

A script from



**“Casting Call”**  
A Christmas Play  
by  
Eddie James

## ***Scene 1: ANGEL, Auditioning for The ANGEL***

**Angel enters, excited to audition. The Director calls out from the back of the auditorium, unseen.**

**Director:** Alright. Let's keep things moving here...we are auditioning for the Angel. Who is next?

**Angel:** Hellooo...*(steps into spotlight)*. I guess I'm next. Ready to give my audition.

**Director:** Great. Tell me a little about yourself before you read.

**Angel:** Well, you may not believe this, but my name *is* Angel. I've heard them all over the years having a name like this.

**Director:** I bet you have. What made you want to audition for the role of the Angel for the Live Nativity?

**Angel:** Well, I am an actress. A pretty good one if I might add.

**Director:** I see.

**Angel:** Yep. I've been acting in community theatre since I was a wee little one. Was Annie...

**Director:** Annie?

**Angel:** You know, the little orphan one...

**Director:** I see.

**Angel:** I've played Maria in West Side Story to the Phantom in Phantom of the Opera.

**Director:** You played the phantom?

**Angel:** Well...yeah...they were short on men that summer and well...I don't let an obstacle stand in my way. *(Thinking about the experience)* My rendition of the phantom did have more of a soprano than a low baritone though...

**Director:** You sound more than qualified.

**Angel:** I hope so. I've also played every role in the Live Nativity except my name- The Angel. I think it's about time...

**Director:** Go ahead and grab the script *(Angel grabs the Bible from the table)* and read the Angels' lines.

**Angel:** Alrighty...let's see here...*(getting into character) (she starts to sing the line to the tune of "People" from the musical "Funny Girl")* Joseph! Son of David, don't be afraid to take yourself Mary, your wife, for it is he-

**Director:** Go ahead and stop for a minute please.

**Angel:** Hmm? *(Stopping the song abruptly)* I'm sorry?

**Director:** You do realize this isn't a musical? You were singing the script.

**Angel:** Oh. My bad, my bad...my bad...*(have the actor make this her catchphrase)* I just assumed we were going to jazz it up a bit.

**Director:** A virgin who is with child is pretty jazzed up don't you think?

**Angel:** So true. I guess I just get used to the story. My bad, my bad, my bad...

**Director:** Go ahead and take another shot at it.

**Angel:** Meaning you want me to sing it, right?

**Director:** Please don't.

**Angel:** Right. Gotcha. My bad. *(Clears throat; she overdramatizes the reading, adding hand gestures)* "...Mary, your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She shall bring forth a son." *(Bows, says under her breath, "thank you, thank you" like she just did the Broadway performance of a lifetime. She puts the Bible back down on the table beside her.)*

**Director:** You read that passage really great. Let's do it again but this time maybe more-

**Angel:** I'm sorry for cutting you off. I just had a "oh, wow!" moment! It's just that...the angel...the angel made the biggest announcement ever. I mean you add up all the announcements that have ever been made on this planet, and this is the biggie. It's like the angel was the first "instant messenger." She I-M'd *(instant messaged)* Mary, Joseph and the shepherds.

**Director:** Okay, I'll go with that. Never thought of it that way. An Instant Messenger. Good. Why don't you read it again?

**Angel:** I'm sorry. I'll have to pass. That's a big responsibility to say those lines. No method acting would ever get me ready for this role.

**Director:** I don't want you to act. I want you to put yourself in the angel's shoes-

**Angel:** Angels had shoes?

**Director:** Figure of speech. What I mean is...

**Angel:** Wings! I bet you meant wings! You want me to put myself in the Angel's wings!

**Director:** What I mean is we are supposed to carry on this great announcement. As you put it, be instant messengers...to the world, your neighborhood, your group of friends...so think of it in those terms.

**Angel:** You lost me there. How about I sing a little bit of "wind beneath my wings"? (*Bursting out in song*) "Did you ever know that you're my hero...you're everything I wish I..."

**Director:** I want you to stop holding on to what you know and what you are comfortable with and just surrender and trust that I've got a plan and a purpose for this. I know you may have doubts, but dive in.

**Angel:** Ummm...okay, my bad, my bad...I'm just going to dive right in. (*Picks up Bible and starts to read. As she reads, she picks up conviction, confidence and joy as she reads the greatest announcement ever told.*) Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take to yourself Mary, your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She shall bring forth a son. You shall call his name Jesus, for it is he who shall save his people from their sins.

**Director:** Really great Angel...Angel.

**Angel:** You mean it?! (*Excited*)

**Director:** It was good!

**Angel:** You like me! You really like me! I can't wait to tell everybody I got the part. (*She starts to run off excitedly.*)

**Director:** I didn't say that but I'll get back to you very soon. In the meantime, maybe you could put that name of yours to use. You're already a messenger...with the greatest news ever told.

**Angel:** There I go again, (*embarrassed*) making it about me. (*Beat*) My bad, my bad. (*Angel stands in spotlight smiling holding Bible to her body. She just caught a glimpse of her part in the announcement and in the world.*)

*Lights out.*

## ***Scene 2: GEORGE, Auditioning for HEROD***

*George enters, finding the spotlight center stage.*

**George:** Is this the casting call? *(Onstage, putting his hands up over his eyes, squinting as the spotlight is in his face.)*

**Director:** Yes! It is. You are in the right place.

**George:** Good! I thought I was. My name is George Clooney. Not the actor George Clooney, even though we look a lot alike. I know what you are going to ask, "Are you two related?" I don't know yet...checking that out on familytree.com. *(Crosses fingers)* We will see...

**Director:** Welcome, George. So you are here to audition for the Live Nativity Scene this year?

**George:** I am and very excited about this. I think if you allowed me to be a part of this production, I could really add a lot to it.

**Director:** Great. Which character are you auditioning for?

**George:** Well, I was looking over the script *(picks up a Bible)* and it seems like the character is in the play but just not in the nativity and I'd like to see if we could add him in this year.

**Director:** So, you would like to audition for a character that is not even in the Live Nativity?

**George:** Correct! You are so easy to talk to. It's true what people say about you. If you allowed my idea to be a part of the story, I think I could really chew up the scenery. Help me, help you.

**Director:** Which character are you talking about?

**George:** King Herod.

**Director:** Herod?

**George:** I know, right?! You're feeling it, aren't you? Where's Herod? You've been wondering the same thing! It's okay...give it a minute...let it wash over you.

**Director:** Wondering what?

**George:** Why the king didn't make a little cameo in the Live Nativity? He's the one that got the whole thing started with the census, why is he left out?

**Director:** He's the bad guy in this story.

**George:** Exactly. Every great story has a villain. Darth Vader, JR Ewing, gas prices, Stay-Puff Marshmallow Man, Snooki... *(or add in your own)* Let's put Herod right in the middle of all of it.

**Director:** He sends the wise men to go and check things out.

**George:** Oh! That's right! I guess that's why you are the director. *(Has an idea)* What about this: He's one of the Wise Men and then boom goes the dynamite! There he is laughing that mean, maniacal King Herod laugh- "I've got you this time my pretty! And your little drummer boy too!" *(Maniacal laugh)*

**Director:** I think you just quoted a spy movie and *Wizard of Oz* all at the same time.

**George:** That's what I'm talking about. Let's change up the greatest story ever told.

**Director:** He wanted to kill Jesus. He wanted to kill all the male babies around so he would still be king. He tried to outsmart God.

**George:** Yes...and he almost did too.

**Director:** He didn't. Not even close. Why don't you just pick a character that was an actual eyewitness to the greatest story ever told?

**George:** I don't want to. All the characters that were there, actually on the scene were poor, dirty and no flashy clothes. That's no fun.

**Director:** That's the only way it can work.

**George:** Hmmmpphph. *(Crossing his arms; whiny; sort of like a child)* No.

**Director:** *(Fatherly; scolding)* George...

**George:** I want to do it my way. My idea is a great idea. Let's change the story. My story.

**Director:** That's where you and so many people get it wrong. It's not your story, it's His story. Sorry, the script isn't about you. I would love for you to play a part in this story, but when you've made it about you and your ideas, we lose sight of why we even celebrate the greatest story.

**George:** Okay. I see what you are saying. My ego is not my amigo. *(Picks up Bible and leafs through it)* I guess I'll audition for the shepherd...he saw an angel and carries a big stick.

**Director:** Sure.

**George:** Great. *(Idea!)* But how about he isn't a shepherd at all but a time traveler and he gets transported to 8th century BC and he knows all this stuff and helps everyone and saves the world from destruction and despair.

**Director:** That's what Jesus did. NEXT!

*Lights out.*

### ***Scene 3: TINA, Auditioning for MARY***

*Tina steps into spotlight. She is chewing gum and holding her phone. She is expecting to be offered the part on the spot; she feels entitled.*

**Director:** I'm ready to see people who want to audition for Mary. Next-

**Tina:** Hey. *(Looking at her phone)* Um... *(texting)* I'm here.

**Director:** Uh...are you here to audition?

*Tina holds up her finger to the light as if to say "hold on".*

**Tina:** Yes. *(Looks up)* I am here to play Mary.

**Director:** Well, you have to audition.

**Tina:** Uh...kay...what's that?

**Director:** Audition means you read the script and I see if you'd be right to play Mary.

**Tina:** Oh. I just thought if I showed up, I got the part.

**Director:** No, it doesn't work that way. Tell me, why did you want to audition?

**Tina:** Well... *(she gets a text, she looks down, laughs)* that's funny. *(Starts texting back.)*

**Director:** Uh...excuse me. *(Tina holds her finger up to the light AGAIN as if to say "hold on".)*

**Tina:** Kay. Ready. *(Puts phone down.)*

**Director:** Tell me why you wanted to audition?

**Tina:** My mom made me. She said it would be good for my personality. *(Rolls eyes, plays with hair)* I think I have an awesome personality.

**Director:** Well, Mary was the mother of the Son of God. She had a lot on her mind. She had an angel talk to her that set her life on a whole new course.

**Tina:** Yeah...that's cool. She was also worshipped. That's cool too. I would like to be worshipped. My mom didn't think of that. I did. That's why I have an awesome personality.

**Director:** It wasn't about Mary. It's about the child she carried that we worship. Huge difference.

**Tina:** Kay. Look. Mr. Director. Do I have to say anything? Can I just kneel and look at the baby Jesus? I can do that... *(mimics looking at the baby as if she was Mary.)* See? That's good right? I can even look at Joseph and then back to the baby Jesus. *(Acts out looking at Jesus, to Joseph, back to Jesus.)* So, do I get it?

**Director:** I don't think you do...get it. On so many levels. Let's try this...read Luke 1:46-49.

**Tina:** My mom didn't tell me I'd have to read. Ugh.

*She grabs the Bible and starts to read. First in her teenage/entitled/I'm bored kind of way. But then the meaning begins to wash over her and there is a definite change.*

Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord. My spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, for he has looked at the humble state of his handmaid. For behold, from now on, all generations will call me blessed. For he who is mighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name."

*Pause. Let the words that Tina read hang in the air for a moment.*

**Director:** Pretty cool huh?

**Tina:** *(In awe)* Yeah, way cool. *(Beat; She suddenly begins to text.)*

**Director:** What are you doing?

**Tina:** I'm *(looking up and still typing)* Facebooking and Tweeting this really cool moment I'm having to my followers.

**Director:** You have 49 followers and two of them are your grandparents who don't even know how to use Twitter. Look, I see how hard it is for you and even adults to believe that it's not "all about you". In a sense, we all worship something other than God. *(Pause, she continues to type)* You know...the place you pour out all the best energies...the thing that defines who you are...the thing you absolutely can't live without...the kind of god that will die if not plugged into the wall at night.

**Tina:** Ouch. *(Puts phone down)* True. Guilty. Okay. I want to do this. I want to be Mary and look longingly at baby Jesus.

**Director:** I think I have another part for you. It's not a flashy role or even a role that would warrant a lot of...Tweets. But, it could be the greatest role of your life.

**Tina:** Greatest role of my life? I'll do it!

**Director:** I haven't told you the role ye...

**Tina:** I don't care. I'll do it.

**Director:** You sure.

**Tina:** Totally. What is it?

**Director:** Props. You'll be in charge of the manger scene.

**Tina:** WHAT?! *(Drops phone.)*

*Lights out.*

#### ***Scene 4: JOE, Auditioning for JOSEPH***

*Joe walks up to the spotlight for his audition. He seems a little reluctant.*

**Director:** We are now ready to hear auditions for the role of Joseph!

**Joe:** Hi. I'm Joe. Joe Staleman.

**Director:** Hey, Joe. Why are you auditioning for the role of Joseph today?

**Joe:** Eh...well...in all honesty...pound for pound...my wife wants me to.

**Director:** Oh. So, this is not something you volunteered on your own?

**Joe:** No.

**Director:** *(With a little humor)* Say it ain't so, Joe.

**Joe:** Can't. Wish I could, but my wife says I'm kind of a caveman- in my own little world watching way too much Sports Center. Says I care way too much about Nascar and Hillbilly Hand Fishin' than I do about giving back to *(in air quotes)* "the body of Christ".

**Director:** I see. Well, Joseph is a big role. The earthly father of the Messiah. Trekked a trail from their hometown to Bethlehem on foot- over 300 miles to register for the census. Married a woman that was pregnant with the son of God. Big shoes to fill.

**Joe:** Yeah, about that. I should have probably auditioned for a shepherd cause all they do is watch sheep and keep to themselves. Again, my wife's idea for me to play Joseph- cause that's my full name Joseph. Joseph Arlene Staleman.

**Director:** Arlene?

**Joe:** Yeah, my mom was a twin. Her sister's name was Arlene. I was the third child in the family and no girls...hence I got my aunt's name as my middle name...Arlene. Embarrassing. Humiliating. Makes you just want to run and hide when your mom is mad and calls out your full name. *(Mimicking mom, going back in time to a moment when he was a kid)* "JOSEPH ARLEEEEEENNEEE STALE-MAN! You put that cat down! God didn't put them on this earth for you to make boom-a-rangs out of!" *(To Director)* Momma was always very sensitive toward the feline community...

**Director:** I guess someone needed to. You just might be perfect for the role of Joseph, Joe.

**Joe:** Pound for pound, I'm just not seein' what your seein', I reckon.

**Director:** Here's the deal- all the emotions you have felt- the confusion, the embarrassment, humiliation, disillusionment- Joseph felt all of those.

**Joe:** Uh, I've seen the Live Nativity- he always looks so happy looking down at Jesus. *(Does the frozen pose- with one arm around Mary and the other holding onto a staff staring down at the baby Jesus smiling)* See? There isn't any of those emotions in that manger.

**Director:** How do you think Joseph got to that moment? What do you think were the emotions going on in Joseph's heart, soul and mind when the Angel delivered the news that Mary would be with child carrying the son of God?

**Joe:** Never thought of it like that. I guess I just always pictured him saying "okay" and be good with it.

**Director:** As you would say, "pound for pound," it was probably a major blow to his world. He had to decide whether to follow what the Angel Gabriel told him, as crazy as it sounded, or do what's best for him.

**Joe:** That's pretty much how I've lived life I guess. I'm more of a live and let live kind of guy.

**Director:** It's easier to be that way, but think about what it says in Luke 1:19: The Angel Gabriel told Joseph, "I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news." Do you think this

was good news at first for Joseph or did he have to wrestle with what everyone would think?

**Joe:** I'm guessing in some ways it was not his will be done, but God's will.

**Director:** Exactly!

**Joe:** Kinda like my situation- not my will but my wife's'...

**Director:** Now you've gone off track. Speaking of a union- Joseph, after hearing the news...and being a righteous man...wanted to divorce Mary quietly so it wouldn't be brought out in the public. Back then, even during an engagement it took two witnesses to legally get a divorce. He thought Mary was unfaithful. It wasn't until the Angel said to marry her and take her home that Joseph followed.

**Joe:** Well, I reckon if Joseph felt and wondered all those things, maybe I am right for this role. *(Beat; thinking through it)* Put me in coach, I'm ready to play.

**Director:** I think you are. I think you nailed your audition with the simple realization it's not your will but God's. His son would say the same exact thing thirty three years later as he died for the sins of the world.

**Joe:** Yeah, I'm sure glad he did that for me. I'll remember that as I'm staring at that little baby in the manger. I guess that's what you theatre folks call, "gettin' into character"?

**Director:** Something like that.

**Joe:** Alright then, one more thing. Do I have to wear that Biblical robe thingy?

**Director:** You do.

**Joe:** Can't we try to do it differently? I can wear my camo huntin' pants. It's almost like a robe.

**Director:** *(With a smile; amused)* Sorry...not your will.

**Joe:** Yeah, I get it.

**Director:** Joe?

**Joe:** Yes sir?

**Director:** Give me that Joseph pose one more time.

We see **Joe** happy to oblige as he gets in the previous Joseph pose. He stands in his pose, frozen. As the moment washes over him, we see him begin to smile with pure joy and even a tear.

**Joe:** *(Thoughtfully)* Wow...pound for pound. *(Caught up in the moment, pretending to look at the Baby Jesus.)*

*Lights fade.*

### **Scene 5: FRANK, Auditioning for WISE MAN**

*The Director, unseen, calls for the next to audition.*

**Director:** We are now auditioning for the Wise Men. Who's next?

**Frank:** Uh...that would be me.

*Steps into spotlight slowly. Audience can tell this person is normally not in the "spotlight". He looks a little smart or nerdy. Without being a cartoonish caricature of a typical nerd. A little social awkward but funny. Think "big bang theory" but more than nerdy. Frank goes into the traditional "wise man" pose.*

**Director:** Welcome. Uh, what are you doing?

**Frank:** This is my wise man pose. You know, for the audition. *(Goes back into pose.)*

**Director:** You don't need to do that quite yet. Your name is Frank Cos - what?

**Frank:** Cos-grove. "Cos" as in cosmic and "Grove" as in orchard.

**Director:** Is that Irish?

**Frank:** Correct.

**Director:** Can you speak Irish?

**Frank:** Is that required for the part? Did one of them travel by camel from Ireland? I don't even think it was named Ireland yet. I thought all I had to do was present a gift to the baby Jesus. *(Makes the pose with the hands as if to bow and present the gift of myrrh.)*

**Director:** No, you're fine. I was just trying to spark up conversation.

**Frank:** I'm not good with people.

**Director:** Really? *(Subtly sarcastic but good natured; say this line with a smile on your face because it will change the tone of how you say the line. It will*

*come across as good-natured instead of mean) Never would have guessed.*

*Frank demonstrates his pose as he describes in his next lines. Make this a funny, awkward attempt as he really tries to be a "wise man".*

**Frank:** That's why I thought this part would be great for me. No talking. No interacting with anyone. Just kneel...hands 3 inches from the ground holding the gift, back at a 45 degree angle and legs in a squat position as if I'm hovering while presenting the gift.

*Frank holds this pose until his next line. If there is laughter, let it go for a few seconds. The Director can also be a little amused at his awkward pose.*

**Director:** That's a good kneel for sure.

**Frank:** Darn-tootin'. The other reason why I feel I'd be great for this role is I'm very smart. Always have been. Smart and wise seem like the same thing.

**Director:** They're really not.

**Frank:** Regardless, I've seen the attempts at the Live Nativity of lesser earthlings before me and I think I should be the one to play a wise man.

**Director:** Did you just call humans, "earthlings"?

**Frank:** Like I said, I'm not good with people.

**Director:** Uh-huh, well there is a line that we've taken from the Bible and scripted for the wise man. Do you mind picking up the script and reading Wise Man #1 please?

**Frank:** *Okay...(sees table beside himself and picks up actual script. There is a Bible next to the script as well) Wise Man #1. (Clears throat, speaks in monotone and fast. It's basically information to him. His recitation is...bad)"*I had a dream that we must not return to Herod. We must go back to our own country another way."

**Director:** Okay. Thank you...nex-

**Frank:** *(Cuts him off)* Wait. This is illogical, Captain.

**Director:** Pardon me?

**Frank:** I just nailed that reading. Wasn't expecting to read but there should be no "next" but "welcome to the Live Nativity Squad". Where's my beard and robe? *(Frank pulls out his phone.)*

**Director:** I appreciate your enthusiasm but...what are you doing with your phone?

**Frank:** I just Googled "magi" and it means "great". I was great. You putting me in this role would be tantamount to Peter Jackson casting Sir Ian McKellan as Gandalf in *Lord of the Rings*.

**Director:** The wise men wanted to worship Him. You are worshipping yourself. Seek and you will find. You need to do some more seeking before you can play the wise man.

**Frank:** They sought and found the Christ-child. They should go back, report to King Herod and do what they were told. That's the smart thing to do. Stay out of trouble.

**Director:** Smart thing, sure. But not the wisest option. They saw the Christ-child! It changed them! They followed the star and what started out as a mission for a king became null and void when they met the true King.

**Frank:** I don't know. There's a system. You stick with the system.

**Director:** Do you get what this is about? They saw what matters.

**Frank:** Look, the wise men traveled 1,000 miles with very little information and I too have traveled a long way to come to this audition.

**Director:** Your audition sheet says you live 5 blocks away from the church.

**Frank:** I see...you're playing hardball. Let me offer you some gifts. I have (*pulls out of pocket*) some warm jelly bellies...yellow in nature. A lot like gold. (*Pulls out wallet*) You can have my driver's license. It's says Frank-it's frank-in-a-sense. (*Touching his upper body for other pockets*) I don't even know what I could give you for myrrh. (*Beat*) What a funny word. M-y-r-r-h. Myrrh. Sounds like a constipated cow.

**Director:** I'm not the one you should be offering gifts to. Let me try to help you out. Read what the Bible says about the Wise Men - as far as their character.

*Frank picks up the Bible and starts to read.*

**Frank:** "They, having heard the King, went their way and behold, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, until it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy".

**Director:** You're not ready to be the wise man until you don't have anything else run your life - logic or feelings - but simply...Christ. Don't miss what's

really important. For everyone else in the nativity, nothing else mattered but what arrived that night. That's what makes you truly...wise.

**Frank:** *(Still preoccupied with unfinished business)* My wife!! That's it! My wife! Her name is MYRNA! Ha! I knew I couldn't be outsmarted...

**Director:** You are married? Truly is a season of miracles...NEXT!!

**Frank:** Now wait just a minute!

*Alternate ending:*

**Frank:** Cat! That's It! My cat. Her name is Myrna. Ha! I knew I couldn't be outsmarted.

**Director:** You named your cat Myrna? You and a cat - that sounds about right.

**Frank:** Well...*(beat)* I'm not good with people.

*Lights out.*

### ***Scene 6: CONNIE, Auditioning for MARY***

*Connie enters as the Director speaks. Connie finds the spotlight and is a bit nervous.*

**Director:** We are now ready to cast the part for Mary. Next...

**Connie:** Hi! My name is Connie. Which is so opposite of Mary. *(Says it with a harsh, funny inflection)* Con-nie. I was named after my aunt. Such a hard name. Mary is such a sweet, soft name.

**Director:** You're fine. Thanks for taking time to come out today and audition. So, you want to portray the role of Mary in the Live Nativity?

*Connie's phone rings.*

**Connie:** Sorry...*(to husband on phone)* What is it? The food is in the refrigerator. I am auditioning for the live nativity thingy at the church. *(Looking up at Director and making a "so sorry type face".)* You stick it in the microwave for 4 minutes on high. On high. High! Put our son on the phone. *(Beat)* Hi sweetie! Hey, can you help daddy cook his dinner? Put it in microwave on...yep...that's it...level 2 for...4 minutes...okay...put Daddy back on the phone...Enjoy! *(Hits "end" on phone and puts down. To Director.)* So...sorry. My world just never stops.

**Director:** Totally okay. You have a lot in common with Mary. Her world didn't stop either.

**Connie:** You're right! Which makes it even more perfect- I've seen the Live Nativity so many times, I just thought "why not?" I can stand there and hold a baby...Heaven knows I have three.

**Director:** Are you ready to read some lines for Mary?

**Connie:** She has lines? I mean- I didn't think there were lines. I've always just seen her look longingly at Jesus. *(Strikes the pose)* And then every once in awhile look up at Joseph. *(Strikes the pose to look at baby Jesus and then looking upward as if Joseph was standing there.)* And then Mary does the back forth- Jesus to Joseph- Joseph to Jesus. *(Acts out this series of events: Strikes the pose looking at Jesus. Then to Joseph. Back to Jesus then to Joseph and then back to Jesus.)*

See! I can do that.

**Director:** But reading lines?

**Connie:** It's Mary. She's the Mom of the Son of God. I wouldn't even know what she sounds like...

**Director:** I assure you the lines are straight from the Bible -that makes our script.

**Connie:** Yeah but...

**Director:** What?

**Connie:** I read the script- er- the Bible. *(Grabs the Bible off the table)* See... *(thumbing through it)* Luke 1:30, "The Angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God". *(Looks up to Director)*

**Director:** Yes. And...?

**Connie:** Well, I don't know...if I've found favor with God. I would hate for my words or my life to misrepresent what took place that day. I can pose though and look longingly at Jesus.

**Director:** I hear what you are saying Connie. That's what we all should be doing this holiday and every day.

*Connie's phone starts to ring again. She looks at the phone exasperated. She looks up at Director.*

**Connie:** I'm so sorry. It's my mom. She hasn't been doing so well...can I just for a minute? *(Lifting phone)* Hello? Hi, Mom. Well, I'm right in the middle of auditioning for Mary for the Live Nativity. Yes, the Virgin Mary. Yes, Mom I realize that. What's up? Oh, sure. Sure. I will come right over after this. No, no...not a problem. Your grandson made dinner- so we are fine. Huh? You'll have to tell me who was on Fox News when I come

over, okay? Love you too, Mom. (*Hangs up phone. Starts to gather her purse.*) Well, I really botched this audition. I'll just get my things.

**Director:** I think the part of Mary would be perfect for you. Just as Mary had doubts and questioned the Angel saying "How can this be?" I can see that you doubt too. You see, Mary was favored- that means she was gracious...caring, considerate...freely giving of her love. I think you embody that totally.

**Connie:** Oh, wow. I don't feel those things. As a mom and a wife, I just always feel like I'm gripe-y, yelling and trying to stay one step ahead of everything, but feeling like I'm always failing...

**Director:** Read Luke 1:26-38.

**Connie:** Uh...okay... (*as Connie reads, she starts out simply reading, but as she continues she begins to understand the magnificence of the words she is transformed.*)

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. For nothing is impossible with God." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

**Director:** So, what do you think?

**Connie:** I don't know. The angel said she was highly favored...I'm just... (*Connie uses her arms to display who she is with disdain.*) me.

**Director:** Connie, you're His child too. Your name is beautiful to the Creator of the Universe.

**Connie:** It seems impossible.

**Director:** But you just read that NOTHING is impossible for God. You'll do great, Connie.

**Connie:** Yeah. *(Beat. New idea.)* Hey, I like how you say my name. *(Smiles)* I can't wait to be in this play. Even if just for one night...maybe my world will spin slower. Maybe I can be quiet for a little bit and...and just look at Jesus.

**Director:** You don't have to wait.

**Connie:** Well, a wise woman once said, *(reads from Bible)* "May it be to me as you have said."

*Lights out.*

## **Scene 7: JESUS, The Live Nativity**

*Lights up on the live nativity. Every cast member enters and moves to their "traditional" spot. Since there is some set up for the live nativity, and if you are doing this as a full-length play, a suggestion is to have the choir, band or a soloist sing a Christmas song as the audience watches the live nativity being set up.*

*"Teen" Mary, who is now part of the stage crew as the "prop girl", is leading the way...she "gets" it! We see all the characters move to their places. All of this should happen within one song. Time the setup with the song and when the song ends, everyone in the live nativity is in their places and frozen. The only one moving will be the **Baby Jesus**.*

*We see **Mary** (adult Mary). We see the **Wise Man** that auditioned along with two other additional wise men. We see **Joseph**. We see a shepherd, the same character who played **George** (Herod). We see the **Angel**. Everyone is now in their Biblical clothes as opposed to their street clothes that they auditioned in. We even see "**Teen**" **Mary** in her stage crew clothes placing the **Baby Jesus** in the hands of "**Adult**" **Mary** on the set. "**Teen**" **Mary** is learning to serve.*

**Director:** Little one who was born, let me tell you a story: "In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

How fitting it is that you were born amongst the mess? In a barn full of animals and hay in an unsafe, fallen world. No palace to shield you from the world, but a full view of humanity...from a barn no less. As you grow, your story will become the greatest story that will be told for

centuries from one generation to the next. Nations will be divided because of your birth. Calendars will be divided in light of your birth. The world, in all its busy-ness, won't recognize you at first, but some will realize a Savior entered the world. You will see the hurt, the anger, the pride...every hidden shame and frailty. And yet...you will still love. You will see true worship and you will see some run to empty wells for a quick fix. And yet...you will still love.

When people read about you, they won't see a king's way of life, but you will be called the King of Kings. A king's crown was not bestowed on you, but you will die with a crown of thorns on your head as you give your life so that they may have an eternal one. A real life. Yes, you will hear the words, "This is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased". Pleased, I AM, indeed! Yes, so fitting that the Son of God is born in a manger.

Amongst the mess.

The world's mess.

You will hear their cries...and weep for them. You will hear their prayers...and heal them. You will die a cruel death... and rise again for them. Some will see that though the thief comes to kill, steal and destroy, you, my Son, came to give them life.

Just as the prophet foretold little one: The Lord will give a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son., and will call him...Immanuel. "God with Us".

*Slow fade on baby in manger.*

*You might go right into singing Christmas songs or praise music with the live nativity still set on stage and transition into your time of worship.*