

The Christmas Story in a Pancake House

Setting: Herod's House of Pancakes. There is large table in center with two smaller tables on sides. HEROD sits behind the large table in the center. There is a large group of customers waiting off on stage right, with SERVER 1 standing at the front.

Sing "Jingle Bells."

CUSTOMER 1: I'm getting hungry, especially from all this singing. How long have we been waiting in line?

Customer 2 checks their watch carefully.

CUSTOMER 2: It has been about six days.

HEROD: Waiter!

Server 2 rushes in.

SERVER 2: Yes, King Herod?

HEROD: These pancakes taste great, but they are too round. Take them back to the kitchen and throw them away.

All of the customers and servers groan in annoyance.

SERVER 2: Yes, right away.

Server 2 takes the plate of pancakes away.

CUSTOMER 1: I don't think we are getting pancakes anytime soon.

CUSTOMER 2: The odds do seem stacked against us.

MARY and JOSEPH enter from stage right. Server 1 sees them and wearily starts their introduction.

SERVER 1: Welcome to Herod's House of Pancakes, also known as H-HOP (*Pronounced hu-hop*). How can I help you?

JOSEPH: Excuse me, we need a table.

SERVER 1: I'm sorry, we're full.

MARY: How long is the wait?

SERVER 1: Forty days and nights, if they start serving pancakes today.

JOSEPH: I think I am going to flip. We need a table, my wife is going to have a baby.

SERVER 1: Alright. I don't have any open tables, but I do have a place in the Bethlehem section. Follow me.

Server 1 leads Mary and Joseph to the large table. They pull up the tablecloth.

SERVER 1: There, you can sit under there.

JOSEPH: Under a table?

MARY: It's safe and warm, better than outside in the cold.

JOSEPH: I suppose this little town of Bethlehem will do.

They get settled in under the table.

Sing "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem."

Server 2 comes in from stage left, leading the 3 BILLIONAIRES.

HEROD: Ah, my business friends, good to see you. Are you here to put more money in my pancake house?

BILLIONAIRE 1: Actually, we heard that there was a king that was going to be born today?

HEROD: A king?

BILLIONAIRE 2: Yes, a king not just for this pancake house, but for the world.

BILLIONAIRE 3: A prince of peace that will come to save the world.

Herod turns to Server 2.

HEROD: Have you heard this?

SERVER 2: Yes, I've heard stories. Do you think that this new king will save us from Herod?

HEROD: What?

SERVER 2: Uh, nothing, I need to check on the kitchen.

Server 2 leaves stage left.

HEROD: A new king of Herod's House of Pancakes. That can't be. It's MyHOP, not anyone else's HOP.

BILLIONAIRE 2: So, have you heard anything about a king being born?

BILLIONAIRE 1: We would love to bring the king gifts: iPhones, and TVs, and computers

BILLIONAIRE 2: LEGO, and dolls, and board games.

BILLIONAIRE 3: Frankincense and myrrh.

Everyone stops and looks at Billionaire 3.

BILLIONAIRE 3: What? Those are good gifts!

HEROD: No, I have not heard of any king. But if you find one, let me know. I want to make sure my power is never over taken by... I mean, I want to pay homage.

BILLIONAIRE 2: Yes, this king will bring joy to the world.

Sing "Joy to the World."

Server 2 rushes in from stage left.

SERVER 2: Sir, there's been an accident in the kitchen. There's syrup everywhere.

HEROD: Sounds like a sticky situation. I really don't want to get involved.

BILLIONAIRE 1: We best be going.

HEROD: Alright, goodbye. I've got to clean up this mess.

Herod and Server 2 head out stage left. Server 1 walks over to the Billionaires.

SERVER 1: Careful, Herod is not trustworthy. We don't know what he might do if he finds this new king.

BILLIONAIRE 1: We will keep that in mind, thank you.

BILLIONAIRE 3: Let's go find this king.

Server 1 heads back to the line. The 3 billionaires wander off stage right. The Sheep enter stage right and stand by the customers.

SHEEP 1: Baa. Hungry.

SHEEP 2: Baa. Pancakes.

SHEEP 3: Baa. Food.

SERVER 1: Excuse me, are those your sheep?

CUSTOMER 2: Yes, of course they are. We are shepherds, are we not?

SERVER 1: We can't have animals in a restaurant.

CUSTOMER 1: But we made a reservation. It's under Baa Larson.

SERVER 1: Oh, here it is, Larson, party of one hundred and two. Let me see if there is an open table.

Server 1 crosses the stage and exits stage left. The ANGEL enters and stands on Herod's chair, towering above the group. The Customers and sheep all turn and look in fear.

Sing "Angels We Have Heard on High."

SHEEP 1, 2, & 3: Baaa!

ANGEL: Hark!

CUSTOMER 1: What does hark mean?

ANGEL: It means pay attention! Tonight is born a new king that will bring peace, joy, and love to the world.

SHEEP 1: Baaaby!

SHEEP 2: King!

SHEEP 3: Savior!

CUSTOMER 2: Where is this king born?

ANGEL: In the seating section of Bethlehem, under a table.

CUSTOMER 1: How will we know which table?

The Angel points straight down at the table beneath them.

SHEEP 1, 2 & 3: Oh! How obvious.

The customers look at them.

SHEEP 1, 2, & 3: I mean, baaa!

The customers walk over to the table and lift the tablecloth. Beneath, Mary and Joseph sit, holding baby Jesus.

Sing "Away in a Manger."

The 3 Billionaires enter from stage right and come over to the table.

BILLIONAIRE 3: Right under our noses.

BILLIONAIRE 2: We have found the new king.

BILLIONAIRE 1: Here are our gifts, oh king.

The billionaires set their gifts in front of Mary and Joseph. Server 1 & 2 come over to join the group.

JOSEPH: What is going on?

MARY: I think they have all come to worship our baby on this silent night.

Sing "Silent Night."

MARY: Thank you, everyone.

CUSTOMER 1: Let's go tell everyone about this new king.

CUSTOMER 2: Let's go tell it in the valleys and go tell it on the mountain!

Sing "Go Tell it on the Mountain." Everyone exits into audience at the end of the song. Herod enters stage left.

HEROD: My pancakes are ready, everyone. Hello?

END