

About That Ark

(*OR... 'HOW TO SAVE PETS FROM A RAIN OF ERROR'*)

A radio-play by Anthony E. Palermo

TRUNCATED SAMPLE SCRIPT

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PRODUCTION SCRIPT
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About That Ark (OR... 'How to Save Pets From a Rain of *Error*') (radio-play)

By Anthony E. Palermo

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RECORDINGS:

NO video recording of this play is permitted other than for a troupe's private archive. Licensed audio recordings can be broadcast, but not made available for downloading from any website unless you've obtained explicit streaming rights from RuyaSonic.

NOTE: Musical underscore & sound effects tracks are also part of this play.

All music composed by Anthony E. Palermo

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Billing And Credit Requirements

Producers of About That Ark must give credit to Anthony E. Palermo in all programs distributed in connection with performances of the play, and all instances in which the title of the play appears in advertising or publicizing the production, including posters, programs, and playbills. The name of the Author must also appear on a separate line, immediately following the title of the play, and must be in type size not less than 30% of the size of type used in the title of the play.

Billing shall be in the following form:

(name of producer)
presents

About That Ark

(*OR... 'HOW TO SAVE PETS FROM A RAIN OF ERROR'*)

by ANTHONY E. PALERMO

Musical score composed & arranged by
ANTHONY E. PALERMO

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Author's Biography

NOTE: Up-to-date text of the two bios is available at: ruyasonic.com/tp-bio-playwright
You can cut & paste the text there into your playbill or program and thus not have to worry about typos. Cuts are permitted to fit the space available. Please include the final sentence and website URL, as many newcomers to radio drama attend productions by troupes like yours.

Pretty long bio:

ANTHONY E. PALERMO (PLAYWRIGHT) is a radio dramatist, performer, and educator based in Los Angeles. He has done over 2500 shows--on NPR and Satellite Radio, as well as in audiobooks and on-stage with L.A. Theatre Works, California Artists Radio Theater, numerous theatre troupes, and on national tours. His holiday-themed plays, *A Christmas Carol*, *It's A Wonderful Life!*, *Auntie Scrooge—a BACKWARDS Christmas Carol*, and *The Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow* have seen hundreds of productions around the world since 1996. His sound effects work on Yuri Rasovsky's *Sherlock Holmes Theatre* contributed to its winning an Audie Award--the Oscar of audiobooks. He directed the 60th anniversary production of Norman Corwin's *On a Note of Triumph*--for which he also re-created Bernard Herrmann's orchestral score. He provided live sound effects for shows such as Eric Idle's *What About Dick?* [currently on Netflix as a radio-show-on-film], CART's *Together Tonight*, *Good House for a Killing*, LATW's *Hamlet*, *A Doll House* and *Copenhagen*, as well as performing 65 solo shows at the California State Fair. His *Sonic Storytelling Studio* at San Francisco's Exploratorium is a permanent exhibit that has seen thousands of visitors since 2006. His *Sparx Sound Effects Extravaganza* assembly programs and workshops are popular with schools and colleges across California, the U.S. and the world. He also hosts the RuyaSonic radio drama website, offering info on writing, directing, scoring, engineering, and sound effects. www.RuyaSonic.com

Much shorter bio:

ANTHONY E. PALERMO (PLAYWRIGHT) is an award-winning radio performer, dramatist, and educator who has produced dramas and workshops for broadcast, stage, and schools. He hosts the RuyaSonic radio drama website, offering info on writing, directing, scoring,

Cast of Characters - 'About That Ark'

THE CAP'N	600 year-old pet lover/sailor (male)
THE MISSUS	Zany, loose-cannon spouse (female)
INSPECTOR	Imperious inspector (m/f)
HOST	Program host (m/f)
SHIP'S ANNOUNCER	Ship's P.A. announcer (m/f)

Two sound effects artists are also required.

Visit Tony Palermo's Radio Drama Resources website at: www.RuyaSonic.com

INTRO - INT. RADIO STUDIO - DAY
(HOST)

1. MUSIC: [TRACK-1] FANFARE THEN INTRO--UP. FADE UNDER INSPECTOR.

2* HOST: [CUE] 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...

SCENE 1 - EXT. ARK SITE - AFTERNOON
(INSPECTOR, CAP'N)

3. LIVE SFX: 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. LIVE SFX: HAMMERING, SAWING STOPS. CAP'N OPENS DOOR.

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!

9. INSPECTOR: An "ark?" (SCOFFS) I'm sorry, but there are no "arks" on my form here. The closest I've got is "houseboat" or "mobile home." (IMPATIENTLY) What's it going to be?

1. CAP'N: Um... Houseboat, I guess. Well, do come in, Inspector. Watch your step.
2. LIVE SFX: INSPECTOR ENTERS. CAP'N CLOSSES DOOR.

SCENE 2 - INT. ARK ENTRY - SECONDS LATER
(INSPECTOR, CAP'N, MISSUS, SHIP'S ANNOUNCER)

- 3* CAP'N: Oh, Inspector. Here's my "first mate," Joan-- "The Missus."
4. INSPECTOR: How do you do, Mrs...
5. 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 (MOCKINGLY) "cruise ship"-- complete with...
6. 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.
6. LIVE SFX: (DISTANT) TRUNK TRUMPET.
- 8* CAP'N: [CUE] Like I said, Inspector--it is a cruise ship!
9. THE MISSUS: Yeah! A cruise ship in the middle of a parched desert! No wonder we're being inspected!
10. CAP'N: Honey, the Inspector is here to...
11. INSPECTOR: ...I'm doing a "home check"--to see if this is a suitable environment for the pets you want to adopt.
12. THE MISSUS: "Adopt"? (SHOCKED) Huh? (TO CAP'N) Awwww. Not more pets? Don't we have everything that "creepeth" already?

1. CAP'N: (TO INSPECTOR) Um... Never mind the Missus, Inspector. I grew up on a farm. I'm an old "animal lover," that's all.
2. INSPECTOR: Yes, well, speaking of old... I have a few questions. Your age. This application says you're... what? (ASTOUNDED) Six hundred years old? You don't look six hundred.
3. THE MISSUS: He is six-hundred, but like they say... "Having pets keeps you young."
4. INSPECTOR: I see... (SUSPICIOUS) Now, you're requesting to adopt some more animals. Er, why is that?
5. CAP'N: Well... for the errr... rainy season...
6. LIVE SFX: THUNDER (2X)
- 7* CAP'N: (LISTENS-PAUSE) ...which may start any minute now. You see, Inspector, my wife and I are going on a little... er... cruise. And we want to take some pets along.
8. INSPECTOR: OK... How many?
9. CAP'N: (HOPEFUL) A few... of everything.
10. THE MISSUS: (SHOCKED) What?!
11. CAP'N: Actually, I was thinking errr... nine... of everything.
12. INSPECTOR: Nine? ...of everything? Impossible!
13. LIVE SFX: THUNDER (2X)
- 14* CAP'N: Well then, how about um... five?
15. INSPECTOR: Five of everything? No-no-no-no-no! Considering your age, we can only let you have errrrrrr....
one.

1. THE MISSUS: One of everything? Won't they get lonely?
(THINKS) Oh, will they ever! And then they'll tear up the place!
2. INSPECTOR: (PAUSE) Well... OK. Let's say two. Two of everything. But no more.
3. CAP'N: All right. Two it is. Two of everything.
4. INSPECTOR: But--of course--they'll all have to be fixed.
5. CAP'N: What? Fixed?
6. THE MISSUS: Fixed?
7. INSPECTOR: Fixed. You know: Spayed. Neutered. Not allowed to reproduce wantonly. We can't have that kind of thing, now, can we?
8. CAP'N: Oh, but I'd like to keep my pets... uh, "natural." And the animals... they're going to need to reproduce, you know!
9. INSPECTOR: (TAKEN ABACK) Need to reproduce? Why is that?
10. CAP'N: I... um... I... can't... tell you.
11. LIVE SFX: THUNDER (2X)
- 12* THE MISSUS: (TO INSPECTOR) There he goes! Always keeping secrets! (BEAT) And talking to the weather.
13. CAP'N: Y'see, Inspector, we've already got a few... well, quite a few animals on board; Cows, dogs, rabbits, birds, even snakes.
14. THE MISSUS: Oh, yes! He's got hundreds of pets. Even a unicorn!
15. INSPECTOR: A unicorn?
16. CAP'N: One unicorn...

1. THE MISSUS: And it eats like a horse! (BEAT) But it's that wooly mammoth that gets me! Try combing out one of them!
2. CAP'N: (CUTTING HER OFF) OK, we've got hundreds of pets. Yes, but we couldn't really bring them all to get fixed, y'know. There's no time.
3. LIVE SFX: THUNDER (2X)
4. CAP'N: (ULP) No time.
5. INSPECTOR: That's alright. We'll send in a surgical team! We've expanded our services. So, our surgical team can de-sex the lot at once!
6. CAP'N: De-sex? Oh, you really don't need to go to that kind of...
7. SHIP'S ANNOUNCER: [FILTER/ECHO] Attention! Attention passengers! There will be a shuffleboard tournament today on the aft deck at two p.m. A shuffleboard tournament today on the aft deck at two p.m.
8. THE MISSUS: Uh-oh! Better hold onto something, Inspector. Here they come!
9. LIVE SFX: WALLA-ANIMALS. STAMPEDE. CRASHING--UNDER.
- 10* CAP'N: Yes! My pets, Inspector... It's a stampede!
11. INSPECTOR: A stampede?
12. THE MISSUS: Yeah. The two p.m. stampede.
13. CAP'N: Um... My pets just love... shuffleboard, y'know. (NERVOUS LAUGH) Heh-heh...
14. LIVE SFX: STAMPEDE BUILDS--SUDDENLY STOPS ON A DIME. (PAUSE)
ANIMAL KNOCKS ON DOOR (4X)

- 1* CAP'N: (DELICATELY) Um. It's them. Don't get up, Inspector. I'll be right back.
2. LIVE SFX: CAP'N WALKS TOWARDS DOOR.
- 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.

SCENE 3 - INT. ARK HALL - SECONDS LATER
(INSPECTOR, CAP'N, MISSUS, SHIP'S ANNOUNCER)

5. LIVE SFX: CAP'N OPENS DOOR--WALKS THRU--CLOSES DOOR.
SUDDEN SFX: SQUEAKS. DONKEY.
WALLA ANIMALS: ANGRY OINKS, MOOS, ETC--UNDER.
- 6* CAP'N: (BELEAGURED) All right! All right. What is it now?
7. WALLA: CLAMORING OINKS, MOOS, SQUAWKS--UNDER.
- 8* CAP'N: (OVER THEM) Forget that two-by-two stuff! One at a time! One at a time! You! Rabbit!
9. LIVE SFX: RABBIT GARGLES CONVERSATIONALLY--UNDER.
- 10* CAP'N: (UNDERSTANDING IT) What?... Again?How many this time?.... Oh, the Inspector's not going to like this at all--not at all!
11. LIVE SFX: DOG BARKS CONVERSATIONALLY--UNDER.
- 12* CAP'N: What?... The snake?... Apple turnovers?....
(GASPS) No! Don't eat'em! (BEAT) Save room for Baked Alaska.
13. WALLA: ANIMALS BOOING MOOS, GRUMBLING SQUAWKS, DOG BARKS--CUT OFF BY...

1* 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.

2. LIVE SFX: "MOOOOOOOO"

WALLA-ANIMALS: OINKS, BARKS, SQUAWKS---HUSHES

3* CAP'N: Shhhh! The forecast is calling for... rain. Soon you can all be fruitful and mult... (CRIES OUT) Yaaaaaaw! Hey, Unicorn! Watch it with that thing!

4. LIVE SFX: INSPECTOR KNOCKS ON DOOR (4X).

5* INSPECTOR: [THROUGH THE DOOR] What's going on out there? I have other home checks on my list.

6. CAP'N: Just a minute, Inspector! I'll be right there! (WHISPER TO ANIMALS) Now listen you animals! You'd better start behaving or that inspector is going to have you all fixed!

7. LIVE SFX: SUDDEN SHOCKED SFX: SQUEAKS. DONKEY.

WALLA: OINKS, MOOS, QUACKS. SQUAWKS.

8. LIVE SFX: INSPECTOR KNOCKS (3X) WALLA STOPS SUDDENLY

9*. INSPECTOR: [THROUGH THE DOOR] Hurry up! It looks like rain! I want to see these pets of yours, this instant!

10. LIVE SFX: INSPECTOR JIGGLES DOOR KNOB.

11* CAP'N: No, Inspector, don't come in! We're not---

12* LIVE SFX: INSPECTOR OPENS DOOR SUDDENLY. STEPS IN.

13* INSPECTOR: (SKEPTICAL) Aha! Quite a menagerie you have here! Hmmmm... Are all these animals fixed? They don't look very spayed to me.

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(several scenes later...)

5* MUSIC: [MUS-3] RIP CHORD/OUTRO--UNDER. LET IT PLAY THROUGH.

OUTRO - INT. RADIO STUDIO - DAY
(HOST, SHIP'S ANNOUNCER)

6* HOST: [CUE] Tune in again for another episode of "About That Ark (OR... How to Save Pets from a Rain of Error)

7* HOST: (PAUSE) Today's program was written and scored by Anthony E. Palermo. ("paw-LAIR-mo")

8* HOST: [CUE] Our production featured...
as the Cap'n, _____,
as the Inspector, _____,
as the Missus, _____,
and as the Ship's Announcer, _____.

9* HOST: (PAUSE) Our sound effects artists were
_____, and
_____.
Engineering by _____.
Our director was _____.
I'm your host, _____.

10. SHIP'S ANNOUNCER: [FILTER/ECHO] "About That Ark" is a production of
the _____ Radio Network. Bon Voyage!

--END OF EPISODE--

Radio Skills School

Microphone Technique:

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

Radio Acting:

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

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Casting Monologues: 'About That Ark'

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 can 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 when auditioning for the different roles.

- HOST:** [CUE] 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 Effects: *'About That Ark'*

SOUND EFFECTS ARTIST #1:

Hammering

Door knocks, opens, closes:

Stampede

Footsteps on deck

donkey

wind

SOUND EFFECTS ARTIST #2:

Sawing

Trunk trumpet

Thunder

hooves

Crashing

squeaks

Rabbit gargles

Sound Effects Cookbook: *'About That Ark'*

HAMMERING:

Several hammers tapping on wood or SFX table.

DOOR KNOCKS, OPENS, CLOSES:

Use SFX door device. Or produce a "kah-klunk" sound with a book on SFX table.

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. Use hard shoes.

DONKEY:

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

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Engineer's Notes: 'About That Ark'

Equipment notes:

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 optional echo device can be on the same line. The intention is to mimic the sound of many speakers throughout the ark.

An alternative way to produce the "over the radio voice" is to speak into a coffee mug while holding it near the microphone.

Playback devices:

This show uses some back-to-back pre-recorded tracks. It may require TWO playback devices OR quick triggering using an inexpensive MP3 playback app, such as Go Button (IOS) or Audio Cues (Android).

Pre-Recorded Music/SFX tracks:

Cue #	Title	Run Time
01	Fanfare/Intro Theme [BED]	0:47
02	Rain SFX and Rain Theme [BED]	1:18
03	Rip-chord/Outro [BED]	1:49

All music composed by Anthony E. Palermo
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