

OMG!

An Advent Pageant

By Ian Reed Twiss

Cast (in order of appearance)

Mary
Elizabeth
Gabriel
Wise Guy
Wise Mom
Wise Kid
GPS
Joseph
Sheba
Barbara
Sheep

Adult Helpers

Someone to ring cell phones and announce each scene and dim lights.
A prompter.
Someone backstage with kids.

Prop List

Cell phones for all except the sheep, Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, and Gabriel--they can be non-working phones.
Scene 1: 2 cardboard laptops, pillow
Scene 2: A cooler, picnic basket, and thermos
Scene 3: 2 plates and forks and one candle on the table
Scene 4: Baby doll (Jesus), swaddled

Costumes

Costumes should be contemporary but can have a suggestion of bible times if desired.
Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph and Wise Kid should dress like contemporary teens.
Wise Guy and Wise Mom like contemporary parents.
GPS should wear all black so her head stands out.
Sheep can have the usual sheep ears or whatever.
Sheba and Barbara should look like hippies/flower children of the 21st century.
Gabriel should have wings, but can otherwise be dressed in contemporary clothes as well.

Set

The stage is set up with an enormous cell phone (made of a cardboard box) in the center with the "screen" cut out so Gabriel can step behind it and be framed by the screen. Stage right is a table and two chairs. Stage left is a set of small chairs oriented like a minivan/car with a "steering wheel." The "car" is facing toward the audience.

Scene 1: Mary and Elizabeth's Instant Messages

Mary is sitting at the table stage R with a pillow typing on a computer. Elizabeth is stage L or near the entrance also typing on a computer. Gabriel is sitting behind the enormous cell phone, out of sight. Most of their "lines" are reciting what they are typing to each other. They pronounce the letters of the acronyms, i.e. "B-T-W," "L-O-L," etc.

Eliz: Mary, are you there?
Mary: *(To audience.)* Oh, it's my older cousin. She's like twenty-seven and super cool. *(Typing.)* Hey, Elizabeth.
Eliz: What are you up to?
Mary: In my room, studying. Geography test.
Eliz: BTW, what's up with that guy you were crushing on in Geography? Did he ever call you?
Mary: Joseph? Yeah, we're dating now. He's taking me to this Babylonian restaurant next week. It's called The Fertile Croissant.
Eliz: You go girl! So I have news.
Mary: Do tell.
Eliz: Guess who's expecting a BAB!
Mary: *(Squeals with excitement. Types.)* No way! *(Smiley face!)*
Eliz: I know, right? We never thought this day would come!
Mary: What did Zechariah say when you told him?
Eliz: He was pretty speechless.
Mary: *That's* hard to imagine. *(Winking face!)*
Eliz: He wants to name him "John" because he had some dream where God told him to. He said God told him John would prepare the way for the next MSIA. The kid's not even born yet and Zechariah's already bragging on him!
Mary: LOL! Seriously, though, this news is way cool. I'm just like OMG! *(Mary's cell phone rings. Gabriel appears in the enormous cell phone. Mary flips open her phone.)* Hello?
Gabriel: You called?
Mary: What? Who is this?
Gabriel: My full name is Otis Maximus Gabriel, but I mostly go by Gabriel. Just think of me as the voice of God.
Mary: Whatevs. Can you hang on a minute?

Gabriel: *(To audience.)* She's putting *me* on hold! I'm a messenger of God and she's putting *me* on hold! Teenagers!

Mary: *(Typing.)* Elizabeth? G2G.

Eliz: Me, too. BAB is suddenly kicking like crazy!

Mary: OK. CUL8R!

Eliz: TTFN.

Mary: *(Returns to phone.)* Sorry, I had to sign off with my BFF. Who are you again?

Gabriel: I'm Gabriel. I come from the LORD God of your ancestors Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar; Isaac and Rebekah; Jacob, Leah, and Rachel.

Mary: No way!

Gabriel: Actually, Yahweh. Listen, Mary, I have an important message for you. God is planning to give you a child soon. This child is going to change everything. He's going to be the Messiah and bring God's kingdom to the whole world, and God wants you to be his mother.

Mary: But, I'm just a high school kid. I haven't even held hands with my boyfriend yet! I'm not ready to become another statistic!

Gabriel: Mary, it's not going to be easy. But God will stay with you and guide you all the way.

Mary: Well, okay, I guess. But my parents are *not* going to be happy about this.

Scene 2: The Three Wiseacres Take a Trip

The Wiseacre family is sitting in the "car" stage L, dad at the wheel, mom beside him, kid in back seat. The picnic items are in the back "trunk". GPS is curled up in front of the parents on the floor, head down.

Wise Kid: I'm hungry.

Wise Dad: How can you be hungry? We just ate! We've only been driving for two minutes!

Wise Kid: Where are we going again?

Wise Dad: Your mother got some phone call about finding a new King.

Wise Mom: Oh, yeah, it was the strangest thing. The guy said his name was Otis Maximus Gabriel or something, and he had a message for me that there was a new king in Bethlehem we are supposed to go meet. I don't know, at first I thought it was your Uncle

Albert playing one of his tricks again, you know how he does. But then I thought, "Bethlehem. Why not?" (*Wise Kid sniggers and Wise Dad stifles a smile.*) Well, we've always wanted to go to Bethlehem anyway. Why not take some lunch things and make a little picnic excursion?

Wise Kid: So we're going to Bethlehem because you got a prank call?

Wise Mom: No, we're going to Bethlehem because I thought it would be nice to have a little picnic excursion. Doesn't that sound nice?

Wise Kid: (*Sarcastic*) Oh, yeah, sounds like a bundle of fun. Can we eat now?

Wise Mom: In the car? No, honey. We're going to wait until we get there.

Wise Kid: (*Heaves a big impatient sigh and looks out window. Pause.*) Seriously, Mom. How are you going to find this king? Did you get his address?

Wise Mom: Well, no, not exactly.

Wise Kid: So we're just going to spend the whole day tromping around Bethlehem knocking on people's doors going "Excuse me, is there a king here?"

Wise Mom: No, I thought we'd use the GPS.

Wise Dad: Honey, the GPS doesn't help much unless you put an address into it.

Wise Mom: Well the man on the phone said just to use our GPS. He was very insistent. And he wasn't the sort of person you argue with. So let's see. How do we turn this thing on? (*She turns on the GPS.*)

GPS: (*Sits up facing out toward audience, and speaks in a "GPS" like voice--calm and enunciated.*) Welcome to God's Positioning System. Please enter your destination.

Wise Mom: (*Leans close to the GPS and talks into it.*) Yes, we'd like to go see the new king in Bethlehem.

Wise Dad: Honey, the GPS doesn't have a microphone. You have to type in the address. Why don't you stick to picnic sandwiches and leave the technology to your daughter and me. (*Exchanges a knowing look with Wise Kid.*)

Wise Mom: (*Still talking to the GPS.*) Gabriel sent us and we'd like to visit the new king.

Wise Kid: Mom, do you have any idea how stupid you look talking to a GPS machine?

Wise Mom: (*Waving Wise Kid to be silent while still addressing the GPS.*)
Hello? Are you there? (*Pause.*) You know it's very rude not to answer when I'm speaking to you.

GPS: Calculating mileage.
(*Wise Dad and Wise Kid's mouths drop open. They stare at the GPS in shock. Then they stare at each other.*)

GPS: After one tenth of a mile, turn right.

Wise Kid: Hey!

Wise Dad: How'd you do that?

GPS: After thirty feet, turn right.

Wise Mom: I think this is your turn honey, right here.

Wise Dad: I don't believe it!

GPS: Turn right.

Wise Mom: Here! Here!

Wise Dad: (*Snapping out of his shock.*) Okay, okay. (*Turns with a squealing of wheels.*)

GPS: Your driving is out of control. Please pay better attention.

Wise Dad: (*Chastened.*) Sorry!

GPS: In two miles, turn left. Then follow the star.

Wise Dad: Follow the star? What is it talking about?

Wise Mom: Why don't you stick to driving and leave the technology to me.

Scene 3: Joseph and Mary on a Date at the Fertile Croissant

Joseph and Mary are sitting at the table for 2 stage R, each with a plate and a fork in front of them and a candle on the table. Gabriel is sitting out of sight behind the enormous cell phone. Joseph is eating, Mary is playing with her food listlessly.

Joseph: You're not eating much. Aren't you hungry?

Mary: Not really.

Joseph: Score! Can I?

Mary: Oh, yeah, go ahead I guess. (*He takes her plate and starts to eat from it.*) Look, I gotta tell you something. I'm kind of freaking out about some news I got the other day.

Joseph: (*Still focused on eating.*) Yeah?

Mary: Okay, you're not going to believe this, but an angel of God called me on the phone.

Joseph: (*Taking more notice of what she's saying.*) A what?

Mary: An angel of God. He called himself Gabriel.
Joseph: Whoah! What network are you on?
Mary: Dude, that is *so* not the point.
Joseph: Are you on Horizon? I *knew* I should have gone with Horizon.
Mary: Will you pay attention? I'm trying to tell you something. So this angel was like, telling me that I'm going to have this baby who's actually going to grow up and be the next Messiah and, like, save the world or something. I swear I had no idea what he was talking about. So I was like, as if! But the thing is that it seems to be true.

Joseph: You're...going to have a....?
Mary: Yeah. (*Pause.*) So...you're probably going to, like, dump me now or something aren't you?
Joseph: (*Unconvincingly.*) Um, well, no. I wasn't...not at the moment. I mean... (*His phone rings. He flips it open. Gabriel appears in the enormous phone.*) Hello?

Gabriel: Don't even think about dumping her.
Joseph: Excuse me? Who is this?
Gabriel: Don't even think about dumping her!
Joseph: (*To Mary.*) I'll be right back. (*Joseph steps aside so Mary can't hear. In a stage whisper.*) Is this Mary's Dad?
Gabriel: Let's just say I speak for him.
Joseph: O.M.G.!
Gabriel: Well, yes, essentially.
Joseph: So you're on G-Mobile too!
Gabriel: Dude, that is *so* not the point. Now listen, Joseph. Mary is going to have a very special baby. This baby is going to bring healing to the sick and good news to the poor and justice to the downtrodden. And Mary's as young and scared about the whole thing as you are. But God has a plan for you in this. You need to take her to Bethlehem and stick with her and support her and do the right thing.

Joseph: But I'm just a high school kid. I haven't even held her hand yet! I'm not ready to become another statistic!
Gabriel: Joseph, it's not going to be easy. But God will stay with you and guide you all the way.
Joseph: Well...okay, I guess. But my parents are *not* going to be happy about this. (*Joseph closes the cell phone and returns to the table. Mary looks at him for a long moment.*)
Mary: So?

Joseph: So. Come on.
Mary: Where are we going?
Joseph: Road trip to Bethlehem.

Scene 4: Going to Meet the King

Joseph, Mary, and the baby doll sit behind the enormous cell phone with Gabriel, as out-of-sight as possible. The three wiseacres are back in their car.

Wise Kid: I'm hungry.
Wise Dad: Enough already.
Wise Kid: But I *am*. It's not *my* fault I have a fast metabolism. When are we going to *be* there?
Wise Mom: I don't know. Ask the GPS. GPS, when will we arrive?
GPS: Calculating arrival time. You will arrive when the time has come.
Wise Kid: *That* was helpful.
GPS: In thirty yards, stop, and pick up the sheep.
Wise Dad: This thing gives the weirdest instructions. Follow the star. Pick up the sheep. I don't see any sheep!
GPS: Stop and pick up the sheep, here.
Wise Mom: I think you'd better slow down, honey.
Wise Dad: Whoah! (*Slams on brakes. In slow motion, sheep and shepherds run toward the car and fall over just in front of it.*)
GPS: You really ought to get your vision checked.
Sheba: Yo, sheep. Everybody okay? (*The sheep pick themselves up and baa.*)
Barbara: (*To Wise Dad.*) Dude, you got a heavy foot on that gas pedal there.
Sheba: I'm Sheba and this is Barbara. And these are our sheep. (*The sheep baa in greeting.*) We're shepherds.
Barbara: We're also, like, heavily into this band called the Grateful Bread. We like to flock around them wherever they go. People call us Breadheads.
GPS: So you are also sheep.
Wise Dad: Man, that thing's mouthy. And what are you doing out here hitchhiking?
Sheba: Well some guy named Gabriel superpoked us on Facebook.

Barbara: Yeah, he threw a sheep at us. Can you believe that?

Sheba: Well, it did get our attention. (*Thoughtfully.*) Sheep usually do, I guess.

Barbara: Then he wrote on our wall about how some new king in Bethlehem was going to be even better than the Grateful Bread, and all we needed to do was follow the star to find him.

Wise Mom: What a coincidence. We're going to find the king in Bethlehem too!

Sheba: All *right!*

Wise Dad: But, I'm not sure we have room for...

Barbara: (*Interrupting.*) Okay sheep! Everyone pile in! (*Shepherds and sheep pile into the car, sitting on laps, etc. Wise Dad starts the car up again.*)

Sheba: Thanks for stopping. We've been hitchhiking there for like an hour. Most people just take one look at us and drive right on by.

GPS: Approaching destination. At the barnyard, turn left.

Wise Dad: Barnyard? (*Dad turns left and brings the car to a halt.*)

Wise Mom: Well, here we are. There's the star right over the stable there, so this has to be it.

Wise Dad: This can't be right. This place is a dump! What kind of king lives in a place like this?

Sheba: Well, I don't know, dude, it doesn't look *that* bad.

Barbara: I've *definitely* slept in worse. (*The sheep "baa" in agreement.*)

Wise Kid: I'm starving. Can we eat already?
(*The Wiseacres get out their picnic things and spread them on the ground. Everybody else piles out of the car and starts looking around. Then a phone rings. Everybody whips out cell phones as Gabriel steps into the enormous phone.*)

All: Hello?

Gabriel: Attention mortals. This is Otis Maximus Gabriel, the angel of God, on conference call. Please put your phones on vibrate so as not to awaken the new king. (*Everyone pushes a cell phone button as if to put on vibrate.*) Aw, forget that. You know what? Just turn off your phones altogether. Some things you need to experience in the flesh. (*As people put away their cell phones, Gabriel moves the enormous cell phone out of the way. There, behind it, are Mary and Joseph with the baby (doll). Everyone gasps.*)

Sheba: That's him?

Gabriel: Yes.
 Barbara: Living in a barn, like we sometimes have to do?
 Gabriel: Yes.
 Wise Dad: With teenage parents?
 Gabriel: That's the one.
 Wise Mom: But he's just a little baby. He's so humble and...vulnerable!
 Mary: *(Smiles.)* His name is Jesus.
 Wise Kid: He's beautiful. He's like God! *(Pause.)* I wish I had something to give him.
 Wise Mom: Oh, me too, honey. If I'd known he was going to be so small...
 Wise Kid: I have an idea. *(Gets the thermoses and coolers and distributes them so each Wiseacre has one.)*
 Wise Mom: But *you* haven't had any yet. I thought you were hungry yourself?
 Wise Kid: Yeah, I guess I just figured out what I was hungry for. *(Reverently the Wiseacres take the picnic things up and lay them at the feet of Mary and Joseph. Wise Mom gestures for them to eat. Mary nods in thanks. All freeze in place. The lights dim. END.)*

(Note: it's a good idea to print the slang guide below and hand it out for multi generational audiences.)

**A Guide to Instant Messaging Slang
 from the Time of Jesus**
 (in order of appearance in the play)

BTW = by the way
 BAB = baby
 (Smiley face) = :-)
 (Winking face) = ;-)
 MSIA = messiah
 LOL = laughing out loud
 OMG = oh my god
 G2G = got to go
 CUL8R = see you later
 TTFN = ta-ta for now
 BFF = best friend forever
 Superpoke=a Facebook program
 where you can "poke," "throw sheep at,"
 or otherwise greet/annoy others.