

Mak pretends to have had a dream about Gill giving birth. He takes his leave of the shepherds, who go to check their flock.

Mak returns to Gill and she repeats her plan. The shepherds meet again and Coll reveals that a sheep is missing. Daw is convinced that Mak and Gill are responsible, so the shepherds visit Mak.

They arrive at Mak's cottage and hear him singing (badly!), while Gill groans as though she has just given birth. Mak pretends to be surprised to see them and reminds them of the dream he had, saying that it was a prophetic dream since Gill has now given birth. The shepherds tell Mak about their lost sheep and search his cottage. Finding nothing, the shepherds believe that they have wronged Mak, and they leave saddened that he won't accept their apology. Coll asks the others if they gave a gift to Mak's child, and Daw returns to give the child some money. Mak tries to stop him looking at the 'child', but Daw discovers that the child has a 'long snout'. The other shepherds join him and eventually realize that it is their lost sheep. Mak and Gill continue to pretend that the sheep is their child, but the shepherds are no longer fooled. Coll decides to treat Mak mercifully by tossing him in a blanket (as a sign of his shame) instead of hanging him.

The exhausted shepherds return to their pasture. An angel visits announcing the birth of Jesus and instructs them to go to Bethlehem. Before they go, Coll attempts to imitate the angel's song. They visit Jesus and give him gifts: a bob of cherries (symbolizing birth in winter), a bird (symbolizing divinity); and a ball (symbolizing royalty).

Mary speaks and asks them to spread the message of Christ's birth. The joyful shepherds depart singing.

Liverpool University Drama Society & School of English
Present

The Second Shepherds' Play



*While shepherds watched their flock by night...
their prize sheep was stolen*

THE SECOND SHEPHERDS' PLAY: SUMMARY

CAST

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| COLL (FIRST SHEPHERD) | ALEX WEBBER-DATE |
| GIB (SECOND SHEPHERD) | ALEX FERGUSON |
| DAW (THIRD SHEPHERD) | ZOE HOWES-WILES |
| MAK (SHEEP-STEALER) | ALEX PARDEY |
| GILL (MAK'S WIFE) | RIO MATCHETT |
| ANGEL | MADELAINÉ SMART |
| MARY | MADELAINÉ SMART |
| JOSEPH | MARTIN POILE |
| TRUFFLES THE STOLEN SHEEP | AS HIMSELF |
| SHEEP AND WEATHER | MADELAINÉ SMART MARTIN POILE |
| DIRECTOR | SARAH PEVERLEY |
| ASSISTANT DIRECTOR | MARTIN POILE |
| SCRIPT ADAPTATION | SARAH PEVERLEY |
| COSTUMES AND SET | MADELAINÉ SMART |
| PROGRAMME AND PUBLICITY | SARAH PEVERLEY |
| COVER IMAGE | THE BRITISH LIBRARY, MS YATES THOMPSON 37 |

Special thanks go to the following companies and people for helping out in one way or another: Aladdin's Cave, Jill Rudd, Stephen Brooks, Christina Waugh, Alice Lowe, School of the Arts and School of English (University of Liverpool).

Scene: a pasture. Three shepherds – Coll, Gib and Daw – enter complaining about real-life problems. All are sick of the bad weather that plagues them; Coll feels oppressed by richer men; Gib is hen-pecked by his wife and warns others not to marry; Daw, the youngest shepherd, is amazed by the mutability of the world and complains about being hungry. The shepherds set aside their complaints and sing a song about summer to boost their spirits.

Enter Mak, a sheep-stealer known to the shepherds. He pretends to be a messenger from a noble lord, but the shepherds are not fooled. Mak complains about his shrewish wife, Gill, who gives birth every year, producing more mouths to feed.

The shepherds are tired and settle down to sleep, keeping Mak close by. When they are asleep Mak draws a magic circle around them and attempts to cast a spell that will keep them asleep until he can steal one of their sheep. He steals a sheep and returns to his cottage. Gill is worried that Mak will be discovered and hanged for his crime. She convinces Mak to pretend that it is their newborn son when the shepherds come looking for it.

Mak returns to the shepherds and pretends to be asleep. The shepherds wake. Daw tells the others of a dream he has had in which Mak stole a sheep. The others assure him it cannot be true as Mak is still with them asleep. They wake him up.

(continued overleaf)