

# Annual Meeting of the Bethlehem Animal Historical Society

*By Mollie Ottenhoff*

## **Performance Rights**

It is an infringement of the federal copyright law to copy or reproduce this script in any manner or to perform this play without royalty payment. All rights are controlled by Eldridge Publishing Co., Inc. Contact the publisher for additional scripts and further licensing information. The author's name must appear on all programs and advertising with the notice: "Produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Company."

**ELDRIDGE PUBLISHING COMPANY**

© 2022 by *Mollie Ottenhoff*

### **STORY OF THE PLAY**

It's the greatest story ever told! Well, sort of.... Grade school student Miley accidentally ends up at the annual meeting of the Bethlehem Animal Historical Society. The animals are retelling the story of a miracle night witnessed by their ancestors thousands of years ago in Bethlehem. Only, as they begin to act it out, Miley realizes they may have some of the details and focus wrong. Can Miley help them understand the real meaning and importance of that fateful night? The animals are shocked to find out the peacock is not the star, the donkey doesn't win a medal for a race, and the Holy Family didn't choose the stable! This show is fun for the cast and audience alike, with lots of humor, evenly featured characters, and action sequences. It includes several hymns/carols (some with mixed up words!) to satisfy that Christmas desire, and a "Joy to the World" and good-will-to-all messaging for the big finish. Don't miss this hilarious twist on the pageant! About 40 minutes.

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*Gender-flexible cast of 12 (with ensemble opportunities)*

**MILEY:** Grade school student.

**BOBO HEEHAW:** Spunky donkey who has a famous line of animal ear accessories.

**TESS:** Cow 1, cheery. Twins with Bess.

**BESS:** Cow 2, cheery. Twins with Tess.

**TIPPY:** Cow 3, super hyper and energetic.

**BUFF:** Cow 4, constantly working out to stay "lean."

**FRANCES:** Sheep 1, runs the meeting. A real power-suit sheep.

**CARL:** Sheep 2, thinks he knows a lot about humans.

**WALTER:** Sheep 3, a real pair with Carl.

**GLORIA:** Dove 1, British accent, very proper. Constantly mistaken for a pigeon.

**UNCLE PIGEON:** Dove 2, a bird of few words. Mob boss type.

**BEA PEACOCK:** Very showy and uppity about her legacy of being descended from the glowing peacocks of the story.

**ENSEMBLE:** As additional animals, choir, or soloist.

### **PRODUCTION NOTES**

This show can be as elaborate or simple as a church would like to be with scenery, props, and costuming.

### **SYNOPSIS OF SCENES**

*For rehearsal purposes as the action should be continuous.*

Scene 1: Miley accidentally crashes the meeting

Scene 2: The Strongest Donkey

Scene 3: The Singing Cow

Scene 4: The Shining Peacock

Scene 5: The Ending Is the New Beginning

### **SETTING**

A conference room

### **PROPS**

Phones, various costume accessories (*donkey ears, blue scarf, cow ears, peacock masks, halo, and mirror*), a big box labeled: "B.A.H.S. Props" (*microphone, stopwatch, medal, winner podium, baby doll, flashlights, and a Bible*)

### **SONGS**

Depending on cast size, you can have characters sing the songs, a soloist, or ensembles.

*To the tune of O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*To the tune of Friendly Beasts*

*To the tune of Away in a Manger*

*To the tune of Angels We Have Heard on High*

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

*Silent Night - or- Away in a Manger*

*Joy to the World*

*Annual Meeting of the  
Bethlehem Animal Historical Society*

- 5 -

**Scene 1: The Meeting Begins**

*(AT RISE: ALL ANIMALS are standing around doing character typical things. BOBO and BUFF are taking selfies. CARL and WALTER are joking with each other. BEA PEACOCK is warming up her vocal chords.)*

**FRANCES:** Alright, everyone, let's call this meeting to order.

*(MILEY walks in and stops in shock after looking around.)*

**MILEY:** Hello! Whoa, this isn't my Sunday School class! Are you all ... animals??? At a meeting???

*(All ANIMALS turn to look.)*

**MILEY:** *(Cont'd. Shocked.)* What is happening right now?

**TESS:** This is the annual meeting of the Bethlehem Animal Historical Society.

**MILEY:** What?

**BESS:** The annual meeting of the Bethlehem Animal Historical Society.

**MILEY:** No, I mean, WHY ARE ANIMALS TALKING! AND SITTING AT A CONFERENCE TABLE!

**TIPPY:** *(Runs in circles around everyone while talking.)* Well, you see, a conference table is a great place to have a meeting. We can all see each other, and have a spot for our computers...

**BUFF:** It's a pretty standard committee thing. How do you not know about conference tables?

**MILEY:** Of course, I know about committees and conference tables! I want to know why some cows, sheep, a donkey with a bow - a peacock! -and two pigeons are talking to me right now!

**GLORIA:** How insulting! We are doves, not pigeons!

**UNCLE PIGEON:** Just do what I do, Glo, and lean into it. Uncle Pigeon, at your service.

**MILEY:** *(Shakes Uncle Pigeon's hand.)* I'm Miley.

*Annual Meeting of the  
Bethlehem Animal Historical Society*

- 6 -

**BOBO HEEHAW:** You mentioned my bow, is that because you like it? So sparkly! So shiny! So glorious!!!!

**CARL:** I think she doesn't get it because we need to speak slower.

**WALTER:** Miley, do... you... understand... us... now....

**FRANCES:** No, that's not it at all. She doesn't get it because she's never been at a meeting with animals before. Miley, we are the members of the Bethlehem Animal Historical Society.

**TESS:** We meet every year around this time to celebrate something so, so exciting that our ancestors witnessed.

**BESS:** Something so, so exciting! A big, huge deal that is still celebrated today!

**BEA PEACOCK:** And some of us meet for the love of the theater—don't forget that on your list!

**BOBO HEEHAW:** And for the instagrammable moments—some of us do it for the gram. (*Holds up phone to snap a selfie.*)

**BUFF:** I have to agree with Bobo here. Been doing my workouts to prepare. They say it's important for cows to stay lean. (*Poses, flexing his arm muscle and winks.*)

**FRANCES:** Yes, yes, all of that is true. But mainly we meet for the history! And the remembrance! Of a great moment for the whole world!

**GLORIA:** Before we get to our meeting, though... what are you doing here?

**MILEY:** Well, I was trying to find my Sunday school class, and something must have gone wrong.

**CARL:** Humans. Always getting lost. Can't find their way anywhere.

**WALTER:** They really have a lot to learn from us sheep. We never get lost.

**BEA PEACOCK:** You are more than welcome to stay. You could witness a great performance.

**UNCLE PIGEON:** I'll be playing the dove.

**MILEY:** I am running out of topics for my personal narrative writing. And I'm guessing a meeting with a bunch of farm animals would make for a good story...

**BEA PEACOCK:** Eh hem?

## **End of Freeview**

Download your complete script from Eldridge Publishing  
<https://95church.com/annual-meeting-of-the-bethlehem-animal-historical-society>

Eldridge Publishing, a leading drama play publisher since 1906, offers more than a thousand full-length plays, one-act plays, melodramas, holiday plays, religious plays, children's theatre plays and musicals of all kinds.

For more than a hundred years, our family-owned business has had the privilege of publishing some of the finest playwrights, allowing their work to come alive on stages worldwide.

We look forward to being a part of your next theatrical production.

Eldridge Publishing... for the start of your theatre experience!