

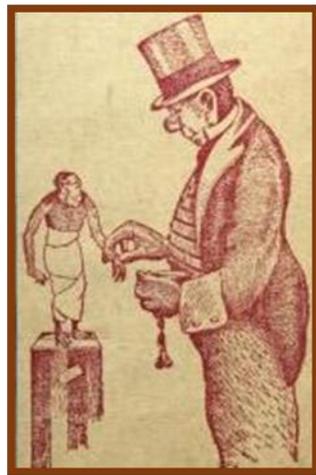
Playstage

Junior

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**THE STORY OF DOCTOR DOLITTLE**  
*(BEING THE HISTORY OF HIS PECULIAR LIFE AT HOME  
AND ASTONISHING ADVENTURES IN FOREIGN PARTS.)*



Adapted from the original book by Hugh Loftus



Written by  
Stewart Auty

**THE STORY OF DR.DOLITTLE****CAST****SARAH DOLITTLE (SARAH D)****POLYNESIA THE PARROT****DOCTOR DOLITTLE****ANGRY PATIENT****DAB DAB the DUCK****PIGGY****DELIVERY MAN/WOMAN****JIP THE DOG****HORSE****CROCODILE****TOOT TOOT the OWL****CHEE CHEE the MONKEY****WILD LOOKING MAN****KING****QUEEN****LION****GIRAFFE****RHINO****ELEPHANT****PUSH ME PULL YOU (HEAD 1 and HEAD 2)****RAT****BEN ALI****PIRATES 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5**

*28 speaking parts, unlimited chorus.*

*Approximate running time 1 hour*

## MUSIC

The following songs are merely suggestions for this play. You may choose to use them, or not, or substitute your own songs.

### IF I COULD TALK TO THE ANIMALS

Backing track and also cover version <https://www.karaoke-version.com/mp3-backingtrack/anthony-newley/talk-to-the-animals.html>

You Tube link : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nvMcKbo0vYc>

### NEVER SMILE AT A CROCODILE

YouTube backing track: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zk7bC1Dv434>

You Tube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGkdepTY1QI>

### SAILING (Christopher Cross)

Backing track and cover version: <https://www.karaoke-version.com/mp3-backingtrack/christopher-cross/sailing.html>

You Tube link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzgQoGvSKA4&list=RDVzgQoGvSKA4&start\\_radio=1&t=75](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzgQoGvSKA4&list=RDVzgQoGvSKA4&start_radio=1&t=75)

### THE LION SLEEPS TONIGHT (Wim – a - way)

Backing track and cover version: <https://www.karaoke-version.com/mp3-backingtrack/the-tokens/the-lion-sleeps-tonight.html>

You Tube link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m\\_eYoGMCZqU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_eYoGMCZqU)

### CONSIDER YOURSELF

Backing track and cover version: <https://www.karaoke-version.com/mp3-backingtrack/oliver/consider-yourself.html>

YouTube link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17Z3g9Hym5Q&list=RD17Z3g9Hym5Q&start\\_radio=1&t=0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17Z3g9Hym5Q&list=RD17Z3g9Hym5Q&start_radio=1&t=0)

### PIRATES OF THE BLACK TIDE

YouTube guitar backing track: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tiuDnYD9Jo>

You Tube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EfeFXM--pM>

### WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD

Backing track and cover version: <https://www.karaoke-version.com/mp3-backingtrack/louis-armstrong/what-a-wonderful-world.html>

You Tube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWzrABouyeE>

THE STORY OF DR.DOLITTLE

SCENE 1. The Angry Patient

*The setting is a farmhouse kitchen (SEE PRODUCTION NOTES) As lights go up, an instrumental version of 'TALK TO THE ANIMALS' is playing. It gradually fades. Enter SARAH D.*

SARAH D

Good afternoon everyone. Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Sarah Dolittle, and I'm here to tell you about my brother John. I've a friend who has agreed to help me. But I must warn you, you're in for a bit of a shock.

*(Enter POLYNESIA)*

This is Polynesia, and as you can see, she's a parrot. But she's no ordinary parrot, oh no! There's something very special about Polynesia.

POLYNESIA

Let me help you explain Sarah. Look! Some of them have already realised!

SARAH D

For those of you a bit slow on the uptake, haven't you noticed yet? Polynesia can really talk! Not just repeating – goodness me, I nearly said 'parrot fashion!'

POLYNESIA

But I'm a bit touchy about that! We're talking real conversation here, not 'Who's a cheeky boy?' or 'Wotcher doing?' Proper conversation like, between two equals, each continuing and developing the ideas being discussed.

SARAH D

I know for some of you that's very hard to believe, and even harder to understand, but it's true! And my brother knows the secret!

POLYNESIA

And it's true for all animals! They can communicate with each other, but the grunts, howls, clucks and miaows just sound like animal noises to humans.

SARAH D

It's one of those shortcomings that people have unfortunately. They think they're intelligent, the superior race here on earth, but they're very much mistaken.

POLYNESIA

Some might say mistaken – I would say deluded.

SARAH D

You see what I mean about proper conversation. She has such an extensive vocabulary! Polly here can converse with the best of them!

POLYNESIA

Look, I've told you this before! Don't call me 'Polly'!

SARAH D

Yes, I'm sorry. But humans often shorten names. It's a sign of affection.

I do apologise Poly.... nesia.

POLYNESIA

Now this conversation is meandering close to the pointless. We are getting nowhere.

SARAH D

Yes, thank you, I'd almost forgotten. My brother John....

POLYNESIA

Or to give him his full title – Doctor John Dolittle, M.D.

SARAH D

As some of you may know, the 'M.D.' letters after his name refer to his qualifications as a doctor. Look, here he is now! With a patient!

*(Enter DOLITTLE followed by a Human PATIENT. He takes a chair from the table, puts it centre stage and motions the PATIENT to sit.)*

POLYNESIA

Oh, dear! I've seen her before. The patient is a rather grumpy old lady with

terrible rheumatism. I'll perch in the corner, keep out of the way.

SARAH D

I'll join you. We'll both sit quietly and listen, and *(to audience)* you will begin to understand what the problem is.

DOLITTLE

Ah, yes, Mrs...

PATIENT

Miss, if you don't mind. I've been your patient for long enough now for you to remember who I am.

DOLITTLE

*(Sighs)* How could I ever forget?

PATIENT

And I expect you to remember exactly what is wrong with me.

DOLITTLE

But you have a long list of ailments, sometimes something new, sometimes an ailment from the past which has chosen to revisit you.

PATIENT

Well today, it's rheumatism.

DOLITTLE

Rheumatism?

PATIENT

That's right, rheumatism. And it's giving me some gyp, I can tell you.

DOLITTLE *(Listens to her chest with his stethoscope)*

Gyp? That's the name of my dog!

PATIENT

Don't you know anything? You're supposed to be qualified! Gyp! Extreme pain! Normal levels of discomfort I can put up with, but this time it's agony doctor, and I want you to do something about it.

DOLITTLE

I'm afraid that the pain in your joints is all too common....

PATIENT

What did you say? Common? I've never had anything common. My father was a church minister you know. We've never been common.

DOLITTLE

You misunderstand me. I'm sorry. What I was going to say, before you interrupted, is that rheumatism is common for people of your age.

PATIENT

So now you tell me that it's my age?!

DOLITTLE

I didn't mean I like that.

PATIENT

I didn't come here to be insulted!

DOLITTLE

*(Aside)* Where do you normally go?

PATIENT

I came here hoping for something to ease the pain.

DOLITTLE

On reflection, it may be that you are suffering from a rare condition called rheumatoid arthritis, caused by an inflammation in your joints.

PATIENT

Now that sounds a lot better. Rheumatoid arthritis.... a rare condition....

DOLITTLE

Caused by inflammation....

PATIENT

That's definitely an ailment more in keeping with my status.

DOLITTLE

I can't offer much in terms of pain relief, I'm afraid. Just take aspirin, two tablets, four times a day might help.

PATIENT

Is that it? Have you nothing better to offer than that? What about all these

expensive new drugs I keep reading about?

DOLITTLE

Well you could try rubbing the affected parts with dock leaves.

PATIENT

And will that help?

DOLITTLE

They work on nettle stings, so you never know.

PATIENT

I'm not sure you're taking me seriously. In any case, I will not be returning as a patient. I have lost all confidence in your ability, doctor, and I wish you good day. Oh, and whilst I remember, when I sat down in the waiting room, I sat on a hedgehog!

DOLITTLE

That is unfortunate. That would be Spike. I do hope the hedgehog has not been harmed. It could have been quite a traumatic experience.

PATIENT

It certainly was!

DOLITTLE

I meant for the hedgehog.

PATIENT

Well, that about sums it up! Good day!

*(Exit PATIENT. DOLITTLE puts the chair back by the table)*

SARAH D *(to the audience)*

You understand the problem now. My brother is a wonderful doctor, but his bedside manner is not very good.

POLYNESIA *(to the audience)*

And then there's the animals. They're all over the house.

SARAH D (*to the audience*)

There are fish in the pond, chickens in the barn, and rabbits in the shed – all perfectly normal.

POLYNESIA (*to SARAH D*)

But there are mice in the piano and a squirrel in the airing cupboard.

SARAH D (*agreeing*)

Not to mention the hedgehog in the waiting room, a cow and her calf, a sheep that's lame...

POLYNESIA

Some pigeons, two lambs and a duck, a dog, a pig, an owl, not forgetting me, Polynesia! I'm his favourite you know.

DOLITTLE (*coming up to SARAH D*)

Sarah...you saw Mrs thingummy, whatever her name is?

SARAH D

She was a Miss, John. She had to remind you who she was and what was wrong with her.

DOLITTLE

I'd have been happier if she'd given me a miss altogether. There's nothing much wrong with her apart from hypochondria.

SARAH D

But don't you see John, that's the problem. You're not very good with people.

POLYNESIA

But you are wonderful with animals. Can you explain that?

DOLITTLE

It's quite simple really. I like animals much better than people.

SARAH D

How can you expect sick people to visit you with all the animals in the house?

POLYNESIA

Sick people pay the rent Doctor. Soon you'll have no patients left.

DOLITTLE

And that will suit me just fine!

*(Exit POLYNESIA and enter DAB DAB AND PIGGY)*

PIGGY

There's a big van in the yard!

DAB DAB

It's the delivery of pet food you've been waiting for!

*(Enter DELIVERY MAN/WOMAN with a big tray of boxes, bags and tins.)*

DELIVERY MAN/WOMAN

Good afternoon Doctor, and to you too Sarah. I've brought the pet food you ordered.

DOLITTLE

Just put it down anywhere. Can I pay you later?

DELIVERY MAN/WOMAN

It's not the first time you've asked that Doctor.

DOLITTLE

I'm sorry. I've a bit of a cash flow problem at the minute. It is for the animals. Look at them!

*(DAB DAB and PIGGY look suitably pathetic and whimper softly)*

DELIVERY MAN

OK. I suppose so.

DOLITTLE

Look, if I sell the piano, I'll be able to pay you.

SARAH D

You can't sell the piano! What about the mice?

DELIVERY MAN

Mice? In the piano?

DOLITTLE

Take no notice of Sarah, it's just her little joke. I'll sell the piano and pay you later if that's all right?

DELIVERY MAN

Fine. But can I say something, give you some advice? You won't take offence?

DOLITTLE

If you must.

SARAH D

Listen to him (her) John. He's (She's) only trying to be helpful.

DELIVERY MAN/WOMAN

I've noticed you're not so good with people, but brilliant with animals, so why don't you stop being a people doctor and concentrate on the animals. You seem to understand animals so much better than people.

SARAH D

This is such a good idea John. Animals like you. You know how they think. You could do this!

DELIVERY MAN/WOMAN

Think of all the people who would bring you their poorly pets. There's such an opportunity for you. That's all I'm saying.