

THE HISTORY of the World

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THE STORY

Here's an unconventional and above all entertaining program for children to perform this Christmas! In Scene 1, "God's Creation," a narrator tells how God became lonely and so created the earth and man to walk upon it. But in Scene 2, "God's Promise," sin became too great and the floods came. Later, in Scene 3, "God's Gift," there were a lot more people and some of them pretty mean, like Herod. That's when God decided the earth needed a gift and sent Jesus. From then on, everyone knew for sure that God really loved us all. A delightful show with easy-to-learn lines for youngsters and easy scenery which can be moved by the rainbow kids. Leave it to kids to make the most complicated story the most simple and beautiful.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

NARRATOR: Age 8 to 12, an expressive reader with a sense of humor.

ADAM: Teen boy, first man on Earth.

EVE: Teen girl, first woman on Earth.

GOD: Appears in all 3 scenes.

NOAH: Builder of the ark.

NEIGHBOR I: A doubter about the ark.

NEIGHBOR II: Another.

RAINBOW KIDS/ANGELS: One to two children (*or more.*) to change signs and create a rainbow with streamers.

KING HEROD: The evil king.

CLAUDIUS: Herod's assistant.

WISE MEN: Doubtful of Herod.

JOSEPH: Doubtful and confused.

MARY: Already knows about Baby Jesus.

EXTRAS: Non-speaking roles as Noah's family, shepherds.

*Doubling possible: The same actress may play Eve, Noah's wife, and Mary while the same actor may portray Adam, Noah, and Joseph. Also Neighbors I and II may portray Herod and Claudius or the Wise Men or Shepherds.

SOUND EFFECTS

Thunder for the creation of Adam and Eve in Scene 1.
Hammering and sawing on the ark and thunder and rain for the flood in Scene 2. Trumpets for Herod in Scene 3.

SETTING/PROPS

The set will change from scene to scene. These set changes can be incorporated simply into the stage action by using the Rainbow Kids or other Angels to do the handiwork. The following set and prop pieces were used in the original production:

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Scene 1: A parachute with twinkle lights suspended above the stage to create a "heavenly" effect. (Optional) Easel to hold signs. Sign which reads, "The History of the World." Sign which reads, "The Beginning of Everything: God's Creation." A tree with an apple hanging from it.

Scene 2: Sign which reads, "Good News, Bad News: God's Promise." Blueprints for ark. Lumber, tools, and ladder. Chairs and umbrellas for Neighbors I and II. Hand-held streamers for Rainbow Kids. Assorted small animals, in pairs, of course! *(Stuffed and/or imaginary animals in cages or bowls may be used for those of the faint-at-heart.)*

Scene 3: Sign which reads, "Several Millenniums Later: God's Gift." Scepter for Herod. Paper and pencil for Claudius. Manger scene essentials. (In the original production, the parachute was released on either side of the stage and brought down to create a triangle to frame the nativity.)

Scene 1 - GOD'S CREATION

SONG: "My Lord, What a Morning" - Children's Choir

(AT RISE: CHILDREN'S CHOIR begins singing and LIGHTS dim. A parachute filled with tiny white lights hangs above the stage. SPOT comes up on easel DSL holding sign which reads, "THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD." The RAINBOW KIDS bring in a tree with an apple hanging from it. After a moment, a SMALL ANGEL enters with a new sign and places it on the easel. It reads, "The Beginning of Everything: God's Creation." When the choir finishes, the NARRATOR enters and begins speaking to the audience. NOTE: If desired, the Narrator may read from a large book. If this prop is used, it is suggested that the book look as if it has been made by a child.)

NARRATOR: *(With authority.)* This is the story of the world. Maybe you didn't know it, but the world hasn't been here forever. For a long time, longer than you can even think of, there wasn't anything at all here. Just ... nothing. No trees, no kids, no *(Insert name of city.)*, no basketball ... not even chickens or mud, or flowers, or dogs or ... anything. But even then, there was God. But He wasn't lonely at all, because He had all the angels in Heaven to talk to and have lunch with, and play ball with.

Well, one day they were playing ball, and Gabriel decided to see how far he could throw it. He was the best player on the team, besides God, of course, and had a great throwing arm. He reared back and threw that ball out into space - so far that it didn't come back! It just hung out there, and it looked real nice. All the angels gathered around and marveled out loud about how pretty it was.

Annie, one of God's littlest angels, said, "That's really pretty, Lord. Are you going to let any angels live down there?"

And God said, "I can't do without any of my angels."

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So Annie said, "Well, what are you going to do with it? You can't just let it hang out there like that. You could fix it up real nice if you wanted to."

So God thought He would. First He made the sun and the moon so there would be day and night. Then the mountains and the oceans, and all of the trees and shrubs and grass. Then He thought he'd put some creatures down there. He'd never tried them before, so He just sort of made them up as He went along. First He made the big things - because they probably weren't so complicated - probably a dinosaur, and a whale ... a big old elephant. Then He started on the really hard stuff like lions and tigers and bears, and finally He got around to birds and bees and ants. Personally, I think He had His eyes shut when He put together the giraffe ... but that's just my opinion.

About the time He finished grasshoppers, He got a great idea. He began to think about who was going to take care of all of these beautiful creatures. He had a lot of other business He had to attend to - even God can't play all the time - and it looked like all these creatures were going to have to have somebody or something to watch over them.

So, at last he thought of making a man - one who could do some of the things He would do if He had the time.

So He did! He made a man! (*LIGHTS flicker, THUNDER sounds, and ADAM appears on stage. Slowly, he stands with feet apart, looks around, flexes his muscles slowly, tries legs, stretches.*)

And a woman, too. (*More SOUND and LIGHT effects, not so loud. Perhaps gentle BELL sounds. EVE gets up from other side of stage, dusts herself off, looks around and walks over to ADAM. LIGHTS dim on NARRATOR.*)

EVE: Hello. What's your name?

End of Freeview

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