

Noah's Rainbow

A Play for Young Audiences

By Thomas J. Gardiner

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STORY OF THE PLAY

A delightful version of the Noah's Ark story in verse. Noah talks with his wife about filling an Ark, but she is indignant at the prospect of cleaning up after all those animals. As the animals appear two by two we meet them and they, too, turn up their noses at the Ark -- until it starts raining. Once on board everyone is complaining. A clever Fox persuades all of the male animals to "mutiny," but the wives save the day and Noah's wife sends the Fox to the brig.

When the Dove returns with the olive branch, the Rainbow Children appear and describe the bright and colorful new world upon which the passengers are about to embark. The coming of the "Prince of the Rainbow" is foretold, the Ark is declared a hotel "open to people of every kind and color," and the whole cast praises God. Wonderful animal characters and a delightful Noah make this a must for all groups.

About 50 minutes.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(6 m, 7 w, and numerous extra children)

NOAH
NOAH'S WIFE
THE DOVE
MALE PENGUIN
FEMALE PENGUIN
MALE HIPPO
HILDA
MALE CUCKOO
FEMALE CUCKOO
LION
LIONESS
MALE FOX
FEMALE FOX

The Rainbow Children (any number):

ORANGE
YELLOW
GREEN
BLUE
PURPLE

Noah's Rainbow
- 4 -

PLACE

The Middle East

TIME

Act I - The Ancient Past

Act II - Six Weeks Later

COSTUMES

Noah is dressed in a plain tunic, tied at the waist with a rope, and sandals. His Wife is dressed similarly and modestly, her tunic extending to her ankles.

The Male Penguin is dressed in a tuxedo-like dark suit, white shirt, black bow-tie and black shoes. The Female Penguin is dressed in a black and white evening-type dress. They carry cigarette holders and sport furled black umbrellas over their forearms.

Hippos can wear a grey sweat suits bulkily padded out.

The lion wears a crown, the lioness a tiara, and both wear regal-looking capes over their tan clothes.

The children of each color hold a banner of that color in front of them as they enter. The colored banners are three feet wide and as long as is needed to accommodate the children of that color.

ACT I

(AT RISE: A bare stage. NOAH and his WIFE enter from stage right. They can be played by adults. They are engaged in conversation as they enter.)

NOAH: Yahweh said the end has come for everyone --
For all that crawls or walks beneath the sun
Of His burning indignation at human sin.
He said to build an Ark and gather in
Two of all the creatures on the earth
So that eventually they may give birth
To purer creatures who will be born free
Of our corruption, when the risen sea
Of his great wrath subsides...

WIFE: *(In panic.)* And we're to ride
Over the waves with all those wild beasts?!

NOAH: Now, wife, control yourself. Not even the least
Hair of your head will be hurt if we keep steady
In gathering all the creatures, and making ready
The big boat that will save us from the flood
When the bodies of all the sinful are covered in mud.

WIFE: Two creatures of every kind? Have you any idea
How many that means?! Can you imagine how near
They'll have to stand together to fit in an Ark?
You'll be the proprietor of that Jungle Park --
Not me!

NOAH: But dear...

WIFE: Dear nothing! Now see here:
You expect me to feed the rhinos and the buffaloes?
To pet the lions and help the parrots preen?
You expect me to keep the stalls of the elephants clean?!

NOAH: *(Abashed.)* I see what you mean.
But surely if we have to...

WIFE: If you have to
Then do it yourself. As for me,
The answer, Noah, is: "NO!"

Noah's Rainbow

- 6 -

(SHE walks off in a huff, stage left. Still standing at stage center, NOAH turns and watches her go, his shoulders slumping. A DOVE enters from stage right.)

DOVE: Don't be discouraged, Noah.

NOAH: *(Turning startled to her.)* Who are you?

DOVE: A bird from above. The King of sunlight sent me

To lighten your mind, while the Father of starlight tries

To put a little sparkle in your eyes.

Do not be overwhelmed by the surprise

Of rain and lightning from the darkened skies,

But shepherd the animals in your sturdy boat

And it will float

Over the waves the way I fly over the sky! *(Turns and runs off, stage right.)*

NOAH: *(Calling after her.)* Wait!

(Ruefully.) She's gone....

(With a shrug.) That's typical.

(Plaintively, palms up.) You ask the Most High for His word,

And what does He send you?

A bird!

(NOAH shakes his head. PENGUINS waddle in from stage right.)

MALE PENGUIN: You see, my dear,

We're here!

This gentleman must be

The maitre d'.

(To NOAH.) I say, old chap, do you

Have a table for two?

NOAH: A table for two what?

MALE PENGUIN: Two penguins, of course!

Did you think all this feathery show

Was a tuxedo?

FEMALE PENGUIN: Did you take my fluffy down

For an evening gown?

End of Freeview

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