

THE BESTEST CHRISTMAS PLAY EVER

Written by Matthew B. Gage

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I'll admit that I am not a terribly huge fan of Christmas plays. They are alright, they just usually don't do anything for me personally. Well, I decided to write a fun “anti-Christmas-play” Christmas play. The concept is straight forward: have chaotic events take place around a reluctant director's first Christmas play and in the end have him refocus on what Christmas really is about.

Parts:

Narrator – My favorite part – you can read your lines!

Jim Phillips – The reluctant director of this year's Christmas play. A good-hearted individual who finds himself distracted from the main purpose of Christmas.

Nicole Phillips – Wife of Jim Phillips

Pastor Smith – Pastor of Happydale Baptist Church who asks Jim to direct this years Christmas play.

Will – child in Christmas play

Sam – child in Christmas play

Sally – child in Christmas play that can't remember her lines

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ACT I

SONG – MARY HAD A BABY BOY

Narrator - “Christmas plays... seems like every church has them. The Happydale Baptist Church is no different. Of course every year's play is long forgotten by sometime around New Year's Day. That was the case, until the year they asked Jim Phillips to direct the play...”

ENTER JIM PHILLIPS WITH A CELL PHONE IN HIS HAND

Jim - “Pastor Smith called and left me a message...”

JIM PUTS PHONE TO EAR

PASTOR READS LINES OFFSTAGE INTO MICROPHONE

Pastor - “Good Morning, Brother Jim. As you know its time to start getting ready for this year's Christmas Play. As you know, Mrs. Carter has directed our Christmas play for as long as anyone can remember. Unfortunately, she will not be able to do it this year do to health concerns.”

Jim - “I think her nerves are shot after all those plays.”

Pastor - “Between you and me, I think her nerves are shot after all those plays. Anyway, Jim, I'd like for you to direct this year's Christmas play.”

Jim - “Who me?”

Pastor - “Yes you, Jim. It's yours should you choose to accept it. Thanks, Jim.”

Jim - “Me? Direct a Christmas play? NOOOOOOO!!!!”

SONG – Ring, Ring, Ring the Bells

ACT II

SETTING – THE PHILLIPS' HOME

Narrator - “Jim had every intention of saying 'no', but said yes. He stopped by the church and picked up the stack Christmas plays so that he could choose one. His wife, Nichole, was very surprised her husband had accepted the offer.”

JIM AND NICHOLE PHILLIPS SIT AT A TABLE WITH STACKS OF PLAYS

Jim - “I never realized there were so many Christmas plays out there. I think our church has every one from the past hundred years!”

Nichole - “There can't be any that old!”

Jim - “Look at this one... 'Christmas Follies of 1912!'.”

Nichole - “Here's one about a Christmas game show. It's got a great comedy scene with an infomercial that has In-Law Repellent.”

Jim - “They did that one last year. You know, I wish I had some of that In-Law Repellent... just kidding.”

Nichole - “How about this one: 'Christmas in Critter-land'? All the kids would be so cute dressed up like the little animals!”

Jim - “Do you want to make all the costumes?”

Nichole - “Forget I even mentioned it. How about this, 'A Dog for Christmas'?”

Jim - “Sure you do. It was like 'Old Yeller' but at Christmas time.”

Nichole - “I remember it now! It was so sad that I cried all night.”

Jim - “Well, I don't know which to do then. Too long, too short, too many parts, not enough parts...”

Nichole - “I think I've found the perfect one!”

Jim - “Let me see... This may just be the worst play I've seen tonight! How can you say its perfect?”

Nichole - “The pastor's mom wrote it.”

Jim - “On second thought I think this is the perfect one, too!”

SONG – THE CHRISTMAS BELLS

ACT III

SETTING – AT CHURCH REHEARSING THE PLAY

Narrator - “The play was just two weeks away, which meant just two more rehearsals. Everything seemed to be going fine, but Nichole could tell that Jim was very stressed.”

Will - “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder.”

Sam - “And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”

Sally - “Um... Um... ”

Nichole - “Sally, the line is 'Jesus is the Reason for the Season'. Let's try it again.”

Will - “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder.”

Sam - “And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”

Sally - “Um... Um... God bless us, everyone!”

Jim - “Let's try one more time.”

Will - “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder.”

Sam - “And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”

Sally - “Um... Um... Every time a bell rings, an angel get its wings!”

Jim - “You know, I think we've practiced enough for today. We'll try again next week.”

KIDS LEAVE, JIM AND NICHOLE STAY

Jim - “I just can't do it. This is going to be a disaster!”

Nichole - “It'll be OK. It's just a children's play. No one expects a Broadway musical.”

Jim - “I know, but I've worked so hard and I want it to be right.”

Nichole - "Sounds like you have an 'I' problem."

Jim - "What? I just had them checked and I have 20/20 vision."

Nichole - "Not your eyes, silly. 'I' as in you."

Jim - "'I'...'U'... The letter I need is 'Q' for quit."

Nichole - "No, you are focusing too much on yourself. It's not about you. Its about the kids. Its about Christmas. Its about doing something for God."

Jim - "I see what you mean. I have been a too focused on myself. Its not *my* play, its the *children's* play for *God's* people. Thanks, Nichole."

SONG – COME LET US WORSHIP

ACT IV

SETTING – THE CHURCH AT THE END OF THE PLAY

Narrator - “The big day finally arrived. The only thing that hadn't gone right was little Tommy picking his nose during 'Silent Night'. The play was drawing to a close, which meant it was almost time for Sally's line.”

Will - “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder.”

Sam - “And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”

Sally - “Um... Um... That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown!”

KIDS BOW AND LEAVE, JIM AND NICHOLE STAY

Narrator - “Most folks say it was the best play in the history of Happydale Baptist Church. Everyone had fun doing it instead of dreading it like in years past. Jim Phillips had learned an important lesson about keeping things in focus. But his night wasn't over yet...”

Nichole - “I can't believe how great the kids did.”

Jim - “I know, I am so proud of them. There was just one problem.”

Nichole - “Sally forgetting her line?”

Jim - “No, much worse. They asked us to do the Christmas play next year.”

SONG – JESUS CHRIST WAS BORN

SONG LYRICS

MARY HAD A BABY BOY (tune of “Mary Had A Little Lamb”)

Mary had a baby boy, baby boy, baby boy,
Mary had a baby boy, a long, long time ago.

In the town of Bethlehem, Bethlehem, Bethlehem,
In the town of Bethlehem, on that Christmas morn.

Born that day was our Savior, our Savior, our Savior,
Born that day was our Savior, He came to die for me.

Ring, Ring, Ring the Bells (tune of “Row, Row, Row your Boat”)

Ring, ring, ring the bells,
Ring them loud and clear,
Tell the people everywhere
That Christmas time is near.

Ring, ring, ring the bells,
On this Christmas morn,
Tell the people everywhere
That Jesus Christ is born.

Ring, ring, ring the bells,
On this Christmas day,
Tell the people everywhere,
That Jesus is the way.

The Christmas Bells (tune of “The Muffin Man”)

Do you hear the Christmas bells, the Christmas bells, the Christmas bells.
Do you hear the Christmas bells, that ring out loud and clear.

They tell the world a Savior's born, a Savior's born, a Savior's born,
They tell the world a Savior's born, proclaim it far and near!

Do you want the world to know, the world to know, the world to know,
Do you want the world to know, that Jesus Christ is born?

Come Let Us Worship (tune of “Jesus Loves Me”)

Merry Christmas everyone
Do you know God’s only Son?
Who was born in Bethlehem
Shepherds came to worship Him.

Come let us worship,
Come let us worship,
Come let us worship,
God’s Son, the King of Kings.

Wise men guided by the star
As they traveled from afar
Came to see the Baby small
Let us worship one and all.

Come let us worship,
Come let us worship,
Come let us worship,
God’s Son, the King of Kings.

Jesus Christ Was Born (tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”)

Jesus Christ was born, Jesus Christ was born,
Long ago in Bethlehem, Jesus Christ was born.

A manger was his bed, a manger was his bed,
Not a crib to lay His head, a manger was his bed.

Oh what a holy night, oh what a holy night,
The Son of God came to man, oh what a holy night.

He came to die for me, He came to die for me,
From the manger to the cross, He came to die for me.

NOTE:
ALL LYRICS AND MUSIC ARE BELIEVED TO BE PUBLIC DOMAIN.