

GOD'S GREATEST HITS

A Children's Play Adapted from Bible Stories

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Original cover art by L. John Cieslinski

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DEDICATION

This play is dedicated to Fran Richman.

The Playwright

SYNOPSIS

All the joy of life bubbles out in this delightful play which combines favorite Bible stories with beloved hymns and spirituals. The church is putting on a show but unfortunately, the "featured celebrity" can't make it because there are just too many prayers to attend to. So everyone takes turns reading God's lines. Stories include Creation, Adam and Eve, Noah and the Ark, Tower of Babel and five others. Humor shines throughout from the serpent telling Eve that eating the apple will stop ring around the collar, to the lions saying they'd rather have pizza than Daniel for supper.

Suggested songs are "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," "Kumbaya," "Little David Play on Your Harp," and others. GOD'S GREATEST HITS, is easy to stage, simple to costume, and a joy to watch.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

STAGE MANAGER: A master of ceremonies type. He manages in front of the audience.

BUD: Stage Manager's assistant.

The rest of the parts can be divided among 8 or more actors.

SCENES

1. Creation
2. Adam and Eve
3. Noah and the Ark
4. The Tower of Babel
5. Moses and the Pharaoh
6. David and Goliath
7. Daniel in the Lions' Den
8. Jonah and the Whale
9. The Patience of Job

PLAYING TIME: Approximately 55 minutes.

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SONGS

*(Music for these songs can be found in many hymnals or at most larger music stores. *Starred songs indicate lyrics have been altered to enhance the play.)*

Intro: "Young Folk, Old Folk"*

1. "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"
2. "Kumbaya"
3. "Rise and Shine"*
4. "You Can't Get to Heaven"* (Also known as "Oh, The Deacon Went Down.")
5. "Let My People Go"
6. "Little David, Play on Your Harp"
7. "Gimme That Old-Time Religion"
8. "Standing in the Need of Prayer"
9. "When the Saints Go Marchin' In"

SETTING

The set is a bare stage with simple props as needed.

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(AT RISE: STAGE MANAGER enters from one side and motions to his assistant, BUD, who has entered from the other side.)

STAGE MANAGER: Are they ready?

BUD: Yes.

STAGE MANAGER: Good. Send them in. *(THEY motion in the ACTORS who take their places for the opening number.)*

INTRO SONG: "Young Folk, Old Folk" *(ALL sing.)*

Young folk, old folk,
Everybody come,
Join us at the meeting house
And have yourself some fun.

Please check your chewing gum
And squirt guns at the door,
And we'll show you Bible stories
That you've never seen before.

In six days, God built the world;
He rested on the seventh.
According to the contract,
It should have been the eleventh.

The masons were exhausted,
And the carpenters wouldn't work,
So they left it just the way it was
And filled it up with dirt.

The first man was Adam
And Eve became his spouse.
They got tossed from the garden,
So they started keeping house.

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Soon they had a little boy -
He was gentle as the rain;
And all was hunky dory 'til
They started raising Cain.

Chorus

Jonah was a traveling man,
He set out for a sail.
By accident he landed
In a transatlantic whale.

He didn't like his quarters,
Although he was the guest,
So Jonah pushed the button
And the whale did all the rest.

David was a shepherd guy,
A scrappy little cuss.
He had to fight Goliath,
Who came looking for a fuss.

David had a slingshot,
And perfect was his aim;
He picked up a cobblestone
And jogged Goliath's brain.

Chorus

STAGE MANAGER: (*Coming forward.*) Ladies and gentlemen, I've terrible news. Our featured celebrity won't be able to make it today. (*The ACTORS moan.*) We just received this telegram. (*Reads telegram.*) "Dear Everybody, I was looking forward to seeing you today. This was going to be my first public appearance in a long time but the way things are in the world today there just isn't enough time to do the fun things. There are so many prayers to attend to I'm kept hopping day and night. But I sent my lines along and I know the people in the cast will help with them. I also send my love.

End of Freeview

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