

Circles in Time

Christmas 1 Luke 2: 41-52

Props: Thirteen hoops (hoola hoops, PVC pipe with joint, purple if possible)

Young Jesus' hoop might be white. Dancers in black and/or purple. Jesus in tan.

Cast: Thirteen hoop dancers including three distinct characters: Mary, Joseph and a young Jesus. Off-stage, amplified reader.

Production notes: The “dancing” can be as simple or elaborate as is comfortable for the cast. What is more important than choreography is timing with the reader. Rehearsal is essential. As the cast grows more comfortable add flourishes and twirls that befit the scene.

Prop assembly: an effective way to create purple hoops is to wrap and hot glue 1-2” strips of stretchy cloth around the hoop.

[a joyful entourage of thirteen hoops enter from rear, Jesus is among them]

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover.

[at front/on platform Jesus drops his hoop to the floor and stands still in it, lowers his head reverently to receive his “dedication at the temple”]

And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the celebration.

[twelve hoops deposited over Jesus' head, dancers bow. This symbolizes his dedication]

[Jesus steps out of the hoops and remains nearby.]

When the festival had ended they started to return, [Mary and Joseph plus four others claim hoops and recess back down aisle] the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, unbeknownst to his parents.

[remaining six create a new pile over Jesus' head, he sits down in the pile to wait]

Assuming that he was among the travelers, they went a day's journey.

When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him.

[the traveling six search through the hoop like a lens or window, still in the aisle]

[Jesus stands with his hoop, alternately placing it over the heads/torsos of various individuals and theirs over him. This is an abstract symbolization of an intellectual exchange of ideas, as though “stepping into” someone's thought, or being “encircled” by a new idea, being “hooped” by a complex question]

[Mary, Joseph and four hoop-bearers (6) return to the platform]

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed [all twelve hoops are raised in adoration of Jesus' insight, Jesus' hoop remains around his waist] at his understanding and his answers.

[Mary and Joseph approach and simultaneously hold their hoops around Jesus' waist, Jesus' hoop is held lower than the parents'] **When his parents saw him they were**

astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? *[Jesus raises his hoop, forcing the parental hoops back over his head]* Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” *[Jesus fully raises, twirls with his hoop overhead]*

But they did not understand what he said to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. [Mary places the hoop around herself, turns slowly, pensively]

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor.