

Playstage

Junior

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RAINFOREST GOODBYE



A play about the devastation of the rainforests by big companies



Written by

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RAINFOREST GOODBYE

CAST LIST

Note: All actors to dance at beginning and end in colourful Indonesian style dress (SEE PRODUCTION NOTES). Some could have modern clothes on underneath, for a quick change to the rock or movie stars and fans dance scene. Some groups have to play 2 roles, if there are too few actors available. For all masks and puppets see PRODUCTION NOTES.

NARRATORS	3 actors (but could be just 1)
DANCERS	(Optional. But if used, at least 6 actors but could then double up as one of the other groups.)
GROUP 1	
Animals and hand held masks	4 actors
Forest Workers	4 actors
GROUP 2	
Ghost Trees	4 actors
Tree planters	4 actors
GROUP 3	
Insects + insect puppets on sticks	4 actors
Date pickers	4 actors
GROUP 4	
Birds + bird puppets on sticks	4 actors
Crop sprayers	2 actors
GROUP 5	
Forest people	4 actors
GROUP 6	
Developers (high viz jackets & hard hats)	2 actors
Inspectors (same)	2 actors
Scientists	2 actors
Foremen (same)	2 actors
GROUP 7	
Protest Leaders, rock stars, movie stars	6 actors

Maximum 57 speaking/dancing/singing parts. Parts can be easily doubled up. Some parts (such as dancers) can be omitted. Running time approximately 20 minutes.

MUSIC

For Traditional Indonesian dance and music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MwDJR1iPuI>

Hopefully you can use real RAIN STICKS but if you cannot, then you can download the sound from here:

<https://www.soundsnap.com/tags/rainstick>

Or you could download the sound of GENTLE RAIN here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jX6kn9_U8qk

RAIN SOUND AND RAINFOREST ANIMAL SOUNDS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8myYyMg1fFE>

Some percussion is needed when the workers start felling the trees. (Drumbeats)

Sounds of trees being sawn and falling can be downloaded from here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxh2uD56xRU>

FANFARE SOUND EFFECTS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyFTNJYAMY>

THE RAINFOREST SONG

<http://freesongsforkids.com/videos/rain-forest-song>

RAINFOREST GOODBYE

INTRODUCTION

Indonesian music plays and a group of actors perform a simple Indonesian dance. The dancers finish and freeze. The NARRATORS walk on and address the audience. They speak in prose.

NARRATOR 1

According to the World Wildlife Foundation, palm oil has become the biggest threat to wildlife in Indonesia and Malaysia. Grown only in the tropics, the oil palm tree produces high-quality oil used primarily for cooking in developing countries. It is also used in food products, detergents, cosmetics and, to a small extent, biofuel. Palm oil is a small ingredient in Western diets, but more than half of all packaged products we consume contain palm oil—it's found in make-up, soaps, detergents and even ice cream.

NARRATOR 2

What exactly is palm oil? It's an edible vegetable oil that comes from the fruit of oil palm trees. Two types of oil can be produced; crude palm oil comes from squeezing the fleshy fruit, and palm kernel oil which comes from crushing the kernel, or the stone in the middle of the fruit. Oil palm trees are native to Africa but were brought to South-East Asia just over 100 years ago as an ornamental tree crop. Now, Indonesia and Malaysia make up over 90% of global supply.

NARRATOR 3

Palm oil is a very profitable crop because it produces many fruits and the trees keep producing year after year. Other oil crops – like rapeseed – must be replanted every year, which means they are more costly and require more complicated processing. Global production of and demand for palm oil is increasing rapidly. Plantations are

spreading across Asia, Africa and Latin America. But such expansion comes at the expense of tropical forests—which form critical habitats for many endangered species and a lifeline for some human communities.

(The NARRATORS leave. Indonesian music plays softly again, and the dancers leave. The ANIMALS, TREE GHOSTS, INSECTS, BIRDS AND FOREST PEOPLE enter. They can speak their poetry in chorus, as groups, or the lines can be split amongst individuals.)

ANIMALS

We are the animals who lived in the trees
And through forest and floor we would roam.
In the dark, cool forest we raised our young
In the rainforest we called our home.

TREE GHOSTS

We are the ghosts of the rainforest trees
Our branches once reached to the sky.
We once were home to all creatures that walked,
Or burrowed, or crawled, or could fly.

INSECTS

We are the insects that lived in the forest
We moved quietly from tree to tree
Or we crawled through the leaves that lay on the floor,
Dragonflies, moths and wild stinging bee.

BIRDS

We are the birds who lived in the trees
Who filled the forest with colour and song
We built our nests high, and flew in the sky,
So, what did we do that was wrong?

ALL

So now we are killed when they fell our trees
And the rest are driven away
By greedy developers from faraway lands
Who remove us and won't let us stay.

FOREST PEOPLE

Even the humans, who lived in the forests,
Were removed from our homes, forced to leave.
We miss the great trees, the noise of the wild
Still we are homesick and grieve.
We now live in towns, amidst noise and dust
We don't like the places they made for our home
We miss all the smells and the sounds of the wild.
We miss having freedom to wander and roam.

(Sounds of rain – either through rain sticks or recorded sounds. Then rainforest sounds of creatures. All those on stage, mime being the creatures that they represent. The TREE GHOSTS stand and gently sway. The FOREST PEOPLE mime collecting wood and making a fire or building a shelter. Suddenly all the rainforest sounds stop. There is loud drumming, and everyone freezes. The FORESTERS, INSPECTORS AND DEVELOPERS enter. The DEVELOPERS have briefcases, the INSPECTORS have clipboards and the FORESTERS have 'chain saws' (See PRODUCTION NOTES). The ANIMALS, INSECTS and BIRDS all run to the edge of the stage and crouch down. The TREES stay where they are, the PEOPLE look confused.)

DEVELOPERS

We developers bought thousands of acres
We are the ambitious big profit makers.

(The DEVELOPERS shoo the FOREST PEOPLE off the stage but stay on stage themselves to watch the FORESTERS.)

FORESTERS

We are the workers with chainsaws in hand
We cut down the trees and cleared all the land.

(Chainsaw noises and the FORESTERS 'cut down' the TREES. The FORESTERS put down their chainsaws and drag the TREES offstage. Then the FORESTERS come back and collect their chainsaws and leave. The TREE PLANTERS come onstage with mini date palms (SEE PRODUCTION NOTES) They shoo the ANIMALS, INSECTS and BIRDS off the stage and begin to 'plant' the palms in neat rows.)

TREE PLANTERS

We are the workers who plant the trees
We were too poor to refuse the fees.
Where we once foraged and lived off the land
It is now sterile acres where wildlife is banned.
We plant the date palms, in neat straight rows.
They fruit and they harvest, and their profit grows.

INSPECTORS *(Inspecting and ticking off items on their clipboards)*

We're the inspectors the Government send
We check how you spend all the money we lend.

(The DATE PICKERS enter. They carry baskets and set them down by the trees. The TREE PLANTERS leave. The FOREMEN come in and each one stands by a DATE PICKER.)

DATE PICKERS

We tend the trees and cut the dates

Our wages are the lowest rates.
We pick twelve hours – from eight to eight
We're paid to pick a certain weight.

(The CROP SPRAYERS enter with spray guns (See PRODUCTION NOTES). All the DATE PICKERS and FOREMEN move away from the trees and cover their faces with scarves. The CROP SPRAYERS have goggles on.)

CROP SPRAYERS

The dates are doused with chemical spray
This is to keep the bugs away
But birds are killed by spraying too
And it's not good for me and you.
We get sick from all this toil
And chemicals get in the oil.

(The DATE PICKERS and CROP SPRAYERS leave.)

FOREMEN

Lorry drivers load the dates
They stack them high in lots of crates,
Then they take them for a ride
To big ships, waiting harbourside.
DEVELOPERS *(producing maps from their briefcases and examining them)*
The profit now is rolling in,
We'll now expand, come thick or thin.