

THE CALL, or OF COURSE I MIND

A 5 minute Reimagining of Luke 1:26-38; 46-48 (Commissioned by Fellowship for Performing Arts)

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CHARACTERS

GABRIELLA	Ages old woman, stylish Courier Archangel Diva
MARY	Teenage Girl, activist, doing laundry
GIANNA “GI GI”	Couriette
GENEVA “GENNY”	Couriette

SETTING

Corner room gathering laundry

TIME

Modern day

MARY in jeans, an activist hoodie with something like “Free Assata,” and Tims is gathering her laundry into a bag.

GI GI is standing a distance away wearing a purple and gold fringed dress similar to the Motown groups of the past.

GABRIELLA enters wearing a gold dress with purple fringe.

GABRIELLA (GABBY)

It's time. Couriettes, we ready.

GI GI (GIANNA)

I'm here, Archangel Gabriella.

GABRIELLA

Where's Geneva? This is a quick assignment. I have to deliver a message to Michael after.

GIGI

(calling)

Genny?

GENNY

(in a flashing light off stage)

Here I am.

GABRIELLA

Gi Gi...

GI GI motions "I Got it."

GENNY

What now?

GI GI

Your human costume. You know we have too many eyes and wings and things... these humans are jumpy enough.

GENNY

(glitter of heavenly music then she appears in her Purple Couriettes costumes)

Ready.

GABRIELLA

Remember the assignment.

GI GI

Mary, big reveals, accepts Yahweh's call, humbled, acceptance.

GENNY

What if she's like Noah?

GABRIELLA

No one's like Noah. Positions.

*Trumpets sound. Fog blows. Lights
flash. Gabriella approaches Mary.*

MARY

Oh, excuse me.

GABRIELLA

Highly favored one! The Lord is with you.

MARY

Who are you?

GABRIELLA

Don't fear. I'm the Courier, and these are my Couriettes,

GI GI

(singing)

Gi Gi...

GENNY

and Genny.

MARY

Nothing to fear here, thanks.

GABRIELLA

You have found favor with God. So, as a reward you get an assignment.

MARY

No, thank you.

GABRIELLA

I said, you found favor with God—

MARY

I heard you the first time.

GABRIELLA

You don't even want to know what it is?

MARY

The track record is a little tainted. Ruth, Esther, Moses, Jeremiah...Noah.

GENNY

I told you...

GIGI

Shhh.

GABRIELLA

None of the tasks are easy, but they are important, history altering even.

MARY

That's what everyone says.

GABRIELLA

Yours is even more important.

MARY

Excuse me, I've got to get on.

GABRIELLA
But you'll be carrying...

GIGI and GENNY
(singing in arpeggios)
OOOO OOOO OOOO

...the son of God.

GIGI and GENNY
AAHH!

MARY stops.

GABRIELLA
You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.

*Lights flash. Feels like a grand
announcement. Mary is not impressed.*

MARY
I'm already engaged...and we haven't known each other that way. I have life plans—

GABRIELLA
Well, your course is changing by the Almighty God....

MARY
Who didn't even come and tell me themselves.

GABRIELLA
I'm the right hand. Look, do you mind doing this favor?

MARY
(Looking Gabriella in the eye, squaring off with no hesitation)
Yes.

GABRIELLA

What?

MARY

Yes, I mind.

GABRIELLA

You mind?

Pop gospel music cues

MARY

OF COURSE I MIND
I'M JUST A TEENAGER
BETROTHER TO A CARPENTER

GABRIELLA

HOW CAN YOU MIND?
GIFT FROM THE *MOST ON HIGH*
SHIFTING THE STORY FOR ALL PEOPLEKIND

MARY

OF COURSE I MIND
I'LL BE OSTRACIZED
TAINTED THE REST OF MY LIFE

*GI GI and GENNY are now backing
Mary up as well, which gets a look
from Gabriella.*

GABRIELLA

I see how this is.

GABRIELLA (cont)

HOW CAN YOU MIND?
YOU'LL BE

MARY

Excuse me.

GENNY

Looks like this will take a few more minutes.

GI GI

She ain't budging.

GABRIELLA

Let's turn up the urgency. Mary.

MARY

What, Messenger?

GABRIELLA

I prefer Courier Gabriella.

MARY

Okay, Gabby.

GABRIELLA

GIVE IT A TRY.

THE STORY IS FORETOLD

THERE'S NO ONE ELSE IN THIS MOLD.

MARY

YOU'RE A LIE.

I KNOW HOW THIS ENDS UP.

ALWAYS A TRAGEDY TOO ABRUPT.

GABRIELLA

OH, GIVE IT A TRY.

I CAN TESTIFY

YOU'LL WIN IF YOU COMPLY.

MARY

I'd prefer helping those nearby.

GABRIELLA

But think of all the good you can do, you'd been a vessel.

MARY

Then I'm already doing. Listen, I appreciate you asking for consent, but my mind is made up.

GABRIELLA

Magnify your thoughts. No prophet ever knew the impact of the task when they accepted it yet they took the risk. You'll even get confirmation within your own family. Soon.

MARY

How will it happen?

*GABRIELLE gives the cue. GI GI
AND GENNY get into formation, more
operatic music.*

GABRIELLA

HOLY SPIRIT COMES UPON YOU
THE MOST HIGH OVERSHADOWS YOU
THE HOLY ONE WILL BE CALLED SON OF GOD
NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD.

GABRIELLA

What do you say?

Returns to pop gospel.

MARY

IF I DON'T MIND

GI GI AND GENNY

NOT SAYING YOU DO

MARY
MY SOUL GLORIFIES THE LORD
AN HUMBLE SERVANT ON ACCORD

GABRIELLA
IF YOU DON'T MIND

GI GI AND GENNY
NOT SAYING YOU DO

GABRIELLA
THE WORLD WILL CALL YOU BLESSED
THEY'LL BE HONORED YOU ACQUIESCED

MARY
IF I DON'T MIND
GENERATIONS WILL KNOW THE STORY
OF WHAT THE MIGHTY ONE HAS DONE.

What do you say?

BUT ONLY IF YOU DON'T MIND.

GABRIELLA

MARY
Of course...I don't mind.

The stage celebrates.

GI GI AND GENNY
SHE DOESN'T MIND.

GABRIELLA
It'll be glorious!

GI GI AND GENNY

SHE DOESN'T MIND!

GABRIELLA

You'll be lawded!

GI GI AND GENNY

SHE DOESN'T MIND!

GABRIELLA

Congratulations!!!

SHE DOESN'T MIND!

GI GI and GENNY

Anything else? A blueprint.

GI GI and GENNY exit, humming MARY

GABRIELLA

You'll know what to do. Well, off to my next assignment.

GABRIELLA leaves MARY to her laundry. MARY looks at the laundry, the emptiness of the moment, then her own body. Then she looks up.

MARY

Cousin Elizabeth, I need to come for a visit. You'll never believe what just happened to me.

Lights out.