

# Movie Makers

## Cast

### Characters:

**Peter** (Actor)

**Maggie** (Actor) portrays parallel role of Magdalene, a faithful follower of Jesus.

**John** (Scriptwriter)

**Bart** (Camera man) portrays parallel role of Bartholomew, a disciple (Ref Acts 1:13).

**Thomas** (Lighting technician)

**Matt** (Treasurer) portrays parallel role of Matthew the tax collector and disciple.

**Mary** (Make-up artist)

Minor rolls

**Barney** (a friend) portrays parallel role of Barnabas in Acts (Ref Acts 9:26-27).

**Paul** (Promotions rep)

**Day 1**  
**What a team!**

*The crew come into the film studio and flop onto chairs and boxes.*

Peter Thank goodness! Back at last. That traffic to the airport was worse than ever.

Mary At least we don't have to take someone to the airport every day.

Maggie You're so right...

By the way, John; did the Director say when he's coming back?

John Not really—just said he'd be back soon.

Thomas Soon could be two days, or a week, or a month. What are we supposed to do in the meantime?

Peter The Director said we should just wait here in the studio until we hear from his friend.

Bart Is that it?

Maggie I hate sitting around, doing nothing. It's so boring, and the more you look at the clock the slower those hands seem to move.

Peter Maggie! Just turn around and stop watching the clock!

Maggie I can't help it, Peter. I want to know what the time is. I hate waiting, and we don't even know who we're waiting for, or when that person is going to contact us.

John We could always start writing the script so long. We know more or less what the Director has in mind.

Mary Great idea, John! Let's do some brainstorming.

Thomas You're wasting your time—there's no point in writing the script. We have no money, and we don't even know what the movie is meant to be about.

Just look at us! How is a small bunch of us meant to create this awesome movie

	in this tiny studio with this old equipment? It will probably end up as a five-minute comedy!
John	Oh, Thomas! Stop being so negative. We already have the storyline. The Director wants us to make a movie based on a book called Acts.
Thomas	Acts?! I've not even seen that book in the bookstores!
Mary	You won't find it in a bookstore, silly. Acts is part of another book—kind of in the second half of the book.
Thomas	You mean this book is inside another book somewhere, and now we're meant to make a movie about it. How is that ever going to smash the box office records?
Peter	Firstly, the book is a best-seller. And secondly, it is a true story. Need more clues, Thomas, or have you figured it out?
	<i>Thomas looks puzzled and scratches his head. Maggie and Mary whisper to each other.</i>
Peter	It's the Book of Acts in the Bible.
Thomas	Oh!
John	What Peter said is true, but we should realize from the start that the Director is less interested in smashing box office records and more interested in how this movie will change the lives of people.
Maggie	But how can we make a movie without a Director who tells us what to do?
	<i>Suddenly, everyone's cell phones start ringing.</i>
	<i>Everyone answers. They nod occasionally and randomly use phrases like:</i>
Everyone Thomas	Okay, I can do that; yes, that's fine; that sounds exciting; sure, I'll do that, etc. <i>except Thomas, who says; "Who is this?" and "You want us to do what?"</i>
	<i>Everyone ends their call simultaneously. They look at each other puzzled, not quite sure what just happened.</i>
Peter	That was the Director's friend.

Bart	That's impossible; he just called me now!
Mary	No way!! He also spoke to me.
Maggie	Seriously, I've just had a call from him too!
John	Thomas, tell me you also got a call from him.
Thomas	Yeah, but I think this is a set-up, man! How can we follow the instructions of someone we can't see?
Peter	Remember the last thing the Director told us before he left. He will send us a helper to take his place. This person will be able to contact us wherever we are... and he's just done that.
Thomas	I guess you're right, Peter.
Maggie	Well I'm all excited about my part. If we all do our best in our different roles, we can totally do this!
Thomas	<i>Slightly sarcastically as he switches the spotlight on and focuses it on Maggie:</i> Lights, action... let the cameras roll. You're on Maggie...
Matt	Not so fast, guys! We have no money for props or costumes or...
Bart	... or refreshments.
Mary	Yes, Bart! Trust you to think of refreshments.
Peter	<i>Peter thinks for a while and then says:</i>  Leave it to me! I'm just going out for a while.  <i>Peter leaves the studio</i>
Maggie	Where's he going?
Matt	No idea. Maybe to get some fresh air.

Thomas	We can't make a film with fresh air.
John	Guys, this attitude isn't getting us anywhere. Come on, Maggie, let's start writing the script. I've read and studied the book, so I know it well.  Bart, you're the cameraman: go focus on something. And Thomas, please use those lights of yours to lighten up.
Mary	And what should I do? My work as makeup artist only starts once we know who's doing what.
John	Can't you make up something in the meantime?
Mary	My role as a makeup artist is not to make things up. I put makeup on actors so they look their part.
John	Well, Mary, our studio doesn't look much like a studio. Can't you make it up so that it does?
Mary	I work with actors—not props and things... <i>(She puts her hands on her hips and looks around)</i> .... but I'm sure I can do something here.
Peter	<i>After a while, Peter bursts through the door, all excited.</i>  Guess what! I went out into the street and started telling everyone about our Director and his plan for the film. And before I knew it, there was a crowd of people around me. Some were so enthusiastic, they promised to support us.
Maggie	Wow! D'you mean we have some fans even before the movie's made?
Peter	It's not so much about the movie; they're happy because of the Good News. They believed what I was telling them and said they wanted to join us.
John	And we should also realize that the movie isn't about us. We are just a small team the Director has put together to spread His message.
Matt	So this is not about making money?
Peter	No Matt. In fact, it's going to cost us.

Matt	What's it going to cost? I need to draw up a budget.
Peter	It's going to cost us everything.
Thomas	Everything? That's a lot! But hey, I'm sold on the idea.
Bart	Yeah, me too.
Others	... And me.
Peter	Great! ... Alright then, let's call it a day and start early tomorrow morning.  <i>The crew pick up their belongings and head out the door.</i>

**Day 2**  
**Giving, sharing and caring**

*Peter and Mary are in the studio getting things ready for the day.*

Mary Hey Peter, did you get the name of the Director's friend who phoned us yesterday?

Peter Well, kind of. I asked him, and he said we should just call him "The Friend."

Mary That's weird. Like just "The Friend."

Peter Just "The Friend."

Mary Okay...

I wonder when the others will get here. Maggie is usually here before us.

*The door opens and Thomas comes in.*

Peter Hi Thomas, are you ready for some action today.

Thomas Always ready for a bit of light action. The question is whether you and Maggie will be ready.

Peter John was just putting the finishing touches to the script last night. He emailed me the draft and I'm pretty confident I'll remember my lines.

*The door opens again and John comes in.*

Peter Hi John, we were just talking about you. Great script, by the way!

John Thanks Peter. I actually struck a blank last night. I guess too many things on my mind.

Mary Don't tell me you get writer's block too! Maggie complains about that all the time.

John Yes, Mary, I'm human too. My brain simply gave me the silent treatment. But then I prayed about it, and within minutes my creativity was back.

Mary	That's awesome! It's always good to pray about things like that. It keeps us from becoming all uptight by trying to do them on our own.  <i>Maggie peeps through the door before entering.</i>
Maggie	Good morning everyone!
John	Ah, Maggie. I've also just got in. Now we're just waiting for Bart and Matt.
Maggie	They're probably stuck in traffic.
Peter	... Or in a doughnut shop. You know how Bart loves anything round.
Thomas	At that rate he'll soon be round and love himself too! <i>(Mary and Maggie giggle).</i>  <i>Bart and Matt come in.</i>
Bart	I'm sorry we're late, we just...
Peter	Bart, we know. It was round and blocked your way; so you had to eat your way through it to get here.
Bart	Something like that.
Peter	Okay everyone, John and Mary have been working on the script, and I think we're about ready to start shooting one of the scenes.
Maggie	I'm so excited! Which scene are we doing first?
Peter	We decided to start with an easy one—Acts 12. It's where Peter is in prison and the disciples pray for him. Then an angel rescues him and he goes to the house where the disciples are meeting. A servant girl called Rhoda comes to the door and can't believe that it's Peter standing there.  Maggie will be Rhoda.
Bart	No need to guess which part you'll be doing.
Peter	Hey, I can't help my name happens to be Peter too. It just worked out that way.



John	Well, at least we won't get confused about who's who in the set.  Okay let's get this place looking like a prison.
Mary	It already does—it's so dull and dingy in here.
Matt	That's because it's a studio, not a sweet shop!  <i>They get to work moving in some props. Bart gets behind the camera and Thomas sets up the lighting.</i>  <i>Just then, there's a knock on the door.</i>
Bart	Rhoda, will you go see who it is.
Maggie	That's not funny, Bart! I'm Maggie until we do my part.  <i>Maggie opens the door and signs for a letter from the courier.</i>
Peter	Who's it for?
Maggie	It's for you—looks important.  <i>Maggie hands the envelope to Peter. Peter opens it.</i>
Peter	Wow, listen to this!  "A group of us heard you telling people about your Good News film. And because Jesus has changed our lives, we wanted to do something to help others hear about Him too. So we started selling some of our things in order to raise money to support you. One person sold his holiday cottage; one sold his TV set; a young boy sold his skateboard, and his sister baked some cookies to sell."  How awesome is that?
Mary	Praise the Lord! Now we can really get going.
Maggie	I can't believe that people we don't even know have raised money to help us. I hope the Lord blesses them in a big way.

Mary	<p>I'm sure He will.</p> <p><i>Peter's cell phone rings.</i></p>
Peter	<p>Hallo... oh Barney, how are you? <i>After a while.</i> Sure! That will be great. Okay see you in a bit.</p> <p>That was Barney. He says he wants to bring someone around to the studio later. The guy's name is Paul. Apparently he is also in the movie industry and has made a big name for himself.</p>
Thomas	<p>That's not perhaps Saul he's talking about—the guy who hires hit men to take out the competition.</p>
Peter	<p>Now that you mention it; he did say something about the guy changing his name from Saul to Paul.</p>
Matt	<p>Are you serious?!! Do you know what that guy does? He crushes small movie companies like ours so that his will be the biggest film company in the country.</p>
Peter	<p>Are you sure we're talking about the same guy?</p>
Matt	<p>For sure! I can't believe you invited him here.</p>
Peter	<p>Well, it is Barney who wants to bring him here... and we can trust him.</p>
Matt	<p>He's been tricked. You've got to phone him immediately and tell him not to come.</p>
Peter	<p>Okay, okay! I'll phone him.</p> <p><i>Peter calls the number but there's no answer.</i></p>
Peter	<p>No answer at the moment. He must be out of range.</p>
Thomas	<p>Or he's been tied up and gagged.</p>
Maggie	<p>Or perhaps... I don't even want to think about it... oh Barney!</p> <p><i>There's a knock on the door.</i></p>

Thomas	<p>Quick! Hide!</p> <p><i>(The knocking continues)</i></p>
Bart	Maggie, you answer the door.
Maggie	<p>Why always me?</p> <p><i>Everyone quickly finds a place to hide. Maggie unlocks the door and hides too. Barney tries the door and it opens, so he and Paul walk in.</i></p>
Barney	No one here. That's strange. I just spoke to Peter a few minutes ago.
Paul	It sounded like the rats were having an aerobics session in here.
Barney	Oh well, we'll just have to come back later.
Paul	<p>Sure, we can come back.</p> <p><i>Barney and Paul leave and close the door.</i></p> <p><i>After a few, tense seconds of silence everyone slowly emerges from their hiding places.</i></p>
Thomas	I'm getting out of here!
Maggie	<p>Me too!</p> <p><i>They all scramble out of the studio.</i></p>

**Day 3**  
**The Good News is for everyone**

*Everyone of the crew (except Peter) comes into the studio.*

Matt Maggie, would you switch the kettle on for some coffee, please?

Maggie Sure... hands up all those who want coffee. Let's see... Mary, John. Thomas, are you having? And Bart, I suppose you still take four sugars.

Bart Actually, I've cut down to three. But guess what I got on my way to work.

*Bart shows them a packet.*

Mary You didn't! What? Doughnuts?

Bart Right, first time! Come and get some.

*As everyone gathers around to help themselves to a doughnut, Peter comes in.*

Peter Guys! Guys! You've got to listen to this!

You'll never believe what I dreamt last night.

Thomas Here we go again—always dreaming.

Peter No, really guys! This was no ordinary dream. It's like I really saw this!

*Everyone stops what they're doing and listens to Peter.*

Peter I had gone to bed fairly early. Around midnight I dreamt I was standing outside the movie theatre with crowds of people around. Then a stranger walked up to me and gave me some pamphlets that advertised our movie. He told me to hand them out to the people there. I said to him that our movie is actually more for church people. But again the man told me to hand them out. This happened three times and then the man walked away.

Mary What do you think the dream meant?

Peter As I lay there wondering about this, it suddenly struck me that we'd been thinking

	of making this movie for people in the church. But I realized that the Good News is actually more for people who have never heard the message—people who don't go to church.
Mary	That makes so much sense! I mean, we can all learn lessons from the Book of Acts. But actually, the book is mainly about how God used people in the church to reach others for Him.
Thomas	That means, though, that other movie makers won't like what we're doing because people who watch <i>their</i> movies might start watching <i>ours</i> and stop watching theirs.
Peter	Right! So we can expect some of them to get upset and even try to stop our work. But we'll have to trust the Lord to help us and protect us.  And talking about protecting us. Guess who visited me last night.
Mary	No idea. An angel?
Peter	Hardly! It was none other than Paul.
Maggie	NO! You can't be serious!
Peter	Yep, I am. Barney phoned me last night and said he was sorry he'd missed us earlier on, but if it would be alright to pop around. What could I say?
John	So, is it really Saul the hit man... who now calls himself Paul?
Peter	It is, but let me explain. He and some of his gang were on their way to go take out some of the competition when he saw this big sign on the side of the road that said, "Think about what you are doing!" He knew that what he was doing was wrong so he stopped the car right there and asked God to forgive him. Since then he has followed the Lord and is spreading the Good News everywhere.
Matt	Is that awesome, or what?
Mary	That's amazing; but then God is amazing!
Thomas	I still don't trust him.

Peter	<p>Thomas stop doubting what God can do.</p> <p>Anyway, we've got to get going. Today we shoot the scene of Peter in prison.</p>
Maggie	<p>Don't we need an angel for that scene?</p>
Peter	<p>John and I have been trying to figure out the best way to do that. Any ideas?</p>
Maggie	<p>I could be an angel, but then people would recognise me when we act the part of Rhoda.</p>
Bart	<p>Besides, I think God would have used a boy angel for a job like that—to break those chains and all.</p>
Peter	<p>Okay, what about you, Matt?</p>
Matt	<p>I can't act. I work with money—pay taxes, and make sure all the bills are paid.</p>
John	<p>You'll be fine. Mary can design a white robe for you to wear.</p>
Thomas	<p>And he'll need a halo.</p>
Bart	<p>Matt with a halo. I've got to get that on camera!</p>
Matt	<p>I don't know, guys. You're gonna laugh at me.</p> <p><i>Just then, Peter's cell phone rings.</i></p>
Peter	<p>Halo! I mean, hallo....</p> <p>Yeah, I guess so....</p> <p>In a few minutes... okay I'll be waiting outside. Okay, bye.</p> <p>Sorry guys, I need to shoot out for an hour or so. Someone from an advertising agency heard about our film and would like an interview.</p>
Peter	<p>There's enough for you to do in the meantime. See you guys later.</p> <p><i>Peter grabs his coat and heads out the door. Mary starts taking Matt's</i></p>

	<p><i>measurements for his angel costume and the others busy themselves with odd jobs.</i></p> <p><i>Moments later, the studio phone rings and Maggie picks up.</i></p>
Maggie	<p>Hallo.... What?!! Who are you guys? How dare you!! Bring him back right now or I'll call the police.</p> <p><i>The phone goes dead.</i></p>
Maggie	<p>Peter has been kidnapped!</p>
Mary	<p>What?!!</p>
Matt	<p>Come on, we've got to go find him!</p> <p><i>Everyone rushes out.</i></p>

**Day 4**  
**Courage through hard times**

*Everyone, except Peter, is in the studio.*

Mary      What are we going to do? I hardly slept a wink last night. We've got to tell the police.

Maggie    We can't Mary! Those guys said that if we contacted the police, we'll never see Peter again.

Mary      I can't believe this is happening.

Maggie    We'll just have to wait. They said they will be contacting us to tell us what they want.

John      I bet they'll want a whole lot of money.

Matt      Which we don't have.

*Everyone is despondent and sits in silence. Maggie nervously hangs around the studio telephone.*

*The phone suddenly rings and Maggie jumps with fright. She picks up.*

Maggie    Hallo?

But...

We'll give you anything!

*She puts down the phone.*

Maggie    It's no use. They won't let him go. Those kidnapers don't want money. They want Peter to stop making this film.

Bart      Then he must just tell them we'll stop immediately.

John      It's no use. Peter will never do that. You should know that by now.



Maggie	But we can't just sit here doing nothing!
Mary	There's one thing we're forgetting. We can talk to our friend.
Thomas	You mean, "The Friend"?
John	Sure. He's on our side, remember. He takes our messages straight to the Director... He kind of stands in for us as if we were right there in front of Him.
Maggie	That's awesome! Let's all send him a message.  <i>They all reach for their cell phones and start texting.</i>  <i>Maggie talks out loud as she types.</i>
Maggie	"Dear Lord, this is Mary here. We are in big trouble. You probably already know what has happened to Peter. We don't know what to do. Please help us—we really need you. Maybe you can let Peter escape somehow. Amen."  Well, there it goes. Now we wait for an answer.
Mary	Maybe we should all just relax and trust the Lord to handle this.
John	You're so right. Mary, would you mind making us some tea?
Mary	Sure. Tea for everyone?  <i>Mary switches the kettle on and John reaches for his Bible.</i>
John	I am going to work on the next part of the script.
Thomas	And I am going to lock the door just in case those kidnappers come for us.
John	Relax, Thomas. We're in the Lord's hands, remember. No one can touch us unless He allows it; and if He does, He has a special plan in mind.
Thomas	Maybe His plan is for me to lock the door right now.  <i>He locks the door, and moments later, someone tries the handle; then knocks on the door.</i>

Thomas	<i>(He whispers)</i> You see! I told you!
John	Maggie, will you go see who it is.  <i>She walks to the door and asks:</i>
Maggie	Who is it?
Peter	It's me, Peter.
Maggie	It's Peter! I'm going to open up.
Thomas	No don't! It's a setup. The kidnapppers are probably out there, holding him hostage.
Maggie	Peter, are you alone out there?
Peter	Yes Maggie, just open up! Why is the door locked and why are you taking so long?  <i>Maggie unlocks the door and nervously opens it. Peter walks in as if nothing has happened, holding a newspaper. Thomas quickly shuts the door and locks it again.</i>
Peter	Hi guys.
John	Peter! How come you are here? Weren't you kidnapped?
Peter	Sure was! Remember the phone call I got yesterday—"the advertising agent." Well, when I got outside, these two guys loaded me into their car. They threatened me, and kept me locked up in some dingy cellar last night. The food they gave me was pretty rotten too. They didn't even have a menu.
Maggie	Stop joking around, Peter! We were terribly worried about you.
Mary	So how did you get away?
Peter	It was really odd. About an hour ago the power went off. Everything went dark and I heard the electronic lock on the door go click; so I pulled on the door, and it

	just opened. I simply walked out and came straight here. And here I am.
Thomas	Is that an answer to prayer or what?!!
Mary	Yes, we prayed for you, Peter.
Peter	Thank you Mary; and we must keep on praying because there are many who want to stop our work. On my way I saw this in the paper:  "Paul, the movie maker has been accused of causing unrest and riots. His controversial philosophy has angered some religious leaders. He has been taken by armed escort to a secret location. The date of the trial is unknown."  I've tried to contact him but there's no reply.
John	Tell you what! I'll stick us to some coffee. I think we need to pray for Paul as well as discuss our future plans with this movie.
Maggie	Good idea!  <i>They head for the door.</i>
Bart	By the way, I know of this doughnut shop not too far from here.

**Day 5**  
**God has a plan**

*Everyone is in the studio, except Bart, who comes in with the morning paper and a doughnut.*

Bart Sorry guys; only had enough for one doughnut today. I bought a paper instead.

Mary Anything about Paul?

Bart Don't know. Haven't read it yet.

Maggie Too busy eating... here, let me see.

*Maggie scans the front page of the newspaper.*

Guys... listen to this:

"There has been a drastic turn of events for the infamous Paul, also known as 'The Movie Maker.' He was travelling under police escort when a severe thunderstorm made further travel impossible. He has been stranded at a small town called Malta. Informed sources say that the road has washed away in places and that it will be a number of days before a safe detour can be provided. Meanwhile, Paul has wasted no time in spreading his message among the town locals."

Peter That's Paul alright! Nothing can get him down.

Mary We must pray that the Lord will keep him safe and make it possible for him to spread the Good News.

Peter That's exactly what I've been praying. And remember, guys, we can pray as we work. So think of Paul as you go about your tasks.

*Peter takes off his jacket and rolls up his sleeves.*

Right! Today we will practice our first scene with Peter in prison. Mary said she'd have Matt's angel outfit ready by tomorrow.

Bart So does he get wings and things?

Matt	Don't even go there, Bart, You know how I feel about acting as an angel.
Bart	I guess for you, being an angel doesn't exactly come naturally.
Maggie	That's mean! I don't see a halo above <i>your</i> head!
John	Okay guys, cut it out!  I thought it best if someone simply reads the scripture passage for the prison scene. So let's see how that works.  Here, Mary, you have a good voice. It's Acts 12:4 to 17. Remember, this is just a practice. In the final shoot we'll have two guys dressed up as guards next to Peter.  <i>Peter gets into position on the floor and puts chains on his ankles.</i>
Mary	Are you ready? Here goes...  Acts twelve verse four: After arresting Paul, they put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by soldiers. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.  Verse five. So Peter was kept...
John	Cut! Cut. Mary, you don't have to say which verse you are reading. Just read it like a story—the way it happened.
Mary	Okay I get it.  <i>Peter lies down again and pretends to be snoring.</i>
John	Just carry on from there. Lights, camera, action!
Mary	So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.  The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance.

	Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.
John	Cut!
Peter	What now?
John	It says the chains fell off your <i>wrists</i> , and yours are on your ankles.
Peter	Oh dear! ( <i>Peter moves the chains to his wrists</i> )
John	And what happened to the angel. I think you missed your cue. You were meant to strike Peter on the side.
Peter	Hey that's not fair! How come he gets to strike me?
John	Because you're meant to be fast asleep.
	And Thomas; dim lighting up to the point where it says; "...and a light shone in the cell," then give it all you've got.
Thomas	Got it!
John	Okay let's take it from, "Suddenly an angel." ... Lights, camera, action!
Mary	Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side...
Peter	Stop! I'm awake—I'm awake.
John	Peter!
Peter	I need to put some padding there... maybe a pillow.
John	At this rate you'll stay in prison for life.
	Matt, go easy on Peter. Mary, try again.
	Camera, action!

Mary	<p>Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.</p> <p>Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals."</p>
Peter	<p>What? I got no clothes on? You gotta be kidding!</p>
John	<p>Peter, they don't give guys pajamas and teddies in prison!</p> <p>The angel meant for Peter to put on his coat and shoes.</p>
Peter	<p>Whew!! You had me worried there.</p>
John	<p>Sigh! Okay, let's take a break.</p> <p><i>Peter checks his cell phone.</i></p>
Peter	<p>Hey, I've just got an SMS from Paul. He says he arrived safely at his destination and they've allowed him to stay in a house there. And even though he is not allowed to leave the house, he is allowed to have visitors.</p>
Maggie	<p><i>(All excited)</i> So when are we going down to visit him?</p>
John	<p>Not so fast, we have plenty of work to do first. But let's go have a coffee break.</p> <p><i>They all leave the studio.</i></p> <p><i>On their way out, Mary says to Maggie;</i></p>
Mary	<p>I am so going to bake Paul a big batch of cookies.</p>
Maggie	<p>And I'm going to find him a nice book to read.</p>
Bart	<p>I can totally recommend the book of Acts.</p>