

Auditions Tonight!

By Amanda Barton

Student Director: *Enters with Set Design Team.*

Thank you all for coming tonight . . . wow! We had no way of planning for this large of a turnout. This is going to be a great production, I just know it.

Well, in case you've forgotten what this production is about, I'll give you a quick synopsis. A long time ago, there was a very special event that was to take place. So special that many people were needed in order to pull it off. It couldn't have happened with just one or two individuals. So, with a plan in mind, the greatest director there ever was began using everyday people. All he required was that they be able to do the best with what they had and to obey. Well, he did his part and they did theirs and together, they blessed the world with one great event.

Well, that's what we're here to do tonight and there's no time like the present, so let's get started.

First, please let me introduce you to our production team; you'll be seeing quite a bit of these individuals over the next hour, so please be yourself and let them do their part:

(To Production Team) Well Team, as long as we're all here, let's compare notes and get started with the auditions. With this large of a group, I'm afraid we're going to have to start with group auditions and narrow down the talent from there. I think we'll start with a song. While I tell the auditioners what song we'll be doing, please review your notes so you know exactly what you're looking for in the positions you're recruiting for and then go out and start narrowing down the talent.

(To Congregation) Ok. I think we're about ready to begin. Now because we have such a large turnout for this production, we're going to start with a large group audition with a the song O Come O come Emmanuel. So, please all stand with us and sing O Come O Come Emmanuel. And remember, your audition begins now!

O Come O Come Emmanuel (vs.1,2,4)

Oooo . . . you are good . . . you even had most of your lines memorized. Ok, we'll use you all . . . even those of you who weren't singing. In fact, if you weren't singing, could you please remain standing and everyone else be seated. Ah, ha. Now if you'er seated next to someone who wasn't singing please raise their hand. Production Team, please bring them up here, we have a very special role for them.

Since you prefer to stand back and watch instead of participating, we have a role which will allow you to sit back and observe. Thank you for making that selection easy. Wardrobe!

>Wardrobe Team (**Students 1-5**) dresses new actors with tails, ears, etc<

Casting Shepherds – Student Director (speaking) Shepherds Casting Team (Students 6-8 pick from audience)

To determine the cast for the next role, I'll need to ask some questions. Please stand if these apply to you:

You can breathe. That should be all of you! Stand-up, stand-up!

You also like animals.

You also know what a sheep says, please make the sound and remain standing.

You have also gone two or more days without taking a shower . . .gentlemen, if you've ever gone to the Boundary Waters, this includes you.

Excellent. **Wardrobe!** Casting team, please gather these people and bring them to wardrobe.

Casting Inn-Keeper – Student 9 (picks from audience)

Ok, moving on to the next role.

Please stand if you can say 'no'.

Please remain standing if you own a business.

Please remain standing if you have ever owned a hotel, apartment or restaurant.

Student Director –

Now our next few roles require a little more specificity, so we'd like to bring in our Expert Casting Crew to cast these roles. (Students 10-20 front and center with clipboards and eccentrically dressed with much enthusiasm, playing the stereotypical Hollywood personality.)

Casting Joseph – Student 10 (announces and picks from audience)

Please stand if you are male.

Please remain standing if you have ever built something out of wood.

Please be seated if you would not physically be able to walk 70 miles.

Casting Mary – Student 11 (picks from audience – preferably someone with or related to an infant)

Please stand if you are female.

Please remain standing if are younger than 30.

Please be seated if you complained in the last week when doing a task or when asked to do a task.

Casting Baby Jesus – Student 12 (picks from audience – consult parent ahead of time)

Mary or Joseph, do either of you have a person in your family who cannot stand and likes to cry a lot?

Casting Donkey – Student 13 (announces and picks from audience)

Please stand if you really want to be in this production, but don't know what to do.

Vote on hee-haws

Casting Narrator – Student 14 (announces and picks from audience)

Please stand if you can read.

Please remain standing if you like to read in front of people.

Casting Townspeople – Student 15-19 (announces and pick from audience)

Please stand if you don't want to sing.

Casting Gabrielle - Student 20 (announces and picks from audience)

Please stand if you like to scare people or if people are often afraid when they see you.

Please remain standing if you like to yell really loud.

Well, I sure hope the rest of you at some point in your life have wanted to fly and like to sing because you are going to be our heavenly hosts. **Wardrobe!** (*Wardrobe team throws out garland, halos, tinsel over remaining audience*)

Student 21: Now let's get on with the show!

Narrator reads Christmas story while actors act it out.

Luke 2

Jesus' Birth in Bethlehem

¹Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.

²This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

³And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.

⁴Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,

⁵in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.

⁶While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.

⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Piano "Angels We Have Heard on High"

⁸In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;

¹¹for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

¹²" This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

Congregational Singing:

"Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!"

¹⁵When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."

¹⁶So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.

¹⁷When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.

¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.

¹⁹But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.

²⁰The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

Please stand and rejoice with us in song. Hymn 273, Good Christian Men Rejoice, verses 1 & 3.

Good Christian Men, Rejoice 273 (1,3)

(Cast members take off costumes and return to seats)

Student 22: Maybe tonight you have seen the events surrounding Jesus' birth in a different light. It seems a little simple when we step back and look at the people God used to bring Jesus into the world. For the most part, they were ordinary people, like you and me.

- Student23: The birth of the Messiah is something that took place in and among and for **ordinary people** -- not in and among kings and rulers and powers and principalities, but plain old **ordinary people**. Everyday people who were looking for freedom in a new king.
- Student24: God intervened in the lives of those extremely ordinary people for one purpose only: to assure us that the One who created us out of love still was -- and is -- desperately in love with us.
- Student25: When we read anew the story of Christmas, we realize that God is asking us, **ordinary people**, to claim the extraordinary and make it part of our daily lives. God is asking us, in the midst of our very ordinariness, to take part in his **extraordinary** plans for us.
- Student26: Christmas can help us remember that the truly **extraordinary** events in our lives are the ones that come from God, and that we, as **ordinary people**, are called to make them happen.

Voice of Truth (Casting Crowns)

- Student27: If you think that God stopped asking **ordinary people** to do **extraordinary** things by the time the Bible was completed, listen again to the greatest commandments: Love God with all your heart and soul and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.
- Student28: It may seem **extraordinary** for us to follow that commandment, especially when we encounter people who are hard to like, much less love; but that commandment was given to ALL people, high and low, mighty and powerless, then and now.
- Student29: Christmas is about possibility. It is not the kind of possibility that comes from a confidence in our own skill, knowledge, ability, or a positive mental attitude. It is possibility that comes solely from the fact that God is God, and that he is the kind of God who comes into our own human existence to reveal himself and call us to himself.
- Student30: It is the hope, the possibility, that springs from impossible and insignificant beginnings, infused with the power of God through the Holy Spirit, that will blossom into a light to the nations. Are you willing to let God use you?

Lifesong (Casting Crowns)

Prayer: Pastor or other church leader.

Joy to the World 270 (1-4)

(children seated with their parents)

Dismiss children with their parents to refreshments and a treat at the door on their way out.

Postlude