

And That Includes You!

(A nativity)

Vox pops 1. An unseen interviewer asks different people 3 questions about their nativity memories

OLD MAN The nativity? Now you're going back

OLD WOMAN What did he say?

OLD MAN Nativity!

OLD WOMAN Activity?

OLD Man Nativity

OLD WOMAN Macavity?

OLD MAN – Oh never mind! Yes when we were in infants together. I remember I was Joseph and this one – she was Mary. Oh she was a cutie!

OLD WOMAN – I *can* speak for myself you know. I wore blue-

OLD MAN – She wore beige-

OLD WOMAN – Instead of a crook he had a hockey stick-

OLD MAN No It was a -

OLD WOMAN – (interrupting) Ah. I remember it like it was yesterday...

Music and Memory waft Youth as angels reveal Mary and Joseph are on stage (Joseph catapult in hand)

Old man and woman come on stage.

OLD WOMAN Oh look it's the night of the performance. There's the mums and dads and grannies 'n' grandads!

OLD MAN Yeah! They're a sight for sore eyes!

OLD WOMAN And there you are! Joseph. Handsome as ever. And up to no good by the looks of it. Trying to cause some kind of mischief if I know you-

OLD MAN – Probably fed up me mam and dad haven't made it, AGAIN. (sighs sadly) Ah it's all coming back to me.

Mrs Hubbard enters, stressed and fanning herself with her clipboard

OLD WOMAN Look there's Mrs Hubbard. Grumpy old battle axe she was.

Mrs Hubbard claps her hands.

MRS HUBBARD Chop chop children. Positions please! (take positions)

Joseph hides his catapult behind his back

MRS HUBBARD (suspiciously to Joseph) Ernie Swift What are you up to?

JOSEPH Nothing Mrs Hubbard

MRS HUBBARD Good!

Mrs Hubbard checks her clipboard

OLD MAN She always had it in for me. (grumbly) She was always telling me off for something.

OLD WOMAN Probably cos you were always up to something!

Billy takes his place and Mrs Hubbard fusses over his tie.

OLD MAN (cross) And there's teacher's pet Billy Evans!

Joseph aims it towards Billy.

OLD MAN Go on lad!

Mrs Hubbard giggles

OLD MAN (to Joseph) Hey! Give me that catapult – I'll get him good and proper for you-
Piano tinkles

OLD WOMAN Shush they're starting. I love this story so much. Best one ever told.

OLD MAN Really? I never understood what was so special about it-

Woman slaps him (gently) .

OLD WOMAN Best see if we can jog your memory then!

Old man reluctantly settles. Music plays as we begin.

NARRATOR Once upon a time, long, long ago before Christmas was even Christmas – a girl liked a boy and the boy liked her back.

They smile sweetly at each other.

JOSEPH Will you marry me? (*kneels*)

MARY Of course I will!

NARRATOR But before they could make it official there was a slight hiccup in Joseph's plans.

ANGEL 1 – Dear Joseph, Mary is with child.

Joseph shocked.

ANGEL 1 But as you know it is not of your doing. This child is God's own son and he is conceived of the Holy spirit. (tenderly) Take comfort. You should still take her as your wife.

NARRATOR: What did I tell you?

ANGEL 1 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.

Joseph steps back to consider as Gabriel arrives,

ANGEL GABRIEL Do not be afraid Mary, you have found favour with God.

MARY reacts

ANGEL GABRIEL You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great, Son of the Most High. He will reign on the throne forever and his kingdom will never end.

MARY From Now on all generations will call me blessed.

ANGEL GABRIEL (excitable) And he will be TOTALLY AWESOME!

MRS HUBBARD Who said that?

ANGEL GABRIEL Sorry! It's just so exciting. Everything else came from God himself. 'Reign forever.' 'Kingdom will never end!' (thumbs up)

Gabriel exits

MARY: My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

NARRATOR So Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

JOSEPH Do you want the bad news or the bad news?

MARY The bad?

JOSEPH We have to go on a massively long journey

MARY What's the bad news?

JOSEPH We're going on a donkey?

MARY A donkey?

NARRATOR Let us sing (O little town of Bethlehem)

NARRATOR After a long and difficult journey to Bethlehem they finally made it and they completed their census.

Angel brings clipboard which Joseph signs.

NARRATOR But they weren't the only ones heading there and Bethlehem was busier than ever. In fact, it quickly became clear the journey wasn't the only difficulty Joseph had to overcome.

JOSEPH I know it's unlikely and we probably should have thought to book but –

INKEEPER Not on your nelly!

JOSEPH Not even-

Angel Innkeepers hold up placards NO /ROOM/AT/THE INN!

Mary looks sad

INNKEEPER We do have somewhere else actually. It's not posh by any stretch but its warm and dry and with the right touch could be quite homely.

OLD MAN Is she an estate agent or something?

NARRATOR So they did the best they could and soon they were settled in for the night.

Angel stage-hands settle them.

OLD WOMAN Oh I love that bit! Now the baby can arrive to a nice warm bed! There's so many great bits isn't there?!

VOX POP clip.2

Kings enter and examine their map.

OLD WOMAN Another great bit! The wise men are here! Look at those costumes! I thought they were actually made of gold thread. Billy's grandma donated the material. Dead posh they were. Shopped at C & A and everything! Which bit do you like best?

OLD MAN I'm not sure? Erm I never really thought about it. I mean it's just a story isn't it.

OLD WOMAN Of course it isn't. It's the GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD. What do you think makes it the greatest? That it's true! God sent his son for us. I can't imagine a world if he hadn't. And the rest is history!

OLD MAN Thinks as Action continues.

Wise 1: Do you both see that star?

Wise 2: I've never seen anything like it. Its so big and it's moving! It isn't on any of our charts

Wise 3:It's certainly unusual.

Wise 2: It is!

Wise 1: I think we're supposed to follow...

Wise3: Or it could be nothing...

Wise 2: Or it could be something completely wonderful that we're really supposed to see for ourselves.

Wise 1 : We wouldn't want to miss that would we? Let's follow it.

NARRATOR Let us sing. (The First Noel)

OLD MAN I yeah. I remember those Kings with their posh frocks on and that. I always wanted to be a King. Only Mrs Hubbard thought I was too common!

OLD WOMAN Oh There's so many good bits. The journey, the kings. But the best bit is definitely the baby being born. I can't wait! I mean who knew a little baby being born would change everything!

OLD MAN Everything?

OLD WOMAN Everything. But for that you'd have to read the rest of the book.

OLD MAN What book? (curious)

OLD WOMAN Eh up. Billy's ready to roll again-

NARRATOR In a dark, quiet field on a hill some shepherds were watching their flocks.

Shepherds enter and pet their sheep.

NARRATOR It was just another day at the office until-

DANCE Angels behold. Shepherds watch. All girls stay.

ANGEL 1 You have nothing to fear. We have joyful news!

ANGEL 2 The Saviour of the World is born. You will find Him lying in a manger.

ANGEL 1 Wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

The angels part revealing the manger

OLD WOMAN (elated) Oh the baby is born!

OLD MAN (moved) That is special!

SHEPHERD Why did you choose us to tell?

ANGEL 1: Because he is for everyone. And that includes you!

NARRATOR And everybody who was invited went and knelt before the newborn king.

Everyone gathers around the tableau but the old man is hesitant

OLD MAN Do you think that angel meant it?

OLD WOMAN What?

OLD MAN That he's for all of us?

OLD WOMAN I KNOW he is

OLD MAN Do you think that includes me. A little boy who gets up to no good and even his own mum and dad don't bother coming to watch?

OLD WOMAN Do you know what my dear. I KNOW it includes you. In fact, he's especially for you!

She leads him to stand by the manger.

OLD MAN I'd really forgotten what a wonderful story that is. Look even grumpy Mrs Hubbard has a tear in her eye. It's like that baby has some transforming power over us all. Like somehow he makes everything right, just by being with us. Do you know what I mean?

OLD WOMAN (holding his hand) I know exactly what you mean.

NARRATOR Let us sing. (Once in Royal David's city)