

THE DONKEY SELLER

by
Carrie Richardson
& Clare Jones
(with grateful acknowledgment to Fiona Trembarth)



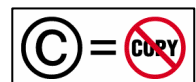
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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Cast List *(in order of appearance)*

The Donkey Seller

Only interested in selling donkeys, doesn't notice anything else until he gets to Bethlehem.

Donkeys:

Gazer

The donkey with the most to say and remember

Snuggle

Gentle donkey, goes with Mary and Joseph

Bouncer

Cheerful donkey, goes with the shepherds

Prince

Royal donkey, goes with the kings and camels

Cheeky

Cheeky donkey

Nudger

Eventually nudges the Donkey Seller into action

Extra donkeys

May be included, but are not necessary.

Mary & Joseph

Shepherds (3-6)

Scripted for six shepherds, but could be fewer with doubling up

Little Shepherd (Little Shep)

Smaller than the others, tired and whiny

Sheep

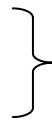
Any number

Three Kings

Gold King

Frankincense King

Myrrh King



Royal travellers

Lame Camel *(with bandage on leg!)*

Camel 1 & 2

Angels

Props

Small table, chair for Donkey Seller's stall. Price tags on donkeys. Pencil and notepad in a small hessian shoulder bag (also for money) for Donkey Seller. Extra donkey tail for Cheeky to use. Crooks for shepherds (optional). Manger. Lanterns for Angels (last scene – optional)

Staging Suggestions

All that is required is a bare stage, but hay bales to both sides for sitting on would be very helpful. A nativity tableau will need to be set upstage, either centrally or slightly to one side. Scenery could depict sky, trees and sandy hills. To Stage Right there should be a large sign, 'DONKEYS FOR SALE'. Optional, other signs saying things like 'Buy 1 Get 1 Free', or '20% Discount on Monday Mornings' 'Special discount for Shepherds' etc.

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DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW

Scene 1 Bored Donkeys

SONG NOTHING EVER HAPPENS ROUND HERE ☉ Track 1 / 9

The Donkey Seller is fed up because he hasn't sold a donkey for ages. The Donkeys are bored, but perk up when some travellers appear. The Donkey Seller, always the last one to notice what's happening, lines the Donkeys up for inspection in case the travellers might buy one.

Scene 2 Mary & Joseph

SONG TRAVELLING ☉ Track 2 / 10

Mary and Joseph arrive, and choose a donkey (Snuggle) to help make their journey easier. The Donkey Seller is delighted to have made a sale at long last.

INSTR. TRAVELLING ☉ Track 10

After Mary, Joseph and Snuggle have gone, the Donkeys are bored once again.

Scene 3 Shepherds & Sheep

Suddenly, more travellers arrive. This time they are Shepherds, with Sheep. Excitement returns!

SONG SING IT HIGH ☉ Track 3 / 11

Little Shepherd is late arriving; he can't keep up with the rest. The Donkey Seller makes another sale as Bouncer goes with them to help Little Shepherd keep pace on their journey to Bethlehem.

INSTR. SING IT HIGH ☉ Track 11

The Donkey Seller and Donkeys are bored again, but not for long.

Scene 4 Kings & Camels

Soon posh travellers arrive: Kings with Camels. The Donkey Seller is eager to make another sale.

SONG ON THEIR WAY ☉ Track 4 / 12

One of the Camels is lame, and the Kings choose Prince to help them on their way.

INSTR. ON THEIR WAY ☉ Track 12

All of a sudden the Donkey Seller has become overloaded with work. After these sales, he needs to sort out his accounts. The Donkeys are so excited, having had such important visitors, that the Donkey Seller has to quieten them. After that, he's too busy doing paperwork to notice the Angels.

Scene 5 Angels

SONG ANGELS SINGING ☉ Track 5 / 13

Angels arrive, and tell the Donkeys to hurry to Bethlehem, because something very special is going on. The Donkeys are so excited to be going somewhere at long last that they do a dance.

SONG LET'S DANCE AWAY ☉ Track 6 / 14

The Donkeys set off, but Nudger turns back, noticing that – as usual – the Donkey Seller hasn't noticed what is going on. They set off for Bethlehem together.

Scene 6 To Bethlehem

INTSR. LET'S DANCE AWAY ☉ Track 14

As the Donkeys dance, the nativity scene is set, and when everyone is ready they all sing at the sight of Baby Jesus.

SONG LOOK AT THE WONDERFUL BABY ☉ Track 7 / 15

Everyone agrees that 'amazing things have happened round here!' The Donkey Seller says he will tell the news to all the people who come to his stall.

SONG AMAZING THINGS HAVE HAPPENED ☉ Track 8 / 16

Bows are taken to the play-off music.

INSTR. AMAZING THINGS HAVE HAPPENED ☉ Track 16

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THE DONKEY SELLER

by Carrie Richardson

SCENE 1 Bored Donkeys

CHORUS ACTIONS
appear in boxed text
throughout the script.

[During intro, DONKEYS and CHORUS are fidgeting, alternating movements between– arms folded, looking bored, a cheek leaning on one hand, sighing. NUDGER & SNUGGLE are restless, checking hooves, etc. BOUNCER & GAZER are lying down, leaning on an elbow and yawning. CHEEKY & PRINCE sigh and paw the ground. All in a comical and theatrical manner.]

NOTHING EVER HAPPENS (Ⓞ Track 1 / 9)

Palms up, heads
shaking side to side
Back to previous
positions.
Scratch an ear.
Palms up, heads
shaking side to side.

→ NOTHING EVER HAPPENS ROUND HERE.
EE-ORE!
→ AND WE'RE BORED, WE'RE VERY BORED.
→ SO WE'LL JUST EAT GRASS AND SCRATCH AN EAR
BECAUSE
→ NOTHING EVER HAPPENS ROUND HERE.
EE-ORE!

(repeat)

DONKEY SELLER *(yawning)* I'm bored. Nothing ever happens round here.

[GAZER sits up and shields brow, gazing out over audience.]

GAZER *(tragically, pointing out over audience)* There's no-one coming...

[GAZER sighs very dramatically, then flops down onto his back, sticking his hooves in the air for comic effect. After a moment he returns to starting position.]

PRINCE I'm so, so, so bored.

BOUNCER So, so, so am I!

CHEEKY *(cheekily)* Shall we play 'Pin The Tail On The Donkey'? *(giggles)*

DONKEYS *(rubbing their bottoms and frowning)* No!

DONKEY SELLER (*sadly*) It's aaages since I sold a donkey...

SNUGGLE (*pointing*) I'll never get to see what's over that hill...

[GAZER sits up and looks at the audience.]

NUDGER (*with a big sigh, gazing upwards dreamily*) I would love to travel.

BOUNCER (*wearily standing up*) Travelling is what donkeys are for...

CHEEKY And we're just stuck here doing nothing!

ALL It's boring!

SCENE 2 Mary And Joseph

[GAZER suddenly springs up, points out over the audience.]

GAZER (*excited*) Oh! Oh! Ee-ore!

DONKEYS (*puzzled*) What?

GAZER (*shielding brow with his hand*) Can't you see?

DONKEYS (*straining to see*) What?

GAZER (*jumping with excitement*) There's someone coming!

DONKEYS (*ad lib to each other or passing down the line*) Someone coming?
Someone coming! (*etc.*)

NUDGER (*jerking a thumb at DONKEY SELLER*) He hasn't noticed yet!
(*nudges DONKEY SELLER*)

[DONKEY SELLER looks up, sees people coming.]

DONKEY SELLER (*pointing, as if the first to notice*) Look! There's someone coming!

GAZER Two people coming!

ALL (*ad lib to each other*) Two people! Two people!

DONKEY SELLER Two people!

GAZER A man and a woman.

ALL (*ad lib to each other*) A man and a woman! Man and woman!

DONKEY SELLER A man and a woman!

GAZER The woman's got a very big tummy!

ALL *(ad lib to each other)* A very big tummy? Very big tummy?

DONKEY SELLER She's got a very big tummy!

GAZER *(hands on hips)* She's having a baby!

ALL *(ad lib to each other)* Having a baby! A baby! A baby!

DONKEY SELLER She's having a baby! *(hopefully)* She might need a donkey!

ALL *(happily)* She might need a donkey!

DONKEY SELLER *(rubbing his hands gleefully)* Smarten yourselves up everyone.

[DONKEYS jostle into a wobbly 'straight' line, where they smooth down their fur, straighten ears, etc.]

(calling loudly like an army officer) Atten-tion!

[DONKEYS stand up very straight. DONKEY SELLER walks along the line, inspecting them.]

(to two random DONKEYS as he passes) Tuck your tail in! Stand up straight! *(stands at the end of the line)* Ears up! No wonky donkeys allowed!

[As the song begins, MARY & JOSEPH enter, moving slowly and wearily through the audience to reach the stage.]

<p>Back of hand on brow, in a tired gesture.</p> <p>Shield eyes with one hand looking into the distance.</p> <p>Cheek leaning tiredly on hands.</p> <p>Lift up heels alternately as if walking on an uneven path.</p>	<p><u>TRAVELLING</u> (☉ Track 2 / 10)</p> <p>→ TRAVELLING, TRAVELLING, IT'S TIRING AND IT'S SLOW.</p> <p>→ TRAVELLING, TRAVELLING, SUCH A LONG WAY TO GO.</p> <p>→ TRAVELLING, TRAVELLING, IT'S MILES UNTIL THEY SLEEP.</p> <p>→ TRAVELLING, TRAVELLING, AND IT'S SO ROUGH AND STEEP.</p>
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[MARY & JOSEPH go to stand Stage Left.]

JOSEPH *(pointing)* Look, Mary! There's a donkey seller!

MARY A donkey is just what I need!

JOSEPH Let's go and look at them.

[JOSEPH takes MARY by the arm and they walk over to examine the DONKEYS as if trying to decide on one.]