

CHANGE OF PLANS

by John Cosper

GENRE: Light Drama

SYNOPSIS: A modern day re-telling of the story of MARY and how she learned she would give birth to Jesus.

DIRECTOR'S TIPS: Often overlooked, but of utmost importance, is the context of the scene—in other words, what's already happened (and happening) when lights come up. We're tempted to think of the first lines as the 'start' of the scene, but it's perhaps better to imagine the scene as just being a brief glimpse into a fully realized, ongoing world.

For "Change of Plans", the scene opens with a great deal of excitement, nervousness, and anticipation. This emotional 'fullness' has to already be in motion when the lights come up on Lydia and Beth—there's no time to "get there" once the scene has opened. So encourage your actresses to hit the ground running and bring all of that emotional context to those moments in darkness before the stage lights come up, so the audience feels as though they're coming a little late to the show, and joining a story already in progress.

TIME: 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 1M, 3F

THEME: Christmas; Obedience

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 1:26-38

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas

SUGGESTED USE: Christmas Service

CHARACTERS:

MARY— the mother of Jesus

LYDIA— a friend

BETH— MARY's cousin, six months pregnant

GABRIEL— an angel

PROPS: Living room furnishings

COSTUMES: Modern attire except for Gabriel, who wears an angel costume. BETH is made to look pregnant.

SOUND: Four wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: A nice living room

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The setting is modern day, as are all the set pieces and costumes (except the angel GABRIEL). BETH sits on a couch, her belly stuffed to make her look pregnant. LYDIA paces the stage. She peers off stage or out a window on stage.

LYDIA: She's here!

BETH: Shh, all right. Calm down. We won't know anything until she tells us.

LYDIA: I'm so excited. Do you think she'll do a summer wedding? Or spring?

BETH: Let the girl get engaged first.

LYDIA: But they are engaged! Right?

BETH: Shhh! Let her talk when she gets in here.

MARY enters. Her head is down, her hands behind her back. LYDIA jumps onto the couch next to BETH.

LYDIA: Well, how did it go?

MARY looks up, smiles, then holds out her hand with an engagement ring. LYDIA screams, dances off the couch, and nearly tackles MARY in a hug.

LYDIA: You're engaged! I'm so happy for you!!

BETH: Is that thing real?

MARY: Take a look.

BETH: Wow. He must have saved up a year for that.

MARY: It's too big.

LYDIA: Honey, if he gets you a rock like this, he's a keeper.

BETH: Oh, congratulations, sweetie.

BETH hugs MARY.

LYDIA: So when's the wedding?

MARY: Wedding? I just got engaged an hour ago!

LYDIA: And you haven't set a date yet?

MARY: No, I have not set a date yet.