

THE INNKEEPER'S DAUGHTER by Vince Wilcox

GENRE: Light Comedy/Light Drama

SYNOPSIS: The timeless Bethlehem story told through the eyes of a fictional innkeeper's daughter and her boyfriend, a shepherd.

DIRECTOR'S TIPS: You can intersperse the dramatic parts with Christmas favorites led by your choir and sung with your congregation. Use our song suggestions or choose your own!

TIME: up to 30 minutes (depending on # of verses used for each song)

CAST BREAKDOWN: 9 speaking roles and 4-5 silent extras

TOPIC: Christmas / Advent

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 2

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas

SUGGESTED USE: Worship Service

CHARACTERS: Ben, the innkeeper

Leah, the innkeeper's wife

Sara, the innkeeper's teenage daughter

David, young shepherd in love with Sara

Joseph, Mary's betrothed

Mary, mother of Jesus

Shepherd 1

Shepherd 2

Angel

4-5 other shepherds

PROPS: Manger, straw, shepherd crooks or walking sticks

COSTUMES: Robes and such to match the time period

SOUND: 6 or 7 wireless mics or several area mics spread across the playing area or hanging from above (these will need to be boosted for actors to be heard)

LIGHTING: General stage lighting

Halflight for night scenes in the stable (Acts II and V)

Possible soft center light and side spotlight for Act IV

Possible soft backlight in the corner with the manger in Act V

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SUGGESTED SONG: "JOY TO THE WORLD"

ACT I

LOCATION: Inside the Inn [Lights up as Ben the Innkeeper, is frantically calling out...]

BEN: *[a little panicky]* Leah, Sara, where are you two? The village is crowded with out of town visitors, and our little inn has never seen so much business! Where are you?

LEAH: *[enters quickly and gently, yet firmly pats Ben's hand]* Calm down, darling. Sara and I were in the kitchen making bread for our guests.

BEN: Ever since Caesar Augustus decreed that everyone had to return to their family's hometown and register for the census...

LEAH: *[interrupting]* ...and pay that cursed tax!

BEN: *[excited]* Yes, yes...as I was saying—ever since Caesar issued this command, our little town of Bethlehem has been flooded with descendants of our beloved King David! I've never seen anything like this! *[dreamily]* I can just hear the shekels dropping into our money jar... Clink! Clink! Clink!

LEAH: Ben, is money all you ever think about?

BEN: Of course not! Sometimes I think about you and Sara, and how nice it would be for our family if we all had more money! *[goodhearted laughs all around]*

SARA: *[offstage right from the kitchen]* Mom! Mom! Where's the yeast? We need more yeast for the bread!

LEAH: It's right where you left it...oh, never mind, I'll show you myself.

Ben & Leah exit stage right toward Sara's voice. Lights down.

SUGGESTED SONG: "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"

ACT II

LOCATION: Inside the stable outside the inn

SARA: *[snuggling up to David]* I'm sorry I'm so late. My parents are all wound up about how many guests we have in the inn this week. I had to bake the bread, bring water from the well, clean the rooms, and then I had to wait till my folks fell asleep before I could sneak out and meet you here in the stable.