

A COMMITTEE OF ANGELS

*by Verlynn Kneif
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A Committee of Angels

A children's Christmas play with many parts

by Verlynn Kneifi and Laurie Larsen

CAST OF CHARACTERS

TWO MAINTENANCE ANGELS
(Optional)

OLD MAN ANGEL / NARRATOR
(Reads from script)

EXECUTIVE ANGELS
(Eleven speaking parts, may refer to copies of
script carried with notebooks)

JUNIOR ANGEL
(May refer to script)

HOMELESS FAMILY
(Two, one speaking part)

BAG LADY
(Speaking part)

CHRISTMAS CAROLERS
(Six speaking parts)

SALESCLERKS and MALL SANTA
(Seven, five speaking parts)

Movie Scene:

TICKET SELLER
(Speaking part)

MOVIEGOERS
(Four speaking parts)

NARRATOR
(Reads from script)

ANIMALS
(Optional, e.g. donkeys, lambs, cows, nonspeaking)

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HOLY FAMILY
(Two, nonspeaking)

SHEPHERDS
(Two, nonspeaking)

THREE WISE MEN
(Nonspeaking)

LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS and GIRLS
(Ten or more, nonspeaking)

CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS
(Three speaking parts)

CHRISTMAS DECORATORS
(Six speaking parts)

LIGHTS IN ACTION GROUP
(Six, nonspeaking)

COOKIE BAKERS
(Six speaking parts)

PLAY ACTORS
(Five speaking parts)

STAMP BUYERS
(Three speaking parts)

POSTAL CLERK
(Speaking part)

PRODUCTION NOTES

Casting Recommendations

Smaller casts: Although written for a cast of eighty-four or more, this play could be performed by fifty or less preschool, elementary, and secondary students. You may cast adults as Old Man Angel, Bag Lady, Santa, and Second Narrator. Roles involving single appearances, minimal dialog and regular dress may be double-cast as follows:

Christmas Carolers/Little Drummer Boys and Girls

Salesclerks/Cookie Bakers

Ticket Seller/Postal Clerk

Moviegoers/Christmas Shoppers, Stamp Buyers

Christmas Decorators/Play Actors

Holy Family, Wise Men, Shepherds/Lights in Action Group

An Off-stage full-cast chorus may assist the various groups in musical selections, e.g. Carolers, Salesclerks, Drummer Boys and Girls, Decorators and Play Actors. Pre-recorded tapes could also be used. Casts smaller than fifty may eliminate the movie scene.

Larger casts: Nonspeaking extras may be added to groups as desired, particularly in those scenes containing musical selections.

Set

Upstage Right represents heaven, with a lectern and risers covered with white sheets to simulate clouds. If desired, cutouts of clouds may be suspended over this area. The main stage represents earth — specifically, the streets of a city. A large cardboard box sits Upstage, slightly to left of center. A backdrop of buildings may be added if desired.

Props

MAINTENANCE ANGELS — Wide dust mop and feather duster.

OLD MAN ANGEL — Optional briefcase and lectern.

SENIOR ANGELS — Notebooks and papers.

JUNIOR ANGEL — Notebook, papers and pen.

HOMELESS FAMILY — Doll wrapped in baby blanket, small bench, newspapers and old bucket.

BAG LADY — Two old blankets, bulging shopping bag containing battered loaf of bread, DO NOT DISTURB sign.

MARY — Doll and baby blanket. They should be hidden in the cloud risers when the play begins.

SALESCLERKS and SANTA — BUS STOP sign (optional).

WISE MEN — Gifts, e.g. an ornate bottle, a carved wooden box, and fancy tin.

LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS and GIRLS — Spray-painted coffee-can drums with yarn loops to fit over heads; drumsticks.

LIGHTS IN ACTION GROUP — String of colored Christmas tree lights.

COOKIE BAKERS — Spatulas.

PLAY ACTORS — Play scripts.

Tall cardboard box (e.g. refrigerator packing case) with a large window cut in one side and interchangeable signs saying TWIN CINEMA and UNITED STATES POST OFFICE.

Two movie posters: 1. NOW SHOWING — RETURN OF THE HEADLESS SPIDERS. 2. NOW SHOWING — THE FIRST CHRISTMAS.

Running Time

Approximately forty minutes, depending on length of musical selections.

Sound Effects (Optional)

Recorded sounds of vehicle approaching and stopping, and screaming and gunshots.

Costumes

All may wear regular dress unless otherwise specified.

ANGELS: White choir robes, if available. Halos, if desired.
(Twist gold tinsel around circles of light wire and attach to headbands.)

JUNIOR ANGEL: White choir robe, halo, wings. Second pair of wings sprinkled with gold glitter.

HOMELESS FAMILY: Old clothing. Homeless mother is wearing mittens.

BAG LADY: Old clothing with bright, saucy hat.

CAROLERS and CLERKS: Coats, scarves, and mittens.

MALL SANTA: Santa costume.

TICKET SELLER: Costume is, in effect, tall cardboard box with cut-out window and TWIN CINEMA sign.

HOLY FAMILY: Mary wears a long blue or white dress and has a shawl over her head. Joseph wears a bathrobe.

SHEPHERDS: Bathrobes, staffs, squares of cloth draped over their heads and held in place with headbands or yarn.

THREE WISE MEN: Bright bathrobes, crowns cut from foil.

COOKIE BAKERS: Aprons.

POSTAL CLERK: Costume is, in effect, tall box with cut-out window and UNITED STATES POST OFFICE sign.

Music Recommendations

The following list of old and new songs are merely suggested for use in this play. Feel free to substitute appropriate songs of your choosing, depending on the selection available in your church music library.

These traditional carols may be found in hymnals of all denominations:

“What Child Is This?”

“Away in a Manger”

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

The following suggested songs may be found in the *Christmas* songbook:

“Jingle Bells”

“A-Caroling We Go”

“Deck the Halls”

“The Little Drummer Boy”

The Christmas songbook, which is part of The Ultimate Series of songbooks, is available from:

Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation

P.O. Box 13819

Milwaukee, WI 53213

“Santa's Song,” words and music by Joe Bonsall, may be found in *The Oakridge Boys Christmas* (songbook), © 1982 Goldline Music, Inc., Hendersonville, TN. (Or you may substitute “Santa Claus Is Coming to Town” or any other appropriate number from the *Christmas* songbook.)

“We Are the Reason,” words and music by David Meece, may be found in *Dave Meece* (songbook), Myrrh Music, a division of WORD, Inc. © 1980 by WORD Music, Dallas, TX. (Toll-free order number: 1-800-933-9673.)

Note: These songbooks were available at the time this play went to press. Please be aware that music can go out of print. Be prepared to make alternative selections.

Synopsis

Alarming reports have been reaching heaven. Christmas Nativity scenes are being banned on earth, and more children believe in Santa Claus than in angels. No one is available to go to earth and investigate but a bumbling junior angel preoccupied with earning his wings. He forgets to remove a pair of wings he tried on “just to see how they look,” prompting a bag lady to inquire, “What are you doing running around in that silly costume on Christmas Eve?”

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Can it be that Christmas has come to mean presents under the tree, winning Christmas lighting contests, having the best recipe for sugar cookies, and just “getting through it the best you can”? No one has time to even notice a homeless family spending Christmas Eve in an alley. Just when it begins to seem that mortals have forgotten the real meaning of Christmas, they “come shining through,” and at last the junior angel learns the secret of earning his wings.

1 *(At rise: Enter MAINTENANCE ANGELS. FIRST ANGEL*
 2 *pushes a wide dust mop. SECOND ANGEL dusts unseen*
 3 *clouds in midair, lectern, risers, etc. with feather duster. Enter*
 4 *OLD MAN ANGEL/NARRATOR, carrying a briefcase. He goes*
 5 *to lectern, opens briefcase, and begins removing papers.*
 6 *MAINTENANCE ANGELS exit. Carrying notebooks and*
 7 *papers and speaking as they enter, SENIOR ANGELS enter*
 8 *Stage Right.)*

9 **SECOND ANGEL:** *(Gloomily)* **Another committee meeting.**

10 **THIRD ANGEL:** **Does it strike you that all the really**
 11 **spectacular angel jobs are gone?**

12 **FOURTH ANGEL:** **Yes. Like appearing to the shepherds to**
 13 **announce the birth of the Savior. We never get to do**
 14 **things like that anymore.** *(ANGELS sit on risers and look*
 15 *expectantly at OLD MAN ANGEL. TWELFTH ANGEL, sitting*
 16 *on end of riser closest to audience, immediately begins to fall*
 17 *asleep.)*

18 **OLD MAN ANGEL:** **Is everyone here?** *(Looks around*
 19 *questioningly.)* **Very well, then. Let's begin.** *(Tiptoeing in an*
 20 *exaggerated fashion, JUNIOR ANGEL enters Stage Left. He is*
 21 *carrying a pen, a notebook, and a disarray of papers, and fails*
 22 *to notice he has dropped a paper.)* **I've called this emergency**
 23 **meeting of executive angels to discuss —** *(Stops, looks at*
 24 *JUNIOR ANGEL.)* **I think you dropped something.**

25 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** **What?** *(Looks back.)* **Oh.** *(Retrieves paper and*
 26 *sits alone on lowest section of riser.)*

27 **OLD MAN ANGEL:** **Are you on the list?**

28 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** **Me?**

29 **OLD MAN ANGEL:** **Yes, you. Are you supposed to be here?**

30 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** **I have the memo right here.** *(Shuffles*
 31 *anxiously through notebook.)* **Somewhere. I think.**

32 **OLD MAN ANGEL:** **And did you know formal dress was not**
 33 **required?**

34 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** **Formal dress? Oh! My wings! I'm sorry. I**
 35 **forgot I was wearing them.** *(Hesitates.)* **They're not real.**
 36 **I was just sort of trying them on to see how they look.**

37 **OLD MAN ANGEL:** *(Incredulously)* **You haven't even earned**
 38 **your wings yet? We must be extremely short-handed to**

- 1 be appointing a junior angel chairman of a committee.
- 2 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** Well, I'm not exactly a chairman, either.
- 3 **OLD MAN ANGEL:** Not a chairman?
- 4 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** No. Our chairman was busy, so he sent me.
- 5 **OLD MAN ANGEL:** (*Looking mildly displeased*) I see. Well.
- 6 Getting back to the business at hand, I've called this
- 7 emergency meeting of executive angels to discuss
- 8 reports we've been receiving from earth. For example,
- 9 it's come to our attention that Christmas Nativity
- 10 scenes are being banned from public places.
- 11 **SENIOR ANGELS:** (*In unison*) What? (*ELEVENTH ANGEL*
- 12 *glances at TWELFTH ANGEL, who has fallen asleep, and*
- 13 *nudges him with an elbow.*)
- 14 **TWELFTH ANGEL:** (*Startled*) What?
- 15 **OLD MAN ANGEL:** (*Holds up a paper.*) I also have here a copy
- 16 of a scientific report concerning angels. Our wings, it
- 17 seems, are not properly proportioned to our bodies. In
- 18 other words, it's not possible for us to fly.
- 19 **SENIOR ANGELS:** (*In unison*) What?
- 20 **OLD MAN ANGEL:** (*Smiling*) Of course, as we all know,
- 21 angels' wings came about in the first place because the
- 22 mortal mind seems to require an image to go with the
- 23 idea. (*Holds up sheet of paper.*) Do you all have a copy of
- 24 the survey? (*SENIOR ANGELS nod and place copies of*
- 25 *survey on top of notebooks. JUNIOR ANGEL frantically*
- 26 *searches through his papers. Nearest SENIOR ANGEL hands*
- 27 *JUNIOR ANGEL his copy, then looks at fellow ANGEL'S*
- 28 *copy.*) If you will please refer to questions two and three
- 29 — (*ANGELS ponder their surveys. TWELFTH ANGEL's head*
- 30 *begins to nod*) — you will note that ninety-six percent of
- 31 small children surveyed believe in Santa Claus, while
- 32 only fifty-nine point one percent believe angels exist.
- 33 **SENIOR ANGELS:** (*In unison*) What? (*ELEVENTH ANGEL*
- 34 *nudges TWELFTH ANGEL.*)
- 35 **TWELFTH ANGEL:** What?
- 36 **OLD MAN ANGEL:** Of course, Santa Claus has a definite
- 37 advantage here. He can still fly. (*SENIOR ANGELS smile*
- 38 *in amusement.*) Someone needs to go to earth and find

1 out if mortals remember the true meaning of Christmas.
2 Do we have any volunteers? (*JUNIOR ANGEL raises his*
3 *hand.*)

4 EIGHTH ANGEL: What with the ozone layer and rain forests
5 and oil spills, I certainly can't get away right now.

6 ELEVENTH ANGEL: I've got to get back to the U.N.

7 THIRD ANGEL: I can't go. (*JUNIOR ANGEL raises his hand*
8 *higher.*)

9 SEVENTH ANGEL: Education Committee here. Poor grades.
10 High school dropouts. No respect for public property.
11 Lack of funding. Need I say more?

12 NINTH ANGEL: The Crime Committee is so busy right now
13 that I've got subcommittees all over the place. (*Refers to*
14 *notebook.*) Murder and Mayhem. Thievery and
15 Embezzlement. Illegal Drugs. Riots. Vandalism —

16 OLD MAN ANGEL: (*Interrupts NINTH ANGEL.*) Yes, yes. I'm
17 afraid we get the picture. (*JUNIOR ANGEL waves his*
18 *hand. To JUNIOR ANGEL*) By the way, what committee
19 are you representing?

20 JUNIOR ANGEL: Committee? Oh, uh, Protocol and Procedure?

21 TWELFTH ANGEL: What did he say? He's representing
22 what?

23 FIFTH ANGEL: What exactly does the Committee on
24 Protocol and Procedure do?

25 JUNIOR ANGEL: We write guidelines on proper procedure.
26 If you were supposed to make an appearance, for
27 example, you'd have to come to us for guidelines.

28 FOURTH ANGEL: Appearance? You mean, like to the
29 shepherds to announce the birth of the Savior?

30 JUNIOR ANGEL: Yes.

31 FOURTH ANGEL: But we're not doing appearances
32 anymore. (*Pause*) Are we?

33 OLD MAN ANGEL: Well, actually we are, but it's extremely
34 low-key. Most of the time people don't even realize they
35 were visited by an angel. It has to do with faith. Those
36 who have not seen, yet still believe. That sort of thing.
37 (*JUNIOR ANGEL raises hand.*) Yes?

38 JUNIOR ANGEL: May I go?

- 1 OLD MAN ANGEL: Certainly. You may be excused. (*To SIXTH*
2 *ANGEL*) How about you? Could you get away?
- 3 SIXTH ANGEL: (*Shaking his head*) I've got a meeting. The
4 Subcommittee on Ethics needs to set up a new agenda.
5 (*JUNIOR ANGEL raises hand.*)
- 6 OLD MAN ANGEL: Yes. I said you may be excused.
- 7 JUNIOR ANGEL: No, I was volunteering. (*OLD MAN ANGEL*
8 *and SENIOR ANGELS lean forward to peer at JUNIOR*
9 *ANGEL.*) We're never — uh — we're not very busy at
10 Protocol and Procedure right now. I could get away.
- 11 OLD MAN ANGEL: But you're only a junior angel.
- 12 JUNIOR ANGEL: (*In small voice*) Yes, I know.
- 13 OLD MAN ANGEL: The world is certainly in a sorry state
14 when we can't spare a single senior angel for a special
15 assignment. However, I suppose it would give you a
16 chance to earn your wings. Very well, then. The
17 assignment is yours.
- 18 JUNIOR ANGEL: Thank you. (*Stands, moves Downstage Center,*
19 *then dances a little jig.*) Yes! Oh, yes!
- 20 OLD MAN ANGEL: (*To SENIOR ANGELS*) Thank you for
21 coming, and please note: we'll be reconvening at
22 eighteen-hundred hours to evaluate our findings.
23 (*SENIOR ANGELS groan in unison.*)
- 24 TWELFTH ANGEL: What?
- 25 ELEVENTH ANGEL: (*To TWELFTH ANGEL*) The meeting is
26 over.
- 27 TWELFTH ANGEL: Oh! (*SENIOR ANGELS exit. TWELFTH*
28 *ANGEL lags behind.*)
- 29 OLD MAN ANGEL: (*To TWELFTH ANGEL*) Is anything wrong,
30 Zadkiel?
- 31 TWELFTH ANGEL: I sat up all night with a sick child.
- 32 OLD MAN ANGEL: You could appoint someone else to do
33 that.
- 34 TWELFTH ANGEL: You know, sometimes I don't think I was
35 cut out to be executive material. I've always liked
36 working in the field.
- 37 OLD MAN ANGEL: I know. You are to be commended,
38 Zadkiel, for always putting yourself second.

- 1 **TWELFTH ANGEL: Thank you.** (*TWELFTH ANGEL exits. Enter*
2 *HOMELESS FAMILY. HOMELESS MOTHER carries doll*
3 *wrapped in blanket. HOMELESS FATHER carries bench,*
4 *newspapers and old bucket. They sit on bench. He crumples*
5 *newspapers, puts them in bucket and pantomimes starting a*
6 *fire. Rubbing his hands together, he holds them out to the fire*
7 *to warm them. She offers him her mittens. He shakes his head.*)
- 8 **OLD MAN ANGEL:** (*Shading eyes with hand and looking to*
9 *“earth”*) I see our junior angel has arrived on earth. And
10 he’s done it again, hasn’t he? He’s forgotten he’s
11 wearing wings. Oh, my. Look over there. Isn’t that a
12 homeless family? Apparently there was no room at the
13 shelter. And on Christmas Eve, too. They look cold,
14 don’t they? And they don’t even have a blanket. (*Enter*
15 *BAG LADY, carrying shopping bag and old blankets.*)
16 Someone’s coming. Why, I do believe it’s — yes, it is. It’s
17 a bag lady.
- 18 **BAG LADY:** (*Smiling happily*) Boy, this is my lucky day.
19 (*Adjusts hat with one hand.*) First I find this great little hat
20 in a garbage can over on Vine, then that motel manager
21 gives me these two fine blankets. (*Notices cardboard box.*)
22 And what have we here? (*Slaps top of box smartly.*) Hey!
23 Anybody home in there? (*Pauses. Pulls flap open.*) Empty.
24 This is my lucky day! (*Removes hat and places it on top of*
25 *box. Gets into box and pulls flap closed.*)
- 26 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** (*Approaches box.*) Hello. Hello in there. (*Hand*
27 *emerges from box and retrieves hat. More forcefully*) I said,
28 hello in there.
- 29 **BAG LADY:** (*Pushing flap open*) It’s my box. I found it.
- 30 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** Oh, I don’t want the box. I just want to ask
31 you a question.
- 32 **BAG LADY:** (*Suspiciously*) What?
- 33 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** Do you believe in angels?
- 34 **BAG LADY:** You’ve got to be kidding.
- 35 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** (*Pen poised above notebook*) Is that a no?
- 36 **BAG LADY:** Say, who are you, anyway? And why are you
37 running around in that silly costume on Christmas Eve?
- 38 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** Costume? Oh! My wings! I forgot to take

- 1 them off. They're not real, of course.
- 2 **BAG LADY:** Of course.
- 3 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** But if I can find enough mortals who
- 4 remember the meaning of Christmas, I may be getting
- 5 my real wings soon. You see, I'm an angel.
- 6 **BAG LADY:** Sure. Of course you are. And I'm Hillary Rodham
- 7 Clinton. (*Or other current newsworthy person of choice*)
- 8 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** By the way, I see you have two blankets.
- 9 **BAG LADY:** So?
- 10 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** Have you thought about giving one of them
- 11 to that homeless family over there?
- 12 **BAG LADY:** Why should I? Let them find their own. (*Pulls flap*
- 13 *closed. Hand emerges and hangs DO NOT DISTURB sign on*
- 14 *flap.*)
- 15 **OLD MAN ANGEL:** Our junior angel hasn't fared too well
- 16 with the bag lady, has he? Here come some Christmas
- 17 carolers. (*CHRISTMAS CAROLERS enter singing a secular*
- 18 *Christmas song, e.g. "Jingle Bells."*)
- 19 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** That was very nice. I can see you've been
- 20 practicing. May I ask you a question?
- 21 **FIRST CAROLER:** I guess.
- 22 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** What does Christmas mean to you?
- 23 **SECOND CAROLER:** That's easy.
- 24 **CAROLERS:** (*In unison*) Presents under the tree.
- 25 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** (*Writing in notebook*) Presents. Under. Tree.
- 26 **THIRD CAROLER:** Yes. And a big Christmas dinner.
- 27 **FOURTH CAROLER:** (*Sighs.*) I hope somebody else has to
- 28 pass out the presents this year. Why do I always have to
- 29 be the one to do it? (*CAROLERS exit past HOMELESS*
- 30 *FAMILY.*)
- 31 **OLD MAN ANGEL:** Here come some salesclerks on their way
- 32 to work, and the mall Santa is with them. (*SALESCLERK*
- 33 *and SANTA enter. FIRST SALESCLERK carries BUS STOP*
- 34 *sign, which she sets on stage. SALESCLERKS and SANTA*
- 35 *stand beside sign, glance at HOMELESS FAMILY, then*
- 36 *quickly look away.*)
- 37 **FIRST SALESCLERK:** Small appliances are selling well this
- 38 year.

- 1 **SECOND SALESCLERK:** So are those tree chimes that play
2 traditional Christmas carols.
- 3 **THIRD SALESCLERK:** I love those old Christmas carols.
4 (*SALESCLERKS and SANTA sing selected song, e.g. "A-*
5 *Caroling We Go."*)
- 6 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** Excuse me, but were you really listening to
7 the words of that song?
- 8 **THIRD SALESCLERK:** What words?
- 9 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** (*Quoting appropriate line from selected song,*
10 *e.g.*) "Peace on earth, good will to men."
- 11 **FOURTH SALESCLERK:** (*Aside to FIFTH SALESCLERK*)
12 What's he talking about?
- 13 **FIFTH SALESCLERK:** I have no idea.
- 14 **SANTA:** Here comes our bus. (*May play recorded sound of vehicle*
15 *approaching and stopping. SANTA and SALESCLERKS begin*
16 *moving toward bus. FIRST SALESCLERK takes BUS STOP*
17 *sign with her.*)
- 18 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** Wait! I'm supposed to ask you what
19 Christmas means to you.
- 20 **FOURTH SALESCLERK:** (*Turns, walks backward.*) Why, it's
21 Christmas sales, of course.
- 22 **FIFTH SALESCLERK:** Yes. If sales are up, our Christmas
23 bonuses will be more generous.
- 24 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** (*Writing in notebook*) Christmas. Bonuses.
25 And you, Santa? What does Christmas mean to you?
- 26 **SANTA:** It's just another holiday. I get through it the best I
27 can. I live alone, you know. (*SALESCLERKS, SANTA, and*
28 *OLD MAN ANGEL exit. TICKET SELLER enters Stage Right,*
29 *wearing the TWIN CINEMA ticket booth. Stagehand puts up*
30 *movie posters: NOW SHOWING — RETURN OF THE*
31 *HEADLESS SPIDERS and NOW SHOWING — THE FIRST*
32 *CHRISTMAS. MOVIEGOERS enter and line up at ticket*
33 *booth.*)
- 34 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** Excuse me. What's a — (*Looks at sign*) —
35 "Twin Cinema"?
- 36 **FIRST GIRL:** It's a theater. They show two movies at once.
- 37 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** (*Doubtfully*) Oh.
- 38 **FIRST BOY:** (*Stepping up to ticket window*) Two, please.

- 1 FIRST GIRL: (*To SECOND GIRL*) Are you going to *The First*
2 *Christmas*, too?
- 3 FIRST BOY: *The First Christmas?* I thought we were going to
4 *Return of the Headless Spiders*.
- 5 FIRST GIRL: I'd rather see *The First Christmas*.
- 6 SECOND GIRL: So would I.
- 7 SECOND BOY: You've got to be kidding. (*Loud screaming and*
8 *gunshots are heard Off-stage.*)
- 9 FIRST BOY: Listen. Doesn't that sound exciting?
- 10 FIRST GIRL: No. I'm in the mood for some Christmas spirit.
- 11 JUNIOR ANGEL: Christmas spirit? There's Christmas spirit
12 in there? (*Starts to enter theater.*)
- 13 TICKET SELLER: Hey! You can't go in there without a
14 ticket.
- 15 JUNIOR ANGEL: Ticket?
- 16 FIRST GIRL: You didn't know you have to buy a ticket?
- 17 JUNIOR ANGEL: No. We don't have movies where I come
18 from.
- 19 SECOND BOY: Un-be-liev-able.
- 20 FIRST BOY: I've got it. You're one of those foreign exchange
21 students, aren't you?
- 22 SECOND BOY: (*Speaking very slowly and distinctly*) You ...
23 certainly ... speak ... English ... very ... well.
- 24 JUNIOR ANGEL: Thank you. (*MOVIEGOERS go into huddle*
25 *and ad-lib in low voices, e.g., "Let's buy him a ticket," "Do we*
26 *have enough money?" "Maybe if we all chipped in —" "We could*
27 *skip the popcorn," "Let's do it!" etc.*)
- 28 TICKET SELLER: Look, are you going to buy a ticket or
29 aren't you?
- 30 FIRST BOY: We'll buy his ticket.
- 31 JUNIOR ANGEL: Why, thank you. That's very kind of you.
- 32 SECOND BOY: (*Stepping up to ticket booth*) Three, please.
33 (*JUNIOR ANGEL and MOVIEGOERS enter "theater" and sit*
34 *on "cloud" risers at Upstage Right. Enter NARRATOR and*
35 *ANIMALS. NARRATOR stands at lectern. Chorus begins softly*
36 *humming a beautiful, subdued Christmas song, e.g. "What*
37 *Child Is This?"*)
- 38 NARRATOR: (*Over soft humming*) It was written that the angel

1 Gabriel went from God to Mary of Nazareth in Galilee,
2 who was engaged to marry Joseph. (*MARY looks*
3 *heavenward.*) The angel told Mary she would have a son
4 who was to be called Jesus. He was the long-awaited
5 Messiah of whom the prophets had spoken. (*JOSEPH*
6 *enters.*)

7 It was at the time when Caesar Augustus ordered a
8 census. (*MARY and JOSEPH walk across the stage.*) Each
9 must go to register according to his own house, and
10 because Joseph was of royal lineage, he and Mary set
11 out on the long journey to the city of King David, which
12 was Bethlehem of Judea.

13 But when at last Mary and Joseph arrived in
14 Bethlehem, there was no room at the inn. And so it was
15 that Jesus came to be born in a lowly stable. (*MARY and*
16 *JOSEPH sit on the floor by the ANIMALS. MARY takes doll in*
17 *her arms and wraps a blanket around it.*) Mary lovingly
18 dressed him in the homespun garments she had made
19 for him and laid him in a manger filled with sweet-
20 smelling hay.

21 The animals must have wondered at the succession of
22 unusual visitors to their quiet stable, for it also came to
23 pass that a star rose in the heavens, brighter than any
24 other. (*SHEPHERDS enter.*) Shepherds watching their
25 flocks in nearby fields followed the star to the stable,
26 where they knelt in adoration. (*WISE MEN enter with*
27 *gifts.*) And from distant lands came wise men who had
28 seen written in the stars the birth of a King who would
29 be like no other. The wise men brought gifts of gold and
30 frankincense and myrrh, and that, too, was according
31 to prophecy. Some say there were also little drummer
32 boys and girls who came to offer the Holy Child the gift
33 of their song. (*LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS and GIRLS*
34 *enter.*)

35 All these wondrous things Mary held in her heart and
36 treasured.

37 The Holy Family remained in the stable until an
38 angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to warn Joseph

1 that King Herod, having heard of unusual
 2 circumstances surrounding the birth of a child in
 3 Bethlehem, was sending his soldiers to find them.
 4 Joseph arose in the night and awoke Mary, and they
 5 fled into Egypt, where they stayed until the angel came
 6 again to tell Joseph it was safe to return to Nazareth.

7 So began the life of the King who would be like no
 8 other. And in the end, people in all the nations of the
 9 world would ask: Who was he? Who was this child born
 10 in a stable to Mary of Nazareth? (*Chorus sings selected*
 11 *song, e.g. "Away in a Manger" or "The Little Drummer Boy"*
 12 *while LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS and GIRLS exit.*
 13 *MOVIEGOERS file out of theater.*)

14 **FIRST GIRL:** Wasn't that beautiful? I'm so glad we went to
 15 this movie instead of the other one.

16 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** It was wonderful. It reminded me of home.

17 **FIRST BOY:** Oh. Are you from the Holy Land?

18 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** The Holy Land? (*Smiles.*) Yes, I guess you
 19 could say that. Thank you again for buying my ticket.

20 **FIRST BOY:** Sure. You're OK. If we ever get to the Holy Land,
 21 maybe you can do something nice for us.

22 **JUNIOR ANGEL:** You can count on it. (*MOVIEGOERS and*
 23 *TICKET SELLER exit. OLD MAN ANGEL resumes his post.*
 24 *CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS enter and are met by JUNIOR*
 25 *ANGEL.*) Excuse me, but —

26 **FIRST SHOPPER:** We don't have time to talk. We have to get
 27 to the mall.

28 **SECOND SHOPPER:** Yes. Haven't you heard?

29 **THIRD SHOPPER:** Up to forty percent discount on selected
 30 items! (*SHOPPERS exit. CHRISTMAS DECORATORS*
 31 *carrying garlands and wreaths enter singing.*)

32 **CHRISTMAS DECORATORS:** Deck the halls with boughs of
 33 holly,

34 Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la!

35 Tis the season to be jolly,

36 Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la!

37 (*Carrying a string of colored lights, LIGHTS IN ACTION*
 38 *GROUP enters and forms line behind DECORATORS.*)



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