

# The Rehearsal

*by*  
*Earl Reimer*

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**STORY OF THE PLAY**

The Rehearsal deals with a drama troupe preparing a play about Charles T. Studd, a missionary to China, India and Africa from 1880 to 1930. Andy, one of the actors, challenges how relevant the play is to today and in the ensuing argument makes a surprising discovery. Suitable for touring. 35 minutes.

**ORIGINAL PRODUCTION**

This final version of the play was first performed by the Bethel College Genesians drama troupe in October, 1993. Members of the cast were:

ANDY: Mike Kaufman

JOHN: Nate Runyon

JANA: Colleen Graybill

MARY: Kristie Cerling

MINDY: Cheri Culp

TESS: Marcie Hemminger

Lights and Sound: Kent Wilson

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**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(2 m, 4 w)*

MARY: 21, practical, well organized

TESS: 21, friendly but gullible

ANDY: 22, witty, a bit cynical, not very well-organized

JANA: 25, director and writer of the play

MINDY: 24, a young wife, sweet but not a good cook

JOHN: 24, Mindy's husband, patient and well-balanced

**PLACE**

A room in a church that is being used as a rehearsal room.

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*(AT RISE: The stage is almost bare. There are a few chairs and perhaps a bench arranged haphazardly. It is a rehearsal room. Two actresses, MARY and TESS, are there early, waiting for the others to come.)*

MARY: So, have you read the new play?

TESS: Most of it. How about you?

MARY: I just had time to skim through it. It's different, isn't it?

TESS: You mean, the reader's theatre style and all that?

MARY: Well, yes, that and the characters.

TESS: How do you mean?

MARY: Well, the way they sacrifice and give up home, family and fortune and all. Don't you think that's a bit much?

TESS: Kind of. It's supposed to be historical, though, isn't it?

MARY: I guess.

TESS: Things were probably different a hundred years ago.

MARY: You're telling me.

*(ANDY enters.)*

ANDY: Hey, charmers! What's new?

TESS: Hi, Andy.

ANDY: Are we early?

MARY: A little, I guess. Jana isn't ever here yet. And she's always early.

ANDY: Don't worry about it. That's good. If the director isn't here we can't start. And if we can't start, that means old Andy might have time to look over the play.

TESS: You mean you haven't read it yet?

ANDY: *(Mock indignation.)* Haven't read it? Of course I've read it. I've memorized it!

TESS: You mean your part?

ANDY: No. I mean the whole thing.

TESS: The whole play?

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ANDY: Yes.  
TESS: You're joking!  
ANDY: You guessed!  
TESS: What?  
ANDY: Of course I'm joking. Why do you think I'd want to look at the play if I've already read it?  
TESS: Well, I--  
MARY: Why haven't you read it?  
ANDY: Good question. (*Striking a pose.*) I cannot tell a lie. I have not read the play because I have lost my script.  
TESS: Where did you lose it?  
ANDY: In the top drawer on the right-hand side of my desk.  
TESS: Well, then, why don't you go an--  
ANDY: Ha, ha. Got you again.  
TESS: What do you mean?  
MARY: Tess, Tess!  
TESS: (*Innocently.*) What?  
ANDY: If I knew where I lost it, wouldn't I go and get it?  
TESS: Well, yes, I suppose--  
ANDY: (*Patting her on the head.*) We'll never need a fan to circulate the air as long as you're here Tess.  
MARY: At least she didn't lose her script!  
ANDY: Fair enough. I stand chagrined.  
MARY: That's better.  
ANDY: So tell me. What's the play about?  
MARY: Who!  
ANDY: What?  
MARY: No, not what. Who. The play's about someone.  
ANDY: You mean a real person?  
MARY: Yes. It's kind of a historical biography.  
ANDY: All right. Who is it?  
MARY: C.T. Studd  
ANDY: Say what?  
MARY: C.T. Studd.  
ANDY: That's what I thought you said. Far out! (*He goes into a routine, marching about and clapping his hands.*)  
"Now listen, my children, and you will hear  
Of someone better than Paul Revere.  
Now Washington and Jackson had a lot to do,

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ANDY: (*Cont'd.*) And so did Jefferson and Lincoln, too.  
And out in the West were some famous men  
Buffalo Bill and Bat Masterson.  
There was Daniel Boone and Wyatt Earp.  
And Billy the Kid, a mean little twerp.  
There was Crockett and Grant, men of muscle and blood  
But none could compare with C.T Studd!!  
Ta Da!! (*He strikes a pose.*)

MARY: That's very charming, Andy, but not very accurate.

ANDY: How do you mean?

MARY: C.T. Studd was English and he was a missionary.

ANDY: A what?

MARY: A missionary.

ANDY: You've got to be kidding.

MARY: No, he was a missionary to China, India and Africa  
back in the 1880s.

TESS: And he was a cricket player, too.

MARY: The best in England.

ANDY: Now wait a minute. We're going to do a play about  
a cricket-playing missionary.

TESS: No, silly. He was a cricket player first, then a  
missionary.

ANDY: Oh. I thought maybe he just went over there and  
bowled the natives over till they quit sinning. (*Pantomimes  
bowling DS.*)

MARY: Andy, do you always have to make everything a  
joke?

ANDY: Sorry. I was just born that way.

MARY: I mean, he was a pretty remarkable guy.

ANDY: I'm sure he was. After all, how many cricket players  
become missionaries?

MARY: There you go again. And don't say you're sorry.  
Cause you're not!

ANDY: OK.

TESS: Where are John and Mindy?

MARY: Oh, I forgot. John called and said they'd be a little  
late. Apparently they had trouble with their stove, so  
they're going to stop at Burger King on their way over.

ANDY: Trouble with their stove! That's a good one!

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