

The Not-So-Silent Night

INSTANT CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

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How to Use This Pageant

Congratulations! Most of the hard work in preparing your children's Christmas pageant is already done! You hold the result of that work in your hands right now—*The Not-So-Silent Night*, an Instant Christmas Pageant.

The Not-So-Silent Night provides a complete Christmas program. All the spoken dialogue, sound effects, and music are prerecorded and provided on the disc included with this book. You even get songs for everyone in the audience to sing with the children.

This Instant Christmas Pageant is flexible. Your kids can perform it for

- a Sunday morning service,
- an afternoon or evening children's program,
- a family night program,
- a special Sunday school program,
- a nursing home program,
- and more!

And it can be performed by children from ages four through eighty-four.

Even teenagers and adults will enjoy putting on this pageant! Or you can have a puppet group perform the pageant.

The Not-So-Silent Night is easy to prepare for, too. Just follow these simple steps:

1. Read the rest of this book, and listen to the CD.
2. Photocopy the clip art from this book or the disc to decorate fliers, bulletins, and posters publicizing the pageant. The provided CD has both graphic images and music (and the music can play in a CD player or a computer).
3. Determine how you'll adjust the number of roles in the pageant to match the number of children who'll be in your program. You'll find a few ideas on how to vary the number of roles on page 7.
4. Have kids help you collect and create costumes and props. Many props can be collected from kids' homes. And you can create the rest using the photocopiable patterns in this book or on the disc.
5. Play the CD for your children, and then assign parts.
6. Practice the play with your children. Here's the fun part—kids don't need to memorize their lines! Don't have them lip-sync the parts, either. Instead, direct kids to follow the action and movement instructions in the script. Or have kids come up with their own actions. After one or two times through, kids will know how to pantomime all the actions!
7. Perform the play. During the play, invite everyone in the audience to join the cast in singing the Christmas carols.

It's that simple!

Helpful Hint

When you first put the disk into your computer, the CD will play as if it is an audio CD. To view the graphic files on a PC, right click your start menu button, and choose "Open Windows Explorer." Under "Computer," you will see your CD/DVD-ROM drive listed. After clicking on that drive, you will be able to retrieve the image files. On a Mac, insert the CD and a window will appear on the screen, showing all the folders and/or image files.

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ACTIONS

BAILIFF enters, holding a staff, and stands downstage center.

1 BAILIFF softly pounds the staff on the floor in time with the rap beat throughout “The Not-So-Silent Night Rap.”

2 BAILIFF moves to stage left of the Judge’s Bench and stands stiffly at attention.

BAILIFF pounds the staff on the floor.

JUDGE enters and sits at the bench. BAILIFF motions toward the JUDGE.

Everyone sits except the BAILIFF.

BAILIFF picks up the index card. While “reading” the number, BAILIFF’S eyes bug out. BAILIFF leans back and then flails arms to regain balance.

JUDGE leans forward and looks annoyed. BAILIFF fills cheeks with air and shakes head “no.”

WORDS

Song: “The Not-So-Silent Night Rap”

► BAILIFF

All rise. Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye! The district court in and for the County of Bethlehem will now come to order. The honorable Willy Snooze presiding. You may be seated.

Case number 3265104483...

► JUDGE

Are you done yet?

ACTIONS	WORDS
<p>BAILIFF blows air out of cheeks and again stands at attention.</p> <p>BAILIFF picks up the three file-folders and hands them to the JUDGE.</p>	<p>▶ BAILIFF ...B! <i>The People vs. Josiah, Abel, and Seth—Sons of Jacob, Shepherds of Bethlehem. They are charged with disorderly conduct and disturbing the peace.</i></p>
	<p>▶ JUDGE How do you plead?</p>
<p>JOSIAH stands and shakes his head solemnly.</p>	<p>▶ JOSIAH Not guilty, Your Honor.</p>
<p>ABEL stands and droops his head.</p>	<p>▶ ABEL Not guilty, Your Honor.</p>
<p>SETH stands and looks around the courtroom in wonder.</p>	<p>▶ SETH Not guilty, Your Honor.</p>
<p>JUDGE looks at the PROSECUTOR and nods.</p>	<p>▶ JUDGE Prosecutor, you may call your first witness.</p>
<p>PROSECUTOR stands and waves toward the audience.</p>	<p>▶ PROSECUTOR Ahem...I call Sophia Busybody.</p>