

Script

Children of EDEN



Music and Lyrics by **Stephen Schwartz**

Book by **John Caird**

Based on a concept by **Charles Lisanby**

Book Copyright © 1996 by John Caird
Music and Lyrics Copyright © 1996 by Stephen Schwartz
All Rights Reserved

Songs

no	title	singers	page
1	Let There Be	Father, Company	1
2	Perfect, Part I	Father, Storytellers	8
3	The Tree of Knowledge	Father, Adam	12
4	The Naming	Father, Eve, Adam, Storytellers	13
5	Grateful Children	Adam, Eve	21
6	Father's Day	Father, Storytellers	21
7	Perfect, Part II	Storytellers, Father, Adam, Eve	22
8	The Spark of Creation	Eve	26
9	In Pursuit of Excellence	Snake, Eve	29
10	The End of a Perfect Day	Storytellers	33
11	Childhood's End	Storytellers, Eve, Father	35
12	A World Without You	Adam, Father, Eve	38
13	The Expulsion	Father, Storytellers	40
14	The Wasteland	Storytellers	42
15	The Wilderness Family	Adam, Young Cain, Young Abel	45
16	The Spark of Creation – Reprise	Eve	48
17	Lost in the Wilderness	Abel, Cain	49
18	Lost in the Wilderness – Reprise	Cain, Father, Adam	56
19	Close to Home	Adam, Eve, Young Abel, Young Cain, Abel	58
20	A Ring of Stones	Cain, Adam, Storytellers, Eve, Abel	61
21	Clash of the Generations	Adam, Cain, Eve, Abel	65
22	Death of Abel	A Storyteller, Eve	72
23	The Mark of Cain	Storytellers, Father	72
24	Incidental before “Children of Eden”	Orchestra	76
25	Children of Eden	Eve, Company	78
26	Generations	Soloist, Storytellers	81
27	The Gathering Storm	Noah, Father	89
28	A Piece of Eight	Storytellers, Noah, Yonah, Japheth, Mama, Ham, Shem, Aysha, Aphra, Female Storyteller	90
29	Blind Obedience	Noah	97
30	The Return of the Animals	Orchestra	100
31	The Naming – Reprise/Noah's Lullaby	Storytellers, Noah	101
32	Stranger to the Rain	Yonah	102
33	In Whatever Time We Have	Japheth, Yonah	105

no	title	singers	page
34	The Flood	Father, Storytellers	107
35	What Is He Waiting For?	Noah, Mama, Ham, Shem, Aysha, Aphra	110
36	Sailor of the Skies	Yonah	114
37	The Spark of Creation – 2 nd Reprise	Mama, Noah	121
38	The Hardest Part of Love	Noah, Father	122
39	Words of Doom	Storytellers	124
40	The Hour of Darkness	Noah, Yonah, Japheth, Mama, Ham, Shem, Aysha, Aphra	125
41	Ain't It Good	Mama, Company except Father	128
42	Precious Children	Father	133
43	In the Beginning	Company	135

Characters

The show is written to be performed by an ensemble of

STORYTELLERS

which must be filled out by a choir (which can be as large as you like — within reason — but must have at least eight singers to it), as well as eleven principal actor/singers, with their parts in the two acts of the musical doubled as indicated:

FATHER
ADAM/NOAH
EVE/MAMA NOAH
CAIN/JAPHETH
ABEL/HAM
SETH/SHEM
APHRA
AYSHA
YONAH
YOUNG CAIN
YOUNG ABEL

The actors who play ABEL/HAM, SETH/SHEM, APHRA, AYSHA and YONAH may also comprise the

SNAKE

NOTE: the Authors have found the show to be most effective when performed by a truly multi-racial cast.

Some of the STORYTELLERS should be dancers, if there is to be a choreographic element in the larger musical numbers. “Let There Be”, “Generations”, “Ain't It Good” and both “animal numbers” are particularly appropriate for this treatment. The ANIMALS themselves are to be played by CHILDREN, the two most talented actors amongst them to be cast as YOUNG CAIN and YOUNG ABEL.

The CHILDREN also appear as STORYTELLERS where indicated in the text, but they are warned to pay attention and do only what their wise director has told them to do.

Sound Effects

page	sound
42a	Lightning crackle then crash of thunder after Father sings “Forever will it burn” and music ends
61a	Smack as Eve slaps Cain after hugging him
65a	Distant rumble of thunder after Cain sings “we are not alone”
69a	Smack as Adam slaps Cain
70a	Smack as Adam slaps Cain again
71a	Bonk as Cain strikes Abel with a rock
71b	Bonks as Cain beats Abel to death
72a	Wind and rain are heard softly as Eve exits.
72b	Thunder as Cain enters
73a	Lighting crackle then great clap of thunder on “mark” of “The race of Cain must ever bear this mark”
91a	Noah pounds the last peg of gopher wood.
101a	Each animal has a sound signature as it enters or performs.
103a	Distant thunder on “I’ve learned not to tremble”
103b	Closer thunder rumble after “I am not a stranger to the rain”
103c	Closer thunder yet after “To music sacred and profane”
103d	Still closer thunder after “Let it rain...”
107a	Rumble of thunder, much closer now starting at end of song
107b	Louder clap of thunder after Japheth says “Come on!” and Father appears
108a	Rain starts as Yonah and Japeth exit
109a	Wind starts on “Hurricane”
109b	Deafening clap of thunder after “Forever will it rain!”. Note that rain and wind continue.
109c	Occasional low thunder until the rain stops.
114a	Bird sound, then dove cooing when Yonah says “No.”
116a	Commotion of animals and people after Ham shouts for Noah
118a	Smack as Noah slaps Japeth
119a	Loud smack as Noah slaps Japeth
120a	Wind stops when Yonah says “No!”. Light rain continues.
124a	Staff bangs on deck several times after the end of the song.
126a	Rain starts to fade out when Japheth says “Look!”.
127a	Rain finishes its fade out when Mama says “An olive tree”.

Author's Note

Children Of Eden is a musical based on the first nine-and-a-half chapters of the Book of Genesis.

The design of the show should rely as little as possible on stage machinery or elaborate technical devices, and as much as possible on simple, imaginative storytelling.

Only the following musical numbers should be listed in the program:

ACT ONE

Let There Be.....	Father, Storytellers
The Naming.....	Father, Adam, Eve, Storytellers
Grateful Children.....	Adam, Eve
Father's Day.....	Father, Storytellers
The Spark of Creation.....	Eve
In Pursuit of Excellence.....	Snake, Eve
A World Without You.....	Adam, Father, Eve
The Expulsion.....	Father, Storytellers
The Wasteland.....	Storytellers
Lost in the Wilderness.....	Cain
Close to Home.....	Adam, Eve, Abel, Young Cain, Young Abel
A Ring of Stones.....	Cain, Eve, Abel, Adam
The Mark of Cain.....	Father, Storytellers
Children of Eden.....	Eve, Storytellers

ACT TWO

Generations.....	Storytellers
A Piece of Eight.....	Storytellers, Noah, Yonah, Japheth, Family
The Return Of The Animals.....	Orchestra
Stranger To The Rain.....	Yonah
In Whatever Time We Have.....	Japheth, Yonah
The Flood.....	Father, Storytellers
What Is He Waiting For?.....	Noah, Family
Sailor Of The Skies.....	Yonah
The Hardest Part of Love.....	Noah, Father
Ain't It Good?.....	Mama Noah, Family, Storytellers
In The Beginning.....	Company

Copyist's Note

When you purchase the right to perform *Children of Eden* from the authorized distributor, which is Music Theatre International, 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019, (212) 541-4684, <https://www.mtishows.com>, you receive, under the doctrine of “fair use”, the right to as many copies of the script as you need to perform the play. Music Theatre International will send you some copies of the libretto vocal book, which includes the script. Those copies are fine for the actors, singers, dancers, and musicians. They make few marginal notes, and they will erase them before returning the documents to Music Theatre International. However, the director, choreographer, lighting designer and sound designer need to make many notes and require large margins. The needs of these users are usually met by photocopying the script, but the material distributed by Music Theater International is difficult to photocopy because of the way it is bound. This file is a response to that problem. You can print a copy of this script for everyone who needs to make extensive notes.

The words and music of *Children of Eden* were copyrighted in 1996, as noted on the front cover. Eventually, the copyright will expire, and *Children of Eden* will be in the public domain. When that happens there will be no restrictions on its use. Until then, please respect the copyright by destroying any copies you print after your production is complete.

The pagination of this file matches the pagination of the script distributed by Music Theatre International, to facilitate the use of them together, since the acts are not divided into scenes.

I have corrected the few errors that I noticed in the script, and tried to avoid adding errors of my own. However, as a practical matter, errors will always creep in to a 135-page script. I would appreciate being informed of any errors, so that I might correct them at <https://www.systemeyescomputerstore.com>.

I am distributing the script in three formats: as an Open Document Text (.odt) file so you can correct errors yourself without having to wait for me; as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file so you can print with correct pagination, and as a Microsoft Word (.doc) file in case you cannot read Open Document Text files. Depending on your document editor you might get different pagination from the editable files—the PDF file illustrates the page boundaries found in the script distributed by Music Theatre International.

The cover picture is from a rehearsal of the April 2010 production of *Children of Eden* by the Amherst PTA Play. The central figure is John Ogrodowczyk, who sang the part of Father.

John Sauter (John_Sauter@systemeyescomputerstore.com), May 12, 2018

ACT ONE

(Darkness.

In the darkness, a single FLAME is ignited. It flickers at first, then grows steadier: a match, perhaps, or a lighter, a candle — it's difficult to tell, it's so dark. Another LIGHT flashes on in the darkness: a lantern, maybe, or a dim flashlight. Then another. Then another. And then all over the stage LIGHTS flicker on: candles and flashlights and lamp and lanterns and tapers.

As the LIGHTS are lit, we can start to see the PEOPLE holding them. THEY are watching us, just as we are watching them. They slowly move towards us in the gloom, until they form a group CENTERSTAGE.

We can see them more clearly now. There are MEN and WOMEN of all ages, and BOYS and GIRLS — even some quite small CHILDREN. They seem, at first sight, to be a large but very close family, or maybe a tribe, though there seem to be people from many different races amongst them. Perhaps they are the “Children Of Eden” of the title. Let us call them the STORYTELLERS.

#1	<i>Let There Be</i>	<i>(Father, Company)</i>
-----------	----------------------------	---------------------------------

One of them, perhaps the SMALLEST CHILD, sounds a single note on a lone TRUMPET)

STORYTELLERS

IN THE BEGINNING...
 IN THE BEGINNING,
 GOD
 CREATED
 THE HEAVEN
 AND EARTH
 WITHOUT FORM —
 VOID,
 DARKNESS...

AND GOD SAID...

(A VOICE from amongst the STORYTELLERS takes over. It is FATHER'S VOICE, but we can't see him clearly yet)

FATHER

“LET THERE BE...”

(The STORYTELLERS join in with him, whispering the one word...)

FATHER, STORYTELLERS

(Spoken)

“LIGHT!”

(The STORYTELLERS turn their lanterns and candles and flashlights onto FATHER, brightly illuminating him in their midst. HE throws his hands up to protect his eyes from the glare)

FATHER

Whoa! that’s bright”

(Raises his arms up and studies the faces of the family standing around him. As his arms fall, HE seems to encompass all of them.

The STORYTELLERS rearrange themselves, clustering around him in rapt attention, like so many children listening to a story.

(Sung)

I WOKE UP FROM A CURIOUS DREAM.
I DREAMED A PERFECT GARDEN —
AND THEN THERE WERE WHIRLING SHAPES
AND SWIRLING SOUNDS,
AND I WASN’T LONELY ANYMORE.

I WOKE UP FROM A WONDERFUL DREAM,
WOKE FULL OF ENERGY AND HUNGER —
AND NOW THIS HUNGER WILL BE STILLED
AND MY EMPTINESS WILL BE FILLED
AS I SET ABOUT TO BUILD
MY DREAM...

(As FATHER continues, the other STORYTELLERS start to move out of their places, acting out the story of Creation as FATHER describes it)

STORYTELLERS

(Sung, softly)

AH—

FATHER

LET THERE BE,
LET THERE BE...
MORNING.

LET THERE BE
EVENING,
DAY...
LET THERE BE...

LET THERE BE...

STORYTELLERS

LET THERE BE...

FATHER

WATERS,
WEATHERS,
WINTERS,
WONDERS...

ALL

LET THERE BE
LAND
AND...

*(The stage is fully alive now, with STORYTELLERS dancing and
spinning and speeding in all directions)*

FATHER

SPEEDING COMETS WITH HEARTS OF ICE,
SPINNING PLANETS WITH RINGS OF FIRE,

FATHER

COSMIC SPARKS
AND QUASARS AND
QUARKS
AND SUNS CONVULSING,
PULSARS PULSING.

STORYTELLERS

SPARKS!
QUARKS!
PULSARS PULSING!

STORYTELLERS

LET THERE BE...

FATHER

LET THERE BE...

ALL

LET THERE BE...

FATHER

WHALES...
SNALES...

FATHER

SHARKS...
LARKS...
APPLE TREES WITH
DAPPLED BARKS

AND GRANITE
MOUNTAINS AND
FLAXEN PLAINS,
GIANT LIZARDS WITH
TINY BRAINS,

FLOURESCENT FISH
AND CRESCENT WORMS
AND A BILLION BUGS
AND A TRILLION GERMS.

STORYTELLERS

(Spoken, whispered)

SHARKS!
LARKS!

WOMEN

(Sung)

AH —

ALL

(Sung)

FISH!
WORMS!
BUGS!
GERMS!

STORYTELLERS

LET THERE BE...

FATHER

LET THERE BE...

FATHER, GROUP 1

LET THERE BE...

GROUP 2

AND GOD SAW
IT WAS GOOD.
IT WAS GOOD.

FATHER

(Overlapping)

LET THERE BE...

STORYTELLERS

LET THERE BE...

ALL

LET THERE BE...

(Father and the STORYTELLERS look around them for a moment and are pleased with their magnificent Creation, but FATHER is still restless. Something is troubling him)

FATHER

It's not enough. It's still not enough...

(The STORYTELLERS gather around him once more, curious to know what else is in store)

THERE WAS SOMETHING MORE IN MY DREAM.
SOMETHING COULD SEE IT AND SHARE IT.
WHAT WAS IT, THOUGH?
I ONLY KNOW
I WASN'T LONELY ANYMORE.
THERE IS ONE MORE THING TO BUILD,
ONE MORE VOID THAT MUST BE FILLED.
I'LL MAKE CREATURES I'LL CALL... "CHILDREN,"
SHAPED LIKE ME...

(As FATHER continues, the STORYTELLERS choose two of their number to be FATHER'S children)

LET THERE BE,
LET THERE BE...
SOMETHING,
SOMEONE,
SMALL AND SKINNY,
CLAWLESS,
FURLESS,
FINLESS,
FANGLESS...

(And ADAM and EVE are created before our very eyes)

ALL

LET THERE BE
MAN,
WHO CAN —

FATHER

WANDER OVER MY FLAXEN PLAINS,
WONDER UP AT MY GRANITE MOUNTAINS,

FATHER

COUNT THE STARS
AND WISH FOR WINGS
AND HOLD A TOOL
AND THINK OF THINGS
AND SEARCH FOR
ANSWERS HE CANNOT
SEE...

STORYTELLERS

COUNT
AND WISH
AND HOLD
AND THINK
AND SEARCH...

STORYTELLERS

AND DREAM OF GLORY...

FATHER

AND WORSHIP ME!

STORYTELLERS

LET THERE BE...

FATHER

LET THERE BE...

FATHER, GROUP 1

LET THERE BE...

GROUP 2

AND GOD SAW
IT WAS GOOD.
IT WAS GOOD.

FATHER

(Overlapping)
LET THERE BE...

STORYTELLERS

LET THERE BE...

ALL

LET THERE BE...

A STORYTELLER

And the Father breathed into his children the breath of life...

(FATHER breathes ADAM and EVE alive. ADAM and EVE begin To move)

FATHER

LET...

A STORYTELLER

And the children became living souls...

(ADAM and EVE start to look around them)

FATHER

THERE...

STORYTELLERS

And the Father gave to his children a garden, and called the garden...

(And the next STORYTELLER to speak should be the one that plays the part of YONAH in ACT TWO. SHE speaks only one word, but we should remember it when she repeats it again at the end of the story)

YONAH

... Eden!

STORYTELLERS

Eden!

FATHER

BE...

(ADAM and EVE rush up to FATHER, almost knocking him over in their excitement. The three embrace as the song ends)

ALL

LET THERE BE!

(And the STORYTELLERS create for us the GARDEN of EDEN out of whatever their imagination [and designer] have supplied them with; but however it is actually made, it must appear to be a place of innocence and beauty.)

STORYTELLERS

And the Father saw everything that he had made — and behold, it was very good.

The STORYTELLERS then withdraw to the edges of the stage, from where they continue to watch the action, and wait to play their parts in it. THEY may even sit amongst the AUDIENCE, sharing in the listening as well as the telling.

ADAM and EVE gaze at the garden in wonder and delight)

#2	Perfect, Part 1	(Father, Storytellers)
----	------------------------	-------------------------------

FATHER

CHILDREN OF EDEN,
HERE IS YOUR GARDEN.
LIVE IN CONTENTMENT;
THIS IS YOUR HOME...

ADAM

It's wonderful! It's beautiful! It's...
(Searches for the right word)
It's...

EVE

It's perfect!

FATHER

Exactly.

STORYTELLERS

AND THE GRASS WAS PERFECT,
AND THE SKY WAS PERFECT,
AND THE BARK OF THE TREES WAS DAPPLED AND ROUGH...
BUT NOT TOO ROUGH..
AND WHERE THERE WAS A CLOUD,
THE ONLY CLOUD ALLOWED
WAS FLEECY, WHITE,
AND JUST ASYMMETRIC ENOUGH.

AND AS FOR PERFECT NAMES,
OF COURSE THEY HAD 'EM...

FATHER

I DO BELIEVE
I'LL CALL YOU... "EVE"...

EVE

AND WHO'S HE?

*(ADAM looks a little troubled, but FATHER whispers a name to him.
ADAM brightens up immediately)*

ADAM

MADAM, I'M ADAM!

EVE

Father?

FATHER

Yes?

EVE

What's that?

*(FATHER joins EVE to see what she's pointing at. ADAM follows
along behind him)*

FATHER

Where?

ADAM

There. the water sort of... falls out of the rocks.

FATHER

Oh, that. It's called a "waterfall."

ADAM

A "waterfall?"

FATHER

Yes...

(Turning to ADAM)

... You see, the water comes gushing out...

EVE

No, no, not that!

(Points a little higher)

That!

FATHER

Oh, that! That's a hill.

ADAM

(To FATHER)

It's very high up.

FATHER

(To ADAM)

As close as I could get it to the stars.

(ADAM is thrilled at this little insight into FATHER'S mind and gazes at him in admiration, a gaze FATHER is only too happy to receive; but EVE is insistent)

EVE

No, no, no! On *top* of the hill.

FATHER

(A little defensive)

Oh... that... It's just a tree.

EVE

But it's glistening.

(FATHER takes a more careful look at the tree)

FATHER

(Uneasily)

No, it's not! Is it?

(ADAM can sense FATHER'S discomfort, but wouldn't know how to tell a lie even if he wanted to)

ADAM

Well, it is glistening a *bit*.

(FATHER is getting more and more tense. HE really doesn't want to talk about this)

FATHER

Yes, well... er... that would be the fruit.

EVE

(Very excited)

Why is the fruit glistening?

FATHER

Well...

EVE

Is it a *special* kind of a tree?

ADAM

(Watching FATHER warily)

Eve... I don't think you should ask so many questions.

EVE

Why not?

(FATHER suddenly loses his patience. HE hadn't planned for any of this)

FATHER

All right! Look! It's called the Tree of Knowledge. And whether the fruit is glistening or not...

EVE

Well, it is...

FATHER

All right! It's glistening. The fruit is glistening. It's also very, very bad for you, and you must never, *ever* eat it. Or even touch it. Understand?

ADAM

It's all right, Father. We won't touch it.

EVE

Why not?

FATHER

You don't need to know that...

EVE

Why not?

FATHER

Children! If you love me, if you love this family, you will never eat of that fruit. Either of you.

ADAM

We promise, Father.

(Looks at EVE)

Eve...

EVE

(After a moment)

We promise.

FATHER

Thank you.

EVE

But if it isn't good for us, Father, why did you put it here?

#3 <i>The Tree Of Knowledge</i> <i>(Father, Adam)</i>
--

ADAM

Eve!

(FATHER is calmer now, and talks to his children in more moderate terms)

FATHER

Eve...

THERE ARE THINGS A FATHER KNOWS
A CHILD CANNOT.
I THINK YOU WOULD AGREE
YOU'RE NEWER HERE THAN ME.
HAVE FAITH I HAVE MY REASONS
YOU CANNOT SEE,
IN YOUR BEST INTEREST...

(ADAM imitates FATHER'S gestures, admonishing EVE)

FATHER, ADAM

SO NO MORE QUESTIONS
ABOUT THAT TREE.

EVE

But, Father... Why can't we know... [everything you know]

#4	The Naming	(Father, Eve, Adam, Storytellers)
----	-------------------	--

FATHER

(Interrupting EVE)
I know! Let's play a game.

ADAM

What sort of a game?

FATHER

A naming game.

EVE

Naming what?

ADAM

There's only her, Eve, and me, Adam...

FATHER

And...?

*(A small ANIMAL scurries onto the stage. The CHILDREN
STORYTELLERS have crept off very quietly and been transformed,
by backstage wizardry, into various members of the animal kingdom)*

EVE

Oh! What's that?

FATHER

Aha!

ADAM

Look, there's another one!

(And, indeed, there is)

EVE

What are they?

FATHER

They're animals.

ADAM

(Trying out the word)
Animals.

FATHER

And you, my children, must help me care for them.

EVE

They can be *our* children!

(FATHER considers for a moment. This idea hadn't occurred to him)

FATHER

That's a good idea. They can be your children.

ADAM

I'll look after this one. And Eve can take that one.

FATHER

No, no, no. There's more than one apiece.

(EVE looks around)

EVE

Where? ... Why can't we see them?

FATHER

Because they're shy. You have to call them. Like this...

AH AH AH OO WAY...
AH AH AH OO WAY AH...
AND WHEN THE ANIMALS COME,
YOU MUST GIVE THEM NAMES.

ADAM

Oh, I think you'd be better at that, Father.

FATHER

No, Adam. They're *your* children. I want you to do it.

EVE

Come on, Adam...

AH AH AH OO WAY...

ADAM

AH AH AH OO WAY AH...

EVE

Look!

(More ANIMALS start to arrive, all played by the CHILDREN STORYTELLERS. There are mammals, birds, insects and reptiles, running crawling, hopping and flying, even bursting from the ground. The other STORYTELLERS accompany the song on XYLOPHONES and other INSTRUMENTS)

FATHER

COME AND GATHER IN THE MEADOW,
IN THE MEADOW, IN THE SUN.
COME TOGETHER, EV'RYONE.
NOW THE NAMING HAS BEGUN.
LEAVE YOUR BURROW, FIELD AND FURROW
FOR THE MEADOW AND THE SUN.
COME AND GATHER, EV'RYONE.
NOW THE NAMING HAS BEGUN.
THE NAMING...
THE NAMING...

ADAM, EVE

THE NAMING...
THE NAMING

FATHER

AH AH AH OO WAY
AH...

(ADAM and EVE point out the ANIMALS to each other)

EVE

TWO-FOOTED...

ADAM

FOUR-FOOTED...

EVE

SIX-FOOTED...

ADAM

MORE-FOOTED...

EVE

FLEET-FOOTED...

ADAM

SURE-FOOTED...

ADAM, EVE

WHAT A GRAND ARRAY-O!

EVE

DUCK-BILLED AND RED-BREASTED...

ADAM

STAR-NOSED AND QUILL-CRESTED...

ADAM, EVE

(To FATHER)

NO WONDER YOU RESTED
ON THE SEVENTH DAY-O!

STRIPE AND SPOT,
FEATHER AND FUR —
MAYBE YOU FORGOT
HOW MANY THERE WERE!
HOOT AND HONK,
WHISTLE AND PURR,
FLAP AND GALLOP AND HOP —
ONCE YOU STARTED MAKING THEM,
IT SEEMS YOU COULDN'T STOP!

*(More and more ANIMALS arrive as the STORYTELLERS join in
the song)*

**ADAM, FATHER,
MALE STORYTELLERS**

COME AND GATHER
IN THE MEADOW,
IN THE MEADOW,
IN THE SUN.
COME TOGETHER,
EV'RYONE.
NOW THE NAMING HAS
BEGUN.

**EVE,
FEMALE STORYTELLERS**

TWO-FOOTED,
FOUR-FOOTED,
SIX-FOOTED,
MORE-FOOTED,
FLEET-FOOTED,
SURE-FOOTED,
WHAT A GRAND ARRAY-O!

ALL

THE NAMING...
THE NAMING...

(FATHER is handed a large ledger and a pencil by one of the STORYTELLERS)

FATHER

All right. You name the animals, and I'll take notes.

EVE

Where do we start?

ADAM

Start at "A."

EVE

Why "A?"

ADAM

"A" for Adam

EVE

(A little miffed)

I see...

FATHER

Look — there's a nice one to start with. What would be a good name for him?

ADAM

(Thinking aloud)

A... A... Aardvark!

FATHER

(Writing --- not the name he would have chosen)

Aardvark.

EVE

My turn! That one over there... is an...

(Spoken)

AARDWOLF!

ADAM

(Spoken)

ADDAX!

EVE

AGAMA!

AGOUTI! **ADAM**

ALIGATOR! **EVE**

AMPHIUMA! **ADAM**

(To FATHER)
THIS IS FUN **EVE**

ANACONDA! **ADAM**

ANTELOPE! **EVE**

ARMADILLO! **ADAM**

AVADAVAT! **EVE**

AXOLOTL! **ADAM**

AYE-AYE! **EVE**

(Spoken)
AYE-AYE? **FATHER**

AYE-AYE! **EVE**

AI-AI-AI, WE'LL NEVER BE DONE! **ADAM**

*(As ADAM and EVE continue with the naming, the ANIMALS
DANCE around and about them, joyfully reveling in their own
creation)*

ADAM, EVE

(Sung)

WINGS ARE WAVIN',
TAILS ARE WAGGIN' —
KANGAROO, KINKAJOU,
KOMODO DRAGON,

LION, LEMUR, HARTE-BEEST, HARE,
CHIMPANZEE AND CINNAMON BEAR,

NUMBAT, WOMBAT,
JAGUARUNDI,
DEERMOUSE, DOORMOUSE,
COATI MUNDI,

PECCARY, PORCUPINE
AND PRONGHORN,
TIGER, TORTOISE,
UNICORN!

ALL

(Sung)

COME AND GATHER IN THE MEADOW,
IN THE MEADOW, IN THE SUN.
COME TOGETHER, EV'RYONE.

FATHER

NOW THE NAMING...

ADAM

(Spoken)

VICUNA!

EVE

(Spoken)

WALRUS!

FATHER

(Sung)

NOW THE NAMING...

ADAM

(Spoken)

YAK!

EVE

(Spoken)
ZEBRA!

ALL EXCEPT FATHER

(Sung)
NOW THE NAMING...
IT
IS
DONE...

FATHER

(Sung)
AH AH AH OO WAY
AH...
DONE...

ALL

(Spoken)
ALL DONE!

(ADAM, EVE and FATHER look around them with great pride and pleasure as the newly named ANIMALS leave the stage, some of them turning themselves back into STORYTELLERS before they have quite disappeared)

ADAM

I think we missed a few.

FATHER

That's all right. You'll do them tomorrow. Now it's bedtime.

ADAM

All right, Father.

EVE

Ohhh...can't we stay up later?

FATHER

Not tonight.

EVE

Are you going to sleep, too?

FATHER

Not yet. Perhaps a little later.

EVE

When?

FATHER

No more questions, daughter Eve. It's time to sleep.

ADAM

Come on, Eve.

(ADAM and EVE kneel and slasp their hands like children at their bedtime prayers)

#5	Grateful Children	Adam, Eve
----	--------------------------	------------------

ADAM, EVE

(Sung)

OH, FATHER,
FOR ALL WE HAVE RECEIVED,
WE THANK YOU...

HERE WE ARE, YOUR GRATEFUL CHILDREN.
ALL YOU GIVE IS ALL WE KNOW.
IN THE EVERLASTING SPRINGTIME,
MAY YOUR PERFECT GARDEN GROW...

(The prayer finishes in another big yawn as ADAM and EVE settle themselves down, dropping off to sleep as soon as their heads hit the ground. FATHER looks down at them, greatly moved to see his children so peacefully disposed)

#6	Father's Day	Father, Storytellers
----	---------------------	-----------------------------

FATHER

(To STORYTELLERS)

Don't they look sweet when they're asleep?

(Sung)

SLEEPING THERE, LIKE ANGELS,
INNOCENT AND SIMPLE —
I THINK SHE'S GOT MY NOSE.
I THINK HE'S GOT MY DIMPLE.
IN MY OWN IMAGE,
FROM MY LIKENESS ARE THEY SPRUNG.
THEY WILL KEEP ME COMPANY
THEY WILL KEEP ME YOUNG.

THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A FATHER:
PLANNING FOR THEIR FUTURE,
AS YOU WATCH YOUR CHILDREN SLEEP.
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A FATHER —

I NEVER KNEW
THAT I COULD FEEL A LOVE SO DEEP.
OH, I WILL BE THEIR TEACHER
AND I WILL BE THEIR GUIDE.
AND EV'RYTHING THEY EVER NEED,
I'LL BE THERE TO PROVIDE.
AND IN RETURN, THEY'LL LOVE ME,
STAY FOREVER AT MY SIDE:
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A FATHER...

*(WHISTLING, FATHER looks round at the STORYTELLERS, who
WHISTLE with him and draw a little closer to share FATHER'S view
of the sleeping children)*

FOR I HAVE BUILT A UNIVERSE,
SPECTACULAR AND NEW —
AND I SAT THERE IN MY UNIVERSE.
AND LEARNED THAT THIS WAS TRUE:
WHAT USE IS A UNIVERSE,
WITH NO ONE TO GIVE IT TO?
NOT A HILL OF BEANS,
TILL YOU PASS ALONG YOUR GENES:
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS
TO BE A FATHER...

Sweet dreams, children. See you in the morning.

*(With a final gesture, FATHER turns what is left of the day into
night)*

#7	<i>Perfect, Part II</i>	<i>(Storytellers, Father, Adam, Eve)</i>
----	--------------------------------	---

STORYTELLERS

(Sung)
AND THE NIGHT WAS PERFECT,
AND THEIR DREAMS WERE PERFECT,
AND THEY WOKE WITH THE DAWN
AND SMILED, WITH A YAWN,
TO ONE ANOTHER.

(ADAM and EVE kiss)

AND WITH A GENTLE KISS,
THEY SOON DISCOVERED THIS:

THEIR LOVE WAS MORE THAN SISTER AND BROTHER...

FATHER

WELL, AFTER ALL, THEY WERE MADE FOR EACH OTHER!

(ADAM and EVE sit up)

ADAM, EVE

OF ALL THIS PERFECT GARDEN'S PERFECT SIGHTS,
YOU ARE THE SWEETEST OF MY EARTHLY DELIGHTS...

*(THEY kiss again, and then look around the garden as the
STORYTELLERS continue. ADAM'S FACE is a picture of increasing
contentment, but EVE looks as if she's expecting something to happen,
though she doesn't know what)*

STORYTELLERS

AND THEIR LOVE WAS PERFECT,
AND THE DAY WAS PERFECT,
AND THE NEXT... WAS PERFECT,
AND THE NEXT... WAS PERFECT,
AND THE DAY AFTER THAT...
AND THE DAY AFTER THAT...
EACH ONE WAS PERFECT AS COULD BE.

FEMALE STORYTELLERS

PERFECT AS COULD EVER BE...
AHH —

*(ADAM walks off on his own, while EVE moves down to the front of
the stage)*

MALE STORYTELLERS

(Overlapping)
AND AS THE DAYS WENT BY,
THOUGH SHE COULD NOT SAY WHY,

STORYTELLERS

THE WOMAN WENT TO SPY,
ON THAT CURIOUS TREE...

(EVE stands gazing out over the AUDIENCE at the tree on the hill)

AND SHE'D STAND THERE, ALL HESITANT AND HOVERY,
AND EACH DAY, SHE DREW CLOSER,
UNTIL SHE MADE AN OH! SUR-

PRISING AND BEWILDERING DISCOVERY...

(EVE runs around the stage in a state of great excitement)

EVE

Adam! Adam!

(ADAM ENTERS from the opposite direction. HE is writing things down, very carefully, in a much smaller version of FATHER'S notebook)

COME, ADAM, QUICK, ADAM,
WAIT TILL I SHOW YOU WHAT I FOUND...

ADAM

Not now, dear. I'm trying to put the insects into alphabetical order... Ant...
Aphid...

EVE

NO, ADAM, NOW, ADAM —
IT'S A THING THAT WILL ASTOUND YOU;
WHEN I SHOW YOU WHAT I FOUND,
YOU WON'T BELIEVE...
(Pulls ADAM into a journey, running back around the stage)

ADAM

(Spoken)
EVE!

STORYTELLERS

AND SHE BROUGHT HIM TO THE TREE...
WHERE HE KNEW THEY SHOULD NOT BE...

EVE

Look, Adam

ADAM

Eve, you *know* we shouldn't go near the tree.

EVE

That's not what Father said, Adam. He said not to eat the fruit.

ADAM

I know, but...

EVE

Just watch...

(Walks very carefully towards the tree. As she does so, the STAGE GROWS DARK around her, and the fruit on the tree GLOWS with an eerie light)

ADAM

How did you do that?

EVE

I didn't do anything. I just walked towards it and the day turned into night. Look.

(Walks back towards ADAM, and the LIGHT restores to warm, bright, morning sunlight)

Go on, you try!

ADAM

I don't think we...

EVE

Oh, don't be such a coward, Adam. Just try it.

(Very tentatively, ADAM takes one step towards the tree, and the DAY GROWS DARKER. A step back, and the LIGHT restores. HE moves back and forth, a step at a time, and the LIGHT changes with each step. He turns back to EVE with a worried smile on his face)

ADAM

Strange!

EVE

What do you think it means?

ADAM

It's a mystery to me.

EVE

A what?

ADAM

A mystery.

EVE

That's a wonderful word, Adam! "Mystery"... It means there's something else beyond what we... Oh! That's *another* wonderful word!

ADAM

What is?

EVE

"Beyond."

ADAM

(Nervously)

Eve, we've got enough words already. We've got more than we need. Now come on. I need some help.

EVE

What with?

ADAM

Finishing the bug list.

(ADAM does his best to enthuse EVE, but she merely looks back at him with a blank face)

EVE

Oh.

ADAM

(Confidentially)

I want to show it to Father tonight.

(Starts to walk off, naming insects and writing in his book as he goes)

Centipede... Cicada... ugh!... Cockroach!

(And HE is gone. EVE gathers herself together and starts after him... but then stops and looks back at the tree)

#8	<i>The Spark Of Creation</i>	<i>(Eve)</i>
-----------	-------------------------------------	---------------------

EVE

"BEYOND"... "BEYOND"...

IT SOUNDS FULL OF WIND AND MIST, DOESN'T IT?

IT MEANS OTHER THINGS EXIST, DOESN'T IT?

"BEYOND"... "BEYOND"...

IT SAYS, "ADAM, LEAVE YOUR LIST," DOESN'T IT?

FATHER, WHY DOES MY HEAD
FEEL THIS JOY AND THIS DREAD,
SINCE THE MOMENT I SAID “BEYOND?”

I’VE GOT AN ITCHING ON THE TIPS OF MY FINGERS.
I’VE GOT A BOILING IN THE BACK OF MY BRAIN.
I’VE GOT A HUNGER BURNING INSIDE ME
CANNOT BE DENIED.
I’VE GOT A FEELING THAT THE FATHER WHO MADE US,
WHEN HE WAS KINDLING THE PULSE IN MY VEINS,
HE LEFT A TINY SPARK OF THAT FIRE,
SMOLDERING INSIDE.

THE SPARK OF CREATION
IS FLICKERING WITHIN ME.
THE SPARK OF CREATION
IS BLAZING IN MY BLOOD,
A BIT OF THE FIRE
THAT LIT UP THE STARS
AND BREATHED LIFE INTO THE MUD —
THE FIRST INSPIRATION,
THE SPARK OF CREATION.

I SEE A MOUNTAIN AND I WANT TO CLIMB IT.
I SEE A RIVER AND I WANT TO LEAVE SHORE.
WHERE THERE WAS NOTHING,
LET THERE BE SOMETHING —
SOMETHING MADE BY ME!
THERE’S THINGS WAITING FOR ME TO INVENT THEM.
THERE’S WORLDS WAITING FOR ME TO EXPLORE.
I AM AN ECHO OF THE ETERNAL CRY OF
“LET THERE BE...”

THE SPARK OF CREATION,
BURNING BRIGHT WITHIN ME...
THE SPARK OF CREATION
WON’T LET ME REST AT ALL,
UNTIL I DISCOVER
OR BUILD OR UNCOVER
A THING THAT I CAN CALL
MY CELEBRATION
OF THE SPARK OF CREATION...

THE SPARK OF CREATION:
MAY IT BURN FOREVER,

THE SPARK OF CREATION:
 I AM A KEEPER OF THE FLAME.
 WE THINK ALL WE WANT
 IS A LIFETIME OF LEISURE,
 EACH PERFECT DAY THE SAME
 ENDLESS, VACATION...
 WELL, THAT'S ALL RIGHT, IF YOU'RE A KIND OF
 CRUSTACEAN,
 BUT WHEN YOU'RE BORN WITH AN IMAGINATION,
 SOONER OR LATER, YOU'RE FEELING THE FIRE
 GET HOTTER AND HIGHER...

(EVE reaches upwards into the LIGHT, as if a baptism of creation was being poured over her. A very similar image is repeated at the end of ACT ONE, as EVE takes her last breath)

THE SPARK OF CREATION!

(There is a slithery movement in the branches of the tree and a sibilant VOICE accompanying it...)

SNAKE

Exsscussse me.

(The STORYTELLERS have conspired together to form the SNAKE, five or more of them comprising its form, with the lines divided up between them. The actors who play the parts of SHEM, HAM, AYSHA, APHRA and YONAH in ACT TWO are likely to be the best candidates for this job)

EVE

(Startled)

Who's that?

SNAKE

I'm ssso sssorry. It wasn't my intention to ssstartle you, but I couldn't resissst listening to your quesstions.

EVE

Snakes don't talk.

SNAKE

Ssspecial sssnakes do.

EVE

They do?

SNAKE

Snakes ask quesstions, too. Shall I ask you some?

EVE

Oh, yesss... I mean, yes.

SNAKE

What happens to the sun after it sets?

(EVE thinks for a moment, entranced by this thought)

EVE

I don't know. What?

SNAKE

Here's another one. Where does music go after you've listened to it?

(Again, EVE is quite delighted by the question)

EVE

Where?

SNAKE

What becomes of dreams when you're not asleep?

(And that does it. EVE is mesmerized and hooked)

EVE

Ooooh, you do ask the most delicious questions.

SNAKE

(Smugly)

Thanksss.

EVE

Do you know the answers?

SNAKE

Oh! So you're not just interested in questions. You're interested in answers, too. You are... ambitiousss...

#9	<i>In Pursuit Of Excellence</i>	<i>(Snake, Eve)</i>
----	--	----------------------------

I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU FOR A WHILE NOW,
MY PRETTY LITTLE MISSSS,

AND I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU THISSSS:
YOU MAKE ME WANT TO HISSSSS.
YOUR AIMLESS CURIOSITY
IS FAST BECOMING TIRESOME.
KNOWLEDGE, DEAR, IS POWER —
AND IT'S HIGH TIME YOU ACQUIRE SOME!
DUM DUM DUM DUM DUM —

LESSON ONE FOR FREE.
REPEAT IT AFTER ME:

(The SNAKE begins to dance)

I'M IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE.
EXCELLENCE IT WHAT I WISH.
ONCE, I WAS A FECKLESS DREAMER;
NOW, NO BEING IS SUPREMER.
WHY WASTE TIME
WALLOWING IN IGNORANCE?
WHY BE JUST A BIG FAT FISH
IN A TINY LITTLE POND?
LOOK BEYOND!
AND IF THE QUICKEST ROUTE
MEANS A TASTE OF FORBIDDEN FRUIT,
WHAT THE HEY! IT'S ALL IN PURSUIT
OF EXCELLENCESSSS....

(The SNAKE entwines itself around EVE. THEY DANCE together)

TIME FOR SOME SOPHISTICATING,
IT'S NO SIN TO BE SCINTILLATING...

Let's play questions again. If God made all thissss...

(Looks round at the garden)

... who made God?

EVE

I don't know.

SNAKE

What's *beyond* the garden?

(EVE is becoming maddened with frustration as the SNAKE piles on the question-pressure)

EVE

I don't know!

SNAKE

If two cranes leave Eden at the same time, and one of them travels at seven times the speed of the other, how long...

EVE

Stop it! Tell me how to find the answers.

SNAKE

You're absolutely sure you want to know?

EVE

Yes!

SNAKE

Then just eat one of *these*!

(Drops a piece of golden, glistening fruit into her hand)

EVE

Oh, no, I can't.

(Gingerly hands the fruit back to the SNAKE)

SNAKE

Why not?

EVE

We promised.

SNAKE

Really? You promised not to do something that would make you smarter? But... why would someone insist on such a promise?

(This is more of a worrying question than an exciting one, but EVE ponders it all the more seriously)

EVE

I don't know.

SNAKE

SO... DON'T BE SUCH A STIFF.

MMM, JUST TAKE A SNIFF.
REALLY, WHAT'S THE DIFF',
IF...

A COUPLE FIBS ARE SPOKEN,
A COUPLE VOWS ARE BROKEN?
THAT'S THE PRICE, I GUESSSS...

(Spoken)

NO PAIN, NO GAIN!

(Sung)

YOU'LL BE SWIFTLY OVERTAKEN
BY SOME AMBITIOUS SNAKE, UNLESSSS
YOU PROGRESSSS
LEARN TO DRESSSS
FOR SUCCESSSS...

EVE

(Spoken)

YES!

*(DANCES with the SNAKE, the golden fruit held tantalizingly
between them)*

SNAKE, EVE

(Sung)

WE'RE IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE.
WINNERS DARE TO TAKE THE RISKS,
WHILE THE LOSERS DISCUSS...

SNAKE

(Spoken)

THAT'S WHY THEY'RE LOSERS!

SNAKE, EVE

(Sung)

PASS THE TEST WHEN YOU'RE TESTED.
BE THE BEST, NOT THE BESTED.
LET OTHER NERVOUS WRECKS
STAY TOO FRIGHTENED TO STICK OUT THEIR NECKS.
THEY'RE NOT IN PURSUIT OF EX-
CELLENCE LIKE US...
LIKE US...
LIKE US...
SSS...

(As the song finishes, the SNAKE DANCES off and EVE is left holding the golden fruit)

#10 <i>The End Of A Perfect Day</i>	<i>(Storytellers)</i>
---	------------------------------

STORYTELLERS

AND THE WOMAN DID EAT.

(EVE slowly and deliberately takes a large bite out of the fruit)

AND HER EYES WERE OPENED.

(EVE looks around with a heightened sense of wonder)

THROUGH HER TEARS, SHE SAW THE BEAUTY ALL AROUND
HER,
AT THE END OF A PERFECT DAY...

(EVE walks off, through the garden)

NOTHING WAS DIFFERENT,
AND NOTHING WOULD EVER BE THE SAME.
IT WAS THE END OF A PERFECT DAY...

(The stage is now bathed in the warm glow of sunset, as ADAM ENTERS, calling)

ADAM

Honey, I'm home!

(EVE appears from behind the tree, carrying a small cup)

EVE

Supper's ready!

ADAM

Great! I named a million bugs today! What's for supper?

EVE

Strudel, pie, and fritters.

ADAM

Mm. Sounds good.

(EVE hands ADAM the cup)

What's this?

EVE

It's... a fruit drink. A new one.

ADAM

What have you named it?

EVE

(Thinking aloud)

It's cccccider. It's very nice.

(ADAM raises the cup to his lips)

EVE

Wait!

ADAM

What?

EVE

Nothing.

ADAM

What's wrong?

EVE

Nothing.

ADAM

Good.

(Raises the cup to his lips again)

EVE

Stop!

(Snatches the cup out of his grasp, spilling most of the juice)

ADAM

What's going on?

(Looks at the juice soaking into the ground, and then at the tree with the golden fruit, as he realizes what she has done)

Oh, Eve...

FATHER

(Calling from offstage)

Adam? Eve?

#11 Childhood's End

(Storytellers, Eve, Father)

STORYTELLERS

AND THEY HEARD THE VOICE OF FATHER,
WALKING IN THE GARDEN
IN THE COOL OF THE DAY...

ADAM

(Pulling at her)

We've got to hide.

EVE

No, Adam...

ADAM

Hurry!

(ADAM pulls EVE into a dark part of the stage. The STORYTELLERS help to form a hiding place for them)

STORYTELLERS

AND FROM FATHER'S PRESENCE,
AMONG THE THICKEST TREES,
THEY HID THEMSELVES AWAY...

(FATHER ENTERS through the garden)

FATHER

(Walks directly over to where his children are hiding)

Adam... why do you hide from me?

ADAM

I am ashamed, Father.

FATHER

Ashamed?

(EVE emerges from their hiding place)

EVE

He's ashamed of me, Father.

FATHER

Come here, Eve. Look me in the face.

(SHE does so)

So... you have tasted the fruit.

EVE

Yes, Father. but it's all right! It didn't hurt me after all! And now... oh, Father... my head is so full of impossible dreams...

(Talks quickly and knowingly now to FATHER, as if they were co-conspirators in the Creation)

... to ride with the horses, fly with the eagles, and see in the dark like the owls...

FATHER

What did I tell you?

EVE

And the animals aren't really our children, are they?

ADAM

What do you mean?

EVE

They're just animals, Adam. But we can have real children, if we want to.

ADAM

Real children?

EVE

Just like us. That's right, isn't it, Father?

FATHER

I told you not to touch it.

EVE

I know, Father, but...

FATHER

You promised. For the love of this family.

EVE

... I can *see* so clearly now. I can see what *you* can see.

I CAN SEE, I CAN SEE
HOW WE CAN BUILD THINGS FROM TREES,
WE CAN USE THE WINDS AND RIVERS —
I CAN SEE
THERE'S SO MUCH MORE FOR US TO SEE!

FATHER

EVE, YOU SEE TOO MUCH.
CAN YOU SEE YOU HAVE TO GO?

EVE

Go?

FATHER

Leave the garden.

EVE

But, why?

FATHER

THIS IS A PLACE OF INNOCENCE.
THIS IS A PLACE FOR CHILDREN.
AND YOU ARE A CHILD NO MORE...

ADAM

No!

(FATHER and EVE turn to ADAM. THEY had almost forgotten he was there)

Father, that's not true!

(FATHER draws ADAM aside. EVE stands in stunned silence, unable to believe how FATHER has changed towards her)

FATHER

Adam, my son... I'll make another wife for you, a better wife. And everything will be the way it was.

ADAM

But I don't want another wife. I want Eve.

FATHER

No, Adam, Eve is leaving here.

ADAM

Well, then... what if I went with her?

FATHER

Then you would never see me again.

(ADAM is stunned by this thought)

#12 <i>A World Without You</i>	<i>(Adam, Father, Eve)</i>
--------------------------------	----------------------------

ADAM

(Sung)

OH, MY FATHER,
LORD AND CREATOR, YOU KNOW THAT HALF MY HEART IS YOURS.
ALL THAT YOU GAVE ME,
I CAN'T REPAY YOU.
IF I BETRAY YOU,
I'LL BREAK IN TWO.
HOW COULD I LIVE
IN A WORLD WITHOUT YOU?

FATHER

YOU'LL STAY HERE, ADAM,
BE MY SON FOREVER...

(ADAM turns to EVE)

ADAM

BUT OH, MY LIFE'S PARTNER,
MY WIFE, MY LOVER,
YOU KNOW THAT HALF MY HEART IS YOURS.
EACH TIME I SEE YOU,
YOU FILL MY SPIRIT,
JUST KNOWING YOU'RE NEAR.
IT MAKES THE DAY NEW.
HOW COULD I LIVE
IN A WORLD WITHOUT YOU?

OH, FATHER, PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME CHOOSE.
EITHER WAY, IT'S MORE THAN I CAN BEAR TO LOSE.
EITHER WAY, IT'S RIPPING OUT MY HEART.
THIS CHOICE IS TEARING ME APART...

(FATHER turns on EVE)

FATHER

YOU SEE WHAT YOU HAVE DONE?
PAIN HAS COME INTO THE GARDEN.
WHERE THERE IS CHOICE, THERE IS PAIN.

(Turns back to ADAM)

MAKE THIS ONE CHOICE, MY SON:
CHOOSE NOT TO EAT THIS FRUIT,
AND YOU WILL NEVER HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE AGAIN.

ADAM

OH, EVE, WHAT WOULD YOU GIVE,
IF THIS DAY YOU COULD RELIVE?
WOULD YOU LET THE APPLE GO UNEATEN?

*(EVE plucks a piece of the forbidden fruit from the tree and studies it
for a moment in deep thought, then she looks up, first at ADAM and
then at FATHER)*

EVE

... NO
I CANNOT BEAR TO FEEL THIS PAIN,
BUT I WOULD NOT GO BACK AGAIN...

ADAM

OH, MY GARDEN,
ALL PEACE AND BEAUTY,
I KNOW THAT ALL MY HEART IS YOURS.
I WANT TO STAY HERE,
STAY HERE FOREVER,
FATHER, FOREVER.
I CANNOT LEAVE,
BUT, EVE,
I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO...

HOW CAN I LIVE —
I CANNOT LIVE —
I WILL NOT LIVE
IN A WORLD WITHOUT...

*(ADAM looks from FATHER to EVE and then back to FATHER,
Still unsure of his choice. Finally, HE turns to EVE)*

... YOU.

(Takes the fruit from EVE'S HAND, and bites into it)

FATHER

Adam!

#13 *The Expulsion*

(Father, Storytellers)

EVE

(Pleading)

Don't be angry with him, Father!

(FATHER starts to withdraw now even more)

FATHER

(With great sadness and distance)

OH, MY CHILDREN, THAT I LOVE SO WELL,
WHAT WRONG YOU DO TO ME...

EVE

We're still your children. You can go on loving us.

FATHER

WHY COULD YOU NOT RESIST THE SPELL
OF ONE SEDUCTIVE TREE?

EVE

We still love *you*.

FATHER

WHEN ALL AROUND YOU,
I GAVE YOU FIELDS TO ROAM,
SAPPHIRE SKIES AND CHROMIUM WATERFALLS.
ALL THAT I HAD TO GIVE, I GAVE TO YOU...

EVE

But, Father, didn't you think we were ever going to grow up?

*(FATHER'S tone hardens now, as his disappointment turns to anger.
The STORYTELLERS gather closer as this part of the story reaches its
climax, joining in with FATHER as the MUSIC grows)*

FATHER

UNGRATEFUL CHILDREN!
LIVE IN THE WILDERNESS!

EVE

Why did you put questions in me?

FATHER

Why did you disobey me?

EVE

That's not an answer!

FATHER

BEAR YOUR OWN CHILDREN!
ANSWER FOR YOURSELVES!

ADAM

We will!

FATHER

SWEAT TO MAKE YOUR DAILY
BREAD,
WHILE THORNS AND
THISTLES MOCK YOUR
HARVEST.
SWEAT, TILL THE DAY YOU
RETURN TO THE CLAY
FOR WHICH IT SEEMS YOU
YEARN...

STORYTELLERS

SWEAT!

SWEAT! WHILE THORNS AND
THISTLES MOCK YOUR
HARVEST.
SWEAT! YOU WILL RETURN
TO THE CLAY.

(ADAM becomes quite fierce now, in defense of EVE)

ADAM

We'll manage on our own! You'll see!

FATHER

STORYTELLERS

DUST YOU WERE
DUST YOU ARE.

DUST!
DUST!

FATHER, STORYTELLERS
TO DUST, YOU WILL RETURN!

ADAM
You'll see!

FATHER
AND AT THIS PLACE,

STORYTELLERS
AND AT THIS PLACE,

FATHER
I SET MY SWORD...

STORYTELLERS
NOW AND —

FATHER, STORYTELLERS
FOREVER WILL IT BURN!

(As the MUSIC comes to a close, there is a terrific crash of THUNDER as a bolt of LIGHTNING strikes the Tree of Knowledge.

The STORYTELLERS rip the garden apart, until there is nothing left of the innocent and beautiful Eden, except the charred remains of the blasted tree.

As the STORYTELLERS resume their SINGING, ADAM goes to the tree...)

#14 <i>The Wasteland</i>

<i>(Storytellers)</i>

STORYTELLERS
AND THE MAN WALKED THROUGH THE ACRID ASH OF
HEAVEN,
TO THE SMOLD'RING TREE DESTROYED BY FATHER'S WRATH,

(... and pulls away a piece of it. HE breaks off a few twigs, and then holds it beside him as a walking staff)

AND HE CARVED FROM IT A STAFF,

TO LEAN ON IN THE AFTERMATH...

(ADAM reaches out for EVE with his other hand. THEY start to walk from the garden)

AND THE MAN AND WOMAN WENT OUT FROM THE
GARDEN,
AND WHEN THEY TURNED TO LOOK,
THE PATHWAY BACK WAS GONE...
SO, THEY TURNED AND SET THEIR EYES
TO THE LAND THAT LIES
BEYOND...

(As the STORYTELLERS continue, splitting up the verses between them, they change the setting to The Wasteland. This is a desert place, all rock and hardened earth, as different a place as it could possibly be from the lushness of the garden. Other STORYTELLERS help to transform ADAM and EVE, dressing them in skins and aging their appearance, so that they grow old before our eyes)

FEMALE STORYTELLER

RED ROCK AND OUTCROP STONE,
AND THE SUN GLARES OFF A BLEACHING BONE.
THERE'S NO SOFTNESS OR COMFORT HERE;
THERE'S ONLY THE WASTELAND.

ANOTHER FEMALE STORYTELLER

THE LAND OF THE HUNTER, THE STALKER AND THE
SKINNER.
WHERE YOU'RE EITHER THE DINER OR THE DINNER —
AND THE LINE BETWEEN MAN AND BEAST
KEEPS GETTING THINNER, IN THE WASTELAND.

(ADAM and EVE have built a makeshift shanty on a flat bit of land near a waterfall. There are large boulders strewn around and a stone altar near the shanty)

MALE STORYTELLER

IN THE WASTELAND, THE LAND LAID WASTE,
THE FRUIT OF KNOWLEDGE HAS A BITTER TASTE —
BUT THE BLISS OF IGNORANCE CAN NEVER BE REPLACED;
IT'S LOST IN THE WILDERNESS...

(EVE lies on the ground in front of their home, in the pain of childbirth, ADAM by her side)

FEMALE STORYTELLER

AND THERE CAME A DAY, IN A CHILLY RAIN,
A CHILD WAS BORN, IN SWEAT AND PAIN.
BUT THEY LOVED HIM STILL,
AND THEY CALLED HIM "CAIN"
OF THE WASTELAND...

(ADAM holds the baby. As the STORYTELLERS continue, EVE joins ADAM...)

MALE STORYTELLER

IN THE WASTELAND, THE LAND FORLORN,
TWO MORE YEARS, AND ONE MORE MORNING —
THERE'S ANOTHER CRY HEARD, AND ANOTHER BOY BORN,

(... another baby in her arms)

TO BE LOST IN THE WILDERNESS...

(The STORYTELLERS take the babies from ADAM and EVE, as the stage changes to evening light, and YOUNG CAIN and YOUNG ABEL run on, carrying sheaves of corn. THEY are new children of 10 and 8, dressed in skins and rags. ADAM greets them, takes their sheaves and prepares the altar for an offering)

STORYTELLERS

HEAT-BAKED AND DUST-STORM DRIVEN,
AND ONE FALSE STEP STAYS UNFORGIVEN.
AND ALL THAT YOU KNOW IS
YOU WEREN'T MADE TO LIVE IN THE WASTELAND...

(ADAM sets FIRE to the corn and kneels in prayer, with YOUNG CAIN and YOUNG ABEL kneeling beside him. EVE prepares supper at a small fire outside the shanty)

#15 The Wilderness Family**(Adam, Young Cain, Young Abel)**

(ADAM and YOUNG ABEL join EVE at supper, but YOUNG CAIN remains at the altar, deep in prayer)

ADAM, YOUNG CAIN, YOUNG ABEL

OH, FATHER,
THESE GIFTS MAY YOU RECEIVE,
TO THANK YOU.
HERE WE ARE,
YOUR GRATEFUL CHILDREN.
PLEASE ACCEPT OUR SACRIFICE.
MAY YOU HEAR US AND FORGIVE US.
BRING US BACK TO PARADISE.

EVE

Supper's ready.

YOUNG ABEL

All right, let's eat!

YOUNG CAIN

MAY YOU HEAR US AND FORGIVE US.
BRING US BACK TO PARA—

EVE

That's enough now, Cain.

ADAM

Come to supper.

(YOUNG CAIN joins ADAM, EVE and YOUNG ABEL at their meal)

YOUNG CAIN

Papa?

ADAM

Yes?

YOUNG CAIN

Will Father ever answer us?

ADAM

Of course he will.

YOUNG CAIN

When?

(ADAM and EVE exchange a glance. This conversation happens only rarely, but it is never an easy one)

ADAM

Father put us here as a punishment, Cain.

YOUNG CAIN

I know that...

ADAM

(Interrupting him)

If we are good, and careful, and show him how much we love him, one day he will forgive us and bring us back home.

YOUNG ABEL

I though *this* was our home.

EVE

This *is* our home.

(ADAM looks over at EVE, but this time she doesn't return his glance. YOUNG CAIN has stopped eating and is gazing out over the heads of the AUDIENCE, just as EVE did when she first caught sight of the Tree of Knowledge in Eden)

YOUNG CAIN

Papa?

ADAM

Yes?

YOUNG CAIN

What's above the waterfall?

(ADAM and EVE exchange another glance)

ADAM

What do you mean, Cain?

YOUNG CAIN

What's above the waterfall?

EVE

Water is what's above the waterfall. Eat your supper.

YOUNG CAIN

And what's beyond the mountains over there?

ADAM

You don't need to know that.

YOUNG CAIN

Why not?

(YOUNG ABEL looks at his father, warily)

YOUNG ABEL

Cain... I don't think you should ask so many questions.

YOUNG CAIN

Papa, why won't you let us go beyond the waterfall?

EVE

Cain...

ADAM

Let me ask *you* a question, Cain. What would happen if you, or I, or any of us, wandered off beyond the waterfall or over the mountains, and while we were gone, Father came to take us back to Eden?

YOUNG CAIN

I don't know.

ADAM

We would miss our chance, wouldn't we? Is that what you want?

YOUNG CAIN

No.

ADAM

Then that's all you need to know. If you love me, if you love this family, you'll never go beyond the waterfall. Either of you.

YOUNG ABEL

We promise, Papa.

(YOUNG ABEL looks over at YOUNG CAIN, who glances silently back at him)

Cain?

YOUNG CAIN

(After a pause)

We promise.

(But YOUNG CAIN gazes back out over the distant mountains, a look of faraway longing in his eyes. EVE has been watching him intently and we watch only her now as the rest of the scene dissolves around her)

#16 *The Spark Of Creation — Reprise* (Eve)

EVE

I FEEL A COLDNESS IN THE PIT OF MY STOMACH.
I FEEL A WATCHFULNESS IN BACK OF MY EYES.
I CARRY A LOAD OF HEAVY FOREBODING
I CANNOT EXPLAIN...

(As EVE continues, YOUNG CAIN and YOUNG ABEL appear in the background, working or playing at some task or game. THEY are then ingeniously replaced in this action by the two adult STORYTELLERS who play their older selves, young men of 17 and 15. Perhaps ADAM, too, is seen in the background, tending to the altar or at work on some laborious task)

MY BOYS ARE HEALTHY, THEY GROW BIGGER AND STRONGER.
NO SIGN OF TROUBLE, BUT I RECOGNIZE
THE HEAT AND THE HUNGER OF WHEN I WAS YOUNGER —
I SEE IT NOW, IN CAIN.

(As EVE continues, the older CAIN stands up and looks out at the distant mountains, just as his younger self did in the previous scene. ABEL joins ADAM at the altar, where they spend a moment together in prayer before ADAM goes off on his own)

I USED TO THINK IT WAS THE SPARK OF CREATION,
BUT WAS IT JUST A DEFECT IN ME?

A FLAW IN MY NATURE —
 AND NOW LOOK WHAT I'VE DONE:
 I'VE PASSED IT TO MY SON,
 THIS WILD INCLINATION...
 IS IT THE SPARK OF CREATION...?

(EVE follows off in the direction which ADAM took a few moments before. CAIN looks round at ABEL, who is still at the altar)

CAIN

Abel! Now's our chance.

(Goes to the shanty and brings out a rough bundle as he continues to speak)

Mama and Papa are down by the river. I've packed the provisions. Come on. We can be miles away by nightfall.

ABEL

I'm not coming.

(Kneels at the altar)

#17 Lost in The Wilderness

(Cain, Abel)

OH, FATHER,
 THESE GIFTS MAY YOU RECEIVE,
 TO THANK YOU...

CAIN

Brother, come with me. We can't stay, rotting away here, forever.

(ABEL continues with his prayer, trying his best to block out his brother's plea)

ABEL

HERE WE ARE, YOUR
 GRATEFUL CHILDREN.
 PLEASE, ACCEPT OUR
 SACRIFICE.
 MAY YOU HEAR US AND
 FORGIVE US.
 BRING US BACK TO
 PARADISE...

CAIN

(Breaking into his brother's prayer)

ALL THESE YEARS OF THIS
 CRUEL JOKE,
 THE BEST OF OUR HARVEST
 GOING UP IN SMOKE,
 PRAYING FOR A FUTURE
 FROM THESE SILENT,
 STONY SHELVES —
 HOW MUCH MORE OF THIS
 MUST WE TAKE?
 THIS IS THE MORNING WE
 FIN'LLY MAKE

A FUTURE FOR OURSELVES!

ABEL

But Cain, if it's God's will that we were put here...

CAIN

IS IT GOD'S WILL,
OR HAVE WE ALL BEEN CONNED?
BROTHER, WE WILL NEVER KNOW.
WE WILL NEVER GROW,
IF WE NEVER GO
BEYOND...

ABEL

We promised, Cain.

CAIN

We wouldn't be the first ones to break a promise.

I NEVER MADE THIS WORLD.
I DIDN'T EVEN LOSE IT.
AND I KNOW NO ONE SAID IT WAS FAIR,
BUT THEY HAD A GARDEN ONCE.
THEY HAD A CHANCE TO CHOOSE IT.
THEY GAVE IT AWAY, INCLUDING MY SHARE.

AND NOW, WE'RE LOST IN THE WILDERNESS,
LOST, CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS.
AND IF ANYONE'S WATCHING,
IT SEEMS THEY COULDN'T CARE LESS
WE'RE LOST IN THE WILDERNESS...

ABEL

I can't believe that, Cain.

CAIN

Why can't you?

ABEL

Maybe I'm just not as angry as you are, Cain.

CAIN

You should be!

YOU FOLLOW ALL THE RULES,
YOU SWALLOW ALL THE STORIES,
AND EV'RY NIGHT, YOU WISH ON A STAR,
DREAMING YOUR DAY WILL COME,
TRUSTING IN ALLEGORIES —
AND EV'RY MORNING, BOY, *LOOK WHERE YOU ARE!*

LOST IN THE WILDERNESS,
LOST, SLOWLY DYING IN THE WILDERNESS,
WITH NO CHANCE OF LIVING, BOY,
UNTIL YOU CONFESS
YOU'RE LOST IN THE WILDERNESS.

(ABEL is frightened by what CAIN is saying, but can also be inspired by his brother's passion — and CAIN knows it. As CAIN continues, ABEL'S fears are gradually assuaged)

DON'T YOU EVER WATCH THE EAGLE FLY TO THE SUN.
AND WONDER HOW HE GOT TO BE SO FREE?
IF YOU EVER HAVE, YOU KNOW YOUR JOURNEY'S BEGUN,
HEY! WHAT'VE YOU GOT TO LOSE, BOY,
WHEN ALREADY WE ARE
LOST
IN THE WILDERNESS?
AND WHERE WE ARE HEADED, BOY,
I COULDN'T EVEN GUESS.
BUT OFF WE GO, WITHOUT A WARNING,
RUNNING AS WE HIT THE GROUND,
WHERE OUR FUTURE LIES A-BORNING,
WHERE OUR HEARTS ARE OUTWARD BOUND...
TILL ONE BRIGHT AND DISTANT MORNING,
WE MAY STOP AND LOOK AROUND —
AND THERE, IN THE WILDERNESS,
FINALLY, WE'LL BE FOUND.

(ABEL has been overwhelmed by the force of CAIN'S argument, and, in spite of himself, embraces CAIN. As the two boys excitedly prepare to leave, THEY hear...)

FATHER

(OFFSTAGE)

Cain...

(CAIN and ABEL freeze in their tracks, shocked at the sound of a human voice they don't recognize)

CAIN

Who's there?

FATHER

(OFFSTAGE)

Abel...

(FATHER ENTERS and walks across the beaten ground, towards CAIN and ABEL. HE looks like an ordinary man, certainly impressive, and a little older and graver than when last we saw him in Eden — but nothing else distinguishes him from any other traveler who might be visiting a lonely settlement on a journey to somewhere else. He stands looking at the two brothers)

ABEL

Who is it, Cain?

CAIN

It must be... Father.

ABEL

He's not as big as I thought.

FATHER

Cain, Abel. Let me look at you. What fine young men you've become. How old are you, Cain?

CAIN

Seventeen, Father.

FATHER

Grandfather. And Abel. You're almost as tall as your brother now, aren't you?

ABEL

Yes, Grandfather.

CAIN

I didn't think you'd ever come.

FATHER

Well, here I am.

(CAIN, despite all his cynicism and rebellious spirit, is overwhelmed to see FATHER. All the years of childhood prayer flood back to him in a single impulse, as he kneels down in front of FATHER)

CAIN

You've come to take us back to Eden.

(FATHER is unprepared for this demonstration of faith, and pauses for a moment before speaking)

FATHER

I came to see my grandchildren.

(Looks into CAIN'S FACE. HE then speaks as if from very far away)

You've got your mother's eyes.

(Breaks away from CAIN and moves over to the altar)

Whose offering is this?

ABEL

It's mine, Grandfather

FATHER

Thank you, Abel. Come here.

(ABEL goes to FATHER, who embraces him)

You're a good boy.

(FATHER turns back to CAIN)

What about you, Cain? Where's your offering?

(CAIN hasn't made an offering. ABEL hastily covers for him)

ABEL

I'll get Mama and Papa.

FATHER

No, Abel. I won't be seeing them.

CAIN

What? What do you mean?

(FATHER fixes CAIN in a steady gaze)

FATHER

I'm not here to see your parents.

CAIN

But they're waiting for you. They've been waiting for years. Papa calls to you every day.

FATHER

You are my children now. In *you* I place my hope.

(FATHER and CAIN continue to look at each other while ABEL speaks)

ABEL

Papa said you'd forgive us, Grandfather, and take us all back to the garden.

CAIN

We're not going back to the garden, Abel.

ABEL

What?

CAIN

There is no garden. Not for us.

(To FATHER)

Is there?

(FATHER holds CAIN in his gaze for a moment longer, then suddenly looks around him)

FATHER

What a wonderful home this is. What work your parents have put into it.

(Picks up a clay cooking pot from the fireplace)

Look at this. Your father must have made this.

ABEL

He did.

FATHER

Very good workmanship. You should be proud of him.

CAIN

(Fiercely)

We are.

FATHER

Honor your father and you mother. Do what they tell you. Keep up your offerings.

CAIN

What for?

FATHER

Come here, my son.

(CAIN doesn't move. A moment passes, and then FATHER walks slowly over to him)

I'll come back and see you again. Soon. And when I do, I'll bring a gift for you. For both of you. I will bring you both... wives.

ABEL

Wives? Of our own? Cain!

CAIN

Why can't we choose wives for ourselves?

ABEL

(Under his breath)

Cain!

FATHER

I will choose you a perfect wife. Then you can start your own family, and give me my first great-grandchildren.

CAIN

Why should I give you anything?

(ABEL puts his head in his hands, unable to believe CAIN'S audacity)

FATHER

You must have faith in me, Cain.

CAIN

Like my father has faith in you?

(Another thought suddenly occurs to him)

And why did you come now? To stop us leaving?

FATHER

I'm here to keep you safe.

CAIN

I don't need *you* to keep me safe.

#18 <i>Lost in The Wilderness -- Reprise</i>	<i>(Father, Cain, Abel)</i>
--	------------------------------------

DID YOU REALLY THINK I'D BE HERE, CHANTING A PRAYER,
TILL YOU FIN'LLY DEIGNED TO REAPPEAR?
NOTHING YOU CAN SAY COULD STOP ME HEADING OUT
THERE.

WHEN ALL I KNOW ABOUT YOU
IS YOU LEFT US HERE,
LOST...

ABANDONED IN THE WILDERNESS.
SO — YOU CAN KEEP YOUR BRIBES AND TEMPTATION.
I'M GONNA FIND MY OWN DESTINATION

(Scoops up the bundle and slings it over his back)

OUT IN THE WASTELAND,
WITH NOTHING TO GUIDE ME
BUT THIS BURNING INSIDE ME —

ABEL

Don't go, Cain!

CAIN

THE SPARK OF CREATION!

ABEL

Cain!

(CAIN runs off. ABEL looks round uneasily at FATHER)

He'll come back.

FATHER

(Thoughtfully)

Will he?

ABEL

He's got to come back...

(FATHER goes to ABEL and talks quickly and seriously to him)

FATHER

Abel. Say nothing of this to your father and mother. I wasn't here. You don't know why Cain ran away. This is our secret. Do you understand?

ABEL

Yes, Grandfather.

FATHER

Promise?

ABEL

Promise.

(FATHER holds ABEL at arms' length and fixes him with the most penetrating gaze)

FATHER

ABEL, MY GRANDSON,
YOU ARE THE FUTURE.
ALL MY HOPES LIVE IN YOU.
DON'T BREAK MY HEART...

(Entranced, ABEL watches FATHER leave, as the STORYTELLERS take up the tale once more.)

The scene changes to a day later, as ADAM ENTERS and walks down to the front of the stage)

EVE has joined ABEL. THEY watch ADAM as he stands gazing out over the hills, shielding his eyes with his hands)

ADAM

Cain! Cain!

ABEL

He'll be all right, Papa.

ADAM

And what if Father finally comes for us while he's gone? What then, Abel?

(ABEL doesn't know what to say. HE glances briefly at EVE, who is watching him in silence)

What then?

ABEL

I don't know.

ADAM

Damn him, anyway!

#19 Close To Home	(Adam, Eve, Young Abel, Young Cain, Abel)
----------------------------	--

ALL THAT I HAD TO GIVE, I GAVE THAT BOY.
ONCE, HE WAS YOUNG; AND ONCE, HE BROUGHT MY HEART
SUCH JOY.
HE'D RIDE MY SHOULDERS,
AND 'CROSS THE FIELDS WE'D ROAM.
I CAN STILL SEE THOSE MOMENTS LIKE YESTERDAY.
I WAS A FOOL TO THINK THEY'D MAKE HIM WANT TO STAY
AT HOME...

(As Adam remembers, the memory figures of Young Cain and Young Abel appear and begin to play their childhood games)

YOUNG CAIN

1, 2, 3, OWLS ARE IN THE TREE
4, 5, 6, FOXES IN THE STICKS...

YOUNG CAIN, YOUNG ABEL

6, 5, 4, GOSLINGS ON THE SHORE...
3, 2, 1, NOW WE'LL ALL GO HOME.

ADAM

WE TRIED TO MAKE A HOME.

YOUNG CAIN, YOUNG ABEL

1, 2, 3, OWLS ARE IN THE TREE

ADAM

HEAVEN KNOWS THE LIFE'S BEEN HARD

YOUNG CAIN, YOUNG ABEL

4, 5, 6, FOXES IN THE STICKS...

ADAM

SUMMERS BRIEF AND ARID,

YOUNG CAIN, YOUNG ABEL

6, 5, 4, GOSLINGS ON THE SHORE...

ADAM

WINTERS BLEAK AND NUMB,

YOUNG CAIN, YOUNG ABEL

3, 2, 1, NOW WE ALL GO HOME.

ADAM

LOOK WHAT WE CALL HOME.

THESE OLD WALLS ARE STAINED AND SCARRED...

EVE

(Trying to lighten the mood)

I CAN STILL REMEMBER

WHAT EACH SCAR WAS FROM.

ADAM

YOU COULD CALL IT RUN DOWN,

EVE

WORN OUT,

ADAM

THREADBARE.

ADAM, EVE

AND I GUESS YOU'D COME

CLOSE TO HOME,

CLOSE TO HOME.

ADAM

AND I REMEMBER

IN SOMEONE ELSE'S GARDEN LONG AGO,

WE HAD ALL WE COULD EAT

EVE

BUT IT SEEMS THE FRUIT OUR OWN HANDS GROW

SOMEHOW TASTES TWICE AS SWEET

ABEL

(Goes to ADAM, trying to cheer him)

6, 5, 4, GOSLINGS ON THE SHORE...

3, 2, 1, NOW WE ALL GO HOME.

ADAM

(Smiles, goes to ABEL)
ON THIS BARREN PLOT

ABEL

1, 2, 3, OWLS ARE IN THE TREE.

ADAM

WE'LL PLANT OUR WHEAT, DIG OUR WELLS

ABEL

4, 5, 6, FOXES IN THE STICKS...

ADAM

AND WE'LL BE A FAMILY

ABEL

6, 5, 4, GOSLINGS ON THE SHORE...

ADAM

STEADY AS A STAR

EVE

LOOK AT WHAT WE'VE GOT,

ADAM, ABEL

BA BA BUM.
BA BA BA BUM.

EVE

ONLY WHAT WE'VE MADE OURSELVES

ADAM, ABEL

8, 9, 10, NOW WE START AGAIN.

EVE

THOUGH IT'S NEXT TO NOTHING
LOOK HOW RICH WE ARE.

ADAM

FUNNY NOW HOW EDEN
DOESN'T SEEM SO FAR

ADAM, EVE

COME SIT BESIDE ME IN THE DYING LIGHT.

ADAM, EVE, ABEL

WHAT STORMS THE MORNING BRINGS,
WE'LL WEATHER ALL RIGHT.

ADAM, EVE

YOUR HAND IN MY HAND,

ADAM, EVE, ABEL

AND AS WE SIT HERE
HUDDLED IN THE GLOAM...
PARADISE
SEEMS STRANGELY CLOSE,
CLOSE TO HOME.

ABEL

BA BA BUM
BA BA BA BA BUM.

ADAM, EVE

CLOSE TO HOME.

ABEL

3, 2, 1, NOW WE ALL GO

ADAM, EVE, ABEL

HOME

(suddenly, CAIN'S VOICE calls from a little way off)

CAIN

(OFFSTAGE)

Abel! Mama! Papa!

#20 A Ring Of Stones

(Cain, Adam, Storytellers, Eve, Abel)

(CAIN runs on. HE is dirty and exhausted and out of breath, but in a state of high elation, nonetheless. EVE runs to him, and hugs him and hits him simultaneously)

EVE

Cain! Cain! Cain! Where have you been?

CAIN

Past the waterfall, Mama. Past the waterfall, and *beyond!*

(Lifts EVE up in the air and then drops her back onto her feet. HE then grapples with ABEL, who is overjoyed to see him)

COME, ABEL, QUICK, ABEL,
WAIT TILL I SHOW YOU WHAT I FOUND!

(Suddenly, CAIN is face to face with ADAM and stops short)

ADAM

Cain. Before you say another word...

(But before ADAM can say another word, CAIN grabs him by the shoulders and speaks to him with fervid excitement)

CAIN

NO, PAPA, NOW, PAPA,
IT'S A THING THAT WILL ASTOUND YOU!
WHEN I SHOW YOU WHAT I FOUND, YOU WON'T BELIEVE!

(CAIN and EVE grab ADAM by an arm each and, laughing, propel him on his way)

ADAM

(Spoken)

EVE!

EVE

Come on!

(And ADAM, EVE, CAIN and ABEL DISAPPEAR from view.)

During the next verse, the STORYTELLERS set up a new scene — a circle of giant standing stones. However this is achieved, the effect must be impressive, mysterious and inspiring)

STORYTELLERS

(Sung)

OVER RIVER WIDE AND MOUNTAIN TALL,
THEY TRAVEL SO FAR BEYOND THE WATERFALL,
TO A PLACE AND A DAY THAT WOULD CHANGE THEM ALL,
IN THE WASTELAND...

(ADAM, EVE, CAIN and ABEL walk into the circle of stones)

CAIN

Look!

(THEY advance cautiously, looking around in awe and amazement)

ABEL

What are they?

CAIN

Stones. It's a ring of giant stones.

ABEL

But how did they get here?

EVE

People! People must have put them here.

CAIN

Yes! People! Other people!

EVE

But how can there be other people?

CAIN

ALL OF MY LIFE, I THINK IT'S BEEN THIS I'VE BEEN SEEKING:
PENT UP INSIDE ME, LIKE AN UNDERGROUND SPRING —
FINALLY, A FUTURE — FINALLY, AN ANSWER,
WRITTEN IN A RING OF STONE.
FINALLY, PROOF OF WHAT I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN:
WE ARE NOT ALONE!
DAMNED WE MAY BE, BUT WE ARE NOT ALONE!

EVE

ALL OF A SUDDEN, I CAN FEEL THE OLD TINGLING,
THE URGE TO QUESTION, THE ITCH TO EXPLORE.
I FEEL IT ONCE MORE...

*(CAIN, ABEL and EVE walk amongst the stones, gazing up at them
and at one another, with wild surmises in their minds. ADAM stands
to one side, watching the others in silence.)*

CAIN

STONES, THE SIZE OF GIANTS,

IN A PERFECT CIRCLE...

EVE, ABEL

WHAT COULD BE THEIR PURPOSE?
WHAT COULD BE THEIR MEANING?

CAIN

IN A PERFECT CIRCLE...

EVE

HOW COULD THEY HAVE RAISED THEM?

ABEL

MUST HAVE TAKEN HUNDREDS...

CAIN

STONES THE SIZE OF GIANTS...

ABEL

HOW LONG HAVE THEY BEEN HERE?
COULD WE FIND THE PEOPLE?

CAIN, EVE, ABEL

THINK ABOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE!
THINK ABOUT THEIR SCIENCE!

CAIN

THINK ABOUT THEIR STRENGTH AND SKILL!
SCARY THEY MAY BE, BUT STILL,
I WILL NEVER REST UNTIL

CAIN, EVE, ABEL

WE HAVE FOUND THESE STRANGE, BEWILDERING
PEOPLE WHO WOULD BUILD A RING OF GIANT...

ABEL, EVE

...STONES...

CAIN

ALL OF MY LIFE, I THINK IT'S THIS I'VE BEEN SEEKING:
WE ARE NOT ALONE...

(There is a distant rumble of THUNDER. ADAM comes forward into the circle and joins the rest. HE speaks to them quietly, but with great tension in his voice)

#21 Clash Of The Generations**(Adam, Cain, Eve, Abel)****ADAM***(Sung)*

THE RAIN WILL BE HERE SOON.
WE'D BEST GET BACK TO THE SHELTER OF OUR GLEN.

CAIN

But what about these people...?

ADAM

WE WILL NEVER SPEAK OF THEM AGAIN.

EVE

Adam...

CAIN

Papa, listen to me. For once, listen...

(ADAM suddenly turns on CAIN with a real passion)

ADAM

TEAR IT ALL DOWN — THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT.
TEAR DOWN EVERYTHING WE'VE WORKED TO BUILD.
TRUST OUR LIVES TO A BUNCH OF RAGGED STRANGERS.
YOU SEE THE PROMISE, CAIN, BUT NOT THE DANGERS.

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO WISE,
YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SKILLED —
BUT YOU'VE NEVER HEARD THEM CHANTING
IN THEIR RING OF STONES,
NEVER SEEN THEM DANCING HERE, AMONG THE BONES
OF THE BEASTS THEY'VE KILLED!

CAIN

How do you know what they are?

ADAM

Because I've been here, Cain. I've seen them.

EVE

Adam!

ABEL

Is this why we couldn't go beyond the waterfall?

CAIN

When were you here?

ADAM

THE TWO OF YOU WERE BABIES STILL —
A LONG, LONG TIME AGO...

EVE

You never told me.

ADAM

IT WAS BETTER NOT TO KNOW.
IT WOULD STILL BE BETTER NOT TO KNOW.

CAIN

ALL THESE YEARS, YOU'VE LIED TO US —

EVE

(Overlapping)
ALL THESE YEARS, YOU NEVER TOLD, NEVER DISCUSSED —

CAIN

(Overlapping)
ALL THESE YEARS, DENIED TO US OUR FUTURE.

EVE

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, COULDN'T YOU TRUST ME?

ABEL

IT'S ALL RIGHT, CAIN
PLEASE DON'T FIGHT, CAIN.

ADAM

EVE, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO THEIR FATHER IS!
WOULD OUR FATHER FEEL BETRAYED?

EVE

(Simultaneous with above)
COULDN'T YOU TRUST ME?

ADAM

WHAT IF THESE ARE PEOPLE HE NEVER MADE?

ABEL

(Simultaneous with above)
EVERYBODY STOP FIGHTING!

ADAM

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, TO LOSE THE CHANCE HE MIGHT
FORGIVE...
EVE...

EVE

(Simultaneous with above)
AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, ALL I SEE
IS YOU ARE STILL AFRAID.
THERE WAS A TIME, ONCE...
YOU WERE SO BRAVE, ADAM...

ADAM

AND LOOK WHAT WE GOT.
LOOK WHERE IT BROUGHT US.
LOOK AT THE LESSON OUR BRAVERY TAUGHT US.
WE ARE LOST IN THE WILDERNESS —
WE BELONG OUT HERE, IN THE WILDERNESS!

CAIN

WELL, THEN — STAY HERE FOREVER,
IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT TO LIVE;
BUT ABEL AND I COULD FIND COMRADES AND WIVES,
AND LEARN WHAT IT IS TO HAVE HOPE IN OUR LIVES,
BE PART OF A TRIBE, PART OF A CLAN,
NOT JUST ONE FAMILY, BUT A FAMILY OF MAN...

Come on, Abel.

ADAM

Abel, if you go now, you will never see me again.

CAIN

That's all right. We're never coming back.

(Holds out his hand to his brother)

Abel?

(ADAM, too, holds out a hand to ABEL, who is caught between his brother and his father, unable to decide which way to turn. We should be reminded here of ADAM'S dilemma as he stood between EVE and FATHER in Eden)

ADAM

Abel...

ABEL

OH, CAIN, PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME CHOOSE.
EITHER WAY, IT'S MORE THAN I CAN BEAR TO LOSE.
EITHER WAY, IT'S RIPPING OUT MY HEART.
THIS CHOICE IS TEARING ME APART...

ADAM

You'll never get back to the garden, Abel. Father will come and you'll be left behind.

CAIN

Father will never come. Not for you. Not for any of us.

ADAM

That's not true, Abel

CAIN

Tell him, brother.

ABEL

No...

(Looks at CAIN pleadingly)

Cain...

CAIN

(To ADAM)

Father came to see us. He came to spy on his grandchildren. He didn't want to see you.

EVE

Abel. Is this true?

(They all look at ABEL. ABEL looks at CAIN and then at his parents, and then drops his head to avoid CAIN'S stare)

ABEL

No.

ADAM

(To CAIN)

Liar!

(CAIN walks up to ABEL and talks to him with a quiet intensity)

CAIN

Are you coming or not?

ABEL

No.

(CAIN raises a hand to strike ABEL, but resists the temptation. Instead, CAIN merely nods his head in disgust...)

CAIN

Fine. I'll be better off without you.

(... and turns to go. ADAM steps into his path, blocking the way out of the stone circle)

Get out of my way.

ADAM

You're not going anywhere.

CAIN

IS THIS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A FATHER:
CRUSHING THE SPIRIT OF YOUR CHILDREN LIKE AN EGG?
IS THAT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A FATHER:
BINDING THEM TO YOU WITH A CHAIN AROUND THE LEG?

(Stung by CAIN'S violent and bitter tone, ADAM strikes him across the face with real violence)

EVE

Adam!

(CAIN reels back from the blow, but quickly recovers and faces ADAM once more, barely able to contain his fury)

CAIN

Get out of my way, old man.

EVE

Let him go.

ADAM

Never.

(CAIN tries once more to move past ADAM, but this time ADAM strikes him a backhand blow, which sends him sprawling to the ground. The STORYTELLERS begin a percussive accompaniment, beating on their risers or the ground with their hands and feet, or striking parts of the set, creating an ominous rumbling. This builds in intensity throughout the following scene, until the STORYTELLERS match CAIN'S blows against ABEL with loud percussive accents of their own.

CAIN has fallen near to a small pile of rocks at the foot of one of the giant stones. HE hefts one of them up in his hands and advances on ADAM with it)

CAIN

I'll kill you.

(EVE runs between CAIN and ADAM, pushing ADAM off balance as she does so)

EVE

(Screams)

Cain!

(ABEL grabs CAIN from behind and CAIN struggles violently to free himself. CAIN is beside himself with rage now, and hardly knows what he is doing)

CAIN

Let me go!

(ABEL holds on to him even tighter. ADAM rises to try to intervene)

ADAM

Cain!

EVE

Stop it, Cain! Both of you!!

ABEL

Stop it, brother! Stop!

CAIN

Let me go!!

(With a sudden surge of energy, CAIN pulls away from ABEL. As CAIN does so, he turns and strikes ABEL across the head with the rock. ABEL falls. Unable now to contain his anger, CAIN beats ABEL savagely over the head with the rock, striking over and over again)

EVE

(Screaming)

Abel!

(ABEL lies still. EVE runs to him. CAIN backs away, panting for breath and dazed. HE drops the rock and turns on ADAM)

CAIN

That should have been you. that should have been you!

(Runs off)

#22	Death Of Abel
-----	----------------------

(A Storyteller, Eve)

A STORYTELLER

IN THE WASTELAND,
THE LAND BEREFT,
THE HEART CAN SHATTER
WITH A FINAL CLEFT,
AND WHAT HOPE FOR THE FUTURE
YOU HAD LEFT
IS LOST
IN THE WILDERNESS...

EVE

ABEL, MY CHILD,
YOU MUST NOT DIE.
YOU MUST NOT DIE.
YOU MUST NOT DIE.
YOU MUST NOT DIE.
YOU MUST NOT...

(ADAM and EVE are suddenly still, realizing that ABEL is dead. As the STORYTELLERS continue, ADAM picks up ABEL'S BODY and carries it away, EVE following behind them)

#23	The Mark Of Cain
-----	-------------------------

(Storytellers, Father)

(CAIN ENTERS, running desperately. The storm has now broken and CAIN is lit up by flashes of LIGHTNING. FATHER'S VOICE calls out, accompanied by the surrounding THUNDER)

FATHER

(OFFSTAGE)

Cain!

(CAIN stops, looking around him in terror. FATHER APPEARS ABOVE, unseen by CAIN. FATHER is blazingly angry, even more so than at the expulsion from Eden)

Cain!

CAIN

(Whirling about)

Where are you?

FATHER

Where is your brother?

CAIN

My brother? Am I my brother's keeper?

FATHER

THE VOICE OF YOUR BROTHER'S BLOOD
 CRIES TO ME FROM THE GROUND.
 I CURSE THAT GROUND,
 AND I CURSE YOU.
 BE A FUGITIVE AND A VAGABOND
 ALL YOUR WRETCHED LIFE —
 AND SHOULD YOU FIND A WIFE,
 I CURSE HER, TOO.
 AND ALL YOUR TAINTED PROGENY —
 YOUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN'S CHILDREN,

FATHER, STORYTELLERS

EVEN TO THE SEVENTH GENERATION!

*(CAIN is rooted to the spot, too ashamed and frightened to respond.
 The STORYTELLERS heighten FATHER'S curse by joining in with
 the chorus of damnation)*

FATHER

LET THE RIGHTEOUS HEAR:
 THE SEED OF CAIN WITH
 GUILT AND SHAME IS
 RIDDEN.
 ALL CONCOURSE WITH THEM
 IS FOREVER MORE
 FORBIDDEN.
 SHUN THEM LIKE THE
 SCORPION AND SHARK.
 AND THAT YOU MAY KNOW
 THEM,
 ON CAIN I SET THIS MARK.

STORYTELLERS

HEAR:
 THE SEED OF CAIN

 WITH GUILT AND SHAME...

 THEY ARE FORBIDDEN...
 SHUN THEM!
 THE RACE OF CAIN!
 AND THAT YOU MAY KNOW
 THEM,
 I SET THIS MARK.

FATHER, STORYTELLERS

THE RACE OF CAIN MUST EVER BEAR THIS MARK!

*(At a gesture from FATHER, a LIGHTNING BOLT sears through the
 air, appearing to strike CAIN. CAIN'S HANDS go to his forehead as
 a great clap of THUNDER almost drowns out the sound of his
 SCREAM. When CAIN pulls his hands away, there is a distinct black
 mark across his forehead. HE staggers to his feet and runs off into the
 surrounding darkness.*

*As the STORYTELLERS take up again, in quieter vien now, EVE
 walks slowly DOWNSTAGE towards us, a very old woman. SHE
 carries with her the staff that ADAM carved from the Tree of*

Knowledge, leaning on it as she walks. Although physically quite frail, her face portrays great strength, and she looks about her with a rich mixture of wisdom and sadness and humor)

STORYTELLERS

THE WILD BEASTS HOWL AND THE WILD WINDS BLOW,
AND THE SEEDS OF THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE GROW,
AND YOU KNOW THINGS NOW YOU WISH YOU DIDN'T KNOW,
IN THE WASTELAND...
IN THE WASTELAND...
IN THE WASTELAND...

(As the STORYTELLERS finish their last verse, they all slowly DISAPPEAR from sight, until only EVE is left on the darkened stage, completely alone. SHE stops and leans on the staff as she addresses FATHER. SHE hasn't talked to him for a very long time, and is only trying to do so now because she feels it may be her last chance)

EVE

Father?

(Silence)

Father. Speak to me once more. Just once.

(Silence)

Tell me what happened to Cain. It's all I want to know, Father... It's all Adam ever wanted to know.

(Silence. EVE looks around her, a little frustrated by the lack of response)

I know you can hear me. I know it.

(Silence. SHE becomes calmer again)

When Abel was killed, I knew Cain was gone for good. But Adam would never believe it.

(In the background, we get a glimpse of ADAM, as if in EVE'S imagination, still looking out over the mountains)

Every day I'd see him, standing in the fields, searching the hills for a sign of Cain coming home. He never came. I don't know even today whether he's alive or dead. And you're not going to tell me, are you?

(Smiles to herself. The answer to her question is obvious to her...)

No.

(... but she takes another breath and resumes her story, nonetheless)

We had our second chance with Seth.

(SETH ENTERS through the darkness, bearing a torch)

A wonderful boy. Just like Adam, naming and numbering everything in sight. At seventeen, *he* upped and disappeared without a word. Scared both of us to death. Came back two weeks later with a girl from some tribe over the mountains.

(SETH'S WIFE ENTERS and stands by his side...)

They had seven children in as many years. Two sets of twins!

(... and several CHILDREN of various ages join SETH and SETH'S WIFE)

I don't know how she manages... And then one winter, Adam died. Suddenly, no warning.

(The LIGHT on ADAM slowly fades...)

Just fell over in the fields and didn't get up.

(... and ADAM DISAPPEARS into the darkness)

We buried him by the waterfall. Was that the right thing to do, Father?

(A little note of distress has crept into EVE'S VOICE...)

Father?

(... but she takes another breath and controls it. As she continues to speak, more PEOPLE come out of the darkness, some bearing torches, some lanterns with candles burning inside them. We should be reminded here of the beginning of the story, when the STORYTELLERS first started to people the stage)

Three of Seth's children are married already. I had my first great-grandchild last year. Zorah. I wish Adam could have seen her. We farm the whole valley now, and half the range of mountains to the south. But the whole family comes together once a year, just after harvest time. To remember Adam. And to give thanks to you, Father

(The whole company of STORYTELLERS is on stage now, gathered around EVE as her extended family — MEN, WOMEN and CHILDREN of all races and sizes — even babes in arms.

Suddenly, the LIGHT on EVE intensifies and there is MUSIC in the air, reminiscent of Eden)

#24 <i>Incidental Before “Children Of Eden”</i>

<i>(Orchestra)</i>

Father?

(The MUSIC grows in intensity as FATHER APPEARS, somewhere up, or beyond, where the STORYTELLERS and EVE cannot see him. EVE can hear FATHER'S VOICE, but the rest can neither see nor hear him, although THEY hear what EVE is saying to him. THEY watch her, confused and concerned)

FATHER

Eve, my daughter.

(EVE is overjoyed and can hardly breathe, but manages to speak, nonetheless)

EVE

Father!

FATHER

Night has fallen.

EVE

Why can't I see you?

FATHER

You'll see me soon enough.

EVE

(Quite happily)

Then it's time for me to die?

FATHER

It's nearly time.

EVE

Tell me, Father. Is Cain alive?

FATHER

Cain is alive.

(EVE takes a deep breath and closes her eyes for a moment)

EVE

And did he find some happiness?

FATHER

He found some happiness.

EVE

Thank you, Father.

FATHER

(Softly)

No thanks to me.

EVE

Father.

FATHER

Yes, my daughter?

EVE

(Almost angrily)

I've missed you!

(Starts to cry)

FATHER

Don't cry, my child. You have done well.

EVE

I've done my best.

FATHER

You have born Seth. A strong new life.

(EVE controls her tears)

EVE

He's strong enough.

FATHER

In Seth and his family, I place my hope.

EVE

But, Father, what if they disappoint you, too? What will you do then? What if...

FATHER

No more questions, daughter Eve. It's time to sleep.

(FATHER'S IMAGE fades a little as EVE looks round, taking in the faces of the family clustered all about her.

As she speaks, THEY gather even closer, some of them sitting at her feet)

EVE

Dear children. This will be my last harvest. My father has called me home.

A CHILD

Home?

SETH'S WIFE

(To SETH)

What does she mean by "home?"

(EVE turns to SETH'S WIFE, who is a little surprised that EVE has heard her)

EVE

Maybe the garden is still there. Maybe I'll see Adam again. And Abel... Who knows...?

#25 <i>Children Of Eden</i>	<i>(Eve, Company)</i>
---	------------------------------

LIKE THIS BRIEF DAY,
MY LIGHT IS NEARLY GONE.
BUT THROUGH THE NIGHT, MY CHILDREN,
YOU WILL GO ON.
YOU WILL KNOW HEARTACHE,
PRAYERS THAT DON'T WORK,
AND TIMES OF BITTER CIRCUMSTANCES...
BUT I STILL BELIEVE
IN SECOND CHANCES...

(As EVE continues, she starts to move around the large family, greeting them one by one. SHE embraces one, clasps the hand of another, lays her hands on the head of a sick child, blesses another, and so on, until the whole family has been touched by her, in some way)

CHILDREN OF EDEN,
WHERE HAVE WE LEFT YOU?
BORN TO UNCERTAINTY,
DESTINED FOR PAIN...
SINS OF YOUR PARENTS
HAUNT YOU AND TEST YOU.
THIS, YOUR INHERITANCE:
FIRE AND RAIN.

CHILDREN OF EDEN,
TRY NOT TO BLAME US.
WE WERE JUST HUMAN,
TO ERROR PRONE.
CHILDREN OF EDEN
WILL YOU RECLAIM US?
YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN TO COME,
SOME DAY, TO COME HOME...

(The family of STORYTELLERS joins in — softly at first, then growing in strength and passion)

STORYTELLERS

CHILDREN OF EDEN
WHERE IS OUR GARDEN?
WHERE IS THE INNOCENCE
WE CAN'T REGAIN?

EVE

ONCE OUR EYES ARE OPENED,

STORYTELLERS

ONCE EYES ARE OPENED,

EVE

MUST THEY HARDEN?

STORYTELLERS

MUST THOSE EYES HARDEN?

EVE

MUST WE BE LOST IN THE WILDERNESS?

STORYTELLERS

(Simultaneously with above)

WE'RE LOST IN THE WILDERNESS.
MUST WE REMAIN?

EVE

OH, MY PRECIOUS CHILDREN,
IF YOU THINK OF US,
TRY NOT TO BLAME US.
WE WERE JUST HUMAN,
TO ERROR PRONE.

STORYTELLERS

CHILDREN OF EDEN
AH —

OH,

(As the song grows to its end, FATHER joins in, and the LIGHT on EVE grows more and more intense. The rest of the STORYTELLERS are lit only by the flames of the torches they are holding)

ALL

CHILDREN OF EDEN
YOU WILL RECLAIM US.

EVE

YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN
TO COME.

ALL EXCEPT EVE

YOU — CHILDREN TO COME,

ALL

SOME DAY
YOU'LL COME
HOME.

(EVE reaches up into the LIGHT as her last breath escapes her)

END OF ACT ONE

INTERMISSION

ACT TWO

(LIGHT.

It is a thousand years later, give or take a century or two.

The STORYTELLERS arrive ONSTAGE as if for a carnival, brightly dressed and in festive mood.

#26	<i>Generations</i>	<i>(Soloist, Storytellers)</i>
------------	---------------------------	---------------------------------------

MUSIC starts to play, tense, rhythmic and intoxicating. The DANCE begins, quietly at first but mounting in energy as it proceeds.

The STORYTELLERS SING and DANCE and MIME the story of the Generations of ADAM, in heady celebration that the earth has been so variously peopled. One SOLOIST may lead the singing, or two, or several, depending on the vocal abilities of the cast)

SOLOIST

GENERATION...

STORYTELLERS

GENERATION...

SOLOIST

GENERATION...

STORYTELLERS

GENERATION...

ALL

GENERATIONS OF ADAM...

SOLOIST

SON FOLLOW FATHER, BIRTH FOLLOW BIRTH.
SPREAD THE PEOPLE ALL OVER THE EARTH.
MAMA TELL DAUGHTER HOW BOY FOLLOW GIRL.
SPREAD THE PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WIDE, WIDE WORLD.

STORYTELLERS

GENERATIONS...
PROCREATIONS...
ALL THE NATIONS...
MULTIPLICATIONS...

SOLOIST

BEGET, BEGAT, BEGOT, BEGOTTEN...

STORYTELLERS

GENERATIONS OF ADAM...

SOLOIST

HELPING WITH THE CATTLE
AND THE KETTLE AND THE COTTON...

STORYTELLERS

GENERATIONS OF ADAM...

SOLOIST

GENERATION...

STORYTELLERS

GENERATIONS, PROCREATIONS...

ALL

GENERATIONS OF ADAM...

SOLOIST

GENERATION...

STORYTELLERS

ALL THE NATIONS, MULTIPLICATIONS...

ALL

GENERATIONS OF ADAM...

SOLOIST

CAIN MET A WIFE
ON THE EAST SIDE OF EDEN.

*(The STORYTELLER who played CAIN features briefly here, with
CAIN'S WIFE — certainly the smallest part in the whole show!)*

STORYTELLERS

GENERATIONS OF ADAM...

SOLOIST

THEY DID A LITTLE LOVIN',
DID A LITTLE BREEDIN'.

STORYTELLERS

GENERATIONS OF ADAM...

SOLOIST

ENOCK, IRAD, AND MEHUJAEAL...

LAMECH COME FROM MISTER METHUSAEAL.

SOLOIST, GROUP #1

SHEEP OF JABAL,

HARP OF JUBAL,

BRASS AND IRON FROM THE CHILDREN OF TUBALCAIN...

GROUP #2

GENERATIONS, MULTIPLICATIONS...

SOLOIST

MOUNTAIN TO VALLEY, OCEAN TO PLAIN...

BEGET, BEGAT, BEGOT, BEGOTTEN...

STORYTELLERS

GENERATIONS OF ADAM...

SOLOIST

HELPING WITH THE CATTLE

AND THE KETTLE AND THE COTTON...

STORYTELLERS

GENERATIONS OF ADAM...

SOLOIST

GENERATION...

STORYTELLERS

GENERATIONS, PROCREATIONS...

ALL

GENERATIONS OF ADAM...

SOLOIST

GENERATION...

STORYTELLERS

ALL THE NATIONS, MULTIPLICATIONS...

ALL

GENERATIONS OF ADAM...

(SETH reappears for a moment, with SETH'S WIFE)

SOLOIST

SETH TO ENOS TO CAINAN...

STORYTELLERS

GENERATIONS OF ADAM...

SOLOIST

THE SHOULDER OF THE SON
FOR THE FATHER TO LEAN ON...

STORYTELLERS

GENERATIONS OF ADAM...

SOLOIST

MAHALALEEL AND JARED
FOLLOW IN THEIR SHOES.
ANOTHER ENOCH,
TO BRING US TO METHUSELAH...

STORYTELLERS

GENERATIONS, PROCREATIONS...

SOLOIST

HE LIVED NINE HUNDRED YEARS OR SO,
A PAPA TO LAMECH, GRANDPA TO NOAH...

(As the song continues, the STORYTELLERS who played ADAM and EVE in ACT ONE become NOAH and MAMA. In whatever way the dance is choreographed, it must be clear that the staff of ADAM is passed in a direct line down to NOAH, who takes charge of it for the whole of ACT TWO)

STORYTELLERS

NOAH...

SOLOIST

NOAH...

STORYTELLERS

NOAH...

ALL

OH, NOAH —

YOU GO-A

ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE PROTOZOA!

MALE SOLOIST, FEMALE SOLOIST

BEGET, BEGAT, BEGOT, BEGOTTEN...

STORYTELLERS

GENERATIONS OF ADAM...

MALE SOLOIST, FEMALE SOLOIST

HELPING WITH THE CATTLE

AND THE KETTLE AND THE COTTON...

STORYTELLERS

GENERATIONS OF THE CHILDREN OF ADAM...

*(And now the STORYTELLERS who played SETH and ABEL and
CAIN become SHEM, HAM and JAPHETH, taking their places in
the NOAH FAMILY as they are named)*

SOLOIST

AND NOAH, IN HIS TURN, SONS HAD HE:

STORYTELLERS

SHEM WAS ONE,

HAM WAS TWO,

JAPHETH THREE:

THAT'S AS IT SHOULD BE...

SOLOIST

SHEM WAS ONE,

HAM WAS TWO,

JAPETH THREE.

SOLOIST

FOR SON FOLLOW FATHER, BIRTH FOLLOW BIRTH.

STORYTELLERS

MAMA TELL DAUGHTER HOW BOY FOLLOW GIRL.

SOLOIST

SPREAD THE PEOPLE ALL OVER THE EARTH.

STORYTELLERS

SPREAD THE PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WIDE, WIDE WORLD.

SOLOIST

GENERATION...

STORYTELLERS

GENERATION...

ALL

GENERATIONS OF ADAM...

SOLOIST

GENERATION...

STORYTELLERS

ALL THE NATIONS, MULTIPLICATIONS...

STORYTELLERS

GENERATIONS OF ADAM...
AHHH...

SOLOIST

GENERATIONS OF ADAM...

ALL

GENERATION!

(The song ends with NOAH, MAMA NOAH and their three sons — SHEM, HAM and JAPHETH — in a family portrait, with NOAH proudly holding the staff of ADAM.)

The STORYTELLERS set the stage for the next scene as MAMA, SHEM, HAM AND JAPHETH leave NOAH on his own CENTERSTAGE. We are on a hillside near NOAH'S house, which is just out of sight OFFSTAGE — thus absolving the STORYTELLERS from having to build it ONSTAGE! The prow of an enormous wooden boat towers over the scene. The STORYTELLERS have not felt the need to build the entire ark, but there should be the suggestion of an entrance, perhaps with a gangplank leading into it.

FATHER appears, unseen by NOAH, who speaks out over the AUDITORIUM, just as EVE did at the end of ACT ONE. FATHER is older now and graver, and more distant than we was before. NOAH is a rough and simple man, unsophisticated but very shrewd, perhaps a little forbidding on the outside, but warm and impulsive within. HE and FATHER talk to each other with familiarity, but not with any real friendship)

FATHER

Noah...

NOAH

Yes, Father?

FATHER

Have you finished it?

NOAH

Nearly, Father.

FATHER

It's taken long enough.

NOAH

(Slightly aggrieved)
A year-and-a-half.

FATHER

We said a year.

NOAH

Yes, Father, I know. But it's been hard getting the parts. Gopher wood was scarce.
(And then to himself)
And it's even scarcer now! And I still haven't figured out exactly what a "cubit" is.

FATHER

Time is running short. Your sons — have you chosen wives for them?

NOAH

Shem and Ham have married, Father.

FATHER

Women from the tribe of Seth?

NOAH

Of course, Father.

FATHER

That is your salvation, Noah. You are perfect in your generations. The blood of your family was never tainted by the race of Cain.

NOAH

No, Father.

FATHER

And what of your third son? Japheth?

(This is a touchy subject and not one NOAH has been looking forward to)

NOAH

Japheth...

FATHER

Have you chosen a wife for him?

NOAH

Yes, Father... Several, actually...

FATHER

He'll only need one.

NOAH

I know, Father... But he refused to marry *any* of them.

FATHER

(Disturbed by the idea of filial refusal)
Refused?

NOAH

(Hastily reassuring him)
He's young, Father. But he's a good boy. And now he says he's found someone.

FATHER

His father should choose.

NOAH

I *will*, of course. But I thought... if I chose *his* choice... if you see what I mean...?

FATHER

However you do it, choose quickly. Or Japheth must go on the ark alone.

NOAH

I understand.

FATHER

Everything must be perfect.

NOAH

Yes, Father.

(FATHER turns to go)

But Father...

FATHER

Yes?

NOAH

What about the animals? Where are they going to *come* from? So many of them are dead now, you know.

FATHER

Finish the ark, and see what you will see.

NOAH

Riddles, always riddles.

FATHER

Finish the ark.

NOAH

Father...

(FATHER is unused to having these interviews extended and starts to become a little irritated...)

FATHER

Yes?

(... causing NOAH to hesitate slightly before continuing)

NOAH

Are you sure?

#27 <i>The Gathering Storm</i>
--

<i>(Noah, Father)</i>

FATHER

(Warning)

Noah...

NOAH

I KNOW WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS BEFORE.
I KNOW YOU'RE WEARY OF MY ASKING...

BUT ONE TIME MORE,

I STAND IMPLORING YOU:
I KNOW YOU HAVE JUST CAUSE
WITH ALL THE FAULTS AND FLAWS OF HUMANKIND,
BUT I THINK OF ALL THESE SOULS
WITH DREAMS AND GOALS AND SUCH,
AND I TRY TO BE RESIGNED —
BUT I WISH YOU'D CHANGE YOUR MIND.
I WISH YOU'D CHANGE YOUR MIND...

FATHER

I'VE WATCHED AND WAITED SINCE THE TIME OF SETH
AND HOPED AS EACH NEW GENERATION DREW ITS BREATH.
I'VE HOPED FOREVER,
“NOW, MAY MY EARTH BE FILLED
WITH GOOD AND GRATEFUL CHILDREN.”
I'VE HOPED IN VAIN.
CRUEL, GREEDY, VIOLENT...
THEY'RE ALL THE RACE OF CAIN!
NOW ONLY YOU AND YOUR FAMILY REMAIN...

THIS IS THE LAST TIME I WILL HOPE.
THIS IS THE LAST CHANCE I WILL GIVE.
I WILL LET YOUR FAMILY LIVE,
BUT THIS IS THE LAST CHANCE I WILL GIVE...

*(FATHER DISAPPEARS, and as the STORYTELLERS start to
SING, THEY set up a table in front of the ark. NOAH and his
FAMILY are gathered by the prow of the ark, NOAH rather
precariously climbing up onto a ladder leaning against the boat)*

#28 A Piece Of Eight

<i>(All but Father, it seems)</i>
--

STORYTELLERS

AND NOAH AND HIS FAMILY WORKED
FROM SUN TO SUN TO SUN,

*(SHEM hands a hammer and a wooden peg up to
NOAH)*

TILL THE DAY BEFORE THE PROW HE STOOD
AND SAID:

NOAH

WITH THIS PEG OF GOPHER WOOD,
YOUR ARK, O LORD, IS DONE.

(Pounds in the final peg)

STORYTELLERS

WITH ONE FINAL PEG OF GOPHER WOOD,
THE ARK AT LAST WAS DONE.

(The FAMILY hugs and congratulates itself as NOAH descends)

BUM BA BUM BUM BA BA BA BUM BA BUM BUM —
BA BA BUM BUM BA BA BUM —

*(As the song progresses, NOAH and his FAMILY act out the narrative
as described by the STORYTELLERS)*

AND NOAH CALLED TO HIS SERVANT GIRL.
“YONAH” WAS HER NAME.

*(YONAH ENTERS. SHE is a young woman, in her late teens perhaps,
poorly but cleanly dressed. In the center of her forehead is a black
mark, not the great scar which CAIN suffered from the lightning
strike, but an applied version of it, refined over the centuries by custom
and tradition, and now required to be worn by all of CAIN'S lineage)*

HE HAD ALWAYS TREATED HER KINDLY,
THOUGH SHE BORE THE MARK OF SHAME:
AS A DAUGHTER OF THE TAINTED RACE...
SHE WORE THE MARK OF CAIN.

(YONAH approaches NOAH and bows to him)

AND SHE CAME AND BOWED, THE SERVANT GIRL
WITH THE MARK UPON HER HEAD,
BA BA BUM AND SHE ASKED:

YONAH

WHAT DID YOU WISH, MY LORD?

STORYTELLERS

AND THIS IS WHAT HE SAID.
HE SAID:

NOAH

YONAH, LAY THE TABLE,

FOR TONIGHT, WE CELEBRATE.
AND TONIGHT, INSTEAD OF SEVEN PLACES,
TONIGHT, WE WILL BE EIGHT.

STORYTELLERS

BUM BA BUM TONIGHT, INSTEAD OF SEVEN PLACES,
TONIGHT, THERE WOULD BE EIGHT.
BA BUM BUM BA BA BA BUM BA BUM BUM BA BA BUM BUM BA BA BUM

(JAPHETH ENTERS. HE is played by the same actor who played CAIN and should make no attempt to disguise this fact. The more connections the AUDIENCE make between the stories of the two acts, the better both stories will be)

FOR THIS WAS THE NIGHT THE YOUNGEST SON —
“JAPHETH” WAS HIS NAME —

BA BA BUM WOULD BRING TO DINNER HIS WIFE-TO-BE,
AND HIS CHOICE PROCLAIM.
AND THE EMPTY CHAIR WAS MEANT FOR HER,
THE GIRL TO BE HIS WIFE.

(YONAH RE-ENTERS carrying a tray of dinner things, which she sets down on the table. JAPHETH watches her)

BA BA BUM WHO WOULD JOURNEY WITH HIM ON THE ARK
TO A POST-DILUVIAN LIFE.
HE SAID:

JAPHETH

“YONAH, LAY THE TABLE.
DON'T FORGET THE EXTRA PLATE,
FOR TONIGHT, INSTEAD OF SEVEN PEOPLE,
THE FAMILY WILL BE EIGHT.”

(YONAH cannot meet JAPHETH'S eye. SHE is obviously greatly troubled by the announcement he is about to make)

STORYTELLERS et al

BUM BA BUM TONIGHT, INSTEAD OF SEVEN PEOPLE,
THE FAMILY WOULD BE EIGHT.
BA BUM BUM BA BA BA BUM BUM BA BUM BUM BA BA BA BUM

(YONAH lays the table. JAPHETH prepares to greet the rest of the FAMILY as they arrive. NOAH and MAMA ENTER, arm in arm. THEY GREET JAPHETH and then set themselves at the table)

FIRST CAME NOAH AND HIS WIFE,

IN A BRIGHT AND MERRY MOOD,
 EAGER TO MEET THEIR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
 AND SHARE THEIR HOME AND FOOD
 AND ADD HER TO THEIR BROOD... BUM BUM BA BA BUM

*(SHEM and HAM arrive with their wives AYSHA and APHRA.
 THEY greet JAPHETH, rather more informally than his parents, and
 then take their places at the table)*

NEXT, THERE CAME THE BROTHERS TWO —
 HAM AND SHEM —
 BA BA BA BUM AND THE DAUGHTERS OF THE RACE OF SETH
 THEY CHOSE TO MARRY THEM.

BA BA BA BUM THEIR BEAUTIFUL WIVES FROM THE RACE OF SETH
 THEY BROUGHT ALONG WITH THEM.
 MMMM...

*(The FAMILY bow their heads in prayer. YONAH has taken a small
 plate of food for herself, but sits on the ground alone, a little way off
 from the others. Neither YONAH, nor any of the rest of the
 FAMILY, should remark on this arrangement. It is quite normal, and
 has always been so. When YONAH adds her prayer to the family
 grace, she prays just as devoutly as the rest of the FAMILY)*

**NOAH, MAMA, JAPHETH,
 HAM, SHEM, AYSHA, APHRA**
 OH, FATHER, FOR ALL WE HAVE RECEIVED,
 WE THANK YOU.
 ONCE MORE, WE GATHER IN THE DYING LIGHT...

YONAH
 OH, FATHER, FOR ALL I HAVE RECEIVED...

**NOAH, MAMA, JAPHETH,
 HAM, SHEM, AYSHA, APHRA**
 ONCE MORE, WE PRAY YOU, FATHER,
 BLESS US TONIGHT...

YONAH
 I THANK YOU...

STORYTELLERS
 BUM BA BUM BUM BA BA BA BUM BA BUM BUM BA BA BUM BUM BA BA BUM
 AND THE COURSES CAME AND THE MINUTES PASSED
 AND THE GIRL DID NOT APPEAR,
 BA BA BA BUM TILL NOAH TURNED TO JAPHETH,

AND HE SAID:

NOAH

“MY SON, I FEAR...”

STORYTELLERS

BUT JAPHETH LAUGHED AND LAUGHED SOME MORE
AND TOLD THEM ALL:

JAPHETH

“SHE’S HERE!”

*(The FAMILY assume that JAPHETH must be joking. There is
clearly no one present other than themselves)*

MALE STORYTELLERS

BUM BA BUM BUM BA BA BA BUM BUM BUM BA BUM BUM BA BA BA —

FEMALE STORYTELLER

WELL, BY NOW YOU’VE GUESSED WHAT HAPPENED NEXT,
FOR IT’S QUITE A FAMILIAR FABLE.

(JAPHETH rises and walks across to where YONAH is sitting)

HE WENT TO YONAH, THE SERVANT GIRL,
AND LED HER TO THE TABLE.
HE SAID:

JAPHETH

“YONAH, JOIN THE TABLE.
COME AND SIT HERE BY MY SIDE,
FOR IT’S YOU I LOVE BEST IN ALL THE WORLD,
AND YOU SHALL BE MY BRIDE.

*(The FAMILY are struck dumb at this turn of events. So, too, is
YONAH, who was not privy to this plot. SHE knew she loved
JAPHETH, certainly, and that JAPHETH loved her, but had no idea
he was going to spring it on the FAMILY like this)*

IT’S YOU I LOVE BEST IN ALL THE WORLD,
AND I WANT YOU FOR MY BRIDE!”

*(JAPHETH leads YONAH across to the table and places her behind
the empty chair as the STORYTELLERS continue)*

STORYTELLERS

HE BROUGHT YONAH TO THE TABLE
AND HE DID NOT HESITATE,

STORYTELLERS, NOAH

THOUGH HIS FATHER SAID TO WAIT

STORYTELLERS, MAMA, NOAH

AND HIS MOTHER WAS IN A STATE

STORYTELLERS, NOAH, MAMA, SHEM, HAM, WIVES

AND THE BROTHERS AND THEIR WIVES
FELT THE SHOCK OF THEIR LIVES

ALL

AND THEY ALL OF THEM DROPPED
THEIR FORKS AND KNIVES,
BUT THEY ALL COULD CALCULATE:
THE FAMILY WAS EIGHT.

BA BUM BUM BA BA BUM —
BA BUM BUM BA BA BUM BUM BA BA BUM —

*(After the commotion of the previous verse the FAMILY sit back
down at the table, taking their places one after the other...)*

(Spoken)

ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE, SIX, SEVEN...

(Sung)

BA BA BUM BUM BA BA BUM —

(... JAPHETH being number seven, and YONAH being number...)

(Spoken)

EIGHT!

*(The FAMILY stare at JAPHETH and YONAH in disbelief.
JAPHETH looks back at them with a level gaze. HE knows what he
has taken on)*

JAPHETH

My choice is Yonah. I want Yonah to be my wife.

NOAH

It's not possible.

JAPHETH

Why? I love her.

(Turns to his brothers)

You know I love her. And she loves me.

YONAH

Japheth...

JAPHETH

(To YONAH)

You don't deny it, do you?

(YONAH takes in the rest of the FAMILY and then looks down before replying)

YONAH

No.

(The FAMILY finally reacts to this extraordinary news, everyone speaking at the same time.)

NOAH

Quiet!

(The rest of the FAMILY is instantly quiet, except for MAMA, who is perhaps the only one who may have seen this coming)

MAMA

Japhie, you have to...

NOAH

All of you!

(MAMA is stung by NOAH'S rebuke, but knows when to argue and when to be silent — and this is one of those silent moments)

Yonah, go inside.

JAPHETH

Stay here, Yonah.

(YONAH looks at JAPHETH and then back at NOAH, not knowing what to do)

NOAH

Go inside, now.

(YONAH goes. NOAH turns to the rest of the FAMILY)

Excuse us.

(NOAH takes JAPHETH to one side, away from the hearing of the rest of the FAMILY, who sit, in the meantime, in embarrassed silence)

Japheth, what you have done is very cruel to that poor girl. You know she cannot come with us.

JAPHETH

She is coming with us.

NOAH

You know Father's commandment. You've know it since you were a child...

#29 <i>Blind Obedience</i>

<i>(Noah)</i>

LET THE RIGHTEOUS HEAR:
THE RACE OF CAIN WITH GUILT AND SHAME IS RIDDEN.
ALL CONCOURSE WITH THEM IS FOREVERMORE FORBIDDEN.

JAPHETH

Yonah's been with us all our lives. You love her, too.

NOAH

We have no choice.

JAPHETH

There's always a choice.

(Runs off UPSTAGE towards the ark and DISAPPEARS behind it)

NOAH

(As JAPHETH runs off)

We must do as Father commands.

(Calling after JAPHETH)

Japheth!

(Turns to his other sons)

Shem. Ham. Go after him. Don't let him get too far.

(SHEM and HAM run off after JAPHETH. MAMA approaches NOAH)

MAMA

Papa, maybe if you asked God...

NOAH

His will is clear. I don't want to discuss it anymore.

(SHEM and HAM return)

SHEM

He's still here, Papa.

HAM

He's just up on the boat.

NOAH

Good. I didn't think he was *that* crazy...

(Suddenly, AYSHA SCREAMS. SHE has seen a snake a few feet away from the table, and she doesn't like snakes)

APHRA

What is it?

AYSHA

A snake!

(SHEM immediately takes over — always the practical man)

SHEM

It's a rattlesnake. Stand back, everyone. I'll get an ax.

(HE starts for the house, but before he can take more than a few steps, HAM shouts out a warning)

HAM

Look out, Shem!

SHEM

What?

HAM

Stay *still*!

APHRA

It's a turtle!

(SHEM had nearly trodden on it, but now skips over it and carries on into the house)

HAM

Hello, little turtle.

MAMA

I haven't seen one of those for...

(SHAM returns with the ax and approaches the snake with murderous intent)

SHEM

Stay clear, all of you.

(NOAH suddenly intervenes, his tone surprisingly urgent)

NOAH

Shem, *don't!* Put down the ax.

SHEM

But, Papa...

NOAH

Do as I say.

(SHEM puts down the ax and carefully retreats from the snake)

Ham, see if you can find another turtle over there.

HAM

Yes, Papa.

NOAH

Everyone!

(HAM and the rest of the FAMILY look about them. AYSHA gives another little SCREAM)

AYSHA

Another rattlesnake!

APHRA

Where?

AYSHA

Right here!

HAM

Another turtle, Papa!

MAMA

Look!

#30	<i>The Return Of The Animals</i>	<i>(Orchestra)</i>
------------	---	---------------------------

(MUSIC starts very quietly.

*Two HARES lollop ONSTAGE and gingerly approach the FAMILY.
These are played, of course, by two of the CHILDREN
STORYTELLERS)*

NOAH

It's happening. Praise God, it's happening.

MAMA

Aphra, hand me the leftover salad.

*(MAMA offers the salad to the HARES, who are only too happy to
nibble it. More CHILDREN start to arrive, suitably attired as
ANIMALS, and always in pairs)*

NOAH

Where's my list? Where's my list?

*(One of the STORYTELLERS hands him a big ledger, the same book
which FATHER used for "The Naming", and NOAH starts checking
off the names of the various species as they arrive)*

Turtles... rattlesnakes... rabbits...

MAMA

(Correcting him)

Hares.

NOAH

(Shrugs)

Hares, rabbits...

(A pair of ANTEATERS arrive, snuffling along the ground)

HAM

Anteaters! Mama, your favorite!

SHEM

Anyone sees any ants, save a pair for the ark!

(Pairs of ANIMALS continue to arrive as the MUSIC grows, each pair dancing its ritual of courtship. The stage gradually fills with pairs of CHIMPS, IGUANAS, PANTHERS, STORKS, PANDAS—whatever ANIMALS the STORYTELLER CHILDREN have decided to portray.

It is important that the dance has some structure, with each section of the MUSIC being dedicated to the ENTRANCE or performance of a particular pair or pairs of ANIMALS. As much as possible, too, the choreography should be based on real animal movements — human cutesiness to be avoided at all cost.

The Dance of the Animals should be a great celebration with a distinct climax at the end — ELEPHANTS or GIRAFFES being particularly well suited for such an effect. As the MUSIC comes to an end, the FAMILY applauds the dance as NOAH fills in the last few entries in his book. The STORYTELLERS continue as the stage grows dark and the FAMILY moves off towards the house. The ANIMALS bed down, two by two, on every part of the stage)

#31 <i>The Naming — Reprise / Noah's Lullaby</i> (Storytellers, Noah)
--

STORYTELLERS

THERE THEY GATHERED, IN THE MEADOW,
IN THE MEADOW, TWO BY TWO:
THE WORLD'S MOST LEGENDARY ZOO...

(NOAH walks among the ANIMALS with a lantern)

NOAH

CHILDREN OF EDEN,
HOW YOU MUST BLAME US,
WE WHO ARE HUMAN —
WE SPOILED YOUR HOME.

GOD MADE YOU OUR CHARGES,
WE MADE YOU OUR VICTIMS.
NOW THAT WE'RE STARTING ANEW,
CAN WE GIVE EDEN BACK TO YOU?

Sleep well, my friends. Tomorrow will be an eventful day.

(YONAH appears from the direction of the house. SHE is holding a bundle, and a pair of walking boots. NOAH raises up his lantern and peers into the darkness)

Who's there? is that you, Yonah?

(YONAH doesn't want to talk to NOAH, but it's too late now)

Come here, my girl.

(SHE walks over to NOAH. HE notices the bundle in her arms)

Where will you go?

(YONAH shrugs)

You do understand why you can't come with us, don't you?

YONAH

Yes.

(NOAH starts to leave. Then HE turns back, but stands in silence for a moment, not knowing what to say)

NOAH

I'm sorry.

(Goes off towards the house.)

YONAH SINGS to his departing figure)

#32 <i>Stranger To The Rain</i>

<i>(Yonah)</i>

YONAH

SHED NO TEARS FOR ME.
THERE'LL BE RAIN ENOUGH TODAY.
I'M WISHING YOU GODSPEED,
AS I WAVE YOU ON YOUR WAY.
THIS WON'T BE THE FIRST TIME
I'VE STAYED BEHIND TO FACE
THE BITTER CONSCQUENCES
OF AN ANCIENT FALL FROM GRACE.
I'M A DAUGHTER OF THE RACE OF CAIN.
I AM NOT A STRANGER TO THE RAIN.

(Sits down on the ground and pulls on her boots, lacing them up tightly)

ORPHAN IN THE STORM —
THAT'S A ROLE I'VE PLAYED BEFORE.

I'VE LEARNED NOT TO TREMBLE
WHEN I HEAR THE THUNDER ROAR.
I DON'T CURSE WHAT I CAN'T CHANGE,
I JUST PLAY THE HAND I'M DEALT.
AND WHEN THEY LIGHTEN UP THE RATIONS,
I TIGHTEN UP MY BELT.
I WON'T SAY I'VE NEVER FELT THE PAIN,
BUT I AM NOT A STRANGER TO THE RAIN.

(Rises and walks DOWNSTAGE towards the AUDIENCE)

AND FOR THE BOY WHO'S GIVEN ME
THE SWEETEST LOVE I'VE KNOWN,
I WISH FOR HIM ANOTHER LOVE,
SO HE WON'T BE ALONE.
BUT I AM BOUND TO WALK AMONG
THE WOUNDED AND THE SLAIN,
AND WHEN THE STORM COMES CRASHING ON THE PLAIN,
I WILL DANCE BEFORE THE LIGHTNING,
TO MUSIC SACRED AND PROFANE.

OH, SHED NO TEARS FOR ME.
LIGHT NO CANDLE FOR MY SAKE.
THIS JOURNEY I'LL BE MAKING NOW
IS ONE WE ALL MUST MAKE.
SHOULDER TO THE WIND,
I'LL TURN MY FACE INTO THE SPRAY.
AND WHEN THE HEAVENS OPEN,
LET THE DROPS FALL WHERE THEY MAY,
IF THEY FINALLY WASH AWAY THE STAIN
FROM THE DAUGHTER OF THE RACE OF CAIN.
I AM NOT A STRANGER TO THE RAIN.
LET IT RAIN...

(There is a low and distant rumble of THUNDER, and then a VOICE comes from the darkness)

JAPHETH'S VOICE

(OFFSTAGE)

Yonah!

YONAH

Japheth?

(JAPHETH comes from the ark)

JAPHETH

Where do you think you're going?

YONAH

Don't try to stop me, Japheth. You know I have to leave.

JAPHETH

No. You're coming on the ark.

YONAH

I can't.

JAPHETH

Yonah, listen. I've been up on the ark, looking around. There's a little hold up near the bow, where you can hide till the rain's over. I'll bring you food and visit whenever it's safe. By the time they find you, it'll be too late.

YONAH

No, Japheth, it's wrong.

JAPHETH

Why?

YONAH

God told your father. The race of Cain must all be destroyed.

JAPHETH

(After a beat)

Then God must be wrong.

YONAH

How could God be wrong?

JAPHETH

I'm not giving you up.

YONAH

You can't hide me on the ark forever. What happens when your father finds out?
When God finds out?

#33 In Whatever Time We Have**(Japheth, Yonah)****JAPHETH**

I don't care.

I DON'T GIVE A DAMN FOR THE THUNDER OF FATHERS.
COME HELL OR HIGH WATER, WHATEVER THEY DO,
HOW COULD I LIVE IN A WORLD WITHOUT YOU...?

YONAH

I don't know what to do.

JAPHETH

Yonah...

IN WHATEVER TIME WE HAVE,
FOR AS LONG AS WE ARE LIVING,
WE CAN FACE WHATEVER COMES,
AS WE FACE IT NOW AS ONE.
I COULD MAKE IT ON MY OWN;
LET ME KNOW THAT I DON'T HAVE TO.
NO ONE REALLY WANTS TO BE ALONE,
IN WHATEVER TIME WE HAVE.

IF AT TIMES WE ARE AFRAID,
WITH SO LITTLE TO BELIEVE IN,
IT'S ALL RIGHT TO FEEL AFRAID;
I WILL HOLD YOU IN THE DARK.
ALL WE KNOW FOR SURE IS THIS:
THOUGH THE WORLD COULD END TOMORROW,
YOU AND I WILL BE TOGETHER
IN WHATEVER TIME...

(YONAH becomes overwhelmed with her feelings for JAPHETH, and declares herself to him in his own terms)

JAPHETH

... WE HAVE

WE KNOW LIFE
CAN BE A BATTLEFIELD,
BUT WE WON'T RUN
AND WE WON'T YIELD.

YONAH

IN WHATEVER TIME WE HAVE,
FOR AS LONG AS WE ARE
LIVING,
WE CAN FACE
WHATEVER COMES,
IF WE FACE IT NOW
AS ONE...

JAPHETH

YOU'LL BE MY FORTRESS,
AND I WILL BE YOUR SHIELD.

JAPHETH, YONAH

NO ONE REALLY WANTS TO BE ALONE,
IN WHATEVER TIME WE HAVE.

YONAH

THERE ARE TIMES I'VE BEEN AFRAID,
IN A WORLD THAT'S SO UNCERTAIN —
THEN I FEEL YOUR HAND IN MINE,
AND THERE'S COURAGE IN MY HEART...

JAPHETH

WE COULD LIVE A HUNDRED YEARS,

YONAH

OR THE WORLD COULD END TOMORROW.

JAPHETH, YONAH

BUT WE KNOW WE'LL BE TOGETHER
IN WHATEVER TIME...

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, NIGHTS WON'T SEEM SO BLACK.
FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, WE WILL NEVER LOOK BACK.

(YONAH and JAPHETH cling to each other, all doubts resolved)

IN WHATEVER TIME WE HAVE,
WE WILL MAKE THE MOST OF TIME.

YONAH

AND AT LEAST WE'LL BE

JAPHETH, YONAH

TOGETHER,
IN WHATEVER TIME WE HAVE.

(They kiss.)

#34 The Flood**(Father, Storytellers)**

There is a rumble of THUNDER, much closer now. YONAH draws back from JAPHETH and looks up to the heavens, momentarily unsure again)

YONAH

Father?

JAPHETH

Come on!

(Pulls YONAH towards the ark as an even louder clap of THUNDER breaks over their heads.)

FATHER appears once more. HE is in a dark and dangerous mood. YONAH pulls back from JAPHETH again and turns to look at the gathering storm)

YONAH

Japheth...

FATHER

THIS WAS THE LAST CHANCE I WOULD GIVE

JAPHETH

Hurry, Yonah!

FATHER

NOW IT IS CORRUPTED, DEFILED AND VAIN...

JAPHETH

Before the family wakes up...

FATHER

IS THERE NO ESCAPE FROM THE RACE OF CAIN...

JAPHETH

Come on!

(Holds out his hand to her)

FATHER

... EXCEPT TO MAKE IT RAIN AND RAIN AND RAIN?

*(YONAH makes her choice. SHE takes JAPHETH'S HAND, and
THEY hurry together onto the ark as the thunderstorm breaks on the
scene in earnest)*

STORYTELLERS

WINDOWS OF HEAVEN AND FOUNTAINS OF THE DEEP,
WINDOWS OF HEAVEN AND FOUNTAINS OF THE DEEP,
OPEN...

FATHER

Behold! I will blot out Mankind from the face of the earth.

STORYTELLERS

OPEN...

FATHER

Both Man and Beast and every creeping thing.

STORYTELLERS

OPEN...

FATHER

The end of all Flesh is come before me.

FATHER

RAIN —

STORYTELLERS

(Spoken, whispered)

RAIN —

FATHER

(Sung)

UNTIL THE END OF TIME!

STORYTELLERS

(Spoken, whispered)

RAIN —

FATHER*(Sung)*

AND LET THE RAGING SKY
SEND DOWN

AN ENDLESS HURRICANE!
I MADE EVERYTHING
OUT OF NOTHING,
NOW NOTHING WILL REMAIN.
AND TO THE SKIES,
I SEND MY WORD:
FOREVER WILL IT RAIN!

GROUP 1*(Sung)*

AND LET THE RAGING SKY...

GROUP 2

AND LET THE RAGING SKY...

STORYTELLERS

EVERYTHING OF NOTHING —
NOW NOTHING WILL REMAIN.
AND TO THE SKIES,

NOW AND FOREVER WILL IT
RAIN!

*(LIGHTNING strikes the scene and there is a deafening clap of
THUNDER. As the NOISE dies away, FATHER seems to collapse
within himself, watching the destruction begin)*

FATHER

OH, MY CHILDREN, THAT I LOVED SO WELL,
MY HEART IS DARK AND COLD.
I THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULD KEEP ME YOUNG,
BUT YOU HAVE MADE ME OLD.
ALL MY LABOR... ALL MY LOVE...
I WONDER NOW, WHY DID I BOTHER?
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A FATHER.
I HAVE DESTROYED THE THING I LOVED,
AND NOW I FEEL SO OLD...

*(Sits, utterly defeated. And there HE will remain, almost motionless
but visible to us, until events on the ark impinge on his awareness.*

The scene changes from outside the ark to inside)

STORYTELLERS

AND THE WATERS WERE UPON THE FACE OF THE EARTH,
DROWNING ALL THE PROMISE OF THAT FIRST HOPEFUL
BIRTH —
WITHOUT FORM...
VOID...
DARKNESS...

(We are on the deck of the ark. A hatch leads down to the family quarters BELOW. At one side of the deck there are cages, housing some of the birds. The FAMILY creeps up out of the hatch onto the deck and looks out at the rain)

#35 <i>What Is He Waiting For?</i> (Noah, Mama, Ham, Sham, Aysha, Aphra)

MAMA

Still raining?

HAM

Still raining.

APHRA

I though he said forty days.

NOAH

He did.

HAM

Maybe we counted wrong.

AYSHA

(annoyed — SHE'S heard this before)

We counted right.

SHEM

(Challenging her)

Did you *check* the log?

AYSHA

Yes!

**MAMA, HAM,
SHEM, AYSHA, APHRA**

FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS,
COME AND GONE...
ALL THE WORLD IS DEAD AND DROWNED;
STILL, THE RAIN GOES ON.
THERE ARE NO BEASTS OR PEOPLE ANYMORE.
WHAT IS HE WAITING FOR?
WHAT IS HE WAITING FOR?

(APHRA sits helplessly to one side, her hands on her pregnant belly. AYSHA sits on the other side of the deck in angry silence. The rest of the FAMILY look out to sea. JAPHETH stands apart, not saying anything. NOAH stands at the bow, the staff of ADAM in his hand, and calls out desperately)

NOAH

Father?

(Silence)

Father?

(HAM approaches NOAH)

HAM

Father?

(NOAH doesn't respond)

We only have food for a few more days. What are we going to do?

(NOAH doesn't even notice HAM. HE calls out again, over the waters)

NOAH

Father, speak to me. Everything was done as you required... Father!

HAM

Father! The animals are starving.

AYSHA

(Bitterly)

So are we.

SHEM

(To HAM, quietly)

Ham.

HAM

What is it?

SHEM

There's plenty of food on this ark.

HAM

What do you mean?

SHEM

What do you think I mean?

(MAMA has overheard them)

MAMA

We're not killing the animals.

SHEM

All right, Mama, let's all starve!

APHRA

(Starting to cry)
It's going to die. My baby...

SHEM

(Turning on APHRA)
Here we go again!

HAM

(Turning on SHEM)
Leave her *alone*!

MAMA

The baby will be fine, Aphra. You go back below and lie down.

APHRA

I haven't felt it move all day.

AYSHA

We're *all* going to die.

SHAM

Aysha! Shut up!

AYSHA

(Sarcastic)
Yes, *sir*.

NOAH

Father!

**MAMA, HAM,
SHEM, AYSHA, APHRA**

FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS,
BLACK AND BLEAK...
AND WHAT RATIONS WE HAVE LEFT
WILL NOT LAST THE WEEK.
PAPA CALLS AND CALLS TO GOD...

NOAH

WHY WON'T YOU SPEAK?

**MAMA, HAM,
SHEM, AYSHA, APHRA**

WHERE IS THE SUN HE SAID HE WOULD RESTORE?
WHAT IS HE WAITING FOR?

(NOAH calls out to sea once more, this time rather hopelessly...)

NOAH

(Spoken)

FATHER...?

(... and then follows the rest of the FAMILY down into the hold. As he goes, we hardly notice that NOAH leaves the staff of ADAM leaning up against the bow)

**MAMA, HAM,
SHEM, AYSHA, APHRA**

(Sung)

WHAT IS HE WAITING FOR?

(JAPHETH remains on desk as NOAH goes down through the hatch. JAPHETH then moves over to a covered opening on the deck)

JAPHETH

(Whispering)

Yonah.

(YONAH emerges onto the deck. JAPHETH gives her a handful of food from his pocket)

Here. This is all there was left.

YONAH

Japheth, you've got to tell them about me.

JAPHETH

Not yet. It's too dangerous.

YONAH

But what if I'm the reason...

JAPHETH

I can't stay any longer...

(Looks nervously around the deck)

They'll be wondering.

(Kisses her)

I'll be back as soon as I can.

(JAPHETH hurries down the hatch and shuts it after him. YONAH walks out to the center of the deck and looks up at the dark, silent sky)

YONAH

Father? Father, speak to me. Am I the reason the rains won't stop? Tell me if I am. If it will save the ark, I'll drown myself in the flood. Just tell me!

(Silence)

You're not going to tell me, are you?

(Silence. A little smile passes over her face. SHE knows what the answer to her question is)

No.

#36	<i>Sailor Of The Skies</i>
------------	-----------------------------------

<i>(Yonah)</i>

(A SOUND from one of the birdcages makes her look over. SHE stands thinking for a moment. Suddenly she has an idea. She hurries over to the cages and takes out one of the DOVES, stroking it gently as it COOS back to her)

HUSH NOW, STOP TREMBLING.
WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING,
BEFORE ALL WE ARE IS A SKELETON CREW.
THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING SOMEONE CAN DO,
BUT ALL I CAN THINK OF IS YOU.
LITTLE SAILOR OF THE SKIES,

WILL YOU BE OUR EYES?
IS THERE LAND THAT LIES
BEYOND...?

(We become aware of FATHER. HE lifts his head and watches YONAH silently)

FLY BEYOND THE RAIN,
LIKE A PRAYER ON THE WING.
AND IN THIS WINTER OF THE SOUL,
SEEK A HARBINGER OF SPRING.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE CAN BRING US HOPE...

(SHE releases the DOVE into the air and it circles higher and higher.

The STORYTELLERS must help with this! There are many different ways to achieve an effect: a few little bits of white cloth on a dark stage can be made to look remarkably like a speeding DOVE, if manipulated imaginatively; or perhaps one of the smallest CHILDREN becomes the DOVE. YONAH SINGS to the departing DOVE)

CHILDREN OF EDEN
CRY FOR SALVATION.
FLY FAR AS WINGS CAN FLY.
BRING HOPE.

(YONAH and FATHER watch the DOVE as it DISAPPEARS into the rain. FATHER shows no reaction. HE continues to watch the events on the ark, but seems locked away within himself, and though we see him watching, we have no idea what he is thinking or feeling.

Suddenly, the hatch opens and SHEM comes up from BELOW)

SHEM

(Emerges, calling down to HAM)

Come on, Ham, we've sprung another leak. Hurry!

(YONAH makes to hide, but then stops, deliberately turning to face SHEM)

HAM

(OFFSTAGE, calling up from BELOW)

Not again! Where?

SHEM

Bring a rope...

(Sees YONAH and stops in his tracks.

There is a moment of silence as SHEM and YONAH look at each other)

Ham, come here.

HAM

I'm coming!

SHEM

Now!

(HAM appears in the hatch)

HAM

I couldn't find a dry...

(Sees YONAH)

Yonah.

SHEM

Get Papa.

HAM

So this is why the rain hasn't stopped.

SHEM

Get Papa!

*(HAM hurries back down through the hatch, shouting for NOAH.
There is a COMMOTION OF PEOPLE AND ANIMALS
BELOW. SHEM glares at YONAH, who stands silently waiting)*

SHEM

No wonder. I knew something was wrong.

NOAH

(From BELOW)

What is it, Ham?

HAM

Just hurry.

(HAM reappears, followed by NOAH)

There!

(THEY stare at YONAH)

SHEM

Well, Papa?

(AYSHA and APHRA follow them up onto the deck)

APHRA

What's going on?

HAM

It's Yonah.

AYSHA

Yonah!

SHEM

(To NOAH)

What are you going to do?

NOAH

Yonah, what you have done is an evil thing...

SHEM

(Turning on NOAH, shouting)

What are you going to do?

*(NOAH stands, immobile. HE is very angry, but not with YONAH.
HE knows who has done this)*

Come on, HAM. Let's get rid of her.

(JAPHETHA appears from BELOW)

JAPHETH

Shem!

(SHAM and HAP turn to JAPHETH)

If you lay a hand on her, I'll kill you.

HAM

Did you know about this?

JAPHETH

I mean it.

HAM

He did! He knew!

(MAMA comes up through the hatch)

MAMA

What's happening?

NOAH

Japheth, is this true?

SHEM

(Shouting)

What does it matter? Get her off the ark.

(Moves to YONAH and grabs her)

JAPHETH

I warned you.

(HE runs towards SHEM, but before he can get anywhere near him, NOAH steps into his path and strikes him across the head)

NOAH

Japheth!

(JAPHETH recovers and faces NOAH, who continues to block his way)

JAPHETH

Get out of my way, old man.

MAMA

Let him go.

NOAH

Never!

(NOAH strikes JAPHETH a savage backhand blow which sends the latter reeling to the deck. The STORYTELLERS begin the same percussive rhythmic rumbling they created during CAIN'S fight with ADAM and ABEL.

As JAPHETH rises to his feet, he reaches out and picks up the staff of ADAM, which is still leaning up against the bow of the ark)

JAPHETH

I'll kill you!

MAMA

Japheth!

(HAM grabs JAPHETH from behind)

JAPHETH

Let me go!

NAOH

Japheth!

MAMA

Stop it, Japheth! Both of you!

HAM

Stop it, brother! Stop it!

JAPHETH

Let me go!

(JAPHETH wrenches himself away from HAM, who falls backwards. HE then turns on HAM, raising the staff over his head, ready to strike down at him. MAMA SCREAMS. Thus far, every movement of this fight must be an exact duplicate of CAIN'S fight with ADAM and ABEL. But now, YONAH pulls away from SHEM and rushes in to protect HAM, throwing herself between the raised staff and HAM'S prostrate body)

YONAH

No!

(The STORYTELLERS' percussion stops abruptly. JAPHETH freezes, looking down at HAM. For a moment, there is complete silence as the whole FAMILY holds its breath. Then JAPHETH lowers the staff and turns to address NOAH)

JAPHETH

I won't be the murderer. I leave that to you, and your God.

(Throws the staff to NOAH and then goes to YONAH)

But understand this, all of you. Whatever you do to Yonah, you do to both of us.

(Turns to NOAH once more)

Whatever you decide to do. Throw us overboard. Cast us adrift. You do it to both of us.

SHEM

Papa...

MAMA

That's enough, Shem.

SHEM

You can't let her stay...

MAMA

That's enough. Go below.

HAM

(With AHPRA)

Mama, there are others to consider...

MAMA

All of you. Now. I want to speak to Papa alone.

(MAMA rarely asserts herself, but when she does, the FAMILY knows it is pointless to argue. THEY go BELOW, SHEM and HAM guarding HAPHETH and YONAH, leaving NOAH and MAMA on the deck, on their own. NOAH walks to the side of the boat and looks out to sea)

NOAH

(Quietly)

Father... Father... ?

(FATHER is still watching, but makes no move to respond to show any sign that he has heard NOAH)

MAMA

He doesn't speak to you anymore, does he? Not since before the rain?

(NOAH looks at MAMA briefly before replying)

NOAH

No. And now I don't know what he wants. Is he asking me to sacrifice my son?

(MAMA looks back at him in silence)

But why else has he abandoned us?

MAMA

I don't know about God. He never said anything to me anyway. But if he *has* abandoned us, then the whole world is just this little family adrift in this big wooden boat with a lot of animals.

(NOAH looks out over the waters)

You must be the father now.

#37 <i>The Spark Of Creation — 2nd Reprise</i>
--

<i>(Mama, Noah)</i>

You must be the father now.

(Goes over to him)

THE SPARK OF CREATION —
THAT'S ALL YOU'VE GOT LEFT NOW.
THE SPARK OF CREATION
WILL HAVE TO BE YOUR GUIDE.
IF NO OUTER FORCE
WILL SHOW YOU YOUR COURSE,
YOU'LL HAVE TO LOOK INSIDE.
YOUR ONLY ILLUMINATION:
THE SPARK OF...

NOAH

(Almost under his breath)

Father...

(MAMA watches NOAH for a moment longer and then turns and climbs down through the hatch, leaving him alone on the desk. FATHER remains silent and still)

OH, FATHER, PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME CHOOSE.
EITHER WAY, IT'S MORE THAN I CAN BEAR TO LOSE...

#38 <i>The Hardest Part Of Love</i>

<i>(Noah, Father)</i>

OH, THIS SON OF MINE I LOVE SO WELL
AND OH, THE TOLL IT TAKES.
I WOULD GIVE TO HIM A GARDEN
AND KEEP IT CLEAR OF SNAKES.
BUT THE ONE THING HE MOST TREASURES
IS TO MAKE HIS OWN MISTAKES.
OH...

HE GOES CHARGING UP THE CLIFFS OF LIFE,
A RECKLESS MOUNTAINEER.
I COULD HELP HIM NOT TO STUMBLE,
I COULD WARN HIM WHAT TO FEAR.
I COULD SHOUT UNTIL I'M BREATHLESS,
AND HE'D STILL REFUSE TO HEAR.
OH...

BUT YOU CANNOT CLOSE THE ACORN
ONCE THE OAK BEGINS TO GROW,
AND YOU CANNOT CLOSE YOUR HEART
TO WHAT IT FEARS AND NEEDS TO KNOW:
THAT THE HARDEST PART OF LOVE
IS THE LETTING GO...

AS A CHILD, I FOUND A SPARROW
THAT HAD FALLEN FROM ITS NEST,
AND I NURSED IT BACK TO HEALTH
TILL IT WAS STRONGER THAN THE REST.
BUT WHEN I TRIED TO HOLD IT THEN,
IT PECKED AND SCRATCHED MY CHEST,
TILL I LET IT GO...

AND I WATCHED IT FLY AWAY FROM ME
WITH ITS BRIGHT AND SELFISH SONG,
AND A PART OF ME WAS CURSING

I HAD HELPED IT GROW SO STRONG.
AND I FEARED IT MIGHT GO HUNGRY,
AND I FEARED IT MIGHT GO WRONG.
OH...

(As NOAH continues, FATHER slowly rises to his feet, transfixed by what he has heard)

BUT I COULD NOT CLOSE THE ACORN
ONCE THE OAK BEGAN TO GROW,
AND I CANNOT CLOSE MY HEART
TO WHAT IT FEARS AND NEEDS TO KNOW:
THAT THE HARDEST PART OF LOVE...

FATHER

... IS THE LETTING GO...

NOAH

... IS THE LETTING GO...

(NOAH sinks to his knees in prayer, unable to hear FATHER, who continues as NOAH prays)

FATHER

AND IT'S ONLY IN EDEN
GROWS A ROSE WITHOUT A THORN.
AND YOUR CHILDREN START TO LEAVE YOU
ON THE DAY THAT THEY ARE BORN.
THEY WILL LEAVE YOU THERE TO CHEER FOR THEM,
THEY WILL LEAVE YOU THERE TO MOURN,
EVER SO.

LIKE AN ARK ON UNCHARTED SEAS,
THEIR LIVES WILL BE TOSSED.
AND THE DEEPER IS YOUR LOVE FOR THEM,
THE CRUELER IS THE COST.
AND JUST WHEN THEY START TO FIND THEMSELVES
IS WHEN YOU FEEL THEY'RE LOST
OH...

(NOAH rises)

FATHER, NOAH

BUT YOU CANNOT CLOSE THE ACORN
ONCE THE OAK BEGINS TO GROW,
AND YOU CANNOT CLOSE YOUR HEART

TO WHAT IT FEARS AND NEEDS TO KNOW:

NOAH

THAT THE HARDEST PART OF LOVE...

FATHER

AND THE RAREST PART OF LOVE...

FATHER, NOAH

AND THE TRUEST PART OF LOVE...

LOVE IS LETTING GO.

(NOAH and FATHER both look out over the waters for a moment. Then NOAH turns, picks up his staff and bangs loudly on the deck with it — once, twice, three times. As the STORYTELLERS continue, the FAMILY comes up through the hatch from BELOW and gathers around NOAH)

#39 Words Of Doom

(Storytellers)

STORYTELLERS

AND THERE ON THE DECK
OF THE ROTTING, LEAKING ARK,
THE LITTLE FAMILY GATHERED
IN THE RAIN AND COLD AND DARKNESS —
ONE LITTLE FAMILY, SHIVERING IN THE GLOOM,
WAITING FOR WORDS OF DOOM...
WAITING FOR WORDS OF DOOM...

NOAH

I have made my decision and there is now no time to lose. Japheth. Yonah. Stand forward.

(NOAH holds his staff out in front of him as JAPHETH and YONAH approach him)

Place your hands upon the staff.

JAPHETH

So, we are to be sacrificed.

NOAH

Yes, my son, you are.

JAPHETH

Well, so be it.

(HE places his hand on the staff. YONAH looks at JAPHETH and then places her hand next to his. The rest of the FAMILY stand miserably downcast, hardly able to watch. Only MAMA has a strange light in her eye. FATHER watches from ABOVE)

NOAH

Japheth. Yonah. By the authority of the staff of Adam, carved in the beginning from the Tree of Knowledge, I sacrifice you... to each other. you are now man and wife.

SHEM

(After a stunned moment)
What are you saying, Papa?

NOAH

They are now part of this family. For as long as we all shall live.

HAM

I don't understand.

SHEM

(Pointing skyward)
Did God say it was all right, Papa?

(NOAH turns to SHEM, and then looks round at the rest of the FAMILY before replying)

NOAH

No.

(A very faint smile plays across FATHER'S FACE, and as NOAH SINGS, FATHER turns away from the scene)

#40	<i>The Hour Of Darkness</i>	<i>(Noah, Yonah, Japheth, Mama, Ham, Shem, Aysha, Aphra)</i>
-----	------------------------------------	---

AS WE WELL KNOW, OUR END IS VERY NEAR,
AND GOD'S PRIORITIES ARE NO LONGER CLEAR TO ME.
AND SO I ASK YOU,
IF ALL WE'VE GOT IS JUST THIS LITTLE WHILE,
HERE AND NOW, EV'RY ONE OF US,
RECONCILE...

(NOAH turns to YONAH)

Yonah. Ever since the flood began, the blood of Cain has risen up in all of us... but never in you.

(Pulls a cloth from his pocket and gently wipes the mark of CAIN from her forehead)

Forgive me, my daughter.

(Kisses her forehead and then turns to JAPHETH)

Japheth...

(NOAH and JAPHETH embrace as YONAH starts to SING very quietly. As the FAMILY join in, they move together, embracing one another in forgiveness, or perhaps kneeling together in the darkness)

YONAH

IN WHATEVER TIME WE HAVE...

(JAPHETH joins in)

YONAH, JAPHETH

FOR AS LONG AS WE ARE LIVING...

(NOAH joins)

YONAH, JAPHETH, NOAH

WE CAN FACE WHATEVER COMES....

(MAMA joins)

YONAH, JAPHETH, MAMA, NOAH

IF WE FACE IT NOW AS ONE...

ALL

IF THERE'S SILENCE IN THE SKY,
IN A WORLD WITHOUT A FUTURE,
WE WILL SWEAR TO BE TOGETHER
IN WHATEVER TIME WE HAVE...

(The family kneels together, waiting for the doom they are certain is coming. FATHER turns around. HE is holding the DOVE. He throws his arms wide, releasing it into the air. The STORYTELLERS fly it around the theater once more, or appear to do so)

JAPHETH

Look!

SHEM

What is it?

MAMA

It's one of the doves.

APHRA

How did she get out?

(The DOVE flies to NOAH'S HAND)

NOAH

And look what she has brought us...

(Takes a green sprig from the DIVE'S BEAK)

... Somewhere in the world, there is a living tree.

(MAMA takes a careful look at the sprig)

MAMA

An olive tree.

(Suddenly, HAM looks up at the sky, pointing)

HAM

Papa, look!

NOAH

What is it, Ham?

HAM

Look!

(The FAMILY looks up to where HAM is pointing)

SHEM

Where?

(All around the theater, the STORYTELLERS start to create little pinpricks of light, at first just one or two, then more and more and more)

AYSHA

I don't believe it.

JAPHETH

It is!

SHEM

(Desperate)
I can't see anything!

NOAH

There... and there... and there.

MAMA

Thank God, the stars are still in the sky. I thought they drowned with everything else.

(The FAMILY stand for a moment, looking up at the stars, which are everywhere now. Then MAMA changes her focus to the horizon, just over the heads of the AUDIENCE)

#41 *Ain't It Good*

(Mama, Company except Father)

OH, LOOK OUT THERE IN THE EASTERN SKY.
IS THAT A HINT OF LIGHT?
OH, COME AND LOOK, I NEED TO KNOW
IF I AM SEEING RIGHT.
WE'VE LIVED SO LONG IN DARK,
I'M ALMOST FRIGHTENED TO BELIEVE
THOSE CLEARING SKIES ON
THAT GLISTENING HORIZON.
PLEASE TELL ME MY EYES
DO NOT DECEIVE ME...

(The LIGHT starts to grow very slowly on MAMA as the song gathers momentum)

AIN'T IT SWEET TO SMELL THE MORNING,
IN A WORLD WASHED FRESH AND CLEAN?
NOW THE STORM HAS LEFT ITS WARNING,
AND WE SEE A HINT OF GREEN.
PALE GRAY LIGHT, GROW STRONG AND GOLDEN

AND RELEASE US FROM OUR PEN,
 WHERE WE ROCKED FOR ENDLESS DAYS,
 ON A SEA OF ENDLESS GRAYS.
 NOW WE SING A SONG OF ENDLESS PARADISE, AMEN...
 AIN'T IT GOOD?
 AIN'T IT GOOD?
 AIN'T IT GOOD TO SEE THE SUN AGAIN?

*(MAMA'S rhythms are so compelling that the FAMILY and
 STORYTELLERS cannot resist joining in)*

**MAMA
 FATHER**

WHEN MY EARS
 WERE FILLED WITH THUNDER,

 WHEN MY SOUL
 BEGAN TO SHAKE,

 THERE WERE TIMES
 I'D TRULY WONDER
 IF THOSE CLOUDS

 WOULD EVER BREAK.

 BUT NO STORM
 WILL LAST FOREVER,

 THOUGH WE FELT
 SO HELPLESS THEN.
 NOW WE RAISE A JOYFUL
 CHANT
 FOR A GLIMPSE OF OLIVE
 PLANT!
 HAVEN'T SEE ONE SINCE I
 CAN'T REMEMBER WHEN...

ALL EXCEPT MAMA,

WHEN MY EARS,
 THEY WERE FILLED WITH
 THUNDER,
 AND WHEN MY SOUL,
 WHEN MY SOUL BEGAN TO
 SHAKE,
 THERE WERE TIMES
 I WOULD TRULY WONDER —
 THOSE DARK AND GLOOMY
 RAIN CLOUDS,
 IF THOSE CLOUDS WOULD
 EVER BREAK
 BUT THERE'S NO STORM.
 NO STORM WILL LAST
 FOREVER.
 WE FELT SO HELPLESS.
 OO, OO,
 OO!

 CAN'T REMEMBER WHEN —

(The LIGHT grows stronger and stronger now)

AIN'T IT GOOD —

 OH, AIN'T IT GOOD —

 OUR HEARTS ARE DANCING!
 AIN'T IT GOOD,
 SO GOOD!

-- IT FELT SO GOOD!
 -- WHEN SKIES ARE CLEARING
 -- HOW OUR HEARTS BEGIN TO
 DANCE!

 HOW OUR HOPES ARE
 REAPPEARING,

WE'VE GOT A SECOND
CHANCE!

SINCE WE'VE BEEN GRANTED A
SECOND CHANCE...

(The FAMILY opens up the hatch, and ANIMALS of all descriptions begin to emerge, blinking into the sunlight. As the song grows to a glorious climax, the ANIMALS cavort, running around among the FAMILY, who cavort with them. The STORYTELLERS SING their hearts out, and MAMA grows more and more joyous)

AND FOR NOW,
WE'RE DONE WITH FEARING
WE MIGHT BE
THE FINAL GENERATION.
IN A DAWN THAT'S NEW-
BORN FRESH,
OPEN WIDE THIS FLOATING
CRECHE
AND DELIVER EV'RY PRECIOUS
SPECIMEN!
AIN'T IT GOOD?

AIN'T IT GOOD, NOW?
AIN'T IT GOOD TO SEE THE
SUN AGAIN, MY LORD...

AND FOR NOW,
WE ARE DONE WITH FEARING.
WE THOUGHT WE'D BE
THE FINAL GENERATION.
IN A DAWN...

OPEN WIDE...

AND DELIVER...

BROTHER, AIN'T IT GOOD?
OH, AIN'T IT GOOD?
AIN'T IT GOOD?
AIN'T IT GOOD TO SEE THE
SUN AGAIN, MY LORD...

MAMA

AFTER ALL THE NIGHTS WE STOOD
SMELLING RAIN AND GOPHER WOOD...

ALL EXCEPT FATHER

AIN'T IT GOOD...

MAMA

TO SEE THE SUN AGAIN?

ALL EXCEPT MAMA, FATHER

OH, AIN'T IT GOOD TO SEE THE SHINING GOLDEN SUN
AGAIN?

(Now the STORYTELLERS shift the scene to Mount Ararat, very early one morning, a few weeks later.)

The ANIMALS are not in evidence, the CHILD STORYTELLERS all having joined the adults as witnesses to the final scene. The

FAMILY are UPSTAGE loading up cards and baggage, in preparation for their departure. NOAH is DOWNSTAGE, the staff of ADAM in his hand, his head bowed in prayer. FATHER watches from ABOVE. After the previous song, the task of persuading the AUDIENCE that the show isn't over yet falls to NOAH, as he is the first to speak. HE looks up)

NOAH

Father. I know that you will speak to us no more. I know now that your silence is forever. But Father, if you will not speak to us in words, then send us a sign. A covenant between us that we may know the flood of waters will never return to destroy your earth... *our* earth.

MAMA

Papa, we're all ready.

(NOAH goes to the FAMILY, who gather around him, MAMA standing with him, SHEM and AYSHA to one side, HAM and APHRA on the other — APHRA holding their newborn baby — and, a little further apart, JAPHETH and YONAH)

NOAH

My children. the time has come to divide our ways and begin our journeys. We have no map. Only the ways we most wish for ourselves. For myself, and Mama, our journey is already done. We will stay here and live on the ark. Thanks for the help in scrubbing it out. But what of the rest of you? Sham and Aysha. What have you decided?

SHAM

We will go East, Papa. Towards the rising sun.

NOAH

And who will you take with you?

AYSHA

The tigers, the pandas, the elephants with little ears, and any other creature that cares to follow.

NOAH

And Ham. You and Aphra, and little Eve. Where will you go?

HAM

South, Papa, across the desert which no one has crossed, to seek the great land beyond.

NOAH

And who will you take with you?

APHRA

The lions, the ostriches, the elephants with *big* ears, and any other creature that cares to follow.

NOAH

And so to Japheth and Yonah. What have you decided? Will you go West?

MAMA

There's only *water* to the West! Everyone knows that!

NOAH

Then North?

MAMA

Only a *fool* would want to live in the North!

JAPHETH

Mama, we *will* go West, and North, and East, and South, and never rest until we find our home.

NOAH

And what is the home you will search for, Japheth, my son?

YONAH

Eden.

(YONAH speaks this one word in exactly the same way she spoke it at the beginning of ACT ONE. JAPHETH looks round at YONAH and smiles)

JAPHETH

We're going to search for Eden.

(The rest of the FAMILY look at them for a moment and then MAMA breaks the silence)

MAMA

That will be the longest journey of all.

NOAH

Then you, of all our children, will have most need of this.

#42 Precious Children**(Father)***(Holds up the staff of ADAM)*

When you find Eden, take this, the staff of Adam, and plant it firmly in the ground... and it will grow once more! Tend it with care as its blossoms turn to fruit, and then harvest the fruit and eat! Eat of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge, and give to your children, that they may freely eat. This is my gift to you...

(JAPHETH takes the staff from NOAH)

... and to your children, and to your children's children. Forever.

*(The FAMILY embrace and say their goodbyes as
FATHER starts to SING, ABOVE)*

FATHER

FARE THEE WELL, MY PRECIOUS CHILDREN.
IN YOUR HANDS, I PLACE THE KEY
TO THIS PRISON MADE OF GRATITUDE
WHICH HAS HELD YOU CLOSE TO ME.
NOW I KNOW I CANNOT HOLD YOU
TILL AT LAST I LET YOU BE...
FREE...

#43 In The Beginning**(Company)***(JAPHETH and YONAH turn to the AUDIENCE)***JAPHETH, YONAH**

THIS STEP IS ONCE AGAIN OUR FIRST.
WE SET OUR FEET UPON A VIRGIN LAND.
WE HOLD THE PROMISE OF THE EARTH
IN OUR HANDS...

*(NOAH and MAMA turn to the AUDIENCE)***NOAH, MAMA**

NO FLOOD FROM HEAVEN COMES AGAIN.
NO DELUGE WILL DESTROY AND PURIFY.
WE HOLD THE FATE OF MAN AND MEN
IN OUR HANDS...

**NOAH, MAMA, JAPHETH,
YONAH, HAM, SHEM, APHRA, AYSHA**

NOW AT THIS DAWN SO GREEN AND GLAD,

WE PRAY THAT WE MAY LONG REMEMBER
HOW LOVELY WAS THE WORLD WE HAD
IN THE BEGINNING...

(The STORYTELLERS join in)

ALL EXCEPT FATHER

OF ALL THE GIFTS WE HAVE RECEIVED,
ONE IS MOST PRECIOUS AND MOST TERRIBLE:
THE WILL IN EACH OF US IS FREE;
IT'S IN OUR HANDS.
AND IF SOME DAY WE HEAR A VOICE,
IF HE SHOULD SPEAK AGAIN, OUR SILENT FATHER,
ALL HE WILL TELL US IS THE CHOICE
IS IN OUR HANDS.

OUR HANDS CAN CHOOSE TO DROP THE KNIFE,
OUR HEARTS CAN CHOOSE TO STOP THE HATING —
FOR EV'RY MOMENT OF OUR LIFE
IS THE BEGINNING.

*(FATHER APPEARS on the stage with the rest of the
STORYTELLERS, walking amongst them as he did in the beginning)*

FATHER

THERE IS NO JOURNEY GONE SO FAR,
SO FAR WE CANNOT STOP AND CHANGE DIRECTION.
NO DOOM IS WRITTEN IN THE STARS;

ALL EXCEPT FATHER

(In three groups)

IT'S IN OUR HANDS.
IT'S IN OUR HANDS.
IT'S IN OUR HANDS.

*(The FAMILY starts off on their separate journeys, as YONAH and
JAPHETH, the staff of ADAM held firmly in his hand, walk on
towards Eden)*

ALL

WE CANNOT KNOW WHAT WILL OCCUR,
JUST MAKE OUR JOURNEY WORTH THE TAKING,
AND PRAY WE'RE WISER THAN WE WERE
IN THE BEGINNING.

IT'S THE BEGINNING.
NOW WE BEGIN...

(As the MUSIC changes, the whole cast, FATHER and CHILDREN included, become STORYTELLERS again. THEY SING to the AUDIENCE, addressing them directly as the "Children of Eden")

CHILDREN OF EDEN,
GRANT US YOUR PARDON.
ALL THAT WE LEAVE TO YOU
IS THE UNKNOWN.

CHILDREN OF EDEN,
SEEK FOR YOUR GARDEN,
YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN TO COME,
SOME DAY TO COME
HOME.
HOME.

(As the final CHORDS sound out, FATHER makes a broad and generous gesture in the air above his head and the STORYTELLERS create a RAINBOW, high up over the stage. A single note is sounded on a long TRUMPET, and we have reached...)

THE END