

BATHROBES, TINSEL AND TINFOIL WINGS

*by Beverly E. Piper &
John W. Walker*



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PRODUCTION NOTES

Bathrobes, Tinsel and Tinfoil Wings was written to include the traditional childrens' nativity pageant in the midst of a broader musical framework in order to give new meaning to what has often become a poorly staged and poorly rehearsed yearly tradition which does no favor either to the children, or the story itself. Placing the childrens' "bathrobe" pageant in its proper perspective as the symbolic story helps us to know our history and to imagine the excitement of Christ's birth. *Bathrobes, Tinsel and Tinfoil Wings* succeeds in transforming the "same old stuff" into a meaningful, relevant and enjoyable experience for the entire audience — even those who are not the parents of the children involved.

As originally produced, the junior and senior high youth groups performed the music and speaking parts while the younger Sunday school children enacted the nativity pageant (see script directions for "Imagine"). By assigning different verses to different youth, we gained eleven soloists, eight of whom had never soloed before. Every child who wished to be in the nativity reenactment was welcome. While we had only one Mary and Joseph, we did not limit the number of shepherds, angels, or Wise Men.

The script and staging are kept to a minimum to place emphasis on the message of the songs and the nativity setting itself. Two acting areas were used. The singers informally utilized risers on a stage in front of a starry sky backdrop (blue sheets spangled with cut-out stars and glitter). The manger setting was on the main floor in front of the stage.

To highlight the title theme, costuming employed as many bathrobes as possible while the angels wore cardboard wings covered with tinfoil and tinsel halos.

Production time is approximately forty minutes.

Beverly Piper and John Walker

SETTING: Two acting areas. One for folk group and the other for the bathrobe nativity pageant. As the play opens, the folk group is putting finishing touches on a starry backdrop. Adults are helping the younger children with final costume adjustments for the nativity pageant. Everyone is busy except LEAD 1, who is sitting with a bored expression just watching the folk group. Lights come up and action begins.

GROUP: Hey, _____ (*LEAD 1's name*). Come on and help.
(*Others echo this invitation.*)

LEAD 1: What for? This is all so dumb! Every year it's the same old thing. A bunch of little kids running around in bathrobes. What's the use of all this work for a silly pageant. (*Move into song: "Bathrobes, Tinsel and Tinfoil Wings."*)

Bathrobes, tinsel and tinfoil wings,
Painted cattle and phony kings,
Why do we bother with all this stuff?
Seems to me we've had enough.

And besides I'm tired of:

Bathrobes, tinsel and tinfoil wings,
Tired of the work that Christmas
brings,
Tired of rehearsing for this silly play,
That's why I've decided to finally say,

What's the use of:

Bathrobes, tinsel and tinfoil wings?
What's the use of a choir that sings?
What's the use of the time we've wasted?
Sweeping up the glitter that's just
been pasted?

1 **Ohhh Yuck!** (*Repeat first verse to end.*)

2 **LEAD 2:** I agree it may seem like the same old thing every
3 year, but the story this simple pageant tells is really
4 important. What could be more significant to us as
5 Christians than knowing the history of our Savior. Our
6 "history" is really "his-story" and "his-story" is really
7 "our-story."

8 **SONG:** "His Story is Our Story"

9 **CHORUS:**

10 His story is our story.
11 It's one and the same.
12 It's the reason we call ourselves
13 Christians,
14 Because we share his name.

15
16 It happened oh so long ago,
17 How Christians came to be.
18 A baby in a cattle stall
19 Was born to set us free!

20
21 **CHORUS**

22
23 Our church is built upon his name
24 And we his praises sing.
25 Before us men have died for him,
26 This child who was a king!

27
28 **CHORUS**

29
30 He gives us life, he gives us truth,
31 He taught the way of love.
32 He brings us joy, he brings us peace,
33 Jesus, son of God!

34
35 **CHORUS**

LEAD 1: Well, that may very well be, but all this is still ancient
history. It's pretty hard to relate to something that
happened two thousand years ago.

LEAD 2: Not if we can go back and relive that night as it
happened. Wouldn't you like to go back to Bethlehem
and be a part of the birth of Jesus Christ?

SONG: "Wouldn't You Like to Go Back"

Wouldn't you like to go back to the
night,

When shepherds rejoiced at the
heavenly light?

Oh, wouldn't you like to go back?

Wouldn't you like to follow the star,
And talk to the Wise Men who came
from afar?

Oh, wouldn't you like to go back?

CHORUS:

Wouldn't you like to go back to the
stable,

Where Mary and Joseph were finally
able,

To share with the shepherd and
peasant and king,

The birth of a Savior for whom we
now sing?

Wouldn't you like to go back to the love,
That God shared with us through his
gift from above?

Oh, wouldn't you like to go back?

Wouldn't you like to be held by the
 arms,
 That kept baby Jesus safe from life's
 harms?
 Oh, wouldn't you like to go back?

CHORUS

LEAD 1: Oh, that sounds great, but everyone knows we can't
 go back, so what's the use of talking about it?

LEAD 2: Sure we can go back. All we have to do is use our
 imagination. Watch. (*Introduction begins to "Imagine."*)

ADULT: (*To pageant children*) All right everyone — places.
 (*Children move to ready position for pageant.*)

SONG: "Imagine" (*Each verse is sung twice. After each verse is
 repeated, an appropriate scripture is read while "Imagine"
 interlude continues to play. Then audience shares in one verse
 of relevant carol. During carol, the children pantomime their
 part of the nativity. Then the folk group sings the next verse of
 "Imagine" and the above is repeated.*)

Imagine you, imagine me,
 Imagine what it would have been
 like to be:

Mary and Joseph,
 Two people of Nazareth chosen by
 God
 To share in the birth of his only son.

Imagine you, imagine me,
 Imagine what it would have been
 like to be:

1 **An angel,**
 2 **Singing in the heavens. Messengers**
 3 **of God**
 4 **Telling all the earth his son was born.**

5
 6 **Imagine you, imagine me,**
 7 **Imagine what it would have been**
 8 **like to be:**

9
 10 **A shepherd,**
 11 **Watching their sheep, when**
 12 **suddenly**
 13 **Being told of a Savior they went to see.**

14
 15 **Imagine you, imagine me,**
 16 **Imagine what it would have been**
 17 **like to be:**

18
 19 **A wise man,**
 20 **Riding on a camel coming from afar,**
 21 **Bringing great treasures, following**
 22 **a star.**

23
 24 **Imagine you, imagine me,**
 25 **Imagine what it would have been like**
 26 **to be:**

27
 28 **Jesus.**
 29 **Do you think this baby**
 30 **Lying in the hay**
 31 **Knew he would die on a cross one day?**

32
 33 **SONG:** **"A Child Was Born" (Repeat each verse twice.)**
 34 **Quietly now (sssh) a child is sleeping.**
 35 **Quietly now (sssh) his mother's keeping**

1 Watch over him, lying in a manger.
 2 He was born that night, a star shone
 3 bright.

4
 5 And the angels sang,
 6 And the heavens rang,
 7 And a child was born
 8 To a virgin, in a stable, of Bethlehem.

9
 10 Joyfully now (clap, clap) the child is
 11 waking.
 12 Joyfully now (clap, clap) the earth is
 13 making
 14 Straight the path his feet will follow.
 15 The lord Jesus Christ, the world's
 16 new light.

17
 18 And the angels sang,
 19 And the heavens rang,
 20 And a child was born
 21 To a virgin, in a stable, of Bethlehem.

22
 23 And the angels sang,
 24 And the heavens rang,
 25 And a child was born.
 26 His name is Wonderful. We call him
 27 Savior, Son of God.
 28 We call him Savior, Son of God!

29 LEAD 1: Hey! That's really great, isn't it?

30 LEAD 2: It sure is. And the greatest thing is that we don't
 31 have to imagine God's love. We can experience it in our
 32 lives today just like Mary and Joseph did in their lives
 33 back then.

34
 35

1 SONG: "We Don't Have to Imagine God's Love"
2 There weren't any angels singing on
3 the day we were born.
4 There weren't any wise men bringing
5 gifts of spice and gold.
6 Can't you just imagine those things
7 happening to you and me?
8 Can't you just imagine being a part
9 of this story?
10
11 Oh, but we've been given a wondrous
12 gift sent from God above.
13 His name is Jesus.
14 He was born at Christmas.
15 Now we don't have to imagine God's
16 love!
17 Now we don't have to imagine God's
18 love!
19
20 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten
21 son. That whosoever believes in him should not perish
22 but have eternal life."
23
24 Oh, but we've been given a wondrous
25 gift sent from God above.
26 His name is Jesus.
27 He was born at Christmas.
28 Now we don't have to imagine God's
29 love!
30 Now we don't have to imagine God's
31 love!
32 LEAD 1: Well, you've certainly changed my attitude. It's
33 exciting to be part of such a story.
34
35



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P.O. Box 248 - Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406
Toll Free: 1-844-841-6387 - Fax (319) 368-8011
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