

Elijah and the Ravens

Outline

My parrot puppets were complaining that they didn't have many opportunities to perform, so I promised I would write a sketch especially for them. Here is the result.

This sketch reveals what was *really* going on at the Cherith Brook with those 'ravens'. (1 Kings 17:1-6)

Characters

- Elijah - person
- Parrot 1 - puppet
- Parrot 2 - puppet

You can substitute any brightly-coloured bird puppets – the less they look like ravens the funnier it will be. If you do not have bird puppets you can have fun making your own gaudy sock puppets with dyed feathers, as garish as you like.

Parrots 1 and 2 can be played by one puppeteer.

Costumes & Props

Elijah needs a telephone, a small suitcase with holiday contents, and a mug.

Parrots 1 and 2 can wear holiday gear such as flower garlands or sun hats, if you have any to fit.

Parrot 2 needs a lunch box.

Staging

The phone needs to 'ring'. This can be done with an actual ring tone played through the PA system, or by the actor simply saying 'ring-ring'. You could add this as an audience participation by having 'ring-ring' on a large card to display at the appropriate times.

The puppet theatre stands at one side of the stage, designated the 'brook' side. If you have blue fabric you can use it to show the water there. You could add buckets and spades to boost the holiday feel.

Elijah starts at the other side of the stage. He can be seated at a desk sorting paperwork. This will allow Elijah to have a script for the first section which contains most of his lines. The second half, by the brook, has fewer lines and can be learned easily.



Script

Elijah and the Ravens

[ring-ring]

Elijah:

[answering phone]

Hello, this is Elijah the prophet – ‘No message too big, no message too small’ ...

Oh, hello God. Good to hear from you again.

How are you doing? ...

umm hmmm ...

umm hmmm ...

That's nice. And your lad, he's well?

umm hmmm ...

umm hmmm ...

That's good to hear. So what can I do you for today?

umm hmmm ...

umm hmmm ...

A message you say?

Well, look no further than Elijah the prophet – ‘No message too big, no message too small’ ...

Oh yes. You're right. I already said that. Sorry. So what's your message then?

umm hmmm ...

umm hmWHAT?

You want me to say THAT?

To HIM?

You sure? ...

Yes, Ok then ...

Bye.

[to audience, looking scared]

Well, this is going to be a scary job! The king in my country is nasty-mean-rotten King Ahab. He has been doing lots of bad things.

God wants me to tell nasty-mean-rotten King Ahab that there is not going to be any rain until he stops being bad and starts being good.

That's going to make the king very angry. So now he'll be nasty-mean-rotten-*angry* King Ahab!

Oh dear. I really don't want to be near him when I give the bad news. Perhaps I'll just call him on the telephone instead.

[dials number and waits]

Oh Hello. Is that the royal palace? I'd like to speak to nasty-mean-ro ... umm ... I mean I'd like to speak to His Majesty King Ahab please.

No, I don't know the extension.

Thanks.

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[Parrot 1 and Parrot 2 enter]

Parrot 1:

You know, I think it's a flippin' cheek.

Parrot 2:

Oooh yeees.

Parrot 1:

'Ere we are, on our 'olidays like ...

Parrot 2:

Oooh yeees.

Parrot 1:

... an' God only ups and tells us to get workin'.

Parrot 2:

Oooh yeees.

Parrot 1:

I mean, makin' us get bread an' meat for some bloke –
Elijeewassit.

What does God think we are, waiters?

Parrot 2:

Oooh yeees.

Parrot 1:

Yes?

Parrot 2:

I mean, Oooh Nooo.

Parrot 1:

Anyway, I s'pose we'd better do what The Boss says.
'Ave you got them 'am 'amwiches?

Parrot 2:

Oooh yeees.

[produces lunch box]

Parrot 1:

Oy! You!

Elijeewassit!

Elijah:

[waking suddenly]

Yes? What?

This is Elijah the prophet – 'No message too bi ...

Parrot 1:

Yeah, yeah.

We knows who you are. 'Ere's your lunch.

Parrot 2:

Oooh yeees.

Parrot 1:

We'll be back at tea-time with some more.

Parrot 2:

Oooh yeees

Parrot 1:

An' make sure you don't drop no crumbs!

Parrot 2:

Oooh yeees.

I mean, Oooh Nooo.

Elijah:

[looking closely at parrots]

Do you mind if I ask a question?

Parrot 1:

Well you just gorn an' asked one!

Parrots 1 & 2:

Ha ha ha ha!

Parrot 1:

Na, alright then. What's your question?

Elijah:

God said he would send ravens with food.

Are you ravens?

Parrot 2:

Oooh yeees.

Elijah:

You don't look like ravens.

Parrot 1:

Well you don't look like a prophet, but I ain't saying nuffin'!

Elijah:

But ravens are big and black and really ...

[realising what he is about to say]

... really nice to meet you!

[shakes wings with parrots]

Parrot 1:

Look, we're on our 'olidays, OK?

We don't 'ave to wear the uniform on 'oliday, we can wear what we likes.

This is our casual plumage.

Parrot 2:

Oooh yeees

Elijah:

Casual plumage?

OK, well I guess that explains it.

[looking at lunchbox]

Thanks for the lunch. What's in it?

Parrot 1:

The Boss said bread an' meat, so we bunged some 'am 'amwiches in there, an' a sausage roll, an' we was plannin' on a nice bacon butty for tea.

Parrot 2:

Oooh yeees.

Elijah:

Oh, ummmn, that's really kind, but I'm Jewish, so I'm not actually allowed to eat ham and bacon and things.

Parrot 2:

What? Not even a bacon butty?

Elijah:

Not really.

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