

TRUNCATED SAMPLE SCRIPT

Half of this radio play has been deleted. The full play runs 12 pages--about 11 minutes of air time.

If you wish to secure the performance rights to the play and the recorded score, contact Palermo@RuyaSonic.com

"About That Ark..."

A radio comedy by

Tony Palermo

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PRODUCTION SCRIPT

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ABOUT THAT ARK...

Prod. #2005-3

CAST

THE CAP'N	600 year-old pet lover/sailor
THE MISSUS	Zany, loose-cannon spouse
INSPECTOR	Imperious inspector
HOST	Program host
SHIP'S ANNOUNCER	Ship's announcer

Two sound effects artists are also required.

SCRIPT NOTE: Asterisks besides a cue number (for example: 3*) indicate that the performer of that cue wait for music or a sound effect to establish itself and in some cases, await a signal from the director to begin. It is recommended that the master script be marked with a hand-lettered "Q" to the left of these special cues, so they stand out better.

Visit Tony Palermo's Radio Drama Resources web site: www.RuyaSonic.com

1. MUSIC: [A-1] MAIN THEME--UP. FADE UNDER.

2* HOST: As you may know, many animal welfare groups conduct pet adoptions--mass adoptions at local parks--where homeless animals find a new life and new companions. (PAUSE) Part of the process involves "home checks"--to weed out laboratories, vaudeville acts, and other "unsuitable" homes. (PAUSE) But these inspections stretch way back. Here's one of the first home checks--dating from...
Biblical times...

3. SOUND: HAMMERING. SAWING. INSPECTOR POUNDS ON DOOR (4X) - REPEATEDLY UNDER.

4* INSPECTOR: (CALLING OUT) Hello? Hello! This is the home checker from the pet orphanage. I know you're in there. Open up! Surprise home check!

5. SOUND: HAMMERING, SAWING STOPS. DOOR OPENS.

6* CAP'N: (SHEEPISHLY) Uh, Yes? What can I do for you?

7. INSPECTOR: I'm from the pet orphanage. I'm here to inspect your.... what is this? A houseboat?

8. CAP'N: Houseboat? It's three hundred cubits... by fifty cubits... by thirty cubits! It's a cruise ship! (PAUSE) What you call... an ark!

**SCRIPT HAS BEEN TRUNCATED AT
THIS POINT
(several scenes later...)**

5. INSPECTOR: How do you do, Mrs...
6. THE MISSUS: (ORNERY) Pardon the mess, Inspector, but this "handy" husband of mine suddenly decided to build an ark! It started as a kitchen remodel! But now, he's calling it a "cruise ship"--complete with...
7. SHIP'S ANNOUNCER: [FILTER/ECHO] Attention! Attention. Paging passenger Elephant. Paging passenger Elephant. We have an unclaimed trunk in the baggage area. An unclaimed trunk in the baggage area.
8. SOUND: (DISTANT) TRUNK TRUMPET.
- 9* CAP'N: Like I said, Inspector--it is a cruise ship!

1. THE MISSUS: Yeah! A cruise ship in the middle of a parched desert! No wonder we're being inspected!

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(several scenes later...)

8. INSPECTOR: I see. Now, you're requesting to adopt some more animals. Um... why?
9. CAP'N: Well... for the uh... rainy season...
10. SOUND: THUNDER (2X)

- 1* CAP'N: (LISTENS-PAUSE) ...which may start any minute now--my wife and I are going on a little... cruise. And we want to take some pets along.
2. INSPECTOR: OK, how many?
3. CAP'N: (HOPEFUL) A few... of everything.
4. THE MISSUS: (SHOCKED) What?!
5. CAP'N: Actually, I was thinking uh... nine... of everything.
6. INSPECTOR: Nine? ...of everything? Impossible!
- 7 SOUND: THUNDER (2X)

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(several scenes later...)**

5. THE MISSUS: Uh-oh! Better hold onto something, Inspector.
Here they come!
6. SOUND: WALLA: ANIMALS. STAMPEDE. HOOVES. CRASHING.
- 7* CAP'N: Yes! My pets, Inspector... It's a stampede!
8. INSPECTOR: A stampede?
9. THE MISSUS: Yeah. The two p.m. stampede.
10. CAP'N: Um... My pets just love... shuffleboard,
y'know. (NERVOUS LAUGH) Heh-heh...
11. SOUND: STAMPEDE BUILDS--SUDDENLY STOPS ON A DIME.
(PAUSE) DOOR KNOCK (4X)

- 1* CAP'N: (DELICATELY) Um. It's them. Don't get up.
I'll be right back, Inspector.
2. SOUND: CAP'N FOOTSTEPS.
- 3* THE MISSUS: (CALLING AFTER HIM) Tell them no stampeding
in the kitchen! I just waxed those floors!
4. CAP'N: (DISTANT) I know, Joan! I'll tell them again.
5. SOUND: DOOR OPENS/WALK THRU/CLOSES.
SUDDEN SFX: SQUEAKS. DONKEY.
WALLA: ANGRY OINKS, MOOS, SQUAWKS.
- 6* CAP'N: (BELEAGURED) All right! All right. What is it
now?

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(several scenes later...)**

2* SHIP'S ANNOUNCER: [FILTER/ECHO] Attention! Attention. Thou shalt not bark in the white zone. No barking in the white zone. The white zone is for lowing and un-lowing only.

3. SOUND: "MOOOOOOO" WALLA: COMPLAINING OINKS, MOOS,
SQUAWKS. STOP UNDER.

**SCRIPT HAS BEEN TRUNCATED AT
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(several scenes later...)**

7. INSPECTOR: No! That's it! I've seen enough! I'm sorry, but there's no way I can approve this mass adoption. I can't allow any more pets into this "home."

8. CAP'N: But Inspector... why?

9. INSPECTOR: First, it's unsafe! There are tools everywhere. It's overcrowded. Unsanitary. A houseboat is not a suitable home for pets.

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(several scenes later...)**

8. CAP'N: Inspector? Did...did you say "titanic?"
9. INSPECTOR: Yes. Why?
10. CAP'N: I like the ring of that... "Titanic!"
11. THE MISSUS: It sounds kinda grandy-ose! I like it.
12. CAP'N: Yes! I hereby christen this ark, "Titanic."
13. SOUND: THUNDER (3X)
- 14* MUSIC: [A-3] RIP CHORD-CLOSER--UNDER. LET IT FADE UNDER.
- 15* HOST: Tune in again, next week, for another episode
of "About That Ark..."

[CREDIT SEQUENCE FOLLOWS]

1* HOST: (PAUSE) Our program starred:
_____ as the Cap'n,
_____ as the Inspector,
_____ as the Missus,
and _____ as the Ship's
Announcer. I'm _____.

2* HOST: (PAUSE) Our sound effects artists were
_____, and
_____.

3* HOST: (PAUSE) "About That Ark" was written by Tony
Palermo and directed by _____.
(PAUSE)
This has been a production of the RuyaSonic
Radio Network.

THE END.

Radio Skills School

Microphone Technique:

- 1) Sensitive and dead areas. Don't touch!
- 2) Proximity effect. (Boomy if too close.)
- 3) Proper distance for radio acting.
- 4) Dynamics and distance. (Back off to yell.)
- 5) Off mic use for distant sounds. Asides.
- 6) Popping "P"s and S-S-S-Sibilance.
- 7) Mic safety. (hitting, blowing, dropping)
- 8) Assume every mic is always ON.
- 9) Quiet script page turning.

Radio Acting:

- 1) Quiet in the studio.
- 2) Don't cough, laugh, or talk during production.
- 3) Watch the director. Wait for your cue. (Q)
- 4) Speed equals excitement. Don't bore audience.
- 5) Jump in if there's dead air.
- 6) Wait for director's signal at end of show.

Radio Direction "Sign Language"

- 1) "Wait." Open hand.
- 2) "5-4-3---" Finger count down.
- 3) "You're on." Pointing finger.
- 4) "Wrap it up." Finger draws circles.
- 5) "Stretch it out." Pulling taffy.
- 6) "Louder." Pull ear.
- 7) "Quieter." Finger to lip (Shhhh-style)
- 8) "Cut." Finger slits throat.
- 9) "Come in" or "Back off" microphone.

CASTING EVALUATION:

Date: _____

ABOUT THAT ARK...

Cast/crew sizes: 5 or 4 with 2 SFX

_____	THE CAP'N	600 year-old pet lover/sailor
_____	THE MISSUS	Zany, loose-cannon spouse
_____	INSPECTOR	Imperious inspector
_____	SHIP'S ANNOUNCER	Ship's announcer
_____	-also- HOST	Program host

=====

Audition ratings: A through F

Actor Name	Rating	Bold?	Emotion?	Accents	Role?	Notes

CASTING MONOLOGUES:

All actors are asked to read some lines, called "sides," aloud to audition. The director will cast the roles in our production based upon these readings. Please take a moment to read the lines below several times, both silently and aloud. These monologues also provide some "back story," giving an idea of who the characters are and what kind of story we are producing. Since radio actors often play several parts, we encourage the use of different voices or accents for the different roles.

- HOST:** I host "About That Ark..." and setup the drama, explaining how animal welfare groups conduct mass-adoptions of homeless pets. They do "home checks" to evaluate the "suitability" of the homes adopted animals may wind up in. Optionally, I may also act as the ship's public address announcer,
- INSPECTOR:** (IMPERIOUSLY) I'm a "home checker," seeking to weed out the liars and nutsos who might try to adopt pets and then not take good care of them. I don't trust people who live on houseboats, especially in Biblical times. This particular applicant seems "fishy."
- THE MISSUS:** I'm the long suffering wife of an eccentric animal lover and wanna-be sailor. My husband's been hearing voices and acting strange. I'm not happy with all these pets he's got. And now he wants... more? We'll see about that!

SOUND EFFECT ROLES:

SOUND EFFECT ARTIST #1:

HAMMERING

DOOR KNOCKS, OPENS, CLOSES:

STAMPEDE

FOOTSTEPS ON DECK

DONKEY

BOING STICK

WIND

SOUND EFFECT ARTIST #2:

SAWING

TRUNK TRUMPET

THUNDER

HOOVES

CRASHING

SQUEAKS

RABBIT GARGLES

RAIN (if no pre-recorded effect is available)

HAMMERING:

Several hammers tapping on wood or SFX table.

DOOR KNOCKS, OPENS, CLOSES:**STAMPEDE:**

Put 7 potatoes in a pillowcase and "flump" it about on a table.

FOOTSTEPS ON DECK:

Walk on a raised wooden platform: Two 2x4 "rails" and 18 x 24 piece of 3/4" plywood.

DONKEY:

Twist glass scratch SFX device to "he-haw" OR use mouth sounds.

BOING STICK:

Pluck banjo string on bowed plywood "neck" attached to cigar box.

WIND:

Crank mechanical wind machine OR use mouth sounds

--

SAWING:

Actual saw or a threaded plumbing tube pulled across a box edge.

TRUNK TRUMPET:

Buzz, elephant-like, through a long plastic "football fan" horn.

THUNDER:

Shake thunder tube (Bongo with 36" spring attached to head)
OR shake a sheet of 1/16" high-impact polystyrene (size: 2' x 4')

HOOVES:

Clip clop coconuts in a small gravel box, on a big drum.

CRASHING:

Shake crash box SFX device.

SQUEAKS:

Squeeze many little rubber duckies to sound like mice/rats.

RABBIT GARGLES:

Shake a small toy "ugly stick" rapidly OR use flick fingers over lips while making high pitched mouth sounds.

DOG RARFS:

Say "rarf" while inhaling.

RAIN:

Use pre-recorded sample of rain OR turn a mechanical rainstick.

ENGINEER'S NOTES: "About That Ark..."**EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENT:**

This show requires the use of a filter for ship's P.A. announcer voice effects. Please set up a microphone using a filter device for use by the announcer. An echo device should be on the same line. The intention is to mimic the sound of many speakers throughout the ark.

MUSIC CUES:

A complete engineer's script will be provided with highlights to show how long music cues or canned SFX run (through scenes and dialogue) and which characters are using reverb or filter and when. The final cues of rain SFX and the ripchord/closer music will overlap--having two CD players would be good, but one will do--just fade out the rain, advance to the next cue, fade back up quickly and trigger the cue. If you have two CD players, just alternate between with odd-numbered tracks on CD player #1 and even-numbered tracks on CD player #2.

- 1) Main Theme [BED] (0:20)
- 2) Rain SFX (1:00)
- 3) Ripchord/CLoser [BED] (0:30)

Writer/Director's notes for "About That Ark..."

This script was written as part of a Hollywood fundraiser held by the Best Friends Animal Society in May 2005. The cast featured several celebrities in key roles:

CAP'N:	Peter Falk
INSPECTOR:	Eric Idle
THE MISSUS:	JoAnne Worley
SHIP'S ANNOUNCER:	Jane Russell
HOST:	Brian Cox

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