**THE GREATEST OF ALL TIME**

**By Rod Pellereau**

*This nativity story is based on Matthew 1: 18-25 and 2: 1-12, and Luke 2: 1-20. In this version there are 5 narrators who say all the words. The actors therefore only need to mime the action. This could help with audibility as the narrators could be gathered around microphones.*

*CAST*

*Narrator 4 Main narrator keeping story moving.*

*Narrator 5 Also main but also says words of Angel*

*Narrator 1 Speaks words of King 1, Joseph and Shepherd 1*

*Narrator 2 Speaks words of King 2, Innkeeper and Shepherd 2*

*Narrator 3 Speaks words of King 3, Mary and Shepherd 3*

*Star Non-speaking. Person holding up a star.*

*King 1* *Words spoken by Narrator 1*

*King 2 Words spoken by Narrator 2*

*King 1 Words spoken by Narrator 3*

*Joseph Words spoken by Narrator 1*

*Innkeeper Words spoken by Narrator 2*

*Mary Words spoken by Narrator 3*

*Shepherd 1 Words spoken by Narrator 1*

*Shepherd 2 Words spoken by Narrator 2*

*Shepherd 3 Words spoken by Narrator 3*

*Angel Words spoken by Narrator 5*

*[Could be more ‘non-main’ parts for angels, shepherds, animals, etc]]*

**SCENE 1: IN THE EAST**

*3 kings are on stage. They are busily packing things.*

*Props needed: Football shirt and gold coins for King 1, football scarf and deodorant can for king 2, Vuvuzela or trumpet and packet of paracetamol for King 3.*

*The ‘star’ is standing to one side.*

Narrator 4 **[N4]** Our story begins in the East. Three Kings are getting ready to go on a journey.

Narrator 5 **[N5]** They were checking that they had all they needed for the trip.

King 1 **[N1]** *[Revealing football shirt beneath cloak]* Shirt. Tick.

King 2 **[N2]** *[Waving football scarf and placing around his neck]* Scarf. Tick.

King 3 **[N3]** *[Producing vuvuzela/trumpet/blower ]* Vuvuzela. Tick.

We really want to make some noise when we see this new King we have heard about and whose star we have seen.

*[Blows vuvuzela/trumpet/blower]*

King 1 **[N1]** We are also going to need some money.

*[Holds up some gold coins]*

King 2 **[N2]** And some sweet-smelling deodorant. It could get sweaty.

*[Holds up can of deodorant]*

King 3 **[N3]** And some cooling muscle rub. We are bound to get some stiff joints with all that travelling.

*[Holds up tube/box of muscle rub]*

Narrator 1 **[N4]** And so they were all ready for their journey in search of this new King.

Narrator 2 **[N5]** Their journey towards the West following the star

*[Star leads the Kings off stage singing to the tune of “Football’s coming home”. Narrators hold up the words so that the audience can join in. The words could be repeated.]*

We’re coming West

We’re coming West

We’re coming

Kings are coming West

**SCENE 2: AT THE INN**

*The scene is at the door of the Inn. Joseph needs somewhere to knock on (or a sound effect from offstage as he mimes.*

Narrator 4 **[N4]** Meanwhile, a young couple were **arriving** at their destination.

Narrator 5 **[N5]** They were looking for somewhere to stay.

*[Joseph ‘knocks’ on door of the Inn. Innkeeper ‘opens’ door and greets them]*

Joseph **[N1]** Have you got a room we could have for the night?

Innkeeper **[N2]** A room? You must be joking!

Joseph **[N1]** Please. We have travelled a long way.

Innkeeper **[N2]** I’m sorry, but we are fully booked. Every room is taken.

Mary **[N3]** Oh dear.

Innkeeper **[N2]** You have to realise that we have a global event happening here. People have come from North, South, East and West booking their rooms well in advance. You really should have checked on Trip Advisor.

Mary **[N3]** *[In pain.]* Oooh dear. *[Mary clutches tummy. Make this as dramatic as possible. Joseph goes to support her.]*

Joseph **[N1]** We really do need somewhere. Urgently.

Innkeeper **[N2]** I guess, since it is an emergency, you could use the stable. Quick. Follow me.

*[All three exit singing to the tune of “Football’s coming home”. Narrators hold up the words so that the audience can join in. Words could be repeated]*

He’s coming soon

He’s coming soon

He’s coming

Baby’s coming soon

**SCENE 3: IN THE FIELDS**

*The scene is out in the fields. The shepherds are playing football. Kicking the ball gently to each other as they chat.*

Narrator 4 **[N4]** Out in the fields some shepherds were keeping watch over their flocks by night.

Narrator 5 **[N5]** And they were discussing their GOAT.

Narrator 4 **[N4]** I said they were shepherds – not goat-keepers.

Narrator 5 **[N5]** No, GOAT. G – O – A – T. Greatest Of All Time.

Narrator 4 **[N4]** Oh, I see.

Narrator 5 **[N5]** They were each naming their own personal favourite.

Shepherd 1 **[N1]** Ronaldo! Brilliant goal-scorer.

Shepherd 2 **[N2]** De Bruyne. Fantastic midfielder.

Shepherd 3 **[N3]** Rubbish. It has to be Messi.

Narrator 4 **[N4]** *[Enter angel – or angels if more than one]*

Suddenly an angel appeared in the sky. The shepherds were terrified. *[Shepherds sink to their knees]*

But the angel reassured them.

Angel **[N5]** Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy. Today a new King will be born on the world stage.

Shepherd 1 **[N1]** What, greater than Ronaldo?

Shepherd 2 **[N2]** Or De Bruyne?

Shepherd 3 **[N3]** Or even Messi?

Angel **[N5]** Greater than any man

*[Pause. As a personal aside]*

- or woman for that matter. And I think you are forgetting Beth Mead.

*[Clears throat]* Greater than any **person** who has ever lived or will ever live.

*[Angel(s) exit singing to the tune of “Football’s coming home”. Narrators hold up the words so that the audience can join in. Could be repeated.]*

He’s coming soon

He’s coming soon

He’s coming

New King’s coming soon

As Angels leave the *Shepherds rise to their feet looking rather perplexed.*

Shepherd 1 **[N1]** Wow, that was amazing.

Shepherd 2 **[N2]** Did that really happen? Or was I dreaming?

Shepherd 3 **[N3]** It really happened all right. A new King. You do realise what this means?

Shepherd 1 **[N1]** It means we have got to go.

Shepherd 2 **[N2]** Yes, we’ve got to go and see for ourselves.

Shepherd 3 **[N3]** Come on then. There is no time to lose.

*[Shepherds exit singing to the tune of “Football’s coming home”. Narrators hold up the words so that the audience can join in. Could be repeated]*

We’re coming too

We’re coming too

We’re coming

Shepherds coming too

**SCENE 4 IN THE STABLE**

*Manger is in the middle. There could be animals. Mary and Joseph are off-stage. The star is standing behind the manger.*

Narrator 4 **[N4]** Meanwhile, in a nearby stable things were starting to happen.

*[Enter Kings from one side. First one is holding up a mobile phone]*

Narrator 5 **[N5]** *[In the voice of Satnav]* Arriving at your destination on the right.

King 1 **[N1]** I think this must be the place.

King 2 **[N2]** Are you sure you put the right postcode into your satnav?

King 3 **[N3]** Remember, we are looking for a new King. Not a smelly stable. Oh yuk.

*[He mimes stepping in some manure]*

*[Enter Shepherd 1]*

Shepherd 1 **[N1]** Come on guys. We can rest up in here.

*[Other shepherds enter. They have their football. They pass it to Shepherd 1 who ‘slam dunks’ it into the manger.]*

Shepherd 2 **[N2]** Better than nothing I suppose. *[Looking out as if watching people outside]*  It is heaving with people out there.

Shepherd 3 **[N3]** And there is quite an atmosphere. You sense that something really big is going to happen.

Shepherd 2 **[N2]** Maybe we really are about to see the new King the angel told us about?

Shepherd 3 **[N3]** *[Looking at Kings and animals.]*

It is busy out there, but it is also pretty crowded in here.

*[Enter Joseph and Mary who has the baby in her arms. Joseph looks at manger. Sees football in it. He clears his throat loudly and glares at Shepherd 1.]*

Shepherd 1 **[N1]** Oh sorry.

*[Hastily removes ball from manger. Mary places baby in the manger.]*

King 1 **[N1]** *[Quietly to his two colleagues]* I think this is the one.

King 2 **[N2]** Yes, there is something amazing about him.

King 3 **[N3]** I feel we should give him some gifts.

King 1 **[N1]** Good idea.

*[He kneels to place his gold money by the crib before retiring. He is followed by Kings 1 and 2 in turn who place deodorant and muscle rub respectively.]*

Shepherd 1 **[N1]** *[To King 1]* When you say ‘He is the one’, do you mean the King of the Jews?

*[He kneels]*

Shepherd 2 **[N2]** Christ the Lord?

*[He kneels]*

Shepherd 3 **[N3]** The Messiah?

*He kneels*

King 1 **[N1]** Yes. He is **the new King.**.

Narrator 4 **[N4]** *So, you see,* Jesus, is no longer ‘coming’; he has come.

Narrator 5 **[N5]** And he is **everyone’s** **Greatest Of All Time.**

*THE END*