



The Guide to Musical Theatre

CHILDREN OF EDEN

Music & lyrics by Stephen Schwartz, book by John Caird

Prince Edward Theatre, London - 8 January 1991 - 6 April, 1991

From the composer/ lyricist of *Godspell* and the co-director of *Les Misérables* comes a joyous and inspirational musical about parents, children and faith... not to mention centuries of unresolved family business! Based freely on the Genesis stories of Adam, Eve, Noah, their children and their 'Father', *Children of Eden* offers a frank, heartfelt, tuneful, charming and often humorous look at the pleasures and pains of parenting.



SYNOPSIS

CHILDREN OF EDEN begins with God creating the heaven and the earth. He then creates his "children" to share his dream and gives them the garden of Eden. Eve then eats from the tree of knowledge at which point she "sees what Father sees". Adam must choose between his Father and his wife and (obviously) chooses the latter. Father exiles them from Eden and condemns them to be "Lost in the Wildreness" where they have two boys, Cain and Abel. Cain inherits his mothers rebeliousness, wanating to travel and find out about the world but his Father (Adam) forbids it. Cain defies his father (the same way Adam and Eve defied God) and, in a fit of rage, tries to strike him. Abel intervenes and ends up getting killed. Cain yells to Adam, "That should have been you!!" and runs into the wildreness. Here he apparently finds a tribe of other humans but is labelled an outcast by God. Act 1 ends with Eve, alone after Adams death, sings the title song to all her children and grandchildren. As her offspring take over the final verses, Eve begins her ascent to heaven where Father (and Adam) await to greet her.

Act 2 begins with the descendants of Adam and Eve spreading all over the world in the song "Generations". We meet Noah and his family, building an ark at God's (Father's) insistance. Only the family of Noah (his wife, sons and their wives --none of whom bear the "mark of Cain") will be allowed on the ark. However one of Noah's sons is in love with a woman who bears the mark of Cain. As the animals enter the ark two by two (in a wonderful number that is all orchestra wherein people with animal masks, costumes and puupets represent all animals in a scene that rivals the spectacle of LION KING) Noah's son hides his lover on the ship. After the flood the girl is discovered and once again a father (Noah) must deal with the rebelious child in the song THE HARDEST PART OF LOVE ("You cannot close the acorn once the oak begins to grow, And you cannot close your heart to what it fears and needs to know, That the hardest part of love....Is the letting go" --A BEAUTIFUL song!!). Noah decides to forgive his son and accepts his new wife into the family. As the ark comes to rest atop a mountain the family of Noah seperates to the ends of the earth to start a new generation of humans.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I

1. Let There Be – Father & Full Company
2. Perfect (Part 1) – Storytellers, Father, Adam & Eve
3. The Tree of Knowledge – Father & Adam
4. The Naming – Father, Adam, Eve & Storytellers
5. Grateful Children – Adam & Eve
6. Father's Day – Father
7. Perfect (Part 2) – Storytellers, Father, Adam & Eve
8. The Spark of Creation – Eve
9. In Pursuit of Excellence – Snake & Eve
10. The End of a Perfect Day – Storytellers
11. Childhood's End – Storytellers, Father & Eve
12. A World Without You – Adam, Father & Eve
13. The Expulsion – Father & Storytellers
14. The Wasteland – Storytellers
15. Wilderness Family – Adam, Young Cain & Young Abel
16. The Spark of Creation (Reprise 1) – Eve
17. Lost in the Wilderness – Cain & Abel
18. Lost in the Wilderness (Reprise) – Cain
19. Close to Home – Adam, Eve, Abel, Young Cain & Young Abel
20. A Ring of Stones – Adam, Eve, Cain & Abel
21. Clash of the Generations – Adam, Eve, Cain & Abel
22. The Death of Abel – Eve & Storytellers
23. The Mark of Cain – Father & Storytellers
24. Children of Eden – Eve & Full Company

Act II

25. Generations – Storytellers
26. The Gathering Storm – Noah & Father
27. A Piece of Eight – Storytellers, Noah, Mama Noah, Japeth, Yonah, Ham, Shem, Aphra & Aysha
28. Blind Obedience – Noah
29. The Return of the Animals – Orchestra
30. The Naming (Reprise)/Noah's Lullaby – Storytellers & Noah
31. Stranger to the Rain – Yonah
32. In Whatever Time We Have – Japeth & Yonah
33. The Flood – Father & Storytellers
34. What is He Waiting For? – Noah, Mama Noah, Japeth, Ham, Shem, Aphra & Aysha
35. Sailor of the Skies – Yonah
36. The Spark of Creation (Reprise 2) – Mama Noah
37. The Hardest Part of Love – Noah & Father
38. Words of Doom – Storytellers
39. The Hour of Darkness – Noah, Mama Noah, Japeth, Yonah, Ham, Shem, Aphra & Aysha
40. Ain't it Good? – Mama Noah & Full Company
41. Precious Children – Father
42. In the Beginning – Japeth, Yonah, Noah, Mama Noah, Father, & Full Company

CAST:

5 men, 4 women, 2 boys, chorus 8 (may be expanded)

Act I	Act II
Father	Father
Adam	Noah
Eve	Mama Noah
Snake	Shem
Cain	Ham
Abel	Japeth
	Aysha
	Aphra
	Yonah



Chorus (both acts)

Angels
Animals
Humankind

INSTRUMENTATION:

Reed I (piccolo/flute/ clarinet/ alto sax): Reed II (alto recorder [opt.]/clarinet/ bass clarinet/tenor sax) : Reed III (oboe/cor anglais/clarinet [opt.]/tenor sax [opt.]) : Horn: Guitar I (electric/ acoustic/ mandolin) : Guitar II (electric/ acoustic) : Keyboard I (piano/ synthesizer) : Keyboard II (synthesizer): Keyboard III (synthesizer [opt.] - may be used to cover reeds and horn): 2 Percussion: Cello: Bass: Guitar.

DISCOGRAPHY

Original London Cast Recording - London 828 234 2