



# Romeo and Juditha

A play for Easter about love, danger and Jesus,  
the King of the Jews

Written by Cenarth Fox

Playwright of *Pilate Error* and *Believing Thomas*

**THIS IS A PREVIEW SCRIPT. THE COMPLETE SCRIPT IS AVAILABLE  
FROM FOX PLAYS – see page 14**

Characters

Romeo and Juditha

Hanna, Mary and Felice

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**

Decades after the crucifixion, an elderly Thomas, the former disciple of Jesus, is preaching the gospel in India. He's building a new church and reflects on his life but is uncertain. Will the nickname *Doubting Thomas* be his lasting legacy? He meets Apala whose name means *learned woman*. She's never heard of the disciple or of his faith in Jesus. A young man arrives who also claims to be Thomas the former disciple of Jesus. Apala learns how Thomas once refused to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. But who is Jesus, what did he do and did he really come alive again? Thomas learns some home truths about faith and Apala discovers the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. *Believing Thomas* fits easily into an Easter service.

# Romeo and Juditha

## A play for Easter

Written by Cenarth Fox

Playwright of *Pilate Error* and *Believing Thomas*

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### Synopsis

*“And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him.”*  
Luke 22: 50-51

*Romeo and Juditha* is about the betrayal, arrest, trial and execution of Jesus as seen through the eyes of five teenagers. William Shakespeare’s play *Romeo and Juliet* involves a tragic tale of two star-crossed lovers. *Romeo and Juditha* is set in Jerusalem and it too involves a romance between teenagers from families who are at opposite sides of the social, cultural and political divide. The Romans have invaded Judea and surrounding areas and conquered the locals. Romeo is Roman and Juditha is Jewish. The story is set in Jerusalem at the time of the crucifixion of Jesus.

Against the drama in which the Romans and Jews clash over the King of the Jews, a young teenage couple worry their romance will be discovered. Their families would never approve of such a match. But love sees many people take risks and on one of their assignments they accidentally witness some extraordinary scenes.

Their friends are no help and it seems their love will forever be unrequited. But then their lives are overtaken by something far more dramatic and amazing as the events surrounding the Son of God unfold around them.

Whilst the scriptural events of the first Holy Week are well documented, the teenage characters and their actions are invented.

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### Costumes and Movement

All the actors wear the clothes of the time. Romeo and Felice are sons of Roman officials posted to Judea. Juditha, Hanna and Mary are young Jewish girls of local families.

### Set Design

There need be no set, simply an open space. The play settings are all outdoors and the various settings are announced by the actors. Imagination is the key as the play is intended to be performed in churches. If scenery is used, some potted palms could be used to represent the Garden of Gethsemane and the hillside at Calvary.

UR	UC	UL
RC	C	LC
DR	DC	DL

### Characters

Romeo is 16-18 and his father is a Roman official in occupied Judea. Romeo is brave, foolhardy and fair. Juditha is 15-17, the daughter of a wealthy Jewish merchant. Juditha is quietly spoken but intelligent and determined. Felice is 15-18 and Romeo's best friend, a cheeky Roman, shy with girls and who will do anything for his mate. Hanna and Mary are Jewish friends of Juditha. They are her age or younger. Hanna is lively and outspoken whilst Mary is nervous and quiet and worries a lot. Hanna or Mary can play themselves as the narrator at different times in which case they will be strong.

### Stage Directions

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

A number of quotes or parts of quotes by William Shakespeare are used in the script. They are denoted as [WS]. There is no need to give the quotes a special interpretation.

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*[It is day time on the morning of the night when Jesus was betrayed. A narrator enters. The narrator could be a member of the church in which the play is being performed or it could be Hanna or Mary]*

**NARR'TOR** Welcome to Jerusalem in the year 33AD when the Earthly life of Jesus is almost complete. You are about to witness events which created the first Holy Week. You will meet ordinary people and learn of extraordinary events. You will hear of God's love and of human love. And our story begins here, *[Indicates surrounds]* in this quiet street.

**ROMEO** *[Upset, offstage]* I don't care.

**NARR'TOR** Did I say 'quiet'? *[Exits]*

**ROMEO** *[Enters]* I wish I'd never told you.

**FELICE** *[Enters following]* You'll wish I talked you out of this madness.

**ROMEO** *[They stop and argue]* And keep your voice down.

**FELICE** *[Softer]* You have to listen.

**ROMEO** I thought you were my friend.

**FELICE** I *am* your friend and that's why I'm being cruel to be kind. *[WS]*

**ROMEO** *[Dreamy]* She's beautiful.

**FELICE** *[Frustration]* That's not the issue.

**ROMEO** *[ROMEO dreamy]* And sweet and kind and gentle and ...

**FELICE** And Jewish.

**ROMEO** You know nothing about love.

**FELICE** I know *she's* Jewish and *you're* Roman. I know that spells trouble; *big* trouble.

**ROMEO** We are very discreet.

**FELICE** *[Scoffs]* Discreet? You're meeting here in broad daylight.

**ROMEO** Love knows no barriers. And the course of true love never did run smooth. *[WS]*

**FELICE** If your family ever hears about this ...

**ROMEO** They won't.

**FELICE** You'll wish you were never born.

**ROMEO** *[Looks off]* Look out! Here they come. *[To FELICE]* And remember, you have to entertain her friends.

*[JUDITHA, HANNA and MARY enter and approach the boys]*

**FELICE** *[Quieter]* But I'm hopeless with girls.

**JUDITHA** Good morning, gentlemen.

**ROMEO** *[To JUDITHA]* Good morning.

**FELICE** Hi.

**ROMEO** *[Dreamy]* Juditha, you look lovely. *[ROMEO jerks his head at FELICE]*

**JUDITHA** Thank you. *[Indicating HANNA and MARY]* You remember my friends, Hanna and Mary?

**ROMEO** *[Distracted]* Oh yes. Hi. And this is Felice. *[One more jerk of the head]*

**JUDITHA** *[To FELICE]* Hello.

**HANNA** *[Whispers to MARY, indicating ROMEO]* He's got a twitch.

*[She could briefly mimic ROMEO's twitch]*

**ROMEO** I wasn't sure you'd be here today. *[ROMEO jerks his head at FELICE]*

**JUDITHA** I'm hurt that you doubt my feelings.

**ROMEO** Oh I didn't mean that.

**HANNA** *[To JUDITHA]* There's something wrong with his head.

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**FELICE** It's just a nervous twitch on account of him being insane.  
**MARY** Insane?  
**FELICE** Sorry, did I say insane? I meant in love.  
**ROMEO** *[Hisses at FELICE]* Will you please go?  
**HANNA** *[At FELICE]* I think he means you, handsome.  
**FELICE** *[Thrown]* Me? Handsome?  
**HANNA** *[Taking his arm]* Come on. *[HANNA leads FELICE with MARY in tow. They exit]* You can tell me all about the decline and fall of the Roman Empire.  
**FELICE** *[Surprised]* What decline and fall?  
**MARY** *[Scampering after them]* Wait for me.  
*[The star-crossed lovers are now alone]*  
**ROMEO** I was afraid you wouldn't come.  
**JUDITHA** I was afraid *you* wouldn't come.  
**ROMEO** Have you told your parents?  
**JUDITHA** No. Have you?  
**ROMEO** No. And I won't.  
**JUDITHA** But you must.  
**ROMEO** They'll only say no and I can't bear to lose you.  
**JUDITHA** Oh Romeo, Romero. *[WS]*  
*[They hug and then he holds her at arm's length]*  
**ROMEO** We must find a way. We can't let religion or culture or families come between us. We must ...  
**JUDITHA** *[Breaks apart]* There's someone coming.  
*[An unseen person passes by. Worried, the couple pretend not to be a couple]*  
**ROMEO** *[Pointing offstage pretending to assist JUDITHA]* If you walk past the house with the vines, you'll come to the priest's house. You can't miss it.  
**JUDITHA** *[Pretending to be a stranger]* Thank you, sir.  
*[The person in the street is gone and they suddenly become friends again]*  
**JUDITHA** I'm afraid, Romeo. Our families will be so angry if they discover we are friends.  
**ROMEO** Then don't tell them. Let it be our secret. We can see each other at night.  
**JUDITHA** *[Shocked, despairing]* I can't go out at night.  
**ROMEO** You must. It's the only way.  
**JUDITHA** Jewish girls don't go out at night.  
**ROMEO** Then I'll come to your house and speak to your father.  
**JUDITHA** And he will forbid me from ever seeing you again.  
**ROMEO** So we have to meet in secret.  
**JUDITHA** *[Despairing]* I don't think I can do that.  
**ROMEO** Sneak away when your family is asleep. Please, I must see you, please.  
**JUDITHA** *[Resolve weakening]* All right, I'll try but ...  
*[TRIO re-enter]*  
**FELICE** *[Mock serious]* Unhand that woman, sir. *[Couple separate]*  
**ROMEO** *[To FELICE]* I said *twice* around the block.  
**HANNA** It's my fault. I wanted to see if you still have that twitch.  
**JUDITHA** *[Exiting, blowing kiss]* Fare thee well, Romeo. Parting is such sweet sorrow. *[WS]*  
*[The three girls depart]*  
**ROMEO** *[Blowing her a kiss, calling]* Remember this evening.

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**MARY** *[Exiting with the girls]* Would somebody please tell me what's happening?

**FELICE** Let me guess. You *didn't* tell her.

**ROMEO** *[In a mind of his own]* I didn't tell her.

**FELICE** Why am I not surprised?

**ROMEO** *[Excited]* And we're meeting tonight, in secret.

**FELICE** *[Can not believe it]* You're secretly meeting a Jewish girl at night?

**ROMEO** Isn't she wonderful?

**FELICE** You *are* crazy.

**ROMEO** I'll take her somewhere quiet and peaceful where we won't be seen.

**FELICE** You actually have a death wish.

**ROMEO** *[Gets idea]* I know, the garden of Gethsemane. No-one'll be there at night.

**FELICE** Just her father and brothers with swords and spears.

**ROMEO** *[Exiting]* Come on, I've got a poem to learn. *[Exits]*

**FELICE** *[Exiting]* Oh, that way madness lies; let me shun that. *[WS]*

**MARY** *[Enters and stands to one side speaking as a narrator]* And so my friend Juditha did the unthinkable and crept from the family home to meet her Romeo. The chosen place for their assignation that night was the garden of Gethsemane. *[JUDITHA enters and stands near MARY peering into the gloom. MARY whispers and points]* He's over there. *[JUDITHA ignores the prompt, crosses carefully and calls in a whisper]*

**JUDITHA** *[Whisper]* O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou, Romeo? *[WS]*

**ROMEO** *[Enters and crosses to her]* I'm here, over here. *[They meet and embrace]*

**ROMEO** I was afraid you wouldn't come.

**JUDITHA** I was afraid *you* wouldn't come. *[They laugh at having repeated what they said earlier. He leads her to one side]*

**ROMEO** We're safe here. No-one ever comes to this garden at night.

**JUDITHA** How do you know? Is this where you meet *all* your girlfriends.

**ROMEO** You are the only girl in my life and I want us to be together, forever.

**JUDITHA** And *I* want us to be together but our families will never agree.

**ROMEO** I know that my heart is ever at your service. *[WS]* And I will ... *[Stops, listens]*

**JUDITHA** *[Pause]* What's the matter?

**ROMEO** *[Concerned]* I think I heard something. *[Moves and peers into the night]*

**JUDITHA** *[Worried]* Romeo?

**ROMEO** *[Angry]* If that's Felice spying on us I'll ...

**JUDITHA** *[Shocked, points]* Look!

**ROMEO** *[He looks where she is pointing]* Where?

**JUDITHA** Who are all those people?

**ROMEO** Quickly. Behind this bush. *[Takes her aside; they watch from behind imaginary bush]*

**JUDITHA** I know those men with torches. They are servants of the High priest.

**ROMEO** And those soldiers work for my father.

**JUDITHA** *[Worried]* They have weapons. We'll be arrested.

**ROMEO** Be still. They're looking for someone.

**JUDITHA** Yes, us.

**ROMEO** *[Strains to hear]* Listen. *[Pause]* They want someone called Jesus of Nazareth.

**JUDITHA** My family know about him. *[Pointing]* There he is. He's called the King of the Jews.

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**ROMEO** There's something strange happening.  
**JUDITHA** *[Straining to see]* I'm scared. *[Suddenly startled]* What's happening? Oh no!  
**ROMEO** Did you see that?  
**JUDITHA** This is scary.  
**ROMEO** Everyone fell to the ground in front of that man Jesus.  
**JUDITHA** But why, what did he do?  
**ROMEO** Nothing, he just spoke.  
**JUDITHA** I couldn't hear. What did he say?  
**ROMEO** *[Clearly]* "I am he."  
**JUDITHA** "I am he?"  
**ROMEO** That's all he said. And then everyone fell down.  
**JUDITHA** *[Starts to move]* We have to leave.  
**ROMEO** Wait! *[She stops]* They're getting to their feet.  
**JUDITHA** If we're found, it won't be the end of our friendship, it'll be the end of our lives.  
**ROMEO** *[Moving to get a better view]* We can see better from over here.  
**JUDITHA** *[Nervously moves to him]* Please let me go home.  
**ROMEO** There's a man going up to Jesus. He looks like a Jew.  
**JUDITHA** Yes, he's a follower of Jesus.  
**ROMEO** *[Intrigued]* What's happening? That man kissed Jesus.  
**JUDITHA** We should go. Those servants look angry.  
**ROMEO** I think they're arresting Jesus.  
**JUDITHA** *[JUDITHA screams and ROMEO grabs her to keep her quiet]*  
**ROMEO** *[Anxious]* Quiet! Are you crazy?  
**JUDITHA** Did you see that? The man with the sword killed the servant of the priest.  
**ROMEO** He didn't kill him he just .... *[Stunned]* I don't believe it.  
**JUDITHA** *[Stunned]* That was Jesus. Did you see that? *[Realises what others have been saying]* So what people say; it must be true.  
**ROMEO** He placed his hand on the man's bleeding head and it was healed.  
**JUDITHA** There are many stories about Jesus performing miracles.  
**ROMEO** Miracles? What's a miracle?  
**JUDITHA** They say he healed the sick, turned water into wine and even brought a dead man back to life.  
**ROMEO** *[Quietly excited]* But that's fantastic. And now we've seen it with our own eyes.  
**JUDITHA** *[Concerned]* Yes but remember where we are.  
**ROMEO** We must tell everyone what we've seen.  
**JUDITHA** *[Grabs him in fear]* No! Romeo, are you mad?  
**ROMEO** But we saw Jesus perform a miracle. *Two* miracles.  
**JUDITHA** We didn't see anything. We were never here. Do you understand?  
**ROMEO** *[Realises, quieter]* Oh yes. You're right, I wasn't thinking.  
**JUDITHA** If my family know that I've gone out alone at night to meet a Roman boy, I'll be in terrible trouble.  
**ROMEO** Sorry, I wasn't thinking. But who is this Jesus?  
**JUDITHA** People say he is the Son of God.  
**ROMEO** Well we Romans don't believe in your God much less his Son.

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**JUDITHA** Romeo, I know we've witnessed something extraordinary but we cannot tell a soul. Okay?

**ROMEO** Yes.

**JUDITHA** *[I mean it]* Please.

**ROMEO** *[More insistent]* Yes, all right, I understand.

**JUDITHA** *[Turns away worried]* I knew this was a bad idea.

**ROMEO** No, it wasn't. *[Turns her to face him]* And it hasn't changed my feelings for you.

**JUDITHA** Or mine for you. *[They hug]* But I'm frightened and I think we should go.

**ROMEO** I agree. And I'm sorry I brought you here.

**JUDITHA** Don't be sorry. I'm glad we met here.

**ROMEO** We'll go the long way. *[He leads her off]* Come on and *be quiet*.  
*[They exit. FELICE enters looking around, thinking aloud]*

**FELICE** 'Straight after breakfast' he said and where is he? Late – again. I'll bet he's with that girl, or else his family has grounded him or else *[Serious, sad]* .... he's dead. *[Turns as ROMEO enters puffing]* Ah, the weary traveller returns. *[1/2WS]*

**ROMEO** Felice, you'll never believe what happened.

**FELICE** Knowing you I probably won't.

**ROMEO** We went to the Garden of Gethsemane and saw the most amazing scenes.

**FELICE** I thought you were on a date.

**ROMEO** We stumbled upon this fantastic event.

**FELICE** Not her father hiding in the bushes?

**ROMEO** *[Confused]* What? No.

**FELICE** Well come on then, spill the beans.

**ROMEO** I can't.

**FELICE** Oh brilliant. It's a fantastic event with amazing scenes and you won't tell your best friend.

**ROMEO** *[Looks around then speaks quietly]* All right but promise you won't tell a soul.

**FELICE** Of course.

**ROMEO** *[Threatening]* No-one.

**FELICE** Yes, yes, my lips are sealed.

**ROMEO** *[Pause serious]* Juditha reckons he's the Son of God.

**FELICE** Who?

**ROMEO** Jesus of Nazareth.

**FELICE** *[Has never heard of him]* I've never heard of Jesus or the Son of God.

**ROMEO** *[Pointing finger]* Remember your promise – tell no-one.

**FELICE** Well that'll be easy; you've told me nothing about someone I've never heard of.

**ROMEO** *[Worried]* I promised Juditha I wouldn't tell.

**FELICE** Fine.

**ROMEO** Not even my best friend.

**FELICE** Okay.

**ROMEO** *[Enthusiastic]* But it was truly incredible.

**FELICE** So it was fantastic, amazing and incredible and you're not going to tell me about it. *[Pause, opens palms]* Is this what happens when you fall in love?

**ROMEO** *[Pause]* We saw a miracle.

**FELICE** *[Is ignorant]* That's nice. What's a miracle?

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**ROMEO** Two miracles. And that's all I'm going to say. I can't betray my promise to Juditha.

**FELICE** Good because here she is.

**ROMEO** *[Spins around, worried]* What?  
*[JUDITHA and HANNA enter. ROMEO greets them]*

**JUDITHA** *[Worried]* Oh Romeo. Have you heard the news?

**ROMEO** Good morning, Juditha. You look wonderful.

**JUDITHA** *[Hasn't got time for romance]* Jesus was put on trial.  
*[Shocked at the news and that JUDITHA is speaking openly]*

**ROMEO** On trial?

**HANNA** The priests, the Romans and then the priests again all interviewed him.

**JUDITHA** And to think we saw him being arrested.

**ROMEO** *[Worried]* No we didn't. We saw nothing. We were never there, remember?

**HANNA** What do you think, Felice? What's the Roman point of view?

**FELICE** *[Confused]* Well I, ah ...

**ROMEO** *[At JUDITHA]* I thought we agreed not to say a word.

**JUDITHA** But don't you see? If Jesus is the Son of God, he may be put to death.

**HANNA** Why didn't the Roman governor overrule the priests? You're supposed to be the all-conquering heroes.

**FELICE** Look I have enough trouble just with girls. Throw in politics and I'm outa here. *[Starts to leave]*

**ROMEO** *[Calls]* Don't move. *[FELICE returns]*

**FELICE** *[Mock salute]* Your wish, my command.

**ROMEO** *[To JUDITHA]* Where's your friend, Mary? You haven't told her too?

**JUDITHA** Of course I've told her; this is hugely important. My family, *all* Jewish families are hooked.

**ROMEO** *[Shocked even more]* You've told your family?

**HANNA** Mary's out spying to see what's happening to Jesus.

**ROM/FEL** *[Both males together]* Spying!

**JUDITHA** The whole of Jerusalem is buzzing.

**ROMEO** *[This is serious]* Romans execute spies.

**JUDITHA** Don't tell me you haven't told Felice.

**ROMEO** Well not quite.

**FELICE** We only got up to the miracle.

**HANNA** Two miracles.

**FELICE** Exactly.

**ROMEO** Juditha, I don't understand. All I want is to be able to see you, even if it means in secret, but I'm not sure about this Jesus person and now all these trials.

**JUDITHA** The priests asked the people if Jesus should be set free and do you know what the crowd replied?

**ROMEO** No.

**HANNA** That's right.

**FELICE** I'm lost.

**HANNA** The crowd said 'no'.

**FELICE** Well there you go then. Jesus must be guilty.

**ROMEO** Yes. *[Confused]* But guilty of what?

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**JUDITHA** The priests sent their spies amongst the people urging them to free Barrabbas.  
**FELICE** Jewish priests have spies?  
**ROMEO** Who's Barrabbas?  
**HANNA** A thief and a convicted criminal.  
**JUDITHA** The Romans allow one prisoner to be set free and the crowd ignored Jesus and chose the thief.  
**FELICE** But why was Jesus arrested in the first place?  
**HANNA** The priests hate him because he said he is the Son of God.  
**ROMEO** But that's what you want. You told me the Jews are waiting for their Messiah.  
**JUDITHA** The high priest asked Jesus if he was the son of God.  
**HANNA** And he said, "I am".  
**FELICE** So there you are. The Messiah has arrived.  
**ROMEO** It's all settled and we can go back to going out together.  
**JUDITHA** But the priests have asked the Romans to kill him.  
**FELICE** Kill him?  
**HANNA** *[To ROMEO]* You're a Roman. Your father is an important official. Go and ask him to intervene.  
**ROMEO** *[Back pedalling]* I can't do that.  
**JUDITHA** Tell him you saw the miracles in the garden of Gethsemane.  
**ROMEO** *[Desperate]* But we weren't there. Remember?  
**MARY** *[Bursts in puffing, running]* It's too late. They're already moving. Jesus is going to be killed.  
**OTHERS** Killed!  
**HANNA** What happened?  
**MARY** Jesus and two thieves are being marched out of the city to Golgotha.  
**JUDITHA** The place of the skull.  
**MARY** The Romans are going to crucify him. There's a huge crowd following them.  
**HANNA** We can hide amongst the crowd and watch.  
**ROMEO** No! You can't go there.  
**MARY** But if Jesus really is the Son of God, the Romans are executing the Messiah  
**JUDITHA** I want to go. I have to be there.  
**ROMEO** But crucifixions are terrible and no place for a young woman.  
**JUDITHA** Felice, please take care of Mary and Hanna. I want a word with Romeo.  
**ROMEO** Wait a minute.  
**JUDITHA** *[To OTHERS]* Go on, we'll catch you up.  
**FELICE** I'm not sure.  
**HANNA** Come on, Felice. *[Taking him in hand]* We'll look after you.  
*[MARY and HANNA exit with FELICE]*  
**FELICE** *[Exiting]* Thank you, I can take care of myself. *[TRIO exit]*  
**JUDITHA** *[Alone with ROMEO]* Don't say a word. *[Pause]* If you love me ...  
**ROMEO** If?  
**JUDITHA** Shhh. *[Waits for ROMEO to settle]* I know our love is important but this could be far, far more important.  
**ROMEO** *[Confused]* Maybe but I just don't understand.  
**JUDITHA** The people are saying that Jesus could have stopped his own arrest.  
**ROMEO** No way; not with all those soldiers.

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**JUDITHA** Jesus said that he could have called six legions of angels to rescue him [*She snaps her fingers*] just like that.

**ROMEO** [*Impressed*] Six legions.

**JUDITHA** That's *thousands* of angels.

**ROMEO** What's an angel?

**JUDITHA** They're ... soldiers of God.

**ROMEO** What soldiers?

**JUDITHA** But Jesus refused any help and allowed himself to be arrested and tried and now to be crucified. Why?

**ROMEO** [*Clueless*] It's no good asking me. I don't have a god.

**JUDITHA** The prophets of old said, "*Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, so he did not open his mouth.*"

**ROMEO** Who?

**JUDITHA** "*All who see me, sneer at me.*"

**ROMEO** Juditha, I'm sorry, I just don't understand.

**JUDITHA** "*I did not cover my face from humiliation and spitting.*"

**ROMEO** Are you talking about Jesus?

**JUDITHA** Last night, Jesus did not protest his innocence, the priests and their servants sneered at him and he was slapped and spat upon.

**ROMEO** [*More understanding*] And now he is being led out to be crucified.

**JUDITHA** Like a lamb that is led to slaughter.

**ROMEO** Well, I'm impressed, but you know I don't share your religion. All I know and believe in are my feelings for you.

**JUDITHA** And they are wonderful and you make me proud and happy but even you saw the miracles in the garden.

**ROMEO** Yes, I did.

**JUDITHA** I believe they were miracles performed by the Son of God. And He is not only the Jewish God but the God of all people including the Romans.

**ROMEO** My God?

**JUDITHA** Your God and my God.

**ROMEO** [*Shaking head*] This is all too much.

**JUDITHA** The ancient prophets said other things like the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

**ROMEO** And was Jesus born in Bethlehem?

**JUDITHA** [*Nodding*] And that the Messiah would be rejected.

**ROMEO** The Jewish priests rejected Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

**JUDITHA** We saw prophecies written thousands of years ago fulfilled before our eyes.

**ROMEO** But even if Jesus is the Son of God, there's nothing we can do to stop the execution.

**JUDITHA** I don't think it matters.

**ROMEO** Doesn't matter?

**JUDITHA** Let's go and see what happens.

**ROMEO** But it's brutal and bloody and ...

**JUDITHA** Are you afraid?

**ROMEO** [*Pause*] Not with you by my side.

**JUDITHA** [*Takes his hand and they exit*] I know a short cut.

**The PREVIEW SCRIPT is interrupted here**

**Romeo and Juditha 13**

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*[The five actors separate and stand alone about the performing area. They speak now as individuals, as story tellers]*

**FELICE** *[As storyteller]* Now once Jesus had died, a rich man called Joseph of Arimathea took charge of the burial.

**JUDITHA** *[As storyteller]* And another religious Jewish man called Nicodemus helped with the body.

**ROMEO** *[As storyteller]* Pontius Pilate gave these men permission to remove and bury the body of Jesus.

**MARY** *[As storyteller]* The many wounds were treated with sweet-smelling spices.

**HANNAH** *[As storyteller]* In a nearby garden was a new tomb carved from the rock.

**FELICE** This tomb belonged to Joseph of Arimathea.

**JUDITHA** Jesus was placed in the tomb.

**ROMEO** The mother of Jesus and many others were there.

**MARY** A huge rock was rolled over the entrance.

**HANNAH** The same rock which would soon be rolled away.

*[QUARTET move together for final speeches as their character but facing front]*

**FELICE** I am still worried about my friend Romeo.

**MARY** I am still worried about my friend Juditha.

**ROMEO** The more I give to thee, the more I have. *[WS]*

**JUDITHA** Oh speak again bright angel. *[WS]*

**HANNAH** *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear.*

**QUARTET** Amen.

*[They bow and exit]*

## Other Easter Plays by Cenarth Fox

### *Pilate Error*

*Pilate Error was much admired and enjoyed by all and added greatly to our Easter worship.*  
**St Andrew's Uniting Church, Gardiner**

*It was a privilege to have the play here. Wittily titled, Pilate Error uses comedy, colloquial expressions, and much Scripture and is a powerful testimony to Christian belief and the extraordinary beginnings of a religion which has shaped our world.*

**St Gabriel's Catholic Church, Reservoir**

*The play was a great success. Everyone has been very complimentary.* **Rushall Park Village**

*There are people today who are trying to breathe new life into an ancient Easter narrative and Pilate Error explores the boundaries of faith through an imaginary dialogue between Pilate, Caiaphas, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus. It was great to have you with us.*

**Surrey Hills Uniting Church**

*Thank you for the wonderful Easter play Pilate Error which was received with much enthusiasm. The play was sensitively and authentically in keeping with scripture, but also masterly crafted in a contemporary way. The play brought scripture to life and gave the characters flesh. I can thoroughly recommend Pilate Error as a wonderful way to 'break open the word' for any congregation.*

**All Saints' Anglican Church, Mitcham**

Preview script at [www.foxplays.com](http://www.foxplays.com)

### *Believing Thomas*

*Congratulations on a great play, a very clever interpretation of the idea of faith.*

**Deborah Fabbro**

*Congratulations on a great play, very clever interpretation of the idea of faith.*

**Pilgrim Uniting Church**

*Inspirational. Thank you for another moving play.*

**Surrey Hills Uniting Church**

*Wonderful, excellent and very well received.*

**Rushall Park Village**

*Much positive response*

**St Ignatius Catholic Church**



# 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 scripts from Fox Plays – [www.foxplays.com](http://www.foxplays.com)

## Rehearsal Material and Performing Rights

In order to stage *Romeo and Juditha* you must first obtain written permission from your local agent below.

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