

MAGI By Rod

Based on Matthew 2 vv 1-12

CAST

A,B,C	3 Wise men
D	Mary
E,F	Herod's wise men, Boo holders etc
G	Herod

D is stage right with manger. G is off stage. A,B,C,D,E in a row. D & E stage left end.

- Narr 1 This is the story of the Magi. *[B steps forward and starts dancing]*
- Narr 2 Was he a Morris dancer?
- Narr 1. Was who a Morris dancer? *[A,C,D join B and dance round maypole held by F]*
- Narr 2. This May guy of yours. Morris dancers dance round maypoles in May don't they?
- Narr 1 No they don't; *[A,B,C,D let go of maypole cords and hastily grab bells. Then resume dancing round. F removes maypole.]* maypole dancers dance round maypoles. Morris dancers are the ones with bells on their ankles.
- Narr 2 So they go like the clappers?
- Narr 1 Anyway, I didn't say 'May Guy', I said Magi. *[Morris dancers stop and all resume places in a row]*
- Narr 2 Who was he?
- Narr 1 They were the wise men. *[A,B,C step forward]*
- Narr 2 They don't sound very wise – walking around with bells round their ankles. *[A,B,C get rid of bells]*
- Narr1 Look, have you quite finished? Can I continue? May I?
- Narr 2 I thought you said it was Magi.

- Narr 1 *[Composing himself]* This is the story of the three wise men; who lived in the East in the time of King Herod. *[Enter Herod to take up position stage left]*
- Narr 2 I think we should boo him.
- Narr 1 Boo who?
- Narr 2 Oh, don't cry. *[E offers Narr 1 a handkerchief]*
- Narr 1 Ha, ha, very funny.
- Narr 2 I just think we should boo Herod every time his name is mentioned. If I remember rightly, he wasn't a very nice man.
- Narr 1 You are right . I agree. Let's try it. This is the story of the three wise men who lived in the East in the time of King Herod. *[BOO SIGN HELD UP by E and F]*
- Narr 2 See, it adds feeling if the people all say boo whenever we say King Herod. *[BOO SIGN HELD UP by E and F]*
- Narr 1 They were astronomers who studied the stars. One day they saw a star in the sky. *[A,B,C use telescopes. A points to a star]*
- Narr 2 You mean, one night they saw a star. And anyway, isn't that what astronomers do? It is not exactly news "Astronomer sees star". Surely there were lots of stars?
- Narr 1 Yes, but this was moving across the sky. *[A,B,C 'follow' star with telescopes all together]*
- Narr 2 And why did they think this star was so special. *[E gives book to C. A & B lean over to study. F takes telescopes]*
- Narr 1 As wise men, they had also studied ancient documents, like the Old Testament, and believed the star told of the birth of a great king.
- Narr 2 So what did they do? *[C gives book to E]*
- Narr 1 They followed the star. *[A,B,C set off forwards from stage]*
- Narr 2 That's what I call satellite navigation. And where did it lead them? Not down a dead end to a river like my Satnav did the other day? *[A,B,C*

stop, back up and turn round arriving below where Herod is standing on stage]

- Narr 1 First of all to Jerusalem to see King Herod. *[BOO]*
- Narr 2 I bet he wasn't happy to hear of another king being born in his country.
- Narr 1 No, he wasn't. So he called together his own wise men to see if it could be true. *[F gathers round Herod with book]*
- Narr 2 And could it? *[A,B,C move on to stage centre]*
- Narr 1 Yes, they told King Herod *[BOO held up by E]* about some words of the prophet Micah.
- Narr 2 Did you know his great grandson was called Formica?
- Narr 1 Who foretold of a baby to be born in Bethlehem. *[F points to where Mary is sitting]*
- Narr 2 So what did King Herod *[BOO held up by E]* do with the wise men from the East?
- Narr 1 The bible says he called them secretly...*[Gestures to A,B,C]*
- Narr 2 That must have confused them. I thought they were called Magi.*[A,B,C look confused]*
- Narr 1 ..and told them to go and search for the child. When they found him they were to report back so that he could "go and worship him". *[Herod gestures this]*
- Narr 2 Oh yeah – a likely story. I reckon King Herod *[BOO]* wanted to find out where the baby was so he could do away with him. *[Evil look from Herod to audience]*
- Narr 1 You are right, but the wise men went to Bethlehem and found the baby in the arms of his mother Mary. *[A,B,C move across stage to Mary]*
- Narr 2 Ah, lovely. I guess that made their long journey all worthwhile.
- Narr 1 And they gave gifts to the baby king.

- Narr 2 Good idea. Always a good thing to bring a present for a new born baby. A cuddly toy, or a babygrow always goes down well.
- Narr 1 They gave gifts of gold..*[E gives chocolate money to A who gives to Mary. She puts it in manger]*
- Narr 2 Wow, that is generous. Still I expect it would come in handy. Looking after a baby is an expensive business what with nappies, carrycots, buggies,...
- Narr 1 They gave gifts of gold, frankincense..
- Narr 2 Oh, yeah, brilliant! A DVD always makes a good gift. I love that film..*[F gives DVD to B who gives DVD. Mary looks puzzled]*
- Narr 1 What film?
- Narr 2 Frankenstein. It's awesome. A bit frightening for a baby though..
- Narr 1 Not Frankenstein – frankincense..*[F realises mistake and grabs DVD from Mary, gives candle to B who gives to Mary who puts in manger]* It's a thing you burn to release a nice smell. They gave gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. *[To Narr 2]* Before you ask, it is a kind of perfume. *[E gives myrrh bottle to C who gives to Mary who puts in manger]*
- Narr 2 Yes, I do that.
- Narr 1 Do what?
- Narr 2 I think it is called regifting. I have been given all sorts of dodgy smelly aftershaves, men's fragrances and the like. I rapidly pass them on as gifts to someone else. *[During this, E gives aftershave to F who then gives to someone else – eg member of music group]*
- Narr 1 They weren't regifting. All the gifts had a special meaning.
- Narr 2 Oh, what was that?
- Narr 1 You'll have to wait for the talk to find out.
- Narr 2 Oh, that is rotten. I want to know now.
- Narr 1 No, you must wait – but I will tell you about the gold.

- Narr 2 What was the meaning of that then?
- Narr 1 They gave him gold because he was going to be a king. *[A,B,C kneel at manger]*
- Narr 2 King Jesus? The king that I reckoned King Herod *[E,F hold up BOO]* did not like – although he said he wanted to worship him?
- Narr 1 Yes, and that is why the Magi did not go back to King Herod *[E,F hold up BOO]* to tell him the baby was in Bethlehem.
- Narr 2 Didn't they? *[Wise men look at Herod, then move off down centre aisle. Herod looks at watch, paces, picks up DVD etc.]*
- Narr 1 No, they returned home to the East by a different route.
- Narr 2 That proves what you said about them was true?
- Narr 1 What was that?
- Narr 2 They really were wise men.