

Annual Meeting of the Bethlehem Animal Historical Society

By Mollie Ottenhoff

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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.

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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

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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.

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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

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