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*Dramatic Publishing*

# ONE BAD APPLE

A new musical about a really old story

Book and Lyrics by

RAPHE BECK and CHRISTOPHER LA PUMA

Music by

DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA

Based on the book of Genesis



**Dramatic Publishing**

Woodstock, Illinois • England • Australia • New Zealand

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Music by DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA

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*One Bad Apple* was originally commissioned by a Robert M. Golden grant from Stanford University and premiered at Stanford on Valentine's Day 1991. For the following eight years and through a number of subsequent productions, the show's script and score were extensively revised. It was produced in this final form in 1999 as an Actor's Equity benefit for homeless families at Arena Stage's Kreeger Theatre in Washington, D.C., directed by Nick Olcott. The authors would like to thank the many casts whose energy and enthusiasm over the years have helped to shape this show.

# ONE BAD APPLE

A two-act musical comedy  
For 6 men, 4 women and chorus

## CHARACTERS

### Women

GABRIEL

GOD

EVE

ANGELA

### Men

RAPHAEL

MICHAEL

LUCIFER

ADAM

THE SNAKE

MALICE

### and Chorus

as cherubs and various animals

## MUSICAL NUMBERS

### Act I

Just Six Days . . . . .	God & Chorus
Adam's Creation . . . . .	God
The Game of the Name . . . . .	Adam
Eve's Creation . . . . .	God
You Are the Only One for Me . . . . .	Adam & Eve
Poor Me . . . . .	Lucifer & Snake
Taste the Surprise . . . . .	Snake
The Trial. . . . .	Chorus
Before the Dawn . . . . .	All

### Act II

Go, Golden Cherubs. . . . .	Angela & Chorus
Less Than Perfect. . . . .	Eve
What the Devil Happened. . . . .	God & Lucifer
In Your Heart. . . . .	Raphael & Chorus
Poor Me— Reprise . . . . .	Lucifer
Before the Dawn – Reprise. . . . .	God & Chorus
Just Six Days – Finale . . . . .	All

# ACT I

## SCENE ONE

*We are in heaven, a cloudy, cavernous, office space. The sixth day of Creation is about to begin. It is dark. Enter RAPHAEL, a wide-eyed and good-natured angel. He looks around, unsure of what he's supposed to do.*

RAPHAEL. Hello? Is anybody here? *(No answer. Not knowing what else to do, he kneels down to pray. Prayer music.)* Dear God, it's me, Raphael. Paradise is amazing. You've done so much in just five days. Especially with all that grass. It's so green.

*(After a moment, we hear several voices all talking at once. Enter the archangel MICHAEL, followed by a group of lesser ANGELS all carrying blueprints and yelling his name. The ANGELS are more corporate than cupid, and MICHAEL is like a linebacker who's gone white collar. No one notices RAPHAEL. Music stops.)*

MICHAEL. One at a time, please!

ANGEL 1. Michael, we finished designing the bonsai tree.

MICHAEL. The bonsai? Too late, it's already been created.

ANGEL 1. But that was just a model.

MICHAEL. Tell it to God. Now can someone please make me a coffee bean? This all should have been done two days ago.



*(He walks off, with the ANGELS still yelling behind him. RAPHAEL tries unsuccessfully to get his attention and is left alone onstage. He kneels down to continue his prayer. Music begins again.)*

RAPHAEL. Anyway, I heard you're going to create Man today. I know it's not my place, but I hope Man will be green, too. It's one of your best colors.

*(From offstage, more voices are heard, and the archangel GABRIEL enters, followed by another eager group of ANGELS calling her name. GABRIEL is sharp-tongued and sure of herself. She stops to yell out over the audience. Music stops under.)*

GABRIEL. Yo! You with the wings! I'm not gonna tell you again: This is a no-fly zone, now get down. *(Pause.)* What? *(Pause.)* I don't care what Lucifer told you; do I look like Lucifer? *(Pause.)* You wanna come say that to my face? *(To the other ANGELS.)* Anybody know that guy's name? *(No one does.)* Lucky for him.

*(GABRIEL storms off with the other ANGELS in tow, leaving RAPHAEL in the dust again. RAPHAEL kneels down to finish his prayer. Music begins again. While he prays, GOD enters quietly behind him, listening. She's a real powerhouse, but she can be mercifully gentle when she chooses to be.)*

RAPHAEL. Where was I? Oh, green! Not that I have any problem with the other colors. God, watch and keep Mi-

chael and Gabriel, all the lesser angels, and all the plants and animals. Amen.

*(Music ends.)*

GOD. That was nice.

RAPHAEL. Oh, thank you. I didn't hear you come in. Do you work here?

GOD. You could say that.

RAPHAEL. Thank God.

GOD. What?

RAPHAEL. That you work here. Everyone else seems too busy to talk, and I have a lot of questions.

GOD. I see. *(To the heavens.)* Can we let there be a little light here?

*(The stage is instantly bathed in light. Music begins.)*

GOD *(cont'd)*. Thank you. *(To RAPHAEL.)* Good morning. You were saying...

RAPHAEL. My name's Raphe—I work down in Weeds—and they called me up here to meet with God. I think maybe there was a problem with the dandelions.

GOD. Not that I know of.

RAPHAEL. Just the same, I'm kind of nervous about meeting him.

GOD. Him?

RAPHAEL. God.

GOD *(suppressing a laugh)*. Oh, him. I see. You don't have any idea what's going on here, do you?

RAPHAEL. I guess not.

*(As GOD begins to sing, various ANGELS kneel obediently behind her in chorus, unseen by RAPHAEL.)*

**(SONG #1: “JUST SIX DAYS”)**

GOD.

**ON THE FIRST DAY, GOD BEGAN WITH A BANG  
AND CREATED HEAVEN AND EARTH  
IN THE DARKNESS, THE LORD CALLED FOR A  
LIGHT  
AND IT ALL LOOKED PRETTY GOOD TO HER**

RAPHAEL. What do you mean, “her”?

GOD. What do you mean, “what do I mean”? *(Sings.)*

**ON THE NEXT DAY, GOD AWOKE WITH A  
START  
SHE HAD DREAMED THAT NIGHT OF A**

GOD & ANGELS.

**BRAND NEW WORLD**

GOD.

**SO SHE CALLED ALL HER ANGELS TO GATHER  
AROUND  
AND HER GRAND DESIGN WAS QUICKLY  
UNFURLED**

**AND HER WORDS BURST INTO STARLIGHT AS  
THEY LEFT HER LIPS  
MOUNTAINS FELL LIKE THUNDER FROM HER  
FINGERTIPS  
SHE WINKS AN EYE AND SUDDENLY THE  
WHOLE WORLD SLIPS**

**IT'S A HUGE ELLIPSE, AND IT SPINS**

**AND SHE'LL FINISH IT IN**

**GOD & ANGELS.**

**JUST SIX DAYS**

**THAT'S HOW SHE DREAMED SHE COULD**

**JUST SIX DAYS**

**IT'S SIMPLY UNDERSTOOD**

**JUST SIX DAYS**

**BECAUSE SHE SAID SHE WOULD**

**AND WHEN GOD LOOKS DOWN, SHE KNOWS**

**THAT IT IS GOOD**

**AND WHEN GOD LOOKS DOWN, SHE KNOWS**

**HER WORLD IS GOOD**

**RAPHAEL** (*terrified*). You're God, aren't you?

**GOD.** You catch on fast. (*Sings.*)

**ON THE THIRD DAY, I GOT UP WITH THE SUN**

**PLANTING EVERY FLOWER AND TREE**

**AND THE SWEET FRUIT FROM MY GARDEN**

**BURST FORTH**

**SO IT ALL LOOKED PRETTY GOOD TO ME**

**BY THE FOURTH DAY, MY INSPIRATION WAS**

**LOW**

**SO THE ANGELS OFFERED TO**

**GOD & ANGELS.**

**LEND A HAND**

**GOD.**

**WE'D DESIGN NIGHT AND DAY IN A FAMILY**

**WAY**

**THEY'D SUPPLY IT JUST AS I WOULD DEMAND**

**YESTERDAY WE FELL BEHIND ON CREATURES  
IN THE SEA**

**WITH MILLIONS MORE IN AIR, ON SHORE,  
STILL YET TO BE**

**HOW IT ALL GOT FINISHED IS A MYSTERY  
MY MENAGERIE**

**BUT WE'RE NOT DONE YET**

GOD & ANGELS.

**NO WE'RE NOT DONE YET  
NO WE'RE NOT DONE YET**

GOD.

**STILL WE'LL FINISH IT IN**

GOD & ANGELS.

**JUST SIX DAYS**

**THAT'S HOW SHE DREAMED SHE COULD**

**JUST SIX DAYS**

**IT'S SIMPLY UNDERSTOOD**

**JUST SIX DAYS**

**BECAUSE SHE SAID SHE WOULD**

**AND WHEN GOD LOOKS DOWN, SHE KNOWS  
THAT IT IS GOOD**

**AND WHEN GOD LOOKS DOWN, SHE KNOWS  
HER WORLD IS GOOD**

ANGELS (*under dialog*).

**ONE MORE DAY, ONE MORE DAY**

GOD. So, Raphael. We seem to have an opening on our design team. How'd you like to be our newest archangel?

RAPHAEL. Me? What happened to the old archangel?

GOD. Don't ask. (*Sings.*)

**YOU'RE GETTING A PROMOTION  
WE'RE PLEASED WITH YOUR DEVOTION  
NOW GET INTO THE MOTION  
THERE'S OCEANS OF WORK YET TO DO**

ANGELS.

**OH YES**

GOD.

**LAST MORNING OF CREATION**

ANGELS.

**OH YES**

GOD.

**IT FILLS ME WITH ELATION**

ANGELS.

**OH YES**

GOD.

**ONE GIANT CONGREGATION**

**THERE'S ONE MORE THING WE'VE GOT IN  
STORE  
JUST IN CASE YOU'RE KEEPING SCORE  
THIS LAST CREATION WE'LL ADORE  
LIKE NOTHING EVER SEEN BEFORE  
IT WILL BE THE WEEK'S GRAND ENCORE**

ANGELS.

**AND SHE'LL FINISH IT IN**

GOD.

**AND I'LL FINISH IT IN**

ANGELS.

**JUST SIX DAYS**

GOD.

**THAT'S HOW I DREAMED I COULD**

ANGELS.

**JUST SIX DAYS**

GOD.

**IT'S SIMPLY UNDERSTOOD**

ANGELS.

**JUST SIX DAYS**

GOD.

**BECAUSE I SAID I WOULD**

GOD & ANGELS.

**AND WHEN GOD LOOKS DOWN, SHE KNOWS  
THAT IT IS GOOD**

**AND WHEN GOD LOOKS DOWN, SHE KNOWS  
THAT IT IS GOOD**

**AND WHEN GOD LOOKS DOWN, SHE KNOWS  
HER WORLD IS  
HER WORLD IS  
HER WORLD IS GOOD**

*(Enter MICHAEL and GABRIEL, holding several rolls of blueprints. Various ANIMALS begin mulling about. It's like an office in the middle of a barnyard.)*

GOD. Michael, this is it. The big day, and it's already past daybreak. Why don't I have today's designs?

MICHAEL. Here they are, Yahweh. We just finished them up this morning. *(He hands her a roll of blueprints.)*

GOD. Ah, yes, the Man.

MICHAEL. He talks, he walks upright, and we got rid of the horns like you wanted.

GOD. Very attractive.

MICHAEL. Well, he looks like you.

GOD. So he does. In a way...

GABRIEL. God? Yahweh, if I may, I'm concerned that Man is not...refined enough.

GOD. Refined? He's not a mineral.

MICHAEL. That's right!

GABRIEL. No, but look at him. He's basically just a sack of hormones with half a brain strapped on. What good is that?

MICHAEL. Hey, what are you saying? You're talking about my design.

GABRIEL. I know. I couldn't help noticing the pungent odor thrown in. Besides, he wasn't yours to begin with. You just finished him.

MICHAEL. Well at least my animals don't have those enormous...utters. What is it with you and those things?

*(In a grand motion, GOD points her finger to the ground, and lightning and thunder are heard.)*



GOD (*to GABRIEL*). What do you propose?

GABRIEL. Modify. First, we make the body more aerodynamic. Punch out this here, curve these, and get rid of that.

MICHAEL. Oh, give me a break!

GABRIEL. Improve the communication skills, put in a healthy set of emotions, and voilà! (*Unravels her own blueprints.*) More flexible, smells nice. I call it “Woman.”

MICHAEL. You’ve got to be joking.

GABRIEL. I suggest we scrap the Man entirely and begin production on Woman immediately.

GOD. Interesting.

MICHAEL. Yahweh, with all those emotions, how could she ever make a decision?

GOD. Raphael, what do you think?

RAPHAEL (*nervous*). Me? I, um...see... She doesn’t have much body hair. I think she might get cold.

GOD. You’ve got a good head on your wings.

MICHAEL. Hooray for the weed king.

GOD. Gabriel, when can you have these finished?

GABRIEL. In about three hours.

GOD. Make it two. We’ve got a lot of backwork to finish.

MICHAEL. I will not stand for it! This is a mockery of Man!

GABRIEL. Actually, I think Man is an embarrassment to Woman. He’s hardly fit to stand in the same garden.

*(GOD points her finger to the ground again. More lightning and thunder.)*

GOD. I am this close to putting you both back on the head of a pin, you hear me? Since you two can't seem to agree on anything, I'm going to make them both, and see how they work.

GABRIEL. Fine.

MICHAEL. Agreed.

GOD. Now out. And take these animals with you. Especially that—what do you call that? (*GOD points at the SNAKE, a nervous and easily agitated animal, who stands writhing to himself at the edge of the stage.*)

GABRIEL. We didn't have time to name the animals.

GOD. You didn't name them?

GABRIEL. I...I thought we'd let Man name them. I mean, he has some kind of brain, right?

MICHAEL (*mocking*). "He has some kind of a brain, right?"

GOD. All right. But leave me to work. I have spoken.

*(The ARCHANGELS exit, ushering out the ANIMALS.)*

## SCENE TWO

*The Garden of Eden.*

### (SONG #2: "ADAM'S CREATION")

GOD.

I'VE SEEN YOU IN MY MIND IN A THOUSAND  
DREAMS  
I'VE FELT YOU IN MY HEART LIKE A TENDER  
SONG