

WINDOW DRESSINGS

by Kara Wilkins



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A Christmas Decoration Revelation

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SYNOPSIS: Ever strolled past big-city store windows decked out for Christmas? Their magical scenes are absolutely captivating! The setting here is a department store gearing up for its annual holiday window decorating. Because Masons has a rich tradition of award-winning displays, designer Jack must go bigger and better every year. He arranges Mary and Joseph, shepherds and wise men in a first Christmas diorama—not from any deep personal convictions, but merely as an artistic novelty. With his deadline looming he’s up late, frantically fixing fuses so Gabriel will light up for the Black Friday shoppers. Then Jack comes literally face to face with a miracle. Is the display real? Merely a window dressing? It all comes together in this one: modern, traditional, secular, sacred—plus spirited carol-singing. The ending is open and thought-provoking—a “window” into the very essence of Christmas.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(1 female, 7 male, 4 either, extras; gender flexible)

JACK LANDIS (f/m)..... Window designer. *(108 lines)*
 CINDY (f/m)..... Store employee. *(4 lines)*
 MR. MASON (m)..... Storeowner/Innkeeper. *(10 lines)* Also
 plays the INNKEEPER. *(5 lines)*
 FRANCES (f/m) Jack’s helper. *(38 lines)*

NATIVITY CHARACTERS:

MARY (f).....*(26 lines)*
 JOSEPH (m).....*(23 lines)*
 GABRIEL (f/m).....*(20 lines)*
 SHEPHERD CALEB (m).....*(21 lines)*
 SHEPHERD JOSHUA (m).....*(17 lines)*
 BALTHAZAR (m).....*(7 lines)*
 MELCHIOR (m).....*(8 lines)*
 CASPAR (m).....*(8 lines)*

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HEAVENLY HOST (f/m)Any number of little children may be cast as the group of angels. Carolers may join them with a costume change. (16 lines)
CAROLERS (f/m).....Any number of strong singers.

(ALL LINE COUNTS ARE APPROXIMATE)

DURATION: 45-60 minutes

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

SCENE 1: Preparation
SCENE 2: The Unveiling
SCENE 3: Miracle or Dream?
SCENE 4: The True Unveiling
SCENE 5: A Transformed Heart

PRODUCTION NOTES

SONGS:

“Joy to the World” (Carolers), “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen” (Carolers), “All My Hope Today Rejoices” (Heavenly Host), “Away in a Manger” (Heavenly Host), “Still, Still, Still” (Soloist), “Silent Night” (Jack and Soloist or Carolers), and “Hark! The Herald Angel Sings” (Choir or Carolers). In addition, recorded instrumental Christmas music plays softly when the display is in motion.

COSTUMES:

Jack wears a collared shirt and khaki pants. Cindy wears a Christmas shirt and jeans with a Santa or elf hat. Mr. Mason wears a suit. Frances wears a Christmas T-shirt and jeans, and later distressed shorts and shirt for her Drummer Boy outfit.

The wise men (Balthazar, Melchior, and Caspar) wear elaborate royal robes and headpieces. Each robe should be a different color, but the three colors should coordinate. Bright colors, such as purple, gold, and red, look regal. Beads add a nice touch.

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The angels (Gabriel and the Heavenly Host) should all wear white robes. White or blue graduation robes work well for angel costumes, with gold trim added to the sleeves and collars. The Heavenly Host may wear simple cardboard wings attached with cord. Gabriel's wings light up. They may be mounted to a set piece or placed on Gabriel using battery-operated Christmas lights. Gabriel needs to be able to control the on/off switch. All wear halos, which may be made simply from garland.

The rest of the Nativity characters (Mary, Joseph, Shepherd Caleb, Shepherd Joshua, and Mr. Mason as the Innkeeper) all wear a biblical robe and headpiece. Biblical costumes may be easily made with solid or striped bathrobes sewn up the front, with rope for belts. Their headpieces may be trimmed pieces of fabric or scarves. Mary wears hers loosely draped on her head. The males have fabric pieces held on with cloth headbands.

The carolers wear traditional Dickens outfits, if available. If not, then coats and scarves will suffice.

STAGING:

Mary and Joseph are at Center Stage with the manger in front. Gabriel's platform is located at Upstage Left. Shepherds are located at Downstage Left—one standing and one on bended knee. The three Wise Men are at Stage Right. There should be room behind Mary and Joseph for the Heavenly Host. Various props/backgrounds may be used to make the set look like a stable. It is up to the director/designer to decide how that may be accomplished in the space allowed.

If possible, construct and paint several wood blocks to add height and depth for the Nativity characters. These blocks work well when a church does not have a stage and will prove useful for future productions. They may be simply made from ¾" plywood in any dimension of your choosing.

SCENE 1*PREPARATION*

1
2
3
4 **AT START:** *Scene opens with JACK bringing in staffs for*
5 *SHEPHERDS, placing them in SHEPHERDS' hands, then*
6 *proceeding to dress and arrange pieces. The set should look like*
7 *the manger scene, with all the characters in place. NATIVITY*
8 *CHARACTERS need to remain still throughout because they must*
9 *look like mannequins at first. JACK can take his time setting up a*
10 *few pieces at the beginning to make it look like he is putting on the*
11 *final touches.*

12
13 **JACK:** *(Touching up MARY's headpiece.)* You look fabulous, Mary.
14 *Absolutely fabulous. (Steps back.)* Where is your cloak? *(Looks*
15 *around and finds it. Puts cloak on MARY.)* No, I like you better
16 *without it. You look more humble that way. (Smiling, he removes*
17 *cloak and tosses it aside.)*

18 **CINDY:** *(Enters wheeling GABRIEL in on a cart or dolly.)* Where
19 *do you want Gabriel?*

20 **JACK:** Right over here.

21
22 *CINDY wheels GABRIEL to Stage Left. Actor playing GABRIEL*
23 *must remain very still as he/she is placed upon the set. Following*
24 *dialogue takes place as GABRIEL is put in place.*

25
26 *That's it. Gentle, now. (Staring at GABRIEL with pride.)* Isn't she
27 *[or he] a beauty?*

28 **CINDY:** She [or he] sure is.

29 **JACK:** Did you bring me the rest of the decorations?

30 **CINDY:** Oh, I forgot. I'll tell Frances to bring them in. Mr. Mason
31 *wants me to get Santa's elves ready.*

32 **JACK:** OK. You'd better do that right away. You know how Mr.
33 *Mason hates to be kept waiting.*

34 **CINDY:** I sure do. Thanks for understanding.

35 **JACK:** No problem. I'll see you at the unveiling.

36
37 *CINDY exits.*
38

1 OK, Gabe, let's see you shine. (*Plugs in a cord, but nothing*
2 *happens.*) Oh no, not now. Come on. I need you to work.
3 (*Fiddles with cords.*)

4 **FRANCES:** (*Entering carrying a box filled with costume pieces.*)
5 Here are the last of the decorations, Mr. Landis.

6 **JACK:** (*Preoccupied.*) Fine.

7 **FRANCES:** Where should I put the box?

8 **JACK:** (*Checking the cord and speaking to himself.*) Not under the
9 gown.

10 **FRANCES:** I wasn't planning to put it under the gown.

11 **JACK:** Huh? Oh, sorry. (*Noticing the box.*) Put them over there by
12 the wise men.

13 **FRANCES:** Something wrong?

14 **JACK:** I can't get Gabriel to light up.

15 **FRANCES:** Have you checked the cords?

16 **JACK:** First thing. Why does this have to happen now? The
17 unveiling is in less than an hour.

18 **FRANCES:** Nothing like being down to the wire. No pun intended.

19 **JACK:** Never mind. I'll fix it later. Help me with these props.

20 **FRANCES:** (*Taking things out of the box and placing them around*
21 *the set.*) I think you've outdone yourself this year. This is the best
22 window display ever! (*Places gold, frankincense, and myrrh into*
23 *the hands of the WISE MEN.*)

24 **JACK:** (*Placing baskets by the SHEPHERDS.*) It is pretty good,
25 isn't it?

26 **FRANCES:** (*Putting the cloak on MARY.*) I'll say. The faces are so
27 real, and the costumes are awesome.

28 **JACK:** (*Removing the cloak.*) I've been planning this since last
29 Christmas. Let's turn it on and make sure the rest of the pieces
30 work.

31 **FRANCES:** (*Moves to main switch on Stage Right.*) OK, here goes
32 nothing.

33

34 *Flips switch. Lights go on, music plays softly, and pieces begin to*
35 *move: MARY quiets Jesus, WISE MEN offer gifts, SHEPHERDS*
36 *bow, and GABRIEL... doesn't move. NATIVITY ACTORS must*
37 *move like machines, slow and methodical.*

38

1 **FRANCES:** (*Stunned.*) Wow! I never thought you'd be able to top
2 the flying reindeer and Santa going down a smoking chimney,
3 (*Laughs at the memory.*) but this is fantastic!

4 **JACK:** Last year I took a more humorous approach. OK, you can
5 turn it off. Everything seems to be working except for Gabriel.

6

7 *JACK moves to GABRIEL as FRANCES turns it off.*

8

9 **FRANCES:** I hope everyone gets the real meaning of Christmas
10 when they see this.

11 **JACK:** (*Off-handed.*) What do you mean?

12 **FRANCES:** You know that it's really about the birth of Jesus, our
13 Savior.

14 **JACK:** (*Brushing it off.*) Oh, yeah. Well, I wasn't trying to make any
15 statements. I just thought I would take the legend of Jesus' birth
16 and display it.

17 **FRANCES:** (*A little hurt and shocked.*) A legend? I thought you
18 believed.

19 **JACK:** (*Unconcerned.*) No, not so much. Why would you think
20 that?

21 **FRANCES:** How could you make such an amazing depiction of his
22 birth and not believe?

23 **JACK:** I'm an artist who cares about detail. I want my window
24 displays to be realistic- looking, but as far as believing in them, I
25 don't think so. Now, enough chitchat. Let's finish up. I'm going to
26 try to find another bulb. I just have to get Gabriel to light up. (*He*
27 *exits.*)

28 **FRANCES:** (*Removing baby from box.*) Here we go, baby Jesus.
29 (*Swaddles him and lays him in the manger.*) You're more than a
30 legend to me, and this (*Motions to scene.*) is more than just a
31 window dressing. I wish Mr. Landis could understand that more
32 than anything this Christmas.

33

34 *FRANCES exits and lights go down. GABRIEL lights up for a*
35 *second, then goes off.*

SCENE 2*THE UNVEILING*

1
2
3
4 **AT START:** *A platform may be rolled On-stage and placed at Stage*
5 *Right. CAROLERS enter through the congregation and gather at*
6 *Stage Left. Lights up.*

7
8 **SONG:** "Joy to the World"

9
10 *CAROLERS sing verses 1 and 4 to open the scene. As song ends,*
11 *MR. MASON takes the stage. If possible, a curtain should be hung*
12 *in front of the window display. If no curtain is available, use lights*
13 *and place CAROLERS and MR. MASON off to the side to divert*
14 *attention. Others enter as MR. MASON takes his place. NATIVITY*
15 *CHARACTERS remain still On-stage. JACK and FRANCES should*
16 *be in front of the CAROLERS.*

17
18 **MR. MASON:** OK, gather 'round, everyone. It's almost time for the
19 unveiling. Thank you, carolers, for that rousing rendition of "Joy
20 to the World." Cindy, make sure everyone has a cup of cheer.

21
22 *CINDY passes out drinks.*

23
24 I would like to take a moment to congratulate Jack on yet another
25 spectacular display. Jack, come up here.

26 **JACK:** You shouldn't thank me yet, Mr. Mason. You haven't seen
27 the window.

28 **MR. MASON:** I don't need to. If it's anything like the past years
29 have been, it'll be wonderful.

30 **JACK:** Thank you. I do have to admit that this is one of my best.

31 **MR. MASON:** *(Laughing.)* If you say so, then I believe it is.
32 Everyone ready?

33
34 *CAROLERS respond.*

35
36 OK, Frances, pull the curtain.
37

1 *Curtain is pulled or lights come up. As the display is revealed, the*
2 *CAROLERS gasp and wait for MR. MASON's approval. MR.*
3 *MASON walks around each figure with a scrutinizing eye and finally*
4 *walks down front. JACK has crossed to Stage Right.*

5

6 **MR. MASON:** *(Continued.)* Jack?

7 **JACK:** *(Nervous.)* Yes, sir?

8 **MR. MASON:** *(Booming.)* It's fantastic!

9

10 *ALL cheer.*

11

12 You've outdone yourself to be sure. Look at the faces and the
13 attention to detail. I'm blown away.

14 **JACK:** Thank you!

15 **MR. MASON:** The best part is that our shoppers will be blown
16 away. I can't wait until the cash registers start dinging as a result
17 of this! If this doesn't put people in the mood to spend, I surely
18 don't know what will.

19 **FRANCES:** And it should put people in the spirit—the true spirit—
20 of Christmas.

21 **MR. MASON:** *(Misinterpreting.)* Yes, you're right. I bet this will be
22 a record year for us. Outstanding. Absolutely outstanding. *(Pats*
23 *JACK on back.)*

24 **FRANCES:** I meant—

25 **JACK:** *(Talking over her)* Frances, start it up.

26

27 *FRANCES shakes her head and turns on the display. All pieces*
28 *begin to move and the lights come on and music plays. Everything*
29 *works except GABRIEL.*

30

31 **MR. MASON:** Holy cow! Would you look at that? I love it, love it,
32 loooove it!

33 **JACK:** There's a small glitch with Gabriel, but I promise it'll be up
34 and running by tomorrow. Black Friday. The biggest shopping
35 day of the year!

36 **MR. MASON:** I have every confidence that it will be.

37 **JACK:** You can turn it off now, Frances.

38

1 *She turns it off and all NATIVITY CHARACTERS stop moving.*

2

3 **MR. MASON:** A toast. *(Raises glass.)* To Jack Landis and his
4 undeniable talent. May the season bring us all joy and more
5 importantly, prosperity!

6

7 *ALL cheer.*

8

9 Now, Frances, cover that up. We don't want our competition
10 getting any ideas. Cindy, fill our glasses again.

11

12 *Curtain is closed or lights out on display.*

13

14 Let's have a little music to help us celebrate!

15

16 **SONG:** "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"

17

18 *CAROLERS sing verse 1 as scene fades. Lights dim, the platform*
19 *is rolled away, and the CAROLERS exit.*

20

21

SCENE 3

MIRACLE OR DREAM?

22

23 **AT START:** *It is late at night. JACK is working on GABRIEL.*
24 *FRANCES enters to lock up.*

25

26 **FRANCES:** You're still here, Mr. Landis?

27 **JACK:** I'm still trying to get Gabriel to work. I'm afraid I may be here
28 all night.

29 **FRANCES:** Is it really all that important?

30 **JACK:** *(Irritated.)* Of course it is. My reputation is on the line.
31 Besides, I demand perfection.

32 **FRANCES:** Why? He never did. *(Motions to Jesus.)*

33 **JACK:** *(Trying not to lose his patience.)* Look, Frances—go home.

34 **FRANCES:** Can I help somehow?

35 **JACK:** *(Snapping.)* No! I built it, so I'm the best one to figure out
36 what I did wrong. *(Kinder.)* Really, go home.

37

1 **FRANCES:** *(Reluctantly.)* OK. Good night.
2 **JACK:** Good night.
3 **FRANCES:** *(Looking up.)* Remember my wish. *(Exits.)*
4 **JACK:** *(Yawning.)* I can't understand it. I've checked all the bulbs
5 at least five times. I've replaced all the cords and batteries.
6 *(Frustrated.)* Why won't you work? *(Yawns and looks at watch.)*
7 Almost midnight. Maybe if I rest for a few minutes, I'll be able to
8 clear my mind and see the problem from a new perspective.
9 *(Lies down and falls asleep.)*

10

11 **SONG:** "Still, Still, Still"

12

13 *HEAVENLY HOST takes the stage to stand behind MARY and*
14 *JOSEPH. HEAVENLY HOST sings, or CAROLERS may sing from*
15 *Off-stage. The rest of the mannequin NATIVITY CHARACTERS*
16 *come to life as the HEAVENLY HOST enters.*

17

18

19

SCENE 4

20

THE TRUE UNVEILING

21

22 **AT START:** *The "mannequins" have come to life. When JACK*
23 *wakes up, he finds he is in the midst of his own window display on*
24 *the night of Jesus' birth. CAROLERS from previous scenes may*
25 *also be a part of the HEAVENLY HOST to add volume for songs*
26 *and control. if using little children.*

27

28 **JOSEPH:** Mary, are you OK? You seem to be shivering.

29 **MARY:** It's a little cold, but I'll be OK. Thank you. *(To WISE MEN.)*
30 I'm sorry—you were saying?

31 **BALTHAZAR:** Please accept this gift of gold. Its value does not
32 compare with that of your son, but I feel I must give him
33 something.

34 **JOSEPH:** Thank you. Mary and I accept your gift on his behalf.

35 **MARY:** I apologize that we have nothing to offer you in the way of
36 food or drink.

- 1 **BALTHAZAR:** Please, do not concern yourself with my well-being.
 2 You have enough to worry about, and I am overjoyed just to be
 3 in his presence.
- 4 **SHEPHERD CALEB:** Oh, no. Cramp!
- 5 **SHEPHERD JOSHUA:** What's wrong, brother?
- 6 **SHEPHERD CALEB:** My legs are cramping from kneeling so long.
- 7 **SHEPHERD JOSHUA:** Stand up.
- 8 **SHEPHERD CALEB:** *(As he stands, he loses his balance.)* Uh-oh!
- 9 **SHEPHERD JOSHUA:** Look out, Caleb! You're going to step on
 10 that oddly dressed man!
 11
- 12 *SHEPHERD CALEB tumbles slightly onto JACK, who is startled*
 13 *awake.*
 14
- 15 **JACK:** *(Confused.)* What's going on here?
- 16 **SHEPHERD CALEB:** My apologies. I had a cramp.
- 17 **JOSEPH:** *(Genuinely pleased.)* Another traveler, Mary. *(To JACK.)*
 18 Welcome.
- 19 **MARY:** *(Expectant.)* Have you come to see him too?
- 20 **JOSEPH:** *(Gesturing toward the WISE MEN.)* I'm afraid you will
 21 need to get in line.
- 22 **JACK:** *(Rubs eyes.)* I must be dreaming.
- 23 **SHEPHERD CALEB:** Is that how you came to hear about him? In
 24 a dream?
- 25 **JACK:** *(Confused.)* What? Who is him?
- 26 **SHEPHERD CALEB:** *(Smiling.)* Jesus, of course
- 27 **SHEPHERD JOSHUA:** *(Proudly.)* An angel visited us.
- 28 **JACK:** *(Ragged and feeling desperate.)* OK, calm down, Jack. You
 29 must be dreaming, or else you're losing your mind.
- 30 **SHEPHERD JOSHUA:** That's what I told my brother when the
 31 angel came to us. However, here we are, and I'm so glad I didn't
 32 listen to that little voice inside telling me I was crazy.
- 33 **JACK:** *(Disbelieving.)* This is not real.
- 34 **MARY:** Oh, it's real. Trust me. I was the one who gave birth.
- 35 **JACK:** No, you are mannequins.
- 36 **BALTHAZAR:** What are mannequins?
- 37 **JACK:** I made you with my own two hands.
- 38 **JOSEPH:** *(Gently.)* God made us.

1 **JACK:** OK, OK, this is not happening. (*Forced control.*) I'm going
2 to close my eyes and when I open them, I will be awake.

3

4 *Closes eyes and reopens to find everything the same. HEAVENLY*
5 *HOST giggle.*

6

7 **GABRIEL:** (*Shushing the HEAVENLY HOST.*) Do not be afraid. It
8 can be overwhelming to be in the presence of royalty.

9 **JACK:** (*Ignoring GABRIEL and walking to HEAVENLY HOST.*)

10 Wait a minute—now I know I'm dreaming, because I didn't have
11 a whole group of angels in my display. (*Pointing to HEAVENLY*
12 *HOST.*) You shouldn't be here.

13 **HEAVENLY HOST:** (*Together.*) Of course we should be here.
14 We're the Heavenly Host.

15 **JACK:** I didn't include a Heavenly Host. Budget restrictions.
16 (*Moves to Downstage Right.*)

17 **HEAVENLY HOST:** (*Together.*) Why are we always the first to go?
18 (*Stamp feet in unison.*)

19 **GABRIEL:** Shhhh.

20 **MELCHIOR:** Excuse me. I would like to deliver a gift to the Christ
21 child.

22

23 *JACK moves automatically, but is clearly in shock.*

24

25 My precious King, I give to you frankincense. It's not much, but
26 I offer it with all my heart.

27 **MARY:** Thank you. You are most kind.

28 **JOSEPH:** Would you like to have a seat and rest awhile? I'm sure
29 you're exhausted from all that traveling.

30

31 *JACK has made is way to MELCHIOR and is staring at him with his*
32 *mouth wide open.*

33

34 **MELCHIOR:** I have traveled far, but I would have traveled even
35 farther to have the opportunity to meet this little king.

36

37 *He bows to Jesus, nods to JACK, and steps aside. JACK stares*
38 *after him in disbelief.*

1

2 **CASPAR:** *(To JACK.)* Do you have a gift you would like to offer?3 **JACK:** *(Startled.)* Huh?4 **CASPAR:** A gift. Would you like to go first?5 **JACK:** Uh, no.6 **CASPAR:** *(Cordially.)* Then would you mind?

7

8 *Motions for JACK to move. JACK is confused and continuously*
9 *steps in CASPAR's way, until CASPAR gently moves JACK to the*
10 *side.*

11

12 I have with me some myrrh. This has been in my family for years,
13 and I now give it with great pleasure.14 **JOSEPH:** We accept your gifts. Thank you, all of you. Mary and I
15 are humbled by your generosity.16 **JACK:** *(Almost hysterical laughter.)* OK, OK. That's it. Time to
17 wake up! *(Slaps himself.)*18 **MARY:** *(Rising and crossing to JACK.)* Oh, my. Did you hurt
19 yourself?

20

21 *MARY gently touches his arm, and he jumps back.*

22

23 **JACK:** *(Looking around.)* Apparently not enough.24 **SHEPHERD JOSHUA:** Why don't you sit down? You look weary.

25

26 *MARY leads him to sit on a bale of straw at Stage Left, then returns*
27 *to JOSEPH's side.*

28

29 **JACK:** *(Places head in hands.)* Yes, I'm very weary.30 **SHEPHERD CALEB:** Bring him some water.

31

32 *HEAVENLY HOST brings water.*

33

34 **CASPAR:** From where have you traveled?35 **JACK:** I didn't travel from anywhere.36 **CASPAR:** So you are from Bethlehem?37 **JACK:** No.38 **JOSEPH:** Did the innkeeper send you?

- 1 **JACK:** Huh? No.
- 2 **MELCHIOR:** Where are you from originally?
- 3 **JACK:** _____. [Insert name of town in which show is being
4 performed.]
- 5 **CASPAR:** Is that in the northern region?
- 6 **JACK:** No. I mean, I have no idea.
- 7 **SHEPHERD JOSHUA:** You don't know where you are from?
- 8 **SHEPHERD CALEB:** Perhaps he has amnesia.
- 9 **JOSEPH:** Or he is overwhelmed at the sight of our son.
- 10 **MARY:** Yes.
- 11 **JOSEPH:** Mary, you're shivering again. Come closer.
- 12 **MARY:** Thank you. I seem to have misplaced my cloak.
- 13 **JACK:** This is crazy!
- 14 **HEAVENLY HOST:** *(Together.)* Yep, he's overwhelmed!
- 15 **GABRIEL:** Shhhh. *(Walking to HEAVENLY HOST.)* Do not be
16 afraid. This evening is overwhelming for many.
- 17 **BALTHAZAR:** How did you get here, my friend? Did you travel by
18 foot or camel?
- 19 **JACK:** *(Building to a hysterical tantrum.)* Neither one. I've always
20 been here. This is my window display. I designed it and had you
21 all made in a factory. I personally wired each of you to move.
22 You can't speak. There is music piped in from the speakers.
23 Electricity makes you light up. People are coming to look at you
24 on the biggest shopping day of the year. Mr. Mason is having a
25 party in my honor! I win awards for my displays! You are not real!
26
- 27 *ALL look at each other uncomfortably.*
- 28
- 29 **SHEPHERD CALEB:** *(Panicked.)* Where is that water?
- 30 **HEAVENLY HOST:** *(Together.)* Here.
- 31
- 32 *They hand it to GABRIEL, who hands it to SHEPHERD CALEB. He*
33 *takes it and throws it in JACK's face.*
- 34
- 35 **JACK:** *(Angry and standing.)* Hey! What did you do that for?
- 36 **SHEPHERD CALEB:** Feel better?
- 37 **JACK:** *(Frustrated.)* No. Could someone please tell me what is
38 going on here?

1 **GABRIEL:** *(Calmly.)* The Messiah has been born. You are one of
2 the chosen to meet him.

3 **SHEPHERD JOSHUA:** We were all chosen.

4 **JACK:** *(Sniffing.)* What is that smell?

5 **HEAVENLY HOST:** *(Together.)* Have you forgotten? You're in a
6 stable.

7 **SHEPHERD CALEB:** More water!

8

9 *HEAVENLY HOST gets more water and passes it along quickly.*

10 *CALEB is handing it to JACK when he cries out.*

11

12 **JACK:** No!

13

14 *JACK puts hands up in protective manner, then realizes CALEB*
15 *wasn't going to throw water. ALL look at him strangely as JACK*
16 *takes water meekly and with shaky hands.*

17

18 Thank you. *(Drinks.)*

19 **HEAVENLY HOST:** *(Together.)* You're welcome.

20 **JACK:** Do you guys do everything together?

21 **HEAVENLY HOST:** *(Together.)* Yes! You dress funny.

22 **MARY:** Joseph, I'm worried about the stranger. Perhaps that slap
23 caused him to lose his memory.

24 **JACK:** My memory is fine. I remember I was fixing Gabriel because
25 he wouldn't light up, and then I took a nap—

26 **GABRIEL:** *(Interrupting.)* Wouldn't light up? Of course I light up!
27 How else would I be able to get the attention of the shepherds?

28

29 *GABRIEL walks back to his place and poses, lights up.*

30

31 **HEAVENLY HOST:** Ooooh!

32 **SHEPHERD CALEB:** Ahhhh!

33 **SHEPHERD JOSHUA:** I don't know why, but that amazes me
34 every time.

35

36 *ALL agree.*

37

38 **GABRIEL:** Thank you.

- 1 **JACK:** (*Excited.*) I fixed you! (*Walking to GABRIEL and starting to*
2 *lift his/her gown.*)
- 3 **GABRIEL:** (*Slapping JACK's hand away.*) Excuse me, young man.
4 I hardly need fixing.
- 5 **JACK:** (*Looking at wings.*) Your bulbs must have been loose.
6
- 7 *GABRIEL pulls away.*
8
- 9 **HEAVENLY HOST:** (*Together.*) What's a bulb?
10 **MARY:** Joseph, I'm frightened by this man.
- 11 **JOSEPH:** (*Being protective.*) Did you come to see our son or not?
12 **JACK:** No. I don't believe in your son.
13
- 14 *ALL gasp.*
15
- 16 **MELCHIOR:** Did Herod send you?
17
- 18 *SHEPHERDS come after him with their staffs.*
19
- 20 **HEAVENLY HOST:** (*Covering ears, together.*) Ahhhh!
21 **MARY:** (*Crying.*) Oh please, leave us in peace!
- 22 **GABRIEL:** (*Reassuring.*) Do not be afraid, Mary. He is not from
23 Herod. God did not send word yet.
- 24 **JACK:** That's right, I'm not from Herod. You can put those things
25 away.
26
- 27 *SHEPHERDS reluctantly put their staffs down and move away.*
28
- 29 **SHEPHERD CALEB:** I'm watching you.
30 **JACK:** Look, I don't know what's going on. I don't know if this is a
31 dream or what, but...
32
- 33 *INNKEEPER enters, played by same person as MR. MASON.*
34
- 35 Mr. Mason! Thank goodness you're here.
36 **INNKEEPER:** Do I know you?
37 **JACK:** It's me, Jack. I'm the one who created this scene.
38 **INNKEEPER:** (*Accusing.*) So you're to blame for this?

1 **JACK:** Huh?

2 **INNKEEPER:** *(Complaining.)* As if I don't have enough to worry
3 about with a full inn, you have to go and bring me these people.
4 My wife is nagging me to take care of them. Do you think I'm
5 getting paid for this nonsense? No! Not one drachma!

6 **JACK:** Don't you know me?

7 **JOSEPH:** I thought you said you didn't know the innkeeper.

8 **JACK:** What? I don't. This is Mr. Mason, my boss. We're friends,
9 sort of.

10 **INNKEEPER:** *(Looks at JACK closely.)* I do not know you, do not
11 wish to know you, and we are certainly not friends. I'm sure I
12 would never make friends with you. You dress funny.

13

14 *HEAVENLY HOST giggle as INNKEEPER/MR. MASON turns to*
15 *MARY, handing her a blanket.*

16

17 Here's another blanket. My wife says it's going to get colder.

18 **JOSEPH:** Thank you for your kindness. I know this is an
19 inconvenience, but we really appreciate you taking us in like this.

20 **INNKEEPER:** Don't thank me, thank the Mrs. I'll be back later to
21 check on you.

22 **MARY:** We appreciate it.

23

24 *INNKEEPER exits. MARY wraps the blanket around Jesus.*

25

26 **JOSEPH:** Mary, why don't you wrap up in the blanket?

27 **MARY:** Jesus needs it more. I don't want anything to happen to
28 God's Son.

29 **SHEPHERD CALEB:** *(Approaching and circling JACK.)* You know,
30 you *are* dressed kind of funny. What's with the getup?

31 **JACK:** It's how we dress where I'm from.

32 **SHEPHERD JOSHUA:** *(Approaching suspiciously.)* And where is
33 that, exactly?

34 **JACK:** *(He is between the SHEPHERDS and feeling nervous.)* The
35 future, I guess.

36 **SHEPHERD JOSHUA:** *(Suspiciously.)* I thought you said
37 _____ . [Insert name if town.]

- 1 **JACK:** (*Realizing how ridiculous he sounds*) I did, but _____
2 [Insert name if town] is in the future.
- 3 **SHEPHERD CALEB:** (*Pushing up his sleeves*) OK, buddy, I've had
4 enough.
- 5 **MARY:** (*Coming between them.*) Please do not harm him. We're
6 all tired from our travels and the excitement of the day's events.
7 Let's just enjoy the glory of God in our son.
- 8 **GABRIEL:** Well put, Mary.
9
- 10 *SHEPHERDS sit down. SHEPHERD JOSHUA points two V-sign*
11 *fingers at his own eyes, then at JACK to signify "I'm watching you!"*
12 *MARY goes back to manger, warming herself. JACK moves*
13 *Downstage Right.*
14
- 15 Everyone, just relax. I'm sure all will make itself clear by the end
16 of the night. How about a song?
- 17 **MARY:** That would be lovely.
- 18 **BALTHAZAR:** How about the Heavenly Host? Would you sing for
19 us?
20
- 21 *HEAVENLY HOST confers and then nods yes.*
22
- 23 **SONG:** "*All My Heart Today Rejoices*" (*Sung by the HEAVENLY*
24 *HOST.*)
25
- 26 **GABRIEL:** (*After the song.*) That was wonderful. Thank you!
- 27 **HEAVENLY HOST:** (*Together.*) Our pleasure.
- 28 **JACK:** OK, since I seem to be stuck in this dream, I might as well
29 make the most of it. (*As if playing a game.*) Why don't you all tell
30 me how you came to be here? (*Sits down.*)
- 31 **SHEPHERD CALEB:** (*Raising his hand.*) Oh, oh, oh, oh!
- 32 **GABRIEL:** Yes, Caleb?
- 33 **SHEPHERD CALEB:** I want to go first.
- 34 **JACK:** (*Sarcastically.*) This ought to be good. (*Crosses arms.*)
- 35 **SHEPHERD CALEB:** My brother and I were sleeping in the fields
36 about five miles from here, when he— (*Points to GABRIEL.*)
- 37 **GABRIEL:** The name is Gabriel.
- 38 **SHEPHERD CALEB:** When Gabriel came to pay us a visit.

- 1 **SHEPHERD JOSHUA:** Yeah, there was this great light, and when
2 we looked up, there he was.
- 3 **JACK:** (*Irritated.*) For *them* you'll light up?
- 4 **GABRIEL:** I had a message to bring.
- 5 **SHEPHERD CALEB:** (*Politely.*) May I finish, please? Anyway, we
6 looked up, and there he was. My brother and I dropped to the
7 ground in fear, but then a booming voice said—
- 8 **GABRIEL:** (*Interrupting.*) If you don't mind, I'll tell this part. The
9 shepherds were on the ground, shaking in fear. I said, "Do not
10 be afraid. I bring you good news. Tonight your Savior was born!
11 Go and see the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in
12 a manger."
- 13 **SHEPHERD JOSHUA:** And then a whole lot more angels
14 appeared and said...
- 15 **HEAVENLY HOST:** (*Together, loudly.*) Glory to God in the highest,
16 and peace to all who believe!
- 17 **SHEPHERD JOSHUA:** We left immediately after the angels
18 disappeared.
- 19 **JACK:** So you guys walked over five miles to see a baby?
- 20 **SHEPHERD JOSHUA:** Not just a baby. A Messiah!
- 21 **JACK:** (*Moving to SHEPHERDS.*) Why visit (*Scoffing.*) shepherds?
22
- 23 *SHEPHERDS move as if to fight, but GABRIEL steps between*
24 *them.*
25
- 26 **GABRIEL:** Why not? They're God's people too, and quite capable
27 of sending word that Jesus was born. God doesn't see hierarchy,
28 only worthiness.
- 29 **JACK:** (*Looks down and crosses back to Stage Right. To WISE*
30 *MEN.*) What about you guys?
- 31 **MELCHIOR:** We had heard rumors that the Christ child was born.
32 We were actually summoned by Herod to find him.
- 33 **BALTHAZAR:** Herod said he wanted to honor the new king, and
34 he told us to bring back news of his location.
- 35 **CASPAR:** But now that we have seen the Christ child, we know
36 that he is more than an earthly king.
- 37 **MELCHIOR:** We've decided not to tell Herod we found him, but
38 rather to do everything in our power to keep him safe.

- 1 **JACK:** What about the myth of the star?
- 2 **BALTHAZAR:** Oh, it's no myth. Look above you. It shines with a
3 light that can only be from God.
- 4 **CASPAR:** That star was our first indication that something
5 spectacular had just happened.
- 6 **MELCHIOR:** And we used it as a guide to find Jesus.
- 7 **JACK:** It *is* magnificent. I don't remember my star being that bright.
- 8 **GABRIEL:** (*Quietly.*) You can't capture that in a window dressing.
- 9 **JACK:** I guess not.
- 10
- 11 **SONG:** "*Away in a Manger*" (*Sung by HEAVENLY HOST.*)
- 12
- 13 **JACK:** That was beautiful.
- 14 **HEAVENLY HOST:** (*Together.*) Thank you.
- 15 **JACK:** I should have included you guys in the scene.
- 16 **HEAVENLY HOST:** If it weren't for us, the shepherds would not
17 have been as convinced.
- 18 **MELCHIOR:** They might have thought like you and decided
19 everything was a dream.
- 20 **SHEPHERD JOSHUA:** That's right. You guys really are important.
- 21 **JOSEPH:** Everyone's important. (*To SHEPHERDS.*) Without all of
22 you, there would be no one to tell about Jesus.
- 23 **MARY:** We need each and every one of you to tell the Good News.
- 24 **JACK:** Aren't you scared?
- 25 **MARY:** Of what?
- 26 **JACK:** Herod, people making fun of you, nonbelievers.
- 27 **MARY:** You mean like you? (*JACK looks away.*) Not anymore. I
28 was scared when I first learned the news that I was going to have
29 a baby and that he would be the Son of God. But Gabriel
30 reassured me that all would be OK. I trust in God.
- 31 **JACK:** (*Arguing.*) But your baby was born in a cow stable. How can
32 you trust a God that allows *that* to happen?
- 33 **JOSEPH:** If he was born in a place of grandeur, everyone would
34 know, and then we wouldn't be as safe.
- 35 **MARY:** Besides, Jesus is meant for all people, not just the rich and
36 famous.
- 37 **GABRIEL:** And you must have faith. It is easy to believe when
38 things are good.



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