A NOTE ON STAGE DIRECTIONS

Suggestions for stage directions are provided throughout the script, but please note that these are meant as guidelines only. If this is being performed as a whole-school nativity, the ‘Incidental Music’ (CD track 9) can be used when large numbers of children are coming on and going off stage.

The action takes place in the stable, which has been transformed into a dance studio for the evening. Therefore, we suggest that you use some stable props to set the scene (e.g. straw, brooms, buckets, mops etc.) with the addition of glitterballs, tinsel and anything glittery and glitzy! Coloured lights would be fabulous. A table for the judges and three chairs are also needed, along with a set of scorecards from 1-10 for each judge.

THE DANCE COMPETITION

We have intentionally avoided placing the focus on the culmination of the dance competition in this musical as we felt that it could easily distract from the core nativity story and message, and therefore there’s no specific dance winner mentioned. However, we have deliberately left the scoring open so that if you feel it’s appropriate for your production, you can choose to incorporate more of a dance competition result and announce a winner at the end.

INCREASING THE CAST SIZE

There are 21 speaking parts in this nativity musical, but these can easily be increased by:

- splitting the three hosts’ lines between lots of children
- splitting the 3 shepherds’ lines between up to 15 children
- splitting the three innkeepers’ lines between six children, although Innkeeper 1 needs to take all of the lines on page 16.

For increasing the number of non-speaking parts, have as many townspeople, angels, shepherds, sheep, backing singers and innkeepers as you like.

DECREASING THE CAST SIZE

The minimum number of children that you could perform this nativity musical with is 26, but that would require:

- having just two hosts
- having just one floor manager who would also take on the voiceover role
- having just six townspeople who would double up as the kings and camels
- having just two angels, four shepherds and four sheep. These parts would need to double up as the Star, 6 backing singers and 3 innkeepers.