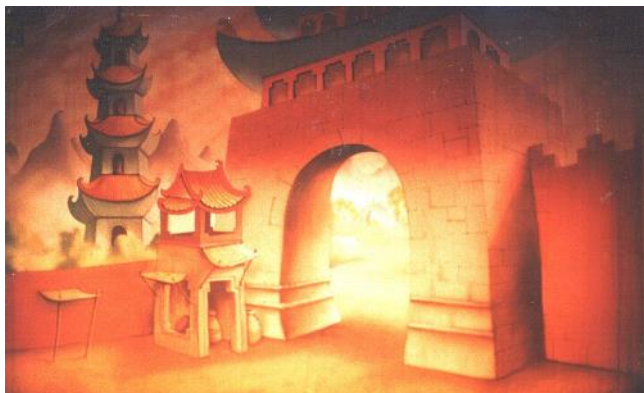


Chinese New Year



A simple musical play for primary schools,
suitable for an extended assembly lasting 20-25 mins
Perfect for Dance/Drama Clubs

Cast: (M= a Male Part F= a Female Part) Unmarked= any gender

Dog..... Pig Rat Ox (M).....
Tiger (M)..... Hare..... Snake (F).....
Horse (F)..... Ram (M)..... Monkey (F)..... Cockerel (M).....
Dragon (several children)
Gods 1, 2, 3 and 4
Dancers
Peasants
Narrator 1..... Narrator 2.....
Two people to operate the “river”.....

Evaluation

Suggested Props:

Masks/Face Paints for Animals and Gods
Large dragon costume (handled by several children)
Long piece of light blue cloth which is shaken to represent the water in the river
12 Medals for the winners of the race.

Only!

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Guidance: A Performance Licence is required before rehearsals take place. On purchase, a performance licence is normally granted free of charge for one production of up to 3 non-commercial performances by a school or drama club. (Small scale school fund-raising is not commercial use.) For commercial use at very cheap rates please email first. You may adjust the script and lyrics to suit your purposes, but we retain the copyright on altered texts.

The script is supplied on the CD for you to customize.

Free Sheet music and songsheets for OHP are also on the CD.

The free sheet music is electronically generated and is only intended as a rough guide.

The CD and other materials must not be resold, loaned or passed on to a third party without permission.

CD Listing:

Track 1.....Gods Sound Effects

Track 2.....China Song (“Shall We Choose the Dog....?”) without vocals

Track 3.....Dragon Dance Music

Track 4.....Race Song (One Day in Ancient China) without vocals

Track 5.....China Song (“Shall We Choose the Dog....?”) with vocals

Track 6.....Race Song (“One day in Ancient China”) with vocals

Chinese New Year

Narrator 1: Our tale is based on a famous story from China. It is thousands of years old and yet it is still told today to celebrate Chinese New Year. Long ago in Ancient China, the new year was fast approaching. Twelve animals were arguing. (*Enter animals with movement as they are named.*) There was a dog, a pig, a rat, an ox, a tiger, a hare, a snake, a horse, a ram, a monkey and a cockerel. They thought the New Year should have a name. They were arguing because each animal wanted the year to be named after himself. (*Animals make loud animal noises*)

Narrator 2: (*Individual animal noises on cue*) What a noise there was! There was growling and barking, snorting and snuffling, squeaking and scratching, mooing and grunting, bellowing and stamping, neighing and clip-clopping, whining and bleating, chattering and shouting, whistling and crowing! In the end they disturbed the gods!

***** CD Track 1: (Gods Sound Effects) *****

Gods appear (Peasants also appear, and later join in the singing)

God 1: Whatever is the matter with those animals?

God 2: What a racket! Let's go and see.

God 3: (*to cockerel!*) Why are these animals making so much noise?

Cockerel: The new year is rapidly approaching. They want the new year named after themselves. But of course, the choice is obvious.

God 4: Is it? What do you mean?

Cockerel: The new year should be named after me of course! It should be the Year of the Cockerel. After all, everybody knows how clever I am! I proudly announce each new day with my cock-a-doodle-do!

(*Animals disagree loudly*)

God 1: Quiet! Quiet! We command you to be quiet!

God 2: What dreadful manners you all have.

God 3: Bow your heads in shame for making so much noise! (*Animals comply*)

God 4: We like your idea. But which animal shall we choose?

God 1: Ram! Step forward! Why should we choose you?

Ram: (*Stepping forward*) My lords! Choose me! I am strong, I am dependable and everyone knows my wool is warm and cosy!

God 2: True! Pig! Step forward! Why do you want the New Year to be named after you?

Pig: (*Stepping forward*): My Lords! Choose me! I am humble! I am loyal! And everybody knows me!

God 3: True! Rat! Step forward! Why should we choose you? You are small and you are nothing but a nuisance and a pest!

Rat: My lord. I am small, but you should choose me so that the people know that the Gods value small things!

God 4: True! Hare! Step forward! What makes you think you are important enough to have a year named after you?

Hare: (*stepping forward*) My lord, I am swift and cunning. I am a true emblem of China! So choose me! Choose me!

God 1: Hmm, I'm not sure! (*Calls to peasants*) Peasants of the town! Who shall we choose? Who shall we choose?

***** CD Track 2: China Song: Shall we choose..... ***** **(VOCALS ARE ON TRACK 5)**

(Song sung by all, especially peasants, while individual animals parade across the stage on cue, with actions and animal sounds)

Shall we choose the dog? What can he do?
Shall we choose the dog? What can he do?
He can bark! He can bark! He can guard your home!
He is called man's best friend! You won't be alone!

Shall we choose the ox? What can he do?
Shall we choose the ox? What can he do?
He is strong! He is strong! He can pull the plough!
He can work all day long! We could choose him now!

Shall we choose the snake? What can she do?
Shall we choose the snake? What can she do?
She can hiss! She can hiss! She can do a dance!
She can move just like this! Let's give her the chance!

Shall we choose the horse? What can she do?
Shall we choose the horse? What can she do?
She can race! She can race! She can run so fast.
She has poise. She has grace. She is unsurpassed

Shall we choose the monkey? What can she do?
Shall we choose the monkey? What can she do?
She can swing! She can swing! She can make you smile!
Watch her do funny things! She stands out a mile.

Shall we choose the tiger? What can he do?

Shall we choose the tiger? What can he do?
He can roar! He can roar! He is so well known!
But do not stroke tiger cubs! When they're fully grown!

Narrator 1: The gods thought it over, but they couldn't decide who to choose. The animals began to argue again. *(Each animal quickly says "Choose me!" and makes their animal noise)*

Narrator 2: Suddenly there was a huge roar. *(Dragon roars and enters, accompanied by dancers)*

*****CD Track 3: Dragon Dance*****

END OF SCRIPT SAMPLE

For
Evaluation
Only!