

ACT TWO

53

AUSTIN/HEROD: The answer is "No", you imbeciles! These "astrologers" say they must follow a star to find this child king. I must get them to help me rid the world of this newborn baby.

*(AUSTIN/HEROD laughs evilly at the audience in the middle of the theatre, then runs stage-right and laughs at that side, then runs all the way left and laughs at that side. The audience will 'boo' him vigorously. All that running and evil laughing leaves him winded.)*

AUSTIN/HEROD: Aw, nuts. I need my three wise men! Wise Men! Get in here!

*(MATT and REED enter as MELCHIOR and BALTHAZAR, dressed in crazy matching '70s disco outfits.)*

AUSTIN/HEROD: I'm sorry. Did I interrupt disco night?

MATT/MELCHIOR: Sorry, your highness. The costume trunks didn't arrive.

REED/BALTHAZAR: These are the only matching outfits we could find.

AUSTIN/HEROD: I was expecting Balthazar, Melchior, and Caspar. There's supposed to be *three* wise men.

REED/BALTHAZAR: Yeah, but you're supposed to be the thir—

AUSTIN: *(Cutting him off)* Uh, uh, uh!

REED/BALTHAZAR: Uh, Caspar's on his way.

AUSTIN/HEROD: Really. Will he be played by a devilishly talented thespian?

MATT/MELCHIOR: Well, you do like women, so...

AUSTIN/HEROD: *Thespian*, you imbecile! Not a lesbi— never mind. Go get me the third astrologer!

MATT/MELCHIOR: Okay... *(He exits.)*

REED/BALTHAZAR: I'm sorry about this, your highness. *(Calling to offstage actor)* Caspar, get in here!

54 THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS SHOW (abridged)

(MATT enters, covered in a white sheet. He makes ghostly noises and moves spookily.)

AUSTIN/HEROD: Don't tell me. You're Caspar.

MATT/CASPAR: (In a phony, deep ghost voice) Yes, the Friendly Astrologer.

AUSTIN/HEROD: You're just Melchior in a white sheet.

MATT/CASPAR: No, no, no.

AUSTIN/HEROD: Yes, yes, yes. Where's Melchior?

MATT/CASPAR: He's behind you!

AUSTIN/HEROD: Nice try. Go get me the third astrologer.

MATT/CASPAR: (Exiting) Ooooooh...kay.

AUSTIN/HEROD: I specifically ordered three wise men, not two total idiots!

(MATT enters as MELCHIOR again.)

MATT/MELCHIOR: You called?

AUSTIN/HEROD: Speak of the devil.

MATT/MELCHIOR: What do you need?

AUSTIN/HEROD: I need you and Caspar here at the same time!

REED/BALTHAZAR: I'll get him, your highness. (He exits.)

AUSTIN/HEROD: Thank you! Finally! Now we're getting somewhere.

(Now REED enters wearing the sheet. He does a series of Three Stooges noises and moves, ending with a sepulchral "Luke, I am your father.")

AUSTIN/HEROD: I don't understand—are you Darth Curly? Are you finished?

REED/CASPAR: My career is.