

CALLING ALL ANGELS

BY
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The original production of Calling All Angels was staged outdoors on the banks of Lake Daylesford, in the Central Highlands of Victoria. The audience was seated on an old concrete 'grand stand' above a grassy picnic area and swimming spot. A portable lighting rig and sound system were used. The back stage area was made by putting up lengths of hessian tied to star pickets.

A band of local musicians was put together for the production and the band played 'covers' for the show. The band was located on one side of the grassy performance area, the backstage area on the other side. An APRA license would need to be obtained.

A fire twirling group was formed before the show and these people became the Fire Tribe. Fire twirlers need to be properly trained and all safety precautions must be taken. In the original production we invited the CFA to come to the shows and be on stand by. The CFA crew also assisted with seating people and providing lighting at the end of the show.

The play could be performed in either an outdoor setting near water or with some creative re-interpretation – indoors.

With the original production – there was no interval – but an interval could be made if needed. The original production ran for just over an hour.

CAST

SIGN CARRIER either male/female – any age – non-speaking part

MICHAEL Angel – can only be seen by audience and Jethro
GABRIEL Angel – as above
RAPHAEL Angel – as above

JETHRO Boy – 12 years of age
PHOEBE Sister of Jethro – 16 years of age
GRANDAD Grandfather of Jethro and Phoebe.

Parents of Jethro and Phoebe are dead. Jethro and Phoebe live with their Grandfather.

Air Household

ZEPHYR Head of the AIR household – male – groovy – 'party animal'
VIV Party Kid – either male/female – any age
VAL Party Kid – as above
VON Party Kid – as above

Water Household

ATLANTA Headmistress – female – mature, but alluring/glamorous
SIRENA Water baby - female
CIRCE as above
CALYPSO as above
AQUA as above

MORGANA as above
MARINA as above
SHANON as above

Earth Household

DEMETER Mother of Compost Kids – earthy, new age, beautiful, hippy

KHL Compost kid – male
KARL as above
KEVIN as above
KEITH as above

Fire Tribe (all people in Fire Tribe must be able to fire twirl)

MERCURY Leader of Fire Tribe – gorgeous, physical, vain,
FIRE FAMILY (non-speaking parts) Fire twirlers – any age, gender – must be able to fire twirl safely.

SET

The performance space is very open and simple. The only necessary piece of staging is a park bench which could be raised. In the original production of Calling All Angels the bench was raised and surrounded by ‘clouds’ – to indicate an ethereal presence. Be creative!

COSTUMES

Be creative with the costumes – allow the actors to feel comfortable and terrific in what they are wearing. The following is just a guide. It is important that all the actors feel really good about what they are wearing.

Sign carrier something colourful and comfortable
Angels old suits with little wings attached to the back, vests, hats etc
Jethro casual clothes suitable for a boy of 13 – 14
Phoebe needs to have a touch of ‘cartoon’ about her costume – red boots and small red - floral frock
Grandad suit
Zephyr silver party clothes, boots, crazy hair, accessories, over the top
Viv as above
Val as above
Von as above
Atlanta Watery, flowing, strong, blue, long frock, runners
Water Babies Swimming costumes with skirts over the top, runners
Mercury baggy hippy pants, vest, or no shirt, beads, shoulder hippy bag, head band etc
Fire twirlers hippy clothes in red and black – matching – fire safe clothing, head bands
Demeter Earthy, mothering, flowing
Compost Kids Overalls with flowers and bits of grass and leaves attached etc
The Band All black with different coloured scarves – either around heads, necks, wrists etc.

PROPS

- Moon sign – needs to have a moving part on it so that it can signify quarter, half, three quarters and full moon. Needs to be able to stand up by itself
- Sun sign – on other side of moon sign
- Cut out car – made from light weight wood so it can be carried on and off
- Cut out house – as above
- Large cut out flowers
- Wheel barrow
- Gardening tools
- Buckets
- Clothes
- Water bottles
- Urine specimen jar x 2
- Boats – if part of the performance happens on the water.
- Ashes urn
- Candles
- Other items as listed in the script

SCENE ONE

Twilight

The performance space is empty.

Sign carrier enters with the sun moon sign. The moon is on the crescent shape. Spot light shines on the moon.

The sign carrier goes to the middle of the stage and crows as a rooster and swings the sign around to 'sun' to indicate daylight. Sign carrier takes the sun/moon sign and exits.

Lights up – morning.

Enter the three guardian angels, Michael, Gabriel, Raphael. They are dressed as old men and have very small sets of wings on their backs. They go to their bench.

MICHAEL: Morning.

GABRIEL: Morning.

RAPHAEL: Morning.

They all sit down and go about their business. One pours a coffee from a thermos, one takes out a newspaper, and one takes out some sandwiches from his coat pocket.

MICHAEL: Where is she?.

RAPHAEL: Café.

MICHAEL: Should have guessed. She spends too much time in there.

RAPHAEL: Networking.

MICHAEL: Networking! She oughta get a job.

GABRIEL: She's young. She's still finding herself.

MICHAEL: She wasn't too young to leave school.

RAPHAEL: Be patient with her – she's only a child.

MICHAEL: A child! She's not a child, she's a woman, when I was her age I was working....

Gabriel interrupts

GABRIEL: We know Mick, when you where her age you already had a job and a wife and a house and six kids!

MICHAEL: No need to exaggerate.

RAPHAEL: She's a teenager, all teenagers are like this.

MICHAEL: Yes well, if I'd know she was going to be so unpredictable I wouldn't have taken the job.

RAPHAEL: You didn't have a choice did you?

MICHAEL: No! That's the bloody problem when you're an angel – nobody bothers to ask you who you want to look over. I wouldn't liked someone my own age.

GABRIEL: You would've been bored in two days.

MICHAEL: At least I would've known the routine. With Phoebe, I don't know what's happening from one minute to the next.

RAPHAEL: *(clicks his fingers)* You've got to keep up Mick, keep up!

GABRIEL: Hey, he's our little mate Jethro.

They all look up as Jethro appears. He comes and joins them and they make way for him on the bench.

JETHRO: Hey fellas.

ANGELS: Hey Jethro etc.

JETHRO: What's happening?

MICHAEL: We're waiting for your sister.

GABRIEL: She's in the café.

RAPHAEL: Drinking latte.

MICHAEL: Espresso.

GABRIEL: Cappuccino.

JETHRO: Frappucino!

They all laugh

RAPHAEL: So, what news have you got for us today son?

JETHRO: Well, Phoebe reckons she moving out of home.

ANGELS: What?!

JETHRO: Grandad is really spewing about it. He reckons that she's too young and that Mum and Dad will come and haunt him if he lets her move out.

MICHAEL: It's not in the plan! She can't move out, it's not in the plan!

He feels in his pockets and pulls out a scroll. Reads through it.

MICHAEL: Bloody hell.

RAPHAEL: Watch it Mick, you can't go speaking like that.

MICHAEL: Oops sorry, I mean heavens above, it is in the plan!

GABRIEL: Where?

Snatches the scroll from Michael

GABRIEL: Bloody hell, you're right, it says here, "Age 16, cause immense grief by moving out of home".

MICHAEL: We'll have to stop her! We'll have to tell her there's been a mistake.

JETHRO: But she can't see you! She doesn't believe in you!

RAPHAEL: What a mess. We can't let her go into the big world. Not yet.

Music begins

"It's a Wild World" Cat Stevens. The angels all sway together and shed tears. Grandad and Phoebe enter. They have their arms around each other.

Music stops

MICHAEL: Well it's up to you son, you'll have to stop her.

JETHRO: Me?

MICHAEL: Yes you!

JETHRO: Oh yeah right, as if she'll listen to me.

GABRIEL: Be assertive.

They push him forwards

MICHAEL: Just tell her that we said so.

JETHRO: She's sure to believe that.

He stops near Grandad and Phoebe.

PHOEBE: Are you talking to yourself again?

JETHRO: No.

PHOEBE: Well who are you talking to?

JETHRO: The angels. They say you shouldn't move out of home.

She looks at him like he's a complete fool, then talks to Grandad

PHOEBE: Talk to him Grandad, he's been totally into this angel business ever since mum and dad died. Drives me crazy.

GRANDAD: Each to there own Phoebe, each to their own.

PHOEBE: Well I won't have to put up with him for much longer, I'm definitely moving out Grandad, I am totally over this town.

GRANDAD: I hope you're not over me.

PHOEBE: No, I love you Grandad but I just have to find my own space for awhile.

JETHRO: *(mimicking her)* "I need to find my own space for awhile".

PHOEBE: Shut up!

GRANDAD: Don't fight. This might be Phoebe's last day with us.

JETHRO: Hallelujah!

PHOEBE: Give it a rest Jethro. Help me look at these accommodation notices in the paper.

GRANDAD: I'll go and get the car. See you here in a few minutes.

PHOEBE and JETHRO: Okay.

Grandad exits

PHOEBE: Let's sit on the bench.

JETHRO: Hang on...*(Calls out to the angels)* "Quick, move it, big bum's coming".

MICHAEL: Righto! Righto! We're moving.

PHOEBE: Stop it Jethro! Please stop it, just for today.

JETHRO: Okay, I'll try.

They sit down. Phoebe takes out a newspaper. The angels hover around looking over her shoulder. Jethro gestures for them to move away but they ignore him.

PHOEBE: This place sounds good. "Young household, looking for single female, no pets, non smoker, must like partying", what do you reckon?

MICHAEL: No way! Absolutely not! Sounds terrible.

RAPHAEL: I agree with Mick, sounds awful, how will you ever get any study done in a party house? No, definitely a bad move!

GABRIEL: Tell her Jethro, it's up to you son.

JETHRO: I don't know Phoebe, sounds pretty full on, the party stuff and all that.

PHOEBE: But that's what I want, I want to spread my wings, let my hair down, feel the wind, create a storm, all that sort of stuff. Sounds perfect.

JETHRO: Can't you stay here and do that?

PHOEBE: Nah, too small, I don't want everyone talking about me.

MICHAEL: Be firmer son!

JETHRO: She's made up her mind!

PHOEBE: Yeah that's right, I've made up my mind. Look here's Grandad with the car.

Grandad enters with car.

PHOEBE: I've found a place I like the sound of, I'll give them a ring.

GRANDAD: I've bought you a present.

Hands her an old mobile phone, a 'brick'. Phoebe is really excited and hugs Grandad.

PHOEBE: I love it! It's so retro.

Jethro looks at it.

JETHRO: What games does it have?

PHOEBE: None!

JETHRO: Does it have internet access?

PHOEBE: No!

JETHRO: Music?

PHOEBE: No!

JETHRO: Camera?

PHOEBE: No!

JETHRO: What is it then?

PHOEBE: It's just a phone. Nothing else. It's an old phone. No-one in the city has a fancy phone these days. They all have these. Thanks you Grandad it's the best present ever.

MICHAEL: I thought they all went out with the ark!

RAPHAEL: I haven't seen one of those for years!

GABRIEL: I've got a draw full of those at home.

JETHRO: Really?

GABRIEL: Yep!

JETHRO: Great! Let's sell 'em on e-bay! We can make a fortune.

GABRIEL: You're on!

They high-five

GRANDAD: Oh Phoebe, you know I've seen a lot of what the world can do and it's breaking my heart in two because I never want to see you sad girl, don't be a bad girl, but if you want to leave, take good care, hope you have a lot of nice things to wear, but remember there's a lot bad and beware.....

Music starts, Cat Stevens "oh baby baby it's a wild world".

While the song is being sung Jethro gets the three angels into the car (comical – squeezing them in, pushing them etc) and Phoebe makes her phone call, Grandad weeps and blows his nose and dries his eyes etc. Phoebe finishes her call and comes back

PHOEBE: Okay! It's all set. I'm going to move in with this really groovy sounding bunch. Let's go to Fitzroy Grandad!

(Fitzroy – name can be substituted for any inner city suburb)

MICHAEL: Fitzroy! Fitzroy! I've got a bad feeling about all this.

RAPHAEL: Just relax Mick, we'll keep an eye on her. That's our job.

MICHAEL: I want to be unemployed!

They exit to the music of "It's a Wild World".

JETHRO: Yep, hi everyone, hi, hi, hi!

PARTY KIDS: Hi cutie!

The party kids rush over and pinch Jethro's cheeks.

Jethro pulls back and rubs his cheeks

ZEPHYR: Is there anyone else?, (*looks around*), I thought I saw someone else, oh well darling it's so good you're here! We're organising a big party night, just for you.

PARTY KIDS: Yaaaaa party party!!

PHOEBE: That sounds great!

Phoebe moves further into the house area. The kids swam around her, touching her clothes, her hair etc. they continue to dance and bob around while they examine her.

MICHAEL: Sounds scary.

GABRIEL: This place doesn't look too clean.

RAPHAEL: What's wrong with them, all they do is smile and bob up and down, this doesn't feel good, it doesn't feel good at all.

MICHAEL: Jethro! Over here son.

Jethro goes over to them

JETHRO: What?

MICHAEL: She can't stay.

JETHRO: Why not?

GABRIEL: Drugs!

JETHRO: Drugs?

ZEPHYR: Drugs? No way baby. No drugs in this house, we're just high on life, just breath in it in baby, breath in the good life.

Zephyr and the Party Kids go into an exaggerated breathing exercise. Phoebe joins in.

ZEPHYR: See, marvellous isn't it, get that air into your lungs, that's all you need!

PHOEBE: Yeah, I feel great.

ZEPHYR: That's it, you go girl. You're going to love it here. So, say goodbye to Gramps and Grommet and we'll get down to some serious partying.

PHOEBE: Okay. Well Grandad, looks like this is it.

She puts her arms out to hug him and then she hugs Jethro. She takes Jethro aside.

PHOEBE: Look after him for me won't you?

JETHRO: Of course I will.

PHOEBE: Here's my mobile number. Call me whenever you want.

JETHRO: Thanks.....I'll miss you.

They hug.

The three Angels all hug each other and wipe tears away.

Grandad and Jethro leave in the car waving.

Exit music – one bar or chorus of “Wild World”.

The three Angels stay behind. They look around nervously.

MICHAEL: Where are the chairs?

RAPHAEL: I think you sit on the floor.

MICHAEL: (*looking extremely grumpy*) for goodness sake!

They continue to stand and look awkward

ZEPHYR: So Phoebe let me introduce you to everybody. This is Viv

VIV: Howdy!

ZEPHYR: and Val

VAL: Bonjour!

ZEPHYR: and Von

VON: Ciao!

ZEPHYR: And we're all Gemini's. Amazing hey. All air signs. Such a coincidence that we all ended up together and boy oh boy do we have the good air here. What's your sign?

PHOEBE: Umm, Sagittarius.

VIV: Sag. I just love Sag. Fire sign baby.

VON: Yeah Fire, perfect for Air.

VAL: You're at the right place sister, the right place.

ZEPHYR: Fantastic. Fire sign. Oh baby, we're just what you need, a little bit of wind in your fire so to speak.

PHOEBE: That's just what I was saying today, that I needed to feel the air, or the wind or something like that. Amazing.

VIV: Amazing.

VON: Yeah amazing.

VAL: Totally amazing.

ZEPHYR: Come on kids, let's show Phoebe to her room.

They walk to the back of the performance space

MICHAEL: What the bloody hell is he talking about.

RAPHAEL: I think he's got wind or something.

GABRIEL: Yes, it's a vegetarian household. It said that in the ad.

MICHAEL: But why does he have to talk about it.

RAPHAEL: I hope it's not one of those awful parties where they light farts.

GABRIEL: What sort of parties are those?

MICHAEL: Unpleasant parties.

GABRIEL: Well if anything like that starts, let's grab her stuff and get her out of here.

Phoebe and the others return

ZEPHYR: So, why don't you borrow this outfit of mine. It'll look great, really breezy.

Zephyr hands her an item of clothing (vest or headband or scarf – something that can be put on over the top of her existing outfit)– in the same fabric as the Party Kids.

Phoebe puts the item of clothing on.

VIV: Oh my god!

VAL: Oh, oh, my god!

VON: Oh, oh, oh my god!

PARTY KIDS: You look totally awesome!

They cheer

GABRIEL: Are sure you sure there're no drugs here?

The angels shrug

ZEPHYR: Okay! Lets go out. I've picked five different places to go to tonight!

PHOEBE: I was thinking I might have an early night, being my first night and all.

RAPHAEL: Good girl, get a nice early night.

VIV: Don't be crazy, let's blow those country cobwebs out of your head.

VAL: You can catch up on sleep tomorrow.

VON: The night is young.

PHOEBE: But I thought I might look for a job tomorrow, or check out some courses, you know things like that.

MICHAEL: That's it kid. Go out and get that job. Don't let these yahoos put you off.

ZEPHYR: Oh baby, plenty of time for all that, you're only young once, isn't that right kids?

PARTY KIDS: Yeah.

ZEPHYR: So what about it, lets blow this Popsicle stand, lets kick up a storm, create a little havoc.

Music begins. Party music. (Can be same as party music from the beginning of the scene)

Air Dance scene – choreographed piece (Earth Mother and the Compost Kids join in for this piece.)

The Angels join in and their movements are comical and exaggerated.

Phoebe joins in but has a lot of trouble keeping in time and keeping up. Eventually she drops out and stands at the side and watches.

Zephyr notices that Phoebe is not joining in. He calls out

ZEPHYR: Stop!

They all stop and look at him. The music is turned off.

ZEPHYR: What's going on Phoebe, you're not joining in?

PHOEBE: *(She pauses)* umm.....well actually I don't like this song very much.

PARTY KIDS: What?!!!

ZEPHYR: What? You don't like our music?

PHOEBE: I'm sure I'll get used to it.

ZEPHYR: Get used to it? Get used to it?I don't think so baby, either you like it or you don't.

VAL: So what's your story Phoebe, do you like it or don't you?

VIV: 'Cause if you don't like it you can't hang with us.

VON: Maybe you should just find another house where they play classical music or something like that.

PARTY KIDS: Yeah, like classical music or whatever!

PHOEBE: No really, I didn't mean to insult you, I like it here, I want to stay.

Zephyr turns away from her and then turns back and his furious

ZEPHYR: Well, we don't want you to stay, we've changed our minds!

PHOEBE: Look, I was only joking.

VIV: Don't grovel.

VAL: It's terribly unattractive.

VON: Ugly, in fact.

ZEPHYR: Pack your bags Phoebe, you don't fit in here.

PHOEBE: Because of one song.

ZEPHYR: *(screams)* Yes!!

PARTY KIDS: Get out!

PHOEBE: Okay! Okay! What's going on, you're so weird.

ZEPHYR: You ain't seen nothing yet baby! Come on kids, lets leave little Miss Polly Pure, we've got partying to do.

They all exit with the music blaring.

Phoebe is left standing there wondering what happened.

Music fades away.

She pulls out her mobile phone and makes a call.

PHOEBE: Granddad, it's me, Phoebe.....yeah I'm fine...they kicked me out.....don't think I was cool enough.....they where nasty, really nasty.....could you come and get me?.....oh thank you thank you very much.....see you soon.

She picks up her case and they all stand and wait. They Angels stand with her.

RAPHAEL: Changed like the wind.

They nod

MICHAEL: An ill wind blows no good.

They nod

GABRIEL: Any port in a storm will do.

RAPHAEL and MICHAEL: What?

GABRIEL: Just thought I'd throw that in.

They hit him on the head

RAPHAEL and MICHAEL: Just shut up, okay?

GABRIEL: I was just trying to help!

Car arrives and Jethro and Grandad get out.

JETHRO: What happened, I thought they were all sort of cool and breezy?

PHOEBE: Bit like a cyclone actually.

GRANDAD: Oh well, takes all types, let's go home.

PHOEBE: Can we stop at the shop so I can pick up the newspaper, I still want to check out the accommodation notices.

MICHAEL: Oh no, I can't cope.

They all pile into the car again. Jethro pushes the angels in – comical, one Angel gets left behind and has to chase the car etc. The car drives off and exits. Slow version of "Wild World".

Light fades

Sign carrier brings on 'sun/moon' sign and puts in on 'half moon'. Spot light shine on the moon and then fades to blackout.

Brief pause