**Olde Towne Christmas – Redux**

11/2/2014 Update

Cast:

(Vignette Speakers and Millers)

Z and Lizzy – Zechariah and Elizabeth

Moe and Milly – Innkeeper and his wife

Shepherd – A shepherd who saw the angelic company

Musician – Playing happy Jewish tunes

(Milling and Speaking)

General Townspeople

Blacksmith / Pottery-makers / Basket-weavers

Stone-cutters / Thatched roof-floor construction

Bankers / Bakers / Mercantile Store owners

Fishermen / Ranchers / Farmers

Flashmob (Singers)

(Multi-generational/Multi-ethnic/multi-gender singers)

(These may double in other cast roles)

(A song at :00 and :30)(May rotate tunes)

Potential tunes:

Joy to the World
Hark the Harold Angels Sing

(One More)

Begin with solo on first phrase, duet on second phrase, fuller duet for remainder of verse and 1st chorus, and then full parts on second verse and chorus. Repeat progression with 2nd and 3rd tunes starting with different folks.

Mary/Joseph and child are set-apart in a manger scene near Murphy Road, outside the sanctuary. The sanctuary houses the city and all activity. Characters and visitors periodically exit through prayer garden to visit the manger. Recorded audio reading of Luke’s account is playing continually at the manger.

All cast mill and mix with visitors in central city marketplace in the main sanctuary.

Speakers give 3-5 minute vignettes every 8 minutes. Beginning anywhere in the city and ending with their gospel presentation near front center. They may then exit to visit the manger.

A ram’s horn (or similar sound) may be used to trigger a vignette start. All mill and remain in character at all times.

Include elsewhere a zone for kids’ crafts and kid Christmas movies and a zone for traditional Christmas films/shows. There may also be a tree in the center of the city with kids activities surrounding it.

**Olde Towne Christmas - Redux**

**Scripts**

**Motel Moe and Motel Millie**

MOTEL MOE BEGINS THE SCENE WALKING AHEAD OF HIS WIFE MILLIE WHILE DISCUSSING A RECENT ENCOUNTER AT THE CITY GATE.

**Motel Moe:**

(SOUNDS LIKE MIRACLE MAX FROM ‘PRINCESS BRIDE’) I'm telling you, Millie, I was just standing there at the city gate trying to sift through the riff-raff to find the best guests for our Inn. There were people everywhere!

**Motel Millie:**

 (SOUNDS LIKE MIRACLE MAX'S WIFE FROM 'PRINCESS BRIDE') But why talk to the shepherd?! They always pay in mutton, and our customers are sick of mutton!

**Motel Moe:**

But it was not just any shepherd, Millie. It was Frank - you know, Sheep Guy. So he comes up and says, 'Moe, we need to talk.' And I said, 'Sheep guy! I haven't seen you for weeks. Seems like the last time was when your sheep got stuck in a briar patch and by the time we chased it out, it was wearing a sweater.' He didn't laugh.

**Motel Millie:**

Because it's not funny…Now get back to that gate and watch for camels and listen for clinking gold coins. Those are the customers that we want.

**Motel Moe:**

Anyways, So Frank says to me, he says, 'Moe, something has gone down and I need to know where. Apparently a baby was born here recently who will become a King.’

**Motel Millie:**

(WITH A LOOK OF SURPRISE) You mean one of the Goldberg triplets?!?! I thought they were destined to build highly complex yet useless machines, not be kings.

**Motel Moe:**

No, no, no…he said a single child kept in swaddling clothes. I thought that sounded like the Seinfelds. They’re always joking around with new words, like (FUNNY VOICE OF SARCASM) ‘That onesie makes him look like he’s waddling…You know…swaddling’.

**Motel Millie:**

I just can't see a Seinfeld as king. A court jester, yes, but not a king…

**Motel Moe:**

(VERY SERIOUSLY.) But get this Millie, then Frank said that the child, a Savior…A King…, was to be born in a manger. (SLIGHT PAUSE) Frank wouldn't come up with that on his own…he said an angel told him…

**Motel Millie:**

(A LOOK OF SHOCK) You don't mean…OUR manger?!?! That poor couple that you sent to the stable?...Moe, how could you…A King…

**Motel Moe:**

(FEELING BLAME) Listen, I take good care of our customers. I give them a good place to sleep and a good meal.

You know, every time they order a new census, there is no way that we can support all the visitors…That's why I stand at the city gate and filter the travelers…

This young couple came here, to the Inn, really late last night, while you were preparing for breakfast. No relatives. Tired. Nowhere to go…All I had was the barn. It was clean, dry, and warm. I had nothing else…I gave all that I had, Millie…

Apparently she had the baby during the night…a quiet, secluded space…away from the hustle and bustle of the city proper. That must be the child…How could I have known…?

**Motel Millie:**

(COMFORTINGLY) You couldn't have known then, but what is important is what you do now that you know. How will you choose to respond now that you know this child is the prophesied King of Kings?

**Motel Moe:**

Millie! You are so right! God doesn't care what

we are like before we know him, but once we

do know Him, he wants us to pursue Him and

learn the truth about Him.

MOE AND MILLIE MOVE TO THE MANGER SCENE TO WORSHIP THE CHILD.

**Zechariah and Elizabeth**

ELIZABETH LEADS THE COUPLE IN WHILE EXPOUNDING ON THE AMAZINGNESS OF THE PAST YEAR.

**Lizzy:**

I cannot believe that this all began just over a year ago when you, 'Zechariah the Levite', were in the Temple doing your priestly duty, burning incense. Then the angel Gabriel appeared at the right side of the altar and said your prayers for a son were answered. Right?

Z OPENS HIS MOUTH, BUT LIZZY CONTINUES BEFORE HE CAN SPEAK.

And then when you said, “How can this be?” And your voice was taken because you questioned God’s power. Do you remember that?

Z OPENS HIS MOUTH, BUT LIZZY CONTINUES BEFORE HE CAN SPEAK.

I thought you were joking at first, with all the poor attempts at sign language. What did you do for 'Temple' again?

Z PERFORMS A SERIES OF UNDECIPHERABLE SIGNS.

Yeah. It took a while to get that part figured out. Anyway, God's humor is certainly evident here; why he took away the voice of the worst charade player in all Israel!!(Lizzy laughs.)

Z TRIES TO SPEAK IN DEFENSE, BUT LIZZY CONTINUES.

But we got through that. And remember the great news from Mary 6 months later?

Z TRIES TO SPEAK, BUT LIZZY CONTINUES.

When she came for a visit, our child leapt with joy inside me!

At the time we thought it just a strange coincidence, but then she told us of her visit from an angel. Remember?

Z TRIES TO SPEAK, BUT LIZZY CONTINUES.

Then, finally, the day of our boy's birth. Gabriel had told Z to call him John, so Z wrote that on a tablet, and then his voice was restored! He said---

**Z:**

John!! His name shall be John.

**LIZZY:**

So that was it. John. And now, here we are on our way to Bethlehem to see Mary's new baby. This is all very exciting! Z, what is it that you said about Mary's child?

**Z:**

Now that the world knows of the birth of this child, all should approach the manger, coming before our personal Savior, with awe and wonder and thankfulness. For He is here to save the entire planet, and all he asks in return is a personal connection with each of us. Just listen, my boy John will tell you all about this.

Z AND LIZZY MOVE TO THE MANGER SCENE TO WORSHIP THE CHILD.

**Shepherd:**

Hello. I’m Frank, and I have seen the one you seek.

So there we were…the sheep were huddled for the night…we had begun taking turns watching for wolves.

As I was finishing up a walk around the sleeping flock and looking forward to the warmth of the remaining coals from the fire, an extremely bright light formed overhead. Almost so bright that I couldn’t see. It was an angel!

We were terrified, but the sheep appeared calm, so we stayed to hear what the angel had to say, and it was fascinating.

We learned of a Savior being born Who was to be known as Christ the Lord. This was great news for all people. We were also told that we would find Him in a manger in the city of David. That was Bethlehem, which was just a short distance away.

Then a whole flock of angels joined the first and began praising God.

We stayed to hear them out and then left for Bethlehem immediately.

At the city gate we found my friend Motel Moe who directed us to the manger that the angels had mentioned. He felt pretty bad that he allowed the King of all Kings to be born in a stable and not his four-star inn.

As soon as we saw Jesus, we knew we had to tell everyone we saw about our encounter. And like many of you, those that heard the story were amazed. Now that we know that our God is with us, He asks us to trust in Him and tell others, just as you have been told today.

THE SHEPHERD MOVES TO THE MANGER SCENE TO WORSHIP THE CHILD.