

# ***Christmas In Nazareth County***

***By Ronald and Pamela Moss***

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**STORY OF THE PLAY**

This is one Christmas Eve you'll want to spend out of town - with the friendly folks of Nazareth, Texas. Modern day scenes with the flavor and poignancy of "Steel Magnolias" bring the Christmas story to life. From the Chic 'N Sassy beauty shop where Rhonda Gae learns she is pregnant, to the Starlight Motel where Leona helps a poor young couple find refuge, to a lonely farmhouse where the lost Jubilee Trio singers deliver gifts to an infant, you'll see the Christmas story unfold in a very special way.

A Christmas Spirit introduces the scenes and ties the play together so neatly you won't want the story to end. Lots of opportunity to add carols between scenes. About 40 minutes.

**CAST OF CHARACTERS**

*(With doubling, 3 m, 5 w, children)*

**PROLOGUE**

**CHRISTMAS SPIRIT:** Serves as Narrator.

**BEAUTY SHOP; SCENE 1**

**IRENE:** Beauty shop owner, Buck's wife.

**PEGGY:** Getting nails done, mother of Jordan, a child in the pageant.

**LEONA:** Motel clerk, getting hair done.

**RHONDA GAE:** Gets call from doctor.

**BOBBIE JO:** Waitress at cafe, getting hair done.

**MOTEL; SCENE 2**

**LEONA:** Desk clerk, helps young couple.

**YOUNG MAN:** Car broke down, needs a room.

**YOUNG WOMAN:** Is pregnant wife.

**WEALTHY MAN:** Had reserved a room.

**WEALTHY WOMAN:** His wife.

**PAGEANT PRACTICE; SCENE 3**

**JEFF:** Youth director for pageant.

**JORDAN:** Young narrator.

**LINDSEY:** Participant in pageant.

**HEDDY:** Another.

**BRIAN:** Another.

**TANNER:** Another.

**ALLISON:** Another.

**MELISSA:** Another.

**CHRISTOPHER:** Another.

**IN THE FIELDS; SCENE 4**

**BUCK:** Ranch owner.

**HANK:** His assistant.

**ROY:** Another.

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**CAFE; SCENE 5**

**BOBBIE JO:** Talkative waitress.

**BOB:** A gospel singer, one of the Jubilee Three.

**BEN:** Another.

**BILL:** Another.

**FARMHOUSE; SCENE 6**

**NADINE:** Mother who needs help.

**BOB:** A gospel singer, one of the Jubilee Three.

**BEN:** Another.

**BILL:** Another.

**EPILOGUE**

Christmas Spirit closes the play.

**VOCAL ENSEMBLE:** Can be used between scenes, if desired.

**SCENE 1**

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: *(Reading from Scripture; may be offstage.)* The Angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee, named Nazareth. To a virgin who was betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David, and the Virgin's Name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O Favored one, the Lord is with you." She was greatly troubled at being greeted in this way, but the Angel said, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive and bear a son, and you will call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High."

*(AT RISE: The Chic 'N Sassy beauty shop in Nazareth, Texas. IRENE is working on BOBBIE JO'S hair, RHONDA GAE is working on PEGGY'S nails and LEONA is sitting in a chair waiting her turn, holding a magazine. All but Rhonda are singing "Deck the Halls" ... very noisily, very off-key. As they finish with a big flourish, Peggy says:)*

PEGGY: Lord, I love Christmas! But we sound like a hen house full of constipated chickens!

IRENE: Oh, who cares! My neighbors are out of town for the holidays. There's nobody to hear us but Buck and he's out checking stock. In fact, he's had to call in two of his men to help. This freeze has been so hard on our cattle.

LEONA: Gosh, I hope he gets home in time to take you to the Christmas Eve concert at the Rotary Hall. I heard at the A & P that the Gospel Trio the Jaycees have hired has even appeared on "Nashville Now." So you know that the motel is just about booked up solid? Irene, I've got to get over there. Will you be ready for me soon?

BOBBIE JO: Oh, don't get your drawers in an uproar, Leona. It's Christmas! You're not the night clerk at the Plaza Hotel, for pete's sake. The Starlight Motel/Hotel can wait til you wash away your gray.

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LEONA: I do not come here to "wash away my gray," Bobbie Jo Mitchell. My hair just happens to have some natural blonde highlights that I like to have blended in.

PEGGY: Speaking of blending in, have your kids learned their parts for the Christmas pageant yet? Jordan has been driving me crazy for days saying his line over and over, "They wrapped him in swaddling clothes. They wrapped him in swaddling clothes." What in the world are swaddling clothes anyway?

BOBBIE JO: Peggy, I never knew anyone could be so ignorant.

LEONA: You're one to talk, Bobbie Jo. Aren't you the one who told me that "O Tannenbaum" was a Swedish suntan lotion?

IRENE: You two quit your bickering. Peace on earth, you know. Besides, I haven't heard Rhonda Gae get a word in edgewise.

PEGGY: You are awful quiet, sweetpea. What's wrong? Have the holidays got you down? You know, I read in the Inquirer that lots of people feel real blue this time of year.

IRENE: Come to think of it, I didn't hear you fa-la-la-ing with the rest of us. Here, honey, sit down and let me perk up your "do." That always raises my spirits.

RHONDA GAE: No, thanks. I don't think it would help, anyway. Do ya'll remember two years ago before I married Paul, when I had to go see Dr. Tucker? I took the chemotherapy for six months and he said I would be fine? Well, it's probably no big deal ... but I'm having the same symptoms again. I went in for some tests yesterday and I'm waiting to hear from Dr. Tucker. I guess I'm just worrying my Christmas spirit away.

BOBBIE JO: Come on, Rhonda, honey, no news is good news lots of times. Besides, the storm may have frozen the phone lines.

ALL: Yeah, that's probably it. He didn't find a thing, etc.

*(The phone rings and ALL stare at it.)*

RHONDA GAE: I'll get it. I imagine it's for me.

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