



Amahl Blocking Doc

1/1/1-1/4/1 AMAHL walks down the aisle with his crutch and takes a seat on the stage right steps

1/4/1 AMAHL plays his flute, gazing up at the stars, stopping when he hears his MOTHER'S VOICE from within the hut, then resuming his play.

3/2/1 MOTHER abruptly enters the hut from behind the upstage sheet, C, with a broom

4/3/1 MOTHER resumes tidying up, turning upstage left while AMAHL rises on his crutch and enters the hut from Center, turning to the bench at stage right, where he goes to put his flute and sloppily lays his cloak out on the bed like a blanket. Mother lays the broom in front of the fire pit and begins to fan at the dying embers, noticeably cold, and showing disappointment that her efforts are fruitless.

5/1/1 AMAHL animatedly tells the story from his bench, painting the picture toward the audience. He pulls himself up on the crutch on "Hanging over our roof" and moves towards DC

6/1/1 MOTHER moves C, irritated, and turns AMAHL to look at her (at an angle). She catches herself and hugs him to her, facing him to the audience on "never lie to your mother"

6/5/1 MOTHER brushes off AMAHL'S pleas and moves to straighten up his bench, USR.

7/2/1 MOTHER tidies the bench (Fold a blanket as a pillow, lay out cloak and straighten up additional covers.) AMAHL slowly moves towards the bottom right foot of the bed with ever lie of his which she retells.

8/2/2 MOTHER moves quickly SL of AMAHL'S bench with incredulity on his measurements of the star's tail. He sidesteps SR when he amends his exaggeration.

8/3/2 MOTHER sits on chair

9/3/2 AMAHL sits reassuringly on the bench, inching closer to his MOTHER trying to make her smile. They hold hands on "At noon we shall eat"

10/5/3 MOTHER moves behind the bed to tuck AMAHL in. When they are finished singing, he lays down and she tucks a blanket in around him. Then she moves to her crude mat on the floor, SL and also sleeps.

12/1/1 THE KINGS (followed by THE PAGE) enter from the back of the sanctuary, singing as they slowly move down the aisle. They walk to the back of the hut and wait behind the sheet. When the time comes, MELCHIOR “knocks” his staff on the floor.

13/2/1 AMAHL sleepily lifts his head and listens intently. He lays back down, but his eyes are open and he is clearly not asleep.

14/3/3 AMAHL sits up and holds his crutch as soon as possible, quickly moving to the UC sheet.

15/1/7 AMAHL open the sheet wide, and KASPAR sticks in a friendly face. AMAHL drops the sheet and rushes to his mother. This action is repeated with the music over the next two pages, the 2nd time revealing MELCHIO & KASPAR, the third, BALTHAZAR, MELCHIOR, & KASPAR.

18/1/1 MOTHER rises begrudgingly. She crosses C as Amahl stays by her mat DL

19/3/1 MOTHER slides the whole sheet all the way open and the KINGS step into the home. She steps back UL, aghast

19/3/5 AMAHL gives that line to the audience, while throwing his gaze over his shoulder, almost rolling his eyes (“What did I tell you?”)

20/1/2 MOTHER backs up and puts her hands on AMAHL’s shoulders, gesturing to her cold firepit and mat. The KINGS move DC in observance, with MELCHIOR SR, BALTHAZAR C, KASPAR SL. THE PAGE stays to the SR of the entryway.

21/1/1 Following the stage directions written in the score, THE PAGE places his things DSR, but rushes back and forth to accommodate the robes of each King. KASPAR sits in the middle of AMAHL’s bench, MELCHIOR far SR on the bench, BALTHAZAR on SL. When the PAGE sees signs of relief from his work, KASPAR gestures for him to bring his box over.

22/2/2 MOTHER lifts a blanket from her mat and wraps it like a shawl as she moves UC, stopping C and leaving AMAHL SL.

23/1/1 MOTHER exits, pulling the sheet closed behind her. AMAHL inches closer to C, addressing BALTHAZAR. KASPAR tends his parrot while MELCHIOR rubs his aching leg.

23/3/3 AMAHL steps slightly DC with each line, the KINGS exchanging glances, while the PAGE does his best to keep an indifferent stance of guard.

24/2/1 AMAHL backs UC and slightly SL to address KASPAR.

25/1/3 KASPAR, anxious to share his amazing box, bounces up and moves towards AMAHL. BALTHAZAR & MELCHIOR exchange bemused glances.

26/3/1 KASPAR signals AMAHL closer, who creeps around to SR of KASPAR, who counters slightly SL as he presents his licorice.

27/1/2 MOTHER enters and comes DC, wagging her finger and moving AMAHL DSL away from the visitors. The PAGE collects KASPAR’S box and replaces it with the other treasures DSR as KASPAR resumes his seat on the bench. The PAGE makes a grand display of leaving the top of trunk open, seemingly brimming with golden wares.

28/1/1 MOTHER is drawn to the treasures and kneels before them, fixated.

28/3/1 MELCHIOR stands and moves toward DC

28/5/1 MOTHER stands and slowly turns towards audience, singing with an incredulous expression which turns to despair. She turns toward C, opening up on “He’s my child” at which point BALTHAZAR joins MELCHIOR DC. The PAGE. Moves USL keeping a close eye on the MOTHER who is dangerously close to the gifts of the kings.

30/2/2 MOTHER turns back DSR, returning to her despair and fixing her gaze on the gold, opening once more on “He’s my child” at which point MELCHIOR & BALTHAZAR moves UC and stands behind KASPAR, still seated at the bench.

32/1/1 MOTHER slowly crosses towards her mat throughout the quartet, the eyes of all the MEN following her.

33/3/1 MOTHER pulls herself together and goes to the door to see the group coming. The PAGE moves quickly to cover the treasures, and MELCHIOR and BALTHAZAR resume their seats. As they sit, KASPAR stands, and the other two KINGS push him down by the shoulders.

34/2/2 CHORUS & DANCERS slowly enter, led by AMAHL, standing SL. MOTHER closes the curtain once they have all entered and stays UC.

35/4/2 THE KINGS stand to greet the shepherds, who all bow or kneel on the 2nd “Oh look” ... MOTHER moves SL encouraging the two DANCERS to deliver the bundles of gifts, which they do individually, twice each between each “THANK YOU” return.

41/1/4 The KINGS sit in anticipation of the dance.

42/1/1 DANCE.

47/1/1 KASPAR moves DSR, followed by MELCHIO and BALTHAZAR, stading ni a diagonal receiving line. The COHRUS and DANCERS move across the front of the stage, individually bowing to the KINGS. They are followed by AMAHL who comes in close to KASPAR and sings to him privately, though his request is heard by his MOTHER who bring him to her mat. She then escorts the CHORUS out and closes the sheet to the doorway.

49/3/1 THE KINGS assume their sleep positions (KASPAR on the bench with his back to the audience, BALTHAZAR leaned over the back of the chair, MELCHIOR on the ground with his arms resting on his head on the overturned basket.) MOTHER offers the PAGE her mat, and he graciously accepts the kind offer. We see him drop his guard for the first time. MOTHER wraps AMAHL in the wrap she had been wearing and cradles his head on her lap DC. As the group falls asleep, MOTHERS loving gaze moves from her child to the closed trunk DSR.

50/2/1 MOTHER’S focus shifts from the gold to AMAHL to up into the sky as she questions her circumstances.

52/2/1 On the fermata, MOTHER gently lowers AMAHL’s head to the floor. And stealthily moves to the trunk, opening the lid and reaching inside with her downstage hand, pulling out a piece of gold. The PAGE quickly stirs on “For my child” and stands, moving C and watching her silently.

52/3/2 The PAGE grabs the MOTHER's downstage hand by the wrist. She tries to pull it back, but the PAGE holds it high, opening the MOTHER's body up to the audience so we can clearly see her distraught and desperate face. The KINGS stand and clump C, watching the action.

53/2/2 AMAHL, still DC, shoves his crutch into the back of the PAGE's knee, causing him to collapse. MOTHER recoils backwards DSR. AMAHL crawls to the PAGE and practically sits on his shoulders, jabbing him in the back with his crutch with each threat.

54/2/2 The KINGS lift AMAHL off the PAGE by his underarms, and hold him back (or else he would continue to attack). He holds his crutch in front of him and jabs it towards the page on each "Don't you dare!"

55/2/1 The KINGS lift AMAHL in the air between each "Don't you dare" and AMAHL kicks his legs in front of him.

55/3/1 MOTHER moves DC and holds AMAHL to calm him. AMAHL clings to his MOTHER, but does not take his eyes of the PAGE who has retreated SL.

55/4/1 MELCHIOR moves DSR, gesturing towards the gold and followed in tight formation by BALTHAZAR & KASPAR.

56/4/1 MOTHER and AMAHL stand. She humbly returns the gold to MELCHIOR and returns to AMAHL.

57/2/2 AMAHL walks slowly (one steps on each "He walks" then slowly picking up the pace, until he skips with the crutch to the KINGS. The PAGE stands in amazement and MOTHER steadies herself, lest she faint. AMAHL skips in a circle around the hovel, moving to climb onto his SR bench from behind. The KINGS move and encircle MOTHER DC and the PAGE moves toward the group.

59/2/2 AMAHL jumps from the bench and lands DS but clumsily falls with big grin on his face. The KINGS laugh and MOTHER scurries to help him stand, kneeling beside him and taking his crutch.

60/2/1 The KINGS form a semi-circle, and AMAHL stands before them. They lay hands on him to pray and the PAGE kneels SL of AMAHL, offering a palm hand up. MOTHER stands on her line.

61/1/1 AMAHL goes to his MOTHER DSR to take his crutch.

62/2/1 MOTHER moves AMAHL C, the KINGS move UL and prepare to exit, the PAGE moves DSR, places the SHEPHERD's gifts in the trunk (or an empty bag) and saddles up to continue their journey.

64/1/1 AMAHL leads the KINGS out the door, followed by the PAGE. As the MOTHER shuts the curtain, AMAHL rushes back in for a big hug. MOTHER holds back tears. She releases him and waves goodbye as she closes the sheet. She gives a smile full of gratitude to the heavens and sits on AMAHL's bed in thankful prayer.

65/1/2 As she prays, the KINGS process down the aisle they came, led by AMAHL playing his pipe and followed by the PAGE. After the finale note MOTHER bows her head. Immediately the cast jogs in for bows.

PROPS:

Bench

Chair

Basket

Blankets/mats

Firepit

Crutch

Cloak/blanket

Pipes/flute

Box of black licorice

Melchior scepter

Bundle of twigs

Parrot

Gray hat from Sandman