

**GENESIS- APLAY FOR 5 ACTORS (2 WOMEN AND THREE MEN)
and A MUSICIAN**

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FROM AN IDEA FROM HEIKE KOSSMANN

ACT I

Scene I - Before the Beginning

In the darkness we see only a burning cigar.

Director- I'm still waiting.

As the light slowly increases we see the director sitting in the dim shadows. In back of him is a dark screen. His stage manager, Rosey is kneeling at his side. She holds a script on a clip board.

Director- Right now all I can see is darkness.

He takes a puff of his cigar and tries to wait patiently. Rosey looks nervously up to the lighting room.

Director-Do you think before all this begins, we could please get a little light? I can just about make out my cigar.

Rosey-They're working on it, sir.

Director-Rosey, will you go on bended knee to our noble lighting technicians and beg them for a little illumination, if they are not otherwise occupied.

Rosey-Sure, sir!

Director- Thank you dear. . You are indeed an angel.

Rosey goes off in the dark. She then stumbles over something in the dark

Rosey- *Umphh!*

Director-Mind the cables.

Rosey-Gotcha!

Director-And they ask why theatre directors take to drink.

The director takes another puff. He looks at his watch. The director addresses the technicians above.

Director- I've asked very nicely, even said please and now I am going to start shouting, union rules or not. Rosey, where are the damned lights?

The lights come on.

Director- Finally!

The back screen reveals from what was once a shadow, the silhouettes of the five actors. The screen rises. Enter two actresses. They play a short scene before the director.

Actress One- What do you mean the price of apples is rising?

Actress Two- Two dollars a pound! Would you believe it!

Actress One-An apple a day keeps the doctor away. We can't even afford one apple a day! And health care is unaffordable.

Actress Two- I don't even serve applesauce anymore.

Actress One- No more apple pie. What's the country coming to? Just God and your mother and no apple pie.

Actress Two-No more apple of my eye.

Actress One-No more apple strudel.

Actress Two-No more apple cider when you sit down beside her.

Actress One-or apple wine with your sweet valentine.

Director-Not bad!

The director nods. The actresses go out. Enter the musician. He rushes because he knows he is late.

Director-You're late.

Musician- I had to wait forever for the bus, then the traffic....

Director-This all sounds vaguely familiar.

Musician- No, this time it really happened.

Director-Ok, for this one last time.

Musician-Thank you, sir, thank you.

The musician takes his place behind his instruments. Enter a comedian.

Comedian- I got a great trick here I know you're going to love.

Director-Show me.

The comedian pulls a flower out of a cloth.

Comedian- A miracle, a miracle!

Director-Not bad!

Comedian-I can also make water flow out from a rock. But I forgot my rock.
Shucks!

The comedian is frantically pulling rings, handkerchieves and bunny rabbits out of his jacket.

Director-That won't be necessary, not just yet.

Comedian-You mean I got the job?

The director nods his head yes.

Director-Let's just say there is a soft place in my heart for miracles workers. You get the job.

Comedian-Thanks a million, sir.

The comedian goes happily off and the screen comes down again.

Director- And now some special effects, please. Nothing too CGI! And try not to scare the technicians.

The actors make shadow animals on the screen. Music.

Director-It's coming. Not too bad for the first try.

Screen goes up.

Director-Actors take your positions, please.

Rosey-Garden of Paradise scene. Actors take your positions. Tree! Snake!
Adam ! Eve!

Exit Rosey. The actors enter the stage babbling into gibberish to each other and make a still tableau of the Garden of Paradise. The Director gets up and blows smoke on the tree and all comes magically to life. Music. The director exits with his chair.

Scene II- Paradise

We see an actor playing a tree and on one side of the tree stands Eve and on the other Adam. Adam and Eve speak a strange paradisaical language that only they can understand. Eve speaks especially sweetly. Hand an hand they name all they see. Actors can play animals and are given strange names. A bird files by

Eve- Knooflewink

Adam-Ah, Knooflewink!

An elephant crosses

Eve-Longfattinoserous

Adam-Longfattinoserous!

A butterfly flies by.

Adam-A flitterflatterous!

Eve- Ah yes, a flying flitterflaterous

Eve follows the butterfly over to the tree. There she sees a snake.

Snake-SSSSSSSSS!

Eve- Slither-slimey-slang-slang!

Snake- What ever.

The snake holds in its jaws a delicious red apple.

Eve-Melanzipple!

Snake- What ever. Melanzipple. Delicccccccious and red.

The snake holds the apple seductively before Eve temptingly. Eve is just about to eat the apple. Music.

Adam- Eve, no!

Eve eats the apple. Snake is very happy.

Director - We need more sensuality.

Eve answers with a mouth full of apple

Eve- Coming right up.

Director- Try again.

Eve tries to eat the apple more sensually.

Eve- Mmmmmmm!

Director-No dear, that's not it. There's a big difference between sensuality and sexuality

Eve-Sorry.

Eve bites into the apple one more time and then gives the apple to Adam. He takes a healthy bite.

Adam-That sure tastes good!

We hear thunder. Adam and Eve notice their own nakedness and try to cloth themselves with leaves from the tree.

Rosey- That's the last apple on set, sir

Director- What do you mean that's the last apple on set?

Rosey- I bought more but the actors keep eating them between the scenes.

Director-You may go!

Rosey-There are apple cores all over back stage. Smells awful.

Rosey exits.

Director- Let's move to the next scene. Yes, you two get out of paradise, you too, snake

Tree- And me, sir?

Director-Yes, you too. Your bark is worse than the snakes bite.

Tree- Was that a joke?

Director-Rosey, dear. give them their next texts, will you please.

Rosey gives them all a piece of paper. The actors read their scripts and act out their short illustrations

ActorTwo- Now we have to work all day

Actress Two- Now we have to have babies.

Actress One - And now it is going to really hurt!

Scene Three- East of Eden

Music. Adam uses Eve as an ox to plow his field. She sings a work song. Eve plants the seeds.

Eve- Soy!

Adam- Soy!

Healthy green plants rise up. Every time Eve turns around her belly is bigger

Eve- Sangsoy!

Adam- Sangsoy! Sangsoy! Sangsoy!

Adam and Eve begin to harvest. Eve is faint. She points to her belly and smiles at Adam.

Eve- Benschui eng nanatu.

Adam- Nanatu?

Eve-Eng nanatu.

Adam- Nanatu! Eve nanatu!

Adam does cartwheels of happiness while the labor pains begin with Eve.

Director- Rosey, can you read the text, darling?

As the children appear they will first roll out between Eve's legs. This will be a fast cartoon like scene.

Rosey- Adam and Eve gave birth to Cain who was the first bad seed.

Cain rolls out.

Rosey- Then they gave birth to Abel, who was very gentle.

Abel rolls out with a yellow rubber duck. He strokes his duck gently. Cain looks at the duck with killer eyes.

Rosey- Cain killed Abel. This was the first murder in history and stole his duck.

Cain strangles Abel and steals his duck. Abel rolls off

Rosey- Cain was the father of Enoch.

His whole family joins him and begins to sing Happy Birthday.

Rosey-Enoch murdered his whole family

Enoch murders his family and they roll off

Rosey-Then Enoch begat Nochnoch who murdered his whole village and hammered the heads of babies against stones and the rivers ran red with blood.

Enter villagers. Nochnoch kills Enoch and then the rest of the village. As he is hammering the heads of babies against stone. This can be done with dolls. It is just a general slaughter now. It can be worse than a Saw movie.

Rosey- It kept getting worse and worse. God was unhappy with his creation and decided to start again. He decided to drown the earth and all the evil humans he had made.

Enter Noah

Noah- All except one. I am good, very good, actually. I will build an ark

He makes a little paper boat out of his script.

Noah-and take animals two by two every living creature except dinosaurs and woolly mammoths

The actors give him double cut out animals which he folds up into his little boat.

Director -Could we have some rain and thunder, please? Keep going Rosey, you're doing fine, dear, fine.

Rosey-And it rained 40 days..

Three actors open up umbrellas as a blue cloth slowly rises.

Rosey- And it rained 40 nights.

They climb on one another. Eventually they are drowned. The cloth falls over them.

Rosey-Until all those sinners were eating seaweed for supper or being eaten themselves by crabs or hungry eels were swimming up their evil noses or shrimps slivered up their...

Director- No improvising!

Rosey- Sorry.

One actor holds a little boat. It lands on the blue clump of actors under the cloth.

Rosey- And there appeared a rainbow.

A rainbow flag falls on Rosey from above.

Director- Rosey, I don't mean to be petty, but I'm not sure that a homosexual flag is quite right for the divine rainbow. It seems to me, it brings a political meaning to our story that the ancient Hebrews never intended.

Rosey- Sorry, sir, but it was the cheapest colored cloth I could get. It was half price after Christopher Street Day.

Director-C.S.D.! Lord!

She starts to cry.

Rosey-It was the best I could do for the money I had.

She wipes her tears on the flag

Director-I know we are working on a rather limited budget, but still there are conservative members in our audience who might think..

Actor from under the blue cloth- Who cares what they think!

Rosey battles her tears.

Rosey-And so God promised he would never destroy the earth with water again.

The director tries to console Rosey. Flattery may just do the trick.

Director-That was excellent, Rosey. Perfect diction. Quite moving. I am sincerely thinking of giving you an acting role in our next production.

Rosey-Really? I know I am ready.

Director- Am I not a man of my word, Rosey? Let's move on.

Rosey- All actors for the Tower of Babel scene!

Scene IV-Babel

