

**Playstage**

**Junior**

[www.schoolplaysandpantos.com](http://www.schoolplaysandpantos.com)

## **Horrid Herod**



**A Nativity Story**

**(containing popular songs and  
carols and just a *touch* of pantomime)**

**Written  
By  
Stewart  
Auty**

**HORRID HEROD****CAST LIST;****Narrator****Matthew****Herod****Grovel (Herod's servant)****Melchior****Gaspar****Balthazar****Adviser 1****Adviser 2****Scribe 1****Scribe 2****Dark Angel****Captain of the Guard****Innkeeper****Nessa****Pike****Joseph****Mary****Zeph (a shepherd)****Amir (A shepherd)****Cham (a shepherd)****Hebron (a shepherd)****Angel Gabriel****Agricola (a Guard)****Bacchus ( a Guard)****Wilsonius (a Guard)**

***26 speaking parts. Non speaking but singing could be added.***

## **HORRID HEROD**

### **MUSIC**

*Backing tracks can be purchased and downloaded for a modest fee from various sources, as shown below. Or, you could source the original artiste recording from amongst parents/grandparents and just have the children sing along to it, as many schools do. If you cannot source them from amongst the school community, then Amazon sell very cheap downloadable MP3 tracks for hundreds of thousands of songs. These can be purchased, downloaded on to a computer and then burnt on to a CD for performance. Below we give the song title and source of backing tracks. Where it says "Traditional" or "Disney" this means there is no backing track we know of but it may be in sheet music form in your school or on a children's school music compilation CD.*

### **SONGS:**

**Paperback Writer (*The Beatles*)**

[www.karaoke-version.co.uk](http://www.karaoke-version.co.uk)

[www.karaoke-](http://www.karaoke-version.co.uk)

**Kings Came Riding From the East**

**Traditional**

**It's A Sin (*Pet Shop Boys*)**

[www.ameritz.co.uk](http://www.ameritz.co.uk)

**Starry, Starry, Night (*Josh Groban*)**

[www.ameritz.co.uk](http://www.ameritz.co.uk)

**You Raise Me Up (*Westlife*)**

[www.ameritz.co.uk](http://www.ameritz.co.uk)

## **HORRID HEROD**

**OPENING SONG : PAPERBACK WRITER** (*Everyone is on stage. MATTHEW is sitting in front, cross-legged, writing with a stylus on a tablet.*)

*Paperback writer (paperback writer)  
Dear Sir or Madam, will you read my book?  
It took me years to write, will you take a look?  
It's based on a novel by a man named Lear  
And I need a job, so I want to be a paperback writer,  
Paperback writer.*

*It's a certain story of a certain man  
And his clinging wife doesn't understand.  
His son is working for the Daily Mail,  
It's a steady job but he wants to be a paperback writer,  
Paperback writer.  
Paperback writer (paperback writer)*

*It's a thousand pages, give or take a few,  
I'll be writing more in a week or two.  
I can make it longer if you like the style,  
I can change it round and I want to be a paperback writer,  
Paperback writer.*

*If you really like it you can have the rights,  
It could make a million for you overnight.  
If you must return it, you can send it here  
But I need a break and I want to be a paperback writer,  
Paperback writer.*

**(Everyone exits, except for MATTHEW and the NARRATOR)**

## **MATTHEW**

**Good evening everyone, and welcome to our Christmas play. Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Matthew – I'm a writer.**

**NARRATOR**

**He's not just any writer; he's going to be famous. You know the Bible, the New Testament? You know the Gospel Writers were called Matthew, Mark, Luke and John? Well this is Matthew! Yes, that's right, the writer of the story of Jesus.**

**MATTHEW**

**I didn't know when I began writing what was going to happen.**

**NARRATOR**

**I think everyone knows the Christmas Story.**

**MATTHEW**

**That's because they will all have read my book! Perhaps I should sign copies later?**

**NARRATOR**

**Now don't get all conceited. Nobody likes a big head!**

**MATTHEW**

**Sorry! So today, we're going to tell you a different story.**

**NARRATOR**

**It will still be the Christmas story.**

**MATTHEW**

**But from a different angle.**

**NARRATOR**

**So this is King Herod's story.**

**MATTHEW**

**Or Horrid Herod, as he later became known.**

**NARRATOR**

**Herod was the King, and he was a mean man.**

**MATTHEW**

**But he had no real power. The Romans were really in charge.**

**NARRATOR**

**They just let him be king as long as he did as he was told.**

**MATTHEW**

**Herod didn't much like this, but he did like being King.**

**NARRATOR**

**And he had been King now for over 20 years.**

**MATTHEW**

**His reputation for being mean and horrible meant that most people were frightened of him.**

*(A throne is pushed on to the stage by GROVEL, who proceeds to dust it.)*

**NARRATOR**

**He was so unpredictable that everyone was careful not to upset him. Especially his servant, Grovel. That's him there, cleaning the throne.**

**MATTHEW**

**If Herod was upset, he was capable of doing terrible things.**

**NARRATOR**

**That's why he was nicknamed Horrid Herod.**

**MATTHEW**

**But always behind his back.**

**NARRATOR**

**Never to his face.**

**MATTHEW**

**Over in King Herod's palace in Jerusalem he was about to receive some disturbing news.**

**NARRATOR**

**He wasn't very good with bad news.**

**MATTHEW**

**He wasn't very good most of the time! He wasn't called Horrid Herod for nothing!**

**NARRATOR**

**Here's King Herod now. Better watch out everybody!**

*(The NARRATOR dashes off but MATTHEW stays in the corner, observing and writing. (HEROD's music) HEROD enters and GROVEL bows.)*

**HEROD**

Oh, I just love that music. It puts me in a bad mood which could last all day.

**GROVEL** *(to audience)*

And guess who suffers most when he's in a bad mood?

**HEROD**

Oh, I do love it when people hate me so much! I'm evil and powerful, a rare combination. This isn't Jerusalem, it's Sin City!

**GROVEL**

It looks like it's going to be one of those days.

**HEROD**

I'm a mean machine. I'm the devil in disguise. My daydreams will be your nightmares. When I'm bored, I just think of a list of evil things to do. So look out, as I'm bored most of the time!

**GROVEL**

Good morning, your Majesty. And how are you this fine day?

**HEROD** *(sitting on his throne)*

Fine day is it? We'll soon put a stop to that!

**GROVEL**

I have your appointments for today, your Majesty.

**HEROD**

So who have we in the diary today? Is there anything to relieve the boredom? It's quite tedious being King and not being able to do anything.

**GROVEL**

But your Majesty, you are very important, and you have lots of power.

**HEROD**

But it doesn't feel like that. The Romans won't let me do anything.

**GROVEL** *(to audience)*

**Probably just as well. He has some crazy ideas sometimes.**

**HEROD**

**What was that? You're muttering again Grovel!**

**GROVEL**

**Sorry, Your Majesty. I was just telling everyone that I really enjoyed working for you.**

**HEROD**

**And so you should! But don't get complacent, nobody's irreplaceable.**

**GROVEL**

**I realise how fortunate I am.**

**HEROD**

**But I'm restless, Grovel. I want to change things! I want to be remembered!**

**GROVEL**

**Oh, I'm sure you will be remembered. *(to audience)* But not for the right reasons.**

**HEROD**

**Stop muttering! I can't hear you!**

**GROVEL**

**Thank goodness for that. I was nearly in trouble then.**

**HEROD**

**You're doing it again!**

**GROVEL**

**Sorry, Your Majesty. I didn't mean to cause offence.**

**HEROD**

**The diary! Tell me about the diary! Are there any visitors today?**

**GROVEL**

**Oh, yes. Sorry. Three astrologers from the east this morning, and nothing so far this afternoon.**



**HEROD**

**Astrologers eh? They're fortune tellers aren't they? Have they come to tell my fortune?**

**GROVEL**

**You're confused by the word meaning. It comes from the Greek. 'Astro' is a star, and 'logos' means conversation. These people look at the stars. And talk about them.**

**HEROD**

**Well, I'm sort of a star, seeing as I'm King and all that.**

**GROVEL**

**The stars in the night sky, that's what they look at.**

**HEROD**

**So why are they coming to see me?**

**GROVEL**

**Because you sent for them.**

**HEROD**

**I did? I wonder what I was thinking about.**

**GROVEL (to audience)**

**We wonder about that most of the time.**

**HEROD**

**What was that? You're mumbling again!**

**SONG : KINGS CAME RIDING FROM THE EAST**

***(Whilst each verse is sung, two of the Kings trot across the stage on camel heads attached to broomsticks in 'ride a cock horse' fashion, in time to the music. The third King lags behind and has to be urged to catch up. The first king could also have a star attached to a long cane to follow. This can be a very funny sequence if each King has an individual, and exaggerated style of riding.)***

***Kings came riding from the East,  
searching for the Prince of Peace;  
Then King Herod, wicked man,***

*schemed and plotted evil plan.*

*Herod told them "Find the babe;  
Come and tell me where he's laid.  
I will go there, kneel me down,  
offer him my golden crown.*

*But all he wanted was his blood,  
have this infant gone for good.  
Quickly riding through the sand,  
kings left Herod's desert land.*

**GROVEL**

**They have travelled far, and judging by their clothes, they're very wealthy.**

**HEROD**

**Oh, I do like rich people. Especially if they bring me presents.**

**GROVEL**

**Shall I show them in?**

**GROVEL**

**May I present to you Melchior, Gaspar and Balthazar. Kneel!**

*(The wise men kneel before Herod.)*

**HEROD**

**Which one is Neil?**

**MELCHIOR**

**I am Melchior. It is good of your highness to see us.**

**HEROD**

**Yes, it is. I'm a busy man, you know. A very busy man. It's a busy life being King. Busy, busy, busy!**

**GROVEL**

**Explain why you are here. King Herod does not like his time wasted.**

**HEROD**

**What do you want?**

**MELCHIOR**

**We have travelled far to be with you today.**

**HEROD**

**Are those presents for me?**