

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Spotlight on Performance Script

# Rhythms of Life

### Costume/Prop Suggestions

Ben should be dressed with a large clock face attached to him. Anna, Eliza, Alex, and Amy are all siblings and middle-school age. They should be dressed in typical school clothes, except for Eliza who should be dressed high-fashion style (sunglasses, perhaps a scarf, fashionable pants, and so on). Anna should also have an instrument that she will play (recorder, violin, or any classroom instrument will do). Anita Sea is the middle-school music teacher with a flair for the dramatic; she should dress accordingly—adult clothing that is colorful, bold, and quite eclectic. Placards labeled “HOME” and “SCHOOL” should be prepared for cast members to carry on and display.

### Set Suggestions

Although a set could be designed using a home and a school, it is not necessary or even particularly desired. Miming could suffice; or use a step ladder resembling an upstairs, a hanging window to resemble a wall, and so on.

### Script Begins

*(Please note: As most of the action occurs at either home or school, there are plenty of opportunities to include other cast members on stage as part of the home or school scene.)*

*(Ben, the clock, enters—taking his place center stage and announcing the time which happens to be 7:00 A.M. Two cast members carry in the “HOME” and “SCHOOL” placards, placing them center stage on either side of Ben.)*

**Ben:** Seven o'clock A.M.

*(Ben exits and immediately the stage bustles with activity as cast members enter. The family members in the home are talking, typing on computers, cooking breakfast, exercising, trying on different jackets, brushing hair, brushing teeth, and so on. These activities, except for talking, can all be mimed. Their activities build to a slight crescendo and then are abruptly stopped by the sound of Anna, in her home playing an instrument.)*

**Eliza:** *(miming as though she is trying on jackets)* Anna, be quiet. I'm trying to pick out the right jacket to go with these pants. You're distracting me.

**Anna:** Eliza, I've got to practice. Live with it.

*(Anna continues to play.)*

**Eliza:** Anna, don't you realize that I've got to find the right jacket to go with these pants? Don't you realize I need to concentrate?

**Anna:** Don't you realize that the part I play is very important?

**Eliza:** It doesn't sound like anything to me... just a bunch of random notes.

**Alex:** *(singing the line from "A Great Big Sea" over and over)* "Eliza - dee - did-dle-dle I - do, Ta - dee - did-dle-dle I - do"

**Eliza:** And talking about a bunch of random notes... Alex, please stop that mindless singing—if you can call it that! I've got to pick out my jacket and you guys are driving me crazy!

*(Anna continues playing, Alex continues singing and Eliza continues arguing. All this is interrupted by Ben's entrance and announcement. The cast quickly freezes and unfreezes on Ben's announcement.)*

**Ben:** Seven thirty A.M.

**Amy:** *(This part is done rhythmically with body percussion. or any sort of body or mouth noises the actor is comfortable with as she mimes.)* Was that two eggs *(crack, crack)* and one *(swoosh)* cup of sugar? Or was that one egg *(crack)* and two *(swoosh, swoosh)* cups of sugar?

**Anna:** *(begins playing her piece in rhythm with Amy's recipe question)*

**Eliza:** *(in rhythm with Amy and Anna while trying on jackets)* I think pink... no blue is better... or better yet I'll go with a sweater.

**Alex:** *(singing the line from "A Great Big Sea" over and over)* "Ta - dee - did-dle-dle I - do, Ta - dee - did-dle-dle I - do"

*(CAST quickly freezes and unfreezes on BEN's announcement.)*

**Ben:** Seven forty-five A.M. *(in a less ominous tone—out of his character)* You better hurry up. You're going to be late.

*(Everyone rushes to the school in complete silence as though they have taken Ben's advice very seriously.)*

**Ben:** (*Cast quickly freezes and unfreezes on Ben's announcement. Ben is a bit irritated that they are obviously late*) 8:01 A.M.

**Anita Sea:** Okay, class, let's tune.

**Class:** (*in unison*) Yes, Ms. Sea. (*They all make tuning sounds vocally.*)

**Anita Sea:** Wonderful! Wonderful, maestros! Now, let's sing.

***Song 1: Orchestra Song, p. 332***

(*Eliza approaches Anna.*)

**Eliza:** You know this is really hard for me.

**Anna:** Oh, I know, but I think you made the right decision about the sweater.

**Eliza:** No, no... just let me say it. This is really hard for me to admit, but your playing really sounded... good. When you play with everybody else, it didn't sound like just a bunch of random notes. It sounded like music. You know, melody, harmony, rhythm, and all that good stuff. Oh well, you really think I made the right decision to go with the sweater instead of the jacket?

**Anna:** Yeah, I really like....

**Ms. Sea:** Okay, maestros. Let's try this next tune. I must say it's one of my personal favorites. You know, since my name is Anita Sea, I do love any song that is about the sea or the seashore or any song in the key of "C," or that starts on a "C," or well... (*feeling a bit self-conscious and flustered*) Well, let's just sing. Unfortunately, we sing this song in the key of "F," but the second note is... yes, it is. It is a "C"... my favorite note!

***Song 2: A Great Big Sea, p. 334***

(*Eliza approaches Alex.*)

**Eliza:** You know this is really hard for me. But I'm just going to say it. It's really hard for me to admit, but your singing really sounded... good. When you sing with everybody else, it doesn't sound like just a bunch of random notes. You really make music. You know, melody, harmony, rhythm, and all that good stuff.

**Alex:** Do you want to borrow my CD player or something? I mean, why are you being so nice?

**Eliza:** I'm just trying to be nice and express what I'm feeling. I usually just do it through

my fashion sense, but I found a moment when I could say something nice to you and I did...so there!

**Alex:** This behavior flies in the face of everything I understand about sibling rivalry.

**Eliza:** *(walking away frustrated yet trying to make sense of his response)* I spoke the truth from my heart. That's what matters and I feel good about it. I can't help it that my little brother is a dweeb. Someday he'll mature, understand me, and develop a fashion sense.

**Ms. Sea:** Okay, class. I'm so proud of your work today that I've decided we should have a bit of a celebration. A party, shall we say. So I've brought a few treats... a few little goodies.

**Alex:** You mean food?

**Ms. Sea:** Precisely. And to get the party started, we're going to sing a party song.

*(The cast cheers with general "yeah's," "all right's," and so on. Everyone is obviously glad to be having a party. As the cast sings, they mime as though they are partying: eating, dancing, and so on.)*

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| <b><i>Song 3: A Zing-A Za, p. 338</i></b> |
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**Eliza:** Ms. Sea, I love that song. Where does it come from?

**Ms. Sea:** I love it too. It comes from Brazil. And of course you know that Brazil is in South America. By the way, the snacks I brought today are all made from South American recipes.

**Amy:** I want all the recipes. Everything tastes great!

**Alex:** *(yawning)* I think I need a nap now after all of that partying.

*(The entire group begins to stretch and yawn.)*

**Anna:** After that song, I think we all need a lullaby.

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| <b><i>Song 4: Ēinīnī, p. 340</i></b> |
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*(At the end of the song the Cast yawns and put their heads down as if to take a long nap. They are suddenly awakened and immediately freeze when Ben enters and announces the time. As always, they unfreeze after the announcement.)*

**Ben:** Eight forty-five A.M. *(As he exits, he flaps his arms.)*

**Ms. Sea:** (*Giving a nod to Ben*) Time flies when you're having fun. And, we don't have much time left. Anybody have a song they'd really like to sing?

**Eliza:** (*Raising her hand*) Ms. Sea, I just want to say, you know I'm what you call a visual thinker. In other words, I care more about fashion than just about anything else. I'm all about putting the right things together and making things turn out right. Like taking a pale peach scarf with just a fleck of mauve and putting it with just the right turquoise silk top, matching it up with...

**Alex:** I think we understand what you mean by being a visual thinker.

**Eliza:** (*feeling a bit embarrassed*) Well, what I'm trying to say is. Well, I used to think when Anna went around playing those random notes and Alex went around singing those random notes. Well, it was all so... random. But now I understand that each note is like a fleck of mauve in a pale peach scarf. When it's all put together, it's not random at all. It's beautiful. It's art. It's music. And the song that really makes me feel that way is that song we do about the river. May we please sing it, Ms. Sea?

**Ms. Sea:** Of course, Eliza. It's one of my favorites, too.

***Song 5: A Gentle River Runs, p. 342***

**Ms. Sea:** Music *is* art. It's beauty. It's nothing short of a mystery how a bunch of seemingly random sounds can come together and make something so beautiful.

**Amy:** It's kinda like a recipe.

**Eliza:** It's a lot more like fashion.

**Amy:** No, it's more like...

**Alex:** This is more along the lines of my understanding of sibling rivalry.

**Ms. Sea:** It's a lot like a recipe. It's a lot like fashion. It's the way art comes together. It's amazing how when we work together, we can create something bigger than any one of us. Melodies and rhythms are everywhere in our world and when we find the beauty in them—we find music. We're free to let the music take us anywhere we want to go! Hallelujah!

***Song 6: Hallelujah, Get on Board, p. 345***