

Playstage
Junior

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Nursery Crimewatch

Have you seen this woman's sheep?
If so, then ring this number.....

Written by
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NURSERYCRIMEWATCH

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Presenter 1

Presenter 2

Detective Inspector Claude Clueless.

WPC World

Four (singing) police officers

Little Bo Peep

Presenter 3

Presenter 4

Telephone Operators 1, 2 and 3

Tom Tom, the piper's son

Butcher

Jack

Jill

Victim

Annie Malrights

Sergeant Constable

Sergeant Pepper-Spray

Maid

King

Queen

Four (blackbird)

Twenty (blackbird)

Inspector Michelle

Pearly King

Pearly Queen

30 speaking parts. Non-speaking but singing could be added if needed (for example: a couple of sheep to accompany Bo-Peep, extra Blackbirds, extra singing Officers, extra Phone Operators and so on). RUNNING TIME OF APPROXIMATELY 45 MINUTES.

MUSIC

The music in this play is a little unusual in that many of the songs are nursery rhymes sung unaccompanied by the cast in the traditional tunes.

There are, however, three songs in the script that are not nursery rhymes, and also one traditional song, that require audience participation- which we list below - and we suggest that you purchase backing tracks for these songs, if you intend to keep them in your production.

Backing tracks can be purchased and downloaded for a very modest fee from various sources, as shown below. Or, you could source the original artiste's 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 (unaccompanied) in the script:

Little Bo Peep

Tom, Tom, the Piper's son

Jack and Jill

Sing a Song of Sixpence

Humpty Dumpty

Songs with audience participation:

Do Re Mi (Karaoke to the Sound of Music and Mary Poppins) [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

On Top of Old Smoky (Mega Tracks Karaoke Band) [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

Pop Goes the Weasel (The Rhymers. Brilliant Backing Tracks for Kids) [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly (Burl Ives) [Amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk) *(Please note this is not a backing track. Burl Ives sings this unaccompanied but it would be good to play to children so that they can pick up the very simple tune.)*

NURSERY CRIMEWATCH

ACT ONE

The set is a television studio. PRESENTER 1 and 2 are seated on tall stools in the centre. Both PRESENTERS have tablets in their hands. At the back, to one side, is a series of small tables with chairs, where the phone operators sit. They all have headphones on and laptops in front of them. To the other side of the stage is a small coffee table with soft chairs around it, where guests can sit. There could be a screen/whiteboard linked to a computer at the centre back of the stage to show images, if wished, or song words. (SEE PRODUCTION NOTES). This is entirely optional.

(Theme music from TV programme)

PRESENTER 1

Hello, good evening and welcome to Nursery Crimewatch - the programme which covers all manner of crime in your area.

PRESENTER 2

We should warn you that some of the crimes featured in the programme tonight are not for the faint hearted.

PRESENTER 1

Viewers may find some scenes shocking. Some may even feel upset or distressed.

PRESENTER 2

Victim Support is a national charity to help people affected by crime.

PRESENTER 1

And counselling is available for those who need it.

PRESENTER 2

Contact telephone numbers will be displayed after the show, but if you feel the need for help or support during the programme...

PRESENTER 1

We do have a website -

I'm feeling really distressed and so very upset that I'm going to complain (Pause) dot com and you can follow us on Twitter or Facebook.

PRESENTER 2

Alternatively, you could always switch channels.

PRESENTER 1

Don't say that! We need people to keep watching!

PRESENTER 2

By continuing to watch, you give your consent. If you stay, there's no going back, no recriminations, so don't even think about applying for compensation if you find items we feature disturbing and upsetting.

PRESENTER 1

But if you do watch, please don't have nightmares.

PRESENTER 2

Our telephone operators are poised ready to answer your calls. Give us a wave guys!

(Telephone Operators respond with varying levels of enthusiasm)

PRESENTER 1

Your calls are very important to us. When it comes to information gathering, every little helps! So on with the show.

PRESENTER 2

We have a mixed bag this evening with something to appeal to the curious crime-watcher, featuring a cornucopia of cases which have baffled the police.

PRESENTER 1

Cornucopia! I'm impressed! And some alliteration too! Your teachers will be impressed!

PRESENTER 2

Through reconstruction and re-enactment, we will present a detailed, definitive description of despicable depictions of crime.

PRESENTER 1

Wow! Even more alliteration! You're after the Brownie points today!

PRESENTER 2

Yes, I hope my English teacher is watching. Her advice was 'avoid alliteration always!' so that's one in the eye for her!

PRESENTER 1

As usual we have serving police officers to help in our presentations, and so we welcome Detective Inspector Claude Clueless.

(Enter DI CLAUDE CLUELESS)

PRESENTER 1

Inspector Clueless – you have an unfortunate name for a detective?

CLUELESS

What's wrong with Claude? It's a nice name, Claude.

PRESENTER 1

I meant your surname. Clueless – for a detective?

CLUELESS

We're always clueless to begin with, but with the help of your viewers tonight, we will collect clues which will help us to solve the crimes featured.

PRESENTER 2

But clueless? I ask you! Didn't you ever think of changing your name?

CLUELESS

Don't ever be deceived by superficial judgements. I'm as sharp as a razor, as perceptive as a clairvoyant, as astute as... as astute as...

PRESENTER 2

Yes?

CLUELESS

Whatever. You get my gist.

PRESENTER 1

But all the crimes we feature tonight have baffled the police. That doesn't exactly inspire confidence.

CLUELESS

We're making progress. Things are coming together. We don't have all the pieces yet, but I'm relying on the viewers to provide the final details to give us a complete picture.

PRESENTER 2

So solving crimes is a bit like doing a jigsaw puzzle, Inspector?

CLUELESS

Yes. But it's difficult when you don't have all the pieces and there isn't a picture on the box!

PRESENTER 2

So where do we start? Which particular crime do we feature first? Is it a murder?

CLUELESS

No, it's not a murder, and I can tell by the look on your face that you're disappointed. Perhaps we'll leave that until later.

PRESENTER 2

We do have our viewing figures to consider. People are very quick to change channels these days. An interesting murder might keep them from channel hopping.

CLUELESS

We'll get there, make no mistake about that. But the general public want us to tackle, and solve, all types of crime which are drawn to our attention.

PRESENTER 1 (*sits on stool*)

So what's first then?

(Enter WPC WORLD)

CLUELESS

Allow me to introduce my colleague, WPC World. She sometimes says the most outrageous things, so she's not always very PC! Just my little joke. Go on then, WPC World. You wanted to be a star. Now's your chance. You know what to do.

WPC WORLD

I'm not sure about this.

CLUELESS

Look, there's an audience of millions of people watching. It's better than an audition. Get on with it. You'll never have a better chance.

WPC WORLD

I'm scared! I can't do it!

CLUELESS

Oh, come on now. This is no time for stage fright.

WPC WORLD

I am not doing it on my own. I'll do it if I have some help. Will you help me, Inspector?

CLUELESS

No fear! Me singing? Out loud? In front of lots of people? Not on your nelly.

WPC WORLD

But you expect me to do it!

CLUELESS

You're the one who wants to be a star, to have your 15 minutes of fame.

PRESENTER 1

I don't know what it is you want her to do, but we've got to get on with this.

WPC WORLD

I know who will help! *(She blows a whistle)*

(Enter 4 POLICE OFFICERS)

FOUR OFFICERS *(in unison)*

Evening all! 'Ello, 'ello, 'ello! What's all this then? Move on now! Let's be 'aving you!

WPC WORLD *(Coughs, to clear throat)*

Ready then lads?

WPC WORLD and FOUR OFFICERS *(Sing together)*

"Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep, and doesn't know where to find them"

CLUELESS

And here she is now! Little Bo Peep!

(Enter LITTLE BO PEEP with a lamb under her arm)

LITTLE BO PEEP

I'm so upset. I don't know what I'm going to do. I'm only little!

CLUELESS

Little Bo Peep, tell everyone your story, and we'll see if any of tonight's viewers we can help.

LITTLE BO PEEP

I don't know where to start.