

"PUPPET NEWS CHRISTMAS BROADCAST"

By

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APPROXIMATE RUNNING TIME: 12 minutes

CAST LIST (In order of appearance)

DR LUKE A. POSSEL (person) one of the two anchors. He will throw to Camila covering the shepherds.

MATTHEW T. COLLECTOR (person) the second news anchor. He will be connected to Humphrey, who is reporting with the magi.

CAMILA CAMELO (Camel) The field reporter covering Luke's story in Bethlehem

SAM SHEPHERD (person) The shepherd and first interview, kind of dim, says the wrong thing about what happened.

SHEEP (sheep) Second interview, more accurate descriptor of what happened in the field.

STARS REPORTER Like a weatherman, gives the star report. Brief part can be combined with another.

HUMPHREY (Camel) The field reporter covering Herod's Palace and the travel of the magi.

KING HEROD (person) The king who wants to 'visit' the child. Brief part can be combined with another.

BALTHASAR (person) Represents the magi, comes to the realization that asking the current King about a new King wasn't so "wise."

NOT THE INN KEEPER (person) The one who let the family in. Corrects the popular misconception that Jesus was born isolated and excluded.

SCENE ONE: NEWS INTRO

GRAPHIC/SOUND: BREAKING NEWS INTRO

Luke and Matthew puppets at a news desk.

MATTHEW T. COLLECTOR

Good evening and welcome to the WPPT Evening News. I am your co-anchor, Matthew T. Collector. We are here to bring you all the news that's fit to puppet.

DR. LUKE A. POSSEL

I am Dr. Luke A. Possel. Tonight's top story: Bedlam in Bethlehem. There are reports from the fields that there has been a strange light and reports of wondrous events. Our correspondent, Camilla Camello is there.

(End scene)

SCENE TWO: In the fields outside Bethlehem

Scene description - Camilla Camello is a news reporter. She is interviewing witnesses, including a shepherd and a sheep.

CAMILLA CAMELO

I am here on the scene in the fields outside of Bethlehem, where eye witnesses say there was a bright light and a disturbing presence. This is Sam Shepherd with me. Sam, can you describe what you saw tonight?

SAM SHEPHERD

I was just out here minding my business and tending my sheep and suddenly there was this bright light. There was a multitude of the heavenly host and they were singing,

"Glory to God in the Highest heaven. Peace on Earth."

CAMILLA CAMELO

That must have been shocking. What exactly is the "heavenly host"?

SAM SHEPHERD

I'm not sure I can describe it, but if you don't believe me, ask my sheep here

SHEEP

It happened exactly like ol' Sam here said. He's not the sharpest staff in the shed, if you know what I mean, but he's not lying.

CAMILLA CAMELO

So did the angels have anything else to say?

SAM SHEPHERD

It all happened so fast, I couldn't get my phone out to record it, but I think the angel said, "I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people. To you is born this day in the city of Dallas, a Life Saver, who is Messi, the soccer player. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in a tortilla and lying to the manager."

SHEEP

That's not what they said! In the city of *David*, there is a *Savior* who is the *Messiah*, not Messi the soccer player. And he is child wrapped in swaddling cloth lying in a manger, not lying to the manager!"

CAMILLA CAMELO

There you have it, lights, angels, and action here in the fields outside of Bethlehem. I will continue to try and find

out about this Messi and the manager. I'm
Camilla Camelo. Back to you Luke.

(End scene)

SCENE THREE: NEWS ROOM

GRAPHIC: BREAKING NEWS INTRO

Two puppets at a news desk.

DR. LUKE A. POSSEL

Great work out there Camilla. This looks
like it is shaping up to be a great story.

MATTHEW T. COLLECTOR

Next, trouble in Jerusalem. Aids close to
King Herod say that he has received
troubling news. Some visitors from the East
have come to Herod's court searching for a
new king. But first, the stars report:

STARS REPORTER

Tonight is going to be a silent night. All
appears to be calm and bright. There is,
however, a strange star in the sky in the
East. It appears to be hovering somehow
over Bethlehem. It could mean that the
world is coming to an end, but we can't be
sure. Back to you Matthew.

MATTHEW

And now reporting on King Herod's strange
behavior lately, we will turn to our
correspondent in Herod's Palace, Humphrey.

(End scene)

SCENE FOUR: Herod's Palace

Scene description - Humphrey is on the scene, interviewing
Balthazar the Magi first, then King Herod enters.

HUMPHREY

I am here in the court of Herrod's Palace where the arrival of three Magi has caused quite a stir. The King has convened his own astrologers, advisers, scribes, and priests to discuss these events. Some are even saying that the Magi have come for the Messiah. I am here with one of the Magi.
Mr. Magi

MAGI ONE

Please, call me Balthasar

HUMPHREY

Ok, Baltha... Baltim... Mr. Magi, why are you here and what information did you bring to the King?

BALTHASAR

My friends and I have come a long way. We study the stars, and according to our charts, a new King has been born in Judea. We came to see King Herod to find out where he may be so we can bring the new king and his family gifts.

HUMPHREY

How did King Herod take the news?

BALTHASAR

Well, to be honest, not well. I guess we should have seen that coming. He seems a little upset.

HUMPHREY

Oh, well it looks like the King has emerged from his meeting. I'll step back and see if we can capture his conversation with the Magi.

KING HEROD

I have talked with my people. I have all the best people. And they tell me that this Messiah is going to be born in Bethlehem. So, magi, you should go to Bethlehem and find him for me. Tell me where he is so I can uhh, pay him a visit. Let's just say, I have some gifts I want to give him too.

HUMPHREY

Well, there you have it. According to King Herod's, Bethlehem is the place to be tonight. He seems excited that this new Messiah has been born.

(End scene)

SCENE FIVE: NEWS ROOM

GRAPHIC: BREAKING NEWS INTRO

Matthew and Luke at the news desk.

MATTHEW

Do we really need that to play every time? Anyway...

The report from King Herod's men says that a Messiah will be born in Bethlehem. When the Magi get there visit the child, you can be sure that WPPT News will be there. This is shaping up to be a truly remarkable story.

LUKE

We are getting word that our intrepid reporter, Camilla Camelo has made her way into Bethlehem where she is speaking to someone on the scene

(End scene)

SCENE SIX: Outside a home in Bethlehem

CAMILLA

I am here on the scene where the Shepherds may have found Messi - the greatest soccer player to ever live. It is quite an exciting scene. Apparently, he tried to stay here with this inn keeper, who didn't let him in. Inn Keeper, did you see Messi tonight?

NOT THE INN KEEPER

No, you've got it all wrong. I'm not an inn keeper, and there's no Messi here. I just live here with my family, and the guest room is full, so I let this young couple in so she could give birth to a baby. They are staying in the lower part of the house, where we bring in the animals at night. It's crowded, but we made room.

CAMILLA

So, can you describe what happened tonight.

NOT THE INN KEEPER

This young woman who was very pregnant and her husband came and I could tell she needed help. So I let them into our home. I already had family here, so there wasn't room in our guest room. But we made due. When the baby was born, we wrapped him in some cloth and we had to lay him in the box where the animals usually feed with the soft hay. It was really pretty cozy for him. Then this guy showed up - you should talk to him.

SAM SHEPHERD

(a little annoyed at first) I came here thinking that Messi was here, but all we found was this baby away in a manger. No crib for a bed. At first I was disappointed, but then I was overcome with

joy. The cattle were lowing, and the poor baby woke, but no crying he made. I couldn't help but praise God. I can't explain it.

SHEEP

I can. That wasn't Messi. That was the Messiah. He is the Savior, the anointed one of God who will bring peace on earth and good will to all.

CAMILA

It's quite a joyous scene here in this little town of Bethlehem. The shepherds are going back to the field, I'm not sure I will be able to get to the new mother tonight, but I'm sure she will treasure all of these things and ponder them in her heart for years to come.

(End Scene)

SCENE SEVEN: NEWS ROOM

GRAPHIC: BREAKING NEWS INTRO

Matthew and Luke at the news desk.

MATTHEW

Again, with the thing? Nevermind.

Our reporter in Jerusalem has followed the mysterious Magi. After leaving King Herod's court, they are now on the road to Bethlehem, and it looks like she has caught up to them on the road.

SCENE EIGHT: WITH THE MAGI

HUMPHREY

I've caught up with the Magi who are on their way to Bethlehem. Excuse me Mr.

Baltimore Magi, sir, you caused quite a stir in Jerusalem. What are your intentions now?

BALTHASAR

Well, we realize now that telling the current King that a new king had been born - and it wasn't his son - probably wasn't the wisest idea we've had. So now we are heading to Bethlehem to find the Messiah, and bring gifts to the family.

HUMPHREY

I have no gift for him. I wonder if he would like me to play a drum. What gifts have you brought?

BALTHASAR

I can't imagine a newborn baby and his mother would appreciate the rum pu pum pumming of a drum, but you do you. We have brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

HUMPHREY

Gold, Frankenstein, and Merv?

Pictures of Frankenstein and Merv Griffin are shown to audience.

BALTHASAR

No, not Frankenstein and Merv. Frankincense can be burned and have a soothing effect on the baby and Myrrh oil has healing properties, especially for a new mom. And Gold well, everybody could use gold.

HUMPHREY

Oh, well that makes much more sense. What are your plans after the baby shower?

BALTHASAR

We'll just head home. Herod wanted us to go back to the palace, but I didn't trust that

guy. Maybe the gold will help the family find a safe place to lay low for awhile while Herod cools off.

HUMPHREY

Luckily for them, we're pretty sure King Herod doesn't watch this news channel. That old fox only watches our competitor.

To Audience:

That tells the story here on the road to Bethlehem. These magi from the orient have traveled afar, and they hope to find a child so lovely, a child so bright. They say it's a child of royal beauty bright. There they go, following yonder star. Back to you, Matthew.

SCENE NINE: NEWS ROOM WRAP

GRAPHIC: BREAKING NEWS INTRO (GRAPHIC GETS CUT OFF ABRUPTLY)

Matthew and Luke at the news desk.

MATTHEW

Well there you have it folks, a loud, joyful, raucous night in the little town of Bethlehem

LUKE

It has been a great story. In all my years reporting the news, it might just be the greatest story I've ever told.

MATTHEW

I'm with you, Luke. There was a lot of talk about Messiahs, Kings, peace, joy, and good will to men. It feels as if everything has changed. I guess we'll just have to follow

this story and see what kind of man this young child grows to be.

Until then we'll leave it up to you, the viewer.

LUKE

Was this the greatest news story ever told? You'll have to decide. And now, signing off for WPPT News.

ALL PUPPETS AVAILABLE:

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.