



Written by  
Cora Alley

## “The Christmas Story”

**Scripture:** Luke 1, 2

**Dramatic Category:** “Story Time Theater”

### What is a “Story Time Theater”?

Each “Story Time Theater” selection aims at creating a contemporary parable that brings to life the message behind a scriptural concept or passage. This type of Christian Drama Skit features the pantomime/story-telling talents of four people: one male and one female mime, one “Story Lady,” and one pianist, who improvises music during the story. The mimes act out the events told by the Story Lady as she reads them. Each story takes approximately 10 minutes to tell. The entire family loves this art form: children and parents alike. These stories are excellent for adult worship or for the “children’s moment.”

**Topic:** The birth of Christ.

**Performance Time:** 10 minutes

**Number of Players:** 3 players (2 female, 1 male) + 1 pianist

**Objective:** To tell the story of the events surrounding the birth of Christ.

### Synopsis:

"This is the story of a birthday party! The birthday songs were sung by angels; the friends who came to celebrate were shepherds; and the gifts were given by the magi." The events surrounding the birth of Christ are delightfully portrayed by a male and a female mime as the story is told by the “Story Lady” who embellishes every detail. A pianist provides an improvisational music track of Christmas Carols that makes this “Story Time Theater” moment a holiday treasure.

### Cast:

Female mime: *animated, expressive, dancer-type*  
Male mime: *animated, expressive, big eyes*  
The “Story Lady”: *an animated storyteller*  
The pianist: *improvises background music during the action of the story*

**Costumes:**

Mimes: Dress the mimes in matching black pants, black and white striped shirts, and white gloves, but **do not use white-faced make-up**

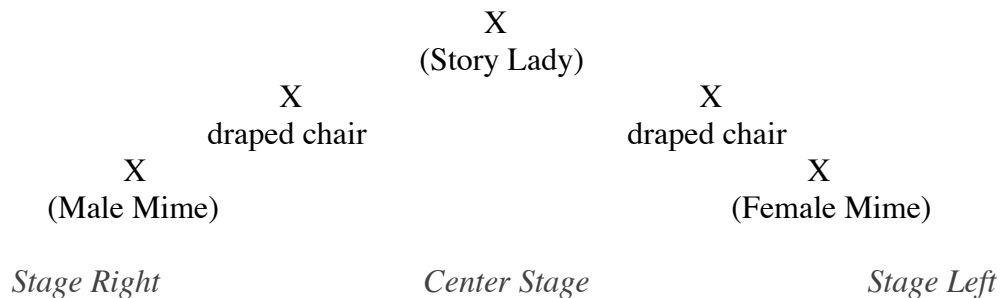
Story Lady: Festive attire, classy, not clownish

**Props:**

- 2 birthday hats
- 2 birthday horns
- 2 golden containers, like the Magi would bring
- 2 paper crowns, (like Burger King crowns)
- Some fabric tied to look like a baby in swaddling clothes
- A fabric scarf for Mary (6 ft. long, 2 ft. wide)
- 2 chairs
- 2 pieces of black cloth to drape over chairs
- A “platform” for the Story Lady to stand on

**Set:**

Elevate the Story Lady on a platform just behind the playing space for the mimes.  
On ground level, place 2 chairs draped in black cloth to create a hiding place for the Mimes.



**Lighting Note:**

- Light pools make this story even more dramatic.
- Create a light pool at stage right that surrounds the draped chair.
- Create a light pool at center for the Story Lady.
- Create a light pool at stage left around the draped chair.

**Music Note:**

These are the songs that are suggested to be played during this story:

- “Happy Birthday”
- “Silent Night”
- “Still, Still, Still” (or any other meditative Christmas song)
- “Oh Come, Emmanuel”
- “Oh, Little Town Of Bethlehem”
- “Away In A Manger”
- “Hark The Herald Angels Sing”
- “We Three Kings”
- “What Child Is This?”

## **Production Notes:**

1. Minimal actions and musical selections are suggested in the script in italics. These are made merely to guide your thinking.
2. The planning of these mime routines is intensely artistic and must reflect the interpretation of your own artists.
3. Be sure to select key words that pinpoint particular actions.
4. The mimes do not mouth the words the Story Lady speaks; even when she mentions what they said. It looks artificial. It is better to have them respond with their eyes, their hands, arms, etc.
5. Music is the thread that ties this story together. Plan it carefully so that it leads the action. Have the mimes wait for particular music cues for dramatic effect. The music seldom stops.
6. When the Story Lady plays adult parts, like the part of Mom or teacher, she does not move from her spot as the narrator. She simply leans forward and her eyes meet with the children at a mutual focal point over the heads of the audience, like an EXIT sign or a clock. This is a reader's theater technique that signals an imaginary meeting place for actors who do not relate to each other on the stage.
7. Some minimal lighting cues are suggested for effect, but this art form is very effective with just general stage lighting.

## The Script:

### NOTE:

**The Story Lady's lines are written in bold**

*The actions (Story Lady and mimes) and musical suggestions are written in plain italic*

### LIGHTS: ALL LIGHTS UP

**This is the story of a birthday.**

### MUSIC: "Happy Birthday"

*The mimes pop up from behind the draped chairs, wearing party hats and tooting their birthday horn blowers. They stand well in front of the chairs on either side of the Story Lady, about 4 ft. in front of her.*

**Not a normal birthday, mind you. No! Oh, there were birthday songs, but these were sung by angels. There were friends who came to celebrate, but these friends were shepherds, and there were birthday gifts, but these were given by the magi, the wise men who came from the east.**

### MUSIC: "Silent Night"

*The mimes shrug their shoulders, toss their birthday hats aside, and return to their hiding places behind the draped chairs.*

**This is the story of the most important birthday that was ever celebrated in the history of the world. It is the birthday of Jesus Christ, and Christmas is His party.**

### LIGHTS: STAGE RIGHT AND CENTER LIGHT OUT, LIGHT UP AT STAGE LEFT

*The Story Lady steps into the light at stage left.*

**This story begins almost two thousand years ago, when God sent the angel Gabriel**

*The Story Lady steps up on the chair.*

**to Nazareth to a virgin, named Mary,**

*The female mime portrays Mary; she appears, from behind the chair, wearing the scarf over her head, and kneels beside the chair*

**who was engaged to be married to Joseph, a descendant of King David.**

**The angel said to her,**

*Mary looks up at the Story Lady who is portraying Gabriel*

**“Greetings, you who are highly favored!**

**The Lord is with you.”**

**“Do not 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.**

**The Lord God will give Him the throne of his father David,**

**and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever;**

**His kingdom will never end.”**

*Mary shrugs her shoulders and looks confused.*

*To the audience, not to Mary*

**“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”**

**I have never been with a man.**

**The angel answered,**

*The Story Lady looks down at Mary still kneeling at her feet.*

**“The Holy 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.  
For nothing is impossible with God.**

*The Story Lady steps down off of the chair and continues her story while stepping out of the light at stage left.*

**“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered.**

**“May it be to me as you have said.”**

**Then, after the angel had left her, Mary was filled with the joy of the Lord,  
and this is what she said:**

**MUSIC:** *“Still, Still, Still” (or any other meditative Christmas song)*

*Mary gets up and responds with interpretive movement, dance, sign language, or any other appropriate response during the reading of “The Magnificent.”*

*The Story Lady steps out of the light so that emphasis is on Mary. She reads this at the edge of the light pool.*

**LIGHTS: LIGHT UP AT CENTER STAGE AND STAGE RIGHT**

**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.  
His mercy extends to those who fear Him,  
From generation to generation.  
He has performed mighty deeds with His arm;  
He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.  
He has brought down rulers from their thrones,  
But has lifted up the humble.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
But has sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
Remembering to be merciful to Abraham  
and his descendants forever,  
Even as He said to our fathers.**

*Mary leaves the stage walks to the back of the stage.*

**LIGHTS: FADE OUT LIGHT AT STAGE LEFT AND AT STAGE RIGHT AT THE END OF THE MUSIC.**

**MUSIC:** *“Oh Come, Emmanuel”*

**LIGHTS: LIGHT UP AT CENTER ON THE STORY LADY**

**Now Joseph, who was engaged to Mary, was very troubled when he learned that Mary was with child, and he wanted to send her away. But, one night as Joseph lay sleeping, an angel visited him and said,**

*The Story Lady moves into the light pool at stage right and steps up on the chair. Joseph who is sleeping at the foot of the chair at stage right.*

**LIGHTS: LIGHT UP AT STAGE RIGHT**

**"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."**

**All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:**

**“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel”  
— which means, “God with us.”**

*The Story Lady steps back to center stage.*

**When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.**

**LIGHTS: LIGHT OUT AT STAGE RIGHT**

**LIGHTS: LIGHT UP AT CENTER**

*Joseph gets up, goes to the back of the stage to get Mary.*



**In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. Everyone went to his own town to register, so Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee**

*MUSIC: “Oh, Little Town Of Bethlehem”*

*Joseph appears with Mary, who pretends to be very pregnant, and they walk into the light at center stage in front of the story lady.*

**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 by this time, it was clear that she was expecting a child.**

**While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,**

*Mary shows panic; Joseph knocks at several doors, begging to be let in.*

**but there was no room for them in any of the inns because every one was in town to register for the census. At last, they were given a stable where Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son.**

*MUSIC: “Away In A Manger”*

*Mary and Joseph walk behind the chair at Stage Right and pick up the cloth that represents the baby Jesus. They appear from behind the chair and kneel at center stage in the traditional nativity pose.*

**Joseph did as the angel told him, and he named the baby, Jesus, which means Emmanuel--God with us. Mary wrapped her little baby in cloth and placed him in a manger. And there were shepherds...**

*The Story Lady glances at the Mimes as though to cue them to become shepherds. The mimes look back at her in wonder, as though to say, “Do you mean us?”*

**LIGHTS: LIGHT UP AT STAGE RIGHT**

*The Mimes leave the cloth representing the baby Jesus at center stage. They hurry over to stage right. One leans on an imaginary cane, while the other pushes an imaginary sheep.*

**..living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,**

**MUSIC:**   *“Hark The Herald Angels Sing”*

*The Story Lady steps up on the chair at stage right and speaks to the Mimes.*

**“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 cloth and lying in a manger.”  
Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel,  
praising God and saying,  
“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”**

*The Story Lady steps down off of the chair and returns to center stage.*

**When the angels had left them and gone into heavens, 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.”**

*Both Mimes walk from stage right to center stage and kneel in wonder at the cloth lying there.*

**So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,**

*The Mimes appear to shout the news in all direction out toward the audience. They walk to the back of the stage and prepare to come out at stage left wearing their crowns as the Magi.*

**and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.**

**LIGHTS: LIGHT OFF AT STAGE RIGHT, KEEP THE CENTER LIGHT ON UNTIL THE END**

**After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east...**

**LIGHTS: LIGHT UP AT STAGE LEFT**

**MUSIC:** “*We Three Kings*”

*The Story Lady points to stage left as the Mimes appear, carrying their golden containers. They walk very slowly and ceremoniously toward the cloth representing the baby Jesus.*

...came to Jerusalem and asked,

**“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.”**

**The teachers of the law told the Magi that the Christ would be born in Bethlehem in Judea, for this is what the prophet has written:**

**"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
For out of you will come a ruler,  
Who will be the shepherd of my people, Israel."**

**So the Magi, followed the star they had seen in the east. It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.**

**MUSIC:** *“What Child Is This?”* PLAYS TO THE END

*The Mimes approach the baby Jesus and kneel, presenting their gifts to him.*

**On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of Frankincense and of myrrh.**

*The Mimes remain in this kneeling position until the end of the story,*

**LIGHTS:** LIGHT OFF AT STAGE LEFT

**And that is the story of the most important birthday in the history of the world, the birth of Jesus. It is the story of God becoming a baby born into our world, to bear our sins, so that we might be born again into His world forevermore.**

**LIGHTS:** FADE OUT THE CENTER LIGHT