

DRAMA COMPANION/ PRODUCTION GUIDE

By Mark Cabaniss

PEACE HAS COME

A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

BY

MARY McDONALD

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

This Drama Companion/Production Guide is designed to be used in conjunction with the Christmas musical, *Peace Has Come* by Mary McDonald. The drama contained takes the place of the narration in the *Peace Has Come* choral book (although portions of the narration from the choral book have been utilized in the drama).

Every attempt has been made to keep the dramatization within reach of churches and schools with limited resources. For those with greater resources and desirous of a larger production, there is ample room for imaginative staging enlargement upon the more basic staging presented here. Please know, however, that any desired changes to the dialog requires permission from the publisher.

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We wish you blessings and success in your performance of *Peace Has Come*.

— The Publisher

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Production Suggestions	5
Promotional Ideas	8
Drama Script.....	12
Glossary of Theatre Terms.....	19
Creative Team Bios	21

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LIGHTING

Lighting cues are given as a suggestion for those organizations with such capabilities. While the simple lighting cues found in this Guide will heighten the presentation, no special lighting is needed *per se* to present the musical.

Spotlighting the actors is a key aspect of the given lighting suggestions. If your organization doesn't have lighting useful for solo performers, consider renting or borrowing two spot lights (also known as followspots) from a local high school, college, or community theatre. There are also other affordable options for solo lighting that are easily found on the Internet.

An additional creative option for visual variety is the use of PowerPoint projections on a screen above the choir. Use relevant images during the songs sung by the Choir and/or complementary stationary images during dramatic scenes. For example, the Bethlehem horizon on a starry night (see cover of *Peace Has Come*) during Thomas and Nathan's scene.

COSTUMES

HOST: *Contemporary clothing*

ANGEL: *Classic wings, halo, etc. or a white robe or contemporary white clothing*

RACHEL: *Typical biblical costume. Plain and simple*

ELI: *Tunic, rope belt, sandals*

MARY: *Traditional biblical costume*

JOSEPH: *Traditional biblical costume.*

THOMAS: *Shepherd's robe and headdress*

NATHAN: *Shepherd's robe and headdress*

MELCHIOR: *Biblical "kingly" costume. Adorned robe, sandals, headdress*

PROPS

- Book for Rachel
- Rolled up scroll for Melchior
- Wrapped baby bundle for Mary (with or without a doll)

SOLOS

§ If possible, the female solo in *Treasure of Heaven* should be sung by the person who plays Mary.

§ If possible, the male solo in *Born the Perfect Sacrifice* should be sung by the person who plays Joseph.

The textual content of *Born the Perfect Sacrifice* makes it appropriate for communion to be served at this point in the musical if so desired. After the worship leader(s) has given a call to partake, repeat *Born the Perfect Sacrifice* (instrumental only) while communion is served. At the conclusion of communion, continue with the drama.

AUDITIONS AND CASTING

It's important to hold auditions even when there may only be a limited number of available and interested actors in the church. Of course, if there are numerous people interested in speaking roles for the production, it's vital and necessary to hold auditions. Also, by holding open auditions ("open" auditions simply mean they are open to all, regardless of

ELI: Rachel, the prophets have long been predicting His coming. I sometimes cry out to God in prayer: “How long will you forget us, Lord?” Earlier today, some Roman soldiers came down the street. I heard them say they are here to “keep the peace.” There is no peace. Only fear and resentment. We are mercilessly taxed and pushed around and abused.

RACHEL: Eli, you know in the fullness of time, God will bring us His Chosen One. His way is best. But we must be patient and trust His plan and timing.

ELI: As usual, you’re right. Thank you for reminding me of these things. We can sing alleluia at Temple... Christ will come.

Lights fade down on playing area and fade up on the Choir.

2. SING ALLELUIA! CHRIST WILL COME

Lights fade down on the Choir while the ANGEL, HOST, and MARY enter. A solo spotlight comes up revealing the HOST.

HOST: Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel, God with us. Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary.

Spotlight fades down on HOST. Spotlights fade up on ANGEL and MARY.

ANGEL: Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you. Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God. You will conceive and bear a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus, and His kingdom will have no end.

“Treasure of Heaven” introduction begins.

MARY: How can this be? I am still a virgin in my father’s house.

ANGEL: The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the Holy Child shall be called the Son of God. With God, NOTHING is impossible!

Light fades on ANGEL.

MARY: *(speaking to the audience)* The Angel went away quickly and mysteriously! This was the most unbelievable, the most amazing, incredible thing I had ever experienced. I was still trembling as I started to come back to the practical thoughts of my life. How would I tell Joseph? How could I explain this to anyone? But I knew that with God, all things are truly possible in His power and will, and He would find a way. I was still trying to understand it all when I soon visited my cousin Elizabeth. When I arrived at her house, her baby leapt in her womb with joy at the news of the coming Messiah! So there we were, two mothers-to-be, praising and trusting the God of Abraham...and throughout my journey as the mother of the Son of God, my soul sang. God gave me His peace.