

# **Auditions for The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**

## **October 7 & 8 at 7:00 pm at the Marsh Foundation Auditorium**

### **Before the Audition:**

Prepare speeches/readings for your age. Don't worry if you want to be a different character than you are reading, just perform the character as well as you can. Give your character personality and feeling. Use various inflections and emotions. You do not have to memorize your lines.

### **The Audition form:**

Please note the outline of the rehearsal schedule and list all conflicts with the rehearsal and performance schedule. If conflicts are not listed you will be expected to be at rehearsals.

Parents must sign the permission form on the back of the form.

### **At the Audition:**

- Have fun.
- Speak loudly and clearly.
- Be quiet and courteous when you are not actually auditioning.

### **After the Audition:**

Someone from Off Stage Productions will contact you if you are offered a part. "Read Through" will be October 16 at the Van Wert Senior Center at 6:30. At that time you will receive a complete rehearsal schedule and we will answer any questions you may have. Your parents are welcome to come to this rehearsal. Long sleeve and short sleeve T shirts can be ordered at this time. Pictures will be taken, so be sure and dress appropriately.

We anticipate that we will not cast everyone who auditions. Often choices in casting are made for what appear to be arbitrary reasons and for things you cannot control. (For example, how tall you are in relation to another person.) If you don't receive a part, don't be discouraged. Please keep auditioning, next time your hair color or your height may be perfect for the part.

## Audition Scripts – Be Prepared to Read These at Auditions

### Girls: Ages 4 - 7

**Shirley:** I can't find my halo and my wings are all bent.

**Juanita:** My mother doesn't have any white sheets. Can I wear a sheet with balloons all over it?

**Gladys:** SHAZAM!

### Girls Ages 7 - 14

**Alice:** I didn't dare raise my hand. Imogene would have killed me! She said, "I'm going to be Mary in this play, and if you open your mouth or raise your hand you'll wish you didn't." And I said, "I'm always Mary in the Christmas pageant." And she said, "go ahead then, and next spring when the pussywillows come out I'll stick a pussywillow so far down your ear that nobody can reach it . . . and it'll sprout there and grow and grow, and you'll spend the rest of your life with a pussywillow bush growing out of your ear!" Herdmans will do anything. You just watch, they'll do something terrible and ruin the whole pageant...and it's all your mother's fault!

**Gladys:** Listen, I think I ought to say something besides the baby came. Why would they all get up and tear off after some baby they don't even know? I ought to tell them it's Jesus, and I ought to tell them where he is.

**Alice:** I don't care what it is, she drinks it. I've seen her three times with her mouth all purple. They steal too-if you shake the birthday bank if doesn't make a sound, because they stole all the pennies out of it. And every time you go in the ladies room the whole air is blue, and Imogene Herdman is sitting in there in the Mary costume, smoking cigars!

### Girls Ages 14+

**Beth:** The Herdmans were the worst kids in the whole history of the world. They lied and stole and smoked cigars, even the girls, and talked dirty and hit little kids and cussed their teachers and took the name of the Lord in vain and set fire to Fred Shoemaker's old broken down tool house. And that's not all! Somebody sent five dozen doughnuts for the firemen and the Herdmans ate them all, and what they couldn't eat they stuffed in their pockets and down the front of their shirts.

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**Beth:** "Revenge at Bethlehem!" The Herdmans thought the Christmas story came right out of the F.B.I. files! At least they picked out the right villain – it was Herod they wanted to gang up on and not the baby Jesus. But the baby Jesus quit the pageant anyway. It was supposed to be Eugene Slocum, but Mrs. Slocum said she wasn't going to let Imogene Herdman get her hands on him. So we didn't have a baby Jesus, and that bothered my mother. She kept trying to scratch up a baby even at the last rehearsal.

## **Adult Female**

**Mrs. Armstrong:** Yes, and then I tell them about Joseph, that he was God's choice to be Jesus' father. That's how I explain that. Frankly, I don't ever spend much time on Joseph because it's always Elmer Hopkins, and he knows all about Mary and Joseph...but I do explain about the Wise Men and the Shepherds and how important they are. And I tell them, there are no small parts, only small actors. Remind the angel choir not to stare at the audience, and don't let them wear clunky shoes or high heels. I just hope you don't have too many baby angels, Grace, because they'll be your biggest problem.

**Mother:** Helen Armstong is not the only woman alive who can run a Christmas pageant! I made up my mind just to do the best I could under the circumstances, but now I'm going to make this the best Christmas pageant ever, and I'm going to do it with the Herdmans! After all they raised their hands and nobody else did, and I don't care. . . . And you're going to help me!

## **Boys Ages 4-7**

**Hobie:** I just remembered, I can't be a shepherd. We're going to Philadelphia.

**Elmer:** I don't want to be a shepherd . . . Gladys Herdman hits too hard!

**Ollie:** What's the name of this play? She never said. The Christmas pageant is no name, that's what it is.

## **Boys Ages 7-14**

**Charlie:** Hey, Leroy! You think it's so great to steal my dessert every day and you know what? I don't care if you steal my dessert. I'll even give you my dessert. I get all the dessert I want in Sunday School. I get all kinds, chocolate cake and candy bars and cookies . . . and Twinkies and Big Wheels. We get refreshments all the time, all we want. . . . and ice cream and doughnuts and cupcakes. The minister gives them to us.

**Leroy:** Herod is going to kill the baby and he's not even in the play! Well, somebody better be Herod. Let Charlie be Herod, and he says, go get me that baby. And they say Okay, because he's the king and all. . . . but then they don't do it! They go back and get Herod! No wait! . . . Joseph gets the shepherds together and they go wipe out Herod!

**Charlie:** I don't care what everybody else said, that's what they really thought. All that other stuff is okay but the main good thing about church is that the Herdmans aren't there, ever...Ralph being the biggest doesn't make any difference. Gladys isn't big, but she's fast, and she's mean, and she bites. That's why I said stay away from them. Go to church.

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### **Adult Male**

**Rev Hopkins:** I've been on the phone all day, and I can't make head or tails of it. Some people say they set fire to the ladies' room. Some people say they set fire to the kitchen. Vera says all they do is talk about sex and underwear. The whole church is in an uproar! I don't know . . . Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me," but I'm not sure he meant the Herdmans. . . . Grace, don't you think we should cancel the pageant?

**Father:** Well . . . actually, I didn't plan to go. You know how crowded it always is, they can use my seat. I'll just stay home, put on my bathrobe, relax . . . there's never anything different about the Christmas pageant.