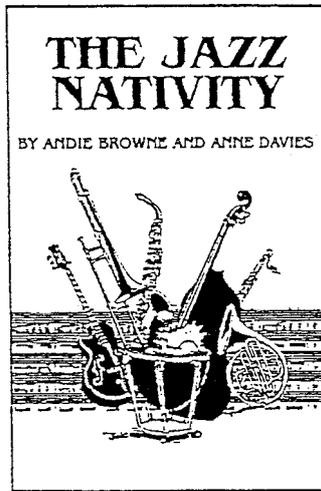


The Jazz Nativity



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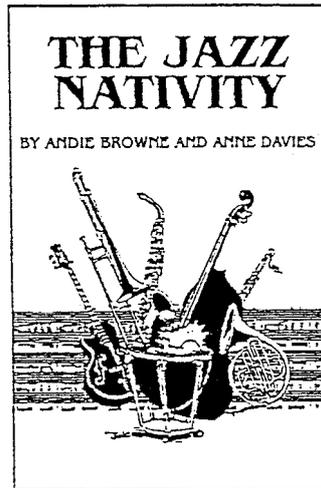
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THE JAZZ NATIVITY

a musical

by Andie Browne & Anne Davies



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PRODUCTION NOTES

SYNOPSIS

MUM is preparing Christmas dinner, but the oven has gone out and the turkey isn't done, the salads are getting warm, the gravy's getting cold, the pudding's too thin and, to top it off, there are lumps in the custard. A disaster of a Christmas lunch and the family all starving. MUM wonders if Christmas is more trouble than it's worth.

EMILY and SIMON feel bad for her. She tells them not to be too concerned, because Christmas is always worth the effort. But, she reminds them, it's about more than just presents and too much eating and drinking. It's also about the greatest story ever told.

UNCLE PETER wanders into the kitchen and hears them all talking about the first Christmas. They ask how it all started and UNCLE says that it began with the announcement to Mary that she was to be the Mother of Christ.

GABRIEL and a chorus of ANGELS enter and sing a soul-styled *I Bring Good News*, exiting after the song.

AUNTIE CASSIE (a keen aerobics/fitness fan) enters from her morning jog and continues the story, telling them that Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth with the news. A chorus of BIBLICAL FOLK (including MARY, ELIZABETH, JOSEPH & DONKEY) enter and sing the disco-styled *And Mary Said*, while dancing *The Nutbush*. They Exit.

GRANNY now takes up the story, telling the kids about the trip to Bethlehem. A chorus of TRAVELLERS appears and sings the reflective *We Are All Travellers*.

DAD imagines that the INNKEEPER might have been a bit like Elvis (his hero). The INNKEEPER and FAMILY & GUESTS enter and sing to MARY, JOSEPH & DONKEY, a rock 'n' roll *No Room Here*.

Older brother MATT, a reggae fan, arrives with his friend MARTY, a rap fan. MARTY is unable to have Christmas dinner with his parents, who are stranded in the country with a broken-down car and are unable to find plane or train tickets. He is welcomed in to the family. MATT tells the next part of the story. A chorus of STABLE ANIMALS perform the calypso/reggae flavoured *Show Us the Way*.

MARTY continues the story and a chorus of SHEPHERDS perform the SHEPHERD'S RAP.

Older sister KIMBERLY (country & western fan), who has been practising her guitar, enters the kitchen. She picks up the story where the three Wise Men come in. The family reluctantly agree to hear her sing a C & W song about the star. A chorus of BIBLICAL COUNTRY & WESTERN CHARACTERS enter and join her in *The Guiding Star*.

Finally, lunch is ready and all sing *Come and See*.

TIME

Australia, present day ... and Jerusalem ... the birth of Christ.

STAGING

The *modern day* parts of the play take place in front of the closed curtain. The stage (front of curtain) can be bare with different parts of the house being suggested by a few props brought on and off P.S. and O.P.

The songs are performed on the main part of the stage behind the open curtain to give the illusion of the modern day actors and audience "looking into the past". Different scenery panels can be lowered for each song to provide some background (*if desired*).

The last song "**Come and See**" brings together past and present. Modern day actors sing the first verse in front of the closed curtain, then the curtain opens to reveal the entire cast who sing verses 2 and 3 and the Finale.

CAST

(MODERN DAY)

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| EMILY: | Typical 10 year old girl |
| SIMON: | Typical 10 year old boy |
| MUM: | Middle aged, kind and caring |
| UNCLE PETER: | Lovable Irish priest /minister with a twinkle in his eye |
| AUNTIE CASSIE: | Young trendy, sporty aerobics fan |
| DAD: | Middle aged rocker, a devoted fan of Elvis |
| GRANNY: | Kindly, elderly citizen |
| MATT: | Older teenage brother of Simon and Emily Environmentalist and reggae fan |
| MARTY: | Matt's best friend and rap fan |
| KIMBERLEY: | Older teenage sister of Simon and Emily. Plays guitar and is devoted Country and Western fan |

(BIBLICAL)

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| GABRIEL: | Flamboyant angel sent to tell Mary the good news |
| MARY & JOSEPH: | Husband and wife |
| DONKEY: | Loyal and faithful |
| ELIZABETH: | Mary's cousin |
| INNKEEPER: | Showy Elvis-type |
| INNKEEPER'S WIFE | |
| RAP ANGEL: | Trendy angel sent to tell the shepherds the good news |
| 3 WISE MEN: | Three men from the east, richly dressed who have been guided by the star |

PLUS

ANGELS, BIBLICAL CHARACTERS, ROCKERS, STABLE ANIMALS, SHEPHERDS AND
BACKSTAGE CREWS STATIONED O.P. AND P.S.

PROPS

(In order of usage)

Small kitchen table covered with gingham cloth, a few mixing bowls, wooden spoon, tea towel (for *Mum*)
Walkman and headphones, towel (for *Auntie Cassie*)
Sofa, comic (for *Granny*)
Mock hand-held microphone (for *Innkeeper*)
Manger and hay (in *Stable*)
Chair, guitar (for *Kimberley*)
Gifts - "gold, frankincense and myrrh", 3 camels - like hobby horses (for *3 Wise Men*)

SONGS AND MUSIC

Song: I Bring Good News
Song: And Mary Said
Song: We are All Travellers
Song: No Room Here
Song: Show Us The Way
Song: Shepherds' Rap
Song: The Guiding Star
Song: Come and See
Song: Finale

COSTUMING

Here are a few simple suggestions:

MODERN DAY CHARACTERS

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| EMILY: | |
| SIMON: | typical 10 year old modern fashions |
| MUM: | jeans, blouse, apron |
| UNCLE: | priest/minister “off-duty” garb - black pants, white shirt, “dog collar” or gold crosses on collar |
| AUNTIE: | lycra leotards and leggings, sweatbands *tracksuit for last song and Finale |
| GRANNY: | longer skirt, blouse, cardigan, lace-up shoes |
| DAD: | stove pipe jeans, denim shirt, pointy boots under jeans, slicked back hair (a la Elvis in his heyday) |
| MATT: | (reggae fan) colourful Hawaiian type shirt, jeans, sandals, “dreadlocked” hair with headband |
| MARTY: | (rapper) over-sized long shorts and T-shirt, peaked cap, basketball shoes |
| KIMBERLEY: | jeans, gingham blouse, hairband or hair in high pony tail |

BIBLICAL CHARACTERS

| | |
|--|--|
| GABRIEL: | long flowing white robe with glitzy wings |
| ANGELS: | as for Gabriel in any plain pastel colour |
| MARY: | white or blue robe with veil and cape |
| JOSEPH: | any dark robe with draped robe over one shoulder in any contrasting colour, draped head-dress secured with cord around head |
| DONKEY: | brown or grey tracksuit, papier-mache donkey head or mask |
| ELIZABETH: | similar to Mary but in different colours |
| BIBLICAL FOLK: TRAVELLERS: INN GUESTS: INN-KEEPER’S WIFE: | as for Joseph and Mary in various colour combinations |
| INN-KEEPER: | ritzy, jazzy version of above, maybe with sequinned cape |
| STABLE ANIMALS: | grey, white, brown or black tracksuits (depending on animal) with appropriate half-mask and ears etc |
| SHEPHERDS: | biblical robes with “rap” peaked caps over draped headdress |
| RAP ANGELS: | white overalls (disposable), white peaked caps, white runners |
| CHIEF RAP ANGEL: | white disposable overalls sprayed with silver and sequinned peak cap |
| BIBLICAL C&W: | biblical garb as for other biblical chorus, but with stetson on top of draped headdress for boys and coloured kerchief around neck for girls |
| THREE WISE MEN: | rich looking long robes and capes with braid and/or jewels and crowns |

JAZZ NATIVITY

FRONT OF CURTAIN

MUM IS PREPARING CHRISTMAS DINNER P.S. AT A TABLE COVERED WITH GINGHAM CLOTH AND WITH BOWLS ON IT. SHE'S OBVIOUSLY VERY FLUSTERED. SHE HAS A TEA TOWEL OVER ONE SHOULDER AND IS USING A MIXING BOWL. SIMON AND EMILY ENTER O.P. AND CHASE EACH OTHER AROUND THE STAGE. THEY BUMP INTO MUM

MUM: (*flustered*) Look kids, I'm a bit busy at the moment, everyone's here for lunch. I don't need you making things more difficult.

EMILY: (*whining*) When's lunch going to be ready?

SIMON: (*rubbing stomach pleadingly*) I'm STARVING Mum!

MUM: (*in exasperation*) I know kids, but the oven went out, so the turkey's not ready, the salad's getting hot, the gravy's getting cold and to top it all off, the pudding's too thin and I've got LUMPS IN MY CUSTARD! (*wipes brow with teatowel*) I don't know, sometimes it seems Christmas is more trouble than it's worth.

KIDS LOOK CRUSHED

EMILY: (*dejectedly*) Gosh Mum, do you really mean that?

MUM: (*softening and patting Emily's shoulder*) No, Emily, of course I don't mean that at all....Christmas is a VERY special time and we must never forget why.

SIMON: What do you mean Mum?

MUM: Well Simon, Christmas isn't just about presents and eating too much and drinking. (*kids look at each other in surprise.*)

SIMON & EMILY: (*in unison, scratching heads*) Isn't it?

UNCLE PETER ENTERS O.P. SNIFFING THE AIR

MUM: No, Christmas is about the greatest story ever told.

SIMON: (*interested*) What's that Mum?

EMILY: (*curiously*) What story Mum?

MUM WIPES HANDS ON TEATOWEL AS SHE OPENS HER MOUTH TO ANSWER BUT IS INTERRUPTED BY UNCLE

UNCLE: (*still sniffing*) Something smells great. How's that Christmas dinner coming on, Maggie?

EMILY RUNS OVER TO UNCLE WHILE SIMON STARTS TO WALK CASUALLY TO HIM

EMILY: (*excitedly*) Uncle Peter, did you know that Christmas isn't just about getting presents and eating and drinking too much?

UNCLE: (*pretending to look surprised*) Good heavens! Isn't it?!

MUM: PETER!

UNCLE: Of course. . . I was only pulling your leg.

KIDS LOOK AT MUM'S LEG AND SHRUG SHOULDERS

MUM: Yes, I was just telling the kids that sometimes we get caught up with all the trimmings and it's so easy to forget that very FIRST Christmas.

UNCLE: You're absolutely right Maggie.

SIMON: (*curiously*) So how does this great story start?

UNCLE: There's no better place to start than at the very beginning.

STROLLS TO O.P. AND SIMON AND EMILY FOLLOW BEHIND. MUM EXITS P.S.

P.S. CREW REMOVE TABLE

UNCLE: You know that Jesus was born on Christmas day...

SIMON & EMILY: (*in unison, slowly nodding*) Yees...

UNCLE: And you know that Mary was his mother ...

SIMON & EMILY: (*in unison, slowly nodding*) Yees.....

UNCLE: (*dramatically*) It all started "when the angel of the Lord declared unto Mary" that she was to be the MOTHER OF CHRIST.

SIMON & EMILY: (*looking at each other*) Huh?

UNCLE: (*getting carried away, gazing into distance*) YES! I can see it all now!

CURTAIN STARTS TO OPEN. STAGE FULLY LIT

UNCLE: The Angel Gabriel bringing the good news to Mary!

UNCLE IS REALLY HAMMING IT UP, GAZING INTO THE DISTANCE (I.E. AUDIENCE). THE KIDS ARE STRAINING TO SEE WHAT HE'S LOOKING AT. EMILY NOTICES OPEN CURTAIN WITH MULTITUDE OF ANGELS AND NUDGES SIMON WHO ALSO NOTICES THEM. THEY MOVE TO O.P. UNCLE IS LEFT ALONE, STILL LOOKING INTO THE DISTANCE, FINALLY NOTICES WHAT IS HAPPENING ON STAGE, LOOKS EMBARRASSED AND SLINKS OVER TO O.P. TO JOIN KIDS. THEY SIT AT EXTREME O.P. WHILE SONG IS BEING PERFORMED

SONG - I BRING GOOD NEWS

GABRIEL AND ANGELS PERFORM SONG

SONG ENDS

CURTAINS CLOSE. EMILY AND SIMON WALK BACK TO CENTRE STAGE AND UNCLE FOLLOWS, STANDING NEXT TO SIMON

EMILY: Wow! So THAT'S how Mary was told she was going to be the mother of Jesus. How EXCITING!

UNCLE: Yes, it WOULD have been exciting, but as you can imagine, it was a BIG decision for Mary to make. Luckily for us, she said "Yes".

AUNTIE CASSIE JOGS IN FROM P.S. AND STOPS AT P.S. SIDE OF CENTRE. SHE IS WEARING A SWEATBAND, TOWEL AROUND NECK AND A WALKMAN. SHE STARTS DOING SOME STRETCHES. SIMON AND EMILY HAVEN'T NOTICED HER YET

SIMON: *(spreading hands questioningly)* So what happened next?

EMILY: *(nodding)* Yeah, what happened then?

SIMON: *(putting hand on Uncle's shoulder)* Come on, tell us.

UNCLE: *(looks over and notices Auntie)* Perhaps your Auntie Cassie might like to continue the story; when she gets her breath back. *(kids run up to Auntie and start talking at her)*

SIMON & EMILY: *(in unison, hopping excitedly on the spot)* Can you tell us what happened next?

CASSIE: *(taking her headphones out)* What was that? I didn't catch what you were saying.

UNCLE: I just suggested that you might like to continue the kids' story.

CASSIE: (*looking puzzled*) What story is that?

SIMON: The story of Christmas.

CASSIE: Really? I LOVE Christmas! All those presents, not to mention the FOOD and DRINK! You know that I can always fit in an extra helping of your mum's Christmas pudding! (*hands on hips, indicating waistline*) And seeing as I've been for a jog, I might even fit in THREE helpings! Oh I just love Christmas!

CASSIE CONTINUES WITH HER SIDE STRETCHES AND LOOKS PRE-OCCUPIED. WHILE THE KIDS ARE TALKING TO HER THEY TRY TO DO THE STRETCHES IN TIME WITH HER TO TRY TO GET HER ATTENTION. UNCLE LOOKS ON, AMUSED

EMILY: (*still stretching and a bit out of breath*) But Auntie Cassie, we've been talking about the real meaning of Christmas.

CASSIE: (*Still stretching*) Mm hmm?

SIMON: (*stretching and puffing*) Yeah, we've just heard about how Mary was told she was to become the Mother of Jesus.

CASSIE: (*Still stretching*) Mmm... hmm...? One...Two...Three...

SIMON AND EMILY STOP SUDDENLY, PUT THEIR HANDS ON THEIR HIPS IMPATIENTLY

SIMON & EMILY: AUNTIE CASSIE!

CASSIE: (*Stops suddenly*) MMMMMM?

EMILY: (*pointing to her own ear*) Are you LISTENING?

CASSIE: (*a bit ashamed*) Oh, sorry kids. (*brightly*) What were you saying?

SIMON: We want to know what happened after the ANGEL had been.

CASSIE: (*puzzled*) WHAT angel?

EMILY: (*speaking slowly and trying to be patient*) The angel GABRIEL. You know, the one who visited Mary and brought her the Good News.

CASSIE: (*nodding in understanding*) Aahh. . . So you've been talking about the story of the very first Christmas.

SIMON: Yes! And wasn't it great that Mary said YES!

CASSIE: It sure was. (*starts to pat face with towel*) Are you wanting to know what happened next?

SIMON & EMILY: (*in unison, clenching fists in excitement etc.*) YES PLEASE!

UNCLE: (*interrupting*) I'll leave it to you then Cassie. I'll see if Maggie needs a hand setting the table.

UNCLE EXITS O.P. SIMON AND EMILY WATCH HIM LEAVE WHILE CASSIE IS STILL PATTING HER FOREHEAD, FACE AND BACK OF NECK WITH TOWEL

SIMON: (*turning to Cassie*) So what happened then?

EMILY: (*also turning back to Cassie*) Yeah, what did Mary do when she found out?

CASSIE: (*smugly*) Well..... (*starts to walk to P.S.*) She did what any other red blooded woman with a secret would do.

SIMON & EMILY: (*excitedly*) And what's THAT?

CASSIE: (*spreading out hands*) She went and told ANOTHER WOMAN of course!

SIMON: (*leaping towards Cassie*) Who did she tell?

EMILY: (*striking a thinking pose and obviously deep in thought*) Hang on, I think I read about this. Didn't she and her husband.... (*wagging finger*) now what was his name? (*snaps fingers*) Joseph! (*looking at Cassie*) Didn't they go and visit her cousin Elizabeth?

CASSIE: (*nodding*) They sure did.

SIMON: (*excitedly*) So it was ELIZABETH she told.

CASSIE: (*still nodding in satisfaction*) That's right.

EMILY: What did she SAY?

CASSIE: (*smugly*) Well, actually, Elizabeth had some pretty exciting news of her own.

SIMON: (*jumping up and down*) WHICH WAS?

CASSIE: (*holding up index finger*) Just a minute, I'll get rid of this gear (*walks towards P.S. and puts down towel and walkman*) and I'll tell you what I think might have happened.

**KIDS QUICKLY FOLLOW HER TO EXTREME P.S.
CURTAIN OPENS STAGE FULLY LIT**

SONG - AND MARY SAID

BIBLICAL FOLK PERFORM SONG. ELIZABETH AND MARY CAN DANCE. JOSEPH AND DONKEY WATCH AT P.S.

SONG ENDS

CURTAIN CLOSES. O.P. CREW MOVE SOFA ONTO O.P. FRONT OF CURTAIN. GRANNY SITS ON SOFA, READING A COMIC. SPOT ON SIMON AND EMILY AS THEY WALK BACK TOWARDS P.S. SIDE OF CENTRE OF STAGE, PEERING AT CLOSED CURTAIN. CASSIE FOLLOWS AND THEN LOOKS AT HER WATCH

CASSIE: Okay kids, I have to go and have a shower before lunch.

SPOT STILL ON KIDS. GRANNY HAS NOT BEEN NOTICED

SIMON: (*pleading*) But we want to know more.

EMILY: What did Mary and Joseph do then?

CASSIE: (*looking at watch again*) Sorry kidsI.....(*notices Granny*) Oh look! There's Granny! I bet she could tell you a thing or two about what REALLY happened.

**SIMON &
EMILY:** Okay, thanks heaps!

KIDS BOUND UP TO GRANNY. CASSIE JOGS OFF P.S. GRANNY CONTINUES TO READ COMIC, GIGGLING AND CHORTLING

SIMON: (*loudly and excitedly*) GRANNY! GRANNY! THERE'S SOMETHING WE NEED TO KNOW!

GRANNY LOOKS UP FROM COMIC, STARTLED

GRANNY: What, it's going to SNOW? (*looks up at sky and holds out hand*)

EMILY: (*patiently but loudly*) GRANNY....IT'S THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER!

GRANNY: (*confused*) Who needs a PLUMBER?

SIMON: (*gently*) Granny, turn your hearing aid back ON.

GRANNY: (*delightedly*) You've made some SCONES? Oh, yes please, I'LL have some.

SIMON: Here, let me help you. (*he adjusts her hearing aid*)

- GRANNY:** (*patting her ear and smiling At Simon*) Thankyou dear. Now, what's that you were saying about scones?
- EMILY:** Granny, we're learning about the real story of Christmas.
- SIMON:** We've heard about how exciting it was when Mary found out her good news and how she couldn't wait to tell her cousin Elizabeth.
- GRANNY:** (*smiling at kids*) Oh yes.
- EMILY:** And how ELIZABETH was going to have a baby TOO!
- GRANNY:** (*nodding and smiling*) Of course, John the Baptist. He was a very special cousin of Jesus. . . But maybe I can tell you more about John another time. You really want to know about what happened AFTER Mary visited Elizabeth.
- EMILY:** (*clasping hands, gazing out to audience and sighing*) It's GREAT hearing such a happy story... everything sounds so WONDERFUL!
- SIMON:** (*to Granny*) So what can you tell us?
- GRANNY:** Well, unfortunately there's a sad part to the story.
- SIMON & EMILY:** (*in unison, aghast*) WHAAAAAT?
- GRANNY:** (*sadly*) Things were a bit difficult for Mary and Joseph. They were told they had to return to Joseph's home town, and there was a long trip ahead of them
- SIMON:** (*shrugging*) So what's wrong with that? We have GREAT fun on our holidays!
- GRANNY:** Well, Mary was just about to have her little baby and in those days it wasn't easy being a traveller.
- EMILY:** (*puzzled*) Why not, Granny?
- GRANNY:** There were no cars or buses, trains or planes back then.
- SIMON:** (*taken aback*) How did they travel then?
- GRANNY:** They had to pack up their belongings and travel on the back of a donkey.
- EMILY:** It would have taken so long to get anywhere.
- GRANNY:** That's right. . .and they didn't really know what was going to happen when they got there.
- SIMON:** Boy, it doesn't sound like much of a holiday to me.

GRANNY: (*nodding*) You're right, Simon, being a traveller isn't always easy.

CURTAIN OPENS. SIMON AND EMILY SIT ON FLOOR TO THE O.P. SIDE OF GRANNY

SONG - WE ARE ALL TRAVELLERS

TRAVELLERS PERFORM SONG

**SONG ENDS
CURTAINS CLOSE**

SIMON: (*shaking head sadly*) So what happened when Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem?

WHILE SIMON IS TALKING, DAD ENTERS P.S. AND WALKS ACROSS STAGE TOWARDS GRANNY. SHE IS LOOKING AT THE KIDS AND DOESN'T SEE HIM

EMILY: Did everything work out for them?

GRANNY: Now THAT'S a very interesting part of the story.

DAD COMES UP CLOSE TO GRANNY AND SHOUTS IN HER LEFT EAR

DAD: (*slowly and deliberately*) HOW ARE YOU GOING THERE GRANNY?!

GRANNY RECOILS AND SIMON AND EMILY TRY TO SIGNAL TO DAD THAT THE HEARING AID IS ON. HE DOESN'T NOTICE

DAD: (*still speaking loudly and deliberately*) THE KIDS AREN'T TIRING YOU OUT TOO MUCH I HOPE!

GRANNY: (*crossly rubbing ear*) I'm not DEAF you know!

DAD: (*a little embarrassed*) Sorry Gran, I didn't realise your hearing aid was on. You usually have it OFF when the family's around. (*everyone laughs*)

GRANNY: (*slyly*) Well actually Frank, I only turn it off when you play that rock and roll stuff... what's his name? Elvis PARSLEY? (*Simon and Emily laugh*)

DAD: (*a little annoyed*) Elvis PRESLEY, Gran! The King of Rock and Roll! (*kids and Granny roll their eyes*) Anyway, what are you all up to?

SIMON: We were just going to hear what happened to Mary and Joseph.

DAD: (*confused*) Mary ...? Joseph...?

- EMILY:** Yes, Yes, in BETHLEHEM.
- SIMON:** You know Dad, the story of Christmas.
- DAD:** (*nodding*) Now I understand. (*pointing at Simon and Emily*) You mean the story about the very FIRST Christmas.
- GRANNY:** That's right Frank. Remember Mary and Joseph had arrived in Bethlehem and were looking for somewhere to go.
- DAD:** (*nodding in agreement*) Yes, it was very crowded wasn't it, because everyone had returned to their home town.
- EMILY:** (*surprised*) Why?
- DAD:** There was a new law that everyone had to go home to be registered. You know ...like when your teacher marks the roll at school to see who's there and who's away.
- EMILY:** (*shrugging shoulders*) Well, what was the problem?
- DAD:** There was NOWHERE for Mary and Joseph to stay in Bethlehem.
- SIMON:** Couldn't they have just booked into a MOTEL? (*good natured laughter between Dad and Granny.*)
- DAD:** Ah, if only it was that simple. It was like trying to get a room in Melbourne on GRAND FINAL weekend! The innkeeper couldn't give them a room. The inn was already FULL.
- SIMON:** (*crossly*) Well that was pretty mean - he could have done something!
- EMILY:** (*upset*) Couldn't he see that Mary was about to have a baby?!
- DAD:** It was a bit hard for the innkeeper too, you know.
- EMILY:** Why?
- SIMON:** (*scoffing*) How would YOU know Dad? YOU weren't there when he was turning Mary and Joseph away.
- DAD CROSSES IN FRONT OF GRANNY AND SITS NEXT TO HER**
- DAD:** (*smugly*) Well, I imagine he was a bit like Elvis - you know, "CAUGHT IN A TRAP" and "ALL SHOOK UP"!
- SIMON & EMILY:** (*in unison*) Huh?

**GRANNY CHUCKLES AND PATS DAD ON KNEE
CURTAIN OPENS**

SONG - NO ROOM HERE

**INNKEEPER, INNKEEPER'S FAMILY AND GUESTS PERFORM SONG.
MARY, JOSEPH AND DONKEY WATCH AT P.S.**

SONG ENDS.

CURTAIN CLOSES. MATT ENTERS P.S. STOPS AT CENTRE STAGE

MATT: *(to others on stage)* Hey man. What's doin'?

**GRANNY
KIDS**

DAD: *(looking across stage)* Hi Matt.

GRANNY: Matt, why do you always have to wear those dark glasses inside?

MATT: All the better to see you with Granny. *(general laughter)*

GRANNY: *(laughing)* Oh, get AWAY with you!

DAD: What have you been doing this morning Matt?

MATT: I just went to see if my mate Marty wanted to come for Christmas dinner.

EMILY: *(surprised)* Why isn't he having it with his parents?

MATT: 'Cause they were on holidays and their car broke down, so they won't make it back in time.

DAD: Cars! Donkeys are probably more reliable! *(laughter as Matt looks puzzled)*

MATT: Yeah . . . and they couldn't get a seat on a plane or train, 'cause you know what Christmas is like - everything's booked out.

SIMON: Sounds like Bethlehem on Christmas Eve! *(more laughter as Matt looks even more puzzled and scratches head)*

MATT: So anyway, I thought it'd be cool if he came and ate with us.

GRANNY: That's a lovely idea Matt. Christmas IS a time for sharing.

DAD STANDS UP

DAD: Good on you, Matt. Well Gran, how would you like a little pre-dinner sherry?