some rest! (*The snoring stops*)

**NARRATOR** (*In a whisper*) Sorry!

**CURIOUS SHEEP** But I can't go to sleep! What if something exciting happens while my eyes are shut?

**SHEEP 2** (*Irritated*) Nothing is going to happen. Nothing ever happens around here. We eat grass and we sleep. That's what sheep do!

**CURIOUS SHEEP** No! Something exciting is going to happen, I can tell. And I don't want to be snoring when it does!

**WHOLE FLOCK** Just be quiet!

*The Curious Sheep looks dejected and sad.*

**CURIOUS SHEEP** It's no good – I know something exciting is going to happen. I can feel it in my tummy.

*The following song is sung by the choir and by Mary, Joseph and the donkey, who again start to walk backwards and forwards wearily in front of the stage. With each verse they get slower and more weary. The sheep and shepherds doze, all except for the Curious Sheep who looks on, still fidgeting excitedly.*

### **Song 3. HOW MUCH FURTHER TO BETHLEHEM?**

**CD track 3/10**

*Mary, Joseph and the donkey disappear from view.*

**NARRATOR** As the donkey disappeared over the horizon, the Curious Sheep shut her eyes and tried to get to sleep.

**CURIOUS SHEEP** I'm trying my hardest, but it's so difficult! I'm still too excited!

*The Three Wise Men enter, set out a map on the ground and crowd round it, scratching their heads.*