

AUSTIN/WOLF BLITZEN: Very good! It's adorable how stupid that is.

MATT: Yes it is. *(He exits.)*

AUSTIN/WOLF BLITZEN: And if one of the characters says, "Oh no it isn't!" You have to say, "Oh yes it is!" And you have to boo the bad guy, just boo and hiss like crazy the minute the bad guy appears.

(REED walks onstage, flipping through his script.)

REED: Hey Austin—

(The audience hisses and boos.)

REED: Hey, I'm not the bad guy!

AUSTIN/WOLF BLITZEN: Well, not in the Panto but—
(To the audience) Great energy, though.

REED: Why aren't I playing the baby Jesus? 'Cause, you know, that's my whole thing—

AUSTIN/WOLF BLITZEN: *(Pushing REED off)* Yeah, I know. Don't worry, Reed. I got something even better planned for you. Just read farther along in the script. It's all taken care of. Everything's kosher. *(To the audience)* So! I think we're ready now to tell the story of the first Christmas. Let's go back to the very beginning. It all started with a beautiful young lady played by a man of a certain age. *(Or whatever best describes your actor)*

(AUSTIN leaves. REED enters, reluctantly, dressed as MARY with a big pregnancy bump.)

REED/MARY: *(To audience)* You are *not* going to believe what happened. The angel of the Lord visited me and told me that I was going to have a baby who would be the savior of the world. And I said that because I have not yet been with Joseph, that's impossible. And the angel said...

(MATT enters as CLARENCE from It's a Wonderful Life.)

~~MATT/CLARENCE: "Oh no it isn't!"~~

~~REED/MARY: *(Encouraging the audience to join in)* "Oh, yes it is!"~~

~~MATT/CLARENCE: "Oh no it isn't!"~~

~~REED/MARY: "Oh, yes, it is!"~~

~~*(They react to the audience's reaction.)*~~

~~REED/MARY: But I can't be having a baby. It's impossible.~~

~~MATT/CLARENCE: Nothing is impossible with God.~~

~~And if you have this baby, he will be the Messiah—the savior of the world. But much more importantly, I'll get my wings. Don't worry about Joseph. *(He exits.)*~~

< START

REED/MARY: Oh I am worried about many things, but not about Joseph. He is the most gentle, kind, soft-spoken—

(AUSTIN enters as JOSEPH.)

AUSTIN/JOSEPH: *(Yelling)* You're *what*?

REED/MARY: You heard me.

AUSTIN/JOSEPH: But I saw you yesterday and you didn't have a bump. How could this happen so quickly?

REED/MARY: Because we've only got twenty-five minutes left in the show.

AUSTIN/JOSEPH: Right.

REED/MARY: Joseph, it's a miracle.

AUSTIN/JOSEPH: I thought I was the only man for you.

REED/MARY: He was an angel!

AUSTIN/JOSEPH: Well, clearly he was very, very charming.

REED/MARY: No, he was literally an angel. Clarence told me I was going to have a baby that would save the world from its sin.

AUSTIN/JOSEPH: I can't believe you fell for that old line. I feel like breaking it off.

REED/MARY: Wouldn't that hurt?

AUSTIN/JOSEPH: What are you talking about?

REED/MARY: What are *you* talking about?

AUSTIN/JOSEPH: Breaking off our engagement.

REED/MARY: Oh! I thought you meant...

AUSTIN/JOSEPH: What has gotten into you?

(They both look at MARY's bump).

AUSTIN/JOSEPH: I mean, what is *wrong* with you?

REED/MARY: Well, for one thing I'm pregnant and not married.

AUSTIN/JOSEPH: Oh, don't worry about that. I'll marry you.

REED/MARY: *(Taking his arm)* Oh, Joseph, you are a good man.

AUSTIN/JOSEPH: Yes, but I'm hard to find. < END

~~*(They exit. WOLF BLITZEN appears again—but this time played by MATT. He struggles to get his beard on properly.)*~~

~~MATT/WOLF BLITZEN: Hello, now I'm B-list celebrity Wolf Blitzen. Every Christmas panto has a villain and ours is a real baddie. When the King of Judea heard that a new king was about to born, he decided to do something about it. You know what to do when you see an evil villain. I give you now the evil and nasty King Herod of Judea!~~

~~*(MATT exits. AUSTIN enters as HEROD. He uses his Scroogiest voice and scowls at the audience when they "boo" him.)*~~

~~AUSTIN/HEROD: Humbug! May a rabid camel hump your grandmother! Three wise men have told me a new king is about to be born. Can I let this happen?~~

~~*(NOTE: Sometimes there's little response here, but most times the audience will answer "No" first, then rethink and start saying "Yes". If that happens, preface the next line with "You were right the first time. Don't over-think it!")*~~

~~AUSTIN/HEROD: The answer is "No", you imbeciles! These "astrologers" say they must follow a star to find this child king. I must get them to help me rid the world of this newborn baby.~~

~~*(AUSTIN/HEROD laughs evilly at the audience in the middle of the theatre, then runs stage-right and laughs at that side, then runs all the way left and laughs at that side. The audience will 'boo' him vigorously. All that running and evil laughing leaves him winded.)*~~

~~AUSTIN/HEROD: Aw, nuts. I need my three wise men! Wise Men! Get in here!~~

~~*(MATT and REED enter as MELCHIOR and BALTHAZAR, dressed in crazy matching '70s disco outfits.)*~~

~~AUSTIN/HEROD: I'm sorry. Did I interrupt disco night?~~

~~MATT/MELCHIOR: Sorry, your highness. The costume trunks didn't arrive.~~

~~REED/BALTHAZAR: These are the only matching outfits we could find.~~

~~AUSTIN/HEROD: I was expecting Balthazar, Melchior, and Caspar. There's supposed to be three wise men, not Earth, Wind, and Fire.~~

~~REED/BALTHAZAR: Yeah, but you're supposed to be the thir—~~