

**Get up and go
A theatrical piece**

**Friday september 19th 2014
Dom church**

GET UP AND GO

A Mystery Play

by **Adrie Paasen**

Scene 1 In Kandake's palace

Scene 2 Before the temple in Jerusalem

Scene 3 In the desert

Cast:

First Angel	Gabrielle Hooimeijer
Second Angel	Emma Luijendijk
Kandake, queen of Ethiopia	Erna Peijnenburg
Makeda, queen of Sheba	Trees Visser
Slave	Cees van der Steen
Caspar	Gerard Schoonderbeek
First Scribe	Jan van der Steen
Second Scribe	Anneke Visser
Merchant	Cees van der Steen
Philip	Adriaan Snijders

Producer: Oscar Scheijde

Costumes: Hedwich van der Steen

SCENE ONE
In Kandake's palace

First Angel

We are two angels in the desert, sent by God to guide you through the story as it unfolds.

Second Angel

A short journey brings us to Kandake's palace in Sheba.

Kandake

I have reigned for forty years and have only one surviving daughter as heiress. Princes and Sultans challenge my throne and will try to prevent the succession of my daughter and her line. By day I am greatly troubled and at night I am plagued by bad dreams.

Makeda

Blessings and greetings to my dear daughter.

Kandake

Who are you? Am I dreaming?

Makeda

I am your ancestor, known as the Queen of Sheba. I used to rule this kingdom. I also had my enemies, the more so because I was a woman. I have heard your cry and have come to support you.

Kandake

Dear mother, how I dreamed you'd come back from the dead to help me. But I can't see how.

Makeda

All I can do is advise. It happened to me once. I had heard of a rich, powerful and wise King of Israel and I visited him in Jerusalem and gave him gold, frankincense and other gifts. He exceeded my expectations and answered all my questions. I returned and reigned and my kingdom flourished. Later I had a son.

Kandake

What use is that to me? I am too old to have a son. The wise king too is dead.

Makeda

He told me of an even greater king. King of the Jews to whom all the world would bow. Listen: the time has come; he is here. Get up and go and find him.

Kandake

Don't go, mother. Where must I go. How can I leave my kingdom at a time like this? This cannot be. I don't need to go myself. I can send an envoy. I'll send my chamberlain, he is a Jew and has often asked to be allowed to go to Jerusalem to worship in God's temple. Surely he will find this great wise ruler in Israel's capital city. Slave, fetch Caspar my chamberlain.

Slave

Great majesty, it shall be done.

First Angel

The foolish queen ignores her mother's advice.

Caspar

Here I am, majesty.

Kandake

I have a job for you. It appears that there is a King of the Jews in Israel who is all knowing and all powerful. Go and find him and bring him here. Take gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Caspar

King of the Jews in Israel? Is this a second sign?

Kandake

Second?

Caspar

When I was a young idealist, I sought wisdom in books and stories. I learned to interpret the stars. One night I saw a brighter star which foretold the birth far away of a king who would rule the world. I had to find him.

Kandake

And did you?

Caspar

I met two wise men and we followed the star to Jerusalem together. There we asked King Herod. He knew nothing but asked his advisors who said that Bethlehem was the place. There we found a crib in a stable and a child glowing with heavenly light and reflecting God's majesty. But across the crib was the shadow of a cross.

Second Angel

They arose and followed the star which led them to Bethlehem where they found the child sent by God. Although small it would be the redeemer of the world.

Kandake

A stable, a crib, angels, a child? Surely the star has made you blind. Don't tell fairy tales. Are you drunk or mad? You are a wise man; I gave you the highest position in the land. I need your support; don't disappoint me.

Caspar

Forgive me but I wonder if that position has deflected me from my desire for power and wealth.

Kandake

You were willing. You worked hard and pleased me. I promoted you. You wanted power and influence. You seized your chance and subordinated yourself to your monarch.

Caspar

You are right. I can only blame myself. The star led the way. I found the child sent by God. And when I returned I blindly sought high office. As your high steward I felt completely satisfied. But later I began to worry. I was alone. I had no wife or children. No dreams. No God. I suffered and was full of regret.

My Jewish father taught me about a living, forgiving God. He could be found in the temple in Jerusalem. I wanted to go but you would not let me.

First Angel

He saw salvation once but did not trust God further. He went his own way and pursued wealth and power. He forgot the holy child. He is conscience-stricken.

Kandake

Sentimental words do not help. I'm almost reluctant to let you go. But I can trust no-one else. However you can fulfil your desire so that we both profit. Leave now; go to Jerusalem and pray in God's temple. Find the wise and powerful King. Try to convince him to return with you. Those are my orders.

Caspar

Always at your service, O Queen. Farewell and adieu.
(Exit Kandake, Caspar remains)

Caspar

What luck. That I should be allowed to follow the star of hope. When I praise God in the temple I can ask forgiveness for my greedy ambition. But first I must find the King of the Jews. Can he possibly be the child I found so long ago? Had God a hand in her command? Is this proof of God's intervention? I must prepare for my journey.

Second Angel

Again Caspar got up to go. Travelling through space and time, following the star of hope. His great desire leads him to Jerusalem. We will follow him there.

SECOND SCENE

Before the temple in Jerusalem

Caspar

How often are we misled by dreams. Ever since reaching this land I have been dogged by misfortune. I wanted to find a king. I concentrated my enquiries in Jerusalem, then in Bethlehem. Nobody had heard of a King of the Jews. I kept being put off. However there seemed once to have been a rabbi who called himself King of the Jews, but he lied and was arrested and crucified after a short trial. This deceiver was born thirty years ago in Bethlehem. So it was the heavenly child that I had worshipped. The king I sought had been crucified like a thief or a murderer. This news made me sick for quite some time. Messengers from my queen brought orders to return quickly. There was a crisis which only I could resolve. But first I had to go to the temple to pray and make an offering.

First Scribe

Stop!

Caspar

Why? Surely it is my right to serve God in his temple.

First Scribe

Stop!

Caspar

Why do you stop me? I have come a long way.

First Scribe

Stop!

Caspar

I believe in God, sir, I am a Jew.

First Scribe

Certainly not, sir. You are a chamberlain from the land of the Moors and therefore you must have been castrated. It is against the law of Moses for such a man to worship the Lord.

Caspar

I am beside myself with grief. Rejected and unrecognized by God.

First Scribe

It is the law of Moses. There is no place for you here.

Second Scribe

But sir, Isaiah wrote: "The eunuchs who keep my sabbaths, ...will receive ... a memorial and an everlasting name in my own house and within my walls."

First Scribe

Silence. How dare you, a scholar, contradict me. The law of Moses is above everything. Go. Return to your country. Here is no place for you.

Caspar

What slander is this? Has God forsaken me and excluded me from the temple? I am banished on earth; heaven is empty. I must leave and never come back. Farewell Jerusalem.

Seller

Sir.

Caspar

What is it? Let me go in peace. I'm finished here.

Seller

Sir, a moment. I noticed you coming. I heard how the scribes turned you away. You are powerful. You can read. Here is a book written by Isaiah which will comfort you. As the young scribe said: "The eunuchs who keep my sabbaths, ...will receive ... a memorial and an everlasting name in my own house and within my walls." Isaiah the prophet offered faith and hope to many. Please buy the book and read it on your journey.

Caspar

How much does it cost?

Seller

A hundred and ten talents, noble sir.

Caspar

That's too much, I won't give more than eighty.

Seller

Sorry, but I have a family to support.

Caspar

Who am I to deny a poor man a little profit. Here.

Seller

Thank you, kind sir. Here is the book. Farewell.

Caspar

Good bye.

First Angel

Poor Caspar is sad. His faith sorely tested. Unable to enter the temple, he travels alone through the desert, riven with pain and grief. Only the Word goes with him.

THIRD SCENE

In the desert

Second Angel

It is midday. According to the heavenly plan, a miracle will be revealed in this burning desert. A man approaches.

Philip

How wonderful and unfathomable are God's ways. The word of an angel has brought me to this barren and desolate place. *Get up and go.* Those words brought me here on this road from Jerusalem to Gaza. What must I do? I only know that the Lord sent me. I await clarification from the Holy Spirit.

First Angel

Philip heard a voice as he did when he was called to serve in Jerusalem and hastened here to do God's work.

Philip

The Lord has given me a sign: two angels, one of whom spoke. It is not appropriate to ask why I am here. I need an answer. I hear a wagon in the distance. I hope I can support the one I am sent to meet. The wagon stops. Shall I approach?

Second Angel

Philip, man of God, doubt no more. Approach. Listen to this pilgrim. Give him proof of the God he seeks. Declare the holy word.

Caspar

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, like a ewe that is dumb before the shearers and he would not open his mouth.” Who on earth can explain that to his descendants? His life on earth came to an end.

Philip

Do you understand it?

Caspar

I can read and feel involved but how can I understand if nobody shows me the way? Please tell me whom Isaiah is writing about.

Philip

He is writing about the Son of God, Jesus of Nazareth, a man without guilt, born in a stable in Bethlehem. He taught us His father's will, cured the sick and lame, restored sight to the blind and raised the dead. He was the source of living water, he was the light. The priests and scribes were afraid when they saw its effect on the people. They rejected His teaching. They were disturbed when He called Himself the King of the Jews. In the end they arrested Him, tried Him and crucified Him. Thus fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, like a ewe that is dumb before the shearers and he would not open his mouth.” He lives in us. He died on the cross and by thereby conquered death. God resurrected Him on the third day. He ascended into heaven but sent us His Holy Spirit. Those who are baptized are reborn in Him. Those who hear His word find new life in Him.

Caspar

My heart leaps. I've found the King I was looking for. There is water nearby; let me be baptized.

Philip

If you truly believe.

Caspar

I believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

Philip

Let us get up and go – further into the water.

First Angel

Philip was sent here. Caspar found the Lord, the King he sought. Not a ruler on a throne but a servant, a son of man, who calls people to follow Him through baptism.

Caspar

I am overjoyed. I have been baptised. What wonderful things have happened today! Philip who explained the holy words has disappeared as quickly as he came. The spirit of grace came with the water. I will happily go on my way back to the waiting queen. I bring a different message from what she expected – about a kingdom that is not of this world.

Second Angel

The kingdom is his now that he has been baptized. What is past is past. He has been born again into new life in Jesus. He is now a disciple of the Lord.

First Angel

It is finished. We have done the task God gave us and we are released. Praise God, wise and good, and Jesus for ever and ever.