



Playstage
Junior

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JOSEPH!



An everyday story of country folk. Retelling the famous story from Genesis of sibling rivalry, jealousy, frustration, hatred, slavery, temptation, rejection, and finally – local boy makes good!

(with songs – but not by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber!)



Written
By
Stewart Auty

CAST OF JOSEPH

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Narrator 1 | - Ish 2 |
| Narrator 2 | - Ish 3 |
| | - Ish 4 |
| Jacob | Maid |
| Rachel | Potiphar's Wife |
| Leah | Servant |
| Gad | Potiphar, Captain of the Guard |
| Dan | Herald |
| Reuben | Pharaoh's Chief Adviser |
| Judah | Pharaoh's Fan Club |
| Simeon | - Fan 1 |
| Joseph | - Fan 2 |
| Naphtali | Chief Groveller |
| Levi | Pharaoh Liquid |
| Issachar | Pharaoh's Butler |
| Asher | Pharaoh's Baker |
| Zebulon | Camel Thief |
| Ann (or Dan) Dobinson | Guard 1 |
| Four Ishmaelites | Guard 2 |
| - Ish 1 | Benjamin |

RUNNING TIME APPROXIMATELY 45 TO 50 MINUTES.

37 speaking parts but many could be doubled, if required. Non-speaking "People" in the Egyptian famine scene. (Again, these could be children doubling up with other parts from earlier in the play) Lyrics for 6 suggested songs included. Inclusion of these songs is optional. Please feel free to amend the script if you decided to omit any or all of the songs. The full lyrics are given but, in practice, most schools prefer to cut the songs down to about half of their written length. See MUSIC page overleaf.

MUSIC

Backing tracks can be purchased and downloaded for a modest fee from various sources, as shown below. Or, you could source the original artiste's recording from amongst parents/grandparents and just have the children sing along to it, as many schools do. If you cannot source them from amongst the school community, then Amazon sell very cheap downloadable MP3 tracks for hundreds of thousands of songs. These can be purchased, downloaded on to a computer and then burnt on to a CD for performance. Below we give the song title and source of backing tracks. Where it says "Traditional" or "Disney" this means there is no backing track we know of but it may be in sheet music form in your school or on a children's school music compilation CD.

JOSEPH SONGS

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Sweet Dreams (Eurythmics) | www.ameritz.co.uk |
| I Have A Dream (ABBA) | www.ameritz.co.uk |
| The End Of The World (Skeeter Davis) | www.ameritz.co.uk |
| Big Spender (Shirley Bassey) | www.ameritz.co.uk |
| Great Pretender (Platters or Queen) | www.ameritz.co.uk |
| I Can See Clearly Now (Johnny Nash) | www.ameritz.co.uk |

SCENE 1

Canaan

Opening Song – Sweet Dreams (Eurythmics)

Full cast on stage

Sweet dreams are made of this

Who am I to disagree?

I travel the world and the seven seas

Everybody's looking for something

Some of them want to use you

Some of them want to get used by you

Some of them want to abuse you

Some of them want to be abused

Sweet dreams are made of this

Who am I to disagree?

I travel the world and the seven seas

Everybody's looking for something

Hold your head up; keep your head up, movin' on

Hold your head up, movin' on

Keep your head up, movin' on

Hold your head up, movin' on

Keep your head up, movin' on

Hold your head up, movin' on

Keep your head up

(Exit all apart from two Narrators)

NARRATOR 1

Good afternoon/evening everyone.

NARRATOR 2

We are proud, and dare I say, privileged to present

NARRATOR 1

The Story of Joseph, an every day story of country folk.

NARRATOR 2

A story of intrigue, the unremitting search for power

NARRATOR 1

Love and hate, jealousy and treachery

NARRATOR 2

Lying and cheating, betrayal and kidnapping

NARRATOR 1

A family divided, and finally a tearful reunion

NARRATOR 2

Nothing out of the ordinary there, then!

NARRATOR 1

As I said, an every day story of country folk.

NARRATOR 2

Our story begins a long time ago, in the land of Canaan.

NARRATOR 1

And the original account can be found in the Old Testament in the book of Genesis.

NARRATOR 2

I must warn you that some of the facts have been changed to make the story more interesting.

NARRATOR 1

However, rest assured, there are no scenes with flash photography.

NARRATOR 2

I think we should begin.

NARRATOR 1

Now Jacob was the grandson of Abraham – here he is now.

(Enter JACOB, slowly, for he is an old man)

NARRATOR 2

He lived in Canaan with his wife Rachel, and her sister Leah.

NARRATOR 1

And here they are now.

(Enter Rachel and Leah, also slowly)

JACOB

I've been thinking, Rachel.

RACHEL

This is never a good sign, Leah.

JACOB

Let me finish, Rachel. Life has been very good to us.

RACHEL

You're right. We are indeed very fortunate, Jacob.

LEAH

We should thank the Lord for our good fortune.

JACOB

What more could we ask for?

RACHEL

We have everything we need.

JACOB

We should count our blessings.

LEAH

A good home, a secure business

RACHEL

.... And our sons, such fine boys!

LEAH

You should count your sons!

JACOB

Especially Joseph, my dear son Joseph.

RACHEL

You spoil that boy! He's only one of many sons.

JACOB

But he's very special to me.

LEAH

Be careful, Jacob. Your other boys will think you like Joseph better than them.

JACOB

But I just want to show him how much I love him.

RACHEL

We should show them that we love them all equally.

LEAH

It's not right to have a favourite. We have to be fair.

JACOB

Some days I can't seem to do anything right.

(RACHEL and LEAH leave)

NARRATOR 1

Joseph did not have a good relationship with his brothers.

NARRATOR 2

He knew he was Jacob's favourite, but his conceit annoyed his brothers.

NARRATOR 1

They knew he was Jacob's favourite too.

NARRATOR 2

Eventually, their dislike would turn into hatred.

NARRATOR 1

And that time was quickly approaching.

(Blues Brothers music – Enter Brothers in height order, doing the “strut”)

BROTHERS *(together)*

We’re rough, we’re tough, and we’re more than enough! We’re the brothers.

(In line Brothers perform a Mexican wave twice ‘there and back’ and then link hands and perform wriggle wave, again, there and back. Much laughter, high fives all round!)

GAD

What have you got in the bag, Dan?

DAN

Chickens, Gad.

GAD

If I can guess how many, will you give me one?

DAN

If you can guess how many, you can have them both!

GAD

I can have them both? Then you must have three chickens!

DAN

Not quite, Gad, but close.

JACOB

Is Joseph not with you?

REUBEN

No fear! He’s not like us.

JACOB

It’s true he is a sensitive boy.

JUDAH

He’s certainly different. *(Brothers laugh)*

SIMEON

I think he's coming now.

(Pink Panther music - Enter JOSEPH, dancing, preening and generally showing off)

LEVI

Just look at him.

ISSACHAR

I'd rather not. I have a sensitive stomach.

LEVI

But who does he think he is?

ASHER

Oh, he knows who he is alright. Preening and prancing....

ZEBULON

Strutting and dancing. He's no better than the rest of us, but look at him go!

JACOB

Come here, Joseph, I have a surprise for you.

JOSEPH

What is it Father? Will I like it? You've got me a present, haven't you!

JACOB

I have Joseph! It's a coat, Joseph, just for you. *(JACOB claps his hands and LEAH brings on the coat. The Brothers all go "Woah"!) It's been specially made – look!*

(LEAH helps JOSEPH to wear the coat)

JOSEPH

It's so long! Look at the colours! Look at the style! I'm a walking rainbow!

NAPHTALI

Poser!

REUBEN

Show off!

JOSEPH (*strutting and flaunting the coat*)

I'm simply the best! Better than all the rest!

DAN

You're a pain!

LEAH

Jacob, I told you there would be trouble!

(LEAH exits)

JOSEPH

You're just jealous!

DAN

Me, jealous? Of you? You must be joking!

JOSEPH

But I'm elegant and stylish, can't you see?

JUDAH

You're useless, you always have been. I can see that!

JOSEPH

I'm a multicoloured marvel! A kaleidoscope of colour.

SIMEON

You can't do much work wearing a coat like that!

JOSEPH

Work? Me? Whatever gave you that idea?

LEVI

What were you thinking of, dad?

JOSEPH

He was thinking of me! It's his way of making things up to me. Dad knows you all hate me!

GAD

Well, is it any wonder?

JACOB

Now steady on, boys, it's only a coat!

JUDAH

But it's what it stands for. Joseph shouldn't be different.

JOSEPH

But I am different.

JUDAH

You can say that again!

JOSEPH

But I am different!

BROTHERS (*together*)

Arghhhhh!!!

SONG – I HAVE A DREAM (*JOSEPH and everyone on stage*)

I have a dream, a song to sing

To help me cope with anything

If you see the wonder of a fairy tale

You can take the future even if you fail

I believe in angels

Something good in everything I see

I believe in angels

When I know the time is right for me

I'll cross the stream - I have a dream

I have a dream, a fantasy

To help me through reality

And my destination makes it worth the while

Pushing through the darkness still another mile