

MARY M AND THE MAD PROPHET
Drama with Poetry and Music in Progress

by Griselda Steiner

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MARY M AND THE MAD PROPHET

CHARACTERS

THE MAD PROPHET - is a jazz drummer, poet philosopher, fool and narrator. Wearing only a biblical style loincloth and red scarf he may use as a bandana, he sits stage front right with his drums, mike, bible and hat. He introduces the play, comments on the action and interacts with the characters. He is an existential chameleon who adds irreverent comedy to the serious themes of the work.

MARY B (Mary the Bride – (MIRIAM) – is Jesus' bride, disciple, and mother of his child (Sarah) who becomes a preacher/healer. She is a tall statuesque woman with long red hair. She is a descendant of the Great Goddess – Mother of All. (Preacher/Warrior).

MARY M (Mary the Whore) – is Mary Magdalene as traditionally interpreted from the standard Bible. Her appearance is similar to MARY B's with long red hair, but she is more sensual. She wears a sheer tattered coral colored dress with leather coin pouch around her neck. She also appears as a belly dancer. She is a descendant of a Hathor (Egyptian Cow Goddess) priestess – dancer, seer, sacred lover and midwife. (Priestess/Whore)

MARTHA – MARY B's real sister as depicted in the Bible.

SIMON THE PHARISEE – is MARY M's cruel pimp. He wears a long black robe and white head shawl.

PREACHER – is a contemporary preacher with a Southern accent.

THE ROCK CHORUS – Four people, two men and two women, are usually on stage. Throughout the drama the ROCK CHORUS plays many roles. They recite poetry that supports and comments on the action. They often appear as desert rocks covered with sand colored robes. When they become “the people”, they sing, drum, dance or chant. In some scenes they are musicians, modern churchgoers, bridal guests, Egyptian peasants, Romans, followers, merchants, etc. They can also play minor characters.

Three distinct female voices emerge from the ROCK CHORUS representing different themes:

(FS) is the voice of the spiritual feminist point of view.

(E) is a poetic echo that creates atmospheric sentiment.

(H) is voice of historic perspective

One distinct male voice emerges from the ROCK CHORUS:

(P) is the male voice supporting patriarchy.

Some poems are spoken by multiple members of the ROCK CHORUS and others by a single voice.

JESUS (or YESHUA) – When Christ speaks dialogue, he is YESHUA (his biblical name). When the Bible is quoted directly, he is JESUS.

OTHER CHARACTERS: EGYPTIAN BOY, DISCIPLES (PETER, ANDREW, JUDAS), PERFUME TRADER, WINE TRADER, WOMEN OF THE BIBLE, PAUL THE APOSTLE, BARNABAS, JOSEPH OF ARAMITHIA, BISHOP, SISTER & Others.

MUSIC

Musical styles – jazz, biblical and chanting – could mix. The Biblical style can be simple music using authentic instruments – drums, cymbals, harp, flute, sistrum and castanets. Modern music is represented by Jazz - jazz drumming, maybe a saxophone playing and beat style poetic ranting. The music may be composed or improvised, used as song or background.

SCENE 1

AT RISE: The stage is dark before all action. Dim lights come up revealing stones (the ROCK CHORUS covered in sand colored robes) spread on the desert sand.

ROCK CHORUS

We are the Chorus
A congregation of stone
Here before time
Mirror of heaven
Forming portals of the Goddess
Mortar for Masons
Engraved with spirals

(The MAD PROPHET enters Stage Rear wearing only a long loincloth carrying his Bible, drums and mike to set up. He trips over the stones, then picks up a real one large enough for him to sit on.)

MAD PROPHET

Seat of the prophets

ROCK CHORUS

Throne of the Magdala

(The MAD PROPHET comes to the front of the Stage Right and set ups his mike and drums.)

MAD PROPHET

Remember the Beat Poets
Agnostics with heart – Philosophers with vision
Like them I'm a mystic and a realist

(He carries a King James Version of the Bible and holds it up).

MAD PROPHET

The Bible is a great book – Tonight I invite you to take a new look
As I perform for you the role of the Mad Prophet

(He riffs on his drums.)

MAD PROPHET

I am the Mad Prophet with a mission
Here to give credence to visions
Revisions in a Mad World
Here to tell you an old tale a new way
The story of two Mary Magdalenes

SET: The center arch depicts a church doorway. SOUND of organ pipes and traffic.

AT RISE: The MAD PROPHET drums as a SPOT slowly brightens on his figure. Members of the Church leave the doorway after Sunday service. As they leave, the MAD PROPHET grabs their attention. The ROCK CHORUS is in modern dress. They carry sand robes they use to change themselves into rocks.

MAD PROPHET

Hear ye – Hear ye – Western civilization is coming to an end!

ROCK CHORUS (P)

Who's that nut?

ROCK CHORUS (FS)

Maybe he has something more to say than our preacher.
(to MAD PROPHET)

And who can save it?

MAD PROPHET

The divine feminine.

ROCK CHORUS (E)

You mean women?

MAD PROPHET

Yes, as in Mary Magdalene.

ROCK CHORUS (FS)

Just Think. All the leaders of the world are men over 50. Do you think they're doing a good job?

ROCK CHORUS (E)

Noooo...

ROCK CHORUS (O)

You're a man. Why do you care about women?

MAD PROPHET

I care about women because I am a man.

(The PREACHER comes out of the Church door and passes the crowd.)

PREACHER (in passing)

Get off church grounds. I can't command faith, but I can command respect. Don't listen to that madman, he's on the side of the spiritual feminists who are eroding Christianity. They are distorting the gospel and spreading Gnostic sources of heresy.

(The PREACHER exits.)

MAD PROPHET

Come gather round, ye flock of the modern wilderness.

(The ROCK CHORUS puts on their sand robes and rests in a semi-circle.)

MAD PROPHET

It's a Mad World
A Mad World needs a Mad Prophet
Me
It's a Mad World
A Mad World needs
A New Savioress

ROCK CHORUS

That's not what the Bible says

MAD PROPHET

The Bible was cut down,
New Gospels were found.

ROCK CHORUS (O)

And what do these Gospels say?

MAD PROPHET

They pave the way for seeing Mary Magdalene a new way.

ROCK CHORUS (FS)

Who are you?

(Changing lights on back screen projector suggest the reversal of time from modern to biblical with centuries passing in wild places - fast changing seasons – wind – rain – moving clouds – hot sun and moon cycles.)

MAD PROPHET

MAD PROPHET'S POEM

I am the Mad Prophet
From an ancient generation
Of philosophers and poets

I, the hidden Shaman
The silent power of words
Bridging the worlds
From the earth to the stars

From century to century
The eternal drum, I beat
As I beat the drum's skin
Cycles of history Repeat - Repeat

(The MAD PROPHET views this scene and reacts as if it were his own personal vision.

Behind the transparent screen, MARY B and MARY M are seated close together on a throne like chair. They appear as the ancient DOUBLE GODDESS symbol.

Their laps are covered with a shawl; each has only one outside leg showing and they appear as two torsos on one set of legs They wear flower wreaths on their long red hair and each holds a moon shaped mirror they use to multiple their image.)

ROCK CHORUS

MARY GO ROUND

Double Goddess – Double Queen

Warrior – Preacher – Priestess - Whore

The days before – the Two were One

Mary go round – go round

The double wheel

The double axes

At your heels

Mary go round – go round

The night – Winter Moon

Dance to Darkness

Dance to light – Summer Moon

Mary go round – go round

The Sun

The wheel of light

Mary go round – go round

North South East West

The pole - the axis

Forged in the Earth

Calls for Mary's rebirth

MAD PROPHET

A prophet is supposed to have visions

The Double Goddess -Two gorgeous red heads on one set of legs

What's in between? I am one man

From the profane to the sacred - from the sacred to the profane

The doorway to heaven and hell is the same.

(MARY B and MARY M get off the chair, separate and walk on Middle Stage in a semi-circle as if following the River Jordan.)

THE RIVER ROAD (The Moon River)

ROCK CHORUS (E)

In the days before
Came silent footsteps
She
Mother of Heaven
Earth, Oceans
Wearing veils of clouds
Mother of all life
Forgotten

(All Echo)

MARY B

In the days before
I walked in desert lands
Worshipped
Mother of All
Given names
By peoples of the sand

ROCK CHORUS (FS)

Her names faded
Worn smooth
By sand winds
Her names coupled
With demons
In men's myths
She
A Hidden Goddess

(All Echo)

ROCK CHORUS (FS)

Hor was Hathor
Egyptian Goddess of music
When men destroyed the Goddess
The whore replaced Akkadian - The priestess

MARY M

My story now told on bible pages
But I was once Akkadian
Hathor's sacred servant
Dancer of Fertility – Dancer of the Mysteries

MARY B

Before I was Great Goddess of All
Hid in Gnostic lore.
Now, I am Mary Magdalene the Bride
Will you come with me into the future life?

MARY M

Can I rise out of shame – Escape my captors?

MARY B

In the past you were free. Come with me. Live out your divinity.

MARY M & MARY B

Our souls so old
Sister
How far we journey
Is not known

(The Set returns to the contemporary church with the ROCK CHORUS now church goers.)

MAD PROPHET

From my plot
Of sand and rock
Three religions took root
With stories revealing the truth
Now taught as truth themselves

(The screen projects the ancient walls of Jerusalem. MARY M and MARY B appear behind the screen backstage. MARY M leans on the walls seeking customers. SIMON THE PHARISEE stands a distance from MARY M watching her. MARY B paces on the other side of stage reading a small book of Torah.)

MAD PROPHET

How you feel when the preachers say on Sunday
That Mary Magdalene was a whore
To pity the servant of the prophet?

ROCK CHORUS

Superior.

MAD PROPHET

But if she were a prophetess herself?

ROCK CHORUS

Inferior.

MAD PROPHET

The bible speaks of whores
Like Tamar at the crossroads
Who seduced her father-in-law
To become matriarch of the House of David

But preachers, priests and rabbis
Read between the lines
When they cast Mary as a prostitute
A sinner in our eyes

ROCK CHORUS (P)

We know Mary Magdalene
The anointer at Jesus' feet
The mourner at the crucifixion
First to see Christ risen

ROCK CHORUS (FS)

Some say Magdalene was Jesus' bride
A disciple
Star of her own gospel
Mother to Christ's child - Sarah
A founder - A Christian
Preacher of the new religion

MAD PROPHET

From century to century
The eternal drum I beat
As I beat the drum's skin
Cycles of history Repeat – Repeat

SCENE 2 – NAG HAMMADI

THE SET: STAGE LIGHTS BRING THE TIME FORWARD TO THE 20TH CENTURY. The screen backstage presents a desert sky – Egypt -Nag Hammadi -1945. The center arch appears as a cave.

AT RISE: A young Egyptian peasant BOY, carrying a sac collecting dung to be used as fuel, enters STAGE LEFT. He notices a red glow in the cave and enters. The Cave becomes light revealing a large earthenware jug. The BOY hesitates, then opens the jug. Fragments of golden paper fly out and astound him. He pulls out several ancient papyrus manuscripts. He exits the cave with the manuscripts, sits on the sand, unties the bundles and tries to read the words. They appear strange to him and he mumbles.

ROCK CHORUS

Darkness fills the cave -Secrets covered with dust
The hidden manuscripts
Fall into the Boy's hands - A gift to modern man

Strange vowels - strange sounds - In Egypt -
Nag Hammadi – 1945 -The Gnostic Scripture was found
Scripture from another world - Another bible – another Mary – called heresy

(The BOY finishes looking at the manuscripts and runs offstage leaving behind a few. The MAD PROPHET picks them up and blows off gold dust and sneezes. He reads their titles.)

MAD PROPHET

Philip – Peter – Bartholomew, Thomas, Miriam of Magdala

(As the MAD PROPHET reads the gospel titles, MARY B comes to the front (contemporary) of the stage. The MAD PROPHET hands her the gospel.)

MARY B

You have found my gospel.

(She reads from the Gospel of Philip – page 61 – plate 107)

“There were three who always walked with the Lord; Mary, his mother, the sister of his mother, and Miriam of Magdala, known as his companion, for him Miriam is a sister, a mother, and a wife.”

MAD PROPHET

Miriam, when you face the new world is it light or dark?

MARY B

Dark. When you're face to face with evil, it changes your complexion.

MAD PROPHET

Your Lord said, “Turn the other cheek”?

MARY B

I have only one in profile. It is a sword.

ROCK CHORUS (FS)

And so the Double Goddess
Stepped into the Gospels
As Mary Magdalene
Gnosis hidden when
Woman power was wrung
From cannon

The divine feminine shattered and divided
When a son with no wife
And a mother with no menses
Were sanctified
Now women who hope to be whole again seek the Magdalenes

SCENE 3 – MARY B AND YESHUA

SET: The stage depicts the desert garden oasis where MARY B and her sister, MARTHA, live. The LIGHT portrays early evening. Inside the Center Arch is a hearth with burning embers.

AT RISE: MARY B and MARTHA have just finished dinner and are drinking wine and eating honey cakes. MARY B is seated on a stool as MARTHA combs her long red hair.

ROCK CHORUS (H)

The story that she lived
That she walked with the beloved by his side
As his disciple, later bride was never told

MARTHA (as she combs)

So long -So red – Sister Miriam, why won't you let me cut your hair?

MARY B

I will let you cut it on my wedding day.

MARTHA

By that time it will be down to your ankles.

MARY B

Martha, you will marry before me.

MARTHA

No, I was raised to cook and serve. You should be the bride and carry the line of Benjamin.

MARY B

Father is gone, Lazarus doesn't care - I can choose whom I want.

MARTHA

You won't find a husband if you don't stop studying Torah like a man and having crazy visions.

MARY B

I had a vision today. There is a great man in the desert now. He will be my beloved.

MARTHA

There are no men here except wandering prophets. Be careful whom you choose, because I will serve him.

(Light on the MAD PROPHET)

THE MAD PROPHET

Expect a miracle girls
It must have been like the West Village then - No men
(Optional) But, maybe here was a bias in that oasis
Bis have a Bi-as

(YESHUA appears STAGE LEFT emaciated. He has just come out of the desert. MARY B walks towards him. He leans on her and she brings him to the entrance of the tent. She sits down on the ground and he collapses in her arms.)

Who is that man? Do you know him? MARTHA

No. MARY B

Desert wanderer – Thief! MARTHA

Give me water. MARY B

(MARTHA hands MARY B a jug of water. MARY B holds YESHUA on her lap and pours water down his throat.)

Suckling a stranger like a baby! MARTHA

I am saving his life. MARY B

Crazy man. Don't bring him in. MARTHA

(MARTHA enters the tent to sleep. LIGHTS depict darkening to night and then light till dawn. MARTHA comes out of the tent and sees MARY B and YESHUA sleeping on the ground.)

She slept with a stranger. She will have to marry him. At least then I can cut her hair. MARTHA

(MARY B and YESHUA wake up. MARTHA goes into the tent and brings out a bowl of bread and figs. The three sit down to eat.)

I am Mary. MARY B

Martha. MARTHA

Yeshua. YESHUA

Where were you? MARY B

I was baptized then in the desert for many days. YESHUA

Stay with us. We will make you strong. MARY B

(YESHUA sleeps outside the tent. STAGE LIGHTS depict the passing of several days. YESHUA wakes up refreshed. MARY B comes out of the tent with a basket to shop in the town market.

The STAGE becomes a market with tents and traders seated on the ground. The ROCK CHORUS emerges as MARKET GOERS carrying goods – fruit, herbs, bread and doves - to sell.

As YESHUA and MARY B wander through the market, a flute player and

drummer play. MARY B buys fruit and herbs from the TRADERS. YESHUA buys a cage of doves for MARY. They sit on a blanket and YESHUA gives MARY B the doves.

MARY M dressed as a belly dancer enters dancing to the music of the flute, cestrum and drum. SIMON THE PHARISEE follows her picking up coins of the TRADERS who admire her dance. MARY B dances with her a bit then sits down. At the end of her dance MARY M over MARY B and YESHUA.)

ROCK CHORUS (E)

Hathor's sacred servant
Dancer of Fertility – Dancer of the Mysteries

(After the dance MARY M and the MARKET GOERS leave the stage. MARY B and YESHUA are left seated on the blanket. They lean on each other and share a piece of fruit.)

MARY B

You are a tower of strength.

YESHUA

Because of you. You are beautiful. Will you marry me?

MARY B

I love you. But what is our destiny?

YESHUA

Because of my teachings – the Romans and Jews will destroy me.

MARY B

Why have you chosen me?

YESHUA

Because your ancient wisdom will carry my teachings in another time.

MARY B

Should I be afraid? Will I loose you?

YESHUA

I will never leave you. Be not afraid.

SCENE 4 – MARY M'S POEM

AT RISE: Night falls on the market place and the stage is dark. Sound of MARY M's tambourine. She dances on stage followed by a man who gives her coins she puts in her pouch. She makes love to the man behind the screen.

ROCK CHORUS (FS)

When did the double standard take hold?
If value were set by tongues and not gold
The slut – whore – prostitute
Would make men indiscriminate debtors.

SPOT on MAD PROPHET who looks longingly at her.

MAD PROPHET (reads from Bible - St. Luke 8:2)

“...Jesus went throughout every city and village ...and the twelve were with him, and certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene out of whom went seven devils.”

Come to me
Mary the whore - if you are a wandering whore
Why don't you seduce me?
Mary - Whore - Bitch
Come to me!

(Lights on stage turn to day. MARY M emerges from BACK STAGE in a tattered dress carrying her belly dance costume in a bundle bag. As she narrates, she walks along the imaginary semi-circle of the river Jordan.

(OPTIONAL: The ROCK CHORUS chants a sequence of harmonic interludes as the MP drums.)

The action that takes place behind the screen backstage is as shadow memories.

MARY M

I AWAIT

I've tasted the tongues of men
Taken their weight
Released their waste

I've tasted the bitter herbs
Green and brown leaves
That made me bleed

When I was young
My body warm with the sun
I was with men
By the river
In the tall weeds
In the fruit groves
Under shade trees

(As MARY M recites, 6 men from the ROCK CHORUS come on stage and throw gold coins at her feet. She picks them up and puts them in her leather pouch around her neck.)

MARY M (cont.)

In tents
On the hills
I slept in the sands
Wearing a cool dress of winds

Like a black star
Deep in the hearts of men
They kept my secret
And I wandered free
They gave me bread and meat

One day on the road
Men threw stones at an adulteress
Blood ran over rocks
I heard her cries of anguish
I felt her death

(Behind the screen the men throw rocks
at a woman who falls. When they finish
they drop the rocks and come to the screen
pawing as if to catch MARY M.)

When the men saw me
They dropped their rocks on the road

Hatred in my breast
Lusting in my loins
The men took me on the ground
Opening a cavern
Of obsession

(Blood runs down MARY M's legs that she wipes off with dress).

I lay in the dirt
Broken
In pain
I wore the wounds of my life
On my soul that night

In the morning
In the pale sun
I filled my body with wine
Nothing in my mind

As I bathed in the River Jordan
Sitting on a rock
Dressed in my hair
John prophesized the coming
Of the great teacher - Yeshua

The blue water
Washed my feet
Every day John saw me there
Dressed in my hair

(JOHN THE BAPTIST pours water as baptism.)

One day
My body empty
He knew my heart was ready
John baptized me
And now dressed in faith
I AWAIT

(The Stage becomes dark with a pink dusk. JOHN THE BAPTIST exits.
SIMON THE PHARISEE, wearing a long black robe and white head shawl,
emerges from behind the backstage screen to find MARY M seated naked and
shivering on the sand.)

SIMON

Mary, what are you doing naked by the river?

(He takes off his black robe and wraps it around her.)

SIMON (cont.)

I've been searching for you for hours. Guests are coming tonight. Romans. I need you to
dance for them. You will serve their needs as before.

MARY M

I am no longer yours. I am baptized. If I dance, I dance for myself.

SIMON

You are mine. When your parents died, I raised you, cared for you. Only I can protect you.

(SIMON THE PHARISEE picks up MARY M and carries her offstage.)

SCENE 5 - MARY M and SIMON

THE SET: The set depicts the tent home of SIMON THE PHARISEE. Inside the tent MARY M is asleep on a cot while SIMON THE PHARISEE is seated at a long table reading a religious scroll by candlelight and drinking wine.

(SPOT on the MAD PROPHET)

MAD PROPHET

Sweet Mary with the Pharisee
A cruel Pimp
If she fell in love with me
I could set her free.

(MARY M wakes up slowly.)

MARY M

Father. I wanted you to be a father to me.

SIMON

Not now.

MARY M

I could have been a bride. You would have taken me as a daughter and given me to a husband. I was pure then you corrupted me.

SIMON

You were mine.

MARY M

I became your secret shame.

SIMON

No Jew would have you for a wife. Why share your beauty with just one man.

MARY M

You raped me, soiled me but I had my pride and made my own money.

SIMON

You sleep in the desert. What can your money buy?

(SIMON takes gold coins from MARY M's pouch and puts them on the table.)

SIMON

What kind of life can you have without living with me?

MARY M

I am baptized and will meet the great teacher who will heal me.

SIMON

What is the name of your teacher?

MARY M

Yeshua

SIMON

He is dangerous. We must watch him. He is not a rabbi. No rabbi would touch you.

(MARY M gets up takes the scroll from the table and throws it on the floor.)

MARY M

Jesus will live in new scripture forever.

(SIMON THE PHARISEE hits her. She runs out of the tent weeping.)

SIMON

You will never be anything more than a harlot.

(Outside the tent a MAN is waiting for her. He puts his arms around her tenderly.)

MARY M

Why are you here?

(The MAN puts money in her pouch, and guides her tenderly offstage.

(After MARY M and the MAN go offstage, the MAD PROPHET goes into the tent and punches Simon to the ground.)

SCENE 6 – MARY M AND YESHUA

SET: The stage depicts a hillside with an arbor of trees center stage. The LIGHT portrays early evening with a breeze and shadows.

AT RISE: YESHUA is seated under a tree. MARY M walks through the shadows of the trees wanting to approach him, but afraid. Her hair is unkempt and her robe is open. She looks up at the moving leaves.

ROCK CHORUS (E)

Life echoes
In the leaves in the memory of nature
Where the bird of your heart slept
Naked and ready to fly
Between the Dove's white edge
And the planet earth.

(MARY M approaches YESHUA pulling back her hair and closing her robe. She sits next to him under a tree.)

MARY M

I'm so ashamed.

YESHUA

You've left Simon the Pharisee and been with a man. He is someone you knew. He was tender with you and gave you love.

MARY M

I feel so hurt. Now I want more.

YESHUA (takes her hand)

For you to heal, Mary, you must be chaste. Life echoes in your body will bring back the pain. Stay with me, follow my teaching and you will be healed. But, you will feel like a child.

MARY M

Help me.

(LIGHT on the MAD PROPHET)

MAD PROPHET (reads from LUKE 8:2)

A rock of power and strength Jesus held Mary and cured her.

(YESHUA and MARY M sit facing each other. YESHUA runs a hand gently down her shoulders then holds it on her stomach. MARY M becomes quiet and serene.)

MARY M

I wore the wounds of my life
On my soul that night
When my heart was ready
Yeshua healed me

(YESHUA and MARY M lie under the tree to sleep. LIGHTS depict darkening to night and then light to dawn. MARTHA enters STAGE RIGHT carrying a basket with fruit and bread for breakfast. She sees YESHUA and MARY M asleep under the tree. They wake up.)

MARTHA

My sister Mary, Princess of Bethany is your promised bride and I find you asleep with a whore.

MARY M

I am not a whore. I am Magdalene. I am a servant of the Lord.

(MARTHA drops her basket of food in front of MARY M.)

MARTHA

Then you serve your lord.

(MARTHA walks OFFSTAGE. We hear MARTHA yelling at MARY B.)

MARY B (Offstage)

No, No – that can't be. Yeshua told me he loved me.

(MARTHA drags MARY B ONSTAGE. MARY B sees MARY M and YESHUA eating together. MARY B approaches YESHUA.)

MARY B

How can I marry you now?

(MARTHA pulls MARY M away.)

MARY M

No, He is my teacher. He told me to stay with him.

(YESHUA gets up and embraces MARY B. Her crying subsides. MARY B quiets down and YESHUA AND MARY B stand at arms length.)

YESHUA

Miriam. Through me you will understand many things.

MARY B

I have been lonely with secret thoughts. How can you heal a woman and not love her. How can you love me and be my bridegroom and love every other man and woman. Is that love different?

YESHUA

I will love you as my wife and the rest as children.

MARY B

How can I have a special place at your side if our marriage is hidden?

YESHUA

One day our marriage will be a light to the faithful.

SCENE 7 – MAD PROPHEET ON LOVE

AT RISE: LIGHT on MAD PROPHEET who drums. The center arch depicts the church. He goes down on his knees and raises his hands in prayerful supplication.

MAD PROPHEET

Oh, Holy Eros! – Are you doing it up there?
I need some lovin
I haven't had any love in 2000 years
BISHOP Innocent III wrote in the 12th Century:
"The sexual act is so shameful that it is intrinsically evil."
I always liked churchwomen
Ladies – What a shame

ROCK CHORUS

Love – Love – Love – Love- Love
A Mad Prophet needs love
Just like women in the church

MAD PROPHEET

Is it the way I dress?
Maybe I should wear
A blue suit, white shirt and red tie
Like a 21st century snake oil con man political leader
Project a power image

Sex like power is simple
You go Down – In – Out – Up - Take Over and Make over

Politicians go to the closet and take out a blue suit
Some political closets are filled with Skulls and Bones

They go Down the steps
In to the crypt
Out as a Yale Graduate
Up to the Presidency
Then Take Over the US
Create chaos
Then make over the system
And Take Over again

ROCK CHORUS

Oh, Holy Eros!
A Mad Prophet needs love

MAD PROPHEET

We all know that sex sells
The news
The more obscene the better
But a true story
Even if it is over 2,000 years old
Would be banned today
Headline –
"Yeshua and His Wife Mary Magdalene have marital sex."

SCENE 8 – THE WEDDING

SET: The Center Arch depicts the contemporary church doorway.

AT RISE: The PREACHER leans casually on the arch leafing through the book, “The DaVinci Code”. The ROCK CHORUS is on stage dressed as rocks.

ROCK CHORUS

Yeshua of the House of David - Will wed Mary from the House of Benjamin
Two royal bloodlines united
From the grail in Mary’s womb - A vine of kings will bloom
In the fruit of many generations - She will live again

(YESHUA and MARY B wander on stage arm and arm appearing lost in the contemporary world. They approach the PREACHER. The MAD PROPHET watches from the front of the stage in dismay.)

YESHUA

We would like to know if you are clergy, can you marry us?

(The PREACHER looks in shock at the ancient couple.)

PREACHER

Who are you?

YESHUA

Yeshua.

(The PREACHER looks at MARY B.)

MARY

Mary.

(The PREACHER looks at YESHUA.)

PREACHER

You can’t marry your mother.

MARY

No, I’m Mary Magdalene.

PREACHER

My dear Magdala, come inside and repent.

(The MAD PROPHET leaves the front of the stage to grab YESHUA and MARY B. He begins to pull them offstage.)

MAD PROPEHT

I apologize. They’re in the wrong millennium.

PREACHER

You again. They can’t get married. It’s not in the Bible. The Christ has no partner

(The PREACHER chases after the MAD PROPEHT.)

MAD PROPHET

The man is Yeshua, a Rabbi.

PREACHER

You crazy artists. Writing bestsellers - "The DaVinci Code" - putting blasphemous ideas in the minds of innocents. Wild artists put women on the cross.

MAD PROPEHT

What are you afraid of?

(The MAD PROPHET, YESHUA and MARY B go offstage. The PREACHER walks back to church, enters the church door and slams it.)

PREACHER

If these ideas take hold, I will loose everything, everything.

ROCK CHORUS (H)

The Bride Was Scorned

When the Goddess reigned - She ruled by seasons
Heredity – property and name came through the matrilineal line
Then warriors ruled with iron weapons - They gave the Mother an evil name
Heredity – property and name
Came through the patrilineal line
An adulteress could make a child illegitimate - A crime worth stoning to death
A Queen without an heir could be beheaded
And clergy made celibate
Heredity – property and name
Could rob the church estate
Where the Bride was scorned

(Changing lights on the back screen projector suggest the reversal of time from modern to biblical. Centuries passing in wild places - fast changing seasons – wind – rain-moving moving clouds – hot sun and moon cycles. When this stops, the stage is lit as a bright summer's day with deep blue on the screen backdrop. The Center Arch is now draped with white curtains over which is a scarlet colored canopy (the Chupah).

ROCK CHORUS (FS)

Where is the maiden?
Soon to be the Bride
The wife of Yeshua

(MARY B comes out from the curtains wearing a beautiful white dress and carrying white roses. MARY M, wearing an identical white dress carrying red roses, follows her from behind the curtain.)

MAD PROPHET (reads from Gospel of Phillip - Page 72, Plate 118)

"Man and woman unite in the bridal chamber and those who have known this sacred embrace will never be separated."

(Gospel of Phillip - Page 84, Plate 130)

Even the worldly embrace is a mystery ...

It is not only a reality of the flesh...

It is an act of will...

It is not of darkness, it is light...

(MARY M crowns MARY B with a gold crown depicting the walls of Jerusalem. She walks to the side of the canopy and stands. YESHUA comes out of the curtains wearing a white robe and a garland of red roses around his neck. SOUND of sophar (ancient instrument – ram’s horn trumpet) and flute. YESHUA and MARY B hold hands.)

THE MAD PROPHET (Reads from the Song of Solomon)

“How fair is thy love, my sister, my spouse, how much better is thy love than wine! And the smell of thine ointments than all spices.”

What did Solomon mean by ointments?

(JOHN THE BAPTIST comes on stage wearing a white linen robe over a loin skirt. He carries a wine skin filled with red wine and a wine goblet. He stands before MARY B and YESHUA and gives the wine skin and goblet to YESHUA. YESHUA pours red wine into the goblet and offers it to MARY B who drinks. JOHN THE BAPTIST blesses MARY B and YESHUA with his hands. YESHUA and MARY B embrace and enter the white curtains - now the bridal chamber. MARY M leaves her bouquet of red roses on the ground before the curtains.)

MARY M

Carry the chalice
My lifeblood
Mary
Love for me
Embrace the sacred union

ROCK CHORUS (E)

Hieros Gamos

MARY M

Carry the chalice
My lifeblood
Dried in my veins
My womb scarred by men
Leaving me fruitless
Mary
Live for me
Dance
On your wedding day.

(The ROCK CHORUS flings off its sand robes and dressed in biblical finery joins MARY M, YESHUA and MARY B in a dance accompanied by the flute.)

ROCK CHORUS (E)

All nature, all life
Is a flow of opposites
It is natural for a man and woman to marry
Even if it is in secret

(SPOT on the MAD PROPHET leafing through the Bible.)

MAD PROPHET

Well that wedding is not in King James version of the Bible.

SCENE 9 – MARY M AND MARY B IN KITCHEN

THE SET: The set depicts the garden oasis home of MARY B as a tent, open stage front, closed with flaps on the sides. In the Center Arch is a hearth with burning embers cooking bread.

AT RISE: The light depicts early morning as MARY M and MARTHA are seated near the hearth kneading dough. The disciples sleep in the sand outside the tent STAGE LEFT.

MARTHA

Miriam has told me that when you travel with Yeshua and disciples - when they sleep in the sand, you are with them.

MARY M

Sometimes we have only the stars as our tent. The women are safe near the men.

MARTHA

Because of your past, how men feel about you, Miriam has said that you must stay here with me.

MARY M

Does Miriam know how Yeshua feels about me?

MARTHA

You must never ask Miriam that. She has her pride. As his hidden wife, she suffers.

MARY M

I have my pride and kept my promise to be chaste.

(SIMON THE PHARISEE enters STAGE LEFT with MARY M'S tambourine. He stands near the tent flap and does a lude imitation of a belly dance shaking the tambourine. MARTHA gets up.)

MARTHA

What is that noise? It will wake up the disciples.

MARY M

Stay here.

(MARY M steps outside to confront SIMON THE PHARISEE.)

SIMON

Mary come back to me. What are you doing here – cooking – praying – who are these beggars in the sand?

MARY M

You must go. These men are my brothers, my family. This tent is my home.

(SIMON THE PHARISEE grabs her.)

SIMON

Does your new family know you like I know you?

(When SIMON THE PHARISEE is close to her, MARY M takes the tambourine.)

Where is your teacher, your Jesus?

MARY M

If I tell you, will you go?

SIMON

Yes. One must understand an enemy before they are defeated.

MARY M

Yeshua has no enemies. He is in Galilee.

SIMON

I will leave. One day your Jesus will dine with me.

MARY M

When you know him, even you will be changed.

(SIMON THE PHARISEE takes out a walking stick from his robe for the long journey.
MARTHA opens the tent flap and sees him. MARY M enters the tent.)

MARTHA

Who is he?

MARY M

A man searching for Yeshua.

MARTHA

He is a Pharisee. They are plotting against him. When they destroy Yeshua you will feel guilt in your heart.

(MARTHA takes bread from the oven, puts it in her basket and brings the bread to the disciples. MARY M falls to her knees.)

MARY M

Oh Yeshua, forgive me, forgive me.

(MARY B, who has woken up comes from behind the hearth and watches MARY M praying.)

MARY B

If you are baptized, healed and live with us, for what do you ask forgiveness?

MARY M

Oh, Miriam you are so much stronger than me. How can I be worthy?

MARY B

Because of Yeshua, I have accepted you – taken you into my home. But can I trust you?

MARY M

I have the strength of my faith – like yours. I was the handmaiden at your wedding. I honor your marriage.

MARY B

Do the disciples honor you? They left their families. Can you understand their loss?

MARY M

If they have Yeshua, they have no loss. As a woman you should understand me.

MARY B

I understand that you the whore ruin marriages – inspiring lust in men who abandon their wives and leave children fatherless.

MARY M

I was a fatherless child so what is a father to me. Simon the Pharisee raised me, raped me, then sold me. I couldn't escape him.

MARY B

You were a victim until you became a woman. Now you have a choice.

MARY M

I chose Yeshua. I chose to be healed. I am chaste.

MARY B

But you still dance. Look at your tattooed torso – circling men's minds – dizzying their desires with your hips.

(MARY M dances.)

MARY M

You wish you had my power. You are the patriarch's dream woman – virgin – bride – mother. You will become a preacher of purity and forget I am a part of you.

MARY B

I would banish you if it weren't for Yeshua.

(MARY B slaps MARY M.)

MARY M

Is that your power? Has Yeshua given you any power?

MARY B

He knows I had power before and will reclaim it under his name in a new world.

MARY M

Show me that power.

MARY B

I will destroy your tattoo. Hathor's prostitute – cow whore – dung dancer.

(MARY B wipes her hand over MARY'S M's belly removing the tattoo.)

ROCK CHORUS (women)

Hathor's tattoo
Burnt on our bodies forever.
Sign of the sacred womb

MARY M

You washed away my past, but not my future.

MARY B

Your future is scarred like your womb – infertile – childless –

MARY M

My womb could seduce any man, even your Yeshua.

(MARY M and MARY B wrestle to the ground.)

(LIGHT on the MAD PROPHET)

MAD PROPHET

Looks like a scene from a 60's French flick
Mud wrestle girls
Forget the rules
If you don't want a husband
Remember anything goes in the Netherlands and Neverland.

(MARY B feels pain in her stomach. Weakening, she lies down.)

ROCK CHORUS (women)

Carry the chalice
My lifeblood
Dried in my veins
My womb scarred by men
Leaving me fruitless

MARY M

You are with child. You will need me. I will care for you.

MARY B

I have Martha, my sister.

MARY M

I am your real sister.

(MARYM and MARY B sit in on the ground creating the Double Goddess pose.)

MARY M and MARY B (together)

Our souls so old
Sister
How far we journey
Is not known

SCENE 10 – THE MINISTRY

AT RISE: The stage is dark. SPOT on the MAD PROPHET. He beats his drums wildly and accidentally knocks them over. He picks them up and tests them.

MAD PROPHET

The beat – the beat – the beat
What feet – Yeshua’s feet
That cat walked and that cat talked
By the sea - The Sea of Galilee
When that cat talked people listened
Some were women whom he respected

THE SET: The set depicts the shore of the Sea of Galilee. A strip of a blue waves extends across back stage.

AT RISE: A small boat with JESUS seated in a white robe, rests in the water. The sky becomes dark. SOUND of a storm at sea. The boat rocks, but Jesus remains calm.
On shore MARY M and MARY B-MIRIAM sit, their backs to the audience facing the boat in the Double Goddess pose.
SIMON THE PHARISEE enters and hides behind a rock to watch the scene.
The storm subsides and Jesus walks calmly out of the boat. MARY B-MIRIAM rises to stand at either side. JESUS raises his arms.

JESUS (John 16:33)

“In the world you have tribulation, but be of good cheer.”

(Musicians among the followers play the Hymn of Jesus (an Old Song).
MARY M does a belly dance. MARY B turns her back)

ROCK CHORUS (Hymn of Jesus)

To the universe belongs the dancer – Amen

MARY M (sings to MARY B)

He who does not dance does not know what happens - Amen

(LIGHT on the MAD PROPHET)

MAD PROPHET (reads from the Gospel of Matthew)

“From that time Jesus began to preach ...” and (from Luke 8:3) “Women ministered unto him their substance.”

JESUS (From Matthew 4:19)

“Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”

(JESUS stands in the center of the semi-circle with MARY B-MIRIAM and MARY M at his side. MARTHA carries baskets of bread offering food to the followers. JESUS gestures for MARY M to join MARTHA and they both serve. MARTHA approaches JESUS.)

MAD PROPHET (reads from the Luke 40)

“But Martha was cumbered about much serving and came to him....”

MARTHA

“Lord, does thou not care that my sister has left me to serve... bid her help me.”

JESUS

“One thing is needful, but Mary has chosen the good part which will not be taken away from her.”

(MARY B sits on the ground writing her gospel in a small book.

MARTHA returns to serving A WOMAN comes forward and whispers her trouble in MARY M's ear.)

MAD PROPHET (reads from the Mark 5:25)

“... a certain woman... which had issued of blood twelve years had suffered many things of many physicians had spent all she had and grew worse ...”

(The WOMAN comes forward.)

JESUS (reads from the Luke 13:16)

“And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, ...,be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?”

WOMAN (touches JESUS' robe)

“If I touch his clothes I will be whole.”

MAD PROPHET (reads from the Luke 40)

“And straight away the fountain of blood dried up”

(The WOMAN gestures gratitude and returns to semi circle.

The WOMAN OF SAMARIA comes forward. She carries a jug, draws water from an imaginary well and serves Jesus a cup)

MAD PROPHET

Jesus revealed that he was the Messiah to a foreign lady – now that was trust.

WOMAN of SAMARIA (John 4:19)

“How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria...”

JESUS (John 4:10)

“If thou ...knew who it is that saith to thee, “Give me drink”, thou would have asked him and he would have given thee living water.”

(Another agitated woman comes forward and whispers in MARY M's ear. MARY M guides her to MARY B-MIRIAM who listens and whispers to JESUS.)

JESUS (Matthew 5:32)

“Whosoever shall put away his wife and marry another, commiteth adultery against her... And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she commiteth adultery.”

(The ROCK CHORUS forms a group at the foot of a mountain.

JESUS preaches from the Sermon on the Mount.)

MAD PROPHET (From Matthew 5:1)

“He went up on a mountain and when He was seated His disciples came to him.”

JESUS (From Matthew 5:14)

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.”

MAD PROPHET (From Matthew 8:1)

“When He came down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him...”

(JESUS and followers enter the boat backstage. The sky becomes dark.
SOUND of a storm at sea. The DISCIPLES cluster when the boat rocks.)

MAD PROPHET (From Matthew)

“Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed him. And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with waves. “

MARY B (Gospel of Mary Magdalene Plate 9 - 14, 15)

“Do not remain in sorrow and doubt
For his Grace will guide and comfort you.”

MAD PROPHET (From Matthew)

“He arose and rebuked the ... the sea, and there was calm.”

(The small boat stops rocking and sails easily off stage. MARY M and
MARY B-MIRIAM sit on stage returning to their original Double Goddess
position.)

SIMON THE PHARISEE (from hiding place)

Magician – imposter – tantalizing whores – women disciples – healing with trickery – touched by
bleeding women. He breaks every law. He calls his followers fisher’s of men. He is my fish and
I will catch him.

ROCK CHORUS (FS)

Yeshua walked on water
Then changed water to wine
At the Last supper
Jesus served wine

ROCK CHORUS (H)

In the last supper DaVinci painted
Mary to his right -Judas to his left
On the table -empty glass
The wine was the blood in Mary’s womb

* * *

SCENE 11 - MARY M ANNOINTS

THE SET: The back screen projects an image of the outside walls of ancient Jerusalem lighting up in the dawn with olive groves. The center arch becomes the Lion's Gate that goes into the city with staircase.

ROCK CHORUS (E)

Dawn over the City of Jerusalem
Ancient Jewel
Shimmers in the first light
Warms the sand
Dries the olive leaves
Lifts the shadows off the city walls
Lights the Lion's Gate

AT RISE: MARY M, walking down the stairs of the Lion's Gate. She wears a choral colored robe over her transparent dress and a pouch filled with coins on a leather strap around her neck.

ROCK CHORUS (FS)

So young – so bold
The sacred prostitute redeemed
Jesus' follower
Rewrite words cut by the scribes
Come to the City – Come Alive!

(SOUND of the flute. MARY M wanders past the walls of Jerusalem. JESUS and his Followers enter STAGE RIGHT. STAGE LEFT, two merchants set up booths, one for perfume - the other for wine and herbs. As the TRADERS call out their wares, JESUS and his Followers enter the arch to enter the city and temple.
LIGHT on the MAD PROPHET.)

MAD PROPHET (Reads from John 12)

"Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand and Jesus went up to Jerusalem..."

PERFUME TRADER

Perfume for pilgrims - Frackenscence and myrrh. – Spices - Cinnamon and spikenard

WINE TRADER

Sweet wine for Passover – Bitter Herbs

(MARY M lingers behind the FOLLOWERS and approaches the PERFUME TRADER. She takes her alabaster jar out of her bundle and puts it on the table.
LIGHT on the MAD PROPHET.)

MAD PROPHET (Reads from John 12)

BISHOP Gregory I in Homely 33 said, "It is clear, brothers, that the woman previously used the ungent to perfume her flesh for forbidden acts."

MARY M

Fill the jar with spikenard.

PERFUME TRADER

That's 50 dinari an ounce.

(He examines the jar.)

This will take 6 ounces – 300 dinari. Pay before I pour.

(MARY opens her robe, not thinking of her translucent dress and takes off the pouch. She pours many silver and gold coins on the PERFUME TRADER's table.)

PERFUME TRADER

Your breasts were once mine and so were the coins.

(He calls to the WINE TRADER.)

Come see who is here. Mary the prostitute – Zonah!

(The PERFUME TRADER and the WINE TRADER surround MARY M and accost her. MARY M remains calm. The men are astonished when MARY M doesn't respond. The PERFUME TRADER spits on the ground.)

PERFUME TRADER

You feel more like a child than a woman.

MARY M

I was baptized and now follow Jesus. The oil is for him.

(The PERFUME TRADER takes the coins off the table. MARY M smells a few oils and picks one. The PERFUME TRADER pours spikenard into MARY's jar.)

PERFUME TRADER

You buy perfume for a holy man with your dirty gold.

MARY M

My heart is pure and so is my gold.

(There is a loud clamor and voices screaming offstage. Baskets, fruit, clothes, doves and coins come flying from the temple down the stairs.)

MAD PROPHET (Quotes from John 2:13)

"...and he found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves and the moneychangers doing business. When he made a whip of cords. He drove them all out of the temple..."

JESUS (From John - Offstage)

"Take these things away. Do not make my Father's house a house of merchandise."

(Two panicked temple goers run down the stairs – then offstage.)

PERSON 1

He is overthrowing the merchant's tables.

PERSON 2

Madman! Run!

PERSON 1

Does he think the temple was made for prayer?

PERFUME TRADER

Your Jesus is an angry man. The Priests will destroy him for defiling the temple.

WINE TRADER

He will pay a high price. His life.

MARY M

Come with me tonight. Hear Jesus yourselves. Come with me to Bethany to dine.

WINE TRADER

Perhaps the guests need some wine. If you have no more gold, you can pay me the old way.

(The WINE TRADER touches MARY M – The PERFUME TRADER pushes him away.)

PERFUME TRADER

What does your angry prophet have to offer me?

MARY M

Perhaps one of you is in pain. Jesus can heal you.

PERFUME TRADER

I've heard. News travels fast in the city.

WINE TRADER

Lies... Gossip... Why would a holy man dine with the likes of me?

MARY M

Everyone is welcome at the Lord's Table.

WINE TRADER

If you are worthy, so am I.

(LIGHTS on stage turn darker. As MARY starts her journey, the PERFUME TRADER and WINE TRADER close their booths and follow her.)

MARY M, WINE TRADER and PERFUME TRADER enter Bethany. The Center Arch becomes a hearth for cooking and a tent is pitched above it. JESUS, his followers and guests are seated at a long table drinking wine. MARTHA (MARY B'S sister) serves them dinner in wooden plates. MARY B is standing outside. MARY M comes up to her followed by the TRADERS.)

MARY M

I have spikenard for Jesus. He said he would suffer and die.

(MARY B grabs the alabaster jar.)

MARY B

Thank you for the oil.

(The PERFUME TRADER takes the jar and gives it to MARY M.)

MARY M

It is for me to anoint Jesus. I paid for this with my body. It is my sacrifice.

MARY B

That jar is your idol. It means more to you than you soul.

MARY M

You will be immortal through your child. I will be immortal by this act.

MARY B

The Mary who anoints Jesus will remain in the bible. I will carry on Jesus work. By doing this do you believe you can escape human suffering?

MARY M

No only pride.

(MARY M enters the hut. SIMON THE PHARISEE grabs her. She pulls away. The guests have finished dinner. MARY B and the TRADERS enter and stand at the back of the table. JESUS reclines, his feet on the ground. MARY M kneels on the ground, pours the oil on Jesus feet and wipes his feet with her hair. When she gets up, JESUS touches her head with love.)

THE MAD PROPHET (Quotes from John 12)

"Then Mary took a pound of very costly spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house filled with the fragrance of oil."

(The Guests and Disciples smell the aroma of expensive perfume and become angry.)

JUDAS (Quote from John - seated at Table)

"Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred dinari and given to the poor?"

JESUS (Quotes from John)

"Let her alone. She has kept this oil for the day of my burial. For the poor you have with you always, but me, you do not have always."

THE MAD PROPHET (Quotes from Mark 14:8-9)

"What this woman has done will be told as a memorial." The Gospel of Mark.

(MARY gets up and weeps. The PERFUME TRADER comes up to her and holds her.)

THE PERFUME TRADER

My gold has served you well.

(SIMON THE PHARISEE leaves the hut followed by JUDAS. SIMON whispers in JUDAS's ear and gives him silver coins. JUDAS nods placing his hands on SIMON's shoulder.)

* * *

SCENE 12 - CRUCIFIXION

THE SET: The screen backstage depicts a large symmetrical white cross with green background.

AT RISE: The ROCK CHORUS is dispersed as people on the ground holding candles. As the scene continues, the candles slowly extinguish or are blown out. MARY M and MARY B kneel at the foot of the cross in silence.

THE ROCK CHORUS (All)

North – South – East – West
Victory – Glory born from defeat
The pole - the Axis
Forged in the Earth

LIGHT ON the MAD PROPHET.

THE MAD PROPHET

Calvary – The Crux – The Crossroad - The Crucifix
One X – a million meanings

ROCK CHORUS (H)

As the Gospel tells it, Jesus went before Pilate
The Roman Governor of ancient Judea
He was accused of proclaiming himself “King of the Jews.”

THE MAD PROPHET

The passion of St. Matthew -
“From noon on darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon – and about three o’clock Jesus cried in a loud voice “My God – My God – Why hast thou forsaken me?”

ROCK CHORUS (All) (In Hebrew)

“Eli, Eli lama saba – lama sabachthani!”.

(The candles the ROCK CHORUS hold are blown out or extinguish.)

* * *

SCENE 13 - MARYS IN THE TOMB

SET: Spotlight on a long table CENTER STAGE FRONT.
BACK STAGE – The screen has a projection of green light that forms the bottom half of a cross.

AT RISE: JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA (wealthy landowner) comes on stage from behind the screen carrying a white cloth that suggests the body of Christ in his arms. He places it on the table. The white cloth is draped in such a way that it creates shadows that look like a mountain. He exits behind the screen.

The two MARYS come from behind the screen and kneel at either end of the table with arms and head spread down on it.

SOUND – Both MARYS exude a long crescendoing moan accompanied by the flute.

SONG

MARYS' SORROW
AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

MARY B

Oh, love
Love that surpasses all love
At the foot of the cross
I died with you

MARY M

You were crucified
Because your divinity
Rose above
The murderous minds of men
Lifting their weapons
Against your frail body

MARY B

Oh, my husband
You are free of suffering
Free of pain
I walk into the future
Your child in my womb

MARY M

I cannot look into your face

MARY B

Your body gave me the
Only happiness I ever knew
Teacher tell me
How I can live without you

(The cross on the screen ascends and the arch center stage appears as a tomb. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA comes on stage, lifts the cloth from the table and places it in the arch. He then pulls a rock to cover the tomb and returns backstage. MARY B and MARY M wail.

Spotlight on the MAD PROPHET who picks up his Bible and reads. As he reads, the tomb turns from dark to light. In the dawn light the two MARYs appear, -each carrying an alabaster jar to anoint the Christ's body. The LIGHT brightens within the tomb. They see it is empty and are astonished.)

THE MAD PROPHET (Reads Matthew verse)

"...Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb and behold there was a great earthquake for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone of the door. But the angel said...to the women "Do not be afraid for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He is risen from the dead."

The centurions guarding the tomb said that the disciples stole Jesus while they slept. But if they were sleeping how did they know? Today they would be fired.

MARY B to MARY M

You cannot see Jesus risen.

MARY M

I am worthy. I loved him as much as you, in a pure way. How can you claim divinity when as Yeshua's wife you slept with him?

MARY B

Ours was a sacred union. You are not a disciple. He has chosen me. I will be exalted in a vision that will surpass your understanding.

MARY M

I, a whore, loved him with my spirit and
You, a saint, loved him with your body.

MARY B

You are banished.... May your anger split you to pieces in the firmament.

(Light on the MAD PROPHET.)

THE MAD PROPHET

Well, there's one story that doesn't end in death.

(The Stage darkens. The back screen projector shows a starry night sky. STAGE LEFT is SIMON THE PHARISEE'S tent. MARY M wanders lost on the alone towards the tent.)

MARY M

Banished by my dear sister... Alone with only my faith. Lord, why test me now?

(To comfort herself MARY M plays her tambourine and tries to dance but stumbles and falls. The MAD PROPHET takes pity on her, walks on stage with his hat and sits a distance from her.

SIMON THE PHARISEE comes on stage and looks at MARY M.)

SIMON THE PHARISEE

A handmaiden but never a bride. Mary is alone now – helpless harlot. I will have her back. If I gave her to a servant they could both be my slaves.

MAD PROPHET

The woman is independent man. You abused her enough.

SIMON THE PHARISEE

Do you know her?

MAD PROPHET

Not in the biblical sense.

(MARY M wanders into SIMON THE PHARISEE'S tent.)

SIMON THE PHARISEE

Who are you?

MAD PROPHET

A wandering Jew. A beggar.

(The MAD PROPHET puts out his hat. SIMON THE PHARISEE drops in a silver coin.)

SIMON THE PHARISEE

I'll make that gold if you'll be my servant and take Mary for your wife.

MAD PROPHET

How do I know she will have me?

SIMON THE PHARISEE (looks at him)

No woman would have you the way you look now. What are you wearing?

MAD PROPHET

A loincloth.

SIMON THE PHARISEE

Take it off.

(The MAD PROPHET takes off his loincloth and SIMON THE PHARISEE, like a tailor, skillfully robes him. SIMON THE PHARISEE takes a rolled document from his robe and hands it to the MAD PROPHET.)

SIMON THE PHARISEE

A woman will do what her father says. Here is the marriage contract. Sign here. Can you write?

(SIMON THE PHARISEE hands MAD PROPHET a quill. He signs the paper.)

MAD PROPHET

The Old Testament is filled with trickery
Especially within the family
What's in this for me?

SIMON THE PHARISEE

Gold! Gold! And More Gold!

(SIMON THE PHARISEE puts gold coins into the MAD PROPHET's hat.)

MAD PROPHET

Gold he stole from Mary.

(Inside the tent a lamp is lit.)

SIMON THE PHARISEE (yells)

Mary, your betrothed – betrothed is coming for you.

(The MAD PROPHET dashes through the door of the tent and pulls MARY M out, whispering to her.)

MAD PROPHET

My vow means nothing
I'm not circumcised.
I will take out to the 21st century
You will be free

(MAD PROPHET and MARY M run to the front of the stage.
SIMON THE PHARISEE chases them, but cannot cross an invisible barrier near the front of the stage. He looks around as if they vanished and bangs his hand against an invisible wall.
Black out on the middle stage. Light on the front.)

MARY M

Where will I go? Shall I wander the night sky – alone with constellations and spirits?

THE MAD PROPET

Mary do you want me? Come live with me.

MARY M

In your filthy apartment filled with old newspapers, dirty dishes, vermin, empty beer bottles under the sheets. I'll stay in the bible and sleep in the church.

THE MAD PROPHET

Mary, you could be my woman. Do you want to sleep alone in church pews – hot in the summer, shivering in the winter.

MARY M

I will sleep there until the Bride is welcome and we become One again.

(The Center Arch becomes the entrance to a church.)

THE MAD PROPHET

I'll bet it's hot as hell in there.

(MARY wanders towards the doorway. The PREACHER is leaning on the doorway arch preparing his Easter Sermon by reading the Bible. MARY M wanders across the stage carrying her bundle bag. Near the church door a HOMELESS MAN sees her Passing.)

HOMELESS MAN

Can you spare some money? I'm hungry.

(MARY M pulls a gold coin out of her pouch and puts it in his hand. The HOMELESS MAN looks at it.)

HOMELESS MAN

What is this? Gold? I can't buy booze with gold.

THE MAD PROPHET (yells to Mary M)

Remember, never mention the Bride to the preacher.

PREACHER (prepares for Easter Sermon - Quote St. Luke 24:49)

"Thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead on the third day."

(The PREACHER sees MARY M approaching.)

PREACHER

Welcome, poor dear Magdala, you have come to me at last. Come into the church, repent!

MARY M

Why must I repent? In your church where is the icon of the male rapist, pedophile, pimp who repents? Why call me a sinner and not them.

PREACHER

When Jesus saw men stoning a woman, he said – "He who is without sin, cast the first stone."

MARY M

Jesus saved one woman, but I have seen many stoned to death.

PREACHER

Magdala, you must be weary. Come in and rest. Sunday we will celebrate Easter and you will be joyful.

MARY M

I will be joyful when my sister joins me here.

(The PREACHER guides her into the church.)

SCENE 14 - MARY IN THE GARDEN

THE SET: The set depicts a dark winter in the desert with gray sky. The arch appears as a deep cave. The ROCK CHORUS is strewn about the stage.

AT RISE: The MAD PROPHET drums. The ROCK CHORUS chants.

MAD PROPHET

Ah, The Fierce irony of life
That strikes like a sword
Midst the calm at the center of a storm
Flinging us into the icy winds

(The stage remains dark. SOUND of blustering winds. MARY B enters the garden wearing black robes over a white gown.)

MARY B

What is visible?
What do I see?

(A wind blows her black robes.)

My sister is gone
Gone into the night sky
My Lord was crucified
Evil beyond evil
My soul cannot bear
The winds beckon me to return
To desert sands from whence I came
To live as the bride of the Jesus
Only to return alone

(MARY B enters the cave and disappears.)

ROCK CHORUS (H)

Remember the days before when you came in silent footsteps
Mother of heaven
Earth, Oceans,
Wearing veils of clouds
Mother of all life - Forgotten

(The winds dissipate. The sky brightens to blue and the stage becomes a Spring garden. SOUNDS of nature coming to life; bird calls, insects, etc. The ROCK CHORUS now appears as green bushes. MARY B comes out the cave wearing a white robe. In the arch behind her is a beautiful rose bush. At first she looks around her refreshed, then remembers her grief. She kneels praying.
Light on the MAD PROPHET reading from the Gospel of John.)

MAD PROPHET

“She turned herself back and saw Jesus standing and knew not that it was Jesus.”

(JESUS appears in a white robe in soft glowing light. MARY B, startled, looks up at him.)

JESUS (from Gospel of John)

Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?

MAD PROPHET (Reading from Gospel of John)

“She, supposing him to be the gardener saith unto him..”

MARY

Sir, if you have taken him away, tell me where you put him and I will take him.

(MARY B recognizes Jesus and tries to clutch his legs in an embrace.)

JESUS

Mary!

MARY B

Rabboni!

JESUS

Touch me not, for I have not yet ascended to my father.

MAD PROPHET

Hindsight –

Is seeing backwards

Saying what Is

Not what should have been

So Yeshua revealed to Mary everything that will be Forever.

(JESUS gestures to MARY B as if lecturing her. He reveals secret teachings to her that she understands telepathically. SOUND of flute playing. The glow around JESUS grows stronger and he disappears. MARY B collapses on the ground. The MAD PROPHET picks up the Gnostic Gospel of Phillip and blows off gold dust.)

MARY B

I understand.

MAD PROPHET

The Gospel of Phillip - “But Christ loved her more than the other disciples and would kiss her on the mouth. The rest of the disciples were offended by it and expressed disapproval. They said to him. Why do you love her more than all of us? He said to them, “Why do I love you like I love her?”

(MARY B rises slowly from the bush and brushes off her dress. She goes to the arch, plucks a rose from the bush and smells its fragrance.)

MARY B

My Lord has risen and revealed secrets to me. I must tell my fellow disciples.

ROCK CHORUS (E)

Before we awake our sleep is deeper
Before the spring, the harsher the winter
When we awake the brilliant light shatters
All forms, all life, all dreams, all matter

* * *

SCENE 15 – THE HILL (*This scene comes directly from the Gospel of Phillip*)

SET: The set depicts a rocky alcove on a hillside outside of Jerusalem. The hills are a sandy color dotted with small green shrubs.

AT RISE: The disciples sit and recline near the rocks. PETER (a disciple) is seated on a high rock and MARY B on a rock across from him.

ROCK CHORUS (FS)

His words are lost but not his cross
St. Peter's simple stones, now the Vatican

SPOT on THE MAD PROPHET (Reading from Gnostic Gospel Phillip)
According to the Gospel of Phillip, Mary was “the woman who knew the “All”. Jesus appeared to her risen. She was capable of understanding the mysteries.

(The disciples start weeping.)

DISCIPLES

How shall we teach? We will be killed – Martyred for the Lord.

MARY B

What is hidden from you, I will proclaim.

ANDREW

What did Jesus say to you?

MARY B

(Note: This text comes directly out of Gnostic gospel but cut down)
I asked the Lord how one sees a vision, through the soul or spirit. Christ answered me – one does “not see through the soul or spirit but through the mind which is between the two.”

ANDREW (disciple)

That is a strange idea he did not teach us.

PETER (disciple)

Did the savior really speak with a woman without our knowledge? Are we to turn and listen to her. Did he prefer her to us?

(ANDREW gets up and faces PETER.)

ANDREW (disciple)

You have always been hot tempered. Now I see you argue against the woman like an adversary. If the savior made her worthy, who are you to reject her? Surely the Savior knew her very well. That is why he loved her more than us.

MARY B (crying)

My brother Peter, what do you think? Do you think I thought this up myself in my heart or am I lying about the Savior?

(ANDREW takes MARY B aside.)

ANDREW (disciple)

Mary - Are you with child?

MARY B

Yes.

ANDREW (disciple)

The Lord would want you safe.

MARY B

Yes. In the morning I leave with Joseph of Arimathia to Alexandria and then across the sea.

(The sky darkens. MARY B looks at the disciples who are asleep. She gazes upward.)

MARY B

Oh, Lord give me strength to carry your word into the lands. Goodbye my brothers.

(She climbs down the mountain.)

* * *

SCENE 16 – THE ESCAPE

SET: The scene depicts the sandy shore of Alexandria near sunset. A low flat depicting the waves of the sea stretches across the stage and a small boat is anchored behind it.

AT RISE: JOSEPH OF ARIMATHIA enters stage right walking holding MARY B and dragging their belongings behind him. SPOT on the MAD PROPHET.

MAD PROPHET

Yo, Joseph Of Arimathia
Mary's knocked up
Single mothers weren't in back then.

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHIA

I promised Yeshua I would deliver you out of Jerusalem safely.

MARY B

And so you have.

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHIA

The journey by sea will take many weeks. Are you strong enough?

MARY B

(Rubs her belly)

We'd better leave before. . .

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHIA

I could be a father to your child and your husband. No one knows who we are in France.

MARY B

The Lord knows I am his and mother of his child and so will those I preach to.

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHIA

Whatever you choose – I will keep my word.

(JOSEPH OF AMIMATHIA takes puts their belongings in the boat. He prepares the boat by lifting the sails.

MARY B stands at the shore looking at the horizon.)

ROCK CHORUS

And so her journey begins
After the death of the Lord
Before the birth of her child
She will travel a water road
From Alexandria to Marseille
A refugee from Jerusalem

The Lord spoke to her first
And the others were jealous
Alone she will found a church
And write a gospel

MARY B

But I am so frail

ROCK CHORUS

And the journey so long

MARY B

MARK THE WINDS

Would that my mind could reach the sky
And mark the winds like the clouds

And my body span the sea
Touching the shores with the tides

And my pregnant shadow sift the sands of time
Where my child and I are one

If I could leave behind my human form
Filled with cycles of seasons and sorrow
I would return a healer of light
And lift the pain of life from all believers

But now
The sky has set winds to my sail
And the sea has entered my womb
And the sands into the hourglass of time

Where
My form will become a vessel
The grail where spirit echoes
For those that hear
The Truth will thunder in the Sky

(When the boat is prepared JOSEPH OF ARIMATHIA helps MARY in. He pulls up anchor, land the boat sails off into the sunset.)

* * *

SCENE 17 – THE BIRTH

THE SET: The stage depicts the sea coast of Marseille, southern France, where MARY B and JOSEPH OF ARIMATHIA have landed. Their small boat is anchored stage left behind a strip of waves. The ROCK CHORUS is on stage draped as rocks.

AT RISE: JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA helps MARY B out of the boat. She holds her pregnant belly in pain.

MAD PROPHET

Once upon a time there lived a beautiful princess
And she liked to shop at Saks Fifth Avenue
No –
Once upon a time there lived a beautiful princess
Named Sarah

ROCK CHORUS (FS)

She lived in the cradle of heresy
In the tales of the Templars – Cult of Zion – with the Cathars
In the Tarot – Black Madonna - she was found
In feasts, legends and churches
Ethiopia, Scotland, Egypt and France
Lived the Grail Romance

MAD PROPHET

But in church hierarchy
The power of women was feared - Not revered

ROCK CHORUS (FS)

The vine – the root – the phallic shoot
The chalice and the blade
The sacred union made

MARY B

The baby is coming.

(JOSEPH OF ARIMATHIA spreads a blanket on the sand. MARY B lies down and rests against him. She moans in pain.

BACKSTAGE the center arch becomes the church where MARY M is sleeping on a pew. She hears MARY B's cries. She gets up, takes a basin and towels and walks through the sea to the beach. She approaches MARY B.)

ROCK CHORUS (FS)

You've carried the chalice
The lifeblood
Filled with the seed of Sarah.

MARY M

Sister.

MARY B

Sister, help me.

(JOSEPH OF ARIMATHIA supports MARY B and she starts labor. MARY M kneels down and pushes on MARY'S B'S stomach. The STAGE LIGHTS darken to night. We hear the SOUND of a newborn baby cry.)

MAD PROPHET (Quotes from Chapter 4 of Hebrew Prophet Micah)

As for you, O [Magdaleder} watchtowers of the flock,
O stronghold of the Daughter of Zion!
Have you no King?
Has your counselor perished?
That pain seizes you like that of a woman in labor
Writhe in agony
O Daughter of Zion.

(STAGE LIGHTS become light as morning comes. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA is asleep. MARY M is nursing the newborn holding it wrapped in a cloth. MARY B wakes up and takes the baby.)

It is a girl. MARY M

Not a boy, not a king? MARY B

A girl – mother of Kings – mother of Queens. MARY M

My love – my Sarah MARY B (kisses the baby)

(MARY M and MARY B lean on each other peacefully.)

I must return. MARY M

Where will you go? Back to the stars? MARY B

No, to the church where I will wait for you. MARY M

(MARY M gets up, takes the basin and towels. She walks through the tides back to the church in the ARCH. MARY B caresses the baby)

THE ROCK CHORUS (FS)
Out of Mary's womb
Blooms a vine of kings
The French Merovingian

* * *

SCENE 18 -SCENE MARY AFTER BIRTH BEFORE PAUL

THE SET: The Center Arch depicts the doorway to the church. MARY M is outside the church in her belly dance costume dancing to celebrate Sarah's birth. The MAD PROPHET looks on sadly.

MARY M

The promise is fulfilled. Sarah - will be Mother of Kings – Mother of Queens.

(Two contemporary men pass by, stop to admire MARY M and throw coins at her feet.)
The PREACHER opens the door and sees her.)

PREACHER

Mary, stop! Stop! What are you doing?

MARY M

Celebrating a baby's birth.

(The PREACHER grabs her to pull her into the church.)

PREACHER

Unless you stop, I will put you on display for my next sermon on St. Paul and mortal sin.
(Rom., v, 12)

“By one man sin entered into this world, and by sin death.” That man was Adam, he sinned by the temptation of Eve and his sin is all man's sin.

MARY M

If you put me on the pulpit, I will dance and my dance will have more power than your sermon.

(The PREACHER goes into the church. MARY M sits on the stoop outside.)

MAD PROPHET

She chose the church and the Preacher. She could have been mine.

(The MAD PROPHET takes a hat off the ground, collects the coins and puts them in the hat.)

MAD PROPHET

If I were vedantic
Would I be pedantic?
With all theologies epistemologies
And psychologies
The basic nature of man has remained the same
Rottennnnnn
Oh Lord
If you were ever needed it is now – now – now to heal this mess

MARY M

Stop your mad chanting. You crazy prophet. Get on your knees and pray.

MAD PROPHET

Pray to – to what or whom should I pray?

MARY M

To the Lord you called out for – your master to cure your madness.

MAD PROPHET

He' was only a prophet like me. Why pray to a prophet?

MARY M

You're sitting on a rock – are you not?

MAD PROPHET

Yes. It appears such.

MARY M

That rock is Christ's church. Kneel and pray.

MAD PROPHET

From a simple rock came the Vatican.
Filled with riches and bones
The church that forgot your master's simple words

MARY M

And who would remember yours?

MAD PROPHET

If it weren't for the Apostle Paul – you wouldn't be -defiled - made a whore - there would be no Vatican – no doctrine of original sin.

(MARY M reenters the church and shuts the door.)

SCENE 19 - MAD PROPHET AND PAUL

AT RISE: MAD PROPHET is STAGE FRONT drumming and improvising poetry. LIGHT brings the play back to Biblical Times.
BACK STAGE a strip of blue waves moves across the stage indicating the Mediterranean Sea. A small boat with one billowing sail follows on which are PAUL and BARNABAS.
BARNABAS is steering the boat and PAUL sits in back writing on a tablet.

MAD PROPHET

Paul -

A zealot's heart is an inferno
Made of fickle fire that cares not
What is used for fuel
But for the blaze
For a cause he believes in
He will burn a path
That becomes a superhighway
Named glory – ridden by corruption

And so it was with Paul
When the zealot who killed Christians
Had a vision of Christ risen
Became an evangelist in 50 AD
The first propagandist
Using fear and intimidation
To solidify congregations
Who came to believe in original sin
Making them slaves of the First Church
Who couldn't think

The self-righteous are those that have changed
But the truly righteous are not changed
If I could change you again
We might have had Christ's religion
Paul, you SOB – you ruined Jesus' teaching.

(Yells to PAUL on the boat.)

Yo - Paul

PAUL

Who calls forth?

MAD PROPHET

The Mad Prophet.

PAUL

Are you a follower of the Lord?

MAD PROPHET

I follow no one. I am a madman in a mad world. Can we have a word?

PAUL

I must hasten forth. I am on my way to Corinth for a conference.

MAD PROPHET

Well, I'm a mad weatherman and there's a storm brewing ahead.
Come ashore.

(On STAGE a dark cloud moves its way slowly towards the boat. SOUND of thunder.

BARNABAS and PAUL note this and steer their boat near shore, anchor it, then walk through the low tide to shore. They sit wearily on rocks near MAD PROPHET.)

PAUL

On what land did we land?

MAD PROPHET

You landed in the second millennium. Would you care for some refreshment?

(MAD PROPHET takes a cooler from behind a rock and gives PAUL and BARNABAS two beers and some pretzels. They swig down the beers and munch pretzels.)

BARNABAS (to PAUL)

Do you see what I see?

PAUL

What do you see?

BARNABAS (to PAUL)

A strange tall man with a diaper around his groin.

PAUL

We are having the same vision – Keep faith -trust that it will bring light into our teachings.

BARNABAS (to PAUL)

He looks like a leper.

PAUL

Play along – Play along. Why sail into a storm.

MAD PROPHET (to PAUL)

Have you ever read the Bible?

PAUL

No, I'm writing it.

MAD PROPHET (to PAUL)

Your words have been preserved and studied for over 2,000 years.

PAUL

So my work has not been in vain.

THE MAD PROPHET

Yes – the vein of your work has led to a worldwide church that is very vain.

PAUL

Did the church prosper?

MAD PROPHET

You church has grown from a simple stone into a vast empire of wealth and influence.

(MAD PROPHET hands the bible to PAUL who threads through it.)

PAUL (reads)

“The First Epistle of Paul – The Apostle to the Corinthians”

Yes, my very first paragraph I’m writing now – word for word. If you give me the book I won’t have to bother writing it.

MAD PROPHET

Only if you agree to a mad debate.

PAUL

My ideas were divinely inspired by the lord and are now in your gospel.

BARNABAS (to PAUL)

Don’t stoop to talk with this man of Satan.

PAUL (to BARNABAS)

Shhhh... the book is worth it.

(to THE MAD PROPHET)

If you do not follow the Lord - what is your calling?

THE MAD PROPHET

My calling is the Shaman’s drum, the world between the worlds where I flush your words into the recycle bin.

PAUL

You know there are classes. For each class there is a different act. How shall I debate you?

MAD PROPHET

First of all, Gays.

PAUL

What are gays?

MAD PROPHET

Men who have licentious sex with each other.

PAUL

They’re still doing it?

BARNABAS

It’s gone on since god knows when.

MAD PROPHET

Here you write in ROMANS – “Though they know God’s decree that those who do such things deserve to die – they not only do them but approve those who practice them.”

PAUL

I haven’t written that yet, but it sounds good.

MAD PROPHET

Christ said - “Judge not, that you be not judged-for with what judgment you judge you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”

(Optional Humor: Behind Paul’s back BARNABAS pulls a condom out of his robe and pulls it to measure it – PAUL sees him – MAD PROPHET doesn’t. PAUL hits BARNABAS’s hand.)

PAUL

But the Lord also said, “Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.”

MAD PROPHET

I am not a false prophet only a mad one – my words are like a rhapsody – particles of truth radiating from a magnificent source.

Next – Forgiveness – Matthew

“For if you forgive men their trespasses your heavenly father will also forgive you.”

PAUL

So in the spirit of the Lord, I forgive you your madness.

MAD PROPHET

Next women – You have placed them below men. That is not the only position. You wrote “..The head of a woman is her husband. For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. .. For man was not made from woman, but woman from man.”

So, if the head of a man is on his wife, why should he ask for it?

PAUL

Yes, why should a man ask for his head when it is on a trusted woman?

MAD PROPHET

On this point we agree. To get to the heart of the matter – you profess that man lives in a state of original sin. However corrupt man becomes, he doesn’t start that way. The body has sanctity – God created love between man and woman, woman and woman, man and man – not shame. You state in Romans -“He condemned sin in the flesh that the righteous requirements of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.”

PAUL (takes over)

“For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind and bringing me into captivity.”

MAD PROPHET

But John wrote that after Christ saved a woman about to be stoned by men for adultery he said to her. "Woman where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you? She said "No one Lord."
And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more."

(The dark cloud that has been presiding over the scene departs and a bright sun moves in. PAUL looks up and raises his hands in prayerful gratitude.)

PAUL
BARNABAS we can set sail again.

(to MAD PROPHET)
Can you give me the bible as you promised?

(While BARNABAS goes to the boat and lifts the sail, MAD PROPHET gives PAUL the Bible.)

MAD PROPHET
Sure, I can always get another copy at the Strand. Have my words affected you at all?

PAUL
No, my heart is steadfast. And so, I will know my destiny before I live it.

MAD PROPHET
You will have that in common with Christ.

(PAUL enters the boat and sits in the back happily reading the bible. The boat bobs enthusiastically off stage.)

PAUL (reads from Bible)
...How beautiful, "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself. Is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked thinks no evil, it does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes in all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails."

MAD PROPHET (yells)
Paul, how come you were so good with love and so lousy on women.

BARNABAS (Yells)
It's a matter of taste.

(PAUL's small boat bobs offstage)

ROCK CHORUS (FS)
And so with Paul
The church grew
Mixed with mystery and pagan myth
Now the church is mixed about politics
Only the courageous take a stand
Against the evil in man.

* * *

SCENE 20 – MARY B'S SERMON

THE SET: The set depicts a rocky hillside on the coast of Southern France (St. Baum). The Center Arch is now a dark cave.

AT RISE: MARY B is seated in the cave, her long red hair now white and down to her ankles. She wears an old white robe.
The sky is gray. SOUND of sea storm with winds. The ROCK CHORUS strewn about the stage as rocks chant over the winds.

ROCK CHORUS (FS)

God as father – Man as Hunter – Warrior King – The Nation State
Now we must be warriors of the mind (ALL)
The chalice and the blade
In the world the patriarchs made
With Magdalene -disciple, bride, mother, warrior, preacher as our guide.

(Light on the MAD PROPHET reads from Gnostic Gospel)
MAD PROPHET

Jesus from Pistis Sophia. "Miriham, this whom I shall complete in all the mysteries of the Things of Height. Speak in Boldness."

(MARY B comes out of the cave. The wind blows her hair. Up the hill a BISHOP (dressed as a BISHOP for all ages) and a SISTER (dressed in traditional black gown) walk slowly. When MARY B sees them coming she raises her arms and the wind and storm subside.

The BISHOP approaches MARY B and the SISTER, waiting for an audience and sits on a rock. The BISHOP kneels and kisses MARY B's hands)

BISHOP

Thank you for receiving me in St. Baum.

MARY B

Have you come to condemn me?

BISHOP

No. Please forgive me. We have kept you out of the church, but you live in my heart.

MARY B

I forgive you. You are ordained to forgive. Forgive yourself.

BISHOP

Those whose hearts feel your presence are calling for you.

MARY B

I am with them now. They will greet me in the church when I join my Sister Mary.

BISHOP

It will not be my church.

MARY B

It will be a church with a new name. In your church Yeshua is celibate. He is not the man I held in my arms, not my husband.

BISHOP

Jesus' only bride is the church.

(The SISTER gets off the rock and confronts MARY B.)

SISTER

I and my sisters are the Brides of Christ and have taken our vows. You are just an old lady of caves.

(A wind blows. YESHUA comes out the cave and puts his arms around MARY B. The BISHOP and SISTER fall to the ground.)

YESHUA

In my Father's house there are many mansions.

(Light on the MAD PROPHET as he flips through the Bible to find the source of the quote.)

THE MAD PROPHET

John 14:2-3

(YESHUA lifts the BISHOP and SISTER off the ground and escorts them down the hill and OFFSTAGE.

The winds blow. MARY B stands alone outside the cave.)

MARY B

My mind has spanned the sky and marked the winds with the clouds
And I have become a healer of light lifting the pain of life from all believers.

(MARY B returns to the cave. The ROCK CHORUS takes off their sand robes and appear as contemporary people each holding a candle. They form a semi circle outside the cave. MARY B exits the cave now young again with long red hair wearing a fresh white robe.)

BE A WIDOW TO THE WORLD

ROCK CHORUS

Sun Water Spears - Pray every day

MARY B

Begin your day with prayer shields

ROCK CHORUS

Warrior – Preacher
How can we destroy evil?

MARY B

The Lord said turn the other cheek - But I have only one in profile - It is a sword

ROCK CHORUS

How can we destroy what we cannot see?

MARY B

Be a widow to the world
Pray for vision - See evil that is hidden
See the evil face - Know that
Women who bear children to die are childless
A man who follows blindly is a mindless warrior
A life that does not value life is lifeless
A believer in a god that condones murder is godless

ROCK CHORUS

So the childless woman - Gives birth to a lifeless warrior - Who follows no god

MARY B

I give you my sword – not to strike the man - But to cut the root of evil

ROCK CHORUS

Where is the root of evil?

MARY B

The root of evil is in the Mind - Today the evil in the mind is in war
And the Weapon is War - And all warriors victims

ROCK CHORUS

Poison on poison - The snake bites the snake
Brother kills bother - Cut the cycle - Cut the cord
Be a widow to the world
Light a candle one by one - Pray for peace - It is done

(Member of the ROCK CHORUS light candles as the stage darkens.)

SCENE 21

SET: The center arch depicts the church doorway. SOUND of traffic.
Members of the ROCK CHORUS appear in modern dress as they did in the first scene.

AT RISE: Spot of the MAD PROPHET.

MAD PROPHET

If you've noticed throughout the play
I beat up Mary's pimp
Offered her my love – my bed
Rescued her in a moot marriage
And all she's done is mock my status as a prophet!

ROCK CHORUS

Love, Love, Love
A Mad Prophet needs love.

MAD PROPHET

Maybe if I had love I could hang around for another 2,000 years.

ROCK CHORUS (Man)

You won't find love the way you're dressed now.

ROCK CHORUS (FS)

Styles change.

ROCK CHORUS (E)

Maybe after global warming he'll be a trendsetter.

(The MAD PROPHET turns around and moons the ROCK CHORUS)

MAD PROPHET

I'd say my hindsight is pretty good...

(The MAD PROPHET faces the audience.)

MAD PROPHET

And my foresight is impeccable.

(The MAD PROPHET bangs his drums.)

MAD PROPHET

Come gather round, ye fluck - I mean flock of the modern wilderness.

Hear ye ... Hear ye ...

Western civilization is coming to an end
Because it doesn't listen to nature or revere the divine feminine
But a prophet can't preach only prepare
And so I brought you the Magdalenes
Bride and Whore

(MARY THE BRIDE enters stage right. The MAD PROPHET hums, "Here Comes the Bride")

MAD PROPHET

Are you ready to enter the church?
Have you forgiven your sister?
You with your virtues are denied
Her with her wantonness is welcome

MARY THE BRIDE

We are one and the same. I will enter the church.

(The center arch now appears as the open doorway to the church. The PREACHER stands outside. MARY M is on her knees in supplication. MARY THE BRIDE enters and they embrace.)

MARY M

Mary! I've been so lonely in the church without you.

(The PREACHER picks up a garden axe and hits the church doorway's arch keystone.)

PREACHER

St. Magdalene has entered my church - the bride. I have lost everything – church doctrine - hierarchy - my congregation.

(As the PREACHER hacks at the keystone, instead of the arch falling, the screen backstage cascades into a vaulted church ceiling from the arch.)

ROCK CHORUS

And so the Double Goddess - Stepped into the Gospels as Mary Magdalene
Gnosis hidden when
Womanpower was wrung - From cannon
By rabbis, priests and sterile men
The divine feminine shattered and divided
When a son with no wife - And a mother with no menses
Were sanctified
Now women who hope to be whole again seek the Magdalenes

SCENE 22 - THUNDER PERFECT MIND

THE SET: The Center Arch depicts the inside of a vaulted contemporary church.

AT RISE: MARY M and MARY B stand inside the church. The Screen backstage cascades a vaulted church ceiling from the arch. MARY B and MARY M stand in the middle of the church arms around each other. As MARY B and MARY M recite they poem, they either alternate reading within the line, alternate lines or alternate paragraphs.

THUNDER PERFECT MIND

MARY M & MARY B – Split within lines

I am the first and the last
I am the honored one and the scorned one
I am the whore and the holy one
I am the wife and the virgin
I am the mother and the daughter
I am members of my mother

MARY M & MARY B – Alternate lines

And I am the barren one
And many are her sons
I am the mother of my father
And the sister of my husband
And he is my offspring

MARY B

I am silence that is incomprehensible
And the idea whose remembrance is frequent
And the word whose appearance is multiple
I am the utterance of my name

MARY M & MARY B – Split within line

I am knowledge I am ignorance
I am shame I am boldness
I am shameless and am ashamed
I am strength I am fear

MARY B

Give heed to me
I am the one who is disgraced and the great one
I am she who does not keep festival
And I am she whose festivals are many
I am the wisdom of the Greeks
And the knowledge of the barbarians
I am the one whose image is great in Egypt
And the one who has no image among the barbarians
I am the one who has been hated everywhere
And who has been loved everywhere

MARY B

I am the one whom they call Life

MARY M

And you have called Death

From the Nag Hammadi Gnostic Gospels as quoted by Asphodel Long in "In A chariot Drawn by Lions"

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SCENE 23 –CLOSE OF PLAY

AT RISE: The stage is dark. Spotlight on the MAD PROPHET. He is taking down the mike and his drums.

MAD PROPHET

That poem is over 2000 years old, like me. From the Gnostic Gospels - “Thunder Perfect Mind.” Let’s give a hand to the storytellers, poets, writers with divine inspiration – the Shaman’s of the word.

They are the hidden Shamans
The silent power of words
Bridging the worlds
From the earth to the stars

(The MAD PROPEHT walks off stage with his drums and bible.)

THE END