

SPECIAL DELIVERY
PRODUCTION SYNOPSIS
Elizabeth Andrewes

Set in the hustle and bustle of New York City at Christmastime, *SPECIAL DELIVERY* is a story about a boy who writes a letter to God instead of Santa. On his way to send the letter, Manny, 10 years old, arrives at the post box at the same time as the postman:

Postman: I see, you have a letter for me?

Manny: [quickly stretching his hand out] Yes, I do!

Postman: [chuckles when he sees who it's addressed to] A *letter to God!* [He exclaims, as if studying the address; lowers letter to look at Manny; adjusts his eyeglasses to the tip of his nose; leans in close towards boy] I *knew* there was good reason why He transferred me to this postal route this morning.

Manny: Who's He?

Postman: Why God, of course!

As the postman proceeds to tell the story of Christmas, the New York City street scene is transformed into the town of Bethlehem. Looking for a place to stay, Mary (who is in labor) and Joseph are making their way through a crowd of people in the town center, where an Israeli dance is being performed. Nearby, shepherds, keeping watch over their flock, have an unexpected visit from an angel, who announces the birth of Jesus.

At the conclusion of the story, the New York street scene reappears. The postman bids Manny farewell, takes his letter, and continues on his route. Meanwhile, upstage, passersby on the city sidewalk pass an envelope to each other, creating a swirling effect with their arms to make it look as if it is blowing in the breeze. Eventually, it makes its way into Manny's hands. Inside is a response to his letter: a letter from God!

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Along with writing the script, directing, and choreographing, I selected the music and edited the soundtrack, adding sound effects accordingly. There were a total of thirty-five children and adults in the cast and crew, all amateur volunteers. In the end, I had to perform when a cast member broke his ankle, and, therefore, had to change the scene entirely. Macy McGuire, Co-Director and Vocalist Director, worked with the cast on vocals and was a prompter during the production. Pat Cavins, Costume Shop Manager, and Don Guy, Co-Chair of the Theater Department and Director of Production, Chapman University, generously loaned costumes and props. Laurian Demian was the Lighting Board and Sound Board Operator, while Scot Becker worked the follow-spot. Based on my sketches for each set, set designers Julia and Steve Slaughter, Pastor Joe Magliato, his wife Nancy, Steve Lemker, and I built props and painted backdrops. Steve Pitkin, graphic designer and photographer, created the poster based on my sketch.