

NO ROOM AT INN WORLD

by JOHN COSPER

GENRE: Comedy

SYNOPSIS: An entrepreneur from modern times goes back to the inn at Bethlehem and strikes a deal to turn it into a tourist attraction—ironically forcing Joseph and Mary to have the baby Jesus in the stable.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: The more extras and props you get on stage when the construction crew moves in, the better. The line for the dancer to the audience at the end is optional.

TIME: 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 5M, 1F, Lots of extras

TOPIC: Christmas

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 2:1-7

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas

SUGGESTED USE: Seeker Service; Christmas Program

CHARACTERS:

Marty—modern day entertainment investor

Jacob—the innkeeper at Bethlehem

Joseph—Jesus' earthly father

Construction workers

Dancing girls (one speaking)

PROPS: A hotel desk, hotel furniture, construction tools and equipment, luggage, blue prints

COSTUMES: Biblical costumes for Jacob and Joseph; something gaudy and modern for Marty. Construction clothes, travel clothes for the dancers.

SOUND: Wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: The inn at Bethlehem

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A simple counter is set up, stage right. MARTY enters from stage right, looking very Joe Hollywood in a gaudy shirt and shades.

MARTY: Pardon me, sir? Are you the proprietor of this establishment?

JACOB: I am Jacob, owner of the inn.

MARTY: Marty Silvers, Silvers Entertainment. A pleasure to meet you.

JACOB: A pleasure to meet you.

MARTY: Listen, Jake, I'm no good at this chit chat, so I'll cut right to the chase. How much to rent out your entire hotel?

JACOB: Hotel?

MARTY: The inn, baby, I want to rent the whole thing.

JACOB: The whole inn?

MARTY: The whole joint, top to bottom! I'm an investor, and I'm here to strike a deal on the most valuable property in history.

JACOB: You speak strangely. And you dress strange too.

MARTY: Strange? My boy, this is high fashion where I come from. You see, I'm from the future.

JACOB: The future?

MARTY: Two thousand years, give or take a decade. We've invented time travel, and as one of the first to take advantage of this technology, I am here to turn your little inn into one of the greatest tourist destinations in history!

JACOB: Here? In Bethlehem?

MARTY: That's right, O Little Town of Bethlehem! Of destiny! Don't you know this is the very spot where the Christ child will be born?

JACOB: The who?

MARTY: The chosen one! The Messiah! Big JC himself! Why, sir, you are sitting on the most valuable piece of tourism real estate outside of Disney World!

JACOB: I do not understand any of this. I'm just an innkeeper, hoping to make a nice profit during the coming census from the people traveling back—