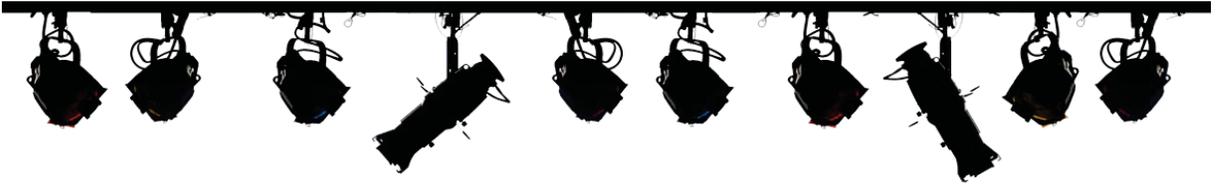


# Mary & Joseph

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

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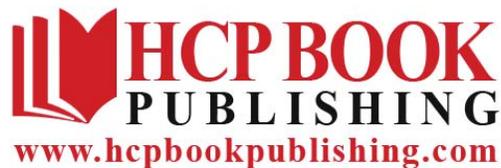
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## Characters

<b>Anne</b>	-	Female, Mary's Mother
<b>Mary</b>	-	Female
<b>Elizabeth</b>	-	Female, Mary's cousin
<b>Joseph</b>	-	Male
<b>Paul/Gabriel</b>	-	Male, Joseph's Friend & Angel
<b>James/Simeon</b>	-	Male, Joseph's Friend & Prophet
<b>Matthew</b>	-	Male, Joseph's Friend
<b>Maurine</b>		
<b>Man</b>		
<b>Innkeeper</b>		
<b>Wisemen</b>		

## Setting

Multiple settings are used which can easily be suggested by using props, especially for the scenes that take place at the CARPENTERS WORKSHOP.

I think basically having the proper props for each scene is enough to create the different settings. The stage may only need a few palm trees and rocks (should be strong enough to sit on) at least.

## The Story

**Mary** was a young girl when the angel Gabriel came to her. She had recently become engaged to a carpenter named ***Joseph***. Mary was an ordinary Jewish girl, looking forward to marriage. Suddenly her life would forever be changed.

Mary was fearful and troubled in the presence of the angel. She could never have expected to hear the most incredible news — that she would have a child, and her son would be the Messiah.

Although she could not comprehend how she would conceive the Savior, she responded to God with belief and obedience.

Although Mary's life held great honor, her calling would demand great suffering as well. Just as there is pain in childbirth and motherhood, there would be much pain in the privilege of being the mother of the Messiah.

## Play Details

**Length:** 60 Minutes

**Cast:** 4 Males, 3 Females, Plus Extras

**Audience:** Teens & Adults

**Genre:** Biblical Drama

# THE SCRIPT



**VOICE:** This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.

**ANNE:** Mary, Mary. Wake up.

## Scene 1

### LIGHTS UP

*Anne is shaking Mary.*

**ANNE:** Wake up, Mary.

*Mary jumps from her sleep. She takes a deep breath and wipes her forehead, realizing she was dreaming.*

**ANNE:** You were talking in your sleep again.

**MARY:** It was the same dream.

**ANNE:** Maybe God is trying to send you a message.

**MARY:** It just feels weird mother. Sometimes I can't tell what is real and what isn't.

**ANNE:** Just be patient, child. Whatever it is will reveal itself in due time.

**MARY:** Yes, mother.

**ANNE:** I need you to go down to the cabinet maker. *(hands her some money)* We need a new cabinet for the kitchen.

### LIGHTS OUT

## SCENE 2

### LIGHTS UP

*Joseph is sanding a piece of board.*

*James, Paul, and Matthew are close by doing other carpenters chores.*

*Paul walks over to Joseph who is fully concentrated on what he is doing.*

**PAUL:** Hey Joe, you know, me and the boys have been talking and, well, we don't want to come across as rude but, you know ---

**JOSEPH:** What is it, Paul?

**PAUL:** We were just wondering why we never see you with a girl.

*Pause. Joseph briefly stops sanding but soon continues.*

**JOSEPH:** I have been with women.

**PAUL:** When?

*James and Matthew have come over to join the discussion. Joseph doesn't like to be cornered like this.*

**JOSEPH:** I'm trying to work.

**JAMES:** It's all you ever do. Take a break man and have a conversation with us.

**JOSEPH:** I need to finish this.

**MATTHEW:** That cabinet ain't due for another two weeks.

**PAUL:** We're all brothers here, Joe. You never talk to us.

**JOSEPH:** I hate to waste a good day talking.

**PAUL:** Fine. Then just answer the question, and we'll leave you alone.

*Pause.*

**JOSEPH:** I am a God fearing man. I don't like to run around like you guys, okay. I believe in that one special woman for me, and I like to leave that space open for her.

**MATTHEW:** We don't run around, man. Whatcha talking about?

**JOSEPH:** I see many different women come here. I doubt if I have ever seen the same face twice.

**JAMES:** That's just cold, man, but somebody has to take care of the ladies. As it is now, the odds are in our favor; five to one.

**JOSEPH:** What odds?

**JAMES:** For every one man there are five women, and I ain't talking about no independent next-generation chick. I mean submissive, your every wish is my command kinda girls you know. It's a tough job, but somebody has to do it.

**JOSEPH:** I am not interested in that kind of lifestyle.

**PAUL:** It's why we're here.

**JOSEPH:** There is a higher purpose for us being here, that's my point. If you surround yourself with too many women, you tend to miss that one special one God has for you.

**MATTHEW:** Suppose she don't show till you're sixty.

**JOSEPH:** I'll still be right here waiting.

**JAMES:** You ain't serious man. That's no way to live your life.

**JOSEPH:** It's my choice.

**PAUL:** Okay, bro. We appreciate the fact you took a little time out to talk with us. It felt weird, but it's a start.

**MATTHEW:** We are glad to know too that you haven't gone the other way.

**JOSEPH:** Which other way?

**MATTHEW:** Our point exactly. You're not exposed enough to the real world, man. You need to move out of your comfort zone.

**JAMES:** You really think God is gonna drop a special woman out of the sky right into your lap? He helps those who help themselves, is all we're saying.

**JOSEPH:** I really need to finish this, if you guys don't mind.

*Pause.*

**JAMES:** Whatever, man.

*James walks away and finds something to do. Matthew follows, then Paul.*

*Joseph appears to be thinking about what they said.*

**PAUL:** He's hopeless.

**JAMES:** Yeah. Case closed.

*Matthew's eyes are somewhere offstage. Paul and James follow his stare as Mary enters.*

**PAUL:** My, my, my, my. I think I'm in heaven, cause I'm seeing an angel.

*Mary doesn't appreciate being hit on.*

**MARY:** Can I speak to the one in charge?

**PAUL:** I'm in charge, Princess.

**MATTHEW:** Don't listen to him. I'm in charge.

**JAMES:** They are both lying. I am in charge. What can I do for you?

**MARY:** You can direct me to who really is in charge.

*Pause.*

*The three points in Joseph's direction whose back is turned. Mary walks over to him.*

**MARY:** Excuse me, sir.

*Joseph turns and when his eyes fall on Mary the contents in his hand fall to the ground. The hallelujah chorus plays in his head, drowning out Mary's next words.*

*Pause.*

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

**MARY:** Are you in charge?

*No response.*

*The music stops at the wave of Mary's hand.*

**MARY:** Hello. Are you in charge?

*Joseph attempt to answer, but the words get stuck in his throat.*

**PAUL:** If I didn't know better, I would think Joseph is awestruck.

**JAMES:** I think he is.

**MARY:** Do you guys mind?

**MATTHEW:** This is a small shop. We have no choice but to stay here and watch a very confident church man make a fool of himself.

**MARY:** I need to get a buffet made. How much will it cost and how long will it take?

**JOSEPH:** I can make a buffet. Do you want a small buffet, or a big buffet?

**MARY:** The measurements are right here (*hands Joseph a piece of paper – Joseph melts when her hands touch his*) Are you okay, sir?

**JOSEPH:** I am. Why do you ask?

**MARY:** You are sweating.

**JOSEPH:** I do that sometimes.

**MARY:** And you're saying some pretty silly stuff.

**JOSEPH:** I do that sometimes too.

**MARY:** My mother needs it done in two weeks. Can you do it?

**JOSEPH:** I can do it in three days.

*Mary hands Joseph some money.*

**MARY:** Okay. I will return in three days.

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

**JOSEPH:** Yes. That would be very nice.

*Mary smiles at his silliness.*

**MARY:** Can I have a receipt, please?

**JOSEPH:** Yes, you can have whatever you want, miss.

**MARY:** Just the receipt thanks.

*Joseph quickly writes her a receipt*

**JOSEPH:** Can I have a name for the receipt, please?

**MARY:** Mary.

**JOSEPH:** That's a nice name.

**MARY:** Yeah, half the women in Jerusalem have it.

*Joseph extends the receipt to Mary with a smile. He savors the touch of her hand again.*

**MARY:** Three days.

*Mary exits.*

*Joseph looks at his hand.*

**JOSEPH:** I will never wash this hand again.

**PAUL:** The mighty has fallen.

**JOSEPH:** What?

**PAUL:** You have never stuttered talking about your God or defending your faith or chastising us for our wrongs, but you stutter talking to a woman.

**JOSEPH:** I did not stutter.

**PAUL:** I have two witnesses that said you did. It can stand in court.

**JOSEPH:** Whatever.

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

**MATTHEW:** With all the outstanding work you have to do, how exactly do you plan on finishing this in three days?

**JOSEPH:** I can do it. Just work longer hours.

**MATTHEW:** You already work sixteen hours a day.

**JOSEPH:** So, I will do twenty-four.

**MATTHEW:** Just to impress a girl?

*Pause.*

**JOSEPH:** Not just any girl ---

*Joseph looks longingly offstage in the direction Mary exited.*

**JOSEPH:** --- she's the one.

**LIGHTS OUT**

### SCENE 3

#### LIGHTS UP

*Joseph is putting the final touches on the buffet. He is trying to concentrate but something is picking at his brain. He stops momentarily to rehearse a few lines.*

**JOSEPH:** Hi, Mary. Would you go watch a movie with me? *(thinks)* No, too forward. *(retries)* Hi, Mary. I really like that outfit *(thinks)* Nope, too backward. *(retries)* Hi baby *(thinks)* No way, too weird.

*Paul enters in the height of Josephs frustration. He immediately wants to retreat but Joseph is already on to him.*

**JOSEPH:** Paul, you have to help me, man.

**PAUL:** You're a wreck right now, you know that.

**JOSEPH:** She's coming today. What do I say?

**PAUL:** The mighty preacher doesn't know what to say to a girl?

**JOSEPH:** This is a delicate situation. If I make one mistake, she could be gone forever.

**PAUL:** That's true.

**JOSEPH:** You're not helping.

**PAUL:** Why are you talking to me then?

**JOSEPH:** Can you just be serious for a minute? This is a life and death situation for me.

*Pause.*

**PAUL:** I think you would make a terrible player, so just be yourself. If she is 'The One,' she will appreciate that.

**JOSEPH:** Be myself? She might find that pretty boring.

**PAUL:** True, but it's all you have.

*Pause.*

**JOSEPH:** I think I need to go to the bathroom.

*Joseph quickly exits.*

**PAUL:** This is hopeless.

*Mary enters.*

**MARY:** Hello.

**PAUL:** Hello, angel.

**MARY:** Will you stop that! I prefer to be called by my name. Is the gentleman in charge here?

**PAUL:** Yeah, he went to the latrine.

**MARY:** I really didn't need the finer details of his absence.

**PAUL:** Sorry.

*Pause.*

**MARY:** Is he really the manager of this workshop?

**PAUL:** You can say that. The real boss is hardly here, so he usually leaves Joseph in charge.

**MARY:** Joseph. Is that his name?

**PAUL:** Yes, do I sense a touch of curiosity.

**MARY:** Why would I be curious?

*Pause.*

**MARY:** Is he a player like you guys?

**PAUL:** Don't hate the players, baby, hate the game.

**MARY:** I hate both.

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

**PAUL:** That really hurts. If you must know, Joseph is very different. Maybe the complete opposite of us.

**MARY:** Really.

**PAUL:** All he ever talks about is God, until three days ago.

**MARY:** What happened three days ago?

**PAUL:** You happened. Now all he talks about is God and you.

**MARY:** Why would he talk about me?

**PAUL:** You can ask him that when you see him.

*Paul exits as Joseph enters. Paul pats him on the shoulder.*

**PAUL:** The stage is set, all the players are in place. Lights, camera --- and action.

*Paul exit.*

*Joseph now appears a little nervous standing before Mary.*

**JOSEPH:** Hi.

**MARY:** Hi, Joseph. Have you really been talking about me?

**JOSEPH:** Goodness, no. Why would you think that?

**MARY:** I also hear you are a man of integrity, a churchman.

*Pause.*

**JOSEPH:** Well, I might have mentioned you a few times. Its normal to talk about customers and the projects we are working on.

**MARY:** Right. Are you done then?

**JOSEPH:** Yes. It's right over there. I hope it suits you.

*Mary goes over to admire the cabinet.*

**MARY:** It looks okay, it looks pretty heavy.

*Mary & Joseph by Cleveland O. McLeish*

**JOSEPH:** Don't worry. We deliver.

**MARY:** That's something you might have wanted to say three days ago, so maybe I wouldn't have to come back down here, unless, of course, you wanted me to do just that.

*Paul & Matthew are offstage gesturing for Joseph to take the hint.*

**JOSEPH:** I didn't think of that.

*Paul and Matthew shake their heads.*

**JOSEPH:** Or maybe I did want to see you again.

**MARY:** Why?

*Pause. Paul & Matthew give more signals.*

**JOSEPH:** Do you like donkey racing?

*Paul & Matthew gives up, throwing their hands in the air. They move out of sight.*

*Mary is stifling a laugh.*

**MARY:** What?

**JOSEPH:** I thought maybe you and I might go see some donkey racing.

**MARY:** You want to take me out on a date, for the first time, to watch donkey race.

**JOSEPH:** I don't really get out much.

**MARY:** That's obvious. Okay. When and where?

**JOSEPH:** Really?

**MARY:** Really.

*Joseph is smiling from ear to ear, elated is not quite the word.*

**LIGHTS OUT**