

Androcles and the Lion

Book, Music
&
Lyrics

by

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ISBN 1 84237 011 1

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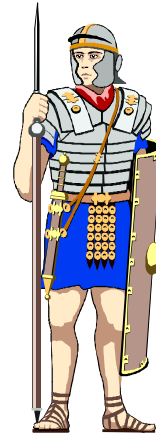
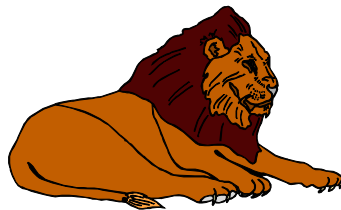
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DRAMATIS PERSONAE

ANDROCLES **A GREEK PEASANT**
PAWS **A FEROCIOUS LION**
PERSPEX **ANDROCLES MOTHER**
TEDIUS **A CENTURION**
NOBLINES **A FOX**
OPTREX **ANDROCLES' FRIEND**
BILIUS **A ROMAN EMPEROR**

ROMAN LEGIONAIRES:

TIMIDUS
OBVIUS
GASIVS
CUSCUS
TWO NARRATORS
EURADIDES
IREADIDOSE



VARIOUS ATTENDANTS AND WOODLAND CREATURES AS REQUIRED

Writers Notes.

Androcles was written originally for a class of 7-11 years old. Consequently, the script includes parts to stretch the most capable of children and to afford parts for those who find acting a challenge.

The ideal setting is in the round with one end of the stage set as Ancient Rome and the other dressed as a forest clearing, perhaps with the Parthenon in the distance. If the cast then sit around the edge of the stage they can enter and exit without complication. This means the cast can join in the singing easily and can be involved all the time. Props can be placed at the edge of the stage as appropriate.

Scene One – In the Forest near Athens

Song One – Down In the Woods

(Whole Cast)

Down in the woods there's a whole lot a-brewin'
Down in the woods there's trouble a-stewin'
Just keep an eye on the things that you're doing tonight
For someone somewhere we can tell is up to no good
When you 're all alone and down in the woods

Down in the woods when people are sleeping
Down in the woods two eyes are a-peepin'
Four little paws are sneakin' and creepin' around
For someone somewhere we can tell is up to no good
When you're all alone and down in the woods

Listen to the nightbirds singing their song
If you keep believing you'll be fearless and strong
Right every wrong

Down in the woods you don't look behind you
Down in the woods the lion'll find you
Keep to the path and keep to the things that are true
For someone somewhere we can tell is up to no good
When you're all alone
When you're all alone
When you're all alone
And down in the woods

(Instrumental)

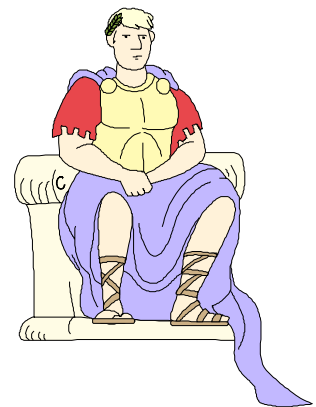
When you're all alone
When you're all alone
When you're all alone
And down in the woods

Narrator 2: Welcome one and all
We are your storytellers two
Here we are in Athens
The year is AD92

Narrator 1: We Greeks love a good old story
As everybody knows
My name's Euredadese

Narrator 2: And mines Ireadadose

Narrator 1: So settle back and listen
We've a story that will please
About a peasant boy
By the name of Androcles



Narrator 2: Andy was a Christian
They were rather strange and feared
People didn't understand
His mother called him weird

Narrator 1: Androcles was gentle,
Rather timid, unaware
Of all the great disasters
That were shortly to occur

Narrator 2: So let's go to the forest
And see who is about
It is Perspex, Androcles' mum
And she's definitely that way out.

(Enter Perspex)

Perspex: Androcles! Where are you?
That useless son of mine
The firewood is running low
And we're freshly out of wine
He shames me to my fingertips
No thought at all that lad
All that prayin' and being good
Of course I blame his dad.

(Enter Androcles)

Androcles: Here I am now mother
Am I not an obedient son?
I'm here to do your bidding
So keep your toga on

Perspex: You've been down that church of yours again
It's no place for a growing lad
You should be revellin' and fightin'
Being generally bad.

Androcles: Times are changing Mother
You musn't sneer and scoff

Perspex: Tell that to the Romans when
They come and cart you off!

Androcles: The Romans are quite civilised
They won't bother us
They're too busy building aqueducts
Mother how you fuss!

Perspex: And what's wrong with the Greek gods?
At least we've more than one
They keep themselves out of the way
And they know how to have some fun

Androcles: You know you'll never change my mind
You know I an committed



Perspex: Committed is what you should be
That my son should be half witted!

Androcles: You'll see the light one day I know
For that I always pray

Perspex: I'm not joining the Mothers Union
No matter what you say!

(Optrex enters)

Optrex: Hello Androcles, Perspex

Perspex: Oh, it's you

Androcles: It's Optrex my good friend
I hope that you are well
How are things with you old pal?
Have you any news to tell

Optrex: I have indeed, that's why I'm here
The news is very scary
A lion has been seen around,
It's very big and hairy

Perspex: A lion! Get the flocks in quick
We'll be murdered while we sleep

Androcles: For heaven's sake calm down Mother

Perspex: Why?

Androcles: We're peasants, we haven't any sheep

Perspex: Oh yes, I forgot the peasant bit

Androcles: A lion is a noble beast
He hunts for food, not sport
We'll sleep safely in our beds
At least I would have thought

Optrex: **(leaving)** Nonetheless be on your guard

Androcles: We shall old friend, farewell
God shall keep us safe Mother

Perspex: Could we have a big stick as well!



Song Two - Down in the woods (Reprise, last verse only)

(Androcles, Perspex & Cast)

Down in the woods you don't look behind you.
Down in the woods the lion'll find you.
Keep to the path and keep to the things that are true,
For someone somewhere, we can tell, is up to no good.
When you're all alone,
When you're all alone,
When you're all alone,
And down in the woods.

(They exit)

Narrator 1: In another part of the forest
Arrived among the trees
Scurries in a little fox
By the name of Noblines

Narrator 2: And close behind, a lion
All furry mane and claws
Fierce and brave and very cruel
Known to all as "Paws"!



(Enter Lion and Noblines, a fox.)

Music Three - Incidental music)

Paws: Here we are young Noblines
This spot looks very fair
The very place an evil lion
Could make an evil lair

Noblines: True yer 'ighness, very true
Perfect I'd surmise
And lot's of little woodland folk
For you to terrorise

Paws: **(sigh)** Everywhere we goes the same
We come, they run away
No-one ever wants to stop
And pass the time of day

Paws: No-one asks us round for tea
I'm sure they wouldn't consider us
And why? Because I'm big and fierce

Noblines: And just a bit carnivorous

Paws: If you cut me do I not bleed?
Do I not hurt a lot?
Am I not human like everyone else?

Noblins: No Your Majesty, you're not
You're a Lion yer 'ishness, it's your job
To give them a thorough fright
It's what people expect of you

Paws: I suppose you're right
It would be nice once in a while
To be a gentler beast
To get on with the neighbours
The chewy ones at least

Noblins: Now look, I espy a chariot

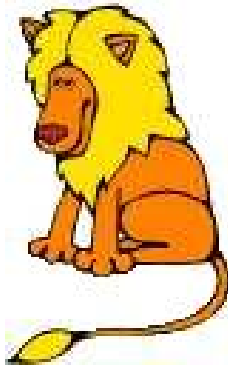
Paws: Where?

Noblins: There across the fields
Let's go and have a little lunch

Paws: Lovely, meals on wheels!

(They exit)

Music Three - Incidental music



Scene Two - At the Roman court of the Emperor.

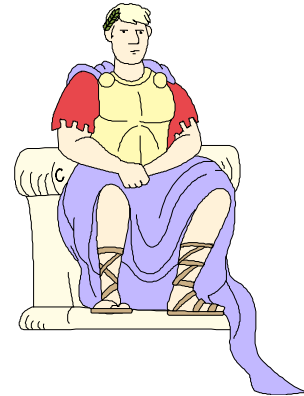
(The Emperor is sat on a throne with attendants)

Narrator 2: We say goodbye to Athens for a
While and journey here
The court of the Emperor Bilius
The Roman they all fear

Narrator 1: If you think a lion's bad
Try living at Bilius' court
He'd chop his granny's head off
If he was feeling out of sorts

Narrator 2: Now Bilius has his problems
Although you would not think
The treasury is stony broke
In short, the Emperor's skint

Narrator 1: He's just lost his last Denarii
Betting on a horse
The 3.15 at Pompeii
It came in last of course



Song Four (a) - It's No Fun Being Emperor

(Bilius)

Chorus It's no fun being Emperor
It's not a piece of cake
It's no fun being Emperor
I always lie awake
Just where all the money goes
I'm never in the black
It's no fun being Emperor, I just haven't got the knack

If I just had a different job
I'm sure that I'd do fine
If I just had a different job
I'd happily resign
But you don't want to know what happens
When a king gets sacked
It's no fun being Emperor, I just haven't got the knack

One fine day I will slip away
And roam to pastures new
I will lead such a simple life
But I'll take the money too.

(Chorus)

It's no fun being Emperor I just haven't got the...
It's no fun being Emperor
I just haven't got the knack!

Bilius: Tedius! Tedius
Where are you Tedius?

(Tedius enters)

Tedius: Here your graciousness here I am
To your side I've scooted
How can I be of service?
Want any peasant executed?

Bilius: Oh Tedius things look black
Black as they ever did

Tedius: How may I help you master?

Bilius: Could you lend us twenty quid

Tedius: I think I've got a fiver somewhere
Hang on, you're the Emperor!
What about the Treasury?

Bilius: Empty I'm afraid

Tedius: All the gold?

Bilius: All gone

Tedius: The slaves? The palaces? Everything?

Bilius: All pawned to pay my whacking debts
There really isn't any
It's not cheap being Emperor
I haven't got a penny

Tedius: This is a disaster, a tragedy
What if the people find out
You're not very popular as it is
We'll really be up the spout
A pauper for an Emperor
No that will never do
If word gets round the whole of Rome
Will come chasing after you

Bilius: What on earth can we do
How to avoid the shame?

Tedius: What do we always do sire?

Both: Find someone to blame!

Tedius: Perfect, of course
Now think Tedius, think **(Thinks hard)**
Who's poor, powerless, innocent

Both: The Christians