

Resurrecting Charlie

A one-act play

By Tracy Wells

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DEDICATION

For Kelsay Parker. Thank you for your constant encouragement, guidance, and friendship. It means more than you know.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Resurrecting Charlie is a dramatic “play within a play” which tells the story of a traveling Christian drama group who is producing the show, “The Easter Story Spectacular!” Its star, Charlie, struggles with the poor decisions and mistakes of his past and hopes to get back on track by learning why Jesus sacrificed Himself to save us from our sins. Charlie’s stardom-obsessed costar Logan, and his jealous director Kathryn conspire against him, while his friend and production assistant Amanda helps him see the true meaning of the Easter story. This play tells Charlie’s story, as well as the events of Holy week through actual dramatic performances of scenes such as “The Last Supper” and “The Garden of Gethsemane” while representing other events as parts of Charlie’s own journey. As we watch Charlie learn the great sacrifice Jesus made, we all remember what makes the Easter story so important in our own lives. Approximately 40 minutes.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

The show was performed by the Great Acts Theater Company, King of Kings Lutheran Church, Shelby Township, MI on Sunday, April 28, 2019. It featured the following cast and crew:

Director: Eric Wells; Stage Manager: Emily Taubitz, Technical Director/Set Architect: Scott Taubitz; Set Team: Hayden Tirpack, Rayna Asuncion; Technical Director: Wayne LaPrise; Tech Team: Hayden Tirpack, Owen Parker, Alexis Kelly; Charlie: Aidan LaPrise; Amanda: Emmy LaPrise; Kathryn: Becca Witkowski; Logan/Judas: Tyler Girand; Peter: Daniel Olah; Patsy Page: Anabelle Bagos; Mary Magdalene: Skyler Swanson; Martha: Rayne Monterosso; King Herod: Mark Sylvester; Pontius Pilate: Connor Wells; Matthew: Connor Wells; Mark: Caden Taubitz; Simon: Carson Colby; Bartholomew: Brady Taubitz; Luke: Colton Bourdage; John: Brysen Bourdage; Thomas: Brysen Bourdage; Phillip: Danny Kelly; Andrew: Skyler Swanson; James: Carson Colby; 1ST Fan: Olivia Milici; 2ND Fan: Natalie Wells; 3RD Fan: Peyton Witkowski; Camera Operator: Brady Taubitz; Soldier 2: Caden Taubitz; 1ST Jew: Olivia Milici; 2ND Jew: Natalie Wells; 3RD Jew: Peyton Witkowski.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(17 m, 3 w, 7-14 flexible)

CHARLIE: A confused young man who is searching for something more. Plays Jesus.

AMANDA: Production assistant who helps Charlie.

LOGAN: Actor playing Judas who wants the role of Jesus.

KATHRYN / KARL: Director of the play; male or female.

PETER: Actor playing an Apostle.

MATTHEW: Another.

MARK: Another.

LUKE: Another.

JOHN: Another.

PHILLIP: Another.

SIMON: Another.

THOMAS: Another.

BARTHOLOMEW: Another.

ANDREW: Another.

JAMES: Another.

HEROD: Demanding actor who plays Herod.

MARY MAGDALENE: Actress playing Mary Magdalene.

MARTHA: Actress playing Martha.

PONTIUS PILATE: Actor playing Pilate.

PATRICK / PATSY PAGE: Reporter; male or female.

CAMERA OPERATOR: Assists reporter; male or female.

SOLDIERS: (2) Male. Can double as fans.

FANS: (3 - 8) Male or female.

JEWS: (3) Male or female.

NOTE ON CASTING

While the biblical scenes presented in this play contain primarily male characters in the form of the Apostles, Pontius Pilate, King Herod, and Jesus, you can feel free to substitute females as needed, which would be particularly easy to do with the Apostles. To do this, you could have the female biblical characters of Mary Magdalene and Martha wear cloth headpieces to signify that they are female characters and then any females playing Apostles would do so without a headpiece. Many men of the time may have worn their hair long, so no special considerations for long hair need to be made.

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SETTING

Set of the play "The Easter Story Spectacular."

TIME

Modern day, although the "play within a play" will depict scenes from Holy Week.

SET

This is a simple set but can be as elaborate as the director chooses. There is a backdrop with a sky, or general Easter theme, or biblical theme. Additional sand-colored columns and blocks can add more dimension to the scene. A large cutout of a cave is stage right. A large rock that can be rolled away is in front of the entrance to the cave. Various stage lights can be added around the edges of the scene to indicate that this is a "play within a play." A director's chair is off to one side.

LIGHTING/SOUND

A bright light must shine out toward audience from opening to cave. Colored or dim light would enhance the evening scene. If possible, a spotlight can be used. Sound effects of a choir of angels, clapping, and rooster crowing are heard.

PROPS

2 bottles, clipboard, bottle of water, palm branches, a pen, wig and beard, bag of coins, benches, table, plates, cups, pitcher, bread, plants/foilage, boxes, microphone, video camera, rope, crown of thorns, bowl, towel, Bible, cross, note.

COSTUMES

All "backstage" characters as well as reporters and fans should wear modern day clothes. All actors playing biblical characters should wear biblical attire fitting their character.

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(AT RISE: The scene opens during the final moments of a performance of the Easter play, "The Easter Story Spectacular." MARY MAGDALENE and MARTHA hold bottles and stand next to cave. The rock is to the side.)

MARY MAGDALENE: The stone has been rolled aside!

MARTHA: How can this be? No man could've rolled such a large stone.

MARY MAGDALENE: *(Looking inside.)* The tomb is empty!
(Turning to MARTHA.) Jesus' body is gone.

MARTHA: Where has it gone?

(BRIGHT LIGHTS shine out from inside cave. SFX: Sound of a choir of angels is heard. CHARLIE as Jesus exits from cave, smiling.)

CHARLIE: *(As JESUS.)* Do not look for the living among the dead, for I have risen, as I told you I would.

MARY MAGDALENE: My Lord! *(Falls at his feet.)*

MARTHA: You've returned to us!

(MARTHA falls at his feet as ALL APOSTLES except LOGAN enter.)

PETER: Jesus!

MATTHEW: You've risen from the dead!

CHARLIE: *(As JESUS. Reaching down to take MARY'S hand, helping her to stand.)* And forever I will remain—
(Takes MARY'S hand and places it on her heart.) —in your heart as you carry the word of God, and the story of what happened here today, throughout the land.

(SFX: Sound of clapping is heard from offstage as APOSTLES cross in front of CHARLIE, form a line and bow. They step to the side to allow MARY and MARTHA to step forward and bow. Apostles, Mary and Martha then hold their

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arms up in acknowledgment of CHARLIE, who steps forward and bows. ALL wave at the audience and then the LIGHT shining out of the cave is turned off. It is the end of the performance. AMANDA enters, carrying clipboard and a bottle of water, which she hands to Charlie. He opens it and drinks from it.)

AMANDA: Great show, everyone!

(ALL APOSTLES exit except for MATTHEW and PETER.)

MARTHA: Thanks, Amanda.

MARY MAGDALENE: I think it's our best one yet.

AMANDA: I would agree. You guys are getting better with each show.

(MARY and MARTHA exit.)

MATTHEW: Where are we heading next?

AMANDA: *(Consulting clipboard.)* It looks like we are headed to a church in Smithville.

PETER: Man, this is a busy touring schedule.

AMANDA: That's what you signed up for. "The Easter Story Spectacular" is the biggest touring production of the Easter story in the state!

PETER: But I thought the Lord said Sunday was a day to rest.

AMANDA: You know what they say—no rest for the wicked ... or actors.

(PETER and MATTHEW exit.)

CHARLIE: I guess that explains why I'm so tired.

AMANDA: Because you're an actor.

CHARLIE: *(Looking down.)* Yeah ... that too.

AMANDA: I don't understand why you're so hard on yourself, Charlie. Everyone makes stupid mistakes when they're young.

CHARLIE: Try telling that to my parents.

AMANDA: What did you do that was so bad?

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CHARLIE: Well, you see, I—

(FANS enter, waving palm branches and interrupting.)

1ST FAN: It's him! It's Jesus!

ALL FANS: Hosanna!

2ND FAN: *(Holding out her palm branch and a pen.)* Will you sign my palm branch?

CHARLIE: *(Smiles and takes pen and branch.)* Sure, anything for a fan.

(CHARLIE writes his name and hands pen and branch back to 2ND FAN.)

2ND FAN: *(Looks at branch, confused.)* This doesn't say Jesus. It says Charlie.

CHARLIE: Of course it does. That's my name. *(Putting his hand on 2ND FAN'S shoulder.)* You do realize I am not the real Jesus Christ, right?

2ND FAN: *(Embarrassed, stepping away.)* Um, yeah ... I'm not stupid. *(Aside to 3RD FAN.)* Just an FYI, that's not the real Jesus. *(Looks at the palm branch.)* His name is Charlie.

3RD FAN: Charlie, will you sign my palm branch?

CHARLIE: Sure.

(Takes palm branch and pen from 3RD FAN and signs as FANS 4, 5, and 6 start to shout out the following lines and wave their branches.)

4TH FAN: Me too, Charlie!

5TH FAN: Sign mine next, Charlie!

6TH FAN: No, sign mine next!

(AMANDA steps in between the FANS and CHARLIE as KATHRYN enters.)

End of Freeview

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