Nativity play 2013 - Search for a Star

Ages: 5+

Cast:
- Voiceover (preferably with a big booming voice like the X Factor voiceover)
- Mary
- Joseph
- 3 shepherds
- 3 Magi/wise men
- 4 TV judges (stay on stage throughout)
- Bruce Forsyth
- Caesar Augustus
- Star of Bethlehem
- Dancing stars

Props:
- 4 office chairs that spin around
- Mobile phone
- Baby doll as Jesus
- Toy sheep
- Microphone (real or pretend)
- A child’s scooter
- Song ’Waiting for a star to fall’ by Boy Meets Girl
  Download it for 99p from iTunes (1988 The Best Year of My Life) track
- (optional) Strictly Come Dancing theme tune
- Gold, frankincense and Olly Murs CD
- A4 or A3 cards with red crosses on them (as in Britain’s Got Talent)
- Cards with Applaud Now written on them
Search for a Star

Scene 1 – The Voice makes an announcement

Four office chairs on stage with their backs facing the audience.

From off-stage comes a big booming X Factor type voiceover
Voiceover: It’s Christmas 2013... It’s time to hear the greatest story ever told... as we... search for a staaaaaaar!!!!!!

Yes! This is... Strictly The Voice of X Factor meets Bethlehem's Got Talent.

Children walk across the front of the stage with signs saying ‘Applaud Now....’

(Children and audience cheer)

Chair 1 spins around like on The Voice

Judge 1: Today I’m looking for a superstar messiah... someone to raise the bar...

Chair 2 spins around

Judge 2: Can I just say? I’m looking for an artist, yeah. Like, a real creator.

Chair 3 spins around

Judge 3: I’m looking for someone bigger than Elvis... bigger than all the greats!

Chair 4 spins around

Judge 4: I’m looking for someone who’ll make the hairs on the back of my neck stand up.

Voiceover: And God was looking for a young woman he could trust. A young woman with a pure heart. He was looking for Mary...

Chairs spin around again to face the back.
Scene 2 – Strictly Mary and Joseph

Enter Mary with a microphone, looking nervous. She takes centre stage.

Mary: Hi I’m Mary. I’m from Nazareth. I’m really nervous but I’d like to audition today by singing...

Voiceover: (interrupts) Hello Mary, I have a special message for you. God thinks you’re really something special. He’s chosen you. You’re going to have a baby boy and you’re to call him Jesus. He’s the star that everyone is searching for, the messiah and the saviour of the world.

Mary: Oh wow. Is this The Voice?

Voiceover: Uh, well, sort of, I’m Gabriel and this message is God’s voice to you.

Mary: I was hoping one of the judges would turn around but I didn’t expect to get noticed by God. Wow. I’ll do whatever he says. Do I sing now?

Enter Bruce Forsyth

Brucie: No, because Mary… it’s time to find out who your life partner’s going to be (does a little fake tap dancing)

Play Strictly Come Dancing music

Brucie: Nice to see you Mary, to see you nice! Come over here and join me my dear (looks at his cards). How are you feeling about meeting your soon-to-be husband and dance partner?

Mary: I’m not sure whether to hope for Brendan or Anton...

Brucie: Well I can tell you that your partner is going to be (looks at his cards)... Joseph!

Joseph is a carpenter… let’s hope he doesn’t give a wooden performance. (waits for audience to laugh) Get it? Wooden? He’s a carpenter. Ok, forget it. (looks at cards)

Joseph is related to King David no less! Now he was quite the dancer. Come on over Joseph!

Joseph dances on stage and over to Mary. They hug...

Brucie: Now Joseph... what do you think of Mary? And the baby... of course...

Joseph: Well at first when I heard about the baby I was very upset because I know I’m not the father. But then an angel appeared in my dream and told me not to freak out because the baby is the Son of God and he’s going to save our people from their sins.

Brucie: Well I never!
Joseph: Also, Mary's very good at the Argentine Tango so I think we have a good chance of winning the Glitterball.

Brucie: Wonderful. Give a big hand to Mary and Joseph everyone (to audience). You’re my favourites (to Mary and Joseph)!

Joseph, Mary and Brucie exit off stage, play a burst of Strictly Come Dancing theme music

Scene 3 – Bethlehem's Got Talent with Caesar Augustus

Voiceover: And now we go over live to... Bethlehem's Got Talent...

Chairs turn around, the four judges are holding sheets of card in their laps with a big red X on each (like the score board for Britain’s Got Talent).

Caesar comes on and stands centre stage facing the audience (so he has his back to the judges)

Judge 1: Hello, what's your name?

Caesar: (looking out at crowd proudly) Caesar Augustus. The Greatest Ever Roman Emperor.

Judge 2: And what are you going to do for us today?

Caesar: Whatever I like. I’m the Emperor.

Judge 3: (aside) He’s a bit of a diva.

Judge 4: Look, we’re searching for a star. So are you going to sing, dance... bring on a dancing dog?

Caesar: I’m going to issue a decree.

Judge 3: He’s got a degree? That’s not very entertaining.

Caesar: A decree. A law.

Judge 4: Oh. (explains to other judges) He’s got a law degree....

Caesar: No! I’m here to make a new law. I want a census of the entire Roman world.

Judge 1: A sentence?

Caesar: A CENSUS. I want to know exactly how many people are under my rule so I can sort out your taxes. This Real Time Information PAYE system is a nightmare!

So each family must return to their family home and be counted. NOW.

Children walk across stage holding up the Applaud Now cards. Audience applauds.
Judge 1: Uh. Thank you Caesar. A very bold performance. I loved it.
Judge 2: So it’s just counting? Boring.
Judge 3: It was like being on a cruise ship – too karaoke for me.
Judge 4: Where’s the dancing dog?

Judges 2,3,4 hold up their X cards to vote No.

Caesar turns round to see their verdicts and stomps off stage.

4 chairs turn back around to face back of stage again.

Scene 4 – Scooting to Bethlehem “Are we nearly there yet?”

Enter Joseph and pregnant Mary with Mary on a child’s scooter.

Joseph: What happened to the donkey?
Mary: Haven’t you heard about the double dip recession?

They walk/scoot up and down the stage.

Joseph: How far is it again? To the place we’ve got to register because of Caesar’s decree...

Mary: 80 miles south to Bethlehem. King David’s home town.

Joseph: I think we’re going the wrong way.
Mary: I’m using the satnav on my iPhone5. I think we’ll be ok.

Joseph: Are we nearly there yet?
Mary: (looks at phone) No.

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Mary: Would you like to play Candy Crush for a while? Take your mind off things. (hands him phone)

Joseph: Ooh yeah, thanks.

They walk up and down the stage while Joseph is glued to the phone
Voiceover: 52 levels of Candy Crush later....

Mary: We’re here! Bethlehem. Where are we staying?

Joseph: I’ll look for somewhere online... *(fiddles with phone)* Huh. According to Trip Advisor every hotel in Bethlehem is booked.

Mary: Ooof *(puts hand on tummy)* the baby’s coming. Google this....“good places to have a baby in Bethlehem in an emergency.”

Joseph: It says, “born in a barn”? Look, it’s just here. *(points offstage)*

Leads Mary off stage....

Children walk on with the Applaud Now signs. Audience applauds.

Scene 5 – Dancing Stars – Waiting for a star to fall

Play music: ‘Waiting for a star to fall’ by Boy Meets Girl

*Trying to catch your heart
Is like trying to catch a star
So many people love you, baby
That must be what you are

Waiting for a star to fall
And carry your heart into my arms
That’s where you belong
In my arms baby, yeah

You could choreograph a short dance by the Stars for this section while the music plays. This is a good way to involve the younger children. The judges could turn round to watch this. And then turn back round again when stars go off.

Scene 6 – Shepherds in the Barn (and on Twitter)

Enter Mary holding the Baby Jesus. Joseph wears a baby carrier front pack, carries a Bumbo seat and holds baby monitors. Joseph carries a chair for Mary to sit on too. Settles her centre stage.

*Shepherds rush on* with toy sheep.

Shepherd 1: Wow those angels sure can sing!

Shepherd 2: This must be the place they were talking about! *(To Mary)* Something amazing just happened. We were washing our socks by night...

Shepherd 1: *(interrupts)* You mean, watching our flocks by night....
Shepherd 2: Yes, and these angels appeared in the sky. It was amazing.

Shepherd 3: And they told us *(looking at baby)* this is the messiah... the son of God... the one we've all been waiting for! *(baby talk: )* Awwww look at his ickle toes... and his ickle fingers... coooochee coooochee cooo.

Shepherd 1: Wow! This is amazing. Let’s go and tell everyone what’s happened... the messiah we’ve been waiting for is here at last!

*(Shepherds 1 and 3 rush off in excitement. Shepherd 2 turns to Mary as he leaves:)*

Shepherd 2: It’s ok, I’ve already tweeted it... it’s trending on Twitter... hashtag a star is born

*Children come on with the Applaud Now cards. Audience applauds.*
Mary and Joseph leave the stage.

Scene 7 – The Star of Bethlehem and the Magi

*The 4 judges turn around.*

Enter: Star of Bethlehem with a microphone

Judge 2: Hi. What’s your name and where do you come from?

Star: Hello. Sorry I’m really nervous. *(Clears throat)* My name’s Star. I’m the Star of Bethlehem. Also known as the Christmas Star.

Judge 3: I’m confused. If you’re already a star, why are you auditioning?

Star: I’m not really here to audition, it’s just these three guys are following me. Oh here they come now...

*Star exits one side. Magi enter the opposite side.*

Magi 1: Have you seen a star?

Judge 1: That’s kind of the point of the show... Bethlehem’s Got Talent. We’re trying to find a star.

Magi 2: We’ve found the star. It’s in the East.

Judge 4: Huh. Kind of makes all this a bit pointless.

Judge 3: Who are you anyway?

Magi 3: We’re the Magi.
Judge 2: Ooh great. Are you going to pull a rabbit out of your hat or saw a woman in half?


Judge 4: Wow. The talent really is exceptional this year. Now we’ve got kings auditioning.

Judge 1: What are you going to sing for us?

Magi 1: We’re not going to sing for you. We want to worship the King of the Jews.

Magi 2: Look we’ve brought him gifts: Gold. *(brings out a gold object from inside cape/coat)*

Magi 3: Incense *(brings out incense)*

Magi 1: And Olly Murs. *(brings out Olly Murs CD)*

Judge 2: Oooh I love Olly Murs

Judge 3: Well the star went that way *(points off stage)*

Magi exit after star

Children come on with the Applaud Now signs. Audience applauds.

Scene 8 – The Final

*Judges mime talking among themselves at the back.*

Voiceover: Tonight it’s the Final of Strictly The Voice of X Factor meets Bethlehem’s Got Talent!

In our search for a star we’ve met a young pregnant Jewish girl called Mary, a carpenter called Joseph, a Roman emperor, an actual Christmas star and three Kings of the Orient *(each person enters as they are mentioned and line up at the front of the stage)*

Voiceover: Phone lines are frozen. They’ve given all they can. They can’t do any more.

So who will be crowned the Winner?

Judge 1: The talent this year has been out of this world.

Judge 2: But we’ve found our star.

Judge 3: This is the reason I love this show. I love finding undiscovered talent....

Judge 4: Well he was discovered by the shepherds and then by the Magi....

Judge 3: Yes, but we’ve been searching for him for ages... the Messiah.
Judge 1: The son of God.

Judge 2: The saviour of the world.

Judge 4: A total rockstar!

The judges all stand and applaud.

Mary holds up baby Jesus.

Voiceover: We've been searching for our star and here he is. Our hero. Born to us as a tiny baby. There's no bigger name. No name higher than his name. Yes, it's Jesus, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

Music: Waiting for a Star to Fall.
The stars come back on and do their dance around the other cast members.
Applaud

Now children walk across front of stage and stop.

The End