

A CHRISTMAS TO BELIEVE IN

CAST

Narrator #1 - Kristyn

Narrator #2 - Christiana

Mary - Sarah

Joseph - ???

Angel - Blaine

Elizabeth - Elizabeth

Zechariah – Josh

Herod- Josh

Kristyn: A long time ago in the town of Bethlehem a Savior was born which was Christ the Lord.

Christiana: (speaking to K) Wait a minute... wait a minute... what are you doing?

K: What do you mean “What am I doing?” We’re doing the Christmas play. You know that! What’s the matter with you? Look around you! Everyone’s here. Our parents are even here. (To audience) Hi, Mom!

C: Well, see...I’ve been thinking about it... and... I don’t know if I believe it all or not...

K: WHAT!!?? DON’T BELIEVE IT!!?? ARE YOU KIDDING ME??!! What don’t you believe?

C: I don’t know if I believe in the Christmas story.

K: (in terror) AGGGGHHHHH!!!!!!

C: Well... When I was younger I believed in other Christmas things... and you know what happened there.

K:(Freaking out) Oh, man... this is worse than I thought.

C: Here take some deep breaths... it’s supposed to help.

K: (suddenly) Wait! I’ve had an epitome!

C: You mean an epiphany!

K: Whatever. I'll tell you the story of Christmas and you can decide if you believe it or not. But, whether you believe it or not... it's still true. And the really good thing is that, since it's true, no one can ever take it away from you!

C: All right, if you think it will help.

K&C: Lets DO IT!

[SARAH ENTERS]

K: A while back there was a young woman named Mary.

C: Hi, Mary!

SARAH: (to Christiana) Hi! Do you believe yet?

C: I don't know. (Aside to #1) Is she supposed to be talking to me?

K: Mary lived in a town called Nazareth... (Aside to #2) The town is still there; you can go see it.

C: Oh, thanks.

K: Mary was promised to be married to a man named Joseph.

C: Mary is Married? Ha Ha

K: One day Mary was visited by an angel of God.

[BLAINE ENTERS]

C: (interrupting) Now, see... right there... An angel here on Earth talking to some girl named Mary. I mean, there is NO archeological proof of that.

K: Did you have breakfast this morning?

C: Yes... cereal.

K: Do you have archeological proof of that?

C: No.

K: My point exactly... So this angel says to Mary...

BLAINE: Hail, Mary, full of grace. The LORD is with thee.

C: Doesn't that sound like a strange greeting to you?

K: I imagine that's what Mary thinks. She looks really scared!

BLAINE: Don't be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

SARAH: How will this be since I am a virgin?

C: (raising hand) Oh...oh... I know this one... (proudly) I took Health Class!

K: Shhhh.... The angel is going to tell her.

BLAINE: The Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you so the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

C: That's not what they told us in Health Class.

K: I told you shhhhhh! The angel is still speaking.

BLAINE: Even Elizabeth, your relative, is going to have a baby in her old age. For nothing is impossible with God.

C: It's amazing what they can do at those infertility clinics.

K: Dude, this all took place over 2000 years ago!

C: Sorry, my bad. Who's this Elizabeth anyway? (leafing through the script.) Did you skip a page?

K: Wait, Mary has one more line.

SARAH: I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said.

K: Then the Angel left her.

[ANGEL STANDS THERE LOOKING AROUND]

K: I said, "And then the Angel LEFT her."

BLAINE: Oops. Sorry.

[BLAINE LEAVES}

K: (Still in a loud directing-type voice)

And then Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea to see her relative, Elizabeth.

[MARY EXITS.]

C: Hey!!! Where's she going? Who is this Elizabeth chick?

([ELIZABETH ENTERS and moves CENTER]

K: (still narrating) Elizabeth was Mary's older cousin who lived in another town. She had been married to a good man named Zechariah for many, many, many, many, many years.

C: Strange...she doesn't look that old.

K: This is an actress.

C: Don't you have any old actresses around here?

K: Apparently not. Months earlier the angel had visited Elizabeth's husband Zechariah.

C: Dude, I knew you skipped a page!

K: (Repeating) ...the angel had visited Elizabeth's husband, Zechariah, when he had come to offer the sacrifice at the Temple.

C: What's the Temple?

K: Like church, but before Jesus.

C: Oh.

K: The angel said...

C: Hey! Is that the same angel?

K: Yes, it is. See, it WAS the same angel. We like to try and stay as close to reality as we can here.

C: (sarcastically) Oh yeah, I can see your angel here looks a lot like the real thing.

K: The angel said to Zechariah:

BLAINE: Don't be afraid Zechariah

C: Your angel there seems to say that a lot.

K: (analytically) Actually, angels are quite imposing figures. You can look it up in various passages in the Bible where angelic appearances are recorded. Almost all of them reflect how frightened the persons seeing them became.

C: Dude, are you alright?

K: Anyway, they ended up having to say it almost every time.

C: Say what?

K: "Don't be afraid."

BLAINE: Zechariah, your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. And he will...help to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

JOSH (AS ZECHERIAH) How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.

C: Wow!! Did you hear what he just said? He called his wife "old"! Dude, is he in trouble!!

K: Oh, he did something worse than that. He questioned an angel! Watch this!

BLAINE: I am Gabriel, I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens because you did not believe my words which will come true at the proper time.

JOSH (AS ZECHARIAH): Bu... (He keeps trying to speak and making motions but no sound comes out.)

[ANGEL EXITS]

C: Hey, what happened to his voice?

K: Gone.

C: Laryngitis?

K: Power of God.

C: Wow.

K: You said it.

C: Well, it's sure that Zechariah didn't say it.

[ELIZABETH ENTERS and moves to stand next to Zechariah]

K: Sure enough, just like the angel had said, Zechariah and Elizabeth were soon expecting their first baby... despite their old age. But Zechariah still couldn't speak. It wasn't very long at all before Mary came to visit her cousin, Elizabeth.

[MARY ENTERS calling out Elizabeth's name. She walks to Elizabeth and they hug.]

SARAH: Elizabeth!

ELIZABETH: Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb

leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!

MARY: My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name.

K: Mary's visit with Elizabeth and Zechariah lasted about 3 months and then Mary went back home to Nazareth.

[MARY hugs Elizabeth. ELIZABETH and ZECHARIAH EXIT briefly.]

C: See ya later, Mary!

SARAH: Bye. Do you believe yet?

C: I don't know.

K: When Elizabeth's time came, she was delivered of a baby boy, just as the angel had told Zechariah.

[ZECHARIAH and ELIZABETH ENTER proudly carrying their new baby.]

K: When it was time to name the baby their friends and neighbors asked them what the baby's name should be.

Elizabeth: His name is to be John.

K: Back in those days, you would normally name a baby after someone in your family. So, the townspeople said that none of their relatives were named John. They told Elizabeth, "You have to name him after someone in your family."

C: Zechariah, what do you think about this? What is the baby's name to be?

[ZECHARIAH holds up a big sign that says "His name is to be John."]

C: (reading) "His name is to be John."

ELIZABETH: John!

JOSH: John!!!

K: Suddenly Zechariah could speak again!!!

C: I can see that – or rather, I can hear it.

JOSH: Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. (Gathering Baby in his arms) And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God...

C: Wow... all that time in silence must have given him time to think about what he would say.

K: And John grew up and became a great man of God, just like the angel had said. And later he would be known as John the Baptist.

C: (surprised) He was a Baptist?!

K: Let's not get into that right now. And so, that's the end of Part 1. Do you believe yet?

C: I don't know.

K: Well let's listen to some music and then we'll have Part 2.

SONG???

[JOSEPH ENTERS, crosses to CENTER, and lays down as if asleep]

K: (Loudly as if to get everyone's attention) Meanwhile, back in Nazareth... we find Joseph, the man pledged to marry Mary, asleep in his bed. Joseph has had a hard day, because as soon as Mary got back from visiting with Elizabeth, it was obvious to everyone that she was going to have a baby.

C: Uh oh.

K: Yep. Now, Joseph was a very good man and so he wanted to be kind and generous towards Mary. But since he knew the baby wasn't his, he wasn't sure what to do next. While he was still considering his options an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream.

[ANGEL ENTERS]

C: Oh, no. NOT this guy again! Didn't you have anyone else who wanted to play an angel?!

BLAINE: Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

[ANGEL EITS. Joseph wakes up. MARY ENTERS. Joseph takes Mary's arm and they walk together to the front]

K: When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

C: By "union" do you mean...?

K: Yep... just like in Health Class.

SARAH: Hey do you believe yet?

C: I don't know.

K: (interrupting) Here... you read a while.

C: Why?

K: Because my mouth is tired! I've been talking all night.

C: Well, that's for sure. Where'd you leave off? Oh, here it is. (Announcer like) In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that everyone in the Roman world would be counted. (To K) Why on earth would somebody order something stupid like that?

K: Tax base.

C: Oh, now I get it. (bored and sing-song) So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. (To C) Hey is this almost over? 'Cause I'm getting hungry. Is there going to be food?

K: (aggravated) Yes, there is going to be food! Of course there is going to be food! There is always food at this church! Now, read!

C: (reading with new interest) While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

[MARY puts the baby in the manger.]

SARAH: So, do you believe yet?

C: I don't know. But that's a very pretty baby you have there.

SARAH: Yes, He's the Son of God.

K: (interrupting) And that's the end of PART 2.

C: Time for food?

K: No, time for a song.

SONG??

Angel:

[ANGEL APPEARS]

PART THREE

[MARY AND JOSEPH ARE SEATED STAGE LEFT AT MANGER.
SHEPHERDS ENTER.]

C: Near the little town of Bethlehem, there were some shepherds living out in the fields, watching their flocks of sheep at night.

K: And all of a sudden an angel of the Lord appeared to them and they were really scared. Don't tell me... not... Oh, NO!!

[ANGEL ENTERS and sticks out tongue at Mary]

BLAINE: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ

the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

[MANY ANGELS ENTER]

C: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying...

ALL ANGELS: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.

[ANGELS EXIT]

C: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.

K: So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

[SHEPHERDS walk over and sit or stand near manger.]

K: The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

[SHEPHERDS EXIT]

K: Well... that's that! What a nice Christmas story....

C: Hey! Hold it!! What happens next?

K: Oh... You don't want to know.

C: Yes, I do. What happened to Mary? What happened to the baby? How am I supposed to believe in Christmas if I don't know what happened?

K; Are you sure you want to know?

C: Yes.

K: Be careful. Wanting to know is the first step to believing.

C: Alright. I want to know. Tell me.

K: Well, ok. We'll read it together. You start.

C: Not too far away lived King Herod. He was king of the whole area where Mary and Joseph were living. Hey... Why don't I like him?

K: Because you have good taste.

C: Who are those guys?

K: They are some wise men who lived in countries nearby. They have come to find baby Jesus.

WISE MAN: Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.

K: King Herod knew the ancient prophecies that there would be a Messiah born to the Jews. He knew that this was the king they were talking about. He secretly didn't want there to be any king but himself. He called all the Jewish leaders together and asked them. Where is the Messiah to be born? They told him that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem. Herod instructed the wise men to go and find him, and when they found him, to come back and tell him so that he could go and worship him as well.

C: Wait, I don't like this! I don't trust him. He looks a little sketchy. I think Herod means to hurt them!

K; It'll be ok.

C: No it won't! We've gotta do something! We've got to warn them!

K: No, we don't. God had that under control. The wise men went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

C: On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

K: And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

[WISE MEN EXIT STAGE LEFT.]

C: Another route! You mean they didn't go back to Herod!! They're safe?! YES!!!!

K: Well, not quite...

C: What??!! Well, hurry up! Keep reading! (Grabbing script) Here...Let me do it!

(Reading) When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. Oh, no! You're kidding me... not again!

BLAINE (Calling from back in the back); Get up. Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.

K: So Joseph got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where they stayed until the death of Herod!

[MARY and JOSEPH EXIT]

C: So, is that the end?

K: Well, almost. Later Joseph was visited by an Angel in a dream and told that Herod had died. So he and Mary, and the young child Jesus moved back from Egypt to their hometown of Nazareth. And there is a very happy ending. Jesus grew up, lived a sinless life, taught about God who was his Father, and later paid the price for the sins of the world. And now all those who believe in Him will have eternal life. So now the question is the same one Mary has been asking you all night. Do you believe yet?

C: Do I believe yet? (Pause) Yes, you know, I think I do. I really do! You see? It really is "A Christmas to Believe In!"

K: I'm so happy to hear that!

C: That was awesome!! Time for food yet?

K: Almost.

[NARRATORS 1 & 2 EXIT]

C: (while leaving) I do believe, you know... I think it was that Angel. He was great!