

Bethlehem Inn 2019

An Interactive Dinner-Theatre Production

Synopsis:

Bethlehem Inn is abuzz with excitement. The "No Vacancy" sign has been displayed for the first time in years, due to the census. The Innkeeper's family is not accustomed to having so many guests, and the stress upon the family becomes quite comical in the first scene. The family will serve the guests their different courses of dinner (as they stay in character), making the guests a part of the action. In addition to "The Family", servers made up from the volunteer base will provide the bulk of the patron food service.

The guests will "sow" into the evening's entertainment upon arrival as they conduct the business of ticket transaction. Each guest will receive a gold coin token that they deposit into the Innkeeper's burlap cash bag upon entering the Inn.

*The **CONFLICT** begins when the Bag O' Money disappears, not only making each patron a suspect but revealing the **THEME** of the show..."Where is your Treasure?" This begins the exposure of each major character's "Treasure" and their relationship to each other, which defines the **PLOT**.*

During this time family stress heightens as problems with the cook and other servants puts the Innkeeper in a most disagreeable mood. As the Innkeeper, almost heartlessly, denies Joseph & Mary, (whom are never seen or heard), entry into the Inn, he is in conflict with himself and ultimately permits them the use of the stable.

*Sprinkled in and among the main plot, a **PARALLEL PLOT** develops with the three kings, aka, "The Wise Guys", that not only provide the **COMEDY RELIEF** but also converge with and re-direct the **MAIN PLOT** to the manger, and hence, the **MORAL** of the **STORY**; "...for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...". (Matthew 6:21)*

BASIC SCENE/COURSE BREAKDOWN:

1. INTRODUCTION: Innkeeper & Wife

Serve Drinks

2. SHORT SCENE: Snapshot of family / Reuben / Treasure Chest

Appetizers

3. INTRODUCE: WISE GUYS

Clear tables; Refill glasses

4. INTRODUCE PLOT: Innkeeper discovers Bag O' Money disappears

Salads served (Hail Caesar!)

5. SUB-PLOT:

- ❖ Conflict between Innkeeper and wife.
- ❖ He is stressed, and makes a big scene that involves patrons.
- ❖ He makes some kind of statement that comes back to bite him...she storms out. (*Set-up for spiritual message later on*)
- ❖ Mary and Joseph denied a place to stay.
- ❖ Kids get involved in making a place for Mary and Joseph in the stable.

Clear tables

6. WISE GUYS continue journey; comic relief.

Main course served.

7. UNRAVELING: Moneybag situation, etc....

Tables cleared; Desserts / coffee & tea served

8. WRAP-UP: Manger Scene. Where your treasure lies, there is your heart also.

Tables cleared

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

THE FAMILY

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sol | <i>the Innkeeper</i> | Jewish, "Tevya" type |
| Leah | <i>Sol's Wife</i> | typical Jewish Mother type |
| Adara | <i>eldest teenage Daughter</i> | overly dramatic, lovelorn teen |
| Bara | <i>younger teen Daughter</i> | a little bossy middle child |
| Chava | <i>youngest Daughter</i> | a little whiney |
| Benjamin/Desi | <i>10 year old Son/Daughter</i> | full of mischief, typical boy |
| Aya | <i>Leah's Sister</i> | town "gossip" Jewish, "Yenta" type |

THE HEAD SERVANTS

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Reuben | <i>young servant apprentice</i> | bright, faithful, curious |
| Obadiah | <i>old head servant Cook</i> | crusty and cantankerous |

THE WISEGUYS

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Balthazar | <i>Wiseman</i> | the leader and adventurer, a Show-off |
| Melchior | <i>Wiseman</i> | nerdy, inquisitive, nervous, funny |
| Kaspar | <i>Wiseman</i> | "absent-minded professor" type |

THE TOWNSPEOPLE

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Rabbi | <i>the town "clergyman"</i> | says the Dinner Blessing in Hebrew |
| Traveler | <i>...he...travels</i> | small role, encounter with "Wiseguys" |
| Asher | <i>Shepherd #1</i> | non-speaking role |
| Zeke | <i>Shepherd #2</i> | non-speaking role |
| Boaz | <i>Shepherd #3</i> | non-speaking role |
| Servants | <i>various occupations</i> | |

These are unscripted townspeople characters that are helping Sol handle the overwhelmed Inn. These actors will be made up of the volunteer base of the organization that adopt, develop, maintain and improvise a particular fictitious Biblical character, in period costume, while serving the patrons. The servants MUST NOT break characters for the ENTIRE performance.

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Servant Information Sheet

Servant Characterization:

- Declare a fictitious Biblical type character name. Your name should not be the same as any of the scripted characters.
- Establish an occupation of the period.
- Develop a character profile. (*Who, what, where, why & when*).
- Create a simple story about your character.
- Maintain character throughout the performance. Never break character, even with friends or family. Act well your part!
- Familiarize yourself with the synopsis, scene breakdown & cast.
- The lead character and "Innkeeper", Sol, is the boss during the performance, follow his lead and do exactly as he says.

Servant Guidelines:

- Have fun with your character, but do not break character!
- Your role is "Servant". Keep to you're assigned table(s). Do not suck focus from other tables or "upstage" the scripted characters. "Act well your part, that is where all honor lies."
- Serve the guests promptly. (*Cold food and drinks need to be cold. Likewise, hot food and drinks needs to be hot*)
- It is imperative to serve the food & drinks in the proper order and according to the script.
- Be accommodating, friendly & helpful to the guests.

Servant Costumes:

- Costumer and servants need to make their period costume.
- Some material & patterns are available from the costumer.
- Requires about 1 hour or so to make.
- Fabric should be muted colors.
- No jewelry. (*Except wedding & engagement rings*)
- Think "servant in period costuming".
- We must approve ALL costumes.