

THE DONKEY SELLER

by Carrie Richardson & Clare Jones

[7 - 9 Version]

CHORUS ACTIONS
appear in boxed text
throughout the script

SCENE 1 Introducing The Donkeys

HELLO DONKEYS (☉ Track 1 / 14)

[DONKEYS enter and stand upstage centre in a line, in this order: NUDGER, PRINCE, BOUNCER, SNUGGLE, GAZER, CHEEKY. Each donkey will move forward to deliver their line as shown. Music continues until the DONKEY SELLER enters.]

ALL DONKEYS

Hello everyone! We're the donkeys!

[PRINCE parades proudly, then stands downstage, arms folded.]

PRINCE

My name's Prince, and I am royalty!

[BOUNCER bounces forward to stand next to PRINCE.]

BOUNCER

My name's Bouncer, as you can clearly see!

[NUDGER moves to nudge PRINCE, who brushes him off.]

NUDGER

I'm called Nudger, cos nudging's what I do.

[SNUGGLE cuddles up to BOUNCER.]

SNUGGLE

I'm called Snuggle. *(cuddles himself)* I'll cuddle up to you!

[GAZER moves to join the others, putting hand to brow and staring out over audience.]

GAZER

My name's Gazer. I stare into space. *(keeps hand on brow)*

[CHEEKY tickles GAZER's armpit, GAZER giggles.]

CHEEKY

I am Cheeky. Put a smile on your face!

ALL DONKEYS

We are the donkeys. We are for sale.
Are you sitting comfortably? Then listen to our tale!

[DONKEYS twirl their tails, then do a bow. As music ends, enter DONKEY SELLER.]

GAZER *(pointing)* Look! Here comes the Donkey Seller!

DONKEYS Hello, Donkey Seller!

DONKEY SELLER Hello, donkeys! I wonder if any of you will be sold today...

NUDGER *(opening hands out)* How can we be sold if no-one comes along?

DONKEYS *(sadly)* And they never do...

[DONKEYS sigh and shake heads. During intro, they alternate between having their arms folded, looking bored, leaning a cheek on one hand, sighing, etc. PRINCE sits down and opens a newspaper. NUDGER & SNUGGLE stand with arms folded, yawning, checking hooves, etc. BOUNCER & GAZER lie down, leaning on an elbow and yawning. CHEEKY sighs and paws the ground. All in a comical and theatrical manner.]

NOTHING EVER HAPPENS (☉ Track 2 / 15)

Palms up, heads shaking side to side	→	NOTHING EVER HAPPENS ROUND HERE. EE-ORE!
Back to previous positions	→	AND WE'RE BORED, WE'RE VERY BORED. SO WE JUST EAT GRASS AND SCRATCH AN EAR
Scratch an ear	→	BECAUSE
Palms up, heads shaking side to side	→	NOTHING EVER HAPPENS ROUND HERE. EE-ORE!

(repeat, then finish with a big yawn.)

[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 continues to read his newspaper.]

CHEEKY I'm so, so bored.

BOUNCER So am I! I've lost my bounce...

CHEEKY *(cheekily, holding up donkey tail)* Shall we play 'Pin The Tail On The Donkey'? *(giggles)*

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

[PRINCE folds up his newspaper.]

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

PRINCE *(pointing with newspaper)* I want to see what's over that hill...

[GAZER sits up and looks at the audience.]

NUDGER *(to PRINCE)* You'd love to travel, wouldn't you? *(nudging)* Eh? Eh?

PRINCE *(irritated)* Yes, but please stop nudging me.
SNUGGLE *(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!
[DONKEY SELLER gets out his binoculars.]
DONKEYS *(ad lib to each other or passing down the line)* Someone coming? Someone coming! *(etc.)*
DONKEY SELLER *(still looking through binoculars)* Two people coming!
ALL *(ad lib to each other)* Two people! Two people!
DONKEY SELLER A man and a woman.
ALL *(ad lib to each other)* A man and a woman! 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?
GAZER *(hands on hips)* She's having a baby!
ALL *(ad lib to each other)* Having a baby! A baby! A baby!
DONKEY SELLER *(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.]

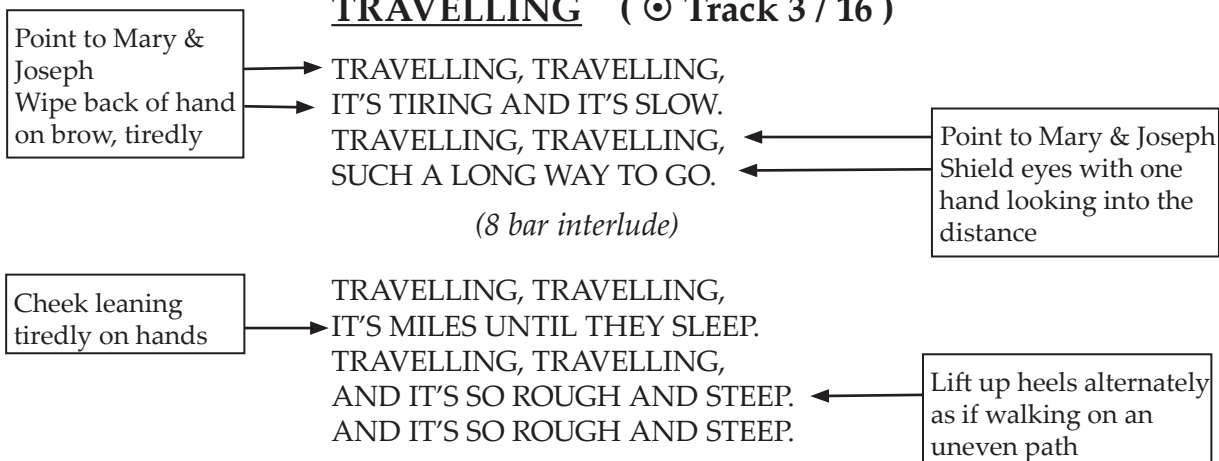
(calling loudly like an army officer) Atten-tion!

[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)*
No wonky donkeys allowed!

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

TRAVELLING (☉ Track 3 / 16)



[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.]

DONKEY SELLER (moving towards JOSEPH) Excuse me... Are you just looking?
(rubbing hands together, eagerly) Or do you want to buy?

JOSEPH Oh, we definitely want to buy! My poor wife is so tired.

MARY (wearily) It's such a long way to Bethlehem.

[DONKEY SELLER folds arms, and nods sympathetically.]

JOSEPH Have you got a gentle donkey?

DONKEY SELLER A gentle donkey... Let me see... (walks along the line, checking)
(pulling SNUGGLE forward) How about Snuggle?

SNUGGLE (very gently) Ee-ore! (gives a cute smile, snuggling up to MARY)

MARY Ah! He's perfect.

JOSEPH (looks at price tag) And what a good price.

[JOSEPH hands money to DONKEY SELLER.]

DONKEY SELLER Thank you, sir. (shakes JOSEPH'S hand)

MARY/JOSEPH Thank you! Goodbye.

TRAVELLING (incidental) (☉ Track 4 / 17)

[SNUGGLE gives thumbs up at DONKEYS as he follows MARY & JOSEPH to go back through audience and exit. DONKEYS peer after them, shielding brows for a moment.]

ALL Bye-bye, Snuggle!

PRINCE Those people looked so kind.

NUDGER D’you think Snuggle will be happy with them? Eh? Eh?

PRINCE Of course he’ll be happy. And so will I if you stop nudging me!

[All go back to original ‘bored’ positions: PRINCE sits down and opens a newspaper. NUDGER stands with arms folded, yawning, checking hooves, etc. BOUNCER & GAZER lie down, leaning on an elbow and yawning. CHEEKY sighs and paws the ground.]

DONKEY SELLER *(yawning)* I’m bored again.

[GAZER sits up, shields brow, gazes out over the audience.]

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

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

PRINCE *(stamping foot on the third ‘so’)* I’m so, so, so bored.

BOUNCER *(lying on back and stamping both feet on the third ‘so’)* So, so, so am I!

CHEEKY *(as before)* Shall we play ‘Pin The Tail On The Donkey’? *(giggles)*

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

DONKEY SELLER *(putting his hands on his head and sighing)* *(sadly)* It’s aaages since I sold a donkey...

NUDGER No it isn’t, you just sold one! *(nudging PRINCE)* Didn’t he, eh? Eh?

PRINCE *(angrily, through gritted teeth)* Stop nudging me, Nudger!

[GAZER sits up and looks at the audience.]

BOUNCER I wish they’d taken me. *(pointing)* I’ll never get to see what’s round that corner...

SCENE 3 Shepherds And Sheep

[GAZER suddenly springs up, excited, 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!

[DONKEY SELLER gets out his binoculars.]

DONKEYS *(ad lib, to each other)* Someone coming? Someone coming!

DONKEY SELLER *(still looking through binoculars)* Lots of people coming!

ALL *(ad lib to each other)* Lots of people! Lots of people!

GAZER *(amazed)* With sheep!

ALL *(surprised, ad lib to each other)* With sheep? Sheep? Sheep?

DONKEY SELLER *(knowingly)* Shepherds!

ALL *(knowingly)* Ah... shepherds! Shepherds!

DONKEY SELLER *(happily)* They might need a donkey!

DONKEYS They 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)*
No wonky donkeys allowed!

[As the song begins, SHEPHERDS & SHEEP enter through audience, or from choir, but not LITTLE SHEP. When they reach the stage, SHEEP pretend to eat grass.]

SING IT HIGH (☉ Track 5 / 18)

Point up high
Point down low
Make undulating hills with hands

SING IT HIGH, SING IT HIGH,
SING IT LOW, SING IT LOW.
OVER THE HILLS WE GO (WE GO),
OVER THE HILLS WE GO.

Point west
Hold imaginary braces, elbows out, cowboy style
Shoulders shrug, palms up

TRAV'LLING FROM THE WEST (**Shepherds:** From the West!)
SCRUBBED UP IN OUR BEST (**Shepherds :** Very best!)
WHEN WE'RE GOING TO GET THERE
WE DON'T KNOW.

(repeat)

Shepherds: We dunno!