

CHRISTMAS REVISITED

A COMPLETE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

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STORY

A group of modern teenage boys and girls discuss the Christmas customs in their homes. They are rather disenchanted with the whole idea of Christmas other than getting presents. They wonder if Christmas ever really happened. By a miracle the television becomes a time machine and a young shepherd boy is standing in the room. He tells them a little idea of what he has just seen in Bethlehem and in the process gives them a little idea of what his life is like. He disappears again leaving the astounded group trying to figure out if they really saw him. Suddenly Mary the mother of Jesus is there. She shares with them what it was like to be a young, frightened girl visited by an angel who suddenly finds herself pregnant in an era when that was punishable by death. After she disappears again they talk in amazement of the fact that teenagers were totally involved in the first Christmas. It has to be all a dream ... or is it?

CAST OF CHARACTERS

SHERRY: A casually dressed 14 year old girl, shy, quiet

RANDY: Self-possessed 16 year old boy, leader of group

DEBBIE: A bubbly, outgoing 15 year old girl

MIKE: Quiet, moody 15 year old boy

PETER: A 13 year old shepherd from Bethlehem

MARY: A tired looking 14 year old new mother

MOTHER: A modern busy mother, 35 or older

TIME: Christmas Eve about 8:00 p.m. in the present year.

PLAYING TIME: About - 45 minutes.

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SET DESIGN

The pleasant living room of Sherry's home. A couch, DSC, one chair to the right of couch and a Television set are the essential furniture. Some Christmas decorations such as any middle class home would have are also helpful. It may also be performed using only chairs and a box for the T.V.. A creche rests on top of the T.V. Front entrance is DSR., Kitchen exit is DSR. There is also an exit by the T.V. DSL.

COSTUMES

Every one except PETER and MARY should wear the normal clothes for winter in the area in which it is given. PETER is dressed in a burlap type tunic tied with a cord. He is none too clean and is either barefoot or wears sandals. He carries a long, stout stick. MARY is dressed in a shapeless tan colored garment with a cream or brown stole over her head and sandals on her feet. She looks worn and tired as any one who had just given birth would look. She is dressed as the usual Hebrew working class woman was dressed.

PRODUCTION NOTES

The sudden burst of light that announces the arrival of Mary and Peter is accomplished by using an electronic flash for a camera. Position it by the creche and trigger it just as Mary and Peter step out from behind the T.V.. Use it again when they disappear. The sudden bright light is distracting enough that their arrival is not so obvious.

The playlet may be used as an entire program for a mixed group or as a discussion starter for a youth group. For either group the stereotyped manger scene will never again be the accepted Christmas fantasy.

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PROGRAM

CAROL—"Joy to the World" (*all verses.*)

FIRST READER (*Girl.*) —Luke 1:26 - 38 TEV

CAROL—Of the Father's Love Begotten (*verses 1 & 2.*)

SECOND READER (*Boy.*)—Matthew 1:18 -25

CAROL—"Gloria in Excelsis Deo" (*all 4 verses.*)

THIRD READER (*Either.*)—Luke 2:1- 20

CAROL—"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

OFFERING—Carol—"O, Come All Ye Faithful" (*All verses.*)

OFFERTORY PRAYER - Christmas is giving, Lord. First you came and gave us hope and in your death and resurrection gave us life. Because of your gift we have all found the need of giving, the joy of giving, the blessing of giving. Use these small gifts, Lord, as you see fit for your purposes. Use us, Lord, to spread the Good News far and wide because this night, now, we give you ourselves; we cannot give you less. Amen.

THE PLAYLET—CHRISTMAS REVISITED

CAROL - "Silent Night"

BENEDICTION

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ACT I

(AT RISE: As the scene opens a WOMAN wearing an apron walks across the living room and flips on the television set. She takes a minute to straighten the creche on the top of the set and then glances at her watch and leaves the room. TWO BOYS and TWO GIRLS enter laughing and talking about any local gossip. They flop down on the couch and gradually quiet down and turn to the television. The television set is DSL and the front door is SR.)

SHERRY: *(Bored.)* Oh no, if I have to watch "Miracle on Thirty-fourth Street" one more time I'll spaz out.

RANDY: You could turn it off, you know.

SHERRY: No way! My mom thinks it's a Christmas tradition like Christmas trees or caroling.

DEBBIE: You should complain! How'd you like to put a piece of straw in the manger every night? Thank goodness, tonight is the last night.

MIKE: What's with the straw bit?

DEBBIE: Oh, when we were kids, Mom told us that if we put straw in the manger of the creche every night in December then the Christ Child would have a soft bed when he came on Christmas Eve. That's great at five but I'm fifteen now and she's still doing it. *(SHE plumps sofa pillow and holds it on her knees.)*

RANDY: Maybe she thinks you're a slow learner.

DEBBIE: *(Bangs HIM with pillow.)* Fun-nee! Parents have all kinds of dumb customs.

MIKE: We have a tree but nobody does anything else.

RANDY: Man! Our house is loaded with traditions. We have an Advent wreath and prayers every night. And tonight, my dad will make us all sit by the fire while he reads the Christmas story from the Bible.

MIKE: The only tradition we have is my pop gets bombed at the office party and he and Mom fight all night.

DEBBIE: That's a bummer! Maybe straw and kid stories aren't as bad as I thought.

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SHERRY: I don't know why everyone makes such a big deal about Christmas anyway. It's for grown-ups and little kids.

DEBBIE: Well, I like the presents. Sure hope I get a new blow drier this year.

RANDY: (*Ruffling HER hair.*) Gee, I thought you threw it in the clothes drier.

DEBBIE: Randall Phillips, if you don't stop picking on me, a bushel of mistletoe won't do you any good.

RANDY: (*Giving HER a mock salute.*) Yes, ma'am! Hey, are you going to let me tag along to midnight service?

DEBBIE: Maybe, if you're good. I guess my folks won't mind.

SHERRY: Mike, would you like to come, too? It's kinda schmaltzy but the singing is fun.

MIKE: Okay. Sounds good.

RANDY: (*Standing and pacing.*) Do you think it's true ... I mean that it all really happened?

DEBBIE: You mean the baby Jesus and all that?

RANDY: Yeh. The star bit and the shepherds and wise men.

SHERRY: (*Pulls on a lock of hair.*) I ... guess so. I mean my folks believe it, so it must be true.

MIKE: It sure seems crazy to pick a dirty little town and a stable for God's son to be born in.

DEBBIE: When you really think about it, it is pretty hokey. (*Walks over to creche and stares at it a second then turns to group.*) I mean I just can't imagine sitting in the hay looking silly at a baby like Mary does.

RANDY: (*Flopping back on couch.*) Can you imagine your mom riding on a donkey to a stable instead of a fast drive to the hospital with your dad running the lights?

SHERRY: Things were different then, you clown. Everything was simpler and easier. Mary probably didn't mind at all. People then believed anything.

MIKE: (*Leaning back in chair and stretching legs out.*) Sure. Nobody thought it was strange for Wise Men to follow a star back then, now they'd say you were smoking pot.

End of Freeview

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