

Four Angels and a Baby

A One-Act Christmas Parody

By Dave Huetten

With

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Cast of Characters

RICH MORALES: **Gabriel** Frazzled archangel, divine middle manager with clipboard and headset.

TIFFANY GANINO: **Cherubina** Glitter-loving cherub, self-appointed party planner.

ROBERTA COLLINS: **Michaela** Grumpy angel on cloud maintenance duty, allergic to joy.

GWEN COTTON: **Raphael** Essential oils and yoga influenced wellness angel

PAT RATLIFF: **Angel 1**

MARILYN LEBLANC: **Angel 2**

ANITA LAWRENCE: **Mary** Calm, wise, and slightly sarcastic.

BILL LAWRENCE: **Joseph** Earnest carpenter, overwhelmed but trying.

EARNEST COTTON: **Zeke** Simple shepherd who comes from afar

Voice of God - Recorded

Setting - A stable in Bethlehem. Hay (center left), and a crooked "Happy Birthday" banner. One flickering star overhead. A half-built manger sits center right stage. Table up center

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*(Lights up. Mary sits serenely on a hay bale, alternating between breathing deeply and short rapid breaths. Joseph is hammering a manger that keeps collapsing. Enter **Gabriel**, muttering and checking a clipboard.)*

Gabriel: *(Pen in hand, looking at the list on his clipboard)* Okay, miracle birth.. Check. GPS, locked.. Check. Shepherds pinged, wise men on camel ... ETA, 45 minutes.., check. *(looks around)* Where are my angels?
(Enter Cherubina, AND 2 Angels carrying trailing tinsel, carrying a basket of party favors and a roll of tinsel and food which they take to the table)

Cherubina: Gabey, we brought the baby shower decor! *(holds up basket/bag)* Look!

Angel 1 Pat: *(very excited)* Golden rattles and frankincense-scented onesies.

Angel 2 Marilyn:...and What's a baby shower without myrrh-flavored cupcakes?

Angel 1:...We even have sparkles to bedazzle the manger

Cherubina: *(To the audience)* Okay. Quick. DIVINE CENSUS! My committee and I need to know. Raise your hand if you think the manger should be gold leaf? Ok, How about rustic chic? ~~Raise your harps and halos!~~ *(reacts dramatically to the votes, no doubt misinterpreting them.)*
Oh wow! Overwhelming support for sparkles and glitter! You're my kind of congregation!

Gabriel: Cherubina! This is not just a baby shower. It's the birth of the Savior. There is a protocol. There's reverence... There's a 47-page divine memo!

Cherubina: Protocol is so Old Testament. We need sparkle, Gabriel, SPARKLE! Here are the swaddling clothes. Don't you just love the sequins.

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Angels 1 & 2: They're amazing, dazzling, perfect!

Gabriel: Cherubina! Show some reverence. This is more than a baby shower.

(Enter Michaela, dragging a mop and a cloud maintenance manual.)

Michaela: I was told this was a divine intervention. Not some kind of celestial Pinterest board. Also, someone parked a camel in my cloud zone. I am filing a gosh darn grievance! I have a form right here in my Cloud Maintenance Manual.

(Enter Raphael, glowing and serene, holding a basket of herbs.)

Raphael: Namaste, everyone. I brought lavender for the manger and a prenatal yoga scroll for Mary. We begin the session with "Divine Downward Donkey."

Joseph: Can someone explain why the crib keeps collapsing? I followed the IKEA scroll exactly. It said "Insert peg A into slot B." The scroll doesn't show me where to find slot "B"!

Mary: ~~*(Stepping over to help him as angels continue to prepare the table with gifts and decorations)*~~ It's okay, Joseph. Unroll the scroll just a little bit more.

Joseph: *(he let's the scroll unfold more)* Oops! I skipped a whole section of steps. Why are the angels so grumpy?

Mary: They're just trying to help. Let's just let them have their holy meltdown. I'm just trying to breathe through contractions while angels argue about glitter.

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Gabriel: Focus, everyone, focus. We need to announce the birth. Cherubina, you handle skywriting. Malachi, you're in charge of the trumpet fanfare. Joseph ... Well, you, ... maybe you should just sit down before you hammer your thumb...

Joseph: *(Hammers, reacts to a painful strike.)* OWW! Too late.

Gabriel: ... again!?

(Joseph crosses to Mary & holds up a bandaged thumb on his other hand. Mary pats his shoulder.)

Mary: You're doing great, sweetie.

Joseph: I thought carpentry would be easier in the Holy Land. But this manger has tested my faith more than the census line in Bethlehem.

Mary: It's not the manger, Joseph. It's the angels. They keep rearranging the feng shui every time you turn your back.

Joseph: One of them swapped the pegs for glitter glue. Glitter glue, Mary! It holds nothing but regret.

Mary: At least it sparkles while it collapses.

Joseph: Do you think the baby will notice?

Mary: I'm sure he'll notice everything. But he'll forgive you... Probably.

Joseph: I just wanted everything to be perfect.

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Mary: Perfect is overrated. We've got hay and a roof that mostly holds. That's pretty good.

Joseph: You always know what to say.

Raphaella: *(crosses to Mary)* Breathe in the miracle. Breathe out the chaos.

Mary: I'm in labor. I'm not doing yoga.

(Enter Zeke, a shepherd with a crook and a confused expression.)

Zeke: Am I late?... An angel said there was a baby? And maybe snacks?

Gabriel: No, You're early. The Wise men aren't due for another 45 minutes.

Zeke: I'm not wise. I just followed the star and a very persuasive goat.

Cherubina *(crosses to Zeke):* You're perfect. You'll be our hype shepherd. Can you shout "Hallelujah" with jazz hands?

Zeke: I can try. *(He does. It's awkward)*

Cherubina: We will do it with you. Like this...*(She demonstrates)* OK. Let's all shout "Hallelujah!" *(Cherubina claps.)*

Gabriel: Focus, everyone. We need to announce the birth. Cherubina, skywriting. Michaela, trumpet fanfare. Raphaella, no oils near the hay.

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Raphaela: But eucalyptus opens the soul portal.

Cherubina: Skywriting font: HmMMM, Century Gothic or Comic Sans?

Michaela: If you use comic sans, I swear, something or someone will be smitten! *(to the audience)* That's "Old Testament" for putting the hurt on someone.

Gabriel: No fonts! Just clouds and starlight. We're celebrating and announcing. We're not putting a brand name on the Messiah.

Cherubina: Uh Oh. Too late. I already ordered a "***Baby's First Miracle***" onesie in three colors. ~~*(starts to inflate a balloon)*~~

Gabriel: *(thinking that the official birth announcement isn't reverent enough recruits the audience)*

(to the audience) Okay, we need impact. Gravititas. Let's try this together: On the count of three, everyone shout ~PEACE ON EARTH!" Like you mean it! Ready: 1-2-3! "Peace on Earth"

(He conducts them like a choir. If it's weak, he critiques.)

That was more of a "peace on a rock". Again, with celestial conviction!

(Turning back to the angels) Everyone. We need to announce the birth. Michaela, trumpet fanfare. Raphaela, no oils near the hay.

Michaela: I miss the plagues. No glitter. Just frogs and locusts. Ah, those were the days. *(Sighing) (badly sings)* "Those were the days, my friends...."

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(Suddenly, a heavenly spotlight shines down.)

Voice of God (offstage): Don't you think a simple "Peace on Earth", will do? And we can add, "Good will towards all". Then... we will let the baby nap.

*(Everyone looks sheepish. Cherubina lets a balloon deflate with a squeel). Michaela lowers her mop. **Gabriel** clears his throat.)*

Mary: Joseph, I think it's time! Is the manger ready?

(Joseph let's the half built manger fall again, still unassembled, and rushes to Mary's side. Angels follow and gather in front of Mary as she groans and delivers the baby)

Music cue: "Hallelujah"

Light cue: mirror ball

Gabriel: Right. Ahem. All together: Peace on Earth, goodwill towards all!.
(angels repeat with him as they separate to reveal Mary and the baby)

(Mary is cradling the baby as the angels move to the sides of Mary and Joseph while she bundles "the baby" to present to the audience.)

Angels: *(leaning in, awkwardly humming "Silent Night.")*

Cherubina: Next year, we do a gender reveal with fireworks.

Michaela: I'm transferring to the Easter department.

Cherubina: What's an Easter???

(Angels move to the side, revealing Mary, Joseph and Zeke in tableau.)

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Raphaela: I'll be leading a post-nativity meditation. Bring your own aura.

Zeke: Can we get this party started now?

Gabriel: You get a cupcake and a confused goat. That's all we've got.

Zeke: Being here tonight is the greatest gift of all.

Gabriel: (Sighing to the audience) **Well,** I'm going on sabbatical. Maybe I'll transfer to Jupiter. No glitter police there.

Mary (to Joseph): You think they'll all leave if we pretend to fall asleep?

Joseph: Worth a shot.

Music cue: *(Silent night fades up.)*

(They both close their eyes. The angels tiptoe out, arguing quietly about celestial hashtags. Zeke follows.)

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LIGHT CUES: Black out but hold follow spot on Mary and Joseph then black out. Mirror ball stays on until after curtain call.

Lights back on for Curtain Call

(Lights dim. A single star glows overhead. Angels bring in signs: "Peace on Earth")

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REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

NOV. 14	10 - 12	BLRM
NOV. 17	1-3	BLRM
NOV 19	6:30-8	
NOV. 21	1-3	BLRM
NOV.24	1-3	BLRM
NOV. 28	1-3	BLRM
DEC. 9	1-3	MPR
DEC. 17	6-8	BLRM
DEC. 19	1-3	BLRM