

PERSPECTIVES

by STEPHEN D. LARSON

GENRE: Light Comedy/Drama

SYNOPSIS: One person looks at a creche and sees plastic figures. Another sees it as a representation of one of the two most wonderfully amazing and significant events in all of human history.

DIRECTOR'S TIP: This piece is designed to introduce each character of the Christmas story and give a brief insight into their significance. It's also designed to get people thinking not only about the Christmas season, but looking ahead toward Easter. Perspective One should be somewhat flippant in his attitude, while Perspective Two should regard each piece of the manger scene with reflection.

TIME: Under 5 minutes

CAST BREAKDOWN: 2

TOPIC: Christmas

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: Luke 2:1-20

CHURCH YEAR SEASON: Christmas

CHARACTERS:

PERSPECTIVE ONE - takes things at face value

PERSPECTIVE TWO - looks beyond the surface to what these things represent

PROPS: Table, two chairs, a manger scene with assorted figures, a small wooden cross on a stand

COSTUMES: Modern

SOUND: Two wireless microphones

LIGHTING: General stage

SETTING: Nowhere special

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Two actors, Perspective ONE and Perspective TWO, are seated center stage with a small table between them. A large box is on the floor next to TWO. TWO opens the box and produces a small wooden structure and places it on the table.

TWO: Okay. What do you see?

ONE: I see a model of a house.

TWO: Forget that it's a model. What do you see?

ONE: A house. More like a hut, actually.

TWO: I see a place fit for the birth of a king.

ONE: You're kidding, right?

TWO: It's all in how you look at things.

TWO reaches into the box and produces a small figure of Joseph.

Now, what do you see?

ONE: I see a plastic figure of a man.

TWO: Forget it's plastic. What do you see?

ONE: I see a man. Looks a like an old-time peasant of some sort.

TWO: I see a man who was given a great responsibility.

ONE: Really?

TWO: Really.

Reaching into the box again, TWO produces another figure: Mary.

What do you see now?

ONE: A woman, more like a girl really. She looks like a peasant, too.

TWO: I see someone who was blessed beyond her wildest imaginings.

TWO delves into the box again and comes up with another figure of a shepherd carrying a sheep.

Now what do you see?

ONE: I see a guy carrying a sheep.