

2000 CHRISTMASSES AGO

By Phillip Love and Michelle McElroy

*Note: This script may seem incomplete without the additional pieces (dances, music, etc.), it may be more appropriate to pull from individual scenes rather than attempting the entire performance.

Angel Scene I (Two angels on stage. Stage empty.)

Abigail: Well, here we are. It's Christmas time again.

Micah: I know. Isn't it fantastic. This is my favorite time of year. [To audience] I hope all of you are having a wonderful Christmas season.

Abigail: Everywhere you go you see Christmas trees and sparkling lights.

Micah: Children are waiting in line everywhere to see Santa Claus.

Abigail: Everyone is all bundled up and nestled before the fire.

Micah: There are Christmas carolers...

Abigail: Fresh-baked cookies

Micah: Mistletoe [motions toward Abigail]

Abigail: um, I don't think so.

Micah: [mocking] "I don't think so."

Abigail: Anyway, what I really like is watching everyone buying presents for their loved ones.

Micah: So, does that mean you're getting me a present this year? (Winks and nudges)

Abigail: I *said* they are buying presents for the ones they *love*. [awkward pause] I'm just kidding. Here, actually I did get you a little something this year. [Pulls out a photo album wrapped with a great big red bow]

Micah: Oh, wow. You shouldn't have. This is great!

Abigail: So, um, where's my present?

Micah: Um, well, it's not here yet, but it's on its way.

Abigail: Yeah, sure. [To audience] I bet he got me a present. I won't hold my breath. [Pause] Aren't you even going to look at your present?

Micah: Oh yeah. Of course. [He unties great big red bow and opens album.] Wow, it's an album of all the Christmases we've spent together.

Abigail: Yup, all 2003 wonderful Christmases with *you*.

Micah: Oh, come one. We've had some good times. Look at this.[The two of them begin to flip through the album.]

Abigail: I remember that one. [To audience] That's the year that he tried to show up Gabriel by making the biggest snowball in the universe and throwing it at him...and you dropped it...on San Francisco. The city was buried in snow for weeks!

Micah: Hehehe, that's one blizzard the weatherman never saw coming. [They keep looking through the album.] Ha, look at that one. Remember that? [To audience] She forgot to buy Michael a present, so she frantically threw some of everything she had left in the kitchen into a pan and baked it. Then, when you sent it to him it got "lost in the mail." Who knows where it ended up, but

somebody liked it. Now, the world has you to thank for creating *Fruit Cake*.

Abigail: Okay, okay. So maybe, we've both goofed up over the years.

Micah: Oh my goodness! Look at you in this one...that must have been embarrassing!

Abigail: [Trying to take album] Give me that! What are you talking about? Hey, don't show them that. Don't tell them that. Give me that. [Takes album] Let's start at the beginning.

Micah: Oh wow. This one is my favorite Christmas of all. Do you remember this one?

Abigail: Of course I do. That was the first Christmas ever. How could I ever forget? You know, it was so much simpler back then.

Micah: I know. It's been so long that I guess people have forgotten that if Christ hadn't been born we couldn't even celebrate Christmas today.

Abigail: Yeah, trees, and lights, and cookies are great, but nothing even compares to that first Christmas when Jesus was born.

Micah: [To audience] This is the Christmas story that you guys really want to hear. It's the best one ever...

Abigail: Yup, I remember it like it was yesterday...

Village Scene I

Abigail: In the day of...um...July...er...um.

Micah: [interrupts] Hey, don't we have it on scroll or something?

Abigail: Yeah, somewhere...[searching for scrolls]

Micah: Here it is!

Abigail: Read it from the beginning.

Micah: Angel food cake, undeviled eggs, heavenly ham...

Abigail: [interrupts] Micah, that's the wrong scroll

Micah: Sorry. Here it is.

Abigail: Is that the King James scroll?

Micah: No, this is the *original*. Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, [Village People take places on stage] that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city...

[Lights come up on main stage. The city is alive...with the sound of music.]

Village People: [Talking amongst themselves going about their daily business]

Baker: Fresh-baked bread! Leavened and unleavened! Get your bread here!

Fisherman: Fish! Straight from the Jordan River. They catch 'em. I sell 'em. You buy 'em.

Sandleman: Got blisters? You gellin'? I got your sandals!

Micah: ...Joseph also went up from Galilee from the city of Nazareth to Judea to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem...

Abigail: Wait! [Village people freeze.] Hold everything! [Lights go down on main stage.] You can't tell

that part of the story without some background information.

Micah: What do you mean?

Abigail: Mary, Joseph, Angel, Immaculate Conception...Kind of important, don't you think?

Micah: Yeah, probably so.

Gabriel's Message

Abigail: Now the Angel Gabriel was sent from God to Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the descendants of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. [Lights up on side stage. Mary appears. Gabriel enters.] And coming in he said to her, "Greetings favored one. The Lord is with you." But she was very perplexed and kept pondering what kind of greeting this was. The Angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of Most High; and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David; and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end. Mary said to the Angel, "How can this be, 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; and for that reason the Holy child shall be called the Son of God." And Mary said, "Behold, the bond slave of the Lord; may it

be done to me according to your word. And the Angel departed from her. [Angel departs. Lights down on side stage.]

Micah: What about Joseph? We have to tell them about him, too. [Lights up on side stage. Joseph appears, sleeping.] Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, and before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her planned to send her away secretly. But when he had considered this, behold, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, [Gabriel enters.] saying, "Joseph, son of David do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son and you shall call his name Jesus for he shall save his people from their sins." And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the Angel of the Lord commanded him and took Mary as his wife. [Lights down on side stage. Exeunt.]

Village Scene II: Another Village Scene

Abigail: Now that we've told that part of the story. Let's catch back up with Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem.

[lights come back up for the night scene in Bethlehem. Music starts song: "Little Town of Bethlehem"]

Village People: [begin closing up shop and singing too. Speechless get into to places for the song.] "O

little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee
light..."

[As song is ending, Mary and Joseph come onto the scene
wandering around the town, and looking for a
place to stay the night]

Joseph: [sings the last chorus of "Little town of
Bethlehem"]

[lights come up on Jasper the Innkeeper's office]

Daphne the Innkeeper's Wife: Oh honey look at that.

Jasper the Innkeeper: What are you talking about?

Daphne the Innkeeper's Wife: That woman and her
husband. She looks like she's about to pop.

Jasper the Innkeeper: As long as it's not in one of my
rooms

Daphne the Innkeeper's Wife: [slaps Jasper the
Innkeeper] I'm serious. There is something
different about those two and you know they're
going to need a place to stay for the night. She is
really about to give birth to that baby.

Jasper the Innkeeper: I don't care if she's giving birth to
the messiah we don't have anymore room.

[Joseph and Mary approach]

Joseph: Hello sir. Do you have any room left in this inn?

Jasper the Innkeeper: Nope sorry. All full.

Joseph: Are you sure there isn't any more room?

Jasper the Innkeeper: no. there is no more...[Joseph
turns to leave, defeated again, as the Daphne the
Innkeeper's Wife interrupts]

Daphne the Innkeeper's Wife: What he meant to say is
that we have a stable out back. It's not much but

you're more than welcome to stay there. I
apologize that we don't have anything better.

Joseph: That will be fine. I just need to get her to a place
where she can lie down. I'm sure this baby is
coming anytime now.

Daphne the Innkeeper's Wife: I know, I know. You
must be the father.

Joseph: Yes... er, well it's hard to explain....Well yes I
am

Daphne the Innkeeper's Wife: Fine, fine. I'll show you
to the stable. Ok honey?

Jasper the Innkeeper: Whatever.

[Daphne the Innkeeper's Wife shakes her head and leads
Mary and Joseph off stage. Lights go down.]

Three Kings Introduction

Micah's Voice: Elsewhere, somewhere in a far desert,
three wise kings were deep in thought.

[Lights come up as kings are sitting and studying with
mountains of books on top of a table.]

[Two kings begin to tap in rhythm and the third king
begins to sing. This causes the kings to snap out
of their study.]

Amir the King: Have you come up with anything yet?

Majeed the King: Yes. I believe so. If you take all the
variables into consideration notwithstanding the
chance percentage of failure minus the advantages

of such an accomplishment and its impact on the world as we know it. I believe you can, yes, you can successfully sew two camels together with its own hair therefore eliminating the problem altogether.

Amir the King: Yes. Yes. I see now....wait what was the problem?

[all the magi look around confused]

Falakee the King: [finally] I'm hungry.

[the other two cheer]

Falakee the King: [sees their excitement] Yeah. Let's eat.

Majeed the King: I'm sold. What shall we have?

Amir the King: How about some fish and loaves.

Majeed the King: Great! Ahlie come here please.

Ahlie: Yes sir.

Majeed the King: Bring us some fishies and loaves.

Ahlie: Yes sir. [begins to walk away]

Majeed the King: [catches her] Oh and Ahlie make sure you remove the eyes this time. It's very strange to eat something that is still looking at you. [makes a face]

[the other two shake their head and make a face also]

[Ahlie the servant girl leaves to get the food]

Falakee the King: Speaking of food, have you guys been noticing the change in the patterns of the stars.

Amir the King: Yes. But what could it mean?

A new season approaches? Time for a new king?

Falakee the King: I wish.

Majeed the King: Actually, you might be on to something Amir. I've been studying about a king of all kings, the messiah. And prophecies point to

a change in the patterns of the stars, the same that you're speaking of.

Amir the King: You think this really might be the fulfillment of the prophecy?

Majeed the King: We should take a good look at these historic scrolls [Ahlie returns with the food] Ah.. but first we eat.

[all the kings become very excited]

Falakee the King: [looks at his food and looks back to the servant] Actually, on second thought, I think I would rather have some chicken.

Amir the King: [thinking as he speaks] Chicken...Yes...

Majeed the King: Chicken? Now that brings up a good discussion. Why would the chicken cross the road?

[Ahlie shakes her head. All the kings look off thoughtfully]

All the Magi: Hmmm.....

[Lights go down]

Manger Scene I

Daphne the Innkeeper's Wife: Here we are. Like I said, these are meager accommodations. And again I do apologize, but it really is all we have to offer.

Joseph: It's fine, really. I'm more worried about her. Mary, will this be o.k.?

Mary: Yes, this will be more than enough. Thank you so much.

Daphne the Innkeeper's Wife: Well, I'll let you rest and be on my way. Just let us know if there is anything else you need.

Mary: Thank you so much. You've been too kind.

Joseph: Yes, thank you again.

Daphne the Innkeeper's Wife: You're welcome. I hope you have a good evening. [exits]

Joseph: Honey, how are you? Do you need anything? Can I do anything for you?

Mary: No, I'm okay.

Joseph: Are you sure? You look really tired.

Mary: I *am* really tired. I just need to rest.

Joseph: [hurt] Oh, I'm sorry.

Mary: No, it's not your fault. I just need to get off my feet for a while.

Joseph: I understand. I'll let you rest. I'm going to go get some water. I think I saw a well just down the street. [Kisses her head]

Mary: Thank you, honey. [Joseph exits, Mary sings "Breath of Heaven"]

Angel Scene II

Abigail: Poor Mary. She must have been exhausted. She traveled miles across the desert to stay in a manger. And on top of all that, she was pregnant!...with the Messiah, no less!

Micah: Yes, but she does have a lovely singing voice.

Abigail: Micah, please.

Micah: Come, on. It couldn't have been that bad.

Joseph traveled all that way, too. You don't hear him whining do you?

Abigail: How could you be so insensitive? You can't even imagine. Do you really think it would be easy to carry a baby all that way? [Mocking] "Joseph wasn't whining." Well, Joseph wasn't *pregnant!!!!*

Micah: Okay, okay. I get it already. Geeze. Let's get back to the story.

Abigail: Fine, give me the scroll [She takes scroll and begins reading] while they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her first-born son, and she wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger...

Manger Scene II: This Time it's not Manger Scene I

["Silent Night." Sax solo and angel signing]

Joseph: Mary, he's beautiful...just like his mother.

Mary: He's the most beautiful thing I've ever seen.

Joseph: [Remembering what the angel told him]

She will bear a son; and he will save his people from his sins. And you shall call his name Jesus.

Mary: He's Jesus. He's the Messiah...he's my little boy.

Joseph: [Picks up Jesus] Hey little guy. What do you think about that? God has big plans for you. [Sings "Welcome to Our World"]

Shepherd Scene

Micah's Voice: In the same region, there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watching over their flock by night.

Shepherd1: What?! Who's there?! What do you want?

Shepherd2: Dude, chill out. It's just the wind.

Shepherd1: No, seriously. I heard something out there.
[Enter Shepherd3]

Shepherd3: What are you two doing?

Shepherd1: [Startled] Ahh...What's that??!!

Shepherd3: Easy, man. It's just me.

Shepherd2: Good grief. The boy's been jumping like a baby all night. I'd like to see what he'd do if a real danger showed up.

Shepherd1: Danger??? What??? Where???

Shepherd3: What's up with you? Why are you so jumpy tonight?

Shepherd1: I don't know. I can't explain it. I just have a weird feeling, that's all.

Shepherd3: Whatever, man. It's just a normal night. Look at the stars. They're beautiful, not a cloud in the sky.

[Bright light shines, loud sound effect, angel appears. Shepherds are terrified. Shepherd1 jumps into the arms of Shepherd3 and Shepherd2 crouches behind them. All three quiver with fear.]

Angel: Do not be afraid...

[Shepherd3 drops Shepherd1. Shepherd2 and Shepherd3 try to appear "brave." Shepherd1 isn't so sure.]

Shepherd2: Afraid? Who's afraid?

Shepherd3: Yeah, we're not afraid.

Shepherd1: I am.

Shepherd2: Shhhhhh!!!

Angel: Behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all the people; [Shepherds appear relieved.] for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in clothes and lying in a manger.

Shepherd1: *Cool.*

Abigail's Voice: And suddenly there appeared with the Angel a multitude of heavenly hosts, praising God.

[Grace enters. Angel sings "The First Noel." Shepherds watch in awe. Grace and Angel exit after song.]

Shepherd3: Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.

Shepherd1: Leave? Now? What about the...sheep!

Shepherd2: Forget the sheep, man. We've got a Savior to go see! [Lights down. Shepherds exit]

Abigail's Voice: So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as he lay in a manger.

King Scene II: The Sequel

Micah's Voice: Now, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, Magi from the east were traveling to Bethlehem saying, "Where is he who has been

born, King of the Jews? For we saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

[Kings enter singing “We Three Kings.”]

Falakee: Look! There it is!

Majeed: Good grief! That’s the wrong star, you blockhead.

Amir: Yeah, I told you we took a wrong turn at that last sand dune. We’re never gonna get there at this rate.

Majeed: [To Amir] Look, I saw the star in the east, and that’s where the King is going to be born. We’d already be there if he [points at Falakee] knew his east from his west. [Falakee appears clueless.]

Amir: Okay, if you saw it directly east, and we started 15 degrees south from here, and took a wrong turn to the west two miles back...hmm...the star should be...[thinking]...there, behind those clouds.

Majeed: Look! The clouds are shifting. We should be able to see it in a few minutes. [Points at the sky]

Falakee: Hey guys, what gifts did you bring to give to the King?

Majeed: Ah, I will show you! Ahlie, bring me my bags.

Ahlie: Yes sir. [brings bag] Here sir.

Majeed: I have some of the finest gold the world has to offer.

Amir: Well, I brought some frankincense I picked up the last time we were in the Far East.

Falakee: Oh yeah, I’ve got you all beat. I got the fur off of my camel that croaked last week.

Amir & Majeed: Gold, frankincense, and fur??!!

Falakee: Yeah, fur

Majeed: No, no, no. That won’t do. You can’t give fur to the King. You need some...[pauses to think] myrrh. A King can never have too much myrrh.

Amir: Now, where in the world are you going to find myrrh out here?

Falakee: Oh, well, I’ve got myrrh.

[Amir & Majeed hit Falakee, knocking him to the ground.]

Falakee: [while lying on the ground] Hey guys, there’s the star!

Majeed: Well, I believe you are correct. It’s about time you did something right.

Amir: To Bethlehem?

Falakee & Majeed: To Bethlehem! [Exeunt]

Abigail’s Voice: They went their way, and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the child was born.

[Grace enters & dances to “One Small Child”]

The Nativity Scene:

[The Kings and Shepherds enter the manger set and then lights come up]

Micah’s Voice: After coming into the house they saw the child with Mary, his mother, and they fell to the ground and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

[Ahlie sings "O Holy Night." Kings and Shepherds join in.]

¡El Fin!

Micah: ...and that's how it all began.

Abigail: What do you mean? That's the end of the story. You're at the end of the scroll, Micah.

Micah: This may be the end of the scroll, but for that little baby...and for all humanity...the story was just beginning. "He grew up before them like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hid their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Abigail: Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgression, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Micah: After Jesus was born, he lived an incredible life; a perfect life. He, the King of all creation, stepped down to earth and lived among men. He taught, rebuked, corrected, and loved. Then, when the

time had come, he paid the ultimate price, and gave up his life as an atonement for the sin of all mankind.

Abigail: But it all started on that night when Christ was born...the first Christmas...the best Christmas ever.

[Knocking. Enter postperson]

Micah: Come in.

Mailperson: I have a special delivery for a...[reading box]...Abigail.

Abigail: [a bit concerned] That's me.

Mailperson: Sorry it's late. It got lost in the mail.

Abigail: [To Micah] It's from you. ☺

Micah: I told you your present was on the way.

Abigail: You shouldn't have. This is great. What in the world is it? [Pause] It's a...FRUITCAKE!!!