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Family Plays

The background of the cover features a stylized illustration. On the left, the wooden structure of Noah's Ark is visible, with a man (Noah) standing on the deck, wearing a green robe and a red turban, and waving his right hand. In the upper right corner, a white dove is shown in flight, carrying an olive branch in its beak. The sky is a light blue, and the water is depicted with stylized, layered waves in shades of blue and grey. The overall style is simple and illustrative.

Noah and the Great Auk

*By
Bix L. Doughty*

*Costume and make-up designs by
Ruth Ann Doughty*

Noah and the Great Auk

Drama/comedy. By Bix L. Doughty. Costume and make-up designs by Ruth Ann Doughty. Cast: 1m., 5 either gender. The book includes the fanciful costume and make-up designs of artist Ruth Ann Doughty—and the details of execution which launched the widely acclaimed original production. This play makes a contemporary theatre of Noah, dealing with endangered species, and every child in each of us, working both drama and comedy out of universal material. On an earth that is an ark, and a present which is the past, we ship aboard Noah's original ark in search of survival. Here there is an auk, shielding her solitary egg for the future. Amid many animals, we meet a ewe, a bear, a lion and a villainous hyena. The wise little auk makes an alliance with Noah on behalf of everyone. In a shipboard mutiny inspired by the hyena, the auk loses her own life to save Noah and mankind. Under a rainbow, the survivors—and a guarded auk egg debark onto a fragile world and an uncertain future which is the present. An American play of humor and danger, *Noah and the Great Auk* is worthy of comparison with *Reynard the Fox* of Europe. *One set. Costume plot included for Noah and animals. Approximate running time: 50 minutes. Code: N67.*

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Noah and the Great Auk

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By

BIX L. DOUGHTY

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311 Washington St., Woodstock, IL 60098

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(NOAH AND THE GREAT AUK)

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“On this planet earth, this ark on which we live, you and I and all the other animals around us, we are all that are left of a world we will never know. So let us be careful as we go and hope that we all will survive forever.”

—Bix L. Doughty

This play is dedicated to Charles L. Doughty, a man who colored the lives of millions of youngsters with exciting theatre, and a man who helped actors grow; and to Ruth Ann Doughty who was so dedicated to both the man and his work.

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NOAH AND THE GREAT AUK

By: Bix L. Doughty

This play is dedicated to Charles L. Doughty, a man who has colored the lives of millions of youngsters with exciting theatre, and a man who helped actors grow; and to Ruth Ann Doughty who was so dedicated to both man and his work.

THE ORIGINAL CAST

In Order of Appearance:

THE GREAT AUK:	Terry Browning
THE BEAR:	Morgan Williams
THE LION:	Eric Price
THE EWE:	Patricia Landon
THE HYENA	Rob Zapple
NOAH:	John F. Dance

Directed By: Charles E. Helms
Production Stage Mgr: D. Wayne Hughes

My thanks to all, especially my wife, Linda who kept me going, put up with my moods, and gave up many weekends to do my typing.

THE ATLANTA JOURNAL AND CONSTITUTION

February 27, 1977

THEATER HERE

'NOAH, AUK' COMEDY-PLUS

By BARBARA THOMAS

Journal Amusements Editor

Bix Doughty has a notion that children are really entertained by two things—the sea and animals.

The only concept he could come across that would combine the two in a children's play was "Noah and the Auk." Not finding anything particularly original about that, he chanced upon a concept of endangered species and named the play, his first work, "Noah and the Great Auk."

Doughty, company manager of Atlanta Children's Theater, will see his children's play staged there beginning March 9, with Charly Helms directing. Some 60,000 children are expected to see the production during its run.

Bix Doughty, son of Chuck Doughty, director of ACT, said he wants the play to create an awareness on the part of children of endangered species.

When during his research for the play, he sent off for government pamphlets on wildlife and animals in danger of becoming extinct. There, on the first page of the endangered birds, was the Great Auk, one of 12 species of birds to disappear totally from America over the past 200 years.

The Great Auk turns out to be the hero of the piece, says Doughty, because he saves Noah and his family from a mutiny attempt instigated by a greedy hyena.

"I've tried to write in such a way so that kids will leave the theater wondering what happened to the Auk. The show is really a black comedy, but the kids don't know that. There's plenty of slapstick and comedy situations but I've tried in each to convey an important idea."

Doughty thinks the play is a departure from much of what is offered as children's theater. "I haven't written any morals or answers. Rather I've tried to find out the problem for themselves."

He said he also has tried to elevate the language of the show, using a combination of Shakespeare's iambic pentameter and Dr. Seuss' lyrical style.

The characters in the play - all passengers on the ark - are now on the U.S. list of Endangered Fauna and are approaching extinction - the lion, the Kodiak bear, a Barbary sheep and a spotted hyena.

Cast members for the production include John Dance, Terry Browning, Eric Price, Rob Zapple, Morgan Williams and Patricia Landon.

The show will play through April 22 in the Alliance Theater with Saturday performances planned for March 12, 19 and 26.

From the North Fulton TODAY, March 9, 1977

Bix Wrote It To Make 'Em Laugh & Think

By BARBARA L. SMITH
Staff Writer

The slender young man with a sensitive face which is framed by a tapered beard moves against the kaleidoscopic background of theater in rehearsal as if he belongs there - and he does.

"I've been a children's theater actor literally all my life and have been a member of Actors Equity for the past ten years," explains 26-year-old Bix Doughty of the Atlanta Children's Theater, who has exchanged his place before the footlights for a new role as playwright.

His original script, "Noah and the Great Auk," is the ACT's newest presentation, opening today at the Memorial Arts Center where it will run for ten performances a week through April 22 and then go on tour.

Although Bix has never taken an official course in playwriting, he has attended one of the most intensive schools of all - "hanging around" his father, Chuck Doughty, whose creative energy as director of ACT since its beginning has been fundamental to its success.

"Chuck has always urged me to write and was really upset that he couldn't direct this show," says his son. The elder Doughty is currently recuperating in the hospital under strict orders to rest from complications arising from the flu.

True to character, he has his room set up as a command post. Already it is known to the company as "Children's Theater North."

"I've only been doing this for three weeks and Chuck's been doing it for 30 years. I can understand why he's there," sighed Bix.

During the three-week rehearsal of the play, Bix has assumed some administrative duties and conferred on direction, costumes, scenery and lightning for the production, which is being directed by Charles Helms. In the "only quiet hours," between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., he's been hammering out the epilogue for "Noah."

"See these!" he laughed, stroking faint circles under his eyes.

Bix has been working on the play for two and one-half years. I'd written some poetry, mostly for my own satisfaction, and started a couple of plays before. But I didn't finish them. I just wasn't satisfied" he says.

I was in the army two and a half years ago and really bored", he went on. "I mean REALLY bored creatively." So Bix signed up for a creative writing course at night and at the same time began searching around for an idea for a play that would be topical and have some educational value.

"I wanted to write something which would be new and stay away from the norms," explained Bix.

It took him three months to come up with a basic idea which satisfied him. He could cast his play with animals which "carry a message well," and ecology would be the theme. His plot would develop from a "What if...?" approach to the story of Noah's Ark, which provides only the setting.

"If the animals on the ark had been really smart, they would have mutinied and gotten rid of man," said Bix, warming his theme.

All the animals in the cast are endangered species, with the exception of the Great Auk, which is already extinct. The flightless birds were clubbed to death by man about 100 years ago for their feathers and meat which was considered a delicacy.

Bix instilled conflict in his story by drawing on the biblical assertion that man did not eat meat before The Flood.

Meat-eating animals on the ark would have gotten upset, he smiled. So in his play they do.

Basically "Noah and the Great Auk" is a tragedy liberally camouflaged with comedy relief. The author's respect for young audiences has grown through his experience in acting before them. He has felt responses.

"Kids are very direct," he says. "I hope I have an understanding of the way they think and understand things. They can be scared or bored with the serious. They are more attentive to comedy and more responsive to ideas given them in a funny way."

Having now done both, Bix is not positive which he likes best, writing or acting. "I think it's writing," he says. "I've seen plays and never gave a thought to the techniques and problems of writing them until I started doing it.

NOAH AND THE GREAT AUK

by

Bix L. Doughty

CHARACTERS

THE GREAT AUK

THE BEAR

THE EWE

THE LION

THE HYENA

NOAH

**A Play in Three Acts
occurring on Noah's Ark
with a prologue and epilogue
on the forestage**

NOAH AND THE GREAT AUK

PROLOGUE

(The prologue is played in front of a down stage scrim. House lights fade to one-half out. The following introduction is heard:)

On this planet earth, this Ark on which we live, you and I and all the other animals around us, we are all that are left of a world we will never know. So let us be careful as we go and hope that we all will survive forever.

(House lights fade out. From off right is heard the sound of the approaching Great Auk. The Auk enters carrying a large egg and an umbrella fashioned out of a large banana leaf. The Auk is struggling under the weight of the egg. At center stage the Auk stops, examines the sky for signs of rain, and then sets the egg down with a sigh of relief. A tapping sound is heard from within the egg. The Auk taps on the egg in reply.)

AUK.. No! Now is not time to come outside. I've only stopped to rest a bit.

(The Auk positions herself over the egg and after a moment realizes the audience is present. At first the Auk is startled, and then is glad to have the opportunity to at last address humans.)

AUK. Eeeaaaukk! What kind of being is this I'm seeing
Before my very eyes?
Human beings I should say—
But beings more inhuman day by day.

I dare to say you know not what I am,
For far more rare than rubies am I now,
A fowl distinct; but for you, I fear, extinct!

The Great Auk is what you see before thee now;
A fowl that could not fly,
So it's fouled we were by beings like you—
Who killed for fortune or fun,
And now force all my friends to live in constant fear
That much too soon they all will disappear...

BEAR. *(From off left)* Yoooh-hoooh! Hey you! *(The Auk looks about)*
Yes, you sitting on the egg. *(The Auk sees the Bear off left.)*

AUK. Eeeaaauk! A bear!

BEAR. Don't run off! Wait right there! *(Bear enters)* I mean no harm. I'm lost. I was looking for an Ark...

(The Bear mispronounces Ark to sound like Auk.)

AUK. Well look no more, for I'm the greatest Auk you'll ever find.

BEAR. *(In disbelief)* You're an Ark?

AUK. Not just an Auk; I am The Great Auk!

BEAR. *(Bewildered)* If what you say is true and you are *(Mimicking the Auk's pomp)* The Great Auk, then where are all the others?

AUK. What others?

BEAR. *(With an air of superiority over knowing something the Auk apparently does not)* Don't you know?

AUK. Know what?

BEAR. *(With a growing feeling of accomplishment and joy in having at last found safety)* The word has spread to all us beasts that a great flood is coming. And soon, all the land—even the highest mountains will be covered with water. Only the animals who find the Ark will live; the others will drown. *(With a great burst of joy the Bear hugs the Auk)* And I have found the Ark!!

AUK. Eee-Aauuk! Let go! Let go! I'm not the Ark. I'm an Auk!
A-U-K Auk!

(The Bear's joy is suddenly lost in disillusionment. He drops the Auk and dejectedly starts to sit down on the egg.)

Eee-Aauuk! You fool, that's not a stool. *(As the Bear starts to sit down on the egg, the Auk quickly removes it and the Bear lands with a jolt on his rear end.)*

Now listen to me. The Ark is a boat. An Auk is a bird. Do I look like a boat?

BEAR. No you're not a boat.

AUK. *(Mimicking the Bear)* No, I'm not a boat. However, I too am on my way to the Ark. There is still quite far to go, and if you would help to carry my egg I would gladly show you the way.

BEAR. *(Picking up the egg.)* Oh, but of course. *(The Bear tosses the egg in play.)*

AUK. *(Shocked, catching the egg)* Eee-Aauuk! You oaf! Do you think this is some toy to toss about? This is my egg! My child is there!

BEAR. *(Suddenly understanding)* Oh!

AUK. So carry it with care, and head for that far mountain top.

(The Bear starts to exit left, carrying the egg with special reverence. There is a roll of thunder and a flash of lightning. The Auk scans the sky and then lifts the umbrella.)

AUK. The rain begins as the message said.
For forty days and forty nights...**BEWARE!**
Be on the Ark or you'll be dead...

(The Auk starts after the Bear but stops to narrate the following transitional piece. The Auk dramatizes the piece and at the end should be prepared to merely step back and into the Ark for the beginning of Act One. Technical effects move to highlight the transition.)

The skies grew dark
And thunder rolled,
And the rain; it fell
As the Lord foretold.

Travel was hard for the Bear and I,
With light so dim and water so high.
But by-and-by we found that Ark;
The safest of places for a Bear and an Auk.

A sight to behold; that Ark in the rain,
With all God's creatures from jungle and plain
Snarling and screeching and climbing on board;
While it rained and it rained, and it rained, and it poured.

Of all the animals, there were two of each:
Two lions, two llamas, two monkeys who screeched.
And Noah showed each to his place on the boat,
And the last one on was a stubborn old goat.
The storm raged on for forty days and as many nights;
And the water, it rose to the highest of heights
While thunder and lightning caused terrible chills,
And an angry ocean caused all of them ills.

They all grew sick; too sick to eat; some of them began to weep.
While it rained and it rained 'til they all went to sleep.
And then; the storm...it stopped, and the wind died away...
And the sun shined bright for the very first day.

Nothing was left of the world they knew...
No land...no house...no tree in sight...
Just the Ark...on the water...floating in the light...

(The scrim flies out near the end of the transition. As the Auk steps back into the setting of a room in the Ark, the lights fade out on prologue and come up on Act One.)

ACT ONE

(Scene: A room in the Ark, all characters are asleep. It is a bright day, with nothing in sight but water. The Auk realizes the rain has finally stopped and becomes overjoyed. The Auk pauses to enjoy the moment privately, and then proceeds to awaken the others.)

AUK. It's over! No more rain! Wake up, it's over! Wake up! Wake up! Look, the sun is out! No more rain!

(All begin to awaken. All but the Hyena are truly jubilant over the rain's end. The Auk is by the ventilation window and is breathing deeply of the fresh air.)

LION. *(Awakening with a yawn)* Errahhh! What? You say it's over?

BEAR. *(Running to look outside and check)* Look Sire, it's over. The storm is over. We're safe! We're safe.

LION. *(Going to check for himself)* Let me see! Out of my way! *(He looks out, then back)* We're safe! *(Noah enters as the Bear and Lion give a whoop of joy and dance a short jig with each other)* Yaahh-Hoo! It's over! We have been saved!

(Lion and Bear together as they lock arms and circle around)

LION. Yaah-Hoo! The storm is over.

BEAR. We're safe! We're safe!

(The Auk is in high spirits and is petting the Ewe during the jig. When she sees Noah enter, she proposes the Lion lead a cheer. The Hyena has been looking scornfully. Noah also goes to the open vent to look out.)

AUK. Sire, perhaps you should lead us in a cheer for Noah and his Ark?

LION. A splendid idea! Listen all of you. *(All become attentive to the Lion)* A cheer for Man, whose Ark has saved us all. Ready!

ALL. *(Except the Hyena and the Ewe.)*

Hooray! *(They yell and applaud.)*

(The Lion slaps Noah on the back which in turn knocks him slightly towards the Bear who also slaps him on the back with a force that obviously winds Noah.)

NOAH. *(Also happy that the rain has ended)* Oh, Thank You!! I must go back and tell my family the good news. *(Noah exits calling)* Shem, Ham, Japheth! The rain has ended!

HYENA. *(Eyeing the Ewe)* Your Majesty, during the storm we were all too sick to eat. But now, I'm sure we all are ready for a good meal.

LION. Yes! *(Also eyeing the Ewe)* Yes, now that you mention it, I am rather hungry. *(The sight of the Ewe whets the Lion's appetite.)*

AUK. Sire! I believe Noah has stored food for all of us. Perhaps when he returns, you might talk to him about it. Aah—for the Ewe and I have grown so hungry that there is hardly any meat left on our poor bones. *(The Auk moves defensively toward the Ewe.)*

BEAR. Me too, Sire! I'm so hungry I can hardly stand up. *(The Bear begins to sit on the Auk's egg.)*

AUK. Eee-Aauuk! Would you please rest somewhere else!

LION. Yes, as your King, I shall indeed talk to this Noah about our food.
(As the Lion speaks, he hears and observes a flying insect. Eventually, the attention of the others follows the insect's flight path. The Lion begins to swat at it, but it flies out of his reach. The Lion jumps on the Bear's back for added height.)

LION. There he goes! That way! That way!

BEAR. We'll get him, Sire!

(The Hyena trails along, also in pursuit. The Auk and the Ewe try to stay out of their way. The Hyena and Bear becomes entangled and they all fall over shouting and swatting. The bug has escaped their view and a search takes place. The Bear finally sees the bug land on the Lion's rump and runs to swat it on his line.)

LION. Where is it? Where is it?

BEAR. I don't know...

HYENA. Ssshh! Listen and we'll hear it.

LION. Hunt!

BEAR. I see it! I see it! I'll get it, Sire!

(The Bear runs over to the Lion and is about to hit the Lion on his rear. At the same time that the Lion realizes what is about to happen to him, Noah also enters and sees what is about to happen. Both the Lion and Noah shout at the Bear together.)

NOAH AND LION. No! Wait!

(Noah's shout surprises all of them. As everyone's focus shifts to Noah, the insect again takes flight. The Bear is the first to start the chase over.)

BEAR. Look! There he goes! This is fun! *(The Bear swings, misses, but knocks the Hyena down. The Lion takes to the chase as the Hyena recovers.)*

LION. *(In pursuit, swatting the air wildly)* I'll catch him! Watch this! Just watch!

NOAH. *(Shouting)* No! Stop this instant!

HYENA. *(Having recovered)* I'll catch it, Sire!

NOAH. *(Restrains the Hyena by blocking him with his arms, and shouts so strongly that everyone except the Bear stops and looks at Noah with amazement)* I SAID STOP!!

BEAR. *(So intent on the chase, that he did not hear Noah's shout, continues to chase the bug by himself until he realizes that he is chasing the insect alone. The Bear swats the air a few times and then becomes embarrassed.)* I'll get him, Sire...there he goes...this way...!!...Oh!... uuhh?? *(Looking around)* Oh, well...maybe next time we'll catch him.

(With the Bear's line, the Hyena finally stops trying to edge his way around Noah's arm-block. This allows Noah to move to a higher level to address the animals.)

NOAH. *(Looking with concern to try to see where the bug went as he begins to speak)* No! No! Now listen to me all of you. I worked long and hard to build this Ark to save all creatures of the earth from the flood. So far, we are all safe.

(All look about at each other and mumble at the same time.)

AUK. Or so it seems.

BEAR. And am I glad.

LION. Well of course we're all safe.

NOAH. *(Interrupting them.)* But we must all be very careful. Every animal on this Ark must live, *(they look at one another nodding agreement, except the Hyena)* even the smallest of insects. I did not build this Ark to trap animals for your fun or sport. Look out there! Nothing but water!.....

BEAR. *(As if the gravity of the situation has just dawned on him)* Nothing but water?!

NOAH. And you, and I with my family, and all the animals on the decks below, male and female; we are all that are left of the world we used to know.

LION. *(With a heavy sigh)* Pheeww!

NOAH. And because we are the only ones left in this world, we must be very careful. *(To Lion)* Take yourself for example.

LION. *(Embarrassed)* Me?!

NOAH. Yes. If anything happens to you now, then Lions will become extinct. Do you want to disappear forever?

LION. Well...eerrr...no.

(Privately, the Hyena finds the idea appealing.)

NOAH. Of course not. No animal wants to become extinct.

AUK. How True.

BEAR. *(To Auk)* Extinct?

AUK. *(Explains to Bear)* Means "gone forever."

BEAR. *(Solemnly)* Ooh!

NOAH. So you can see; while on this Ark, all of us must survive. And it is my duty to see that all of us do, even the smallest of creatures.

LION AND BEAR. *(Together)*

LION. *(With a pensive nod)* Mmmmm...

BEAR. He's right, Sire.

HYENA. *(To Noah)* All of this is well and good, but what are we to eat while on this Ark.

BEAR. Mmmm. I'm hungry!

NOAH. There is no need to worry about food. My sons and I have stored plenty of food for all of us. As you can see there are good supplies of fruits, herbs, berries, leaves, and hay. All the foods we could find are here.....

LION. Rrrrooootts?!.....Leaves?!.....eeecchhh!

HYENA. Sire, what about meat?

LION. *(To Noah)* Yes, what about meat?

NOAH. *(Humorously, not understanding)* Meat?? Well, since I don't eat meat, I did not make any provision for it. Surely you can live without it too.

(Lion and Hyena are shocked.)

HYENA. Sire, there must be some meat, at least for you, the King of Beasts.

LION. Eeerr...yes! *(To Noah)* What kind of diet is leaves and roots for a King to be eating.

NOAH. *(Puzzled and amused)* King? Oh! *(Slight chuckle)* I'm sorry but there is no meat on board.

(The Lion's gaze falls on the Ewe. The Auk moves defensively towards her.)

HYENA. NO MEAT! Oh this is indeed terrible. Sire, I don't think I have the strength to live without the delicious taste of tender meat...

AUK. That is why you are not our King. *(Crossing to the Lion)* Tell me, your majesty, have you the strength and courage to live without the taste of meat?

LION. *(Twittery)* Uuuhh...eerr..Weell, well yes. Of course I have the strength and courage.

AUK. Well, then it's settled. If my King can live on fruits and vegetables, then I certainly can try. Sire, I think all of us *(A side look at the Hyena)* will need your great strength and wisdom in learning how to survive on these new foods.

BEAR. New foods! Where?!

(During the Lion's following speech, the flying insect returns. As the Lion makes his speech, he and the others watch the insect's flight path. During the speech, the insect lands on the nose of the Lion and the Lion fights the urge to swat it. It is obvious that the Lion is experiencing a great inner conflict, but he has already committed himself to the safety of all the animals on the Ark. At the end of his speech, the Lion gently removes the insect from his nose and hands it to Noah.)

LION. Yes, yes, as your King, the survival of all of you will depend upon my leadership. It is I who must set the example for you to follow. So! *(The insect returns.)* While on this Ark, I PROCLAIM that all animals must be allowed to live in safety. *(The insect hovers over the Lion)* AND FURTHERMORE, no animal shall be made extinct for any reason. *(Insect lands on Lion's nose)* AND HENCEFORTH AND FOR THE TIME BEING, we will eat only the foods Noah has provided us. *(The Lion hands the insect to Noah.)*

NOAH. *(Accepting the insect as if it were a prize)* Thank you, thank you all! I'll just take this little creature back where he belongs. In the meantime; eat, rest, and pray that the flood waters go down soon.

(Noah exits leaving the animals commenting and moving into a tableau of the Lion looking hungrily at the Ewe as she looks nervously back. The Hyena is staring evilly at the Auk as she looks defiantly back. It becomes a tense moment with blood apparently on the verge of being shed until the Bear's line.)

HYENA. Sire! No Meat??

LION. Hoohummm..mmm...

BEAR. *(Happily oblivious to the situation)* Well, let's eat!

(Suddenly all the others turn and stare at the Bear with expressions of disgust. The Bear just looks back at them, not understanding their reaction.)

BEAR. I don't know about all of you, but I'm hungry.

AUK. *(Breaking the tension)* And so am I. Sire, if you will lead the way, I'm sure we will all find something to suit our tastes.

LION. Oh, alright! Let's see what there is. *(The Lion crosses to a pile of hay and all follow him. He picks up a handful and sniffs it, and sneezes violently.)* Grass! Dead Grass!! Eecchh! Absolutely not! I don't understand how any animal can eat this stuff.

(The Lion throws the hay down and moves on. The Bear picks up a straw, puts it in his mouth, and while enjoying the flavor follows the Lion. The Ewe remains with the hay. The Lion goes next to a food barrel and removes the lid. From the barrel he takes a cluster of leaves and berries and stares at it as if he does not know what it is. The Bear, seeing the berries, throws away his straw and moves to take the berries from the Lion.)

BEAR. BERRIES!! Oh, I love berries!

(As the Bear begins to eat the berries, the Lion looks at him in disgust and then moves to another barrel. The Ewe moves to the Bear and the Bear feeds her a few berries. From the next barrel, the Lion removes a banana and tries to take a bite without peeling it.)

LION. Eecchhh! This tastes terrible!

AUK. Sire, I believe you must first peel off the skin and then eat what is inside.

(The Lion laughs away his embarrassment as if he had known all along that bananas had to be peeled. The others join in the laughter in an attempt to humor their King. Suddenly, the Lion signals them to stop laughing, and they just as suddenly do stop. The Lion peels the banana, throws the skin on the deck, and then takes a bite.)

LION. Not bad.

(With this, the Lion breaks the banana in half and gives one half to the Hyena, then the Lion moves on to another barrel. As soon as the Lion's back is turned, the Hyena throws his half away in disgust and then follows the Lion on. The Bear moves to follow the group, slips on the banana peel and falls. The Bear examines the peel, and after deciding it is not to be eaten, throws it away and moves on. The Lion removes the lid of the next barrel, reaches in, and takes out a handful of lettuce leaves.)

AUK. Oh, lettuce! One of my favorites. Allow me, Sire.

(In an attempt to force the Hyena to accept this new diet, the Auk takes the lettuce from the Lion and gives each animal a piece, except the Ewe, which the Auk hand-feeds. Once each animal has a leaf of lettuce, the Auk proposes a lettuce toast.)

AUK. To his Majesty, *(lifting the leaf in toast)* whose courage and wisdom will see us through this difficult time.

(All the characters join in the toast. Although the Hyena has thrown his serving down in disgust, he quickly retrieves it to join in the toast to the King, as he knows he must. The Auk feeds the Ewe and the Lion's ego is also well fed.)

AUK. *(To the Hyena)* Mmmm, isn't this delicious!

HYENA. Yes, very tasty, here! *(The Hyena gives the remainder of his lettuce to the Auk)* Eat will and grow nice and plump my little friend.

BEAR. Hey! This stuff is good!

(The Bear reaches in to take more lettuce and the Hyena moves to the grated hatch cover and looks down into it. The Hyena sees the animals on the deck below.)

HYENA. Now there is a sight to make my stomach growl. Look at all those tasty creatures! Your Majesty! Look! Come Look! Look at all the animals down there!

(All the animals crowd around the hatch to look. There is some pushing and shoving, with the Bear blocking the Lion.)

BEAR. *(Turning to the Lion)* Look at all those animals!

LION. *(Getting angry at the Bear)* Out of my way! *(He looks into the hatch and does a double take)* Jumping Jungles! I've never seen so many different animals in one place.

HYENA. Nor I, Sire! *(To the Auk)* It is a large menu indeed, and all on one Ark.

BEAR. *(Suddenly elated)* Oh, look, Sire! Honey bees! And where there's bees, there's honey!

AUK. Noah must have worked long and hard to have built all this just to save us from the flood.

NOAH. *(Enters in time to overhear the Bear's line about honey, and is searching for an armload of hay when the Auk's line catches his attention. He replies to the Auk.)* I'm afraid no one will ever understand just how much work all this was.

(The others give Noah their attention) People laughed at me when I began, and the more I worked, the more people came to look and laugh. *(Looks between the animals)* I tried to warn them of the flood, but they thought I was just a foolish old man. *(The Bear gives a sad sigh.)*

HYENA. Tell me, just how many of us are on this Ark?

NOAH. Oh, there are far too many to count. But I can tell you that on this

Ark I have two of every creature that lived on earth; one male and one female.

LION. *(Grunts as if impressed)* My entire Kingdom is here?

NOAH. That is only one deck. You see there are three decks in all for the other animals and each of my sons with his wife is in charge of a deck.

HYENA. Why aren't we down there?

NOAH. To tell the truth, I simply ran out of room. I built thousands of stalls to keep males and females apart and to prevent fighting. You know how animals can be. *(Animals look at each other)* Well, I simply ran out of stalls, so I had to make room for you up here. I hope you are all getting along.

LION. Yes, I guess we'll survive.

AUK. *(Trying to talk privately with Noah, but the Hyena listens)* Ah...do you know when the waters will go down?

NOAH. It could be tomorrow, or the next day, or next week, maybe even next month. For all I know, it may be a year before we can leave the Ark.

AUK. *(Fearful)* A year!!

NOAH. Well that is a lot of water, and it will probably take a long time to go down...

HYENA. Sire, a year of nothing to eat but leaves and roots?!!!

LION. Eecccchhh!

NOAH. Even if we must wait a year, there will be plenty of food for everyone and, of course, we have more than enough water.

BEAR. I wonder how much honey two bees can make in a year?

(From below the sound of an angry elephant is heard. The Auk, scared by the noise, wraps herself around the Bear for protection.)

NOAH. Oh, I almost forgot why I came up here. *(Noah picks up an armload of hay)* The elephant has run out of hay. Goodness, how those creatures eat. *(As Noah starts to exit, the Bear, leading the Auk by the hand, follows him.)*

BEAR. Hey, can we go see the elephant? I've never seen an elephant before.

NOAH. No, I'm sorry, you will have to stay up here.

(Noah exits, the Lion moves to check out a few more barrels, and the Bear moves dejectedly back to the hatch.)

BEAR. Oh, gosh, all I wanted to do was look.

(The Bear goes to munch some berries, leaving the Auk and the Hyena standing by the hatch.)