

Superheroes – A Census Special Broadcast (Luke 2:1-20)

Setting: *Outskirts of Bethlehem with crowds of people heading into town early in the evening. It is the time of the census and Joseph is on his way with Mary. This is the night that the world really changed.*

Players:

Interviewer – *a lively and colourful character, stands out from the crowd, and with a microphone he's not afraid to use.*

Gertrudius – *a young woman on her way in to the town, rather overawed by being interviewed on Beth News.*

Nautius Maximus – *a cool young dude.*

Mohannahia, Curliosephus, and Shethlarry – *otherwise known as Mo, Curly and Larry. They are shepherds on their way out of town as they have the night shift.*

Shamar – *a rather prudish, but truish Jewish, woman.*

Mary and Joseph – *rather ordinary couple with Mary obviously pregnant and uncomfortable, and both wanting to get to town.*

Archangel Michael – *wearing a white gown and some glittery material around his shoulders – his appearance should leave the audience guessing slightly just who he is.*

Crowd – *others as needed to give a “crowd” feel would be good. If enough people, a one or two could decline to be interviewed. The interviewer could also interview members of the congregation sitting in the pews at random, using “Having a rest are we?” as an intro.*

Interviewer: This is a Census Special Broadcast, folks! I'm Brad Thesisus from Beth News live from the outskirts of Bethlehem with one of the most spectacular sunsets I've seen for a long time. As you all know, it's that time of the millennium again when Rome has us all go back to our family town to partake of their census.

Interviewer starts walking into crowd

I'm here asking people who their superheroes are. This rather modern concept was introduced to us by the geeks ... ah ... greeks, who brought us such super models as Aristotle, Plato and Onasis.

Interviewer pauses and selects first interviewee

Excuse me madam, could I ask you a few questions about superheroes?

Shamar Well, I suppose I have a couple of minutes spare.

Interviewer Great! Who is your superhero?

Shamar Why, King David of course. It's just such a thrill to get to go to Bethlehem again! It's HIS town you know! He was such a king – after him, who else was there? Apart from Solomon of course. And apart from Solomon and David, who else was there? The rest were schmucks! And look where they got us? Now we have the Romans! More shmucks! Mind you, they make good roads!

Interviewer Ah, yes, thank you...*Quickly grabbing the next interviewee*

Hello young man – you look like a swinging cool dude. What's your name?

Nautius Nautius.

Interviewer I bet you have a few superheroes Nautius! Who is your favourite?

Nautius Hey man, that's easy. Spiderus Mannicus! Real futuristic with all that web throwing and swinging through the tents of the market place!

Interviewer: Yes, I just loved that scene when he swung into the side of the fruit stall! That really upset the old date cart! Thanks Nautius!

Interviewer takes a few paces and selects next interviewee

Ah, excuse me miss, could you answer a few questions for Beth News?

Gertrudius Ooh, Beth News – of course!

Interviewer Your name?

Gertrudius Gertrudius but you can call me Gert.

Interviewer Do you have a superhero?

Gertrudius Yes.

Interviewer And their name?

Gertrudius Hercules.

Interviewer Why do like them?

Gertrudius He's so hot!

Interviewer Wasn't that Helios?

Gertrudius *A rather blank look*

Interviewer Never mind...what do you like about Hercules?

Gertrudius Well, he had to pull off 12 tasks before becoming a god! And he was such a divine hunk!

Interviewer A bit like me then? No, don't answer that! Thank you Gert.

Interviewer turns into crowd and bumps into the shepherds going out of town.

Hey guys, aren't you going the wrong way?

Mo We're shepherds – we've got the night shift!

Interviewer Well, have you time to answer some questions on superheroes?

Mo Yeah, I 'spose.

Interviewer What are your names?

Mo Mohannahia, Curliosephus, and Shethlarry – otherwise known as Mo, Curly and Larry.

Interviewer And what are your superheroes?

Shepherds *They all go into a huddle and mutter for a few seconds*

Mo Hannibal.

Interviewer Why?

Shepherds *Another huddle*

Mo His elephants.

Interviewer Why? *rather puzzled*

Mo Well, elephants are smart – not like the sheep we have to deal with!

Shepherds *They move on without waiting for Brad*

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Interviewer *Finds Mary and Joseph sitting*

Hello there, taking a rest? Come far?

Joseph Yes, from Nazareth

Interviewer Gee, that's a bit of a hike for you, especially in your condition madam. You're a superwoman yourself. What are your names?

Joseph Joseph and this is my wife Mary. She's expecting our first son. We have to get going, we need to find a room in an inn.

Interviewer But who are your superheroes?

Brad moves after them but gets tangled in the cord of the microphone

Mary *Mary stops centre stage and looks back at Brad, then pats her stomach, and calls out in a weary and matter-of-fact voice*

I have more than a superhero, and he's in here.

There is a pause as Brad straightens himself up to wind up

Interviewer: Just like a mother-to-be isn't it. I wonder if they'll call him Brad after me?

I'm Brad Thesius, signing off for Beth News, the Best News in Town.

Archangel Michael by this time has come up behind the interviewer. Michael is looking around, obviously searching for something. He bumps into the interviewer, and after apologies.

Archangel I don't 'spose you know where I could find Emmanuel – I've just landed.

The Archangel puts his arm around the interviewer and shepherds him out of the church – the dialogue just runs out, something along this line

Interviewer Emmanuel? Has he got a last name?

Archangel Oh! Many names. Heard of King of Kings?

Interviewer So he lives in the palace?

Archangel No, in a stable. Perhaps you know him as Lord of Lords?

Interviewer He's in Parliament then.

Archangel What about Prince of Peace?

Interviewer Oh, he's in the United Nations?

Archangel Well, what about some of his friends? Can you lead me to some shepherds?

Interviewer Now I can help you! Mo, Curly and Larry passed by about half an hour ago on their way out to the fields...