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NORA'S ARK
WORKSHOP VERSION #1

BY
ELI YAMIN & CLIFFORD CARLSON

NARRATOR, NORA, DAUGHTER and FITZI
enter.

NARRATOR
(spoken freely)

ONCE UPON A FUTURE TIME
ALL HUMANS THOUGHT THE EARTH WAS THINE
THEY DROVE AND FLEW AND BURNED THE SKY
UNTIL THE AIR BEGAN TO FRY

WHEN A BRILLIANT MUM WITH DAUGHTERS FOUR
FORETOLD THE END WAS SOON IN STORE
FOR ALL GOD'S CREATURES BOTH LAND AND SKY
NEEDED TO FLEE! A.S.A.P.

FOR SOON A FLOOD LIKE ONCE BEFORE
WOULD BREAK DOWN MOTHER NATURE'S DOOR
AND CHANGE THE WAY ALL BEASTS RELATE
IT WAS NORA (NOT NOAH) WHO DECLARED
IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

DAUGHTER
Mother, are you sure?

NORA
Of course, I'm sure.

IT'S GONNA RAIN- SONG

NORA (CONT'D)
I'VE TRACKED THE CUMULUS THE STRATUS THE NIMBUS UP ABOVE
I'VE MAPPED THE GENOME OF GORILLA THE BLOOD COUNT OF THE DOVE
I'VE CLOCKED THE HEARTBEAT OF HYENA AND THE TEMPERATURE OF MUD
IT'S GONNA RAIN
THE POLES WILL MELT
THE EARTH IS GONNA FLOOD

IT'S GONNA RAIN
ICE IS MELTING FAST
NO TIME TO EXPLAIN
THE SKIES ARE OVERCAST

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NORA (cont'd) (CONT'D)
 (to Daughter)
 I want you to rent us the biggest ship you can.

DAUGHTER
 What, like a cruise ship?

NORA
 Yes. And then take the subway up to the Bronx Zoo.

DAUGHTER
 The Bronx Zoo?

NORA
 We've got to save the animals.

DAUGHTER
 Are you really sure, Mother? The Bronx Zoo?

NORA
 I'VE CHECKED THE GULF STREAM AND THE JET STREAM THE CARBON IN THE AIR
 I'VE WATCHED EL NINO AND LA NINA THE DAMAGE TO MY HAIR
 I'VE TESTED CAMELS AS THEY'RE MOLTING AND REGURGITATING CUD
 IT'S GONNA RAIN
 THE POLES WILL MELT
 THE EARTH IS GONNA FLOOD

NORA & DAUGHTER

IT'S GONNA RAIN
 LAND IS SINKING FAST
 NO TIME TO COMPLAIN
 THE OZONE WILL NOT LAST

NORA
 (to Daughter)
 Go find umbrellas and rain gear.

DAUGHTER
 For the animals?

NORA
 No, Dear, for us.

DAUGHTER FITZI is fumbling with charts.

NORA (cont'd) (CONT'D)
 (to FITZI)
 Fitzi, Darling. Come here.

FITZI drops charts.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

NORA (cont'd) (CONT'D)
Fitzi, I want you to be in charge of the food.

FITZI
Do you mean like a chef?

NORA
Yes, Dear, a chef. Now go get everything you'll need.

FITZI
(daydreaming to herself)
A chef.

NORA
Fitzi? Fitzi!

NORA (cont'd) (CONT'D)
I'VE TIMED THE EARTH UPON ITS AXIS THE SNEEZING OF THE WHALE
I'VE GAUGED THE NITROGEN ON VENUS THE WHEEZING OF THE SNAIL
I'VE SPIED INSIDE A CACTUS FLOWER AS IT SLEEPS INSIDE ITS BUD
IT'S GONNA RAIN
THE POLES WILL MELT
THE EARTH IS GONNA FLOOD

DAUGHTERS
IT'S GONNA RAIN
STORM IS GONNA LAST
NO TIME TO REMAIN
THE DAMAGE WILL BE VAST

NORA stands by table with bird cage and globe.

NORA
Don't be long girls, we haven't much time.

DAUGHTERS
Right!

DAUGHTERS exit.

NORA
MOTHER NATURE TELLS US
IN LANGUAGE FULL OF GRACE
THE EARTH IS LIKE A LIFE BOAT
ON A SEA OF INTERSTELLAR SPACE
BUT NOW OUR PLANET'S SINKING
AND OUR FUTURE IS IN DOUBT
SO PACK YOUR BAGS
LOAD THE SHIP
IT'S TIME TO HEAD ON OUT

TRANSITION TO CRUISE SHIP

EXT. ABOARD THE S.S. NORA- MOMENTS LATER

DAUGHTERS enter with ANIMALS, DAUGHTER with umbrellas and FITZI wearing a chef's hat, holding a spatula, and carrying cookbooks. THEY join NORA.

PREDATORS 1

(repeat)
IT'S GONNA RAIN

PREY 1

(repeat)
THE POLES WILL MELT

PREDATORS 2

(repeat)
THE EARTH IS GONNA FLOOD

PREY 2

(repeat)
THE POLES WILL MELT
THE POLES WILL MELT
THE POLES
THE POLES
THE POLES WILL MELT

DAUGHTERS

(repeat)
IT'S GONNA RAIN

PREDATORS & PREY

WE KNEW THIS DAY WAS COMING
WE WERE NOT CAUGHT UNAWARE
THE EARTH WAS SOMEHOW DIFFERENT
WE COULD TASTE IT IN THE AIR
CATASTROPHE'S UPON US
WE FEEL IT IN OUR BLOOD

ALL

IT'S GONNA RAIN
THE POLES WILL MELT
THE EARTH IS GONNA FLOO

LIGHTS FADE

THE STORM- INSTRUMENTAL

LIGHTS UP

NARRATOR

(spoken freely)

WHEN THE CLOUDS HAD CLEARED
 T'WAS AS NORA FEARED
 THE LAND WAS UNDER SEA
 YET THEIR SHIP TO SAIL
 WOULD NOT SOON FAIL
 TO SET THEIR COLLECTIVE CONSCIENCES FREE

OLD PRISON BARS WERE THICK AND STRONG
 AND LEFT A BITTER SCAR
 STILL SURVIVAL NOW DEPENDS
 ON ENEMIES BECOMING FRIENDS
 AND BUILDING BRIDGES THAT WERE ONCE TOO FAR

THEIR FOOD WAS LOST
 AND HOPE WAS TOSSED
 INTO THE AIR LIKE DUST
 TO CHANGE THEIR NATURE
 PREDATORS AND PREY WILL MAKE SURE
 TO COOPERATE YES THIS THEY MUST

OH THE CATS REMEMBERED LIFE IN CHAINS
 LIONS AND TIGERS ALL
 AND THE MEMORY OF FREEDOM'S PRECIOUS PAST
 FOR CHEETAH WAS HARDEST OF ALL

TRANSITION

EXT. THE HUNGRY MOON- NIGHT

PREDATOR

(clearing throat)

AAAA-OOOOOOOOOOO!

MRS. TIGER

(smiling)

You know, being here hungry again, makes me think of the way
 it was before we were locked up. I'm so thankful to be here.

MR. LION

I'm not. We had it easy back at the zoo. Food and water
 delivered right to our cages. No more starving.

MRS. LION

No more running through the savanna. Remember how you used
 to run and run and run all over...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. CHEETAH
 (interrupting)
 Stop it! Please.
 (extremely emotional)
 Don't talk about it... about running, I mean. I can't...

MR. CHEETAH becomes agitated and begins
 pacing. MRS. TIGER steps up to MR.
 CHEETAH.

THERE'S BLUE ALL AROUND ME- SONG

MRS. TIGER
 LISTEN TO ME CHEETAH
 BREATHE DEEP AND TAKE IT SLOW
 I KNOW YOU'RE FEELING DOWN AND OUT
 BUT YOU HAVE GOT TO LET IT GO
 THERE'S BLUE ALL AROUND ME
 BUT I'M NOT FEELING BLUE TODAY
 MY SOUL WAS ONCE A CAPTIVE
 BUT NOW MY FREEDOM IS HERE TO STAY
 I'M NOBODY'S HOUSE CAT
 EACH NIGHT I BORE THE COST
 I ALWAYS KNEW THIS DAY WOULD COME
 WHEN I COULD FIND WHAT I HAD LOST
 THERE'S BLUE ALL AROUND ME
 BUT I'M NOT FEELING BLUE TODAY
 I'M WALKING TALL NOW BABY
 CAUSE MY FREEDOM IS HERE TO STAY
 (dance)

PREDATOR
 THE NIGHT WHEN I WAS TAKEN
 THEY THROUGH ME IN A CAGE
 THEY TOLD ME TO BE HAPPY
 TO PUT AWAY MY RAGE

PREDATOR (CONT'D)
 THEY WINED ME AND THEY DINED ME
 ON THE FINEST SIRLOIN STEAK
 BUT ONCE I ATE THAT BLOODY FOOD
 THAT'S WHEN MY SOUL WAS THEIRS TO TAKE

PREDATOR (CONT'D)
 THERE'S BLUE ALL AROUND ME
 BUT I'M NOT FEELING BLUE TODAY
 THERE'S NO HUNGER IN MY SOUL NOW BABY
 CAUSE MY FREEDOM IS HERE TO STAY
 (dance)

PREDATOR (CONT'D)
 I'M CRYING OUT FOR JUSTICE
 TO FREE ME FROM MY PAIN
 WE'RE SAILING CROSS THE ROLLING SEA

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

UPON THIS FLOATING FREEDOM TRAIN

ALL PREDATORS

THERE'S BLUE ALL AROUND ME
 BUT I'M NOT FEELING BLUE TODAY
 MY HEART IS BUSTING OPEN
 BECAUSE MY FREEDOM IS HERE TO STAY
 MY HEART IS BUSTING OPEN
 BECAUSE MY FREEDOM IS HERE TO STAY
 OH YEAH!

TRANSITION

NARRATOR

(spoken freely)

THEN PREY JUST LIKE THEIR HUNTER KIN
 WERE CALLED TO FREEDOM'S TEST
 TO LIFT THEIR HEADS FROM PRISON BEDS
 AND PURSUE LIFE'S NOBLEST QUEST

EXT. HUNGRY DAYS- EARLY MORNING

PREY are asleep on deck.

ROOSTER

COCK-A-DOODLE-DO!

ROOSTER salutes the sun. PREY ANIMALS
 rise slowly. They are starving.

MRS. ELEPHANT

Oh my, I'm so hungry. I don't think we can go on much
 longer.

CHICKEN

(to Mrs. Elephant)

Come on. Things aren't that bad.

MR. MONKEY crawls across the stage a la
 "Thirsty Desert Traveler".

MR. MONKEY

Banana...Banana...

MR. MONKEY crawls over to MRS.
 ELEPHANT. Grabs her trunk.

MR. MONKEY (cont'd) (CONT'D)

Banana?

He tries to peel MRS. ELEPHANT'S nose.
 She yanks it away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHICKEN
 (to Mrs. Elephant)
 Maybe you're right.

MRS. ZEBRA
 There's a another kind of hunger. A deeper one.

THERE'S BLUE ALL AROUND ME- SONG

MRS. ZEBRA
 WHEN I WAS A YOUNGSTER
 I'D WAKE UP WITH THE SUN
 I'D GALLOP THROUGH THE OPEN FIELDS
 OH I WOULD LAUGH AND I WOULD RUN
 THERE'S BLUE ALL AROUND ME
 BUT I'M NOT FEELING BLUE TODAY
 I'M STRETCHIN' MY LEGS NOW CHICKEN
 CAUSE MY FREEDOM IS HERE TO STAY
 I'D DANCE ACROSS THE FOOTHILLS
 I'D SHIMMY THROUGH THE PLAINS
 I'D KICK MY HEELS AT SUNSET
 AND I WOULD DRINK IN SUMMER RAINS
 THERE'S BLUE ALL AROUND ME
 BUT I'M NOT FEELING BLUE TODAY
 THAT OLD ZOO IS JUST A MEMORY
 BECAUSE MY FREEDOM IS HERE TO STAY
 (dance)

PREY
 THE NIGHT WHEN I WAS TAKEN
 THEY SHOT ME FULL OF DOPE
 THEY DRAGGED ME AND THEY BEAT ME
 THEY STOLE AWAY MY HOPE

PREY'S
 THEY LOCKED ME IN A DUNGEON
 AND CHAINED ME TO THE GROUND
 BUT THOUGH THEY CHAINED MY BODY UP
 THEY COULD NOT KEEP MY SPIRIT DOWN

PREY #1
 THERE'S BLUE ALL AROUND ME
 BUT I'M NOT FEELING BLUE TODAY
 I'M RUNNING WILD THIS MORNING
 CAUSE MY FREEDOM IS HERE TO STAY
 (dance)

PREY
 I'M NOBODY'S TROPHY
 MY TEARS WERE NOT IN VAIN
 THESE DEWDROPS FLEW TO HEAVEN
 THEN TURNED AROUND AND FELL LIKE RAIN

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALL PREY
 THERE'S BLUE ALL AROUND ME
 BUT I'M NOT FEELING BLUE TODAY
 THIS FLOOD HAS BEEN A BLESSING
 CAUSE MY FREEDOM IS HERE TO STAY TO STAY
 THIS FLOOD HAS BEEN A BLESSING

MRS. ZEBRA
 CAUSE MY FREEDOM IS HERE TO STAY

ALL PREY
 OH YES OH YES

TRANSITION

EXT. ABOARD THE S.S. NORA- A WEEK LATER

NARRATOR
 (spoken freely)
 WOULD ALL TAKE A CUE
 FROM A BUNNIES MOUTH
 TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT?
 AS NORA PROCLAIMED AT JOURNEY'S LIGHT
 A NEW BEGINNING WAS NOT TOO LATE

FOR WHAT HAD BEEN LOST WAS NOT FORGOT
 T'WAS CLEAR FOR ALL TO SEE
 TO REMEMBER THEIR BEGINNINGS AND RECALL THE BOND
 THAT ALL LIFE IS PART OF THE SAME FAMILY

NORA enters.

NORA
 I have an announcement to make. As you know Mrs. Rabbit gave birth and she would like to present her bevy of baby bunnies. The parents are proud that they were born *free* bunnies.

A group of adorable BUNNIES and MRS.
 RABBIT enter.

BUNNY ENTRANCE MUSIC

PREDATOR
 Look how delicious...
 (covering)
 I mean, adorable they are.

BUGSY
 What's da problem, Ma. [What's the problem, Ma?]

MRS. RABBIT
 We haven't got any food on board and everyone's starving to death. And those predators would like to eat us.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUGSY

Whoa! Dat's pretty bad. [Whoa! That's pretty bad.]

BUGSY looks over side of ship.

BUGSY (CONT'D)

(pointing)

Why don't we eat dat stuff dare? [Why don't we eat that stuff there?]

MR. RABBIT

What stuff?

BUGSY

Right dare, Ma. Look at all that green stuff floatin'.
[Right there, Ma. Look at all that green stuff floating.]

MRS. RABBIT looks over side of ship.

MRS. RABBIT

Oh, my...

(calling)

Everyone! Look! Look! Food! I think that's food!

Seaweed is scooped up. MRS. RABBIT
takes a piece of seaweed and tastes it.

MRS. RABBIT (CONT'D)

A little slimy, but...delicious!

PREY ALL

(ad lib cheers)

We're saved! Yahoo! Yippee! Excellent! Yes! Etc...

BUGSY

What about dem, Ma? [What about them, Ma?]

MRS. RABBIT

They're predators. They eat meat. Without it, they'll die.

BUGSY

Are yuz just gonna sit round an watch ya family suffer? [Are you just going to sit around and watch your family suffer?]

MRS. RABBIT

They're not part of our family.

BUGSY

Wez all related. [We're all related.]

SWINGIN' ON THE FAMILY TREE- SONG

BUGSY

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WAY BACK WHEN THE EARTH WAS NEW
BEFORE ALL THE HUMANS AND THE DINOSAURS TOO
FELLA' CRAWLED OUT OF THE DEEP BLUE SEA
I'M SO GLAD TO BE HERE BUT, WHERE'S MY FAMILY
SO HE TOOK A LITTLE STROLL AND FOUND SOME SHADE
LOOKED UP AND LAUGHED 'CAUSE HE KNEW HE HAD IT MADE
STARING BACK DOWN WAS A MENAGERIE AND EVERYBODY'S SINGING...

BUGSY & OTHERS

WE ALL GOT EARS SO WE CAN HEAR THE STORM
WE ALL GOT LEGS IN SOME WAY SHAPE OR FORM
ALL GOT HANDS SO WE CAN KEEP A BEAT
WE'RE DANCIN' AND WE'RE SWINGIN' ON THE FAMILY TREE
WE ALL GOT A MOUTH SO WE CAN EAT WITH STYLE
DON'T BE SHY COME ON AND FLASH THAT SMILE
WE'RE ALL THE SAME COUSIN YOU AND ME
WE'RE SMILIN' AND WE'RE SWINGIN' ON THE FAMILY TREE
NOW WE'RE SWINGIN' LIKE WE GOT NO MIND
YEAH WE'RE SWINGIN' IT DON'T MATTER YOUR KIND
TAKE A CHANCE AND DANCE WITH ME
JUST LIMBER UP YOUR BRANCHES ON THE FAMILY TREE
WE ALL GOT EYES THOUGH THEY'RE NOT THE SAME
WE ALL GOT SKIN SO WE CAN FEEL THE RAIN
ALL GOT HEARTS AND I CAN GUARANTEE
WE'RE DANCIN' AND WE'RE SWINGIN' ON THE FAMILY TREE
(dance)

ENTIRE CAST

NOW WE'RE SWINGIN' LIKE WE GOT NO MIND
WE'RE SWINGIN', IT DON'T MATTER YOUR KIND
TAKE A CHANCE AND DANCE WITH ME
JUST LIMBER UP YOUR BRANCHES ON THE FAMILY TREE
WE ALL GOT EYES THOUGH THEY'RE NOT THE SAME
WE ALL GOT SKIN SO WE CAN FEEL THE RAIN
ALL GOT HEARTS AND I CAN GUARANTEE
WE'RE DANCIN' AND WE'RE SWINGIN' ON THE FAMILY TREE

PREY

(referring to Predators)

Well, if there was something we could do to help them, we'd do it. Right?

PREY ALL

(ad libs)

Sure. Yes. If there was something. I guess so.

MR. CHEETAH

(exploding into hysterics)

I can't take it any more! I'm trapped! No where to run,...
Gotta run, gotta run!

BUGSY

Somebody better grab him before...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MR. CHEETAH exits running. A splash is heard.

OVERBOARD MUSIC

ANIMAL

Cheetah over board! Cheetah over board!

BUGSY

Whoa! Look at him go. I guess dey swim fast too. [I guess they swim fast too.]

ANIMAL

I'll get him with this net.

Reaches.

Got him.

ANIMAL (CONT'D)

(to Mr. Cheetah)

How are you feeling?

MR. CHEETAH

Better. I'm sorry everyone. I...

MR. CHEETAH begins wriggling about, then fidgeting, then jumping around as if he were being tickled. MR. CHEETAH pulls a fish out.

ANIMAL

What's that?

MR. CHEETAH

(smells fish)

I think...

(takes a bite)

It's dinner!!

PREDATORS ALL

(ad libs)

Dinner? Food! We're saved! Let me see. Etc...

EXT. ABOARD THE S.S. NORA- LATER

NARRATOR

(spoken freely)

THE STORM WOULD PASS

SUSHI WOULD LAST

UNTIL THEY REACHED A SHORE

THEIR LIVES WOULD NOW CHANGE

AS NEW FRIENDSHIPS REMAIN

AND THINGS WOULD BE BETTER THAN THEY EVER WERE BEFORE

THE SUN WILL SHINE

FOR YOURS AND MINE

SAID NORA TO HER ANIMAL CREW

THEN A FURRY LITTLE TIKE

ASKED WHAT WILL THE FUTURE BE LIKE?

NORA SMILED LOOKED UP AND SANG

I SEE BLUE!