

RAINBOW REVIEW

The Story of Noah and the Great Flood

Music, lyrics and book
by Christy Long

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Noah has known since he was a boy that his gift of being able to communicate with the animals would be put to use someday by God. Now the ark has been completed and "someday" has arrived. Faithful farm animal friends help Noah gather creatures from the four corners of the earth to be saved from the coming flood. As the animals board the ark in military style to the song "Two by Two," skeptics appear - the critical unicorn, the mocking hyena and the cow who is sure she will become a barbecue for Noah's family if she enters the ark. You will empathize with Noah and his family singing "Don't Rock the Boat" as they deal with life on the ark which includes a sea-sick mule, a smelly pig family and a pack of quickly-multiplying rabbits that are taking up more than their fair share of space. Even Mrs. Noah gets a little stir crazy when she realizes that this boat ride is no luxury cruise. God's faithfulness becomes evident to everyone in the grand finale, "Rainbow Review." With Shem, Noah's son, acting as narrator you will definitely gain a new perspective on this well-known bible story. Through humorous lines and imaginative songs we see that even when the storms of life come, there is a rainbow waiting at the end of the journey.

SETTING

Two sets are used. The first is a backdrop or curtain made to look like the outside of the completed ark. The backdrop should be able to be moved or raised to expose the inside of the ark. It should have a functioning door in it and enough space left behind it to house all of the animals. The second set consists of the inside of the ark which should be set up directly behind the outer ark curtain or backdrop.

PROPS

Noah - Checklist of animals for boarding the ark.
Shem - Clothes pin, shovel.
Dove - Olive branch.

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(3 boys, 2 girls, 13-17 flexible)

- SHEM:** Noah's son, narrator. Large speaking part.
YOUNG NOAH: Noah as a boy. Medium speaking part.
NOAH: Large speaking and singing part, including solos.
DOG: Young Noah's dog. No speaking part.
HORSE: Very loyal to Noah. Medium speaking part, also solos.
SHEEP: Meek. Small speaking part.
DOVE: Also loyal to Noah. Medium speaking part and solos.
CHICKEN: Obedient. Medium speaking part.
UNICORN: Openly critical. Small speaking part.
COW: Fearful. Small speaking part. Solo on "Rainbow Review."
HYENA: Mocking at first. Small speaking part. Solo on "Rainbow Review."
MULE: Stowaway. Medium speaking part. Solos.
MRS. NOAH: Tired, ornery, and a little crazy by the trip's end. Medium speaking part.
SKUNK: Small speaking part.
MOTHER: Off-stage voice.
PIG FAMILY: Two to four pigs.
BABY RABBITS: Two to four bunnies.
EXTRAS: Domestic and wild animals, as many as desired.

Performance time: 35 minutes.

SONGS

You Have Been Chosen	19
Don't Miss the Boat	23
Two by Two	27
Please, Don't Rock the Boat	31
Please, Don't Rock the Boat - Reprise	35
Messenger of Hope	37
Rainbow Review	39

RAINBOW REVIEW

(AT RISE: Dark stage and a SPOTLIGHT on SHEM, SL.)

SHEM: You've all heard the story of Noah and the great flood ... the ark, the animals, the rain. Well, I am here today to tell you that you haven't heard the whole story. I know because I was there. Let me introduce myself. My name is Shem and Noah was my father. He was a great man, a godly man. He heard God's voice and was willing to obey even through years of hard labor and ridicule from every side. But Noah knew long before building the ark that the Lord had given him a special gift that would be needed when the time was right.

(The SPOTLIGHT moves to SR and falls on YOUNG NOAH and his DOG. This should take place apart from the ark backdrop as a flashback in time.)

YOUNG NOAH: *(Petting the DOG.)* Hey, boy, how is your day going? *(DOG barks then pants. Sarcastically.)* It doesn't surprise me that you're tired. I thought I told you to stop chasing Mrs. Chicken. *(DOG looks guilty.)* She asked me to tell you to please stop bothering her. *(DOG barks.)* I know that it's a lot of fun to get her feathers all ruffled, but she has threatened to stop laying our morning eggs if you continue. *(DOG licks YOUNG NOAH'S face.)* Don't try and kiss up to me.

MOTHER: *(Hollers from offstage.)* Noah, where are you?

YOUNG NOAH: Uh oh. I better go see what she wants. If she finds me talking to animals again, I'll be in trouble for sure. I'll talk to you later. *(DOG barks. Yells in HER direction.)* Coming, Mother. *(HE exits. SPOTLIGHT back on SHEM.)*

SHEM: That's right. God had given Noah the ability to communicate with animals. He understood them and they could understand him as well. This gift came in very handy in later years.

(SHEM exits and the stage LIGHTS come up. Grown-up NOAH is standing in front of the ark.)

NOAH: Gather around, everybody. Come here and listen. I have important news. *(The barnyard ANIMALS enter from both sides and gather around NOAH.)* The ark is finished! *(THEY all clap and cheer.)* You have been faithful through these long years of toil and I have found my faith renewed when I speak to you, my friends. Now the time has come to send out the call. We must bring in those that are to be saved from the flood.

(The ANIMALS speak their agreement. Each animal steps forward when NOAH addresses them and then bows and steps back when saying, "It is done.")

NOAH: (*Cont.*) Horse, you have worked by my side these many years as did your father and his father before him. I now ask you to run swiftly to the far corners of the earth to help gather two of every kind of animal, one male and one female. Use your great speed and endurance to catch the mighty runners of the animal kingdom: lions, gazelles, giraffes.

HORSE: I am afraid of becoming a meal for a hungry lion.

NOAH: Do not be afraid. God will protect you and help you find the ones he wants to be saved.

HORSE: It is done, Noah.

NOAH: Sheep, you are so kind and gentle. I need you to speak to the timid creatures that God has made. They will listen to you.

SHEEP: It is done, Noah.

NOAH: Dove, you have the gift of flight. Use it now and tell every winged creature to come to the ark or they will perish with the rest. Their ability to fly will not save them from the wrath to come.

DOVE: It is done, Noah.

NOAH: And dear Mrs. Chicken.

ANIMALS: (*TOGETHER.*) Chicken?

NOAH: Yes, Chicken. I have the most difficult job for you. You must scratch and peck and dig in the earth to find the creatures that crawl on and in and under the earth. Implore them to enter the ark. This will require restraint on your part for you must not eat any of the bugs that you find. God desires to save them also.

CHICKEN: (*Moans.*) Oh, all right. It is done, Noah.

NOAH: Good. Go and tell them to come swiftly for they have been chosen by God, and the heavens will soon be loosed.

SONG: "You Have Been Chosen"

NOAH: *(Sings.)*

YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN. YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN.
YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BY GOD.
YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN. YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN.
YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BY GOD.

CHORUS: *(ALL sing.)*

YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN. YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN.
YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BY GOD.
YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN. YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN.
YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BY GOD.

NOAH: *(Sings.)*

REJOICE TODAY, GOD'S MADE A WAY TO SAVE US.
AND HE HAS SAID TO YOU, "COME ON ALONG."
SO CRAWL OR FLY OR RUN 'CAUSE YOU ARE GOIN' ON
TO THE ARK. YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN.

(Repeat CHORUS.)

NOAH: *(Sings.)*

GOD LOOKED ACROSS THE EARTH AND THEN HE SAW YOU.
AND THEN HE KNEW HE'D FOUND THE PERFECT ONE.
NO ONE ELSE WILL DO, 'CAUSE HE IS CALLING YOU
TO BE SAVED. YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN.

(Repeat CHORUS 2x.)

(The scene darkens. SPOTLIGHT on SHEM.)

SHEM: It was a great task, but the animals did as they were instructed and scoured the earth, telling all creatures of the coming disaster. God opened the ears of the ones that He had chosen to be saved and hardened the hearts of those that would be left behind.

(When the scene re-opens, HORSE, SHEEP, DOVE, CHICKEN, UNICORN, and COW are standing around outside the ark.)

HORSE: *(Breathing heavily.)* I've done it. I ran to the ends of the earth and found the ones that God has chosen. Noah was right, I didn't get eaten.

CHICKEN: You had it easy. God protected you. I had to use every ounce of willpower not to munch on some of those juicy bugs. *(Smacks lips and rubs stomach.)* Mmm.

End of Freeview

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