

<b>CAST</b>	<b>PERFORMER</b>	<b>CAST</b>	<b>PERFORMER</b>
Rodney	.....	Narrator 1	.....
Danny	.....	Narrator 2	.....
Daisy	.....	Narrator 3	.....
Barbra	.....	Narrator 4	.....
Polly	.....	Narrator 5	.....
Peck	.....	Narrator 6	.....
Inn-keeper	.....	Narrator 7	.....
Wife	.....	Narrator 8	.....
Guest 1	.....	Narrator 9	.....
Guest 2	.....	Narrator 10	.....
Guest 3	.....	Narrator 11	.....
Mary	.....	Narrator 12	.....
Joseph	.....	Narrator 13	.....
Shepherd 1	.....	Narrator 14	.....
Shepherd 2	.....	Narrator 15	.....
Shepherd 3	.....	Narrator 16	.....
Shepherd 4	.....	Narrator 17	.....
Wise man 1	.....	Narrator 18	.....
Wise man 2	.....	Narrator 19	.....
Wise man 3	.....	Narrator 20	.....
Angel	.....	Narrator 21	.....
Other Angels	.....	Narrator 22	.....
	.....	Narrator 23	.....
	.....	Narrator 24	.....
	.....	Narrator 25	.....
	.....	Narrator 26	.....
	.....	Narrator 27	.....
	.....	Narrator 28	.....
	.....	Narrator 29	.....
	.....	Narrator 30	.....
	.....	Narrator 31	.....
	.....	Narrator 32	.....

# **RODNEY THE STABLE RAT**

**By James Wright**

Narr 1                    Rodney the Rat lived in a stable behind an inn called 'The Travellers Rest'. He shared the stable with some other animals; one of these was a donkey.

Danny                    Hello. My name is Danny the donk,  
I'm very important to master.  
I have a strong back to support heavy sacks.  
I make market day so much faster.

Narr 2                    There was also a cow who lived in the stable.

Daisy                    Hello. My name is Daisy the cow,  
I'm very important to master.  
I give him fresh milk each day for his guests  
By chewing the grass from the pasture.

Narr 3                    There was also a sheep that lived in the stable.

Barbra                    Hello. My name is Ba-a-arbra the sheep.  
I'm important, though not very old.  
I give my master soft wool for his socks  
To keep his feet warm in the cold.

Narr4                    There were also two chickens that lived in the stable.

Polly & Peck            We're the innkeeper's chickens called Polly and Peck.  
We give him fresh eggs every day.  
Some days they're scrambled, some days they're poached,  
But boiled is his favourite way!

Narr 1234 (together)    **AND THEN THERE WAS THE RAT!**

Rodney                    Hello. My name is Rodney the Rat,  
I'm not important at all.  
When people see me they normally scream,  
And try to crawl up the wall.  
  
My Daddy was caught by the Inn-keeper's broom,  
My mum by the Inn-keeper's cat,  
I have to be careful or I'll be the next,  
For no-one has time for a rat.

All Animals            He'll have to be careful or he'll be the next  
For no-one has time for a rat!  
*(Animals turn their backs on Rodney and walk off)*

**SONG**                    **NOW I AM A RAT.** *(CD tracks 1/10)*

Narr 5                    Rodney the rat shuffled outside to sniff the evening air. The sky was clear and full of stars that sparkled like diamonds. But one star sparkled much brighter than all the others. Rodney looked with amazement. It seemed as if it was smiling just at him.

Rodney                    Could a little rat like me  
Cause anyone to smile?  
When people see my ratty face  
They usually run a mile!

Narr 6                    The town was very busy that evening and many people were knocking at the Inn-keeper's door, looking for somewhere to stay for the night.

Guest 1                    Knock! Knock! Knock! *(Wooden block sound effect.)*

Inn-keeper                *(Inn-keeper opens door.)* Oh, good evening to you, Sir.

Guest 1                    We're looking for a place to stay  
Where we may sleep and eat.  
Do you have a room at all  
Where we can rest our feet?

Inn-keeper                Please come on in and be our guest.  
That's why we're called 'The Travellers' Rest'.

Guest 2                    Knock! Knock! Knock! *(Wooden block sound effect.)*

Inn-keeper                *(Inn-keeper opens door.)* Oh, good evening to you, Sir.

Guest 2                    Ah, my good man, this looks the place.  
It's a cold and chilly night.  
A room, a bed, some meat and bread  
Would be a welcome sight!

Inn-keeper                Please come on in and be our guest.  
That's why we're called 'The Travellers' Rest'.

Guest 3                    Knock! Knock! Knock! *(Wooden block sound effect.)*

Inn-keeper      *(Inn-keeper opens door.)* Oh, good evening to you, Sir.

Guest 3          The last place we stayed was full of rats  
I hope this place is clean!  
How much do you charge for a family room?  
I hope you're not too mean.

Inn-keeper's wife *(appearing from inside)*  
Of course we don't have rats, my man  
We're clean and fit for a queen  
Some rooms are cheap and some quite dear  
And some are in between!

*(The innkeeper ushers them inside)*

Narr 8            Every time the Inn-keeper closed the door someone else would be  
standing outside ready to knock. Soon all the rooms were full.  
*(The Inn-keeper holds up a board with all the rooms 1-10 written on  
it. He ticks each room as more sets of travellers arrive, then counts  
his money.)*  
He looked very happy as he counted his takings.

Innkeeper        Ten, twenty, thirty, forty, fifty, sixty, seventy, eighty, ninety, one  
hundred pounds!

*(The Inn-keeper looks to his wife)*

Now we'll cook a great big meal  
For all our guests to eat.  
They're looking very hungry,  
We'll charge ten pounds a seat!

Inn-keeper's wife Keep out of my way, I'll get it done  
As fast as I am able.  
If anyone else comes here tonight  
They'll have to use the stable!

Narr 8            The innkeeper and his wife set to work, peeling, chopping, and  
boiling up meat and vegetables to make a tasty stew.

Narr 9            Rodney sniffed the air. The smell of food wafted up his nose and  
made his tummy rumble with hunger. He slipped into the kitchen  
when no-one was looking.

Rodney            That food, it smells so good to me  
I must get closer where I can see.

- Narr 10 He climbed up onto a shelf and looked down. What a beautiful sight met his eyes!
- Narr 11 There was meat, fish, vegetables, nuts, currants, grapes, bananas, pineapples and freshly baked bread. It all looked and smelt wonderful to Rodney.
- Rodney Can anything be as heavenly  
As the sight I now can see?  
I'll creep a little closer;  
Will there be some for me?
- Narr 12 In his excitement he crept forward, but as he did, the shelf gave way. *(Crashing cymbals.)*  
It crashed down onto the table full of food, closely followed by Rodney.
- SONG** **A RAT! I THINK I SAW A RAT.** *(CD tracks 2/11)*  
*(During the song the Inn-keeper's wife picks up a broom and chases Rodney around the kitchen and on into the dining room where all the guests are waiting for dinner. Some guests scream, some stand on chairs, some faint with fright.)*
- Narr 13 Rodney's little heart was beating faster than ever as he squeezed himself under the front door and then tumbled down the front steps onto the road right into the path of a young couple who were making for the inn.
- Narr 14 Rodney looked up into the face of the young woman. She looked very tired and had a large round tummy. But he didn't stop; he continued to run as fast as he could down the road and on into the open fields that surrounded the town.
- Narr 15 Poor Rodney collapsed with exhaustion; he had hurt his leg badly on the steps. As he sat in the grass licking his wounds he noticed the big bright new star shining down on him again and wondered why it shone so brightly – and was it smiling at him again?
- SONG** **STARLIGHT WHY DO YOU SHINE SO BRIGHTLY?** *(CD tracks 3/12)*
- Narr 16 Meanwhile back at 'The Travellers Rest' all the guests had retired to their rooms. The Inn-keeper was just about to turn out the lights when there was another knock at the door.
- Knock! Knock! Knock! *(Wooden block sound effect)*