

**COMPANY'S COMING**  
**(A STABLE CELEBRATION)**

*by Ann W. Yeager*



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# Company's Coming

## (A Stable Celebration)

A creature-costumed  
Christmas musical

by Ann W. Yeager

*CAST OF CHARACTERS*

*THE ANIMALS*

**COWS**

**SHEEP**

**DONKEYS**

**DOVES**

**A DOG**

**A CAT**

**A MOUSE**

*THE MESSENGER*

### *PRODUCTION NOTES*

*Company's Coming* is written so that any number of children may participate. While the script uses gender-specific language, all parts may be played by either boys or girls. In cases where there is more than one of a particular animal, the lines may be divided among the players if desired.

The scene may be set simply using boxes, crates, or even sawhorses draped with fabric to suggest stalls in a stable. A short ladder or table might suggest a perch for the doves. A manger, wooden bucket, and straw will complete the scene.

Costumes for the animals may simply consist of masks (and wings for the doves), or more elaborate costumes and/or face paint may be used. The Messenger should be dressed in white with a dark coat or robe completely covering him/her. The coat is removed at the end of the song "You're Not Listening."

This musical should be performed with gentle humor. Players should be encouraged to be as "animal-like" as possible without being silly. It might be helpful to tell the story to the players before reading through the script.

**SONG TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- 1. Out of the Inn — *Animals***
- 2. Why Can't People Be More Like Us? —  
*Animals with solos***
- 3. You're Not Listening — *Messenger***
- 4. Only a Stable — *Mouse***
- 5. Company's Coming! — *Animals with solos***
- 6. Company's Coming (Reprise) — *Animals***

1     **SCENE:** A stable with two or three stalls. Straw is scattered on  
 2     the floor; a manger stands to one side and a water bucket to  
 3     the other. All **ANIMALS** except the **DOG** are present and  
 4     standing or lying down. The **MOUSE** is almost hidden in a  
 5     corner. The **ANIMALS** are murmuring quietly to each other,  
 6     and the atmosphere is sleepy. The **DOG** trots in and collapses  
 7     on the floor.

8

9     **DOG:** Woo-oof! You ought to see the people out there. I  
 10    could hardly squeeze through the crowd, and I kept  
 11    getting stepped on. Ooh, my poor feet! (*Licks his front*  
 12    *paws.*)

13    **CAT:** I know. I came in an hour ago, and my ears are still  
 14    ringing with all the noise. (*Rubs his ears.*)

15    **SHEEP:** Baa-aa-aad news.

16    **COW:** What's going on, anyway? It's almost dinner time, and  
 17    the streets are usually empty by now.

18    **DOG:** I heard the Roman Emperor has ordered that all the  
 19    people in the country be taxed, so they have to go back  
 20    to the towns where they were born and register. People  
 21    are coming here from all over.

22    **CAT:** I heard the innkeeper say that his rooms were already  
 23    full.

24    **DONKEY:** If the rooms are full, where will the rest of the  
 25    people stay?

26    **COW:** I guess the ones already at the inn will have to moo-  
 27    oo-ve over.

28    **DONKEY:** (*Laughing*) Hee-haw! That's a good one.

29    **DOG:** Well, I'm just glad I don't have to stay in the inn.

30    **CAT:** You can say that again! (*All the ANIMALS sing except the*  
 31    *MOUSE, who continues to sleep.*)

32

33    **SONG:** "Out of the Inn"

34    **ANIMALS:** (*Singing*) The inn is a place where lots of folks  
 35    gather —

1 Merchants and travelers and kin;  
 2 But we don't like people, so we would just rather  
 3 Be here in the stable away from the inn.  
 4

5 *Refrain:*

6 We're out of the inn, out of the inn.  
 7 We're so glad to be here, we can't help but grin.  
 8 No noise or confusion disturbs our seclusion.  
 9 We're happy to be here — out of the inn!

10

11 Oh, sometimes we argue and kick up a fuss;  
 12 It never lasts long 'cause we're friends.  
 13 But humans annoy us (except when they feed us),  
 14 So we'll make our home here, away from the inn.

15 *Refrain*

16

17 **DOG:** Where's the water bucket? I'm thirsty! (*Locates bucket*  
 18 *and drinks, then sits alone, looking unhappy.*)

19 **CAT:** (*Looks around.*) Mouse? Where are you, mouse?

20 **MOUSE:** (*Stretches and yawns.*) Here I am.

21 **CAT:** Don't you do anything but sleep?

22 **MOUSE:** Yes. I eat. (*Other ANIMALS laugh.*)

23 **CAT:** Well, you need some exercise. Want to play hide-and-  
 24 seek?

25 **MOUSE:** Not now. It's too crowded in here and too cold  
 26 outside. Let's wait until tomorrow.

27 **CAT:** (*Shaking his head*) You always want to wait until  
 28 tomorrow. I give up. (*Notices the DOG and walks over to*  
 29 *him.*) You look pretty sad. What's wrong?

30 **DOG:** When I was down at the synagogue, I saw some  
 31 children making fun of a little boy whose clothes were  
 32 dirty and ragged. They kept on until he began to cry.  
 33 It made me feel angry, so I barked at them until they  
 34 ran away. Then I went over and licked the little boy's  
 35 face, and that seemed to make him feel better.



- 1 COW: Why do children act like that?
- 2 SHEEP: Well, probably because they see grown-ups treating  
3 people the same way.
- 4 DONKEY: You're right. Today when I was carrying a load  
5 of grain to the market, I heard two men saying terrible  
6 things about a family from Samaria.
- 7 DOVE: We see lots of things while we're flying around.  
8 We've seen people fighting over a piece of land, and  
9 we've seen other people walk right past beggars who  
10 are crippled and starving without even looking at them.  
11 Of course, sometimes we see someone helping another  
12 person, but mostly people just mind their own business.
- 13 DOG: It's too bad humans can't learn to accept and care  
14 about each other the way we do.
- 15 CAT: I think it would take something or someone very  
16 special to teach them that. Oh well, at least we don't  
17 have to spend *all* our time with people. If we did, we  
18 might start behaving like *them!* (*The ANIMALS sing*  
19 *together, with solos as noted.*)
- 20
- 21 SONG: "Why Can't People Be More Like Us?"
- 22 CAT: (*Singing to DOG*) I'm not you.
- 23 DOG: (*To COW*) You're not me.
- 24 CAT, DOG, COW: We're as different as we can be.
- 25 SHEEP: I've got wool.
- 26 DONKEY: I've got hair.
- 27 MOUSE: (*Pointing to ground*) I walk down here.
- 28 DOVES: (*Pointing up*) We fly up there.
- 29 ALL: We're not alike, as you can see,  
30 But we are still one family.  
31 We live together in love and trust.  
32 Oh, why can't people be more like us?  
33  
34 It doesn't matter how we look,  
35 Or whether we can read a book.

1 **COW:** *(To others)* Do you care if we talk the same?

2 **CAT:** Or if I have a famous name?

3 **ALL:** God made us all, and so, you see,

4 We live together in harmony.

5 We stay with them because we must,

6 But why can't people be more like us?

7

8 *(During interlude, ANIMALS move around, giving "high*  
 9 *fives," patting each other on the back, or hugging.)*

10 **ALL:** God made us all, and so, you see,

11 We live together in harmony.

12 We stay with them because we must,

13 But why can't people be more like us?

14 Why can't people, why can't people be more like us?

15

16 **MOUSE:** *(Yawning)* Can I go back to sleep now?

17 **CAT:** Yes, lazybones, you can go back to sleep. I'm ready to  
 18 catnap myself. *(ANIMALS yawn and stretch and settle*  
 19 *down for the night.)*

20 **COW:** Good night, everyone.

21 **ALL:** Good night. *(After a few moments of quiet, the*  
 22 *MESSENGER enters and begins to look around, being*  
 23 *careful not to disturb the ANIMALS. The CAT opens her eyes*  
 24 *and suddenly sits up.)*

25 **CAT:** Mr-r-r-ow! Who are you and what do you want? *(The*  
 26 *other ANIMALS wake up, the DOG barking, the DONKEYS*  
 27 *braying, the COWS mooing, etc. The DOVES flap around.)*

28 **MESSENGER:** *(Struggling to be heard over the noise)* Whoa!  
 29 Hey! I'm sorry. Will you please be quiet and let me talk?  
 30 *(The ANIMALS quiet down.)* That's better. I couldn't hear  
 31 myself think. *(To the CAT)* Now, to get back to your  
 32 question, I'm looking for shelter for a man and his wife.  
 33 *(He looks around the stable.)* I think this will do very well.

34 **DOG:** Wait a minute. You want to bring people in here to  
 35 sleep?

- 1     **MESSENGER:** That's right. All the inns are full, and the  
 2         young woman is about to have a baby.
- 3     **COW:** Oh, no you don't. People don't belong in stables.  
 4         They're used to sleeping in a house.
- 5     **DONKEY:** They won't like it here, and they'll start  
 6         complaining.
- 7     **SHEEP:** And just think how noisy a baby will be, crying all  
 8         the time.
- 9     **DOVE:** People and animals just don't mix!
- 10    **MESSENGER:** Hold on! You haven't heard the whole story.  
 11         This isn't just any baby; this is God's Son.
- 12    **DOG:** (*Sarcastically*) R-r-r-right! God's Son is going to be born  
 13         in a stable. (*The other ANIMALS start to laugh.*)
- 14    **MESSENGER:** Yes, he is.
- 15    **CAT:** (*Laughing*) And I guess God picked our stable himself?
- 16    **MESSENGER:** As a matter of fact, he did.
- 17    **DONKEY:** Well, we don't want people messing up our home  
 18         and disturbing our sleep.
- 19    **SHEEP:** Besides, God's Son should be born in a palace, not  
 20         in a stable.
- 21    **DOG:** How do we know you came from God? You don't look  
 22         like an angel, or even a prophet or a rabbi. (*The*  
 23         *ANIMALS continue to grumble and argue. The*  
 24         *MESSENGER shakes his head, then sings. When the music*  
 25         *begins, the ANIMALS get gradually quieter until they*  
 26         *pantomime conversations.*)
- 27
- 28    **SONG:** "You're Not Listening"
- 29    **MESSENGER:** (*Singing*) Can't you hear? Don't you care?  
 30         God's sent a gift for you to share.  
 31         His own Son will be born tonight,  
 32         And here you are putting up a fight.  
 33         You're not listening! Can't you see  
 34         When all this happens how blessed you'll be?  
 35         God chose this place out of all the rest

1           Because he thought it would be the best.  
2           You're not listening!

3  
4           You're so proud of the way you live,  
5           The way you accept and care and give,  
6           But what you say and how you act  
7           Just don't make sense, and that's a fact.  
8           You wish that people were more like you  
9           Then you shut them out. Now isn't that true?  
10          You're all God's creatures. You always have been.  
11          Can't you open your hearts and let them in?  
12          Are you listening?

13          Will — you — listen — now?! (*MESSENGER removes his*  
14          *cloak and ANIMALS gasp. As music ends, the ANIMALS*  
15          *are dumbfounded and silent. Finally the DONKEY speaks.*)

16  
17         DONKEY: Hey! He must be from God, or he wouldn't be  
18           able to talk to us.

19         MOUSE: And he's right, you know. We work hard to get  
20           along with each other, but we don't even *try* to  
21           understand humans.

22         CAT: How can *we* understand them? They don't seem to  
23           understand themselves!

24         MOUSE: Well, maybe we could try to accept them, even if  
25           we don't understand.

26         SHEEP: Some of them aren't too bad. Our shepherd takes  
27           care of us when we're in the fields.

28         DOG: The children can be fun to play with.

29         DONKEY: The innkeeper feeds us every day.

30         COW: I guess I can try if everyone else is. Does that mean  
31           we're going to let those people stay in our stable?

32         MOUSE: (*To the MESSENGER*) What I don't understand is  
33           why God would let his Son be born in a place like this.

34

35         SONG: "Only a Stable"

1 **MOUSE:** *(Singing)* No rugs on the floor, no paint on the  
 2 walls,  
 3 No benches to sit on, no comforts at all,  
 4 No bed for a baby, not even a light,  
 5 So why would they come here on such a cold night?  
 6 No fire to warm them, no blankets so soft,  
 7 There's only us here and the doves in the loft.

8  
 9 It's only a stable, cold, dark and bare,  
 10 So why would God choose us and ask us to share?  
 11 We don't understand, but they're welcome to come.  
 12 It's only a stable, but we call it home.

13  
 14 **MESSENGER:** It's only a stable, cold, dark and bare,  
 15 But God sees your warm hearts and knows that you'll  
 16 care.  
 17 Here will the Christ Child be born in starlight;  
 18 Your stable will be Jesus' palace tonight.  
 19 **ANIMALS:** Our stable will be Jesus' palace tonight.

20  
 21 *(The ANIMALS sit silently for a moment, then the DOG*  
 22 *jumps up.)*

23 **DOG:** Why are we sitting here like statues?  
 24 **DONKEY:** Right. Shouldn't we be cleaning the floor or  
 25 something?

26 **COW:** Come on, everybody. Let's moo-oo-ve it!

27 **SHEEP:** We've got company coming!

28 **DOVE:** I'll *(We'll)* do the dusting.

29 **CAT:** Wait a minute! There's going to be a baby. Where will  
 30 he sleep? *(The ANIMALS look around.)*

31 **MOUSE:** How about the manger? We can put fresh straw in  
 32 it.

33 **COW:** Mouse, that's very good idea. *(To the DONKEY)* Will  
 34 you help me move it over here? *(Indicates center of*  
 35 *stable.)*

1 **DONKEY:** (*Nodding*) **Happy to help.** (*The ANIMALS busy*  
 2 *themselves brushing up the straw, moving the manger, and*  
 3 *tidying themselves. The DOVES use their wings to “dust.”*  
 4 *The SHEEP begin the song.*)

5  
 6 **SONG:** “Company’s Coming!”

7 **SHEEP:** (*Singing*) **Sweep the floor and dust the stalls;**

8 **COW:** **Wipe the cobwebs off the walls;**

9 **DOG:** **Fill the manger with fresh, sweet straw.**

10 **ALL:** **Why? Company’s coming!**

11

12 **DOG:** **It’s a shame, don’t you agree**

13 **That folks out there won’t get to see.**

14 **MOUSE:** **When morning comes how surprised they’ll be.**

15 **ALL:** **Why? Company’s coming!**

16

17 **DONKEY:** **Brush your coats from front to rear;**

18 **CAT:** **Wash your face; don’t forget your ears.**

19 **DOVES:** **Hurry now, the time is near.**

20 **ALL:** **Why? Company’s coming!**

21

22 **MESSENGER:** **It’s a time for joy, so put on a smile.**

23 **The Hope of the world will be here in a while;**

24 **God’s love come to earth in the form of a child.**

25 **Rejoice! Company’s coming.**

26 **ALL:** **Company’s coming, company’s coming, company’s**  
 27 **coming.**

28 **Hooray! Company’s coming!** (*The ANIMALS continue to*  
 29 *groom and talk among themselves.*)

30

31 **DOG:** **Hey! I just thought of something. When human babies**  
 32 **are born, people bring them gifts.**

33 **DONKEY:** **Yeah. And this is God’s Son. He should have a**  
 34 **very special gift.**

35 **CAT:** **But we don’t have any money to buy a gift.**



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