

Christmas Pageant Present

By Burton Bumgarner

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STORY OF THE PLAY

It is the season of Christmas and life is frantic in the Albert home. Mom is trying to direct a Christmas pageant that no one wants to be in. Dad, an obstetrician, is hoping the Watson twins arrive before Christmas Eve so he can attend the Christmas pageant. Twelve-year-old David is trying to avoid Victoria Monroe, the meanest girl in town. (Victoria has always had a crush on David and she can't wait for David to be Joseph in the Christmas pageant opposite her Mary. Mrs. Albert always makes Joseph and Mary hold hands when they enter Bethlehem.)

David's older sister, Molly, and her friends are harassing the new girl in school, Darlene. Though Molly is not comfortable with the harassing, her friends have taken mistreatment to new heights. One of Molly's teachers, Miss Morris, visits Mom and tells her about the way the teenagers are treating Darlene, hoping that something can be done to end it.

Mom tells Molly and her friends about a boy who was mistreated back when she was in school. The events of the story from Mom's past and Molly's present weave together and culminate in a Christmas pageant of past memories and present realities.

The two groups of children from different periods of time learn that everyone has worth and value and deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

Performance time approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1M, 3W, 4 TEEN B, 6 TEEN G, 2B, 1G, EXTRAS)

Mrs. Albert (Adult Patty)Mother
Dr. AlbertDad
Molly AlbertDaughter
David AlbertSon
Darlene GreenUnderprivileged youth
Jane Morris (Adult Jane)Teacher
Brittany MonroeFriend of Molly's
JeffAnother
SpencerAnother
Victoria MonroeLikes David, is mean
MikeFriend of David
Young Patty (Y. Patty)As teenager, 30 years ago
Young Jane (Y. Jane)As teenager, 30 years ago
BarbaraFriend of Young Patty
Harold MonroeAnother
Mrs. BrownPatty's mother
TroyUnderprivileged boy
ExtrasChildren for Christmas
.....pageant, crossovers

SYNOPSIS OF THE SCENES

Scene 1 Present, kitchen of the Albert house
Scene 2 Later that day, Molly's school
Scene 3 Later that day, David's school
Scene 4 Mid-afternoon, Albert house;
and 30 years ago, Patty's school
Scene 5 Late-afternoon, Albert house;
30 years ago, Patty's school and church
Scene 6 Next day, Molly's school and Albert house;
and 30 years ago, Patty's school;
Christmas Eve present and past, Molly's
church, Patty's church
Scene 7 Present, Christmas morning, Albert house

SETTING

One set with other locations. The setting is the living room of the Albert's home, and the school commons area and the church they attend (on the apron). It is Christmas. Part of the story takes place 30 years earlier. The final Christmas pageant has the casts from both time periods on stage at once. The living room of the Albert's house: A front door is SL. A doorway to the rest of the house is SR. The house is decorated for Christmas.

SFX

Bus horn, Doorbell, Bell rings for class, Doorbell, Pager,
Doorbell, Doorbell

PROPS/COSTUMES

MOM-coat, thermometer
DAD- coat, pager
MOLLY-tray of cups, coat, angel costume
DAVID-large tacky jacket, school bag, pajamas, blanket,
baby doll, Joseph costume
HAROLD-bandage
TROY-lunch
DARLENE-newspapers, books, notebook with poem and
drawing inside, paper and pen
Y. PATTY-lunch
Y. JANE-lunch
A. JANE-briefcase
BARBARA-sardines, pita with falafel, picnic basket with plate
bowl and fork
VICTORIA-hairbrush, compact, purse
SHEPHERDS-staves
BRITTANY, JEFF, SPENCER-coats
MRS. BROWN-may be played by Adult Patty with hair pulled
back and a pair of reading glasses
PRESET PROPS-woman's magazine and coat for Dad,
pen/paper for Mom. At manger: Mary costume, infant doll,
shepherd bathrobe for Troy

Scene 1

(AT RISE: The present. The living room of the Albert house. PATTY is rushing around trying to get her CHILDREN to school.)

A. PATTY: Molly, David! Hurry up! You'll miss the school bus!

(DAD enters and goes to the front door, opens it and looks around.)

DAD: No newspaper again! It's been late all week.

A. PATTY: I think we have a new paperboy. Mrs. Richards next door is complaining, too.

DAD: The only peace and quiet I have in the mornings is when I sit with my coffee and my newspaper...*(DAVID enters and drops his school bag which makes a crashing noise. DAD jumps.)*...after the children leave. Oh, well. I guess I'll read this magazine. *(Picks up a copy of a woman's magazine)*

DAVID: I need a note saying I can go on a field trip.

A. PATTY: When do you need it?

DAVID: Now.

A. PATTY: Why didn't you say something last night?

DAVID: I didn't need it then.

A. PATTY: David, the bus will be here any minute, and I'm not driving you to school today! You need to think of these things earlier.

DAVID: I didn't need the note earlier...I need it now.

A. PATTY: Well, I don't know anything about this. Do you have any information?

DAVID: Sure.

A. PATTY: Well, where is it?

DAVID: In my locker at school.

A. PATTY: *(Agitated)* It doesn't do me any good there, does it?

DAVID: Will you please just write a note. If I can't go, I'll have to stay in detention with all the nasty kids.

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A. PATTY: Well, where are you going?

DAVID: I forgot. It might be the band trip.

A. PATTY: That's next week.

DAVID: I don't know what it is. Will you just please write me a note?

(PATTY goes to the counter and writes. She pauses a moment.)

A. PATTY: What am I supposed to say? My son, David, has permission to go wherever it is the sixth grade is going today?

DAVID: Just write something and sign it. They never look at anything but the signatures.

A. PATTY: I really don't like this, David. I wish you could learn to be more responsible.

DAVID: *(Looking out the window, SOUND of a horn)* My bus is here, Mom. Hurry up!

A. PATTY: *(Hands HIM the note)* Don't you dare miss that bus! Where's your coat?

DAVID: Upstairs.

A. PATTY: It's twenty degrees out there.

DAVID: You want me to miss the bus?

A. PATTY: I don't want you to catch pneumonia.

DAD: You can't catch pneumonia from not wearing a coat.

A. PATTY: Run get the coat!

(DAVID runs to exit SR almost knocking MOLLY down as she enters.)

DAD: Do you actually read the stuff that's in these magazines?

A. PATTY: What's wrong with *Cosmo*?

DAD: Well, nothing, except David could read about things I never learned until medical school.

MOLLY: Mom, I need a note to get out of algebra today.

A. PATTY: Why?

MOLLY: I didn't study for a test.

A. PATTY: Why not?

End of Freeview

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