

Celebrating Australian Playwriting



Australian Script Centre



CALLING ALL ANGELS

by Rebecca Lister

EXTRACT

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CALLING ALL ANGELS

BY

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The original production of Calling All Angels was staged outdoors on the banks of Lake Daylesford, in the Central Highlands of Victoria. The audience was seated on an old concrete 'grand stand' above a grassy picnic area and swimming spot. A portable lighting rig and sound system were used. The back stage area was made by putting up lengths of hessian tied to star pickets.

A band of local musicians was put together for the production and the band played 'covers' for the show. The band was located on one side of the grassy performance area, the backstage area on the other side. An APRA license would need to be obtained.

A fire twirling group was formed before the show and these people became the Fire Tribe. Fire twirlers need to be properly trained and all safety precautions must be taken. In the original production we invited the CFA to come to the shows and be on stand by. The CFA crew also assisted with seating people and providing lighting at the end of the show.

The play could be performed in either an outdoor setting near water or with some creative re-interpretation – indoors.

With the original production – there was no interval – but an interval could be made if needed. The original production ran for just over an hour.

CAST

SIGN CARRIER either male/female – any age – non-speaking part

MICHAEL Angel – can only be seen by audience and Jethro

GABRIEL Angel – as above

RAPHAEL Angel – as above

JETHRO Boy – 12 years of age

PHOEBE Sister of Jethro – 16 years of age

GRANDAD Grandfather of Jethro and Phoebe.

Parents of Jethro and Phoebe are dead. Jethro and Phoebe live with their Grandfather.

Air Household

ZEPHYR Head of the AIR household – male – groovy – 'party animal'

VIV Party Kid – either male/female – any age
 VAL Party Kid – as above
 VON Party Kid – as above

Water Household

ATLANTA Headmistress – female – mature, but alluring/glamorous
 SIRENA Water baby - female
 CIRCE as above
 CALYPSO as above
 AQUA as above
 MORGANA as above
 MARINA as above
 SHANON as above

Earth Household

DEMETER Mother of Compost Kids – earthy, new age, beautiful, hippy

 KHL Compost kid – male
 KARL as above
 KEVIN as above
 KEITH as above

Fire Tribe (all people in Fire Tribe must be able to fire twirl)

MERCURY Leader of Fire Tribe – gorgeous, physical, vain,
 FIRE FAMILY (non-speaking parts) Fire twirlers – any age, gender – must be able to fire twirl safely.

SET

The performance space is very open and simple. The only necessary piece of staging is a park bench which could be raised. In the original production of Calling All Angels the bench was raised and surrounded by ‘clouds’ – to indicate an ethereal presence. Be creative!

COSTUMES

Be creative with the costumes – allow the actors to feel comfortable and terrific in what they are wearing. The following is just a guide. It is important that all the actors feel really good about what they are wearing.

Sign carrier something colourful and comfortable
 Angels old suits with little wings attached to the back, vests, hats etc
 Jethro casual clothes suitable for a boy of 13 – 14

Phoebe	needs to have a touch of 'cartoon' about her costume – red boots and small red - floral frock
Grandad	suit
Zephyr	silver party clothes, boots, crazy hair, accessories, over the top
Viv	as above
Val	as above
Von	as above
Atlanta	Watery, flowing, strong, blue, long frock, runners
Water Babies	Swimming costumes with skirts over the top, runners
Mercury	baggy hippy pants, vest, or no shirt, beads, shoulder hippy bag, head band etc
Fire twirlers	hippy clothes in red and black – matching – fire safe clothing, head bands
Demeter	Earthy, mothering, flowing
Compost Kids	Overalls with flowers and bits of grass and leaves attached etc
The Band	All black with different coloured scarves – either around heads, necks, wrists etc.

PROPS

- Moon sign – needs to have a moving part on it so that it can signify quarter, half, three quarters and full moon. Needs to be able to stand up by itself
- Sun sign – on other side of moon sign
- Cut out car – made from light weight wood so it can be carried on and off
- Cut out house – as above
- Large cut out flowers
- Wheel barrow
- Gardening tools
- Buckets
- Clothes
- Water bottles
- Urine specimen jar x 2
- Boats – if part of the performance happens on the water.
- Ashes urn
- Candles
- Other items as listed in the script

SCENE ONE

Twilight

The performance space is empty.

Sign carrier enters with the sun moon sign. The moon is on the crescent shape. Spot light shines on the moon.

The sign carrier goes to the middle of the stage and crows as a rooster and swings the sign around to 'sun' to indicate daylight. Sign carrier takes the sun/moon sign and exits.

Lights up – morning.

Enter the three guardian angels, Michael, Gabriel, Raphael. They are dressed as old men and have very small sets of wings on their backs. They go to their bench.

MICHAEL: Morning.

GABRIEL: Morning.

RAPHAEL: Morning.

They all sit down and go about their business. One pours a coffee from a thermos, one takes out a newspaper, and one takes out some sandwiches from his coat pocket.

MICHAEL: Where is she?.

RAPHAEL: Café.

MICHAEL: Should have guessed. She spends too much time in there.

RAPHAEL: Networking.

MICHAEL: Networking! She oughta get a job.

GABRIEL: She's young. She's still finding herself.

MICHAEL: She wasn't too young to leave school.

RAPHAEL: Be patient with her – she's only a child.

MICHAEL: A child! She's not a child, she's a woman, when I was her

age I was working....

Gabriel interrupts

GABRIEL: We know Mick, when you where her age you already had a job and a wife and a house and six kids!

MICHAEL: No need to exaggerate.

RAPHAEL: She's a teenager, all teenagers are like this.

MICHAEL: Yes well, if I'd know she was going to be so unpredictable I wouldn't have taken the job.

RAPHAEL: You didn't have a choice did you?

MICHAEL: No! That's the bloody problem when you're an angel – nobody bothers to ask you who you want to look over. I would've liked someone my own age.

GABRIEL: You would've been bored in two days.

MICHAEL: At least I would've known the routine. With Phoebe, I don't know what's happening from one minute to the next.

RAPHAEL: *(clicks his fingers)* You've got to keep up Mick, keep up!

GABRIEL: Hey, he's our little mate Jethro.

They all look up as Jethro appears. He comes and joins them and they make way for him on the bench.

JETHRO: Hey fellas.

ANGELS: Hey Jethro etc.

JETHRO: What's happening?

MICHAEL: We're waiting for your sister.

GABRIEL: She's in the café.

RAPHAEL: Drinking latte.

MICHAEL: Espresso.

GABRIEL: Cappuccino.

JETHRO: Frappuccino!

They all laugh

RAPHAEL: So, what news have you got for us today son?

JETHRO: Well, Phoebe reckons she moving out of home.

ANGELS: What?!

JETHRO: Grandad is really spewing about it. He reckons that she's too young and that Mum and Dad will come and haunt him if he lets her move out.

MICHAEL: It's not in the plan! She can't move out, it's not in the plan!

He feels in his pockets and pulls out a scroll. Reads through it.

MICHAEL: Bloody hell.

RAPHAEL: Watch it Mick, you can't go speaking like that.

MICHAEL: Oops sorry, I mean heavens above, it is in the plan!

GABRIEL: Where?

Snatches the scroll from Michael

GABRIEL: Bloody hell, you're right, it says here, "Age 16, cause immense grief by moving out of home".

MICHAEL: We'll have to stop her! We'll have to tell her there's been a mistake.

JETHRO: But she can't see you! She doesn't believe in you!

RAPHAEL: What a mess. We can't let her go into the big world. Not yet.

Music begins

"It's a Wild World" Cat Stevens. The angels all sway together and shed tears.

Grandad and Phoebe enter. They have their arms around each other.

Music stops

MICHAEL: Well it's up to you son, you'll have to stop her.

JETHRO: Me?

MICHAEL: Yes you!

JETHRO: Oh yeah right, as if she'll listen to me.

GABRIEL: Be assertive.

They push him forwards

MICHAEL: Just tell her that we said so.

JETHRO: She's sure to believe that.

He stops near Grandad and Phoebe.

PHOEBE: Are you talking to yourself again?

JETHRO: No.

PHOEBE: Well who are you talking to?

JETHRO: The angels. They say you shouldn't move out of home.

She looks at him like he's a complete fool, then talks to Grandad

PHOEBE: Talk to him Grandad, he's been totally into this angel business ever since mum and dad died. Drives me crazy.

GRANDAD: Each to there own Phoebe, each to their own.

PHOEBE: Well I won't have to put up with him for much longer, I'm definitely moving out Grandad, I am totally over this town.

GRANDAD: I hope you're not over me.

PHOEBE: No, I love you Grandad but I just have to find my own space for awhile.

JETHRO: *(mimicking her)* "I need to find my own space for awhile".

PHOEBE: Shut up!

GRANDAD: Don't fight. This might be Phoebe's last day with us.

JETHRO: Hallelujah!

PHOEBE: Give it a rest Jethro. Help me look at these accommodation notices in the paper.

GRANDAD: I'll go and get the car. See you here in a few minutes.

PHOEBE and JETHRO: Okay.

Grandad exits

PHOEBE: Let's sit on the bench.

JETHRO: Hang on...*(Calls out to the angels)* "Quick, move it, big bum's coming".

MICHAEL: Righto! Righto! We're moving.

PHOEBE: Stop it Jethro! Please stop it, just for today.

JETHRO: Okay, I'll try.

They sit down. Phoebe takes out a newspaper. The angels hover around looking over her shoulder. Jethro gestures for them to move away but they ignore him.

PHOEBE: This place sounds good. "Young household, looking for single female, no pets, non smoker, must like partying", what do you reckon?

MICHAEL: No way! Absolutely not! Sounds terrible.

RAPHAEL: I agree with Mick, sounds awful, how will you ever get any study done in a party house? No, definitely a bad move!

GABRIEL: Tell her Jethro, it's up to you son.

JETHRO: I don't know Phoebe, sounds pretty full on, the party stuff and all that.

PHOEBE: But that's what I want, I want to spread my wings, let my hair down, feel the wind, create a storm, all that sort of stuff. Sounds perfect.

JETHRO: Can't you stay here and do that?