



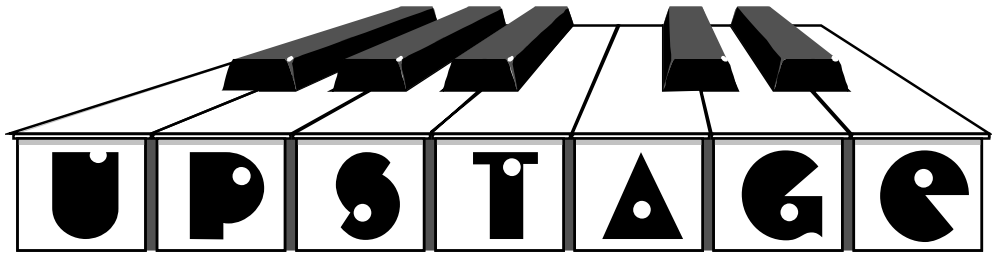
A
LITTLE
ROCK N ROLL
IMAGINATION
BY

JAN MCLEAN, PETER HILL
NEIL JACKSON, DOUG WILLIAMS

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productions

present

JURASSIC LARK

A LITTLE ROCK N ROLL IMAGINATION

Music: Jan McLean

Script: Jan McLean, Neil Jackson, Peter Hill & Doug Williams

Lyrics: Jan McLean, Neil Jackson, Peter Hill & Doug Williams

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JURASSIC LARK

was first performed in September 1997 at Karralika Theatre, Melbourne, by
Bimbadeen Heights Primary School

APPLICATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE

of

JURASSIC LARK

should be made to the publisher

UPSTAGE Productions

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<http://www.upstageproductions.com.au>

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PRODUCTION NOTES

JURASSIC LARK

JURASSIC LARK

is suitable for Upper Primary or Lower Secondary students.
It can be readily adapted for either large or small groups.

CHARACTERS

MAIN CHARACTERS

Mr. Tautus

- School Teacher

Sarah Topps

- School Child

Terry Dactil

- Special Events/Effects Organiser

President Flinton

- The Boss

Rock Steady

- Chief Shoveller

Emily Brontosaurus

- Chief Investigative Reporter

Shadow

- A Stand-up Comedian

Shape

- Another Stand-up Comedian

Doctor Diplodocus

- Clever Scientist

Shoveller 1

- Calls a spade a spade

OTHER CHARACTERS

Other School Children

- Clinton
- Soula
- Barry
- Bronwyn
- Dimitri
- Peter

Shovellers 2, 3 & 4

Castlemaine Rock (C. Rock)

Bus Driver

Persons 1 & 2

Reporter 1

Baby Dinosaur (non-speaking)

GROUPS

Little Rockers

All The President's Men

Shovellers

Tourists

Journalists

Rock-A-Billy & The Rockettes

CREATION DANCERS to introduce Scene 2

NOTE: Creation Dance is an opportunity to improvise locally. In some cases students have found their own music and created the dance with teacher guidance. A sample Creation Dance is provided on the vocal rehearsal CD. This can be used by fading into thunder which leads into Song 1: "The Age of Rock".

SCENES

SCENE 1..... In a museum (in front of half curtain)
SCENE 2..... On the edge of a dinosaur pit in Little Rock
SCENE 3..... At the Marble Bar nightclub
SCENE 4..... In the dinosaur pit at night
SCENE 5..... On the edge of the dinosaur pit
SCENE 6..... In a museum (in front of half curtain)

PROPERTIES

SCENE 1

'Dinosaur Exhibit' sign, one or two museum type exhibits, two portals - one marked entrance and one marked exit, red rope and stands to cordon off the front of the stage

SCENE 2

Bone and lump of wood like a gavel, shovels, various fair ground stalls, additional fairground paraphernalia, people powered bus, prehistoric cameras, slates and pencils

SCENE 3

Marble Bar sign, prehistoric cafe tables and chairs, trays with glasses, trays with food, menus, microphone

SCENE 4

Giant magnifying glass, cardboard cut-out of a dinosaur, an odd looking plant, leaves from the plant, other food to feed the baby dinosaur

SCENE 5

As for Scene 2, next tour sign, prehistoric newspaper

SCENE 6

A combination of props for scenes 1 and 5 as described

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THE SCRIPT

**JURASSIC
LARK**

SCENE 1

IN A MUSEUM OF TODAY IN FRONT OF HALF STAGE CURTAIN. NAME OF MUSEUM AND A SIGN READING 'DINOSAUR EXHIBIT' ARE OBVIOUS. ONE OR TWO OTHER MUSEUM TYPE EXHIBITS MAY BE USED. PARTLY DIM LIGHTING. A PORTAL ON ONE SIDE IS MARKED EXIT. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY IN OR OUT. THE FRONT OF THE STAGE IS RINGED WITH STANDS LINKED WITH RED ROPES SO THAT THE AUDIENCE IS THE EXHIBIT.

POMPOUS TEACHER ENTERS, BUT DOESN'T REALISE THAT THE CHILDREN AREN'T FOLLOWING.

MR. TAUTUS: (PONTIFICATING) Children this is the most exciting room in the whole museum. (POINTING TO THE AUDIENCE) Before you stands the remnants of some of the oldest living creatures on earth. Now, who can tell me ... (LOOKS BEHIND AND REALISES THE CHILDREN AREN'T THERE)

FX: WILD, YAHOOING CHILDREN OFF STAGE.

MR. TAUTUS BACKTRACKS TO THE DOORWAY AS TWO KIDS (CLINTON AND SOULA) COME FLYING THROUGH.

CLINTON: Sir, Sir! I told 'em they shouldn't.

SOULA: You ought to see what they're doing to that stuffed horse back there.

MR. TAUTUS: (LOOKING THROUGH THE DOORWAY AND SHOUTING INTO THE PREVIOUS ROOM) Barry, Bronwyn, Peter, get off that horse. That's Pharlap. Show some respect.

THE NAMED THREE SHOVE THROUGH THE DOOR

BARRY: (THE SMART ALEC) But Sir you said he could carry the weight of three people and still win. He didn't even move sir.

BRONWYN: (ALSO A SMART ALEC) I don't think he's got the heart for it any more.

GENERAL CHUCKLE

MR. TAUTUS: (YELLING THROUGH DOORWAY AGAIN). Come out from behind there. Leave that alone Juanita. Dimitri put down that penguin. All of you get over here and line up in twos.

CHILDREN COME THROUGH THE DOOR TO LINE UP IN TWOS.
DIMITRI COMES IN BRUSHING FEATHERS OFF HIS CLOTHES AND HANDS.

DIMITRI: It was moulting anyway.

GENERAL SHUFFLING, SHOVING AND REPRIMANDING AS THE CHILDREN FORM TWO LINES FACING THE AUDIENCE DOWN THE CENTRE OF THE STAGE.

MR. TAUTUS: (TAKING COMMAND WITH HIS BACK TO THE AUDIENCE AND STANDING IN FRONT OF THE FIRST TWO CHILDREN) Right, now all the children on this side I want you to follow Clinton around that side and line up with your tummies against the red rope. ...

ADDRESSING SOME WHO ARE STARTING TO MOVE.

Not yet I haven't finished speaking

... And all the children on this side, I want you to ...

ADDRESSING SOME WHO ARE STARTING TO MOVE AGAIN.

Not yet I said - I haven't finished speaking

... I want you to follow Soula around and line up with *your* tummies against that part of the red rope.

PAUSE WHILE NO-ONE MOVES.

MR. TAUTUS: Well go on then. What are you waiting for. Go on. Move.

CHILDREN OBEY. ALMOST ALL THE CHILDREN BECOME ENTRANCED WITH THE EXHIBIT AND 'OOH AAH' AND POINT IN THE DIRECTION OF THE AUDIENCE.

BARRY AND BRONWYN DELIBERATELY HOLD THE ROPE AGAINST THEIR STOMACH AND ELBOW OTHERS TO LOOK AND COPY. THIS TIME THE REST OF THE CHILDREN DON'T FOLLOW THEIR LEAD,

BUT MR. TAUTUS, WHO IS NOW IN THE CENTRE OF THE ARC OF THE ROPE, NOTICES THEIR ACTION.

MR. TAUTUS: Barry. Bronwyn. What do you think you're doing? Put that rope down. Have you no sense of occasion? Have you no sense of history? Have you no sense of ...

SOULA: Mr. Tautus, my mum doesn't think they've got any sense at all.

MR. TAUTUS: (NODDING, BUT IGNORING THE TRUTH OF THIS COMMENT)
Children. Behold these relics of a bygone era ...

BARRY: He's talking about your mum again Soula.

MR. TAUTUS: ... Look carefully at the prehistoric vision before you. Can anyone describe what they observe.

HANDS EXCITEDLY SPRINGING UP AND DOWN AND ENTHUSIASTIC "ME" etc.

BRONWYN: A red rope Sir.

MR. TAUTUS CHOOSES A CHILD.

MR. TAUTUS: How about you Dimitri?

DIMITRI: Well ... They look really, really old and judging from their bone structure I would say they were dead Sir.

MR. TAUTUS: Correct. ... Anyone else. (PAUSE WHILE HANDS ARE BOUNCING UP AND DOWN AGAIN). Clinton what can you see?

CLINTON: They come in all different sizes Sir.

MR. TAUTUS: Correct. ... Anyone else. (PAUSE WHILE HANDS ARE BOUNCING UP AND DOWN AGAIN). Yes Soula.

SOULA: Mr. Tautus, my mum bought me a book about dinosaurs and I can see all of them there. (POINTS KNOWINGLY TO THE AUDIENCE). Look! That one's a Stegosaurus. That one's a Allosaurus. And that rea...ea...ea... ealllly big one (TRACES HIS FINGER ACROSS THE WHOLE WIDTH OF THE AUDIENCE) is a Brontosaurus. And that horrible one over there is ...

(POINTING TO YOUR LOCAL PRINCIPAL WHO IS IN THE AUDIENCE)
... a T. Rex-asaurus

BARRY: You're silly Soula. I don't think any of them saw us. They're all dead.

GENERAL CHUCKLING.

MR. TAUTUS: Well you're both right; even you Barry. They are dead, but the word we use is extinct.

BRONWYN: Mr. Tautus, does that make Barry a dinosaur. He stinks.

MR. TAUTUS: No Bronwyn. (WITH EMPHASIS) EXXX ... Tinct. Not just stink. Oh it doesn't matter. Children Soula was using the word '-saurus' when describing what we see before us. Can anyone tell me what '-saurus' means?

GENTLE PAUSE.

How about you Miss Topps? (SARAH IS TOTALLY ENGROSSED IN THE DISPLAY AND DOESN'T HEAR THE QUESTION) Topps? Come on try. Try Sarah Topps try.

GENTLE PAUSE.

SOULA: Oh she's always dreaming Sir. Ask someone else.

MR. TAUTUS: Can anyone else tell me what '-saurus' means?

PETER: (THINKING IT OUT AS HE SPEAKS) Well , Mr. Tautus, they used to be alive ... but when they ... saw us ... they disappeared.

MR. TAUTUS: (DISPARAGINGLY) Nice try Peter ... but you're a twit. Now listen carefully everyone because you will need this for your project ...

MAJOR GROAN.

The word '-saurus' means lizard. What does it mean everyone?

ALL: Lizard Sir.

MR. TAUTUS: Correct.

BARRY: Hope my lizard doesn't grow as big as that. It would be a Blue-Tongue - Asaurus.

MR. TAUTUS: Your tongue has already grown far too big Barry. Perhaps we could call you a Barry - Asaurus.

PRIVATE CHUCKLE

That *was* a joke.

FORCED LAUGHTER BY THE CHILDREN AS MR. TAUTUS
CONTINUES

Lizards, boys and girls, are ectothermic. Also for your project you will need to know that ectothermic means cold blooded. Remember that word.

BRONWYN: Oh just like a tortoise Sir. You would know that they're cold blooded Mr. Tautus, wouldn't you.

KIDS NOD AND CHUCKLE.

MR. TAUTUS: (NOT REALISING THAT HE IS THE BUTT OF A JOKE) Correct. ... However, time is running away from us. We have to move on to the warm blooded room. (BEGINS TO MOVE TO THE EXIT) Follow me and we shall learn about endothermic creatures. You should remember the word endothermic too.

ALL CHILDREN, EXCEPT SARAH, FOLLOW MR. TAUTUS THROUGH THE EXIT. THE MUSEUM CARETAKER, TERRY DACTIL, APPEARS AT THE ENTRANCE WITH A FEATHER DUSTER AS THE CROWD DISAPPEARS. HOWEVER, SARAH REMAINS ENGROSSED IN THE DISPLAY.

SILENCE

SARAH: (DREAMILY DRAGGING HER HAND ALONG THE RED ROPE BUT MOVING AWAY FROM WHERE THE CROWD HAS JUST EXITED) I wish you were not extinct.

TERRY DACTIL: Who says they are?

SARAH: (STARTLED AND SWINGING TO FACE THE CARETAKER, WHO HAS NOW MOVED FORWARD) Mr. Tautus did. He said they're extinct. He said they have all disappeared from the face of the earth. (PAUSE) And who are you anyway?

**JURASSIC
LARK**

TERRY DACTIL: I'm Terry Dactil. I organise the museum's displays, and your teacher was half right. Disappeared maybe. Extinct? Maybe not.

SARAH: What do you mean?

TERRY DACTIL: There is more to the past than meets the eye. I know because I have studied history for a very long time. Would you like to learn the secrets of the dinosaurs?

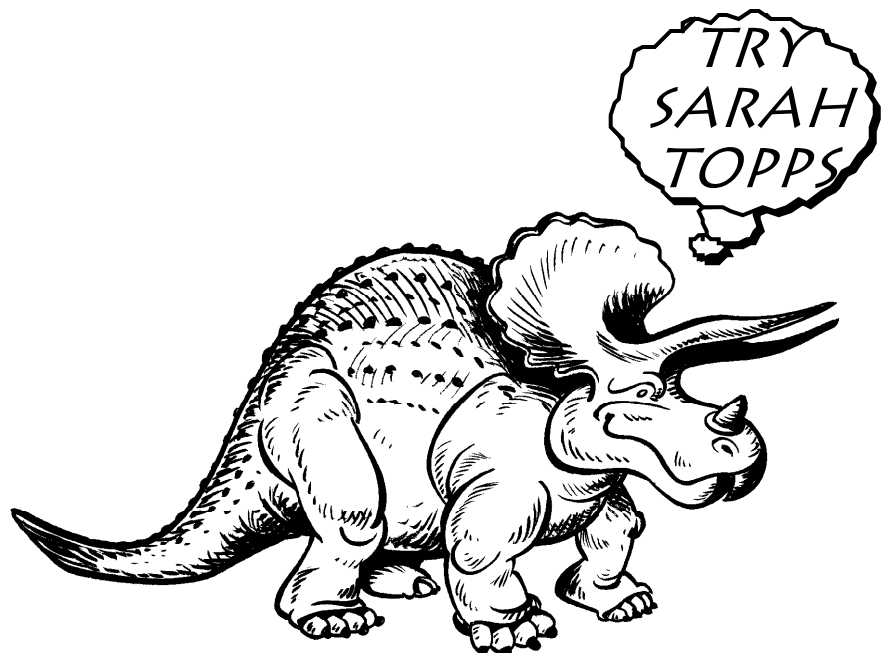
SARAH: How could I do that?

TERRY DACTIL: Ahh. All you have to do is view the world through a different lens. Look again. But this time I will help you see ... (LIGHTS DIM)

FX: THE WORD 'SEE' ECHOES INTO THE DISTANCE. 'BACK IN TIME' SOUND EFFECTS.

END SCENE 1

BLACKOUT ... OPEN HALF STAGE CURTAIN





THE LYRICS

**JURASSIC
LARK**

THE AGE OF ROCK

Words: Peter Hill

Music: Jan McLean

INTRO

Drums / Chords - 16 bars

It all began a long time ago
Back before time as we know.
A flash of light, a spark of fire
Behold the Rock rose higher and higher.
Seas were filled and streams were running.
Valleys were carved with views so stunning.
Mountains were formed and lakes were born.
History's curtain was being torn.

CHORUS

It was the Rock, Rock, Rock Rock, Rocking
Ages,
Read, Read, Read Read in the pages.
Born in a time back in history
Full of wonder and mystery.
It was the Rock, Rock, Rock Rock, Rocking
Ages,
Read, Read, Read Read in the pages.
Born in a time back in history
Full of wonder and full of mystery.

INTERLUDE

Drums - 16 bars

VERSE 2

Then came the creatures great and small,
Tiny insects and dinosaurs tall.
Another page in nature's plan
There came a creature known as man,
Living together as nature planned
Man and dinosaur sharing the land.
Intelligent man gets the Rock to Roll
Wheeling and dealing became the goal.

FINAL CHORUS

It was the Rock, Rock, Rock Rock, Rocking
Ages,
Read, Read, Read Read in the pages.
Born in a time back in history
Full of wonder and mystery.
It was the Rock, Rock, Rock Rock, Rocking
Ages,
Read, Read, Read Read in the pages.
Born in a time back in history
Full of wonder and full of mystery.
Full of wonder and full of mystery.
The Age of Rock!

