Animal Nativity

The animal narrators can have their script on a lectern onstage so that they don’t have to learn all their words. You can get the actors to mime what the narrators are saying. There are some specific parts but you can have as many shepherds, stars and angels as you want; these roles are great if you have lots of very young children as they can be on the stage without having to learn specific roles.

If you have any of your own Christmas songs, there should be some natural places to slot them in.

Donkey comes

Donkey: Everyone loves a good story, even us animals. Sometimes people think animals don’t like stories; but I always like to tell those people that they have neigh idea what they are talking about!

Anyway today, we’re going to tell you a very special story. It all started when I was a young donkey. I lived in a town called Nazareth. I was owned by a nice man called Joseph who was engaged to a lovely girl called Mary.

Mary and Joseph come on.

Donkey: But one day Joseph came home and he was very confused. I discovered it was because Mary had told him that she had been visited by angel.

Gabriel comes on

Gabriel: God has chosen you. You will have a baby boy who will be very special. He will be the Son of God and you will call him Jesus.

Gabriel exits

Donkey: Joseph didn’t know whether to believe Mary’s story, but an angel visited him in a dream and told him not to worry and to marry Mary. God was in control. After that things got very busy; you see the Roman emperor had ordered a census, which meant everyone had to return to the place they had been born to be counted. Joseph was worried because he had to go all the way to Bethlehem and Mary had to come with him, even though she was pregnant. This was my big moment in the story; it was up to me to carry Mary safely to Jerusalem!

Donkey leave lectern and walks with Mary and Joseph round the stage

Cow comes on

Cow: I’m glad that Donkey moooooo-ved out of the way. Now it’s my turn to tell my part of the story. You see I lived in a nice quiet stable in Bethlehem. One night I was dozing quietly when the innkeeper brought in this young couple. You see Bethlehem was very busy and they hadn’t had much luck finding a place to stay.

Mary and Joseph pretend to knock door and Innkeeper 1 appears and shakes his head Repeat with Innkeeper 2. Finally knock on the door and Innkeeper 3 turns

Cow: My innkeeper took pity on them though and said;
Innkeeper 3: I haven’t got any spare rooms but I do have a stable where the animals stay. It’s dry and warm.

Cow: Now normally I don’t like people sharing my stable, I always think there must be an udder place they could stay but poor Mary was about to give birth, so I didn’t mind. In fact, later that night, Mary gave birth to Jesus. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger full of hay

Mary cuddles Jesus and then places him in manger. Manger should be on stage left.

Cow goes and stands in stable with Mary and Joseph. Sheep and shepherds came in

Sheep: Oh, hello, I get very nervous when I have to speak in front of people. Guess you could say I feel a bit...sheepish. Sorry that was a baaaaaa-d joke. So, whilst Mary was looking after Jesus, I was up on the hill side. I wasn’t alone, there were some strange men called shepherds who liked to sit and watch us. I don’t know why they like to watch us, but they must really enjoy it because they stay with us all night, every night! Anyway, while they were watching us, a bright light came into the sky

Enter Stars and Angels

Sheep: God had sent angels to come and speak to the Shepherds

Gabriel: Do not be afraid. We have good news. The Son of God has been born. You will find him in Bethlehem.

(If you have an appropriate Angel song, this would be a good place to sing it.) Angels and stars exit.

Sheep: The shepherds were very excited and ran into Bethlehem to find Jesus. All of us sheep were pretty excited to, so we ran after them!

Sheep goes over and joins the nativity. Camel comes up to the lectern. Herod comes on stands in the middle of the stage

Sheep: The shepherds were so happy to find Jesus; they told Mary and Joseph everything that the angels had said to them.

Sheep goes over and joins the nativity. Camel comes up to the lectern. Herod comes on stands in the middle of the stage

Camel: Those sheep weren’t the only animals to meet Jesus. A couple of us camels got a chance to see him as well. We came from the East; carrying some wise-men with us. They must have had big brains because they weighed a ton! Anyway, they had spotted a star in the sky and realised that this meant a great ruler had been born. They began to follow this star and headed off to Jerusalem as there was a palace there, the perfect place for a king to be born. In Jerusalem they found King Herod and said:

Wise-men: We’ve come to meet the new King!

Camel: There was no new King in the palace and Herod was angry. He was the King!

Herod: There is no king here, but go and find him and, once you have found him, come back here and tell me. Then I can go and give him gifts.
Camel: Now I know that I’m no wise-man, but I got a sense that Herod didn’t really want to visit the new-born King. He was up to something. The wise guys didn’t pick up this though and just carried on their way. They followed the star to Bethlehem.

*Wise-men follow star round the church and end up at manger scene*

Camel: When they found Jesus in his manger they gave him gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. Mary and Joseph were very proud of Jesus.

*As Camel is speaking, Wise-men give their gifts to Jesus*

Camel: An angel came and told the wise guys to go home a different route as Herod was up to something, so we headed home a different way

*Camel and Wise-men leave. Sheep comes up to lectern*

Sheep: The rest of the sheep and I went off round the town baa-ing with excitement, trying to let people know something amazing had happened. Those weird shepherds followed us!

*Shepherds leave. Cow comes to lectern*

Cow: I sat with the rest of the animals and watched Jesus sleep. He was very special.

*Cow leaves. Donkey comes up*

Donkey: And, a wee while later, an Angel came and told Joseph that to escape nasty King Herod he had to take Mary and Jesus and go to Egypt. It meant a lot of walking for me but I didn’t care because it meant I got to carry Jesus and he was very special. We hope you enjoyed the story and remember, Jesus is the *mane* reason behind Christmas!