

# THE EASTER PAGEANT THAT ALMOST WASN'T

*by Stephen De Cesare  
& Karen Haneely*



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**THE EASTER PAGEANT  
THAT ALMOST WASN'T**

**By Stephen De Cesare &  
Karen Hanely**

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

### **GRACE, a girl**

(Could be played by a boy by changing the name to Jay.)

### **MR. D., the director of the pageant**

(Could be Mrs. D. by changing name to Mrs. Dorothy Daisy Douglas.)

### **EASTER BUNNY**

### **WISE MAN 1, 2 and 3**

### **MRS. PLUSH**

### **BUTTERFLY**

(Could be a boy. Change name to Mr. Butterfly.)

### **CHILD 1, 2 and 3**

(Can use their real names.)

### **CHORUS**

(All of the above, plus as many as you wish.)

## ***PRODUCTION NOTES***

**MUSIC:** The story device of an audition for an Easter Pageant Program opens the way for many unusual characters to perform a wide variety of songs in different tempos. There are eight songs in the script, all of which are notated in the music book that accompanies this playkit and are included on the CD. It may be used for rehearsal or as an adjunct to your performance. If no accompanist is available, the instrumental section of the CD may be helpful as an accompaniment. It is the same music on the vocal section of the CD, so it should be easy for the children to sing to.

**GIFTS:** The gifts that the children hand out at the end of the play could be cards shaped like eggs with the message "Jesus is Alive!" made by the children. Magnets to put on the fridge are also nice. Make them with juice can lids. Print the message on colored paper and glue in the center. Put lace, rickrack, sequins or the like around the edge. Glue a magnet strip to the back.

**COSTUMES:** The Easter Bunny is dressed in a bunny costume with a brightly colored coat and tie. The Three Wise Men wear robes and crowns. Mrs. Plush is decked out in a fancy dress with heels, a fur and dangly jewelry. The Butterfly should wear antennae (possibly made from pipe cleaners and fastened to a headband) and wings. (Use a sheer material and pin the center to the child's back. The child holds the top corners out, letting the material drape down as wings.)

**PROPS:** Easel with a bulletin board. Poster stating, "Wanted: actors, actresses, singers, performers and any other talented persons to be in an Easter Pageant. Tryouts next week." Two chairs placed Center Stage. Clipboard for Grace. A door. (Use your imagination and act as if one is there, if you do not have one.) Easter basket with plastic colored eggs for the Easter Bunny. Three gifts for the Three Wise Men.

## **SONGS**

- 1. "The Easter Bunny Hop"**
- 2. "I Love to Hear the Story"**
- 3. "We Three Kings"**
- 4. "We Three Kings Reprise"**
- 5. "Butterfly Song"**
- 6. "O Christ, Our Hope, Our Heart's Desire"**
- 7. "No Longer Lonely"**
- 8. "My Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam"**
- 9. "In My Heart There Rings a Melody"**

1           *(The stage is empty except for a small bulletin board to one side.*  
2           *MR. D. enters and pins up a poster. GRACE comes up behind*  
3           *him.)*

4       **GRACE:** What are you doing, Mr. D.?

5       **MR. D.:** *(Jumps.)* Oh! Oh, it's only you, Grace. Don't scare me  
6       like that.

7       **GRACE:** Sorry, Mr. D. I didn't mean to scare you.

8       **MR. D.:** Oh, it's not your fault. I guess I'm just nervous about  
9       the pageant.

10      **GRACE:** What pageant is that?

11      **MR. D.:** The Easter pageant. I, Mr. David Donald Douglas, or  
12      Mr. D., as everyone calls me, have been asked to  
13      produce a spectacular pageant for Easter this year. See?  
14      It's all right here on the poster.

15      **GRACE:** *(Reads poster.)* Wanted: actors, actresses, singers,  
16      performers and any other talented persons to be in an  
17      Easter pageant. Tryouts next week.

18      **MR. D.:** I've put posters all over town. We should have the  
19      best pageant ever!

20      **GRACE:** What's the pageant about? Is it a play or a musical?

21      **MR. D.:** I'm not sure, but I want to tell everyone what Easter  
22      is all about.

23      **GRACE:** Easter is when I get a chocolate bunny that's  
24      hollow inside. Why are they always hollow?

25      **MR. D.:** Hummm ... I don't know. Anyway, chocolate bunnies  
26      are not what I had in mind.

27      **GRACE:** What did you have in mind?

28      **MR. D.:** I'll know it when I see it. Why don't you come to the  
29      tryouts next week?

30      **GRACE:** I have no great talent.

31      **MR. D.:** I want you to be my assistant director.

32      **GRACE:** Really? That sounds like fun!

33      **MR. D.:** Great! Then I'll see you next week. *(They exit.)*

34           *(MR. D. and GRACE enter and sit in the chairs.)*

35      **MR. D.:** Are you ready, Grace?

1     **GRACE:** Ready, Mr. D.  
2     **MR. D.:** Then call in the first person.  
3     **GRACE:** (*Looks at list on clipboard and reads.*) **Bunny.** (*EASTER*  
4         *BUNNY enters.*)  
5     **MR. D.:** State your full name, please.  
6     **EASTER BUNNY:** Easter Bunny Rabbit.  
7     **MR. D.:** And what is your talent?  
8     **EASTER BUNNY:** I deliver Easter eggs without anyone  
9         seeing me.  
10    **MR. D.:** And how is that going to help our Easter pageant if  
11       nobody sees you?  
12    **EASTER BUNNY:** I can sing.  
13    **MR. D.:** OK, let's hear what you have.  
14  
15    **SONG:** "The Easter Bunny Hop"  
16    **EASTER BUNNY:** (*Singing*) Oh, put your paws out front,  
17       Stick your ears up high,  
18       Wag your tail like so and bounce up to the sky.  
19       You're doing the hop!  
20       The Easter Bunny hop!  
21  
22       You can bounce from tree to tree.  
23       So c'mon and follow me  
24       And do the hop!  
25       The Easter Bunny hop!  
26  
27       Grab your basket of eggs and go  
28       And do the Bunny Hop with me.  
29       Come do the hop!  
30       The Easter Bunny hop!  
31  
32       Grab your basket of eggs and go  
33       And do the Bunny Hop with me.  
34       Come do the Bunny Hop with me.  
35       Come do the Bunny Hop with me!



- 1 **MR. D.:** Enough. Next, please.
- 2 **EASTER BUNNY:** Maybe you would like to see all my  
3 beautiful eggs. (*Takes one out of basket.*) Could I interest  
4 you in my latest design? It flips open and turns into a  
5 superhero.
- 6 **MR. D.:** No, no, this will never do.
- 7 **EASTER BUNNY:** If you like, I could get you a bargain on our  
8 discontinued designs. Half-price and fully guaranteed.
- 9 **MR. D.:** No, thank you. Grace, please escort the Easter  
10 Bunny out.
- 11 **GRACE:** (*Takes EASTER BUNNY by the arm.*) Maybe you could  
12 tell me ...
- 13 **EASTER BUNNY:** Yes?
- 14 **GRACE:** Why are chocolate bunnies hollow?
- 15 **EASTER BUNNY:** So they will be light enough for me to  
16 carry. If you're interested in chocolate bunnies, I could  
17 get you a deal. They're much cheaper by the case.
- 18 **GRACE:** No thanks, Easter Bunny. (*Hurries him out then  
19 returns and consults her list.*) Next we have a Mrs. Plush.
- 20 **MR. D.:** Call her in.
- 21 **GRACE:** (*Goes to door and calls.*) Mrs. Plush.
- 22 **MRS. PLUSH:** Here I am, dear. (*Enters and goes over and stands  
23 in front of MR. D.*)
- 24 **MR. D.:** And what is your talent?
- 25 **MRS. PLUSH:** I am a great organizer.
- 26 **MR. D.:** Organizer? No, no, we need talent. Do you sing?  
27 Dance?
- 28 **MRS. PLUSH:** Sing? Only in the shower. Dance? I did take  
29 tap when I was small. (*Does a few steps and laughs.*) I'm a  
30 little out of practice.
- 31 **MR. D.:** Then what are you here for?
- 32 **MRS. PLUSH:** To organize the fashion show.
- 33 **MR. D.:** What fashion show? We're putting on a pageant.
- 34 **MRS. PLUSH:** And the highlight of that pageant should be a  
35 fashion show. Everyone has new clothes for Easter. I

1           thought the children could model their Easter outfits.  
 2           We could have prizes for the most original, the most  
 3           colorful, the most beautiful and the most —  
 4   **MR. D.:** *(Interrupts.)* Mrs. Plush, I don't see how that would  
 5           help tell the story of Easter.  
 6   **MRS. PLUSH:** Tell a story, no, but it would be spectacular.  
 7           Just leave everything up to me. I'll get my husband to  
 8           build a runway right down the center aisle.  
 9   **MR. D.:** Enough, enough! Grace, please show Mrs. Plush out.  
 10   **GRACE:** This way, Mrs. Plush. *(Leads MRS. PLUSH to the door.)*  
 11   **MRS. PLUSH:** We could have special prizes for the children.  
 12           You would like that, wouldn't you, dear?  
 13   **GRACE:** I do like prizes.  
 14   **MRS. PLUSH:** See, the child likes my idea. *(GRACE gives her*  
 15           *a push out the door.)*  
 16   **MR. D.:** *(Looks at watch.)* Half the morning gone, and nothing  
 17           for our pageant. I just want something to tell people  
 18           about Jesus.  
 19  
 20   **SONG:** "I Love to Hear the Story"  
 21   **MR. D.:** *(Singing)* I love to hear the story which angel voices  
 22           tell,  
 23           How once the King of glory came down on earth to dwell.  
 24           I am both weak and sinful; but this I surely know,  
 25           The Lord came down to save me; because he loves me so.  
 26  
 27   **GRACE:** *(Singing)* I'm glad my blessed Savior was once a  
 28           child like me,  
 29           To show how pure and holy His little ones might be;  
 30           And, if I try to follow His footsteps here below,  
 31           He never will forget me, because He loves me so.  
 32  
 33   **MR. D. and GRACE:** To sing His love and mercy my sweetest  
 34           songs I'll raise;  
 35           And, though I cannot see Him, I know He hears my

- 1           praise;  
 2       **For He has kindly promised that even I may go**  
 3       **To sing among His angels, because He loves me so.**  
 4       **To sing among His angels, because He loves me so.**  
 5  
 6   **MR. D.: What else do you have?**  
 7   **GRACE: Next is a trio.**  
 8   **MR. D.: Trios are nice. Call them in.**  
 9   **GRACE: (*Calls out.*) The trio number, please. (*The three WISE***  
 10       ***MEN enter.*)**  
 11   **MR. D.: And who are you?**  
 12   **WISE MAN 1: We are wise men.**  
 13   **WISE MAN 2: No, we are Magi.**  
 14   **WISE MAN 3: To be more correct, we are astrologers.**  
 15   **MR. D.: Which is it?**  
 16   **WISE MAN 1: It depends on which version of the Bible you**  
 17       **are reading.**  
 18   **MR. D.: Well, let's hear what you have.**  
 19  
 20   **SONG: "We Three Kings"**  
 21   **ALL WISE MEN: (*Singing*) We three Kings of Orient are,**  
 22       **Bearing gifts we traverse afar**  
 23       **Field and fountain, moor and mountain,**  
 24       **Following yonder star.**  
 25  
 26   **WISE MAN 1: We follow one bright shining star.**  
 27   **ALL WISE MEN: Star of wonder, star of night,**  
 28       **Star with royal beauty bright,**  
 29       **Westward leading, still proceeding,**  
 30       **Guide us to oh, guide us to the perfect Light.**  
 31       **The perfect Light. The perfect Light. The perfect Light.**  
 32  
 33   **WISE MAN 1: (*Speaking*) Check this out.**  
 34       **We're the three Kings and we're here to say**  
 35       **That we're here to see Jesus in a major way.**

1           We come from afar to let you know that Jesus is the only  
2           way to go. So —

3

4       **WISE MAN 2:** So then when you feel down or feeling blue  
5           That He will always be there.

6       **WISE MAN 3:** He is tried and true.

7       **WISE MAN 1:** Chime out the chimes.

8       **WISE MAN 2:** Ring out the bells for

9       **ALL WISE MEN:** He is Emmanuel. Kick it!

10

11   **ALL WISE MEN:** *(Singing)* Star of wonder, star of night,  
12           Star with royal beauty bright,  
13           Westward leading, still proceeding,  
14           Guide us to oh, guide us to the perfect Light.  
15           The perfect Light. The perfect Light. The perfect Light.  
16           *(Speaking)* The perfect Light!

17

18   **GRACE:** Mr. D., that's a Christmas song.

19   **MR. D.:** What are you doing at a tryout for the Easter  
20           pageant?

21   **WISE MAN 3:** You mean we missed Christmas?

22   **MR. D.:** That was four months ago.

23   **WISE MAN 2:** We had a long journey to make.

24   **WISE MAN 1:** Maybe we could change the story a little. We  
25           work cheap.

26   **MR. D.:** No, thank you! Grace, let's have the next number.

27

28   **SONG:** "We Three Kings Reprise" *(WISE MEN sing as they leave.)*

29   **WISE MEN:** Star of wonder, star of night,  
30           Star with royal beauty bright,  
31           Westward leading, still proceeding,  
32           Guide us to oh, guide us to the perfect Light.  
33           The perfect Light. The perfect Light. The perfect Light.  
34           *( Speaking)* The perfect Light!

35

1 **GRACE:** (*Consults the list.*) Miss Flutterby, please.

2 (*BUTTERFLY enters.*)

3 **BUTTERFLY:** That is Miss Butterfly, if you please.

4 **GRACE:** Sorry, must have been a typo.

5 **MR. D.:** Flutterby, butterfly, whatever. What talent do you  
6 have?

7 **BUTTERFLY:** I dance.

8 **MR. D.:** Good. Let's see.

9

10 **SONG:** "Butterfly Song"

11 **BUTTERFLY:** (*Singing*)

12 *Verse 1*

13 I'm a lovely butterfly.

14 I'm admired for my colored wings.

15 But I did not always look this way.

16 So hear now the words that I'll sing.

17

18 *Verse 2*

19 I was once a tiny worm.

20 So reviled and ugly was I.

21 Till one day I fell asleep

22 Then like magic, I changed into a butterfly.

23

24 *Verse 3*

25 (*Instrumental dance*)

26

27 *Verse 4*

28 Now I flit and fly all day;

29 Dancing in the rays of the sun.

30 I wish there was more to tell

31 But now my song is done.

32

33 **MR. D.:** Is that really how you became a butterfly?

34 **BUTTERFLY:** No, but it is much more exciting. Gets the  
35 audience's attention, don't you think?

- 1     **MR. D.:** Yes, but what does it have to do with Easter?
- 2     **BUTTERFLY:** That's easy. When we change from caterpillars
- 3             to butterflies, it helps people understand dying and
- 4             then having a new life in heaven.
- 5     **GRACE:** My Sunday school teacher had us make butterfly
- 6             cards for Easter once.
- 7     **MR. D.:** Yes, yes, maybe this will work. (*Turns to BUTTERFLY.*)
- 8             We have to work on your story line, but there will be a
- 9             place for you in the pageant.
- 10    **BUTTERFLY:** Thank you.
- 11    **MR. D.:** Well, Grace, we're finally getting somewhere. Now
- 12             who is next?
- 13    **GRACE:** That was it, Mr. D.
- 14    **MR. D.:** What?!
- 15    **GRACE:** Sorry, but that's the end of my list.
- 16    **MR. D.:** That can't be! Let me see that list. (*Grabs list, looks*
- 17             *and throws it down.*) Now what am I to do? I can't put on
- 18             a pageant with one flittery butterfly.
- 19    **GRACE:** Mr. D.?
- 20    **MR. D.:** Yes, Grace?
- 21    **GRACE:** You said that you wanted to tell people about Jesus.
- 22    **MR. D.:** That's right.
- 23    **GRACE:** Why don't we just ask the children to tell what
- 24             Jesus means to them?
- 25    **MR. D.:** Do you think that would work?
- 26    **GRACE:** I know it would.
- 27
- 28    **SONG:** "O Christ, Our Hope, Our Hearts' Desire"
- 29    **CHORUS:** (*Singing*) O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire.
- 30             Redemption's only spring: Creator of the world are You.
- 31             Its Savior and its King.
- 32             Its Savior and its King.
- 33
- 34    **DESCANT:** (*Sing "Alleluia" repeatedly with following verses.*)
- 35             Alleluia.

- 1     **CHORUS:** (*With previous descant*) **How vast the mercy and the**  
 2         **love**  
 3         **Which laid our sins on Thee,**  
 4         **And led You to a cruel death**  
 5         **To set Your people free.**  
 6         **To set Your people free.**  
 7  
 8         **But now the bonds of death are burst.**  
 9         **The ransom has been paid;**  
 10        **And You are on Your Father's throne**  
 11        **In glorious robes arrayed.**  
 12        **In glorious robes arrayed.**  
 13  
 14        **Oh may Your mighty love prevail,**  
 15        **Our sinful souls to spare.**  
 16        **O may we come before Your throne**  
 17        **And find acceptance there.**  
 18        **And find acceptance there.**  
 19  
 20        **O Christ, be now our present joy.**  
 21        **Our future great reward;**  
 22        **Our only glory may it be**  
 23        **To glory in the Lord.**  
 24        **To glory in the Lord.**  
 25  
 26        **All praise to You ascended Lord;**  
 27        **All glory ever be. To Father, Son and Holy Ghost**  
 28        **Through all eternity.**  
 29        **Through all eternity.**  
 30  
 31    **MR. D.: What's that sound?**  
 32    **GRACE:** **It's the children singing. Let's listen, and then when**  
 33        **they finish, we can ask them to be a part of the pageant.**  
 34    **MR. D.: Great idea! Jesus is living! Yes, that's what we need**  
 35        **to say.**

1 **GRACE:** (*Goes to CHORUS and brings back CHILD 1.*) **Mr. D.,**  
 2 **here is someone who can help us.**

3 **MR. D.:** (*Goes to CHILD 1.*) **And what is your name?**

4 **CHILD 1:** **I am \_\_\_\_\_** (*Insert real name.*)

5 **MR. D.:** **And what do you do?**

6 **CHILD 1:** **Huh?**

7 **GRACE:** **He means to ask, "What does knowing that Jesus is**  
 8 **alive mean to you?"**

9 **CHILD 1:** **It means I don't have to be afraid, especially of the**  
 10 **boogieman.**

11 **MR. D.:** **How is that?**

12

13 **SONG:** **"No Longer Lonely"**

14 **CHILD 1:** (*Singing*) **On life's pathway I am never lonely.**

15 **My Lord is with me, my Lord divine;**

16 **Ever present Guide, I trust Him only.**

17 **No longer lonely, for He is mine.**

18 **No longer lonely. No longer lonely,**

19 **For Jesus is the Friend of friends to me;**

20 **No longer lonely. No longer lonely,**

21 **For Jesus is the Friend of friends to me.**

22

23 **I shall not be lonely in my sorrow.**

24 **He will sustain me until the end;**

25 **Darkest night He turns to brightest morrow.**

26 **No longer lonely, He is my friend.**

27 **No longer lonely. No longer lonely,**

28 **For Jesus is the Friend of friends to me;**

29 **No longer lonely. No longer lonely,**

30 **For Jesus is the Friend of friends to me.**

31

32 **I shall not be lonely in the valley,**

33 **Though shadows gather, I will not fear;**

34 **He has promised ever to uphold me.**

35 **No longer lonely! He will be near.**



1       **No longer lonely. No longer lonely,**  
 2       **For Jesus is the Friend of friends to me.**  
 3       **No longer lonely. No longer lonely,**  
 4       **For Jesus is the Friend of friends to me.**  
 5       **For Jesus is the Friend of friends to me.**

6  
 7       **CHILD 2:** *(Comes up behind MR. D.)* **Mr. D., let me tell you what**  
 8       **Jesus means to me.**

9       **MR. D.:** *(Turns to CHILD 2.)* **Yes, and your name is?**

10      **CHILD 2:** \_\_\_\_\_ *(Insert real name.)*

11      **MR. D.:** Well, \_\_\_\_\_ *(Insert real name.),* **what does**  
 12      **Jesus mean to you?**

13      **CHILD 2:** Well, Jesus loves me very much, and because he  
 14      loves me, I can love others, even those who are a lot  
 15      different than me.

16  
 17      **SONG:** "My Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam" *(Assign children solo*  
 18      *parts. Following the song, CHILD 2 rejoins the choir.)*

19  
 20      **Verse 1**

21      **My Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, to shine for Him**  
 22      **each day,**  
 23      **In every way try to please Him, at home, at school, at play.**  
 24      **A sunbeam, a sunbeam, a sunbeam.**  
 25      **Jesus wants me for a sunbeam.**  
 26      **A sunbeam, a sunbeam, a sunbeam.**  
 27      **I'll be a sunbeam for Him.**

28  
 29      **Verse 2**

30      **For Jesus wants me to be loving and kind to all I see,**  
 31      **Showing how pleasant and happy His little one can be.**  
 32      **A sunbeam, a sunbeam, a sunbeam.**  
 33      **Jesus wants me for a sunbeam.**  
 34      **A sunbeam, a sunbeam, a sunbeam.**  
 35      **I'll be a sunbeam for Him.**



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