Kings in Judaea / Character List (Note: ages are approximate and flexible)

ELPIS:	Female	20	Herod's eighth wife-a young woman married. to an old man-and exercising the functions of a professional soother.
ZORASTES:	Female	N/A	A soothsayer whose lone characteristic is a terrified anxiety not to give offence, and a general disposition to hand the baby to someone else.
SHEPHERD'S WIFE:	Female	40	a nice, kind, bustling, motherly person. Country accent.
ZILLAH:	Female	9	An ordinary nice child, intelligent and helpful in the house. She takes the Christ-child quite simply and naturally, as just the new baby.
MARY:	Female	20s	She must be played with dignity and sincerity, and with perfect simplicity. Her voice is sweet, but not sugary; and there must be no trace of any kind of affectation. A very slight touch of accent-perhaps a faint shadow of Irish quality would be of assistance in keeping her in her "station of life"; but if so, Joseph's accent must be in keeping.
EPHRAIM:	Male	60	has spent the last forty five years of his life in the whole-time occupation of trying to keep his head on his shoulders, in a court where yesterday's favorite is apt to be butchered overnight without warning, and where everybody is engaged in plotting against everybody else. He has a peevish, bleating voice like an agitated goat, and a little thin beard, and an expression of permanent anxiety. The experience of a lifetime has failed to teach him that the best way to handle Herod is to stand up to him.
PROCLUS:	Male	28	a hard life and a habit of discipline make him seem more mature. He is a Roman, who has taken service in Judaea as a captain of Herod's personal bodyguard. In his feelings he is Roman through and through, with the contempt of the European for the Oriental, and of the metropolitan for the provincial. He is not in the least afraid of Herod, and therefore gets on with him very well.
THE SLAVE BOY:	Male	13	the usual pampered nuisance of an Oriental court. He is probably some kind of Greek or Levantine¬ pretty, pert, and thoroughly spoilt.
CASPAR:	Male	70	an old man, learned, mild, and dignified, and a little withdrawn and aloof. His wisdom is the wisdom of the intellect. **(Asian Magi)**
MELCHIOR:	Male	40	a man in the prime of life. His interest is chiefly in practical matters; if he consults the stars, it is to learn how to guide his actions. His wisdom is the wisdom of the bodily senses. **(Caucasian Magi)**
BALTHAZAR:	Male	20	a young man. He has the temperament of the mystic, and his interest is in the relationship of man to men and of men to God. His wisdom is the wisdom of the heart. **(African/Black Magi)**
HEROD:	Male	60	is the most elaborate character in this little play, and it is important that we should get the right idea about him. We must forget the traditional picture of a semi-lunatic monster, “out-Heroding Herod" and "raging on the pageant and in the street". This man was not called "Herod the Great" for nothing. He is an older man, and already dying of an agonizing disease, but he is the wreck of a very great man. Everything he says about himself is true. He did keep Judaea at peace for thirty years after it had been torn to pieces by religious factions, and he did leave it prosperous; he was betrayed by everyone he loved, and his nephews did try to poison him.
HIGH PRIEST:	Male	50	Herod's puppet and, like the Vicar of Bray, is determined to keep his job whatever happens. (He did not succeed, for Herod sacked him over the affair of the Golden Eagle.) His office gives him a little more dignity than Ephraim or Zorastes, and he says his bit without stammering.
DOCTOR:	Male	N/A	His concern for his own neck is tempered by the authority that any physician has over his patient. I intend him to be quite honest, and not to have taken any part in poisoning Herod.
JOSEPH:	Male	40	an artisan of a good class; a little sententious and given to quoting the Scriptures. He is the kind of man who reads his Bible regularly. He has a slight provincial accent, but less marked than that of the SHEPHERD'S WIFE.
ANGEL:	Male	N/A	The voice stylized to give dream-effect a quality vaguely suggestive of woodwind.
DARIUS	Male	30	A captain in Herod’s Army
MATTHIAS	Male	40	A fanatical Rabbi

THE EVANGELIST:	N/A	N/A	A narrator who opens each scene.
SECRETARY	N/A	N/A	
MESSENGER	N/A	N/A	