

CHRISTMAS CLOWN

Setting:

- The annual Christmas pageant.
- Manger scene is close to the center of the stage. Mary and Joseph will sit behind the manger. Make sure they can be easily seen. You can use just a manger and a few large rocks.
- Behind the manger is a stool or block for the clown to stand on so that he and the star show above the manger. Disguise it as a rock.
- To the right of the manger is an area for the shepherds to kneel making sure to leave room to see the manger.
- The clown will sometimes stand to the right of the shepherds' area
- Note: there is no curtain even though the actors refer to one. The curtain is imaginary.
- To the left of the manger is an area for the wise men to kneel making sure to leave room to see the manger.
- To the left of the scene is an area with microphone for Mrs Thesbean and the Angel to stand.
- Small angels stand to the back or side wherever there is room for them.

Characters:

- Mrs Thesbean - Church drama coach. Very nice but a little stressed today.
- Clown - Make up must allow for facial expressions to show happiness and sadness. Suit should have room for balloons, balloon pump & flashlight
- Announcer - Must read very clearly. May be offstage or to the side of the scene
- Parts played by children of various ages:
 - Mary
 - Joseph
 - 3 Wise Men
 - Stage hand(s)
 - Shepherds (any number that will fit in the area, assign lines according to the number you have)
 - Angel - one of the older, more outspoken actors, must be a little "bossy"
 - Angels - 4 who speak.
 - Angels - to one side and behind the manger scene

Props:

- Baby Jesus doll
- Manger
- Balloons (3 yellow & others in mixed colors), balloon pump
- Lightweight Flashlight
- Stuffed sheep and shepherd staffs for the shepherds
- Gifts for the wise men to carry
- 2 clip boards

Action:

Mrs Thesbean and the Angel walk on stage (or move out from the rest of the children) together. Each of them is carrying a clipboard.

Mrs Thesbean: Welcome children. I'm so glad you are excited about our program but we need you to settle down and take your places quickly. The curtain is about to go up!

Angel: (Bossy) Right. No more fooling around. It's time to get serious and get it right.

Mrs Thesbean: (Looks at the angel) Thank you, Angel. We **all** want to do a good job so let us begin. (Mary and Joseph go to the manger scene and take their places. The angel and Mrs. Thesbean walk to the edge of the stage area. The other children walk off stage.)

Mrs Thesbean: (to the stage hand) : Time to bring that curtain up.

Angel: Right! It's lights, camera, action time! Stage hand pretends to raise a curtain (pull up on an imaginary rope) and then leaves the area. Mary and Joseph watch the baby, touching him gently and smiling at each other.

Announcer reads: In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth, in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (As reading ends, clown enters from behind the audience and wanders down the aisle toward the manger scene. He smiles and waves at the audience. He pauses in front of the manger scene and expresses surprise and delight. He points to the scene and encourages the audience to look.)

Angel: Psst! Hey you! (Clown looks around trying to see who the angel might be talking to) **You! You in the clown suit.** (Clown looks at his clothing, points to himself and expresses 'who me?' to the angel)

Angel: You don't belong in this scene. (Clown looks bewildered)

Angel: We're waiting for the shepherds. This is a Christmas scene. (Clown gets excited about what he has stumbled into. He dances around, claps and hurries to look at the baby. He slaps Joseph on the back and hugs Mary, dancing her around. Mary and Joseph smile at him but the angel is not smiling!)

Angel: Get out of here! You are **ruining** our play. Go away. **Right now!** (Clown apologetically backs out of the manger scene to the far right. He stays where he can be clearly seen by the audience, standing quietly and watching very intently)

Announcer: And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. Shepherds start in from the left side (they will walk across in front of the scene and end up on the right side). As soon as the first shepherd is near the microphone, he stops, looking at the audience and seeming to be confused.

Shepherd 1: Oh, hi there. (Clown smiles big and waves at him, excited but unnoticed.)

Shepherd 1: (looking at Mrs Thesbean) We forgot our sheep. I'm sorry.

Angel: Quick, somebody, find the sheep. Where are the sheep? (Shepherds lay down their staffs and begin looking for the sheep)

Shepherd 2: (points to the clown) Who's he? (Clown smiles and waves, delighted to be noticed. As the scene continues, clown blows up a white balloon and forms a sheep)

Angel: He's nobody - he just wandered in. Now where are the sheep. We've **got** to have the sheep! (Everyone begins looking around their area for the missing sheep. This continues until clown completes the sheep and takes it to shepherd 1. Clown taps shepherd and tries to give him the sheep.)

Shepherd 3: (Looks at the balloon sheep.) I know you mean well but I can't take a balloon sheep to Baby Jesus. Where did you come from and what are you doing in our manger scene? (Clown stuffs sheep into his costume and looks dejected)

Angel: I told you, he just wandered in.

Shepherd 2: I hope he wanders out. He's going to spoil everything. (Clown sadly walks back to his spot at the side of the scene. He scuffs his feet and looks upset for a minute but when the action begins again he perks up and watches in delight)

(Angels 2, 3, 4 & 5 come on stage arms loaded with stuffed sheep. They distribute the sheep to the shepherds as they speak.)

Angel 2: We found them.

Angel 3: Here they are!

Angel 4: Can't have Christmas without sheep

Angel 5: That's right. Sheep, shepherds and ... (looks at other angels) All angels together: most of all angels! (Clown jumps up and down in delight and points to the sheep!)

Away In A Manger.

During the song this action takes place: (Shepherds all go back to the edge of the scene, pick up their staves, etc, and come on as the music begins. Singing, they each walk to the manger, peer into it and then kneel before it.) (Clown slowly wanders nearer the manger scene as the shepherds sing. He is caught up in the moment and joins the shepherds in kneeling at the manger)

Shepherd 1: (Looking at the clown) **Not again!** Hey, buddy -- what are you doing here? You don't belong here!

Shepherd 2: Get lost! The wise men will be here any minute and you are messing up our play. (Clown sadly returns to his place at the side of the scene)

Shepherd 3: I hope those wise men get here soon, my knee is really getting tired.

Angel: (to Mrs Thesbean) The wise men are late. What's keeping them? They've got to get here with the gifts for Baby Jesus.

Mrs Thesbean: Calm down. You stand here and smile and I'll see what is keeping them. Perhaps a bit of music would help.

Angel: Stand here and smile! Oh, sure! I'm supposed to smile while there are **no** wise men and **no** gifts for Baby Jesus! What a mess!

Piano plays We Three Kings here but the children do not sing this time through. (Clown is delighted to have a way to help! He blows up a bright, kingly colored balloon, forms a turban for himself, pulls the sheep out of his costume (for a gift) and walks in a kingly manner toward the manger where he presents the gift to Baby Jesus)

Shepherd 1: Hey! What is with this nut? What is he doing now? **Angel:** Hey you! (Clown looks around)

Angel: You in the clown suit **Clown:** (motions 'you mean me?').

Angel: Yes, **you!** Get out of the scene. You don't look like a shepherd and you **sure** don't look like a wise man! Get out now! (Clown starts to pick up his 'gift' but Mary takes it and places it in the manger with Jesus. Clown smiles at her, tips his turban, and then walks sadly back to his place)

Angel: If those wise men don't get here soon -- Oh no!

Shepherd 2: Oh, no, what?

Angel: Oh, no star! I forgot it!

Shepherd 3: Forgot the star?

Shepherd 1: (rises stiffly) Those guys may be wise, but they'll never find their way without the star. (Clown (unnoticed by the cast) motions that he has an idea. He shows his excitement and then begins blowing up 3 bright yellow balloons. He twists the balloons into a six pointed star and brings it toward the angel)

Shepherd 2: Not again! Look fella, why don't you just go back where you came from. No one needs a clown around here. The only thing we need is a star. (Clown jumps up and down pointing to the star he has made and then pointing to the area over the manger)

Angel: A star! It's a star! Here, give it to me. (Clown refuses. Instead he walks to the area behind the manger and holds the star over Baby Jesus)

Shepherd 3: Hey, that's a nice star. (Clown smiles)

Shepherd 1: Yeah, but does he have to hold it. He looks weird.

Mary: I think he looks just fine. He has offered himself willingly -- and I for one, am grateful.

Joseph: (speaking to the clown) Me too! (Clown smiles and holds the star very high. Then he pulls a flashlight from his pocket, turns it on, points it toward the star and hands it to Joseph to hold in position.) (Children sing We Three Kings as the wise men come toward the area)

Wise Man 1: Greetings! (Cast smiles and nods toward the wise men. Clown waves excitedly. Motions for the wise men to come look at the baby.)

Wise Man 2: Sorry we're late, but we got lost. I thought that star **never** would come out!

Wise Man 3: It is a good star, though. Once we spotted it, the way was easy. (Clown smiles and looks very proud)

Angel: (speaking to the clown) I never thought I'd say this to you, but "thanks". Now everybody, get in place for the final song.

Mrs Thesbean: (walking on stage) I can't find that star anywhere (stops and looks). Well, it looks like everything is under control here. What happened? Where did you find a star?

Angel: Long story - let's just sing. Do You Hear What I Hear (After the song, the cast files out with music playing in the background. Mrs Thesbean and the angel go first, the wise men follow, the shepherds are next. After that, Mary and Joseph pick up the baby and start out. Clown is left holding the star. He realizes the play is over and lays the star to the side. He hugs himself and looks to heaven thankful that he had a part in the play. Mary and Joseph stop remembering the clown. Mary turns toward him. Clown waves.)

Mary: Would you like to carry the baby? (Overjoyed, clown hurries to them and Mary hands him the baby. She and Joseph each place an arm around the clown as they exit up the center aisle)

Announcer: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was Life, and that Life was the Light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it... He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God -- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”