

**The Star Still Shines**  
Production Notes  
by Nan Allen

**PERFORMANCE OPTION #1 – NARRATION ONLY**

The narration can be divided between two or more people. One person, perhaps the worship leader, however, can deliver it.

**PERFORMANCE OPTION #2 – NARRATION WITH OPTIONAL DRAMA**

If the drama is used, here are the things you'll need:

**Characters**

- Narrator – male or female (or more than one may be used)
- Dad – a middle-aged man
- Mom – a middle-aged woman
- Sean – a boy, older child or teenager
- Rachel – a girl, older child or teenager

In the tableau of the nativity scene recommended at the end, Mom can play Mary, Dad can play Joseph, Sean can be a shepherd and Rachel can be an angel. Add other characters, as you'd like, i.e. Wise Men, other shepherds, etc.

**Set**

An area downstage right or left of the choir is needed. The space needs to be large enough so that all four actors and a crèche may fit there throughout the production.

The crèche – This needs to be a crude stable frame the size that might be found on a residential lawn. A small crude manger will be added as the story unfolds.

**Lighting**

Though it's not essential to have elaborate stage lighting, it would be nice to have enough light fixtures and control to illuminate the acting area while actors are on stage. Fade lights on actors between the scenes.

A star gobo could be used for the end of the dramatic scenes while the "nativity scene" is acted out, or light it throughout the entire production for special effect.

**Sound**

Mic the speaking actors with wireless units. The narrator(s) can speak into wired mics or they can use wireless/body pack units.

**Props**

Hay bale

Blankets

Manger

Mugs on a tray (3 or 4)

Biblical costumes (Mary, Joseph, Shepherd, Angel)

Baby Jesus

**PERFORMANCE OPTION #3 – DRAMA WITHOUT NARRATION**

Not recommended. The narrator gives the drama context - the “so what” to the story.

**THE STAR STILL SHINES**  
Optional Drama Script  
by Nan Allen

**1 OVERTURE**

NARRATOR: Good evening, everybody, and welcome. This time of year is so special. It's a time for family, friends...and music. But this time of year is also called "The Season of Light." And you know why, of course. It's because this is when we celebrate the coming of the Light of the World, Jesus Christ. *(music begins)* You see, people had walked in darkness for way too long...and finally, like Isaiah had predicted and like God had promised, it happened. One night in Bethlehem the prophecy echoed from centuries past, "Arise, shine, for your light has come."

**2 Every Light that Shines at Christmas**

**OPTIONAL SCENE 1**

*(At stage right or left there is an empty "stall" just waiting for the manger and characters to complete it. Dad enters carrying a large hay bale, crossing to center of stage area. He is obviously struggling under the weight.)*

DAD: Ugggggghhhh. Is it me or does this nativity scene get heavier every year? *(puts down the hay bale)* There. *(stretching his back and looking up)* Ugggggggghhhhhh. *(suddenly catches a glimpse of the sky)* Oh wow! Look at that sky.

*(Enter Mom carrying a few blankets. When she sees Dad, she drops the blankets and crosses to him.)*

MOM: Oh no, you threw your back out again, didn't you?

DAD: What? No. I'm just...

MOM: Yeah, I knew it. You should have let Sean carry that hay bale.

DAD: No. I'm not hurt, I tell you. I was in mid-stretch and started looking...up.

MOM: Looking up? Why?

DAD: You tell me. *(points to the sky)*

MOM: *(looking up)* Oh wow. Look at that sky.

DAD: See? It is pretty spectacular, huh?

MOM: Oh yeah.

DAD: *(after a thoughtful pause)* Can you imagine what it would have looked like way back then in Bethlehem?

MOM: No, I can't even imagine. I'm sure it was quite a sight though. *(snapping back to reality)* Well, this little Bethlehem on our front lawn won't look like much if we just stand here looking up. *(exits)*

DAD: *(sighs)* Yeah....looking up.

*(lights down while he stays on stage looking up)*

NARRATOR: Heaven could hold it no longer. It just had to explode with excitement. Imagine stars and angels all over the place were all announcing the birth of God's Son! But, of course, you remember that there was one star that shone brighter than the rest. And it wasn't just a twinkling glow in the distance, or a burst of brightness like a comet shooting across the heavens. This star blazed in the sky for months until everybody who'd been invited to see the Child had arrived. *(music begins)* It took some of them a long time to get there. But they soon found out that it was well worth the trip.

### **3 Have You Seen That Child?**

NARRATOR: *(music begins)* Those who came seeking the Light of the World brought gifts. Some were grand, like gold and incense, and some were not so fancy. But all the gifts were accepted, because they were valuable. Some presents were all that the giver had to give. And what do you think God's Son thought of those? Well, like His Father, He thought they were the best gifts of all.

### **4 'Twas the Light before Christmas**

#### **OPTIONAL SCENE 2**

*(Sean enters carrying the manger; Dad is lying on the stage using the hay bale as his pillow. He covers himself with one of the blankets.)*

SEAN: Hey Dad. Here's the manger.

DAD: Oh thanks. Just put it over there somewhere.

*(Sean places the manger centered under the stall. Crosses to Dad.)*

SEAN: Dad!

DAD: What?

SEAN: What are you doing just lying there? Mom'll be mad at you if she sees you're not working.

DAD: Oh, I don't know. She can't stay mad at me. She likes me, I think.

SEAN: Well, I hope so for your sake.

DAD: Come down here, Sean, and look up with me. The sky is so full of stars tonight.

SEAN: Well...uh...okay. *(Sean lies down next to Dad)* Wow!

DAD: See? *(suddenly)* Hey, I just saw a shooting star!

SEAN: You did? Where?

DAD: Oh. It's gone.

SEAN: Oh man! I wanna see one.

DAD: Well, you may have to wait for it.

SEAN: Okay.

*(Pause)*

SEAN: So...how long do I have to wait to see a shooting star?

DAD: I can't answer that, son. The sky is full of surprises. God has seen to that.

SEAN: Oh, yeah.

DAD: You know, your mother and I were just wondering if the sky in Bethlehem on the first Christmas looked as incredible as this.

SEAN: Well, of course it did...didn't it?

DAD: I'm sure. It was probably a night just like this. Clear, crisp...

SEAN: ...freezing? *(grabbing a blanket for himself or tries to hog the one Dad has)*

DAD: Maybe. And you know it was probably quiet out there in the hills, too. Just the sound of sheep, maybe the shepherds were sitting by a campfire...talking...telling stories.

SEAN: Yeah.

DAD: Then...

SEAN: Then an angel appeared, right? I love that part. It must have scared 'em half to death.

DAD: Probably. But they had to keep their wits about 'em enough to remember their instructions.

SEAN: Instructions?

DAD: Don't you remember? The angel said, "Get up! Go to Bethlehem! See this Child sent from heaven."

SEAN: Yeah, that's right. *(gasps)* Hey, I saw it! A shooting star!

DAD: Yes!! Now that was worth waiting for, huh?

SEAN: Totally.

## 5 That Little Baby

NARRATOR: Have you ever been in a totally dark place? A place where you could barely see your hand in front of your face? Well, if you have, you know how welcome the light can be. Suddenly, when a light appears, you can see again; everything comes into focus, and you even feel safe. Somehow you may be even drawn to the light. *(music begins)* Then follow it and let it lead the way. And then, reaching out, you'll find a friendly hand to hold on to.

## 6 The Hand of Sweet Release *with* The First Noel

### OPTIONAL SCENE 3

*(Rachel enters with some mugs on a tray.)*

RACHEL: Okay, Mom says on your feet and back to work!

DAD: She said that?

SEAN: How did she look when she said it?

RACHEL: Uh...well...she didn't really say that. But she did send hot chocolate.

*(Rachel sets the tray down and starts handing out the mugs.)*

SEAN: Great! Thanks.

DAD: Yeah. That's more like it. But I guess we probably do need to follow our instructions and get up and start putting this manger scene together.

*(But they don't get up.)*

RACHEL: Yeah, we'd better or Mom'll be mad.

DAD AND SEAN: Nah, she likes us.

RACHEL: Whatever. I'll go get Baby Jesus. Mom's bringing the costumes. *(suddenly looking up)* What's that?

SEAN: What's what?

RACHEL: That really bright star out there. *(sits on the floor with Dad and Sean)*

DAD: Oh, that's not a star. That's a planet.

SEAN: Yeah? Which one?

DAD: Uh...this time of year...southern sky...that would be Jupiter probably.

RACHEL: Wow!

SEAN: Hey, Rach, we saw a shooting star.

RACHEL: You did? Where?

SEAN: Right over there. *(pointing to the sky)* It's gone though.

RACHEL: Oh, man!

DAD: Hey guys, look at that planet again. What do you notice about it?

SEAN: Well, it's not twinkling like the others.

RACHEL: Yeah, and it's bigger.

DAD: It is. Can you imagine if that one planet was, oh say...10 times that size and maybe 10 times brighter?

SEAN: Whoa. That would be like the sun.

DAD: Yeah. But that's what the Wise Men followed. A big ol' star, but it didn't twinkle...

RACHEL: So it was a planet then?

DAD: I don't know what it was...and probably neither did they.

SEAN: But didn't the wise men follow the star to Bethlehem?

DAD: Yep. Sure did. They totally believed all the time that it would lead them to the Savior.

RACHEL: That's amazing!

NARRATOR: (*music begins to "Underscore 1"*) The Bible says there were visitors after the birth of the King – shepherds and Wise Men – and even angels at this event in Bethlehem. And though each of these visitors was quite different from the other, they all had one thing in common: they all came, even the angels, in reverence – they all bowed down, they all worshiped the newborn Son of God. Now, let's join them right now and reverently, whole-heartedly bow down and worship our King.

## **7 Carols of Worship**

## **8 Where Else Would a Lamb Be Born?**

NARRATOR: (*music begins to "Underscore 2"*) Time has a way of making things fade: like memories, details and feelings of a past experience. The first Christmas that we realized what this season is all about may have faded a little, too. So, that's why we keep telling this story every year, why we gather in places like this. It's to remind us not only of the historical events of the birth of Christ, but it's to rekindle the light that shines in our hearts. The same light that blazed once before can shine again in the dark places in our lives.

**OPTIONAL SCENE 4**

*(Scene opens with Dad, Sean, and Rachel all sitting on the stage leaning against the hay bale and looking up. They are wrapped up in blankets.)*

*(Mom enters carrying biblical costumes.)*

MOM: Okay, you guys. Naptime's over.

SEAN: We weren't sleeping, Mom. Really! We were....

DAD: ...gazing.

SEAN: Yeah. Gazing.

MOM: Well, gazing time is over then. We've got to get this manger put together before Christmas is over...or before we all freeze to death – whichever comes first.

*(nobody moves)*

MOM: Hello. Star gazers! It's time to get up and put up the manger.

*(nobody moves)*

MOM: All right. If I didn't like you guys so much I'd be mad.

DAD: *(to Sean)* See? I told you so.

MOM: Okay. Are we still looking at stars?

RACHEL: Yeah, Mom, we're hoping to see another shooting star. We've already seen two.

DAD: Three.

MOM: Does that mean we have to stay out here until we see one?

DAD/SEAN/RACHEL: Yes.

MOM: Okay then...*(Mom sits down next to Dad and tries to share his blanket)*

DAD: *(taking Mom's hand)* Hey. Thanks.

MOM: What for?

DAD: Oh nothing in particular. Just thanks!

SEAN: Look, another shooting star!

RACHEL: Yeah, I saw it! I saw it!

MOM: I saw it, too!

*(they give high fives)*

DAD: *(sighs)* Wow. What a great night!

MOM: Yeah, it is.

DAD: Oh...that's not really what I was talking about.

MOM: So you're not saying it's a great night?

DAD: No. I mean, yes. I mean... I was still thinking about that first Christmas.

MOM: Okay. Yeah. *(sighs)* It is kind of amazing, isn't it - that a Child who came 2,000 years ago could still be the most important Person in so many lives?

DAD: ...in our lives. And to think He's still doing what He came to do originally.

MOM: What's that?

DAD: Bringing people hope and giving people peace...

MOM: *(grabbing Dad's hand again)*...and giving people love for each other. *(sighs)*  
What a great night!

DAD: Yeah, it is.

MOM: Well, now I'm talking about the first Christmas.

DAD: Oh. Sorry. Yeah, it was...

MOM:...and still is.

**9 The Star Still Shines**

NARRATOR: Jesus told us to let the light that shines within us – God’s glory – shine on the outside, too. He said, “Let your light shine before men.” And for what purpose? He adds, “. . .so that they can see your good deeds, and praise your Father in heaven.” That’s what Jesus did. He left His place next to His Father in heaven and came here to teach us, to love us, and finally to give His life for us – all so that we can see and know our Heavenly Father better. And He did that for one reason: because He loves us.

**10 Jesus, the Light of the World**

*OPTIONAL: During the song, characters put on biblical costumes offstage and then create a makeshift nativity scene by becoming the characters. They stay in that position during the finale. A special effect is to shine a “star” over the scene during the finale.*

**11 Every Light That Shines at Christmas (REPRISE)**