

Excerpt terms and conditions



This excerpt is available to assist you in the play selection process.

You may view, print and download any of our excerpts for perusal purposes.

Excerpts are not intended for performance, classroom or other academic use. In any of these cases you will need to purchase playbooks via our website or by phone, fax or mail.

A short excerpt is not always indicative of the entire work, and we strongly suggest reading the whole play before planning a production or ordering a cast quantity.

Dramatic Publishing

U:BUG:ME!

A Family Musical
by
JEREMIAH CLAY NEAL



Dramatic Publishing

Woodstock, Illinois • Australia • New Zealand • South Africa

*** NOTICE ***

The amateur and stock acting rights to this work are controlled exclusively by THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY without whose permission in writing no performance of it may be given. Royalty must be paid every time a play is performed whether or not it is presented for profit and whether or not admission is charged. A play is performed any time it is acted before an audience. Current royalty rates, applications and restrictions may be found at our website: www.dramaticpublishing.com, or we may be contacted by mail at: DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, 311 Washington St., Woodstock IL 60098.

COPYRIGHT LAW GIVES THE AUTHOR OR THE AUTHOR'S AGENT THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO MAKE COPIES. This law provides authors with a fair return for their creative efforts. Authors earn their living from the royalties they receive from book sales and from the performance of their work. Conscientious observance of copyright law is not only ethical, it encourages authors to continue their creative work. This work is fully protected by copyright. No alterations, deletions or substitutions may be made in the work without the prior written consent of the publisher. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, videotape, film, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher. It may not be performed either by professionals or amateurs without payment of royalty. All rights, including, but not limited to, the professional, motion picture, radio, television, videotape, foreign language, tabloid, recitation, lecturing, publication and reading, are reserved.

©MMX by
JEREMIAH CLAY NEAL

Printed in the United States of America
All Rights Reserved
(U:BUG:ME!)

ISBN: 978-1-58342-672-2

IMPORTANT BILLING AND CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

All producers of the musical *must* give credit to the author and composer of the musical in all programs distributed in connection with performances of the musical and in all instances in which the title of the musical appears for purposes of advertising, publicizing or otherwise exploiting the musical and/or a production. The names of the author and composer *must* also appear on a separate line, on which no other name appears, immediately following the title, and *must* appear in size of type not less than fifty percent (50%) the size of the title type. Biographical information on the author and composer, if included in the playbook, may be used in all programs. *In all programs this notice must appear:*

“Produced by special arrangement with
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois”

The first professional production of *U:Bug:Me!* was at the Coterie Theatre in Kansas City, Missouri, 2009. Jeff Church, producing artistic director; Joette Pelster, executive director.

The Company

Keno Brodie Rush
Esteban Shea Coffman
Pico KC Comeaux
Isabelle Katie Karel
Packo Keenan Ramos
Eddie/Sylvia/Madame Sonia Jennie Greenberry
Tavo Francisco Javier Villegas
Olive Areli Gil

The Anthill Jam Band

Keno on Electric Guitar/Mandolin Brodie Rush
Slim on Acoustic Guitar. Matthew Jayson Weiss
Jim on Bass Guitar. Evan White
Tim on Drums Sam Wisman

Artistic and Production Company

Director/Choreographer Ernie Nolan
Music Director Jeremiah Clay Neal
Set Designer PJ Barnett
Costume Designer Megan Turek
Light Designer Jarrett Bertoncin
Sound Designer. David Kiehl
Properties. Ron Megee
Production Stage Manager Amy M. Abels Owens
Technical Director/Master Carpenter. Scott Hobart
Scenic Painter Tabitha Pease
Production Assitant/House Manager. Meagan Melloy
Deck Hand, Spotlight Operator, Intern Rachel Leyh

U:BUG:ME!

CHARACTERS:

KENO.....	a centipede
PICO	a fly
ISABELLE.....	a caterpillar
ESTEBAN.....	an earwig
PACKO	a horsefly
TAVO	a cockroach
OLIVE.....	a cockroach
EDDIE/SPIDER/MADAME SONIA.....	a worm/ spider/queen bee

Note: For larger casts, more roles may be added as extra bugs. See notes on following page.

SETTING: Various locations in a bug’s life. The set is free for creative interpretation. Colors and shapes should be large, to give the illusion that the bugs are in fact very small compared to their surroundings.

TIME: The present.

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

Expanding the cast: There are several places in this play that can have an expanded cast for a community or school production. Keno's opening and closing narration can be a separate character named Marty the Roly Poly, Packo's first scene with Pico can be played by his cronies Bezzo and Beezy, with the lines separated accordingly. "The Cockroach Jam" can have lots of dancers/singers, and lightning bugs can come out of everywhere during the ballad. Additionally, both the centipede and spider can be played with multiple actors. And the Soil Contest Finale works well with a full stage of actors.

Anthill Band: If using an accompaniment CD, the line in "Infestation" that currently reads, "a great big anthill as our band" should read "try to keep up now if U can." The line in "The Cockroach Jam" that currently reads, "U be rockin' with the anthill band" should read "just loosen up and listen to the band."

MUSICAL NUMBERS:

1. Infestation
2. Gonna Be Famous
3. Fly and a Caterpillar
4. U Bug Me
5. Bad News, Packo
6. The Cockroach Jam
7. Gonna Be Famous Reprise
8. Not Alone
9. Centipede Song
10. The Cockroach Jam Reprise
11. Gonna Be Famous Reprise
12. New Attitude

U:BUG:ME!

PRESHOW: *As the audience enters the theatre, bugs should be hanging out in the room. About ten minutes before the show, the Anthill Jam Band should enter and play a few jams. These should be simple chord progressions created by the musicians/music director that have a similar style and beat as the songs from the show. Each jam should be 2-3 minutes long. The bugs should dance and incorporate the audience into the music. After each jam, all bugs should clap for the band. This will help train the audience to continue this routine as the show continues. A preshow announcement (preferably recorded) works well to scatter the bugs into their places for the start of the show.*

SCENE 1: A BUG'S LIFE

(Lights up on KENO. He is playing guitar, or pretending to. He is lost in his music for a moment before noticing the audience.)

KENO. What's up, everybody! It's time to rock and roll! My name is Keno, and I'm a centipede, and these are some of my friends, Slim, Jim and Tim, the Anthill Jam Band.

ANTS. What up?!

(MUSIC #1 STARTS: "Infestation.")

KENO. Welcome to a rock musical that's all about bugs! I am pleased to serve as your host for this evening's infestation. Please remember to tip your water bugs and mealworms as U sit back, relax, and prepare to get your bug on! *(Sings.)*

WE GOT AN INFESTATION GOING ON
A WHOLE NEW CREW AND A WHOLE NEW SONG
SHOUT IT OUT NOW AND SING ALONG
DO WE BUG U? BUG U!

WE GOT AN INFESTATION ALL AROUND
IN THE YARD, IN THE SKY, THROUGHOUT THE
TOWN
WE GONNA ROCK THIS HOUSE TILL IT ALL FALLS
DOWN
DO WE BUG U? BUG U!

SOLO.

WE GOT WORMS, GNATS, JUNE BUGS,
DRAGONFLIES
MOTHS AND FLIES WITH A WHOLE LOT OF EYES
WE GOT CATERPILLARS, CENTIPEDES, DRONE
BEES AND
A GREAT BIG ANTHILL AS OUR BAND

ALL.

WE GOT AN INFESTATION HERE AND THERE
ANTS IN YOUR PANTS, IN YOUR SHIRT, IN YOUR
HAIR

IF U DON'T LIKE IT WE DO NOT CARE
DO WE BUG U? BUG U!

SOLO.

WE GOT EARWIGS, INCHWORMS, SPIDERS TOO
COCKROACHES THAT SING JUST LIKE U
WE GOT BUGS OF EVERY SORT AND EVERY KIND
WE'RE GONNA PARTY LIKE IT'S NINETEEN
NINETY-NINE

ALL.

WE GOT AN INFESTATION RAISE THE ROOF
WE GONNA SING IT OUT NOW AND HERE'S THE
PROOF
TAKE IT FROM US WE'RE NOT ALOOF
WE GONNA LET IT HANG OUT NOW THAT'S THE
TRUTH
WE GOT AN INFESTATION LIKE IT OR NOT
GONNA BUG U TILL U DROP WITH ALL WE'VE
GOT
INSECTS ARE HERE UNTIL WE ROT
A WHOLE BUNCH OF US IN ONE BIG POT
YEAH!!!!!!

(Instrumental.)

WE GOT AN INFESTATION THANK THE LORD
DON'T SIT CROSS-LEGGED ACTING BORED
ONE DULL MINUTE WE CAN'T AFFORD
WE WON'T BE SILENT, OR IGNORED
WE GOT AN INFESTATION IN YOUR FACE
NO RAID, NO OFF, IS IN THIS PLACE
INSECTICIDE IS A DISGRACE
DO WE BUG U? BUG U!

DO WE BUG U? BUG U!
DO WE BUG U? BUG U!
DO WE BUG U? BUG U!

(KENO continues playing guitar as the song ends when ESTEBAN clears his throat.)

ESTEBAN. Eh-hem! I'm trying to work.

KENO. What a buzz kill!

(KENO exits. A buzzing sound is heard as PICO enters.)

ESTEBAN. Hey, look who decided to show up.

PICO. Sorry I'm late. Did I miss anything?

ESTEBAN. Miss anything? U missed everything. Where were U?

PICO. I got caught up.

ESTEBAN. Yeah? How could U get caught up on such an important day? Let me guess, U had trouble waking up.

PICO. Actually, U wouldn't believe what happened. There was this rainstorm, right?

ESTEBAN. Rainstorm?

PICO. Yeah. It lasted all morning. And U know I can't fly in the rain.

ESTEBAN. I didn't feel a drop.

PICO. U didn't? That's funny. It must've been the sprinkler system then.

ESTEBAN. Sprinkler system?

PICO. U know old lady Marlon always waters her lawn at weird times. She has to have the biggest roses on the block.

ESTEBAN. Sprinkler system?

PICO. And that's not all. Packo has been driving me crazy.

He's the biggest bully that ever bullied.

ESTEBAN. Sprinkler system?

PICO. I said I'm sorry.

ESTEBAN. I know. It's just...you're never here when I need U, Pico. I thought we were in this together. U know that I can't fly over to the Dumpsters to collect all the materials that we need. The Great Crabgrass Festival finals are tomorrow morning, and we have a lot of work to do.

PICO. All right. So what's on the agenda this morning?

ESTEBAN. Nothing. Thanks to U. The garbage man already came.

PICO. I can go and check the bottom of the can. There's always leftovers...

ESTEBAN. I already had Packo do it.

PICO. U what? U had Packo do it? U know that fly is no good.

ESTEBAN. Well U weren't here, were U? I gave him information about the manure pile under the bike wheel, and he brought back some cranberries for me. I had no choice.

PICO. Esteban Rodriguez!

ESTEBAN. Don't U Esteban Rodriguez me! You're the one who was fluttering around with wet wings all morning.

PICO. I thought we were in this together.

ESTEBAN. I thought so too, but U weren't here, were U?
(Pause.)

PICO. I'm sorry I was late. (Pause.)

ESTEBAN. I'm sorry I had your nemesis Packo do my dirty work.

PICO. Promise U won't have him do it anymore.

ESTEBAN. Promise U won't be late anymore.

PICO. Okay. Deal.

ESTEBAN. Fine.

(They do a secret handshake.)

BOTH. Secret handshake, secret handshake.

ESTEBAN. So, do U want to hear what I came up with this morning?

PICO. U know I do!

ESTEBAN. Okay, brace yourself.

PICO. I'm braced.

ESTEBAN. All right, all right, all right. So the byproducts in the cranberries diluted the Smithsonian factor that was keeping the supersoil from properly coagulating.

PICO. Uh-huh.

ESTEBAN. So I added a little bouguois, and feng shuei, and badda bing, badda boom, the pH scale quadrupled.

PICO. So what does that mean?

ESTEBAN. It means that this supersoil is going to make plants grow faster than a well-sugared anthill! It means that this supersoil will be able to make more food for everyone and everything! It means that this supersoil is going change the entire world!

PICO. So do U think we're gonna win?

ESTEBAN. Win? It's more than winning, Pico, it's going to help millions and billions of bugs!

PICO. Yeah, but do U think we're gonna win?

ESTEBAN. We're gonna squish 'em.

PICO. Which means...

(MUSIC #2 STARTS: “Gonna Be Famous.”)

ESTEBAN. First place.

PICO. Which means...

ESTEBAN. A thirty-grain of sugar gift certificate to the
honeycomb...

PICO. Which means...

ESTEBAN. A two-week vacation in the roach motel under
the Anderson mansion.

PICO. Which means...

PICO & ESTEBAN.

WE'RE GONNA BE FAMOUS
WE'RE GONNA BE FAMOUS
WE'RE GONNA BE ON THE MAP
IN A SNAP
WE'RE GONNA BE FAMOUS
WE'RE GONNA BE FAMOUS
WE'RE GONNA BE KNOWN TO ALL
NEVER SMALL
WE'RE GONNA BE FAMOUS
WE'RE GONNA BE FAMOUS

PICO.

I CAN'T WAIT
TO SEE ALL THE FACES
WHEN THEY SEE US WALKING BY

ESTEBAN.

THEY'RE GONNA SAY WHO ARE THEY
DON'T U KNOW THAT THEY MADE SUPERSOIL
THAT EARWIG AND THAT FLY

BOTH.

AND WHEN WE'RE RICH AND COOL
WE'LL WALK THROUGH THE SCHOOL
SEE ALL THE GIRLIES AND WAVE
THEY'RE GONNA BE ASKING US,
TO ALL THE INFESTATIONS
AND THE QUEEN BEE WILL SAY,
CONGRATULATIONS
ALL U NEED IS SOMEBODY TO BELIEVE IN U
YES, ALL U NEED IS A FRIEND
AND ONCE YOU'VE FOUND THAT SOMEBODY TO
BELIEVE IN U
YOU'LL BE PARTNERS TILL THE END!
WE'RE GONNA BE FAMOUS
WE'RE GONNA BE FAMOUS
WE'RE GONNA GET LOTS OF STUFF
JUST ENOUGH
WE'RE GONNA BE FAMOUS
WE'RE GONNA BE FAMOUS
WE'RE GONNA BE GREAT BIG KINGS
ONE WITH WINGS
WE'RE GONNA BE FAMOUS
WE'RE GONNA BE FAMOUS

PICO.

HERE WE ARE WITH ESTEBAN RODRIGUEZ
THE MASTERMIND TAKE A BOW

ESTEBAN.

WELL THANKS A BUNCH, BUT I CAN'T TAKE ALL
THE CREDIT
MY PARTNER'S PICO ANYHOW
AND WHEN WE'RE RICH AND COOL
WE'LL WALK THROUGH THE SCHOOL

JUST FOR KICKS AND GIGGLES
AND THE BEST PART YET
WILL BE HEARING ALL THE OOHS AND AAHS
FROM PRINCIPAL JACK WIGGLES
ALL U NEED IS SOMEBODY TO BELIEVE IN U
YES, ALL U NEED IS A FRIEND
AND ONCE YOU'VE FOUND THAT SOMEBODY TO
BELIEVE IN U
YOU'LL BE PARTNERS TILL THE END!
WE'RE GONNA BE FAMOUS
WE'RE GONNA BE FAMOUS
WE'RE GONNA BE RICH AND COOL
WE'RE GONNA DROP OUT OF SCHOOL
WE'RE GONNA BE FAMOUS
WE'RE GONNA BE FAMOUS
WE'RE GONNA BE BIG AND BAD
NEVER SAD
WE'RE GONNA BE FAMOUS
WE'RE GONNA BE FAMOUS
WE'RE GONNA BE FAMOUS
WE'RE GONNA BE FAMOUS.

PICO. You're a genius, Esteban!

ESTEBAN. I know.

PICO. No really, U really are a genius.

ESTEBAN. No really. I know.

PICO. So we're done for right now then?

ESTEBAN. Yeah. But this afternoon is a different story.

It's the most important coagulation time. We have to maintain the pH levels, so whatever U do, don't be late this afternoon!

PICO. Hey, look *whom* you're talking to here.

ESTEBAN. I know exactly *whom* I'm talking to, that's why I'm saying this.

PICO. Have faith, my little earwig. Have...

(ISABELLE enters.)

ISABELLE. Hey boys! How's the science experiment going?

ESTEBAN. Hey Isabelle.

ISABELLE. I'm looking forward to the Great Crabgrass Festival finals tomorrow, Esteban. I know U two are going to do great!

ESTEBAN. We'll do just fine as long as my silly little friend here keeps his head on straight.

ISABELLE. He couldn't possibly be talking about U, could he, Pico?

ESTEBAN. He's got a bad habit of showing up late. And when he does come on time, he finds some way to mess things up and set us back a few hours.

ISABELLE. Aww. Don't be so hard on him. He's got like 800 eyes. Just like them, his mind's always going in 800 different directions.

PICO. Hi Isabelle.

ISABELLE. Hi Pico.

ESTEBAN. Well, keep a tight leash on him, Isabelle. We're getting close, and he can't mess this up anymore.

ISABELLE. I'll do what I can. Pico, I'm headed over to the anthill to get some larva for lunch, would U like to accompany me?

(PICO looks to ESTEBAN.)

PICO. Sure thing.