Angel in a Ball Cap

A Christmas Story

By
Eddie McPherson

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DEDICATION

To my mother who took care of me for so many years.
It is now my honor and privilege to take care of her.
She is my very own angel; a gift from Heaven.

-- The Playwright, Eddie McPherson

STORY OF THE PLAY

Little Peggy Angel, known around Heaven for always wearing a ball cap, is very shy. But when she learns that an upcoming audition for a heavenly messenger is open to all angels, she decides to try out. This is her chance to do something important and she's both scared and thrilled about the opportunity. That is until another angel named Diva informs Peggy that she shouldn't waste her time auditioning for something this significant. Peggy's confidence is crushed and it's up to her friends to encourage her to follow her heart and attempt to become involved in this most important upcoming Christmas Eve miracle. Does she decide to audition? And if she does, can she still wear her ball cap? A funny, yet thoughtful play with an important message: No matter our station in life, we can all make a difference in the kingdom of God. The perfect play for middle or high school actors combined with a children's choir or ensemble that sings traditional carols throughout.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Approx. 5 m, 4 w, 7 flexible, 2 boys (small speaking), and children's choir.

PEGGY: An angel who dreams of doing something important for the kingdom.

CHESTER: Peggy's best friend.

DONICA: *(Played by an older teen or adult.)* Director of heaven's youngest angel choir.

DIVA: An angel who loves herself very much.

MICHAEL: *(Played by a teen or adult.)* One of heaven's famous angels. Conducts the angel audition.

GABRIEL: *(Played by a teen or adult.)* Another famous angel. Also conducts the angel audition.

ANGEL ONE: Member of the angel choir.

ANGEL TWO: Another member of the angel choir.

ANGEL THREE: Another member of the angel choir.

ANGEL FOUR: Another member of the angel choir.

ARIANNA: One of Peggy's close friends.

EARL: Another of Peggy's close friends.

TIM: Another of Peggy's close friends. Is also auditioning.

FIRST MUSCLE BOY: *(Played by a boy.)* Another member of the angel choir.

SECOND MUSCLE BOY: *(Played by a boy.)* Another member of the angel choir.

ASTEROTH: The angel who lights the Christmas Eve star.

FIRST SHEPHERD: Is spoken to by the angels.

SECOND SHEPHERD: Is spoken to by the angels.

CASTING NOTE

The roles of Chester, Mike and Earl can easily be played by girls with name changes. First and Second Shepherds can be doubled by Michael and Gabriel.

PRODUCTION NOTES

This play can be staged easily practically anywhere. A children's choir *(or ensemble)* sits off to the side and can enter and exit or simply stand or sit when needed.

Because the play takes place in heaven, everything is very white and "cloud-like"; however, the director may choose to go with a less traditional look. A free-standing bulletin board brought on stage and placed center will serve as the place where the audition announcement is posted. Later, a free-standing door is brought on and serves as the entrance to the audition room. The shepherd scene may be played anywhere on stage. If possible, the angels who appear to the shepherds should stand higher than the main stage.

All scripture used is from the New International Version *(NIV)* of the Bible.

COSTUMES

All angels wear white robes *(or white shirts and pants for the guys and white dresses for the girls)*, small wings *(optional)* and halos. The shepherds wear traditional shepherd robes and headpieces.

PROPS

Piece of paper, three clipboards, a script, white boa or wrap, tiny hourglass, ball cap, newspaper, shepherd staffs.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: PEGGY is pulling CHESTER on stage. She wears a ball cap backwards. Under her other arm she holds a small harp and in that hand a piece of paper.)

PEGGY: Come on, Chester; hurry before someone sees us.
CHESTER: I'm coming as fast as you can drag me!
PEGGY: *(Lets go of his arm and looks around to make sure no one is around.)* I think the coast is clear. *(Turns and hands him the paper she's holding.)* Look!
CHESTER: *(Takes the paper and reads.)* Open auditions. *(Looks at her.)* So? They're always holding auditions for angelic messengers.
PEGGY: *(Pointing at the paper.)* But look at what this audition is <u>for</u>. *(CHESTER, reading silently, suddenly looks wide-eyed to Peggy.)* Now do you understand my excitement?
CHESTER: But why are you showing me this?
PEGGY: *(Suddenly serious, she stands up straight and tall.)* Because I'm planning to audition.
CHESTER: Wait a minute, are you pulling my wing?
PEGGY: This is the most important message ever to be delivered to the world, and I plan to be the angel who delivers it.
CHESTER: But hundreds will be auditioning for that part. Thousands!
PEGGY: And I will be one of them. *(Hands on hips.)* I thought you would be a little more encouraging.
DONICA: *(Offstage.)* Peggy? Chester?
PEGGY: *(Shoves the paper Chester's way.)* It's Ms. Donica, don't let her see this.

(CHESTER wads the paper into his fist, thrusts his hand into his left pocket and tries to look innocent. DONICA enters.)

DONICA: There you are. Peggy, Chester, you two must stop goofing off between classes.
PEGGY: We're sorry, ma'am.

DONICA: *(Notices their awkwardness.)* Peggy, please remove your hat. It's disrespectful.

PEGGY: Yes, ma'am. *(Removes the cap.)*

DONICA: *(With a slight smile and crossed arms.)* Okay, out with it. What type of mischief are you two in?

PEGGY: None, ma'am – we were just talking.

CHESTER: Just talking, ma'am.

DONICA: Hmmmmm. *(Circling around Chester, she holds out her hand.)* Let me see it.

CHESTER: Let you see it, ma'am?

DONICA: Your hand, Chester. Let me see your hand. *(CHESTER shows her his right hand.)* Your other hand, Chester. *(CHESTER slowly brings out the piece of paper Peggy had given him. DONICA takes the paper and reads it.)* This is the audition announcement.

PEGGY: Yes ma'am.

DONICA: These auditions are serious business. If you're thinking of trying out, that's great, but if you two were thinking of sneaking in to watch and play around, I'm afraid I have bad news. The Archangel Security Force will be extra tight that night. Anyone who is NOT auditioning will NOT be allowed into the auditioning area.

CHESTER: But Ms. Donica, Peggy doesn't want to watch the audition – she wants to—

PEGGY: *(Interrupting.)* Chester, Ms. Donica is right. We shouldn't interfere with something so important. We're sorry, Ms. Donica. We'll be good.

DONICA: *(Folds up the announcement.)* Well, alright. But I hope you mean it. And to show you there are no hurt feelings, I won't punish you for loafing. *(Indicating harp under Peggy's arm.)* Now, Peggy, I see you're volunteering again to help polish more harps?

PEGGY: Yes, ma'am.

DONICA: Then go on. And Chester, I'll see you and Peggy later at angel choir practice. *(THEY nod and SHE exits.)*

CHESTER: I'm sorry, Peggy. But she made me show her.

PEGGY: *(Putting her cap back on.)* It's okay – it wasn't your fault.

CHESTER: So much for your idea to audition.

End of Freeview

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