

Kids of Christmas

The Original Stageplay



Cleveland O. McLeish

Copyright © 2018. The Heart of a Christian Playwright.

All Rights Reserved.

Cleveland O. McLeish/The Heart of a Christian Playwright have asserted the right to be identified as the Author of this work.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without the expressed permission of Cleveland O. McLeish. Professional Rights, Amateur Rights, Fringe Rights, and Education Rights are all available through the Heart of a Christian Playwright. Please request permission in writing to cleveland.mcleish@gmail.com. The Author can be reached at cleveland@christianplaywright.org

All rights whatsoever in the play are strictly reserved. Requests to reproduce the text in whole or in part should be addressed to the Publisher/Author.

You have ONE free license to do ONE free Performance with the purchase of this book. You are NOT ALLOWED to make copies of this book, but you can purchase additional copies from Amazon, or you can purchase a digital version from the Website (www.christianplaywright.org) to make printed copies. For multiple performance and/or performances where tickets are sold, or there is an admission cost, please contact us to discuss royalties.

Publication of this play indicates its availability for performance.

ISBN-13: 978-1724535528 (paperback available on amazon.com)

ISBN-10: 1724535528

Published by:

 **HCP BOOK
PUBLISHING**
www.hcpbookpublishing.com

Table of Contents

Characters.....	4
Setting	5
The Story	6
Play Details	7
SCENE ONE.....	9
SCENE TWO	11
SCENE THREE	14
SCENE FOUR	17
SCENE FIVE	20
SCENE SIX.....	22
SCENE SEVEN	26

Characters

James:	9-year-old boy
Kim:	8-year-old girl
John:	7-year-old boy
Jimmy:	8-year-old boy
Jamie:	6-year-old girl
Garcia:	10-year-old girl
Judy:	7-year-old girl
Brian:	8-year-old girl
Carl:	7-year-old boy
Steve:	9-year-old boy
Milton:	9-year-old boy
Samuel:	8-year-old boy
Singer:	Boy/Girl

Setting

An empty stage can be used to represent various Biblical setting. Where appropriate, furniture, props and other items may be added.

The Characters should enter from different parts of the stage.

The Story

The Christmas story is always told from an adult's perspective, but surely there were children present. What would such a significant event in the history of humanity look like through the eyes of a child?

This is the question we seek to explore in this comedic, yet highly dramatic play as we follow the sequence of events preceding Christ birth from a child's perspective.

Play Details

Length: 60 Minutes

Cast: 7 Boys | 6 Girls | Plus extras

Audience: Teens & Adults

Genre: Biblical Drama

THE SCRIPT



SCENE ONE

LIGHTS UP

KIM runs onstage, races across the staging calling offstage.

KIM: James, come here.

JAMES appears.

JAMES: What?

KIM: *(suspicious)* What were you doing?

James shrugs his shoulders.

KIM: Are you messing with Mama's donkey again?

JAMES: I can't wait six years to learn to ride.

KIM: I'm gonna tell.

JAMES: Why were you calling me?

KIM: I think Mary's losing her mind.

JAMES: What do you mean?

KIM: Come and see.

Kim leads James to the edge of the stage.

They watch a scene offstage with absolute fascination.

JAMES: Who is she bowing to?

KIM: I don't know...I can't see ---

JAMES: Wait, I can see something.

Kids of Christmas by Cleveland O. McLeish

KIM: What?

JAMES: Him.

KIM: Him who?

JAMES: (*rubs his eyes*) This must be a dream. Can't you see him?

KIM: See who?

Pause.

JAMES: Mary is talking to an angel.

Pause.

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE TWO

LIGHTS UP

KIM, JAMES with several other kids gather at center stage, warming under a fire.

JAMES: We kids are always left in the cold.

KIM: Literally.

JOHN: What do you expect? Only adults can register in the condense.

JAMES: You mean census.

JIMMY: What is a census?

KIM: It has to do with politics.

JAMES: What do you know about politics?

KIM: My parents are always talking politics.

JAMES: Really! Who is in charge of this region?

KIM: Duh! Caesar Augustus. He's the reason my sister has to go to Bethlehem.

JAMES: Very good, sister. You are not as dumb as you look.

Kim punches him on his shoulder.

Pause.

JIMMY: I don't think it is fair that your sister had to travel all that way with such a huge stomach.

JAMIE: My mom says she should probably go on a diet.

KIM: It's not fat.

JAMIE: My mom says she started getting fat when she was engaged.

JAMES: Is that all she said?

JAMIE: Yep.

JOHN: My mom has a big stomach too. She said I have a little baby brother growing inside.

Pause.

They look at each other.

JAMIE: So, is it possible that Mary has a baby growing inside too?

Pause.

KIM: Well, she's married, so that's fine.

JOHN: But her stomach started to get big before the wedding day.

JAMES: Where do you get your information?

JOHN: I can't disclose my sources.

JAMIE: We are kids. We should leave adult arguments alone.

JAMES: You know what I hate. Adults are always talking in codes around us.

KIM: As if we don't know what they are talking about.

The kids have a brief moment of laughter.

Kim glances offstage.

KIM: Shh, here comes Mary and Joseph. I am going to try and convince them to take me along.

JAMES: Don't waste your time. You are just a kid.

JOHN: Yeah, the journey will be too much.

Kids of Christmas by Cleveland O. McLeish

KIM: I still want to try.

JAMES: Good luck.

Pause.

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE THREE

LIGHTS UP

GARCIA & JUDY sit at center stage. Garcia's arms is folded. Judy is happily playing with a rag doll.

GARCIA: I hate this time of the year.

JUDY: I love it. I always get a doll.

Garcia grabs the doll and casts it aside.

GARCIA: You and your stupid doll.

Judy starts to cry.

Garcia immediately tries to hush her, glancing nervously offstage.

GARCIA: I am sorry, sister. Stop crying, please.

Garcia brushes off the doll, and hands it back to Judy. Judy resumes her happy self.

GARCIA: They always take our rooms and give to strangers.

JUDY: It's nice to help other people.

GARCIA: Not if it means sleeping on hay all night.

JUDY: I really felt bad for that couple who couldn't get a room.

GARCIA: So now we are giving away the animal's room.

JUDY: It's no place to have a baby though.

GARCIA: Who says she was having a baby?

JUDY: I remember when Mom looked like that. The next day her belly was gone, and we had a little brother.

GARCIA: That annoying twerp could have stayed in a little longer.

JUDY: That's not nice.

Pause.

GARCIA: You are right.

JUDY: What's a twerp?

GARCIA: I don't know. Just a word they use a lot at school.

JUDY: I have never heard my teacher use that word.

GARCIA: Not the teachers.

JUDY: You know, this is a very happy time.

GARCIA: Why?

JUDY: Well, a baby is about to be born in our stable.

Pause.

GARCIA: I am not making the connection.

JUDY: Which kid do you know have such a story to tell?

GARCIA: Why would I want to be that kid?

JUDY: This has never happened in the history of man. It may never happen again.

GARCIA: So?

JUDY: We are special.

GARCIA: I don't feel special. I am grumpy and hungry, and this straw is scratching my skin.

JUDY: Is the glass half full, or half empty?

Kids of Christmas by Cleveland O. McLeish

GARCIA: What?

JUDY: Look on the bright side.

GARCIA: I don't see a bright side.

JUDY: You are not looking.

GARCIA: Stop talking, okay. You are only aggravating me.

Pause.

JUDY: What does aggravating mean?

Garcia rolls her eyes.

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE FOUR

LIGHTS UP

Three young Shepherds, BRIAN, CARL, STEVE, meet onstage.

BRIAN: Something strange just happened to my dad.

CARL: Mine too.

STEVE: Yeah, me too. He just came home, trembling and silent.

BRIAN: What is going on?

CARL: Dad said he saw an angel.

BRIAN: You mean, angels.

STEVE: I knew they were real.

BRIAN: You have seen angels?

STEVE: Haven't you?

Brian thinks.

BRIAN: I don't know. What do they look like?

STEVE: Well, they look a lot like angels.

Pause.

BRIAN: That doesn't quite answer the questions.

CARL: So, you think my dad really did see an angel.

STEVE: They all did.

BRIAN: But why?

STEVE: That is the question. Let me think.

Steve massages his chin in thought.

STEVE: This is a very strange phenomenon indeed.

CARL: (*confused*) What's a Philemon?

STEVE: Phenomenon, Chap. Means a rare occurrence.

CARL: Oh, that makes sense.

BRIAN: It's not normal for people to see angels.

STEVE: Angels are messengers.

CARL: What do messengers do?

STEVE: Well, for one. They carry messages.

CARL: Oh, that makes sense.

BRIAN: But what is the message?

STEVE: That is the hundred-dollar question.

CARL: My dad mumbled something about going to Bethlehem; to see this strange sight.

STEVE: What is stranger than seeing angels?

BRIAN: Good question.

STEVE: We need to convince them to take us with them.

CARL: And who will tend to our sheep?

BRIAN: Surely, we are too young to do it anyway. What if a lion, or a bear comes along?

STEVE: All we have is this staff and a slingshot. Surely that is nothing against a giant.

CARL: Hopefully, our dads are calm enough to talk. Let's go get more information.

STEVE: Good call.

Brian looks up, points.

BRIAN: Did you guys see that star?

CARL: *(looks up)* Biggest I have ever seen.

STEVE: What does it mean?

BRIAN: Duh! Heaven is getting nearer to earth.

They exit.

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE FIVE

LIGHTS UP

Two young Wise Men, MILTON, SAMUEL walk onstage.

They look up.

MILTON: Dad has been looking at that star for weeks.

SAMUEL: Yes, but why?

MILTON: He plans to follow it.

SAMUEL: To where?

MILTON: Wherever it takes him.

SAMUEL: I really don't understand.

MILTON: It's what we have been taught since we were kids.

SAMUEL: We are still kids.

MILTON: You know what I mean.

Samuel takes out a binoculars and looks up at the sky.

SAMUEL: It seems brighter than yesterday.

MILTON: Its significance increases.

SAMUEL: You know dad is going to follow it.

MILTON: And why should he go alone?

SAMUEL: We will not be his first choice of company.

MILTON: We must surely present ourselves as a viable option.

Kids of Christmas by Cleveland O. McLeish

SAMUEL: Adults never take kids anywhere. Do they fear that after a two days journey they would find that we were left behind somewhere?

MILTON: That would be a little embarrassing.

SAMUEL: Let's go talk to dad. See what else he can tell us.

MILTON: Fascinating stuff this is. I feel like something great is coming.

SAMUEL: I concur.

They exit.

LIGHTS FADE

SCENE SIX

LIGHTS UP

Three young Shepherds, BRIAN, CARL, STEVE, sit onstage.

Two young Wise Men, MILTON, SAMUEL enters. They stop where the Shepherds are seated but remain standing.

Several kids run and back forth across the stage, entering and exit just as quickly.

MILTON: What's going on?

BRIAN: Some girl is having a child in the barn.

SAMUEL: That must be where our father is headed.

CARL: Ours too.

MILTON: What's your story?

STEVE: Dad came home excited and trembling. He says he saw angels. Lots of angels.

BRIAN: They were singing. Talking of a King to be born here.

CARL: We have been walking for days to get here.

BRIAN: Our feet is so sore.

MILTON: We have been walking for many moons.

BRIAN: What does that mean?

SAMUEL: We have been walking a long time.

BRIAN: So, rest then.

The Wise Boys sit.

SAMUEL: In a barn you say?

BRIAN: Yep.

MILTON: A King born in a barn. That is rather unlikely.

STEVE: A King?

SAMUEL: Yes.

Points to the star.

SAMUEL: See that star? We followed it here. It is a sign of a new King being born.

CARL: I don't think you are in the right place.

BRIAN: *(looking up at the star)* Yeah, if you look at the star good, you can't really tell where it is sitting over.

SAMUEL: Our father is a Wise Man. If he says this is the place, then this is it.

BRIAN: What are you trying to say?

MILTON: What occupation is your dad involved in?

Brian looks at Carl, who looks at Steve.

BRIAN: Occupation?

MILTON: Yes, what does he do for a living?

BRIAN: A Shepherd.

Pause.

Milton and Samuel glance at each other.

MILTON: What, pray tell, are you doing here?

BRIAN: Well, our dad saw angels.

SAMUEL: Angels?

STEVE: Yeah, you know, heavenly beings.

CARL: They told them to come here.

SAMUEL: That's nice.

MILTON: Our dad brought gifts.

SAMUEL: Yeah, gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Pause.

BRIAN: What do you bring for a King, when you have nothing?

CARL: Our dad came here in obedience. You followed a star with gifts.

STEVE: Which is greater, obedience or sacrifice?

Pause.

SAMUEL: You are right.

Pause.

CARL: Shh. Do you hear that?

MILTON: Here what? All I hear are cows, goats, sheep, and hens.

CARL: I can hear a Baby.

They get to their feet.

CARL: Will they let us see Him?

MILTON: How can you be so sure it's a boy?

CARL: A King must be born a boy.

SAMUEL: What if it's not a boy?

Kids of Christmas by Cleveland O. McLeish

BRIAN: Then she is not a king.

CARL: *(laughs)* Yeah, whoever heard of a she-king?

No one else is laughing. Carl clears his throat.

Pause.

STEVE: Look, everyone is gathering. We should try to get in.

They exit.

LIGHTS OUT

SCENE SEVEN

LIGHTS UP

A small child stands at Centre Stage holding a mic.

*He/she sings "**Happy Birthday Jesus.**"*

At the end of the song, all the children rush onstage and congratulate the singer.

They begin to settle down, making up a small fire with twigs and bushes.

JUDY: I have never been this excited in my life.

GARCIA: What are you talking about? You are always excited.

JAMES: I have never seen a baby who doesn't cry.

MILTON: Indeed, this is a special Child.

KIM: You talk funny.

MILTON: I am my father's child.

JAMES: What happens now?

SAMUEL: Now, our path separates, and we go to our separate abode.

CARL: What's an abode?

MILTON: A place of residence.

CARL: Oh, that makes sense.

KIM: I want to see Him one more time. Before they leave.

JAMES: Leave?

KIM: You don't think they're going to raise a King in a barn, do you?

Kids of Christmas by Cleveland O. McLeish

Pause.

MILTON: Let's go take our last look and bid farewell.

They begin to file out.

FADE TO BLACK