

**Ike Riche Players, Goose High School
Happy Valley-Goose Bay
presents**

“The Elephant’s Child”

Cast

Elephant’s Child..... Ossie Michelin
Narrator #1..... Jessica Kennedy
Narrator #2..... Stephen Barrett
Narrator #3..... Kristin Blake
Narrator #4..... Jessica Wall
Troupe..... All of the above plus:
Krista Blake (Kolokolo Bird), Stephanie Williams
Natasha Cequiera
Sarah O’Donnell (spirit of the jungle)
Andrew Crawford, Samantha Pike (snake)
Andy Hewlett (crocodile)

Crew

Lights..... Harry Borlase
Masks..... Yvonne Moorehouse
Paula Thomas & The Troupe
Costumes..... The Troupe
Special thanks to Lynn Miller
Choreography..... The Troupe
Special thanks to Jeremy Barr
Music..... “Tomba”: African Tapestries
“Ekova”:Soft Breeze & Tsunami
Breaks

Teacher Advisor

Dorrie Brown

This play ,by Rudyard Kipling has been adapted for the stage by The Ike Riche Players. Staging was entirely done as a collective effort by the actors. We chose to interpret the play through a good deal of movement and music and mime, keeping the play lively and fast-paced. The overall effect, we hope is that the entire piece becomes a choreographed presentation.

“The Elephant’s Child”

(Black stage. Trunk is placed at center stage. Dim light comes on trunk. MUSIC: TEMBA: HEART OF AFRICA. Players come out and discover trunk, open it, sift through objects in trunk and each find their own masks. They then put them on and start dancing to jungle theme.)

Narrator 1: In the high and far-off times the Elephant, O Best Beloved, had no trunk. He had only a blackish, bulgy nose, as big as a boot, that he could wriggle about from side to side, but he couldn’t pick up things with it. But there was one Elephant...

Narrator 2: ..A new Elephant

Narrator 3: ..An Elephant’s child.

Narrator 4: ..Who was full of satiable curiosities.

Narrator 1: ..And that means he asked ever so many questions. And he lived in Africa, and he filled all Africa with all his..... *(Narrator 1 moves to Baboon, becomes a tree)*

All: Satiating curiosities.

Narrator 2: *(As a tree beside Ostrich)* He asked his tall aunt, the Ostrich....

Elephant: Why do your tail feathers grow just so?

Ostrich: ..And his tall aunt the Ostrich spanked him with her hard, hard claw!

Narrator 3: *(As a tree beside Giraffe)* He asked his tall uncle the Giraffe....

Elephant: What makes your skin spotty?

Giraffe: ..And his tall uncle the Giraffe, spanked him with his hard, hard hoof!

Narrator 1: And still he was full of satiating curiosities!

Narrator 4: *(As a tree beside Hippo)* He asked his broad aunt, the Hippopotamus...

Elephant: Why are your eyes so red?

Hippo:And his broad aunt, the Hippopotamus, spanked him with her broad, broad hoof!

Narrator 1: And he asked his hairy uncle, the Baboon.....

Elephant: Why do melons taste just so?

Baboon: ..And his hairy uncle, the Baboon, spanked him with his hairy, hairy paw!

Narrator 3: ..And still he was full of satiable curiosity!

(Line by line, Narrators come up to center stage)

Narrator 2: He asked questions about everything that he saw...

Narrator 3: ..Or heard....

Narrator 4: ...Or felt.....

Narrator 1:Or smelt.....

Narrator 2: ..Or touched.....

Giraffe, Baboon, Hippo & Ostrich: *(Coming up behind them)And all of his uncles and his aunts (Spanking narrators) spanked him! (Jump back to spots)*

Narrators: *(turning to each other)* And still he was full of satiable curiosity!

Narrator 3: *(Narrators go off to side)* One fine morning in the middle of the Precession of the Equinoxes this satiable Elephant's Child asked a new fine question that he had never asked before. He asked.....

Elephant: What does the Crocodile have for dinner?

Narrator 3: Then everybody said "Hush!" *(One by one, cast says "Hush", going lower in volume each time)*

Narrator 4:IN A LOUD AND DRETFUL TONE.

All: HUSH! *(In echoes again, but loud)*

Narrator 3: ..And they spanked him immediately and directly, without stopping, for a long time.

Narrator 4: by and by, when that was finished, he came upon Kolokolo Bird sitting in the middle of a wait-a-bit thorn-bush, and he said.....

Elephant: My father has spanked me, and my mother has spanked me; all my aunts and

uncles have spanked me for my satiable curiosity; and still I want to know what the Crocodile has for dinner!

Narrator 1: Then the Kolokolo Bird said.....

Narrator 4: ...With a mournful cry.....

Kolokolo Bird: Go to the banks of the great grey-green greasy Limpopo River, all set about with fever trees, and find out.

Narrator 2: That very next morning, when there was nothing left of the Equinoxes, because the Precession had preceded according to the precedent, (*Elephant walks out with hippie sunglasses and guitar case*) this satiable Elephant's Child took a hundred pounds of bananas.....

Elephant: The little short red kind.....

Narrator 2: ...And a hundred pounds of sugar cane...

Elephant: The long purple kind!

Narrator 2: (*Looks at Elephant*) ...And seventeen melons. (*Glares at Elephant and raises finger before he can say anything*) He said to all his dear families.....

Elephant: Good-bye, I am going to the great grey-green greasy Limpopo River, all set about with fever trees, to find out what the Crocodile has for dinner.

Narrator 3: And they all spanked him once more for good luck, though he asked them most politely to stop.

Narrator 4: (*exit Elephant*) Then he went away, a little warm, but not at all astonished, eating melons, and throwing the rind about, because he could not pick it up. He went from Graham's Town to Kimberly, and from Kimberly to Khama's Country.

Narrator 1: And from Khama's Country he went east by north, eating melons all the time, till at last he came to the banks of the great grey-green (*Enter Elephant, with place stickers on guitar case*) greasy Limpopo River, all set about with fever trees.

Elephant:Precisely as Kolokolo Bird had said!

Narrator 2: Now you must understand, O Best Beloved, that till that very week, and day, and hour, and minute, this satiable Elephant's child had never seen a crocodile, and did not know what one was like. It was all his satiable curiosity.

Narrator 3: The first thing that he found was a Bi-coloured Python Rock Snake curled round a rock.

Elephant: ‘Scuse me, have you seen such a thing as a Crocodile in these promiscuous parts?

Snake: Have I seen a Crocodile?

Narrator 4: Said the Bi-coloured Python Rock Snake, in a voice of dretful scorn.

Snake: What will you ask me next?

Elephant: Scuse me, but could you kindly tell me what he has for dinner?

Narrator 1: Then the Bi-coloured Python Rock Snake uncoiled himself very quickly from the rock and spanked the Elephant’s Child with his scalesome, flailsome tail.

Elephant: This is odd,

Narrator 2: Said the Elephant’s Child.

Elephant: .because my father and my mother, and my uncle and my aunt, not to mention my other aunt, the Hippopotamus, and my other uncle, the Baboon, have all spanked me for my satiable curtioucity and I suppose this is the same thing.

Narrator 2: So he said good-bye very politely to the Bi-coloured Python Rock Snake and helped to coil him up on the rock again, and went on, a little warm, but not at all astonished, eating melons and throwing the rind about, because he could not pick it up, till he trod on what he thought was a log of wood at the very edge of the great grey-green , greasy Limpopo River, all set about with fever trees.

Narrator 3: But it was really a Crocodile, O Best Beloved, and the Crocodile winked one eye - like this! (*Winks obviously*)

Elephant: Scuse me,

Narrator 3: Said the Elephant’s Child most politely.

Elephant: But do you happen to have seen a crocodile in these promiscuous parts?

Narrator 4: Then the Crocodile winked the other eye and lifted half his tail out of the mud, and the Elephant’s Child stepped back most politely because he did not wish to be spanked again.

Crocodile: Come hither, Little one, why do you ask such things?

Elephant: Scuse me, but my father has spanked me, my mother has spanked me, not to mention my tall aunt, the Ostrich, and my tall uncle, the Giraffe, who can kick so hard, as well as my broad aunt, the Hippopotamus, and my hairy uncle, the Baboon, and including the Bi-coloured Python Rock Snake, with the scalesome, flailsome tail, just up the bank, who spansks harder than any of them; and so, if it's quite all the same to you, I don't want to be spanked any more.

Crocodile: Come hither, Little One, for I am a crocodile.

Elephant: *(Breathless, kneeling down in front of the crocodile)* You are the very person I have been looking for all these long days. Will you please tell me what you have for dinner?

Crocodile: Come hither, Little One, and I'll whisper.

Narrator 1: Then the Elephant's child put his head down close to the Crocodile's musky, tusky mouth, and the Crocodile caught him by his little nose, which up to that very week, day, hour.....

Narrator 4: And minute!

Narrator 1: ..had been no bigger than a boot, though much more useful.

Crocodile: I think *(between his teeth)* I think today I will begin with Elephant's child!

Narrator 2: At this, O Best Beloved, the Elephant's child was much annoyed, and he said, speaking through his nose, like this.....

Elephant: Ld go! You are hurtig be!

Narrator 2: Then the Bi-coloured Python Rock Snake scuffled down the bank and said.....

Snake: My young friend, if you do not now, immediately and instantly, pull as hard as ever you can, it is my opinion that your acquaintance in the large-pattern leather ulster.....

Narrator 3: ..And by this he meant the Crocodile.

Snake: Will jerk you into yonder limpid stream before you can say Jack Robinson!

Narrator 4: This is the way Bi-coloured Python Rock Snakes always talk.

Narrator 1: Then the Elephant's Child sat back on his little haunches, and pulled and pulled and his nose kept on stretching; and the Crocodile threshed his tail like an oar and he pulled and pulled and pulled and at each pull the Elephant's child's nose grew longer and longer and it hurt him hijjus!

Narrator 2: Then the Elephant's Child felt his legs slipping, and he said through his nose, which was now nearly five feet long.....

Elephant: This is too butch for be!

Narrator 2: Then the Bi-coloured Python Rock Snake came down from the bank and knotted himself in a double-clove-hitch round the Elephant Child's hind legs and said.....

Snake: Rash an inexperienced traveller, we will now seriously devote ourselves to a little high tension, because if we do not, it is my impression that yonder self-propelling man-of-war with the armour-plated upper deck.....

Narrator 3: And by this, O Best Beloved, he meant the Crocodile.

Snake: Will permanently vitiate your future career!

Narrator 4: That is the way all Bi-coloured Python Rock Snakes always talk.

Narrator 1: So he pulled, and the Elephant's Child pulled, and the Crocodile pulled....

Narrator 4: But the Elephant's Child and the Bi-coloured Python Rock Snake pulled hardest and at last the Crocodile let go of the elephant Child's nose with a plop that you could hear all up and down the Limpopo.

Narrator 2: Then the Elephant's Child sat down most hard and sudden but first he was careful to say.....

Elephant: Thank you.

Narrator 2: To the Bi-coloured Python Rock Snake and next he was kind to his poor pulled nose, and wrapped it all up in cool banana leaves and hung it in the great grey-green greasy Limpopo to cool.

Snake: What are you doing that for?

Elephant: Scuse me?

Narrator 3: Said the Elephant's Child.

- Elephant:** But my nose is badly out of shape and I am waiting for it to shrink.
- Snake:** Then you will have to wait a long time. Some people do not know what is good for them.
- Narrator 4:** The Elephant's Child sat there for three days waiting for his nose to shrink. But it never grew any shorter and besides, it made him squint. For, O Best Beloved, you will see and understand that the Crocodile had pulled it out into a really truly trunk same as all elephants have today.
- Narrator 1:** At the end of the third day a fly came and stung him on the shoulder and before he knew what he was doing, he lifted up his trunk and hit that fly dead with the end of it.
- Snake:** Vantage number one! You couldn't have done that with a mere-smear nose. Try and eat a little now. *((Elephant plucks bundle of grass, dusts it off and eats it))* Vantage number two! You couldn't have done that with a mere-smear nose. Don't you think the sun is very hot here?
- Elephant:** It is.
- Narrator 2:** before he thought about what he was doing, the Elephant's Child schlooped up a schloop of mud from the banks of the great grey-green greasy Limpopo, and slapped it on his head, where it made a cool schloopy-sloshy mud-cap all trickly behind his ears.
- Snake:** Vantage number three! You couldn't have done that with a mere-smear nose. Now how do you feel about being spanked again?
- Elephant:** Scuse me, but I shouldn't like it at all.
- Snake:** How would you like to spank somebody?
- Elephant:** I should like it very much indeed.
- Snake:** Well, you will find that new nose of yours very useful to spank people with.
- Elephant:** Thank you, I'll remember that; and now I think I'll go home to all my dear families and friends.
- Narrator 3:** *(exit Elephant with guitar case)* So the elephant's child went home across Africa frisking and whisking his trunk. When he wanted fruit to eat he pulled fruit down from the tree, instead of waiting for it to fall as he used to do. When the flies bit

him, he broke off a branch of a tree and used it as a fly-whisk; and he made himself a new, cool slushy-squishy mud-cap whenever the sun was hot. When he felt lonely walking through Africa he sang to himself down his trunk and the noise was louder than several brass bands.

Narrator 4: He went specially out of his way to find a broad Hippopotamus (*She was no relation of his*) and he spanked her very hard, to make sure that the Bi-coloured Python Rock Snake had spoke the truth about his new trunk. The rest of the time he picked up the melon rinds that he had dropped on his way to the Limpopo - for he was a Tidy Pachyderm.

Guy: (*Runs out with recycling bin*) And a recycler! (*Exit*)

Narrator 1: One dark evening he came back to all his dear families and he coiled up his trunk and said.....

Elephant: How do you do?

Narrator 1: They were very glad to see him and immediately said...

Family: Come here and be spanked for your satiable curiosity!

Elephant: Pooh! I don't think you peoples know anything about spanking; but I do and I'll show you.

Narrator 2: Then he uncoiled his trunk and knocked two of his dear brothers head over heels.

Family: Oh Bananas! Where did you learn that trick and what have you done to your nose?

Elephant: I got a new one from the Crocodile on the banks of the great grey-green greasy Limpopo River. I asked him what he had for dinner and he gave me this to keep.

Baboon: It looks very ugly.

Elephant: It does but it is very useful.

Narrator 3: ..And he picked up his hairy uncle, the Baboon, by one hairy leg and hove him into a hornet's nest.

Narrator 4: Then the bad Elephant's Child spanked all his dear families for along time, till they were very warm and greatly astonished.