

Scruffy Levi – Chris Shelley: October 2010

(Much of the action is 'mimed' in response to the narration. The dialogue is very simple and is either spoken by the narrator or is a common phrase said by individuals or the whole cast. The scene is the 'dining room' of an inn. There are some tables and chairs and a booking counter. Enter Levi sweeping the floor. Whatever clothes he wears, either UK or 'Eastern', need to be very torn. His hair is untidy and he has bare feet. Levi continues to sweep the floor, pick up rubbish and bin it.)

NARRATOR: A long time ago in the land of Israel there was a small boy named Levi. Levi had no mother or father to look after him so he worked in his Uncle Joshua's inn. Levi had to work hard all day. He ate the leftover food and slept on the floor. No one cared about him. They would just say, "Go away Levi!"

(Enter Uncle Joshua and some serving girls and boys. They can be dressed in either 'Eastern' clothes or UK but the clothing must be consistent. Uncle Joshua is dressed as an innkeeper, the others have aprons and perhaps frilly caps. They begin to lay the tables under Joshua's direction. Levi keeps getting in the way and every time he is pushed and shouted at, "Go away Levi!" After four or five examples of this everyone stops what they are doing, points at Levi and shouts, "Go away Levi!" Levi exits sadly with his broom. Hopefully the audience will say 'Aaah' but if they don't someone can start them off.

After Levi exits the staff can go leaving Joshua behind his counter counting money.)

NARR: The inn was very busy because the government was counting everybody and made them go back to the towns or villages where they were born. Joshua was pleased because he was making a lot of money.

(Joshua rubs his hands and puts the money into a big bag or box. Customers enter and queue up to book into the inn. Joshua takes their money – writes down their names and sends them off in different directions to their rooms.

NARR: Poor Levi had so much to do fetching and carrying for the guests. Joshua and the other staff were always finding things for him to do and complaining that he was lazy and useless.

(Levi is sent backwards and forwards across the stage carrying bags and bringing things to Joshua. Other staff come to the sides of the stage and shout for him, "Levi!". After he has done what they ask they say, "Go away Levi!" At the end of the scene Joshua is still counting a big pile of money.)

NARR: Towards the end of the day, when it was beginning to get dark the guests sat down to a meal. Levi tried to help with the serving but whatever he tried to do he was always told to go away.

(Enter the guests who sit at the tables. The staff bring them food. Joshua bows and directs operations. Levi tries to help and gets the usual "Go away Levi!" This time the guests begin to join in. After a few examples everyone points at Levi and says together, "Go away Levi!" Levi exits sadly again.)

NARR: Later after the guests had gone to bed Joshua began to lock up while Levi tidied and swept the room.

(Joshua comes and goes while Levi sweeps and tidies. Enter Mary and Joseph suitably dressed. Levi goes to find Joshua and brings him back on stage.)

NARR: Joshua was tired and in a bad mood. He told the strangers that there was no room left in the inn, all the beds were taken and they would have to go somewhere else. The man explained that his wife was expecting a baby. It could come any time.....it might even be tonight. Levi said, "What about the stable Uncle Joshua?" Joshua was very angry and said to Levi,

JOSHUA: "Go away Levi!"

NARR: But the man said, "Wait a minute! The stable would be fine at least it would be warm and safe. But Joshua said, "The stable is far too untidy and dirty, I couldn't allow it." Levi said, "I can tidy and clean it Uncle Joshua." Joshua said,

JOSHUA: "Go away Levi!"

NARR: But the woman said, "Thank you Levi, you are very kind. We would really like you to help. And Joshua had to say, "Oh, well, alright then. Go and tidy and clean the stable Levi! And don't get it wrong!"

(Levi, Mary and Joseph exit. The cast enter and move the tables to the sides to create the stable. Suitable masks may be used to represent sheep, cattle, donkey. Levi enters with Mary and Joseph. Mary sits down while Joseph and Levi tidy and Levi sweeps. Levi leaves Mary and Joseph with the animals. If possible the lighting should be dimmed at this point.)

NARR: Later that night the women had her baby, a little boy. The first Joshua knew about it was when some shepherds came asking to see the baby.

(Enter the shepherds, with Joshua, to see the baby.)

NARR: Later some wise men came to see the baby and gave Mary and Joseph gifts for their child. They told them that he would grow up to be a great king.

(Enter the wise men with their gifts)

NARR: Levi heard all the noise and came to see what was happening. Joshua saw him and was very angry. "How dare you come in here," he said, "With your dirty hands and your scruffy clothes."?

JOSHUA: Go away Levi!

NARR: But the woman said, "No Levi! Don't go. Come here and see my baby. We have called him Jesus and he thinks you are very special and so do I and so does my husband Joseph."

So Levi came to Mary and saw the baby Jesus and Levi knew then that someone cared about him after all because they didn't send him away.