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Dramatic Publishing

The Berenstain Bears on Stage

Book and lyrics by Stan and Jan Berenstain
Music by Elliot Lawrence and Jamie Broza

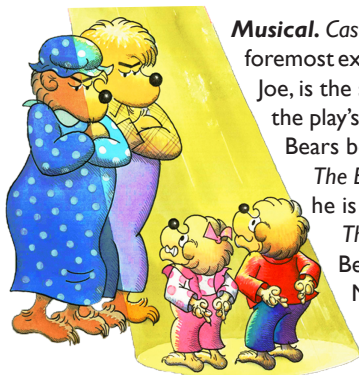


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Musical. Cast: 8m., 4w. (doubling possible, gender flexible). The “world’s foremost expert on the Berenstain Bears,” guitar-strumming Cowboy Joe, is the show’s stage director—introducing and commenting on the play’s five episodes which are based on five classic Berenstain Bears books.

The Berenstain Bears’ New Baby: Small Bear is an only cub, and he is a little lonely. But he is about to become a big brother!

The Berenstain Bears and the Messy Room: In the Berenstain Bears’ tree house, the cubs’ room is the messiest. When Mama Bear decides it’s time for a major cleanup, comic conflict results.

The Berenstain Bears and the Double Dare: Neighborhood bullies, Too Tall and his gang, put Brother on the spot by daring him to swipe one of Farmer Ben’s watermelons.

The Berenstain Bears Tell the Truth: An impromptu game of soccer inside the Bears’ tree house results in one very broken lamp. As the truth comes out, Brother and Sister learn that “no matter how you try, you can’t make truth out of a lie.”

The Berenstain Bears Get Stage Fright: Sister Bear is selected to be the star of the Bear Country School production of *Grizzllystiltskin*. She is very nervous about her role and has trouble memorizing her lines. She practices and practices to get them right. Brother has no such problem—he is supremely confident. But on the night of the performance, guess who gets stage fright?

Area staging. Approximate running time: 1 hour. Code: BC6.

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A Bear Country Musical

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STAN and JAN BERENSTAIN

Music by
ELLIOT LAWRENCE and JAMIE BROZA

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The Berenstain Bears on Stage premiered April 9, 2005, at Omaha Theater Company, Omaha, Nebraska, with the following:

Director James Larson
Asst. Director Rena Moss
Set Design Stan and Jan Berenstain
Lighting Design Andy Vance
Sound Design Michael Wilhelm
Costumes Sherri Geerdes
Lighting Operator Angela Morrison
Sound Operator Burgess Wilkins

Original Production Cast

MA Wendy Eaton
PA Earl Bates
SISTER BEAR Samantha Butler
BROTHER BEAR Michael Harrelson
COWBOY JOE AND OTHER CHARACTERS
Brian Priesman
VINNIE AND OTHER CHARACTERS . . Susan Gillespie
Booton
TOO TALL Kevin Ehrhart

The Berenstain Bears on Stage

CHARACTERS

COWBOY JOE

PAPA BEAR

MAMA BEAR

BROTHER BEAR

SISTER BEAR

TOO TALL

VINNIE

SKUZZ

FARMER BEN

OFFICER MARGUERITE

COUSIN FRED

TEACHER JANE

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

1. Introduction
2. Cowboy Joe
3. An Only Cub
4. Father's Problem
5. A Fine Young Cub
6. A Fine Young Cub Playoff
7. An Only Cub Reprise
8. Cowboy Joe Playoff
9. Two to Tango
10. Tango Playoff
11. I Think She's Grand
12. Grand Playoff
13. Messy Room
14. A Glorious Mess
15. Cleaning the Room
16. Toy Box
17. Too Tall Gang
- 18-19. I Could Scream Pt. 1 & 2
20. Chicken, Chicken
21. Transition to Watermelon Patch
22. Watermelons
23. Transition Back to Sister
24. The Whopper
25. Transition to Trust
26. Trust
27. Cowboy Joe Reprise
28. Grizzlystiltskin
29. Transition to Practice
30. Practice
31. Transition to Theater
32. Grizzlystiltskin Pt. 2
33. Conclusion - Practice
34. Finale/Bows

The Berenstain Bears on Stage

SCENE ONE

(#1: INTRODUCTION. At stage left there is a large version of the Bears' tree house. Slightly downstage are representations of two rooms: BROTHER BEAR's room is at stage right, MAMA and PAPA's room at stage left.

There is an over-sized trundle bed [big enough for the actor playing BROTHER BEAR to squeeze into] in BROTHER's room.

There is a bed big enough for MAMA and PAPA BEAR in their room.

ENTER COWBOY JOE from stage right. He is wearing western clothes [cowboy hat, etc.] and is carrying a guitar on which he frequently strums a chord to punctuate his commentary.)

COWBOY JOE. Hi. Cowboy Joe here. I'm the world's foremost expert on the Berenstain Bears. *(Strum.)* You know the Berenstain Bears. *(Strum. Singing. #2: COWBOY JOE.)*

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS

MAY LIVE IN A TREE,
BUT THEY'RE QUITE A LOT
LIKE YOU AND ME.
THEIR NOSES ARE SOMEWHAT
LONGER THAN OURS.
THEIR HUGS ARE CONSIDERABLY
STRONGER THAN OURS.
THEY'RE QUITE A LOT FURRIER
'BOUT THE TORSO,
THEY'RE JUST LIKE PEOPLE—
ONLY MORE SO.

That's right. I know everything there is to know about the Berenstain Bears. You might say I know 'em inside, outside, upside down. (*Strum!*) Now let's go down that sunny dirt road deep, deep into Bear Country for our first story, *The Berenstain Bears' New Baby*.

(During the above, BROTHER BEAR [wearing pajamas over his regular clothes for the purpose of quick costume change] enters on tiptoe from stage right and squeezes uncomfortably into his trundle bed.

MAMA and PAPA BEAR [also wearing nightclothes over their regular clothes—pajamas in PAPA's case and nightgown in MAMA's] enter unobtrusively from stage left and climb onto the big bed.

The distant cry of a rooster is heard as COWBOY JOE tiptoes offstage right.

Hearing the rooster, BROTHER BEAR begins to come awake. As he does, he begins to groan as if in pain

[which he is, because the bed is too small]. His groans synchronize with PAPA's snoring across the stage in a kind of Anvil Chorus of waking-up noises: Snore... groan...snore...groan...etc.

BROTHER wrenches himself awake and sits on the side of his bed as PAPA continues snoring across the stage.)

BROTHER *(stretching and yawning, getting up, walking around stretching his legs. Singing. #3: AN ONLY CUB.)*

AS ANYONE
CAN PLAINLY SEE,
THIS BED OF MINE'S
TOO SMALL FOR ME.
EV'RY MORNING
I'M A WRECK.
IT CRAMPS MY KNEES.
IT CRICKS MY NECK.
WHEN ALL IS DONE
AND ALL IS SAID,
WHAT I NEED
IS A BRAND NEW BED.
A NEW BED WORTHY
OF A GROWING CUB
WHO'S DOING OKAY—
BUT HERE'S THE RUB—
RUB-A-DUB-A-DEE
RUB-A-DUB-A-DUB
IT'S LONELY BEING
AN ONLY CUB.
RUB-A-DUB-A-DEE
RUB-A-DUB-A-DUB,

IT'S LONELY BEING
AN ONLY CUB.

(MAMA has been lying awake listening to BROTHER's song and PAPA's snores.)

MAMA *(poking PAPA)*. Dear...dear!...dear!

PAPA *(explosive, interrupted snores)*. Huh?... Wha?...
(Wakes up, sits on bed, hears the end of BROTHER's song.) The boy's right—gotta make that boy a new bed.

(#4: FATHER'S PROBLEM. MAMA, obviously very pregnant, gets up, walks around bed and confronts PAPA.)

MAMA. That's not all you have to do, dear. You've got to tell him about the baby *(points to tummy)* and you've got to do it soon.

PAPA *(gets up from bed and looks at MAMA's tummy, considers situation. Singing)*.

BUT WHAT DO I SAY
TO THE LAD, BY JIMINY?
THAT THE STORK DROPS THE BABY
DOWN THE CHIMINEY?

MAMA *(singing)*.

NO, YOU MAY NOT!
THAT STORY'S A DUD.
THAT OLD STORY
IS DUMBER THAN MUD!

PAPA *(singing)*.

I'LL FORGET THAT OLD STORK

AND START FROM SCRATCH.
AND WE'LL FIND BABY 'NEATH A LEAF
IN THE CABBAGE PATCH.

MAMA (*singing*).
THAT STORY, MY DEAR,
IS A BIT OF A BORE.
DUMBER, EVEN,
THAN THE ONE I HEARD BEFORE.

PAPA (*keeps trying. Singing*).
THERE'S THE LITTLE BLACK BAG
OF THE DOCTOR, MY DEAR.
SHOULD I SAY THAT'S HOW
THE BABY GOT HERE?

MAMA (*singing*).
THAT DOCTOR BAG STORY
IS FALSE TO ITS CORE.
DOCTORS DON'T MAKE
HOUSE CALLS ANYMORE.

PAPA. Well then, what do you want me to tell him?

MAMA (*exasperated*). What do I want you to tell him? I
want you to tell him
THE TRUTH!

PAPA (*incredulous*).
THE T-T-T-TRUTH?

(*Blackout.*)

SCENE TWO

(When the lights come up, the “rooms” have been removed. The tree house stands alone. There is a clothes-line extending from the tree house to three-quarters of the way across the stage.)

COWBOY JOE is sitting on a stump at stage right. He’s preoccupied with tuning his guitar.

COWBOY JOE (*looking up*). Oh, hi!... All right, let’s see, where are we?... Brother’s bed is too small, Mama’s tummy is very big and Papa has to make Brother a new bed. He also has to forget about the stork, the cabbage patch and the doctor’s little black bag and tell Brother the t-t-t-truth.

(BROTHER and PAPA come out of the front door of the tree house onto front stoop, followed by MAMA. PAPA is carrying his ax and his tool chest.)

MAMA remains on front stoop as PAPA and BROTHER descend steps and move across stage.)

MAMA. Now, don’t forget what we were talking about, Papa. (#5: **A FINE YOUNG CUB.**)

PAPA (*stopping in his tracks*). Hmm... What were we talking about?... Oh, yes. (*PAPA takes deep breath as he and BROTHER exit stage left.*)

MAMA (*big sigh*).

(MAMA reaches into front door, brings out big basket of laundry. She carries it down front steps, moves to clothesline, puts down basket and turns to audience.)

MAMA *(singing)*.

YES WE ARE
THE PARENTS OF
A FINE YOUNG CUB
WHOM WE CHERISH AND LOVE
AND THOUGH HE IS
A LITTLE BIT LONELY,
SOON HE WILL BE A BROTHER
IN MORE THAN NAME ONLY.

(MAMA begins taking up the laundry and hanging it on the line, continuing to sing as she does so.)

MAMA *(cont'd., singing)*.

YES, WE ARE THREE,
MAMA, PAPA AND SON.
BUT WE COULD BE FOUR
BEFORE THE DAY IS DONE—
FOUR BEFORE THE DAY IS DONE.

(The first pieces she hangs on the line are four identical yellow plaid shirts exactly like the one PAPA is wearing. She continues singing, repeating above song, while continuing to hang the laundry, adding a number of blue dresses with white polka dots exactly like the one she is wearing.)

As MAMA continues to sing softly and hang the laundry COWBOY JOE comes upstage and addresses the audience.)

COWBOY JOE. Lots of kids write and ask why the Berenstain Bears always wear the same clothes. Well, they don't always wear the same clothes. They've got closets full of clothes that are exactly alike and they change them as often as you and I.

(#6: A FINE YOUNG CUB PLAYOFF. Lights fade to black.)

SCENE THREE

(We are in another place—a woodsy place. There is a large sawn-off stump at center stage. There is a pile of rough-hewn boards that have already been cut from it. Concealed in the welter of boards are the preformed components of BROTHER's new bed.

Enter PAPA and BROTHER.)

BROTHER. Is this the right place, Papa?

PAPA. Yes, son. And this is the right tree. The Giant Bedwood tree. Ideal for making beds. And as you see, I've already sawn it into boards. Now let's get to work.

(There follows a duet with PAPA and BROTHER singing alternate verses. As they sing, PAPA works on the bed. He hammers, he saws, he joins. Under cover of the

song, and the stage business, PAPA assembles the pre-formed components into a new bed. #7: AN ONLY CUB REPRISE.)

BROTHER.

Yes, Papa, Yes!

Because... (*Singing.*)

WHEN ALL IS DONE

AND ALL IS SAID,

WHAT I NEED

IS A BRAND NEW BED.

PAPA.

WITH MY TRUSTY TOOLS

IN MY OLD TOOLKIT:

THE HAMMER, THE SAW,

THE BRACE AND BIT.

BROTHER.

WITH MY OLD BED,

I'M A WRECK.

IT CRAMPS MY KNEES,

IT CRICKS MY NECK.

PAPA.

AWL AND CHISEL,

AX AND LEVEL,

A PLANE WITH WHICH

TO SHAVE AND BEVEL.

BROTHER.

A NEW BED WORTHY

OF AN ONLY CUB,

WHO'S DOING OK—

BUT HERE'S THE RUB—

RUB-A-DUB-A-DEE

RUB-A-DUB-A-DUB

IT'S LONELY BEING
AN ONLY CUB.

PAPA.
HERE ARE THE SIDES,
THE FOOT AND HEAD,
HERE IT IS, SON,
I'M SO EXCITED
PAPA BEAR IS FAST
THIS BED'S BUILT TO LAST
YOUR BRAND NEW
BEAUTIFUL BED!
I'M SO EXCITED
PAPA BEAR IS FAST
THIS BED'S BUILT TO LAST
YOUR BRAND NEW
BEAUTIFUL BED!

BROTHER.
RUB-A-DUB-A-DEE!
RUB-A-DUB-A-DUB!
IT'S LONELY BEING
AN ONLY CUB.

(On hearing BROTHER's plaintive line about being an only cub, PAPA snaps his fingers and remembers something—something important.

He leaves BROTHER to admire his new bed and comes downstage. #8: COWBOY JOE PLAYOFF.)

PAPA (*addressing audience in loud stage whisper*). I forgot to tell Brother the Facts of Life! (*PAPA returns to BROTHER.*) Er...son...
BROTHER. Yes, Papa?

PAPA. Er, there's something I want to talk to you about. Something important—something your mama wanted me to talk to you about. (*Clears throat.*) It's called the Facts of Life.

BROTHER. Can it wait, Papa?

PAPA (*hesitant*). Well, you see, son, it's like this. (#9: **TWO TO TANGO.**) When a papa and mama love each other...

BROTHER (*impatiently*). Papa?...

PAPA. Well, you see... (*Singing—does a brief tango.*)

IT TAKES TWO
TO TANGO,
IT TAKES TWO TO FANDANGO,
DO THE DANCE
OF LOVE.
TWO TO TANGO...

(#10: **TANGO PLAYOFF.**)

BROTHER. Please, Papa, I learned all about that in Sex Ed at school. But more to the point, I don't know if you've noticed, but Mama is pregnant—very pregnant. And from the looks of things, she's going to have the baby any minute. So I think, all things considered, we should take my wonderful new bed and hurry home.

PAPA (*after a beat*). ...Good thinking son,
GOOD THINKING!

(*Blackout.*)