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Noah's Ark, the Children's Musical

Musical Comedy

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SCENE ONE.

In the background, Noah's ark covers the entire stage. In the foreground, NOAH stands with a clipboard talking to a large crowd of various types of animals. A gang plank is angled up to the ark from the middle of the stage. OFFSET RIGHT, two ducks at home; HARRY sits reading the newspaper, while his wife rearranges furniture. The scene opens with the lights up on the DUCKS.

LUCILLE

What's the weather forecast for tomorrow, Harry?

HARRY

Rain. Lots of rain for the foreseeable future.

LUCILLE

Harry, I need a vacation.

HARRY

Forget it. We haven't got the money.

LUCILLE

(Talking to him sweetly) Come on, Harry.

HARRY

Lucille, we're middle class ducks. We've got bills.

HARRY

Wait a minute; Lucille, listen to this. (Reading) "Wanted, two animals, one male, one female, of every kind for an extended trip to a new and distant land. Must be able to get along with a host of animals. Space limited. One small carry on only. All interested species see Noah at Dock A, June 12th. (AUTHOR'S NOTE: Use the date of the performance) That's today!"

LUCILLE

Harry, that's the cruise for us.

BLACK OUT

LIGHTS UP ON NOAH, DOWN on
BIRDS

NOAH

Through a bullhorn to the assembled animals) All right.
We're going to do this alphabetically.

ALL

General grumbling.

Come on! Oh, I hate that! That's not fair!

NOAH

That's enough out of you zebras. Always complaining when we go alphabetical!

ANTEATER 1

Yeah, that's enough. Alphabetical is fair for everyone!

ANTEATER 2

Yeah! Fair is fair! Ever notice how anteaters don't complain.

NOAH

All right. Now listen up! Can everyone hear me. (General assent) Everyone has to hear me, so it's important everyone remains quiet while we load. Now as I've said before, and I'll say it again, I want two of each of you, and two only! As it is, it's going to be tight getting everyone on. So remember, get into straight lines and be quiet. Remember, to stay in two's, boys on one side, girls on the other. (General groans) That's right, girls on one side, boys on the other. And hold hoofs! (Louder general groans) All right! Anteaters! (The two ANTEATERS swagger up with big smiles) (checking off each as they get on board the ship and disappear) Bears! Cats.

CAT #1

(Dressed in athletic gear and with a coach's whistle around his neck) Noah, isn't it? Nice to meet you. How many days did you say we're going to be stuck on that thing?

NOAH

Forty. Forty days and nights to be exact.

CAT #1

Ugh-huh. All these animals on one boat. Forty days and forty nights. That's what you're telling me.

NOAH

Yes.

CAT

All right then. What kind of aerobic activities have you got planned?

NOAH

Pardon me?

CAT #1

Aerobics? Great for the cardiovascular. You know, the old ticker. You've got a long trip scheduled here, my friend, what kind of exercise plan have you got planned for the animals on the ark?

NOAH

I don't know. All I was told was to bring enough food and drink. Nobody said anything about the cardio whatever.

CAT #1

Your cardiovascular. (Shaking his head disgustedly) Won't do my friend. (Does a jumping jack) Got to keep these animals working it, Noah, otherwise you know what you're going to get?

NOAH

No, what?

CAT #1

Lazy animals. Tell you what. Say the word and I'll organize the daily workouts for everyone.

NOAH

Well....

CAT # 1

I'll take that as a yes. (As he boards)

NOAH

(Looking incredulous as the cat moves on) Whew! Cows! (Cows enter with milk mustaches) What's with the mustaches? (Shrugs his shoulders) Dogs! (With enthusiasm) All right. (Apologetically, containing himself, addressing the other animals) I had a dog when I was a kid.

DOG # 1

(Sarcastically) Oh, great. Now we're going to have to live up to some unrealistic expectation.

NOAH

No, I just like....dogs. (As DOG enters)

DOG

(Slight sarcasm) Well, don't we feel special.

Where was I? Doves. Ducks! NOAH

LUCILLE SINGING

SONG GOTTA FLY (WORDS & MUSIC BY SUSAN SALIDOR)

Lucille: (sung)

Harry: (spoken)

Gotta fly! What? Now? Gotta go!
 You mean on the ark? Gotta move!

Who is Noah anyway? There's no time to take it slow. Well,
I don't know.

Sail the sea! Did you turn off the stove? Two by
two. Do we need Travelers' Cheques? You and me,
 And a "host" of animals Harry, me and you.

I just don't know. (Goes to exit - Lucille
 stops him)

If we wait It'll be too late Harry, please! I'm on my knees.
 (Spoken) Okay, okay.

Gotta fly! Gotta fly! (Pushing trunk, echoing
her) Gotta go! Gotta go! Gotta move!

Gotta move! Harry, come on let's go! I just gotta check
that stove. (He exits)

(Lights out)

As song ends: LIGHTS OUT and back ON to NOAH, as HARRY AND LUCILLE have advanced toward the ARK, just short of arriving)

NOAH
Ducks. (Two different ducks enter) Elephants! Wait a minute, wait a minute. Only one carry on per passenger. You aren't bringing on any extra trunks are you? (Stops to inspect, as he does, the elephant drops her very large handbag, which NOAH and ELEPHANT do not notice) (HARRY and LUCILLE arrive exhausted, STAGE RIGHT)

LUCILLE
Harry! Did he say elephants!

HARRY
(Huffing and puffing) I have no idea.

Ugh-oh!

LUCILLE

What- now- Lucille?

Ugh—Oh...

HARRY

Stop with the "Ugh-Oh" and tell me what you're ugh-ohing about!

LUCILLE

Ugh-oh - (Says this in a sing song manner) I think they're loading us up alphabetically. Weren't those zebras at the end of the line, just behind the yaks?

HARRY

So maybe Noah is lining us up alphabetically. So what? What's your point?

LUCILLE

Elephants, Harry! Elephants!

HARRY

Yeah? Elephants. Big animals, long trunks. What about them?

LUCILLE

Elephants start with an E! Harry!

HARRY

I know that. What? Do you think I'm stupid?

LUCILLE

E comes after D in the alphabet!!!!

HARRY

It does? I mean, it does. Everyone knows that. Oh! ugh-oh!

LUCILLE

All right. Don't panic. Act perfectly normal. Let me handle this. (Butting in front of the Ferrets,) Excuse us.

NOAH

Wait a minute. Ducks. No-no. No more ducks. We've got our ducks. No-no. Please step out of the line.

LUCILLE

Oh, you must be mistaken.

NOAH

No. No. I'm quite sure. We've got our ducks already in. You see, we're loading up alphabetically.

HARRY

All right. We're dead. Dead ducks! Completely dead. Come on, Lucille.

LUCILLE

Ah-ha! Alphabetically!

HARRY

What are you doing, Lucille?

LUCILLE

Alphabetically, as in ABG?

NOAH

Exactly. Wait. Did you say ABG? No, no, no. . Not ABG, it's ABC (general groans of "What's holding up the line", etc. are heard)

LUCILLE

Excuse me, don't you even know your ABG's? Everybody knows the ABG song. (Sings familiar song) ABGZ CFT HIJK RUMPL QNE DOV WX Y and S Now I know my ABGeez, next time won't you let the doves on. (She begins to drag HARRY on board)

NOAH

Wait, wait, wait.

LUCILLE

What's wrong? (Begins singing again) ABGZ CFT....

NOAH

No. That's (Sings) ABCD EFG

LUCILLE

Really? When did they change it? I never learned it that way.

NOAH

I'm quite sure, I'm right. At least I think I am.. (NOAH asks the audience for feedback "Is it ABC?" or is it "ABG" Everybody who thinks it ABC say ABC? (Massive response from the audience) ABG? (Less of a response) All right, then. Let's move on.

LUCILLE

No wait. Why don't you go ask your wife, just to make sure. We just saw her at the bow or the stern, (NOAH walks back and forth) one or the other, I can't remember which is which. (attempting to hurry on)

NOAH

I can't either. (As he walks towards one end of the stage)

HARRY

Great, and he's the captain.

LUCILLE

Shh. Hurry up and get on.

NOAH

It's ABCD isn't it, darling?

MRS. NOAH (OFF-STAGE, LEFT)

Yes, of course, it is dear. Now hurry up. It's starting to drizzle. By the way, this is the stern. The bow is at the end of the play.

NOAH

Hold it you two. I'm sorry about that, but it is, in fact, ABCD as I suspected. (He pulls them out of the line) Now waddle along. Ferrets! Foxes! Giraffes! Watch your heads now. (FOX finally notices purse and picks it up)

FOX 1

Excuse me, Noah. I found this purse on the ground....

ELEPHANT 1

(LOUD and distraught, New York accent) Oh, my gosh! My purse! Someone's stolen my purse!

FOX 1

No, I found it.

ELEPHANT

Found it! Sure you did! My mother warned me about animals like you!

NOAH

(Apologetically) No, I think he did find it....

ELEPHANT

Right! He's a fox, Noah! What does that tell you? Come on. Wake up and smell the latte! (ELEPHANT and others continue to board the ship)

(LIGHTS down on NOAH as the animals continue to enter the ship; LIGHTS ON LUCILLE and HARRY)

LUCILLE

You couldn't trust me about the stove!

HARRY

Look who's quacking! You're the one who had to pack like we'd be gone for forty days and nights!

LUCILLE

Harry! We were going to be gone for forty ... Oh, forget it. We've got to get on that boat!

HARRY

What are we going to do?

LUCILLE

Come on. We've got to think of something! We can't be left behind!

HARRY

But Noah said.

LUCILLE

I know what Noah said. Now listen to what I'm saying. We're getting on that ark one way or another, so let's get quacking!

HARRY

Quacking?

LUCILLE

You know what I mean! (They hurry off stage RIGHT)

NOAH

(Lights back up on NOAH) Kangaroos. (He waits as briefly the KANGAROOS do not respond, slowing down the line.) Come on, let's get hopping!

KANGAROO # 1

(Stuttering while slowly hopping in place, he speaks in an Australian accent) Look here, mate, I'm feeling a bit jumpy about this so called "ark" you've built here.

NOAH

That's natural. But trust me. There's nothing to worry about. We're all in good hands.

KANGAROO #2

Don't get him wrong, mate. It's nothing against you, personally. You seem like a competent fellow. It's just that we've never been on an ark before.

NOAH

Oh, I understand. (As KANGAROO # 1 starts slowing his hop down) I haven't either.

KANGAROO #1

(Resuming hopping very nervously) Perfect! (Continues hopping in place) Right. Well, then, I suppose you want us to get on. (Still hopping in place, furiously) All right, well, you never been on an ark before, but you have captained a ship, right mate?

NOAH

Never.

KANGAROO #1

Right. I'll be getting on, then. (Still hopping in place, while NOAH stands slightly impatiently looking at his watch) Not even once. (NOAH shakes his head) (Kangaroo says to his partner) We're going down under.

NOAH

Leopards! Lions!

NOAH

(Reenter HARRY And LUCILLE) What are you two doing back here?

LUCILLE

Mallards!

NOAH

I beg your pardon?

LUCILLE

We're mallards! You know. Wild ducks. Quack! Quack!

NOAH

You don't look wild.

LUCILLE

Show 'em, Harry. (HARRY jumps into the arms of NOAH and kisses him or shows that he is wearing crazy socks or something)

NOAH

No. No. I'm sorry. Mallards are ducks. We've already got ducks. Waddle along.

LUCILLE

(To HARRY as they are EXITING) You call that wild?...

. (LARGE NOISE from OFF-STAGE)

NOAH

Who's making all that noise? (Enter MONKEYS rolling a barrel) I thought so!

MONKEY # 1

Don't look at us.

MONKEY # 2

Yeah, it's not us. It's the animals behind us.

NOAH

(Checking the clipboard) Who's next?

MOUSE # 1

(Enter two mice making a general racket - talking far too loudly to each other) I told you this was going to be one important boat trip and we needed to....

MOUSE #2

Don't tell me what you told me, Arnie, because you never told me any such thing. I'm always the last to know. And I'm gonna tell you something else. I'm not so sure about this ark thing, I mean, I'm not so sure I want to go!

MOUSE #1

You don't want to go? Then stay Delores! Go ahead and stay!

MOUSE # 2

(Resolute) Maybe I will. Maybe I will. Who's going to stop me if that's what I decide?

MOUSE # 1

Fine! Have it your way! I sure hope you know how to mouse paddle --- for forty days and forty nights!

NOAH

Excuse me! Excuse me!

MOUSE #2

Don't worry about me, Arnie!

MOUSE # 1

Okay, fine by me!

NOAH

(Louder) Excuse me! I thought mice were supposed to be quiet.

MOUSE #1

Yeah, so what are you saying?

MOUSE #2

Yeah, what are you saying?

NOAH

Could you just get on board please? (Points the way as the two argue there way on board. LIGHTS back up on HARRY and LUCILLE STAGE RIGHT)

HARRY

Any other bright ideas, Lucille, before we become ex- ex- ex?

LUCILLE

Don't say it! Wait! Wait! That's it! Harry, you're a genius!

HARRY

What'd I say?

LUCILLE

Just come on, we've got to hurry. (EXIT . LIGHTS BACK UP ON NOAH)

NOAH

Snakes, Tigers, Unicorns. (Only one UNICORN is present. Two vultures stand nearby, licking their chops as they listen to the conversation between NOAH and the UNICORN) Sorry, we only take two's.

UNICORN

But... But...

NOAH

Come on.. The rules have been posted for weeks.

UNICORN

But.. I couldn't find anyone to go with me.

NOAH

Sorry. Nothing I can do. It's not my call.

UNICORN

But, if I don't get on board, I'll become ex.. ex...ex...

NOAH

- tinct. That's what they all say.

UNICORN

I was going to say exasperated! You've got to let me on.

NOAH

Two by two. No exceptions. Where was I? U -- V --
Vultures (Vultures about to jump out excited)

UNICORN #2

(Running out from Stage LEFT, Excitedly, to the great disappointment of the vultures) Wait! Wait!

VULTURE 1

My, my, my. Isn't she a lively one!

VULTURE 2

(Disgustedly) Much too lively for my tastes!

VULTURE 1

Mine, too!

NOAH

All right. Hurry up. Get on board.

UNICORN #1

Whew! Thank God you made it! Hi, my name's Nancy. What's yours?

UNICORN # 2

Mary.

UNICORN 1

What? But you can't, I mean, we can't...

UNICORN 2

Quiet! You want to get us kicked off of here?

NOAH

What was that?

UNICORN 2

In a deep male voice) Nothing. We were just talking about the Bulls and Bears*, you know, sports stuff. (AUTHOR'S NOTE: *Local sports teams with animal names should be used here; since the play originated in Chicago, Bulls and Bears were used, but regional changes should be made here to accommodate sports teams with animal names. e.g. Detroit, (Lions) Pittsburgh (Penguins) etc.

NOAH

All right. Well keep it down. We've got an ark of a lot to do yet. Walruses! Or is it Walri? X? (HARRY AND LUCILLE peer out from the end of the line and here this) No animals that begin with X? All right. Let's go to the Y's. Yaks. ("Yak, Yak, Yak" can be heard as the two Yaks enter) Could you keep it down please. All right. Zebras. That's it. Pull up the gang plank and let's go! ENTER HARRY And LUCILLE dressed very strangely- like no animal anyone has ever seen before. They look like very comically made up ducks

HARRY AND LUCILLE

Wait! Wait! Wait for us!

NOAH

Who are you? What are you?

HARRY

Ugh, what are we? (He looks at Lucille) Tell him, Luc...Darling.

LUCILLE

We're Xtraneous Birds. You can tell by the spots on our left wings.

NOAH

What?

LUCILLE

Xtraneous Birds.

NOAH

And, how do you spell that? (Lucille is about to answer; Noah cuts her off and asks HARRY as if testing him) Sir?

HARRY

I'm not sure, but I know it starts with an X.

NOAH

Ah-ha!

LUCILLE

That's X T R ANEOUS B-U-R-D!

NOAH

Oh. Funny. I don't see you on the list.

LUCILLE

That's strange. We're a fairly common bird.

NOAH

I've never seen anything that looks like you.. At least I don't think I have.

LUCILLE

Have you ever been to the South Pole?

NOAH

Been there? I've never even heard of it.

LUCILLE

Well, we're very common there.

NOAH

Oh. No wonder I've never seen you then.. Wait a minute. If you're from the South Pole, what are you doing in Israel?

HARRY

Mostly sight seeing. Looking at historical places. The usual tourist-y stuff.

NOAH

Yes, but you're not on my list.

LUCILLE

Well, your list must be wrong then.

NOAH

But I got this list from...

LUCILLE

Hurry, it's really starting to rain hard and I don't like getting wet.

NOAH

But you have webbed feet.

HARRY

Yeah. They're perfect for walking on icebergs, what about them?

NOAH

Oh. What's an iceberg? (Lightning) All right, Get on board. I'll check into this later. But you better be telling me the truth, or we're all in a lot of trouble. (EXIT)

HARRY

Yes! We made it!

ALL SING

We Made It (Words and Music by
Susan Salidor)

We made it; we made it

We positively made it!

No turning back. No second guess!

Full steam ahead

Hope for the best

Because we really made it!

We made it; we made it!

We absolutely made it!

With minutes left

We climbed aboard

Waved "au revoir"

And thanked the Lord

Because we really made it!

With Noah at the wheel

And all the home-cooked meals
 How bad can forty days and nights be?
 We'll have to wait and see.

We made it; we made it We made it
 - made it - made it - made it- made it!
 We'll miss our friends and family
 But make new friends and family
 Because we really made it -- WE MADE IT!

SCENE TWO.

The interior of the ark. The ark, it seems, is full of small compartments, each with various sized doors. At present, LUCILLE and HARRY are busy looking for a free compartment, opening various doors only to find each compartment occupied. A pair of OXEN, meanwhile, are busy getting organized in their berth, near UPSTAGE CENTER. HARRY carries the heavy overhead bag as well as one of the suitcases. LUCILLE carries the other. CHARLIE the OX I'd say we did all right with these accommodations, don't you think so, Henrietta? HENRIETTA the OX We were wise to book early, Charlie. You pay a little more but....did you see what the pigeons got? They're all cooped up. And the mint on the pillows, I like that touch.

CHARLIE THE OX
 Now there's something you don't see every day.

HENRIETTA
 What? Where?

CHARLIE
 Walking up the gang plank. Don't stare, Henrietta!

HENRIETTA THE OX

Any idea as to why they might be dressed that way?

CHARLIE

Whispers) Just a couple of odd ducks, I guess. (Lights switch to Harry and Lucille

WALKING UP THE GANGPLANK

HARRY

I can't believe he bought the Xtraneous Bird bit.

LUCILLE

What could he say? It was starting to rain. Now, let's hurry and find a berth. I've heard the best rooms are near the top of the deck. Hurry, Harry, find something. Preferably something with a view.

HARRY

(Trying one of the upper compartments - A squawk comes from the compartment) Oh, pardon me. (Tries another to a howl) Pardon me. (Tries another - to a hiss, and a snakes, tongue. He is taken aback. He opens up the mouse door to hear the couple yelling at each other) Oo-kay!(After having tried all of the compartments at the top) Lucille, I think we're going to have to settle for second class. There doesn't seem to be...

LUCILLE

You had to check the stove! Couldn't trust me!.

HARRY

I'm sorry. My bad. (Continues to methodically, in an orderly manner, open door after door, only to have various animal sounds greet him each time he opens a compartment. NOTE: The same actor, using masks, is behind each door, and even as this becomes evident to the adults in the audience, HARRY soon seems, in his way, to understand this. HARRY then tries to trick the "actor" behind the door, by knocking on one door but opening a different one, unrelated, instead. He never successfully outwits the actor, however. Finally, HARRY has looked at all of the compartments.)

LUCILLE

Come on, Harry, find something.

HARRY

That's it. We're dead. Pate'.

LUCILLE

What now?

HARRY

There're no compartments left, Lucille. The whole ark is booked. Solid. Not first class, not second class, not cargo. Now what?

LUCILLE

Oh, come on. There's got to be something. (She checks a number of doors and is equally rebuffed by various animals.)

HARRY

Geez, I think I see Noah coming! (Panicking) What are we gonna do, Lucille, what are we gonna do? He'll figure us out for sure if he sees there's no place left for us.

LUCILLE

Just calm down and act normal, Harry. Try not to draw attention to yourself.

HARRY

(Running up and down) Try not to draw attention to myself? Look at me, Lucille. I look ridiculous. And you tell me not to draw attention to myself?!!!

LUCILLE

(Grabbing his bill and holding it)

Would you pull yourself together?!

CHARLIE

We should help them, Henrietta.

HENRIETTA

How could Noah have overbooked!

CHARLIE

I don't think he did, Henrietta, I don't think he did. But, they need our help, and we've got the room. Ahem. Excuse me!

HARRY

(Looking around and then pointing at himself and his wife) Who? Us?

HENRIETTA

Yes, you uh...uh...

LUCILLE AND HARRY

Xtraneous birds.

HENRIETTA AND CHARLIE

(Looking at each other with a roll of the eyes))

Yes, we can see that. Are you having trouble finding a place on the ark?

HARRY

Yeah, well, we were trying to get here on time and everything, but by the time we got here they were on E and see D comes after E so we're(LUCILLE jabs him in the ribs to get him to be quiet)

LUCILLE

Xtraneous birds. We're very talkative animals. Too talkative. So much so it's almost caused us to be extinct. (GENERAL GROANS from every compartment when the word "extinct" is uttered.) You wouldn't happen to have a teeny-tiny little extra space in your compartment, now would you?

HARRY

If it's too much bother, just say so and we'll push on...

LUCILLE

Quiet, Harry, I'll handle this, thank you very much. We really don't require much room. It would mean a lot to our species if you would.

NOAH

(From off-stage) Everyone ready to go? Water's rising. We're almost ready to shove off.

CHARLIE

Well....we do have extra room if we squeeze a little bit. (All of the animals in the compartments open up and say "I wouldn't if I were you")

HENRIETTA

Come on in. What kind of a bird did you say you were?

HARRY

Duh...

LUCILLE

(Grabbing his beak))

Duh, yourself! Xtraneous birds. Very rare.

HENRIETTA AND CHARLIE

(To HARRY and LUCILLE)

Uh-huh.

(Knowingly, to each other))

Sure.

NOAH

(As HARRY and LUCILLE just
do get in the compartment,
NOAH enters with his
clipboard))

All right. Is everybody ready? (Resounding yes) All right.
Now listen, we've got a long ride ahead of us. First things
first. Did everyone go potty before we left? I've got news
for you. Once we get started there's no stopping. All
right. Now. We've got just enough food to last us, if we
don't over eat. In other words, No pigging out.

PIG

(Popping out from a compartment) I resent that.

NOAH

Sorry. No offense meant. All right. Now. We're also going
to have to learn to get along on this trip. It's going to be
long, but if we stick together we can get there. Even though
I'm not... sure where we're going. But that's a problem for
later. One more item. I just got word that the rabbits had
bunnies! (General applause) All right. Any questions? Yes,
you, the goat.

GOAT

(Sticking his head out of his compartment.) I'm not a goat.
I'm a kid.

NOAH

Oh. Sorry. So what's your question?

GOAT

Are we there yet?

NOAH

Are we there yet? We haven't even started! (Various animals
pop out of their compartments as the song is introduced)

WOLF

I'm hot!

SHEEP

I'm squished!

CAT

Look at all the room he's got!

GIRAFFE

I'm cold!

BEAR

I'm Ark-sick!

CAMEL

I want to sit next to the window.

NOAH

Listen, guys, I don't think you realize what we're attempting to do here. Today was a long day, but it's only the first of forty. My suggestion to everyone is to lay down and get some sleep. (LIGHTS UP on HARRY AND LUCILLE in the OX compartment

HARRY is busy trying to place the carry on luggage into the overhead compartment. It is obvious to all but him that it will not fit. He continues trying

CHARLIE

Can I help you with that?

HARRY

No, I've got it, thanks. (Struggling)

LUCILLE

Come on, Harry, cut the macho act and let him help you.

HARRY

I'm fine. I can handle this myself. (It falls on him)

LUCILLE

Drakes! Can't live with them, can't live without them.

HARRY

(Frustrated, to HENRIETTA and CHARLIE) For some reason, our small carry on luggage doesn't seem to fit in the overhead compartment. Do you have any suggestions as to where I can put it?

HENRIETTA

Well, I should think you could put a blanket on top of it and use it as your bed. (CHARLIE Easily takes carry on and places it in the compartment.)

HARRY

(HAPPILY) Now there's an idea!

LUCILLE

(Reluctantly) I don't suppose it would hurt to try. (Lays down) I'm so tired. Oh, my this feels wonderful and this blanket is so soft and warm.

HENRIETTA

It's down. (LUCILLE and HARRY both look up shocked, then go back to sleep)

LIGHTS, down momentarily as everyone lays down and all animals make sleeping sounds. LIGHTS back up slowly, as if sunrise on the promenade . SOUNDS of ANIMAL snores throughout the ship. CAT enters in aerobic garb with whistle in hand.

CAT

All right, all right! Wake up everybody! Wake up! Rise and shine! Rise and shine! Let's go! Let's go! (Animals moan)

LION

(Entering, sleepily) Yo! Cuz! Do you have any idea what time it is?

CAT

Well, let's see here. (Looks at a non-existent watch on his wrist) Why it's...(BEGINS yelling again) it's.. time to wake up everybody! Rise and shine! Come on! Get out here! Let's go! Let's go! (Various animals groggily hang heads out of compartments while others shuffle on stage yawning.) Everybody get in a line, ready, and one and two and one and two. (Enter NOAH deep in thought looking at a chart, oblivious to the listless exercising going on.) Noah! Just the man I'm looking for. Ready to do some morning exercises?

NOAH

No, I can't. I'm very busy right now.

CAT

Not really setting a good example for the others, are we, Noah? (NOAH reluctantly begins doing jumping jacks with clipboard in hand)

NOAH

(Speaks while doing jumping jacks) I suppose not. Anyway, listen. I'm looking for those Xtraneous birds. You wouldn't happen to have seen them, have you?

CAT

No, no. Can't say that I have. Breathe. Breathe. One and two and one, two.

GOAT

Excuse me, Mr. Noah, sir.

Yes. NOAH

Can I ask you something? ^{GOAT}

NOAH

Sure. Go ahead.

Make it quick. CAT

Are we there yet? GOAT

Are we there yet? No. ^{NOAH} We just started. This is only day 2.

Oh. GOAT

I'm tired.

I'm listless.

KANGAROO
I'm nervous.

CAMEL
I'm thirsty.

I'm hungry.

CAT
Come on, let's burn those calories. Long way to go before
we get ourselves in shape. Long way to go. One and two and
one and two.

All SING ARE WE THERE YET? (fugue)

NOAH

Are we there yet?

How much longer?

Can I take this?

I must be stronger.

Was I dreaming?

Should I be scheming?

Where's my faith now?

I'll just have to wait and see.

(Noah gazes out to sea.)

ALL

Are we there yet?

DOG

Lost at sea!

ALL

How much longer?

DOG

Not one tree!

ALL

Are we sinking?

OX

All is blue!

ALL

What's Noah thinking?

OX

What a lovely, lovely view!

ALL

We must be close now.

DOG

Got a hunch --

ALL

Close to what now?

DOG

What's for brunch?

ALL

It may be clearing.

OX

Bread and punch.

ALL

We'll just have to wait and see.

We'll just have to wait and see.

Note: Cat whistles on neck whistle
right before last line.)

(Note: CAT, DOG, and OX continue and
are joined by NOAH on his original
verse, plus new third part below -- at
this point the song should be quite a
cacophony of notes, words, attitudes,
etc.)

Animal: Thought I saw a tree. Not a
bit of green! Brunch is somewhat lean.
Let's keep the ark clean. Everything's
all right. I think the end's in sight.
(Gazes upward) We've just a few more
nights.

(Some ideas: Pages from a calendar
could be ripped off during song to show
time passing; more of company could
join dog, ox and cat third time through
when third part is introduced.)

LION

(As song ends) Yo! Cuz!

CAT

(Exasperated) Yes, King.

LION

What's say we continue all of this at some later time. Say,
after... (he yells) breakfast!

(The entire menagerie yells "Breakfast!!!!" and scurries off stage, quickly close their cubby holes, etc. CAT is left standing, frustrated, as LIGHTS go UP on HARRY and LUCILLE. They stroll the promenade, wearing dark glasses.)

HARRY

All right, so far so good. Noah doesn't suspect a thing. We're blending right into the menagerie.

LUCILLE

I'm not so sure, Harry. It looked to me like Noah was giving us the look this morning while we were standing in the buffet line.

HARRY

Nah, that's just because I tried to sneak an extra fruit cup. By the way, did you notice how the buffet is getting a little skimpier every day?

LUCILLE

Ah, that's just the way it is with these cruises. They start off serving you great food, and everything is yes, sir and no, ma'am. But by the end it's "keep it moving, buster", and they're practically pushing you down the gang plank.

HARRY

How do you know so much about cruises? I thought this was your first one?

LUCILLE

I had a life before I met you, Harry.

NOAH

(Entering and addressing the assembled animals) All right. All right. Could everyone gather round, please, I'd like to make an announcement.

LUCILLE

Maybe he's found land!

NOAH

As you all know, we've been out to sea now for 28 days, and there's still no land in sight. (General groans) And we've got a little problem, but if we work together we can solve it, I think. Uh, well, the problem is, we're getting a little low on food. (General groans grow louder) Now, now. The way Mrs. Noah and I have it figured, at the current rate, we can last another 10 days. That would take us to day 38.

PIG

Surely we'll hit land by then.

NOAH

Well, you'd think so. The problem is, I was given very specific instructions to bring food for 40 days.

DOG

Told? By whom? (NOAH points to the sky) Oh. (Pause) Ugh - oh!

NOAH

So everyone is going to have to cut down at the buffet line. (General groans) It shouldn't be that hard. Let's just not make (clears his throat) ----- of ourselves. Why, just this morning I saw someone trying to sneak an extra fruit cup and well, that's exactly the kind of thing we can't have. (General grumbling - "An extra fruit cup" "who'd do something like that.")

ELEPHANT

I think I know who took it. (Gazes at FOX who is standing near HARRY and LUCILLE)

FOX

(To HARRY and LUCILLE) I didn't take it.

HARRY

Sure you didn't. I believe you.

NOAH

And one more thing. If I could see the Xtraneous Birds for a minute.

LUCILLE

(Jabbing HARRY in the side- then whispering to HARRY) That's our cue to exit, Harry.

HARRY

But what about Noah, Lucille? He wants to see us about something.

LUCILLE

Keep it moving, Harry. Keep it moving!

NOAH

Yo! You two! Come here!

HARRY

But.. but....

LUCILLE

Do I have to spell it out for you, Harry. P - A - T - E, and that little accent, if he catches us.

NOAH

You, XTRANEIOUS Birds! Stop! (They stop) Why didn't you stop when I asked you to stop the first time?

LUCILLE

What?

NOAH

I said, "Why didn't you stop when I asked you to stop?"

LUCILLE

Well, that's the thing about Xtraneous Birds, we have very small ears. We're kind of hard of hearing.

NOAH

Oh, I didn't know that.

HARRY

(After getting nudged by LUCILLE, he cups his hand to his ear) Say what?

NOAH

(Shouting) I can't find you in any of the books on birds I have on board.

HARRY

Eh?

NOAH

(Louder) I said "I can't find any mention of Xtraneous Birds in any of the books I have on board." ."

LUCILLE

You say you can't find any books and you're bored? Have you been down to the bingo hall?

NOAH

No. No. I'm not sure there is such a thing as an Xtraneous BIRD.

HARRY

What are you talking about? You're looking at two of them right now! What other evidence do you need?

NOAH

And another thing. Weren't your spots on the right side the last time I saw you?

HARRY

Come again?

NOAH

I said, your spots. (Pointing) Weren't they over here last time I saw you?

LUCILLE

(Startled) Oh, yes, well, we must be surrounded by water. Xtraneous Birds change spots when they're surrounded by water. Everyone knows that!

NOAH

They do? Tell me the truth. Have you ever even heard of an Xtraneous Bird?

CHARLIE

Well....

HENRIETTA

They look extraneous to me.

NOAH

Shaking his head) I guess I'd better go back and check my books again. (EXITS

LUCILLE

Whew! That was close. (TO the OXEN) Thanks, you saved us.

HARRY

Yeah, we were almost duck soup. I mean, Extraneous bird soup.

CHARLIE

It's all right. We know you're

LUCILLE

(Cutting him off) very tired. Very, very tired. We've got to get some sleep, don't we Harry?

HARRY

Yes, oh yes. Exhausted. Love to stay up and chat, but we've got to go. Got to go.

(HARRY and LUCILLE EXIT)

HENRIETTA

Strange ducks. Very strange.

SCENE 4

The deck promenade. Some animals pace back and forth shiftlessly, as an animal switches a calendar (or possible scratches on the side of the boat) to indicate that it is day 36 of the trip. Others appear from behind doors of their compartments. LUCILLE and HARRY sneak out on deck, again in dark glasses. HENRIETTA and CHARLIE look on.)

DOG

I'm telling you, we're going around in circles.

HORSE

Yeah, like a chicken with his head cut off.

CHICKEN

(From his compartment, opening her door as she hears the insult -Holding her neck) Please! Besides, we don't do that.

RABBIT

(From compartment) I'm not sure how much more I can take of this. The salad bar is getting awfully thin, awfully thin.

LION

Who cares about the salad? It's the main course that seems awfully thin to me.

RABBIT

What are you looking at? Don't look at me like that!

HORSE

We're never going to get there. Never.

LION

Ah you horses are always nay-sayers!

HORSE

What's that supposed to mean?

LION

Ah forget it, it's an inside joke.

HORSE

I'm sure it's a roar. And why don't you quit your bouncing? You're getting on my last nerve.

KANGAROO

Sorry. (Bouncing more furiously than ever.) Nervous habit, I guess.

MOUSE

What's all the racket?

HORSE

Look who's talking. Mr. Big Mouse or should I say Big Mouth himself. I don't get it either, I thought mice were supposed to be quiet.

MOUSE

Huh?

LION

Sure, haven't you ever heard the expression "Quiet as a mouse?"

MOUSE

No, I haven't.

HORSE

Of course you haven't. Cause you're always so busy talking, you never have time to listen to anybody.

CHARLIE

Come on, guys. We can't be fighting. Otherwise we'll never make it.

MOUSE

(Mimicking Charlie's tone) "Come on, guys. We can't be fighting. Otherwise we'll never make it." Ah, what are we listening to him for, He's an Ox. And you know what they say about Oxen.

ALL ANIMALS, INCLUDING THOSE
IN COMPARTMENTS

Dumb as an Ox!!!!

HENRIETTA

Well, you know "they" could be wrong.

LION

How would you know?

OX

Now wait a minute. (song)

ALL SING
(Along came Noah)

OX

When I was young

I was strong and smart

The smartest in my herd

Even the elders would seek my advice

I'd listen; they knew they'd be heard
(Double-take to FOX and
MOUSE

But then came a man

With a yoke and a plan
I was ripped from family and home
My life was now harnessed
To work and no play
I was broken, and I was alone.
Then along came Noah and how my life changed
He knew I was strong, I was smart
In spite of my looks and my bulk and my girth
I can think with my mind and my heart.

FOX
Hey, that sounds like my story!

FOX
I was born in a den that my father built
With my sisters and brothers and mom
I was sweet, I was kind,
And my fur was real thick
And as red as the setting sun.
But then came the hunters with horses and guns
And I ran from my family home
They forced me to live by my wits and my luck
I was sad and I was alone.
Then along came Noah
And how my life changed
He knew I was sweet, I was kind
In spite of my looks and sleek red fur
There are no tricks in my heart and my mind.

MOUSE
I was one of twelve when I was born

The smallest in our nest
 Food was scarce so I left home
 I was little but I knew best.
 I wondered for days, then weeks, then months
 Far from my family and home
 A person would throw me a crumb time to time
 But mostly I rambled and roamed.
 Then along came Noah and how my life changed
 I've new family and friends on this rig
 In spite of my looks and my miniature size
 I've got plans and a heart that are big.

NOAH

Good morning everyone! Is everybody happy? (General grumbling and dissent) What's wrong? Did some of you get up on the wrong side of the ark this morning? Look, I know it's been a long trip, but I'm sure we're almost there.

DOG

What makes you so sure?

NOAH

Well, for one thing, we're running out of food. (General horror) Well, not running out actually. Just a little low. Anyway, I know (pointing upwards) Wouldn't send us on a trip and not provide us with enough food.

DOG

You've got a lot of faith in someone you've never seen.
 (Lightning flash and thunderclap)

NOAH

Enough said. All right then. Any other questions? Let's move on. (Spotlight moves to HARRY and LUCILLE who are hiding behind a door watching NOAH and the other animals. THEY are hiding from NOAH.

HARRY

You know what I would do if I was Noah?

LUCILLE

Kick us off the ark?

HARRY

Yeah, that. But you know what else I'd do?

LUCILLE

Tell me, Harry. I'm dying to know. What would you do if you were Noah?

HARRY

I would turn this ark right around and go back to where we started. That's what I would do.

LUCILLE

Oh, that's brilliant, Harry. Real brilliant. Don't you know that where we started from is now under 40 feet of water?

HARRY

It is?

LUCILLE

Hello!!! Harry, it's been raining for 38 days and 38 nights in a row.

HARRY

All right then. Do you know what I would do if I were Noah?

LUCILLE

(Agitated, quickly) What?

HARRY

Give up. Throw in the towel. Quit. Stop trying. Call it finito!

LUCILLE

Well, thank goodness you aren't Noah.

CHARLIE

Do you know what I'd do if I were Noah?

LUCILLE

What would you do, Charlie?

CHARLIE

I'd send out a couple of birds to look for land. Have them fly around and take a look.

HENRIETTA

Right. Then, if they found something, they could come back and tell Noah which way to go. And if they didn't find something, they could fly back to the ark and tell us.

HARRY

Where's he gonna find two birds stupid enough to do that?

NOAH

(Seeing HARRY and LUCILLE) There you are! I need to talk to you.

HARRY

Ugh-oh!

NOAH

I have this idea. Oh, I forgot. (Yells) I have this idea! I want you to fly around and look for land. If you find something, come back and tell me which way to go. And if you don't find something, then you can...

HARRY

-- fly back and tell you. Yeah, yeah.

NOAH

(In a regular tone of voice) Why, yes. That's right.
(Shouts) I mean, that's right.

HARRY

I heard you the first time.

NOAH

(Confused) You did?

LUCILLE

We must be near the equator. Our hearing improves near the equator.

NOAH

Oh. Good. One question. What's the equator?

LUCILLE

Forget it. All right. You want us to do a look- see for you, is that it?

NOAH

If you wouldn't mind.

HARRY

Why us? Why not send the doves, they're not doing anything.

NOAH

Well, I figured since you made it to Israel from the South Pole, you must have incredible flying abilities.

HARRY

Yeah, well, you heard wrong. I say you ask the doves or the pigeons. I saw a couple of ducks just waddling around, why not ask them?

LUCILLE

Harry?! Come on. We've eaten the man's food. The least we can do is take a fly around. Who knows? Maybe we'll find land.

HARRY

Maybe we'll get lost! It's a big ocean out there, Lucille. This little ark is gonna be real tough to find once we get out there.

LUCILLE

Harry, are you a man or a mouse!

MOUSE

(Appears) Hey! Who you calling a mouse? You want to fight? I'll fight you. I may be small, but I got a punch that'll knock you flat. Come on! Come on!

LUCILLE

Sor-ry. Geez. A bunch of animals around here.

NOAH

So is it a deal? Will you do it?

LUCILLE

Harry?

HARRY

All right, all right. Let me get the travelers checks.

LUCILLE

Don't start, Harry. If we're going to do this, we've got to get going. Now.

HARRY

Just let me check the...

CHARLIE

The stove is off, Harry. I've already checked.

HARRY

Well, I should....

CHARLIE

Good luck, Harry. Good luck, Lucille.

HENRIETTA

Yes, good luck. We'll take care of your things until you get back.

HARRY

If we get back.

LUCILLE

Harry!!! We'll see you all in a couple of days.

SCENE 5: The ark promenade day 39 and 1/2.

DOG

All right, that's it. I'm tired of this. I'm as patient as the next dog, but there comes a time when you gotta face facts. I give up! Noah gave it a shot, but the job was too big for him. We'll never find land.

LION

Yeah, me too. This ark living is for the birds. (Bird compartments fly open and general chirping) Sorry. I didn't mean it like that, but you know what I mean. 40 days and 40 nights in an ark can make anyone stir crazy. And look at this place. It's a pig st... (catching himself) it's a mess everywhere you step.

KANGAROO

It's got me hopping.

PIG

(With a clothes pin on his nose) Not to mention the smell.

LION

Yeah, and the buffet is getting awfully thin. (Staring at the MOUSE) Awfully thin.

MOUSE

Don't look at me. How much do you think I eat? I'm just a mouse! (LION is still staring at him, almost drooling) What???? (Realizing the LION's intent) Don't even think about it!!!!

LION

(Intimidated) All right, all right.

CAT

Is everybody ready to get energized!

ALL

No!

NOAH

Hey, everybody, the rabbits had bunnies!

LION

Oh, geez, that's just great. (general grumbling)

HORSE

All right, that's it. That's the last straw!

CHARLIE

Guys, guys, Don't give up.

HORSE

No, I mean it, that's the last straw. (Holds up a piece of straw) We've eaten all of the others.

CHARLIE

Any sign of them?

HENRIETTA

No.

CHARLIE

It's a big ocean out there.

HENRIETTA

Maybe too big.

CHARLIE

I hope not.

NOAH

I'm afraid there's still no sign of land or the Xtraneous birds. I think it's time we sent out two more scouts. We need two birds to volunteer. (Bird compartments in the background slam tight as NOAH says this. TWO DOVES walk on stage - CHARLIE whispers in NOAH's ear, NOAH responds) An excellent idea. I need everyone to come out and help me send these two lovely birds off.

ALL SING

A Song For The Dove Words & Music
by Susan Salidor) (3/4 time,
like the rocking of a ship)

As you fly from the hold of our hope-laden ship

Toward the light of the new morning's sun

Our spirits are carried upon your white wings

And our thoughts are converged into one

And we sail this new sea on a wing and a prayer

As we enter the [forty first] day

Our number still grows,

But our faith starts to slow

And we ask that you show us the way.

Return with the promise of spring
 Return with the promise of peace
 Return with a bit of the grass and the dew
 And know all of our hopes are with you.
 As the sun reaches high in the bright noonday sky
 And the sea rocks and keeps us afloat
 We're tired but we're thankful for friends that we've made
 In the weeks that we've been on this boat.

And we watch with new eyes for a sign of the time
 When despair won't cloud our view
 Our lives are on hold and our futures untold
 For tomorrow depends all on you.
 Return with the promise of spring
 Return with the promise of peace
 Return with a bit of the grass and the dew
 And know all of our hopes are with you.
 (During song, Noah sends two
 doves on strings out to
 audience or into wings)

HENRIETTA

Wait! I see something! It's... It's... the doves!

DOVE

Noah, look! (DOVES enter holding a green twig)

NOAH

Yes! Where? How? Thank God!

COW

(Sheepishly, hungrily) Noah, could I have that? (He gives her the green grass which she eats voraciously)

LAST SCENE: Ark pulling up to the
 shoreline of the new land. All of
 the animals on deck, as well as
 Noah.

All animals are ecstatic, with the exception of CHARLIE and HENRIETTA.

OWL

(FROM her compartment) Whooood have thought it?

HORSE

We made it! (Reprise music to "We Made it!" begins under dialogue) Land! We found land!

DOG

I knew we'd make it! Noah, you're a genius! (Wrapping his arms around him) I'll never doubt you again. If anyone asks, let 'em know, I'm your best friend. I'm with you all the way, Noah.

NOAH

All right, we're going to disembark alphabetically. We'll begin with (all rush off simultaneously to the front of the stage) ...Or that'll work, too, I suppose. (ELEPHANT again drops purse)

FOX

You dropped this. (FOX picks purse up and returns it.) Really, you did.

ELEPHANT

(Brief, stern look, then a broad smile) I know I did. Thanks.

LION

(To the Kangaroos) Hey, we're on land. No need to be nervous any more. You can stop your bouncing.

KANGAROO

Kind of enjoy it, mate. Goodday!

DOG

(To the mice) You two seem awfully quiet.

MOUSE

Nothing like a cruise to iron out a few family problems, eh, Delores?

MOUSE #2

You've got the cutest little ears, Arnie. I love it when you use them.

CHARLIE

Too bad HARRY and LUCILLE aren't here to see this.

HENRIETTA

Yeah, that's sad. I'm going to miss those strange ducks.
(ENTER HARRY and LUCILLE with Hawaiian Leis with tourist-y looking- mini umbrella filled cocktails in hand. They are pulling a cart full of rainbow sherbet with them. They are also stripped of any Xtraneous bird costume they previously had worn)

LUCILLE

Welcome, strangers, to paradise.

HARRY

Where the ark have you been? We've been waiting for you for days.

HENRIETTA

Well, Charlie, would you look at that.

CHARLIE

Harry! Lucille! You made it!

HARRY

Thanks to you, my friends, we all made it.

CAT

All right everybody! Line it up! Line it up! Just because we made land, doesn't mean we shouldn't stay in shape. Ready? One, two! One, two.

LION

Yo cuz! What do you say we worry about that after dessert? Is that rainbow sherbet?

HARRY

Yes.

LION

Nice touch.

CAT

That's it, I quit. From now on, I'm laying around and getting lazy and disgusting like the rest of you. (Animals give general applause)

HARRY

(As NOAH walks down the gang plank, while LUCILLE and HENRIETTA get reacquainted) Noah, you old salt! How are you?

NOAH

Do I know you?

HARRY

It's me, Harr... Ugh.. Forget it.

LUCILLE

Hi, Noah.

NOAH

Oh, hello.

LUCILLE

You know, I never did get a chance to meet your wife. Is she on board or has she gotten off?

NOAH

No, she's still on board.

LUCILLE

I'd love to finally meet her.

NOAH

She's in there. Look for her at the bow.*

LUCILLE

Oh, thanks, I will.

HARRY

Lucille, did you remember to check the stove?

LUCILLE

Harry!

NOAH

Both of you look so familiar, but I can't quite put my finger on it.

HARRY

Let it go, Noah. The important thing is we made it.

NOAH

Yes we did. Together! By helping each other. We made it!

ALL

(Reprise "We Made it!")

We Made It

We made it; we made it!

We positively made it!

No turning back.

No second guess

Full steam ahead

Hope for the best

Because we really made it!
We made it; we made it! We absolutely made it!
With minutes left
We climbed aboard
Waved "au revoir"
And thanked the Lord
Because we really made it!
With Noah at the wheel
And all the home-cooked meals
We sailed for forty days and nights
And now it's time to eat.
We made it; we made it
We made it - made it - made it - made it- made it!
We'll miss our friends and family
But make new friends and family
Because we really made it -- WE MADE IT!

THE END

* Author suggests MRS. NOAH waves from the bow of the ship at the curtain call, after all other characters have received their applause.

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