

Moses and the great escape.

Drama 1: A Hebrew Son.

Characters

Miriam: Moses sister.

Mum: Moses mother (voice off stage)

Loot: Army commander.

Boot: A soldier.

Princess: Pharaoh's daughter.

Bow: the Princess's maid.

Scrape: the Princess's Maid.

Scene: The house is on the upper part of the stage. The lower step is the river bank with bulrushes etc on it)

Miriam enters from the house)

Mir: Oh it's all so exciting, so exciting. I just want to shout and scream and jump in the air and tell everyone what has happened. You see, my Mum has just had a baby, a little tiny baby. I've been all on my own for all these years and now I've got a brother. Just what I always wanted. Someone to grow up with, someone to play with. Oh it's all just too exciting!!!! (Jumps around and squeals excitedly)

Mum: (off stage) Miriam will you stop it. You know what I've told you. Someone might start asking questions if you behave like that!

Mir: Oh yes Mum, sorry Mum, I ... errr... almost forgot. (to audience) Trouble is we can't get too excited. You see we are a Hebrew family and we live in Egypt, but the King of Egypt, the er... Pharaoh, doesn't like us Hebrews. In fact he doesn't like us so much that he makes us work as slaves making bricks for his pyramids and cities and things. And just to be really really spiteful he has ordered all of his soldiers to take away all of our baby boys, and when they're taken away we never see them again. So you see it's really really important that no soldiers find my little brother because if they do he'll be taken away as well.

Mum: Miriam, come here I need your help.

Mir: Coming Mum. (to audience), I know, maybe you could help me. I've got to go and help Mum now, but if you hear or see any soldiers around, you could shout something to warn me, errr what could it be errr... I know, shout "bicycle clips" all right, as loud as you can. Now don't forget all right, Bicycle Clips, OK?

Mum: Miriam!

Mir: Coming Mum.

(Miriam goes into the house)

(Sound effect of marching feet, enter Loot and Boot from stage left)

Audience begin to shout "Bicycle clips"

Loot: What the? What the? What the blazes is going on here? That's enough noise from you horrible lot. What were you shouting anyway?

Aud: Bicycle clips.

Loot: Well I don't know, what a stupid thing to shout, don't you think so Boot?
Boot: Oh yes commander, yes commander, very stupid, very stupid.
Loot: Just typical of this part of town eh? I mean all these Hebrews, look at them, they're all a bit(sniffs) Hang on a bit boot, (sniffs again), can you smell something?
Boot: (sniffs) Err... (sniffs) errr (goes close to Loot and sniffs) Phore! Yuck! Oh yes I can, Your armpits, they're disgusting.
Loot: You watch it Boot. I could have you done for that. Company rule sixteen, sub section 2: Personal insults directed at an officer are punishable by death!
Boot: (falls to knees) Err.... sorry commander, sorry sir, sorry your majesty!
Loot: Oh get up you snivelling little worm, get up and sniff properly.
Boot: (gets up and sniffs again)
Loot: Can you smell it?
Boot: (takes very deep and long sniff and looks puzzled)
Loot: Well?
Boot: (shrugs shoulders).
Loot: Fee fi fo fumb, I smell the smell of a Hebrew Son!

(Enter Miriam from house)

Mir: (Nervously) Err... Good morning Gentlemen. Can I help you at all?
Loot: (to Boot) Ah, a Hebrew woman, ummm, and where there's a Hebrew woman there's usually a Hebrew baby. (to Miriam) Ah yes girl you can help us. You can help us by telling us where the baby is.
Mir: Ba... ba... baby. I er... don't know what you mean. There's no baby here. Just me. I'm the only child. There's no one else at all.
Loot: Oh really! Well we don't believe you little girl, do we Boot.
Boot: Err no Commander. No, we don't believe her at all.
Loot: You see girl, we can smell him, we know he's here and it's just a matter of time before we find him. It's no use pretending, no use hiding him, we will find him, so you might as well hand him over now!
Mir: I don't know what you mean, as I said there is no baby here.
Loot: Oh well, have it your own way, but we'll be back later with a hundred soldiers and then we'll turn every house in this grotty little street inside out! Come on Boot, let's not waste any more time!

(Both exit stage left to sound effect of marching)

Loot & Boot: Fee Fi Fo Fumb, we smell the smell of a Hebrew Son!

Mir: Oh no, Oh no, what shall I do? They'll find him and take him away and (starts to sob)

(Princess with Bow and Scrape enter stage left, walking across the stage. Bow and Scrape lagging behind)

Prin: (Posh and stroppy) Oh do come on you two. Stop dawdling and keep up. I need to wash and get back to the palace for the grand royal reception. You know how much my father Pharaoh hates us being late!

Bow: Cor luvvers, she's in a right royal strop this morning isn't' she Scrape.

Scrap: You're not kidding Bow, you're not kidding. The mood she's in she could look a hungry lion straight in the eye and he'd drop dead from fear!

Prin: Stop muttering there, stop muttering, and fetch me my bathing things.

Bow: Oh yes Marm, sorry Marm, (under breath) three bags full marm.

Prin: Now come and help me, both of you. I must look my best this evening, my very very best.

(They exit stage right)

Mir: You know there is only one person who could save my baby brother, and that is her, the Princess. Pharaoh does anything she asks, if she wanted him to be safe then no soldier would ever dare harm him. But how, how could I get the princess to want to save my baby brother? ... (Thinks) Well you know there's only one thing I can think of, but it's a very long shot and quite dangerous. But it's the only thing I can do.

Miriam goes back into the house and comes out with a basket and a baby)

Mir: I'll put him in the basket and then float it out among the bulrushes where the Princess has her bath. If she finds him she may fall in love with him and want to keep him herself. It's all I can do.

Miriam puts baby in basket and puts it amongst the bulrushes on lower step. Then stands back)

(Prin, Bow and Scrape enter from stage right)

Prin: Ah this is just right, just right. I'll bathe here amongst the bulrushes. Get my towel ready please.

Bow: Oh yes Marm.

Prin: I'll just test the water first. (Puts toe in the water and pulls out quickly) Oh its a bit.. Just a minute, what's that, over there in the water?

(Bow and Scrape both peer)

Bow: I can't see anything Marm.

Scrap: Not a thing Marm.

Bow: Why not get on with your bath Marm, then you will be ready for tonight.

Prin: But there's definitely something there. Over there amongst the Bulrushes. One of you wade out and see what it is.

Bow: (to Scrape) you'll have to do it, I've just had my nails done.

Scrap: (to Bow) Not likely, I've just had my hair done and I don't want it splashed.

Prin: (angrily), Oh stop arguing and both get in the water and get it for me now!

(Sound effect of large splash as Bow and Scrape jump in and retrieve the basket)

Bow: It's a basket Marm.

Scrap: a wicker basket Marm.

Bow: It's got err... a few blankets in it, Marm.

Scrap: and a neat little pillow Marm.

Bow: and, Oh yes, a baby Marm.

Prin: A baby, a baby, let me see.

Bow: Err.... It's a Hebrew baby Marm.

Prin: (Looking at Baby) But it's a very beautiful baby isn't it, a very very beautiful baby. Maybe I could keep it.

Bow: No Marm, you couldn't

Prin: Of course I can, I'm the princess, I can do anything I like.

Bow: But if you keep it Marm, who will look after it?

Scrap: It'll be us won't it.

Bow: We'll have the sleepless nights.

Scrap: We'll have to change the smelly nappies,

Bow: Clean up the sick,

Scrap: Nurse it when it's sick.

Prin: (now holding baby) But it is a very very very beautiful baby.

Mir: (rushing up to princess) If you want to keep the baby Princess I can find someone to take care of it for you. They could look after it until it was say, 10 or so, and then bring it to you at the royal palace.

Prin: What an excellent idea. Take the baby, (hands it to Miriam) and bring it to me in 10 years time.

Mir: We'll take good care of him your Highness. But you will have to make a special decree to stop the soldiers coming to take him away.

Prin: Of course, of course. (Looks at Bow and Scrape) Paper and pen please.

(Bow and Scrape take this from a bag and hand to her)

Prin: (Writing and speaking) To whom it may concern, This baby is under royal protection and must not be harmed under any circumstances. Signed H R H, the princess. (hands to Miriam). That should do. Now I'll see you in 10 years, all right.

(Prin, Bow and Scrape exit with Prin in front)

Prin: Oh do get a move on you two. Quite honestly I don't know why I bother with you.

Mir: He's safe! He's safe! No one can harm him now!

(She goes into the house)

(Sound effect of marching. Enter Loot and Boot from stage left)

Aud: Bicycle clips!

Miriam enters from house holding Baby)

Loot: Ah, caught you red handed this time. Hand that baby over to me right now.

Mir: No!

Loot: No! No! You say no to a commander in Pharaoh's army! We have ways of dealing with people like you, don't we Boot.

Boot: (kicking his boots together) Oh yes Loot we do, we have ways, very effective ways.

Loot: So come on little girl, hand that baby over!

Mir: No! You can't have him because he is a royal baby.

Loot: A royal baby? Did you hear that Boot, a royal baby. Ha ha! You could get a good job as a stand up comic little missy. Now hand him over.

Mir: No! Look at this. (hands note)

Boot: (reading), To whom it may concern, This baby is under royal protection and must not be harmed under any circumstances. Signed H R H, the princess. Cor.... she's right Boot, she's right. This is signed by the princess herself.

Loot: But ...

Mir: But nothing you two. I think you better get off before I tell the Princess that you have been frightening her baby, and then of course she might tell Pharaoh, and then well who knows what will happen.

Boot: (Nervously), Oh err, yes... yes missy... err... thank you missy, thank you. (to Boot) Come on Boot lets scarper before we get into any more trouble.

(They exit to accelerated sound effect of marching)

Miriam: (entering the house) Hey Mum, Mum, you'll never guess what just happened.