

The Unexpected Christmas Visitor

By

Caleb Price

Plot: The Youth ministry has just finished up their Christmas play. They think they're done. However, low and behold King Herod shows up. King Herod feels left out and pushes that they redo their Christmas program to include his story. They finally let him tell his story. He finally leaves and they all learn that; although we live in a troubled world full of people like Herod, God sent his son to bring peace into this world. Don't Rush, take time.

IMPORTANT NOTE!!!!!!: This is a play inside a play if you will. As the Narrator is telling the story the people that the narrator is referring to will act out as she is saying (Unless they have speaking parts). As stated before One play ends while another is beginning. Be you until you're ready to be your character again.

Example: While Mary is mother of Jesus, she is also played by a sarcastic, witty highschool teenage girl. So her replies will be sarcastic and witty until she gets time to play "Mary". You will see what I'm talking about as you read the play and your parts. This excludes the roles of Director and Herod.

Characters

Director	Herod
Mary	Joseph
Angel 1	Angel 2
Young Shepherd Boy	Shepherd 1/ Wise Men 1*
Shepherd 2/ Wise Men 2*	Shepherd 3/ Wise Men 3*
Narrator	Chief Priest

* Notes that the actors playing Shepherd will also be playing Wise Men.

Act 1: The End of the Beginning.

(The spotlight dims up on mainstage, showing the cast, while Herod is in the back sitting with an audience member. The cast is getting ready to take their bows, as to end the show. The cast sings a verse of “*Go Tell It On the Mountain*” . After they get done singing, the director calls out roles and the come forward to take their bows until the director gets to Mary and Joseph)

Director (passionately): At this time we would like to thank each of the cast members.....

Angels..... (The angels come forward, take their bow)

Shepherds.....(Shepherds come forward)

Narrator..... (Narrator come forward)

And certainly last, but not least; Mary and

(King Herod stand up from his seat and starts applauding, the light goes from mainstage to Herod (the stage light is now on, but there is still a spotlight on Herod, he makes his way to the stage and talking as he goes).

King Herod (Energetically clapping): Wow! Bravo! What a excellent Job!
(To an audience member) Didn't they do great? Just fantastic.

(Everyone is skeptical)

Angel 2 (Curious): Who are you?

Director: Yes who are you and why did you ruin this night. They worked hard on this play.

Shepherd Boy 2: Yeah we worked really hard.

Mary: Ehhh, it was okay.

Joseph: I had to be married to you, it wasn't okay.

Angel 1: I was an angel.

Shepherd 2: Can we take off these scratchy old costumes off now?

Director: Children, please. Now who are you and why are you here?

Herod (Feeling proud): While I'm King Herod, the King of Judea. (Wiping a fake tear from his eye). The one you always forget to add to the Christmas program. Year after year you leave me out. Well I thought it was King Herod's time to shine. (Back to Happy mood) Now who played Mary and Joseph?

Shepherd Boy 1 (Pointing at Mary and Joseph): They did.

Herod (Looking for his program): Hmmmm; Mary..... (He says the actress name who played Mary and then he does the same for Joseph). Excellent work.

Director: I don't know who you are, but Herod died roughly around 2000 years ago. So who are you really?

Shepherd 3: Yeah, who are you really?

Herod (Jokingly, looking in the program): It says here im played by..... (Says the person's name who is playing him).

(Everyone laughs, but the director)

Director: Real funny. Why are you here?

Herod (Making his way on stage): Hold that thought Director. (Makes his way to the stage) Hey what are all these phone cords and phones laying around here for.

(Cast is in a mix between thinking it's funny, and the others are tired, Herod finally makes his way on stage and the spotlight is turned off)

Herod: You see I was watching your play. It was good and all but you forgot something:

Shepherds: We didn' forget the shepherd part.

Angels: We didn't forget the angel part.

Joseph: We didn't leave out Mary and Joseph.

Director: We covered everything minus the wisemen, you and I know why. And the children know why too. Right Children?

Shepherd 3: No, we forgot.

Director: We went over it.

Shepherd 2: I remember now

Joseph: Besides how could it have gotten better?

Shepherd 2: Yeah I thought it was pretty good considering we only ran through it full twice.

Herod (Frustrated): You forgot me. I make the play better. I somewhat play an important role in the Christmas story.

Angel 2: If you were so important, why don't we ever hear of you?

(Director steps in, and tries to change the subject)

Director: It's been a long day and i'm ready to go home. (Pointing to the audience) You're also keeping their parents waiting too.

(Herod starts to walk off- stage sad, director finally gives in)
What do we have to do to make you happy? So you'll let us go?

(Herod turns around excited)

Herod: Finally we're getting somewhere. What will do is we'll run through your play and at the end we'll attach my segment of the play. Which I (proud of himself) printed an updated version of your script to include my part. (Passing out everyone's script, back to them. Same script, actors will just pretend it's the "updated" one). Now impress your parents and don't use your script till you get to my part.

Shepherd 1: We have to go through the whole play again.

Mary: With added parts, I mind you.

Narrator: This better be worth my time.

Herod: All right let's take it from the top, I'll also be directing the play. Ok...

(Everyone get's in position to start the play, the director is not really happy and interrupts Herod).

What's the matter director did I not give you an updated script?

Director: Ummm, my name is under the director, you are not classified as director status, in fact you can do your so called part over on the side stage. Because we already have our stage setup.

Herod: Okay, this will be a co-directed play (starts to say something else, the director interrupts and point to her wrist (watch)) I'

Director: Time's ticking.....
(Lights fade thus ending Act 1)

Act 2 Scene 1: Mary and Joseph

(Lights dim up with cast on mainstage sing O Little Town of Bethlehem, while Herod is on the side stage. Song ends)

Director: All right, beautiful.

(Points for the narrator to come forward, and the director exits the stage. With everyone else until it's their turn to come on stage).

Narrator: Long ago there was a young man....

(Joseph enters the stage making his presence known and lays down on one side of the stage)

And a young women.....

(Mary enters the stage not noticing Joseph, lays down on the opposite side of the stage that Joseph's laying on)

They were drawn together through God.

(Angel 1 Appears and goes over to Joseph, Joseph still sleeping, but the angel still talks as if he were awake).

Angel 1: Fear not Joseph, I'm an angel sent from God. You are to marry a virgin women named Mary. And you are to have a child with her and he will be called Emmanuel, which means God is with us.

(Angel 1 exits the stage while Angel 2 goes to Mary, Mary does what Joseph does)

Angel 2: Fear not Mary, I'm an angel sent from God. You are to marry a man named Joseph. And the Holy Spirit will come down and bear you with a son and you are to name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; and his his kingdom will have no end.

(Angel 2 exits the stage, and Mary and Joseph wake up and see each other, and they hug. Walk off stage together. Spotlight dims off mainstage and points over to Herod).

Herod: Hey, can we skip to my part?

(Spotlight goes back on mainstage and director looks frustrated)

Director (Angry): Shhhhhh. You wanted to start from the beginning, so we are going over the whole story. Like you wanted.

(Lights dim, end act 2 Scene 1, Song)

Act 2 Scene 2: The Shepherds

(Lights dim up on mainstage with shepherds pretending to keep over their flock, the younger shepherd boy's are playing nicely while the others watch. An angel appears and Angel 1 says her line, while shepherds are scared)

Angel 1: Fear not shepherds, I'm an angel sent from God to bring you the good news. Tonight a savior is to be born, he is in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger, go see what has become.

(Angel leaves, while shepherds remain on stage. While the narrator tells the story of seeing baby Jesus).

Narrator: And the shepherds did just that.

(They sing *Silent Night*, and while their singing, They set up the nativity scene, with Mary and Joseph and shepherds gathered around the baby Jesus. They get done singing, and everyone leaves except for Mary and Joseph who act out the innkeeper scene (you can leave the nativity scene on stage)).

Narrator: Why the stable you ask? Julius Caesar issued a decree that there be a census and all must return to their hometown to be accounted for. All the inns were full, and Mary was tired and couldn't go no further so an innkeeper let them stay in the stable until there was room for them.

(Lights fade from mainstage back to King Herod)

Herod: How touching. So sweet. Now it's time for my part. By the way do we really need a narrator?

(The director come out from nowhere and startles Herod on stage)

Director: Do we really need you, no we don't, yet here we are. Why did you give her lines then for your part?

Herod (Thinking): I honestly don't know why.

Director: Okay, well let's stay on track and stop interrupting the play.

Herod: All right cast you can know use your script, just be sure not to read into them.

(Lights dim back on stage with Mary just making a short walk across the stage with Joseph)

Mary: The play could be over now. But it's not.

Joseph: You kidding, we could've been home by now. At least he's funny.

Mary: You're right, let's see what he does next.

(You can hear Herod off stage saying "All Right let's take it from Pg 11.")

Herod (Offstage): All Right let's take it from Pg 11.

(Lights dim off main stage, End of Act 2 Scene 2. Song)

Act 2 Scene 3

(The Spotlight dims up on main stage, pointing at Narrator)

Narrator (Trying to be off script as possible, glancing every now and then):
After Jesus was born, the news spread like the plague. Until it finally reached Herod. The most fierce and mean King of Judea.

(Lights dim off mainstage and back to the side stage with Herod sitting all seriousness now, like he's sitting on the throne daydreaming, chief priest enters (Chief Priest and Herod have their lines memorized)).

Chief Priest: The prophecy has come true your majesty, (Harod looks interested in him now) A new king has been born. To save the whole world.

Herod: Is that so? A King better than I.

Chief Priest: Of course your majesty, no other could replace your greatness. However there seems to be a unknown star in the sky?

Herod: Is that so, bring me in the Wise Men.

(Wise men enter, they were previously shepherds, if you have a big enough cast you can split the parts.)

Herod (Now standing): Where is this child that has been born. The so called King of the Jews? We have seen the star in the east. (Evil smirk as he says next line) I'd like to pay my homage to this new King.

Wise Men 1: In Bethlehem of Judea. As it's written in the prophets.

Herod: Go and search diligently in Bethlehem. And once you have found this child, bring me word so I too may go worship this new king.

All Wise Men (Together): Yes, your majesty.

(Lights dim off side stage)

(Wise men exit, Mary and Joseph get back into the nativity scene on mainstage on stage left. The wise men will enter from stage left (act out what the narrator says) and leave stage right (making their way across stage).

(Lights dim back on mainstage, narrator come forward again)

Narrator: The wise men made it to bethlehem 12 days later and found Jesus under the star just as the prophecy had portrayed. They gave the new king gifts of frankincense, gold, and myrrh. They had a dream that warned them not to go back to herod. (Angel 1 acts it out with wise men) So they went on their way never to see Herod again.

(The wise men exit stage right, main stage lights dim, and side stage lights appear showing Herod with mixed emotions)

Herod: Where are those wise men. Surely they didn't get lost. I mean they've had enough time to find the baby twice and still get back to me. I guess their not so wise after all. (He screams for invisible guards). GUARDS!!!! GUARDS!!!! If I want something done I guess I'll have to do it right. Guards; I want you all to go to Bethlehem and kill any child under the age of two years old. That'll teach them to mess with me.

(Side stage light fades. Lights dim up back on mainstage. Back to the Narrator. Mary and Joseph act out what the narrator is saying)

Narrator: Luckily for Joseph and Mary . An angel showed them a vision and warned them that they need to flee to Egypt. They would be safe there from

Herod. Years later Herod dies (Stage lights appear for main stage, so spotlight can be on Herod as he dies dramatically lights fade off side stage), and Mary and Joseph move back to Jerusalem. The.....

(Before the narrator can finish the end, Mary jumps out from side of stage with excitement as rest of cast follow behind her back on stage)

Mary: Thank goodness he's dead, we can leave to go home in peace now.

Director: Mary!!!!

(Lights fade back up to Herod who is brushing himself off the stage. He's back to being out of character).

Herod: Bravo, Bravo. Excellent work everyone. Superior job.

Angel 2: He's back at it again

Angel 1: He's worse than my younger brother babbling about.

Young shepherd 2: Hey!!!

(Back to Herod who walks close to the stage but never on the stage)

Herod: Great job angels, you sounded heavenly, excellent work Mary and Joseph. And superior job Director. (Director blushes). Now I must go and wash up. I'll be back in time for bows.

Director: All right, thank you Herod, pleasure having you, I guess.

Wise Man 1: Director I have a question, what did Herod's story have to do with the whole Christmas story?

Director: Everyone take a quick break and I'll tell you when we all get back.

(Lights fade, as we quickly transition from Act 2 to Act 3)

Act 3

(Lights dim back on mainstage to show everyone in a semicircle around the director).

Director: So what did King Herod's story have to do with Christmas story. It's hard to explain, so I'll do my best. I believe it has a simple message, we all live in a world full of Herod's, it can be a dangerous world out there. However if we put our trust into God, he'll save us. No matter what kind of trouble faces our way.

Shepherd Boy 2: Like he save Mary and Joseph.

Director: Exactly, glad you were paying attention. Also it shows another Christmas meaning through Herod's story. That is if we truly stop and think what Christmas means at Christmas time or any matter of time; God sent his son Jesus to bring peace into the world full of Herod's. After all Jesus is called the Prince of Peace. And just thinking of that will make the world a little but more peaceful. So why don't we ALL (including the audience and cast) go and spread the great news that Jesus has been born. Why don't we end the night with how we were going to originally end the night. With a song.

(They Sing *Joy To the World*, King Herod comes running back in before they take their bows).

King Herod (Running to the stage): Don't forget about me!!!!

(Thus ending the Play)