



Believing Thomas

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A play for Easter, about the disciple Thomas and
the death and resurrection of Jesus

Written by Cenarth Fox

*Playwright of Easter plays *Pilate Error* and *Romeo and Juditha**

Characters

Thomas the Older

Thomas the Younger

Apala – a woman in India

Apala means the name of a learned woman

By the same playwright

Pilate Error

An Easter play starring Pontius Pilate, Caiaphas the High Priest, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus. Pilate is upset as he faces the sack. Why? Caiaphas tells him of a popular new religion called Christianity. Two women arrive and testify that the man Pilate had executed is alive and risen from the tomb. The two powerful men are skeptical yet challenged by the powerful testimony of the two women.

Pilate Error is a moving play and fits easily into an Easter service.

Believing Thomas

A play for Easter

Written by Cenarth Fox

Playwright of *Pilate Error*

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Synopsis

"Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

John 14:5-6

One of the disciples of Jesus is widely known as Doubting Thomas. Near the end of his life and living in India, Thomas meets a wise Indian woman to whom he relates some of his life's experiences. Thomas is concerned that history will remember him as Doubting Thomas. But is this a bad thing? Is it wrong to question one's faith?

Apala listens as Thomas explains his faith in God. Interestingly, whilst Apala has never heard about Jesus, she not only learns much but is able to offer helpful advice to a disciple of the Son of God. Apala is challenged by the man who was crucified and rose again.

Will Thomas receive a makeover and no longer be known as Doubting Thomas? What can a wise woman learn from an elderly disciple?

There are many contemporary references to Thomas and his work as a Christian leader and teacher in different countries and particularly in India. There are scholars who quote from a gospel some believe was written by or is attributed to Thomas. His name has become an expression – *doubting Thomas* – which is widely used today.

Whilst Thomas was a real person and the action is based on certain verses of scripture and what might be called 'widely-accepted historical data', the play is a work of fiction.



Scenes from the world premiere season of *Believing Thomas*

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Costumes and Movement

One method of costuming is to wear contemporary casual clothes although congregations in churches may be less inclined to accept modern dress as would a theatre audience. If using period costumes, the men could wear the simple robes of the day with sandals and a belt. Apala could wear a striking sari and the robes of a woman of the region.

Set Design

There need be no set, simply an open space – a stage or the altar area in a theatre or church. If staged in a church, the religious setting of the building is ideal for the performance. A basic chair for a weary, elderly Thomas is all that is required. It is a chair Thomas has made himself being the patron saint of builders.

UR	UC	UL
RC	C	LC
DR	DC	DL

Characters

Thomas is the disciple who at first refused to believe Jesus had risen from the grave after the crucifixion. This play uses widely-held but unproven beliefs that Thomas spent many years as a missionary in lands other than Galilee and especially in India. Thomas is represented by two actors, the first is Thomas an elderly man near the end of his life and the second, the young fisherman, a disciple of Jesus referred to as YOUNGER. Apala is a wise Indian woman who meets Thomas by chance and learns from Thomas and later helps him re-visit and re-discover his faith.

Stage Directions

This script contains stage directions. They, of course, may not work in every situation and performing groups will choose their own way of staging the play.

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[Music could be played as an introduction to the play. It might be recorded Easter hymns or music especially composed for the play. With most performances, the play will be part of a church service and there is no need for special music. The play could begin with a member of the church, perhaps a member of the clergy, reading the following short introduction]

INTRO Jesus had twelve disciples and some were better known than others. But only one disciple was given a special name, a nickname which still remains in use today. Let us meet that disciple and see if his extra name is justified. *[Exits]*

[THOMAS the elder begins speaking offstage]

THOMAS *[Upset, offstage]* Ow! That hurts.

[THOMAS enters UL, holding roll of paper. It is a plan for the building of a new church. He may have a slight limp as he is not young. He heads C and addresses the audience/congregation, Flexing fingers] Arthritis; one of the joys of growing old. *[Looking around]* Now where are those markers? *[Addresses audience]* I'm going to build a new church, right here. *[Holds up or indicates roll of paper]* The plan. *[Heads to chair and sits]* Trouble is I'm getting too old for this carpentry lark. *[Sits uncomfortably]* Did I mention my arthritis? *[Pause]* A minute ago? *[Sighs]* Now I have senior moments as well.

This is not the first church I've built but it may well be my last. You see, I'm in the three score and ten zone and we know what the Good Book says about that.

By the way, I'm Thomas - Didymus Judas Thomas and by trade a fisherman; born and bred in Galilee but for most of my life I've been a missionary, preaching the Gospel of Jesus. *He* came from Galilee. But today, I'm here in India. *[Pointing]* Madras is just over yonder. *[Wipes brow or fans himself]* Pretty darn hot in India.

[Hops up and looks for imaginary markers] Now where are those building markers? *[Finds an imaginary one]* Ah. *[Looking out over congregation]* Not a bad spot for a church. *[Turns around to "see" altar in church]* The altar will be about here. *[He stands on/beside altar of the church in which he is performing]* What do you reckon? Can you imagine an altar right here? *[Pointing to congregation]* And the pews'll be about where you lot are sitting – good spot for the pews. *[Smiles]*

I've built many churches and who knows, I might become the Patron saint of chippies – *[Explaining]* carpenters. *[Thinks]* It's nice to be remembered for something worthwhile.

[Suddenly sad and shakes his head] But it's not so nice to be remembered for something unpleasant. *[Serious]* And despite all the good things I've done like preaching the gospel, helping the poor and building churches, what I'm mainly remembered for is my name; *[Intimate]* my nickname.

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“Sticks and stones may break my bones but names can never hurt me.” *[Scoffs]*
Ha! Not true and I should know because many years ago I was given a nasty
nickname which has stuck to me like glue. *[Pause. Looks around as if telling a
secret]* Everyone calls me ...

APALA *[Enters DR]* Hello.

THOMAS *[Surprised]* Oh, hello.

APALA *[Moving to THOMAS]* I think I’m lost. I’m looking for the village with the
famous neem tree.

THOMAS Ah, the so-called ‘divine tree’, the healer of many ills.

APALA Do I detect a touch of cynicism? Doubts maybe?

THOMAS *[Suddenly defensive]* Why do you say that? Who told you I have doubts?

APALA *[Taken aback]* No-one. I just thought I detected a feeling of disbelief.

THOMAS Some say it’s good to have doubts, to question as we seek the truth.

APALA How interesting. I ask for directions and receive philosophy.

THOMAS *[Smiling]* Sorry, force of habit. *[Change of topic]* Ah, you’re almost there.
[Pointing offstage] It’s beyond that fork in the road. You can’t miss it.

APALA *[Bows]* Thank you, sir. *[She starts to exit]*

THOMAS *[Calls]* And the philosophy is good news for all.

APALA *[APALA smiles]* I’m glad to hear it. *[Exits]*

THOMAS *[Raises hand in farewell then changes tack as he again addresses the audience]* That’s
what I mean. They say I’m cynical. I’m not. Of course I’d prefer a kind
nickname. I mean would you like to be branded *critical*? *[Shakes head]* We
humans can be cruel. We poke fun at one another because of our skin or shape
or speech. I’m picked on because of my so-called lack of faith. I have a not-
nice nickname. *[Pause. Again looks around as if to tell a secret]* Everyone calls me ...

YOUNGER *[THOMAS the YOUNGER enters UR, excited]* Yes! *[THOMAS turns. YOUNGER heads to
him, hand extended]* Yes, yes, yes!

THOMAS *[Shaking hands with his namesake]* Well you’re obviously not lost.

YOUNGER At last I’ve found you.

THOMAS Congratulations.

YOUNGER You’re me.

THOMAS Really? I thought I was Thomas.

YOUNGER I mean, I’m you.

THOMAS Lou?

YOUNGER Not Lou, you. *I’m* Thomas and *you’re* Thomas.

THOMAS *[Thinks he understands]* Ah, my namesake.

YOUNGER No, we’re the same person. *[Pause]* I’m a younger version of you.

THOMAS *[Stares at YOUNGER]* Young man, out here the sun affects the mind and ...

YOUNGER You *are* Doubting Thomas?

THOMAS *[Stares at YOUNGER, shakes head, addresses congregation]* See what I mean? Give a
dog a bad name ...

YOUNGER ... and hang him.

THOMAS *[Looks at YOUNGER then again addresses audience]* *Doubting* is my nickname; I’ve
had it for decades.

YOUNGER And that’s why I’m here. I’ve come to see if our nickname is still in use.

THOMAS *Our* nickname?

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YOUNGER Doubting Thomas. *[Pause]* Look, I'm you forty ... *[Looks at him]* fifty years ago.
THOMAS You don't even look like me.
YOUNGER Ah, that's because I'm yet to enjoy a lifetime of missionary service.
THOMAS Is this a practical joke?
YOUNGER No. I'm really a younger you. Go on, test me.
THOMAS Okay. So are you a religious man, *[Searching for the young man's name]*
YOUNGER Thomas. Didymus Judas Thomas.
THOMAS *[Sarcastic]* Of course. *[Now testing the young man]* And religious are we?
YOUNGER You know we are. We're one of the disciples of Jesus.
THOMAS And don't tell me. You're a former fisherman who is now fishing for men?
YOUNGER Exactly. *[Walks around examining the place]* So this is where I'll finish up; a missionary in India. Is this our latest project?
THOMAS I'm building a church ... *[Holds out paper. Stops]* Our latest project?
YOUNGER *[Ignores plan, admiring the church they're in]* It's magnificent.
THOMAS Look ... *[Wants his name]*
YOUNGER Thomas the Younger.
THOMAS Well, Thomas the Younger, I'm very busy. Of course you're welcome to stay and there are refreshments in my house *[Pointing]* over there but ...
YOUNGER Thank you. It's a long walk from Galilee and I *am* weary. *[Starts to exit]* I'll bathe and then return. *[Comes back and touches THOMAS'S arm]* We have much to discuss ... *[Winks]* us. *[Exits]*
THOMAS *[To audience]* Missionaries meet many strange people. *[Looking at the plan]* Now about this new church. Over here will be the ...
APALA *[Enters, calls]* Hello again.
THOMAS Oh, hello again to you.
APALA I found my village but when I described the person who gave me instructions, they told me about the old man with the
THOMAS Yes, I know; the old man with the unusual nickname.
APALA *[Impressed even more]* How did you know I would say that?
THOMAS *[Rueful smile]* Years of practice.
APALA *[Impressed]* And you're one of the last surviving disciples of the Son of God?
THOMAS *[Likewise genuinely surprised]* Did they say that?
APALA Is it true?
THOMAS Of course.
APALA And you've been a missionary for years, building churches, preaching the ...
THOMAS *[Helps her out]* Gospel.
APALA Preaching the Gospel and helping the poor.
THOMAS *[Humble]* It's true; I'm a Christian missionary.
APALA Until today I've never even heard of Christianity. What does it mean? And who is this Son of God?
THOMAS You have many questions.
APALA Oh I'm sorry, I haven't introduced myself. My name is Apala.
THOMAS Thomas. *[They bow]*
APALA And Thomas I'm especially interested in your unusual nickname.
THOMAS *[Frustrated, sarcastic]* Ah, the truth will out.
APALA I like to understand why people are given a particular name.

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- THOMAS** *[Shakespeare; to himself]* He that filches from me my good name makes me poor indeed.
- APALA** More of your philosophy?
- THOMAS** Not mine exactly but ... I like it.
- APALA** You must have done something really special to be given your nickname.
- THOMAS** I think you'll find questioning the Son of God qualifies as special.
- APALA** Fancy being called *Saint* Thomas.
- THOMAS** *[Slight anger]* Look all I did *[Pause. Surprised]* *Saint* Thomas?
- APALA** The villagers believe that one day you'll be canonized so they're getting in early by giving you the nickname *Saint*.
- THOMAS** *[Incredulous]* They called me *Saint*? That's my nickname?
- APALA** Apparently.
- THOMAS** Are you sure?
- APALA** My hearing is very good.
- THOMAS** And no-one mentioned *another* nickname?
- APALA** Not a word.
- THOMAS** Nothing about ... doubts?
- APALA** *[Excited]* No but what they did say is why I hurried back. *[Impressed]* Did you really meet the Son of God?
- THOMAS** *[Happier]* I met Him, worked with Him and worshipped Him. I was one of his disciples.
- APALA** That's fantastic. I'd love to hear about it.
- THOMAS** *[Chuffed]* Well you've come to the right place. *[Indicates. She sits]* And you're spot on. It *was* fantastic working with Jesus.
- APALA** So the Son of God is a man called Jesus?
- THOMAS** Just like me. Well, in appearance perhaps, but not of course in a spiritual sense.
- APALA** And He's here in India? Can I meet Him?
- THOMAS** No. Jesus was killed many years ago.
- APALA** *[Shocked]* The Son of God is dead?
- THOMAS** He was but now He's alive again.
- APALA** *[Confused]* He's dead *and* alive? I'm confused.
- THOMAS** Don't be. You see that's Christianity in a nutshell. The Son of God was crucified and buried but rose again. Jesus came back to life.
- APALA** *[Unsure]* That's incredible. Are you sure it's true?
- THOMAS** I *know* it's true because I was there. After he was killed, I saw Jesus alive again with my very own eyes. I touched him.
- APALA** So where is He now?
- THOMAS** *[Pointing up]* In heaven. He returned to his Father, to God, to Jehovah. I saw Jesus ascend into the clouds.
- APALA** *[Genuinely impressed]* What an amazing story. But do you think someone like me can understand Christianity?
- THOMAS** You can not only understand it, you can embrace it.
- APALA** But how? I'd like you to explain it again, please.
- THOMAS** God's Son, a man called Jesus, was born in Judea, lived amongst us, was killed than came alive so that we can join Him in Heaven forever.

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- APALA** Heaven? What is heaven?
- THOMAS** That's God's home, where God lives with His Son Jesus, where people like you and me can live in peace and happiness forever.
- APALA** That sounds wonderful.
- THOMAS** It *is* wonderful.
- APALA** But forgive me. Is there something ... hidden?
- THOMAS** Hidden?
- APALA** I sense you are uncomfortable. You are strong in your religion but there is a problem in your personal life.
- THOMAS** *[Shaking head]* I have no idea what you're talking about.
- YOUNGER** *[Entering]* Yes we do. *[THOMAS exasperated]* We know exactly what you're talking about. *[Extends hand to APALA and they shake hands]* Hello. I'm Thomas.
- APALA** Another Thomas?
- YOUNGER** Well, yes and no. You see I'm
- THOMAS** Thomas is also a Christian missionary.
- APALA** Two Christian missionaries, both called Thomas. Is that confusing?
[Next two speeches spoken almost simultaneously]
- THOMAS** Yes
- YOUNGER** No.
- APALA** *[Pause. THOMAS hesitates]* Gentlemen, there is something unusual here but I can't quite put my finger on it.
[The men look at one another then decide to come clean]
- THOMAS** You are clearly a wise woman, Apala. There *is* something troubling me.
- YOUNGER** Us.
- THOMAS** *[Looks at YOUNGER then decides to accept him. Nodding]* Us.
- YOUNGER** It's our name.
- APALA** Thomas?
- THOMAS** Our nickname.
- APALA** Saint?
- THOMAS** No.
- YOUNGER** *[Genuinely confused and excited]* Saint?
- THOMAS** *[Shaking head]* Not Saint.
- YOUNGER** *[Excited]* Is you? Is I? *[Pause. Bigger]* Is we a saint?
- THOMAS** Apala, many years ago *[Looking hard at YOUNGER – stop confusing the woman]* I was given the nickname of *Doubting* because I ... *[Ashamed]*
- YOUNGER** Because I doubted that Jesus rose from the dead.
- APALA** *[To THOMAS]* But you told me you saw Jesus after he came back to life.
- THOMAS** I did. And I not only saw him ...
- YOUNGER** I touched the wounds on his body.
[APALA is fascinated by all she is hearing and so does not question the fact that both men are one and the same. She wants information]
- APALA** But that is ... stupendous.
- THOMAS** It is life-changing but it was my behaviour *before* I saw and touched Jesus which has caused me unease ever since.
- YOUNGER** *[Guiding APALA to the chair]* They say little things mean a lot. Our life was changed forever because we went fishing.
- APALA** Fishing?

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- THOMAS** After Jesus came alive, he appeared before his disciples.
- YOUNGER** Jesus had twelve disciples.
- THOMAS** They met in a locked room.
- YOUNGER** We lived in dangerous times.
- THOMAS** Very dangerous times.
- YOUNGER** But someone, [*Intimate*] not mentioning any names, [*Less subtle*] someone missed that first meeting with our risen Lord.
- THOMAS** Later I met the disciples who *did* attend the meeting and their joy was overflowing.
- YOUNGER** [*Imitates the excited disciples*] “We have seen the Lord. He came to us. He is alive.”
- THOMAS** And twas then my infamous speech was spoke.
- YOUNGER** [*Re-enacts his scene*] “Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, [*Dramatic*] I will not believe.”
[*Pause. Both men reflect on the seriousness of their statement*]
- APALA** But what is wrong with that?
- THOMAS** What is wrong?
- YOUNGER** Everything.
- APALA** But you were being honest. You spoke the truth.
- THOMAS** It was an expression of doubt.
- YOUNGER** It was the birth of our new name.
- MEN** [*Together*] Doubting Thomas.
- APALA** And for this one comment you are branded a doubter? For one simple expression of your true feelings you are labelled bad? I do not think that is fair.
- THOMAS** [*Grateful*] Thank you. But alas your opinion is not shared by the world at large.
- YOUNGER** [*Intimate*] You don’t, by any chance, know a good spin doctor?
- APALA** And that incident happened many years ago?
- THOMAS** It did.
- YOUNGER** Well actually for me it was quite recent and ...
- THOMAS** Whenever it was, we failed. One of the major parts of Christianity is faith. Jesus spoke often of its importance.
- YOUNGER** [*Quoting Jesus*] “I tell you the truth, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, nothing shall be impossible unto you.”
- THOMAS** [*Quoting Jesus*] “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believeth.”
- YOUNGER** But I lacked faith, I did not at first believe.
- THOMAS** Hence the infamous nickname, *Doubting*.
- APALA** But Christian men, I am filled with curiosity. Why do you allow this *minor* matter to overrule your intimate relationship with your God? Why be sad when you have so much to celebrate?
- YOUNGER** It’s only a little sadness.
- APALA** You speak of a living God with a Son who has lived amongst you and spoken to you in person. You have physically touched the Son of God. In my religion, I do not experience such things.

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- THOMAS** May I ask, what is your religion?
- YOUNGER** Yes, do you believe in God?
- APALA** I believe in several gods. My ancestors have worshipped the sun and the moon and I have faith in many living things. I even believe a tree can be holy.
- YOUNGER** *[Surprised]* A tree?
- THOMAS** *[Shushing YOUNGER]* Christianity teaches there is but one true God who has no beginning or end and who created everything.
- YOUNGER** A God who loves all people everywhere. And so much so that God sent His Son to live among us.
- APALA** I find it credible but incredible that the Son of God looks like a normal man, *[Pointing to THOMAS]* like you.
- YOUNGER** Well actually he looks more like me. Jesus was young when he died then rose again.
- APALA** But what then does His Father, God, look like?
- YOUNGER** “God is a spirit ...”
- THOMAS** “And they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”
- YOUNGER** And Jesus said, “He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.”
- APALA** I do not know which is the more astonishing. That you have a personal God or that I am speaking with men who have met His Son. Did you know Him for long?
- YOUNGER** Not really, only a few short years.
- APALA** You must have enjoyed an interesting life living with Jesus.
- THOMAS** It was a life-changing experience and that experience can be yours too.
- APALA** But what was He like? What did He do? And was he *really* the Son of God?
[APALA sits and the men tell of their experiences with Jesus]
- YOUNGER** Think of one long adventure filled with danger, miracles and love.
- THOMAS** With the Son of God we were brave, joyful and terrified.
- APALA** Terrified?
- THOMAS** Once we were sailing with Jesus on the Sea of Galilee.
- YOUNGER** When suddenly we had two terrifying experiences.
- APALA** What happened?
[Slowly build the tension and drama of this scene]
- THOMAS** A fierce storm broke, water swamped our tiny boat and we were about to die.
- YOUNGER** We were far from shore and begged Jesus to help.
- APALA** But what could another man do?
- THOMAS** Another man could do nothing but the Son of God commanded the wind to cease.
- YOUNGER** And to the sea he said, “Peace, be still”.
- THOMAS** And it was.
- APALA** *[Pause]* But you said there were *two* terrifying experiences.
- THOMAS** It was not just the ferocity of the storm, it was the power of Jesus. We were exceedingly afraid.
- YOUNGER** And said to one another, “What manner of man is this that even the wind and the sea obey him?”
- APALA** Were you afraid of Jesus?
- THOMAS** Not so much afraid but in awe. But we could be brave too.

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- YOUNGER** One day we went to the house of Lazarus.
- APALA** Lazarus?
- THOMAS** He was a friend who died. When Jesus heard about Lazarus he decided to visit the dead man.
- APALA** To attend the funeral?
- THOMAS** To perform a miracle.
- YOUNGER** But Jesus was in danger. There were many who wanted to capture and harm Him and the disciples urged Him not to go.
- THOMAS** But I challenged the other disciples.
- YOUNGER** *[Exclaims]* "Let us go with Jesus that we may die with him."
- APALA** Is that what you said? *[Men nod]* But that makes you exceedingly brave and loyal. Why are you not called *Daring* Thomas?
[Men look at one another and mouth 'Daring' Thomas]
- THOMAS** Oh and Jesus performed other miracles. His friend Lazarus was raised from the dead.
- YOUNGER** And to a man who had been lame nearly forty years, Jesus said, "Do you want to be made well?" and the man of course agreed.
- THOMAS** So Jesus said, "Rise, take up your bed and walk."
- YOUNGER** And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed and walked.
- APALA** Amazing. I wish I had been there.
- THOMAS** Then miracles of nature; a crowd of five thousand followed Jesus and afterwards He told us to feed the masses.
- YOUNGER** But we had only five small barley loaves and two fish. Jesus blessed the food and miraculously we feed them.
- APALA** How wonderful.
- THOMAS** And before our very eyes, He turned water into wine and, at the Sea of Galilee, He walked on the water.
- APALA** I am amazed. And if you told me these things because someone had told you, I might not believe.
- YOUNGER** No-one has *told* me these things.
- THOMAS** I was there. I was with Jesus when He performed many miracles.
- APALA** I believe you but all this begs the question. *[She looks at the men]* Why did you not believe the other disciples when they told you Jesus was alive?
- THOMAS** *[Dismayed]* I do not know. For years I have pondered that question.
- APALA** If Jesus did perform all those miracles, if what you saw was true ...
- YOUNGER** It was true. We were there.
- APALA** Then surely He could come back to life. Where was your faith when it was most needed?
- THOMAS** *[Sombre]* I cannot say.
- YOUNGER** I stumbled because I am human.
- APALA** Then maybe even people close to God are capable of fears and doubts.
- THOMAS** There's no maybe about it.
- APALA** You act as if God hasn't forgiven you for at first failing to believe Jesus was alive.
- YOUNGER** No. God is love. Forgiveness is the foundation of our faith.

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- THOMAS** It's just that I am forever reminded of my failing when people call me *Doubting* Thomas.
- YOUNGER** I actually accept my nickname but what I find unfair and unjust is the fact that we were not the only disciple to fail.
- APALA** Other disciples had no faith?
- YOUNGER** Worse. Judas Iscariot was a traitor. He betrayed Jesus.
- APALA** *[Shocked]* A disciple betrayed the Son of God?
- YOUNGER** But we don't call him *Betraying* Judas.
- THOMAS** And Peter was accused of being a friend of Jesus but denied it; three times.
- YOUNGER** "You are a follower of Jesus," they said, and he replied, "I don't know this man you are talking about."
- THOMAS** But is he called *Denying* Peter? Oh no. He not only escapes the nasty nickname, he gets pushed upstairs.
- YOUNGER** "Blessed art thou Peter *[he was called Simon]* and I will give to thee the keys to the kingdom of heaven."
- THOMAS** I hesitate and am branded a baddie.
- APALA** Gentlemen, please, there must be a solution to this matter. You cannot love Jesus and still be angry about one simple mistake. I mean what is the point of Christianity if God only punishes his people?
[Pause. Dramatic moment]
- THOMAS** But that is the *point* of Christianity.
- APALA** Pardon?
- YOUNGER** Yes, exactly.
- APALA** *[Confused]* Exactly what?
- THOMAS** Pardon, forgiveness.
- YOUNGER** "This is the message that God gave to the world. Jesus is faithful and just to forgive us."
- APALA** Then why all this fuss about your silly nickname? I mean do you still doubt that Jesus rose from the dead?
- THOMAS** No!
- YOUNGER** Never!
- APALA** Do you still believe your faith can bring you close to God?
- THOMAS** Yes!
- YOUNGER** Of course!
- APALA** Then if God has forgotten your past, why can't you?
[The men are shocked at being told what to do by a non-believer. Then they start to re-live what happened]
- THOMAS** It wasn't a total lack of faith.
- YOUNGER** No, because once we saw Jesus we did profess our true feelings.
- THOMAS** *[Excited, remembers the moment]* Oh yes, now I remember. Jesus entered the room and I saw him. He knew what I'd said before and spoke directly at me.
- YOUNGER** "Thomas, put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. And do not doubt, but believe."
- THOMAS** *[Moves to imaginary Jesus and mimes touching the wounds. Falls to the ground]* "My Lord and my God."
- YOUNGER** *[Quietly to APALA]* And that is the purest expression of faith ever recorded.
- THOMAS** *[On his knees, repeats his cry]* "My Lord and my God."

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YOUNGER And Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

APALA I did not touch the wounds caused by the crucifixion. I did not witness the resurrection of Jesus. Until today I had never even heard His name.

THOMAS But the Son of God has a message for all people.

YOUNGER "Blessed are those who believe and do not see."

TRIO For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. Amen.

[ACTORS bow and exit]

Believing Thomas 15

Rehearsal Material and Performing Rights

In order to stage *Believing Thomas* you must first obtain written permission from Fox Plays

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Christmas of the Animals

**It's the story of Christmas as told by the animals.
50 minute cantata/musical for choir, narrator and animals.
Use piano, backing CD or orchestra.
Ideal for schools and churches.**

There's the donkey which travelled to Bethlehem carrying Mary, the camels carrying the wise men, the sheep in the fields, the cattle in the stable, the innkeeper's dog and the mice under the straw near the manger.

The songs are catchy with simple part-singing. Each song is linked by a short speech from your narrator. He or she introduces each animal who could then appear. Loads of fun with wonderful costumes. Even tap-dancing mice!

The story of Christmas is told in a fun and funny yet respectful way. You see when Mary and Joseph had to move to the stable, the innkeeper's dog just bounded along. He was a super friendly pooch who just loved being with people. And he has a story to tell. "I'm the Rin Tin Tin at a well-known inn in the town of Bethlehem."

And those tiny terrified mice hiding under the straw near the infant Jesus. What a story they had to tell their children and grandchildren. Here are some of the words of the finale with all the animals, your choir and narrator joining in.

Make Christmas A Part of You

*You might be part of Christmas but is Christmas a part of you?
It's fun to run with Santa, with friends and family too
But the magic part of Christmas can make your heart brand new
So please be part of Christmas, make Christmas a part of you.*

There are band parts if you have a live orchestra, the piano/vocal score is ideal for conductor and/or accompanist and the backing CD means you have another option for your instrumental accompaniment. *Christmas of the Animals* is very popular with young voices although the show is ideal for a mix of adults and children. You could even have a well-known person in your community as the Narrator - a sporting, political or show biz star. As with all FOX plays and musicals there is lots of free support material - free lyric sheets, notes for the director and musical director.

Staged with much joy and success in the USA, Australia and Britain.

Free preview script from Fox Plays – www.foxplays.com