

Joseph!

Joseph's Coat of Many Colours

A large cast musical play for young actors

FOR EVALUATION ONLY



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The dual format CD supplied with this script contains audio files and text files.

Play the audio files on a CD Player. Print the script, OHP sheets and sheet music on a PC.

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Not to be rehearsed or performed without a performance licence.

Cast: (Prominent singing roles are marked with an asterisk *)

The largest roles are underlined

<u>Joseph</u> *	Gad	Other prisoners- (optional)
<u>Potiphar's wife</u> *	Asher	2 Prison warders
<u>2 narrators</u>	Dan	Dancers (Exotic Egyptian dancers)
<u>Jacob</u> *	Napthali	Dancers (locusts)
Joseph's mother	Benjamin	Dancers- (Sun & Rain)
	<u>Traders 1, 2, 3 and 4</u>	2 Egyptian Farmers *
Sons:		Other Egyptian Farmers (optional)
Reuben	<u>Potiphar</u> (A Rich Egyptian)	<u>Singers</u> *
Simeon		
Levi	<u>King of Egypt</u>	
Judah		
Issachar	2 Egyptian guards	
Zebulin	Prisoners: <u>butler</u> *, baker *	

CD LISTING

The CD contains audio tracks and also the script, sheet music, and OHP sheets

To access these, Right Click the letter of your CD drive and "Open" the

Tracks with vocals:

1. Everything
2. I Want You
3. Reader of Dreams
4. Seven Good Years
5. Exotic Dance Music
6. Plague & Pestilence
7. We Beg You
8. Amazing Grace
9. Believe
10. Happy Party

Backing Tracks

11. Everything
12. I Want You
13. Reader of Dreams
14. Seven Good Years
15. Exotic Dance Music
16. Plague & Pestilence
17. We Beg You
18. Amazing Grace
19. Believe
20. Happy Party

Staging: This play can be performed without staging and curtains, and scenery/props can be minimal. We suggest that the cast/ singers/ dancers occupy separate benches near the stage so that they can go on stage easily and can boost the singing rather than languish in a dressing room.

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Props: *Two colourful coats -one stained with "blood", food and drink on a tray, 2 spears for guards, length of rope, white scarf, money bag, fruit, bread, vegetables, spade, hoe, sheaves of wheat (optional), sack of grain, scoop, bags for traders, 2 silver goblets, coins, bags for brothers*

Narrator 1: In days of old, Jacob had twelve sons. (**Sons enter as their names are called**) Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulin, Gad, Asher, Dan, Napthali, Joseph, and Benjamin. For reasons of his own, Jacob treated Joseph as his favourite son. He spoilt Joseph and gave him special treatment. One day, Jacob even brought Joseph a special present.

(Enter Jacob, with coat)

Jacob: Joseph! I have a gift for you! A wonderful coat to shield you from the wind and the rain.
(Joseph receives it with profuse thanks)

Reuben: That's not fair, father! My mother made that coat for me, her eldest son! (**Brothers agree**)

Jacob: Stop complaining and cease your jealousy. Joseph needs it more than you!
Now....get back to work in the fields, all of you! No, not you, Joseph. Joseph, come and sit with me and keep me company. (**Exit brothers but only to the side of the stage, grumbling and eavesdropping**)

Narrator 2: Joseph often had dreams, and his father believed that the dreams were a special gift from God. It seemed that Joseph's dreams could foretell the future.

Jacob: Tell me about the dream you had last night, Joseph.

Joseph: In my dream, I was a great leader and all my brothers were bowing down to me.

Jacob: (Brothers laugh) That's very interesting. Let's hope your dream comes true! Ah! Here comes your mother with our lunch! (**Enter mother with food and drink**)

Joseph: But father! I should be with my brothers working in the fields!

Brothers: (Yes you should! You lazy idle wretch! Lazybones! Father's little treasure! Etc.)

Mother: Lunch is served! Wine, meat and bread. Only the finest food for our favourite son! Ah! Very good! I see you are wearing your special coat! Only the best for a son as fine as you! We'll give you anything!

*****CD Track 1 Song: Everything! ***** Backing Track 11

Jacob and Mother: *We'll give you anything! The very best that we can bring!
You are our special son! You mean the world to me! (They move aside)*

Brothers: (stepping forward) *They give you anything! The very best that they can bring!
You are their special son! You mean the world to them!*

(All except Joseph, Jacob and Mother) *Does that seem fair? There's no justice here!
Does that seem fair? There's no justice here!*

*They give you anything! The very best that they can bring!
You are their special son! You mean the world to them!*

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Joseph:(to father) Can I join my brothers, father? There's so much work to be done.

Jacob: Yes, very well, my son. (**Jacob and mother exit**)

Levi: (to Joseph): You are a spoilt brat! We work all day in the fields but we don't get a nice lunch brought to us!

Judah: Mummy's boy! Father's little treasure! So you think you will be a fine leader, do you?

All brothers: (Mocking) Oh, Joseph! We bow down before you, O great and mighty leader!

Issachar: Look at you in your expensive coat. You don't deserve it!

Zebulin: No, you don't deserve it. It's not fair!

Gad: You think you're so special, just because you have silly dreams!

Asher: I had a dream last night! I dreamt you left home and gave us some peace!

Dan: You're nothing but a spoilt selfish nobody!

Napthali: Yeah! You don't do as much work as us! But you are treated like a prince!

Benjamin: (to brothers) We should teach him a lesson! (**Brothers agree**)

Reuben: Give me that coat! It's rightfully mine! (**takes coat**)

Gad: We could kill him here and now! (**Commotion as they surround him**)

Reuben: Wait! I think he should spend some time with the lizards and the spiders! Let's put him in the old dry well!

Joseph (protesting): No! No! I didn't ask for the coat! I want to work with you in the fields! I love you all! I didn't mean to upset you!

Narrator 1: The brothers were so furious they threw Joseph into the pit. They knew he would suffer from hunger and thirst, which gave them great pleasure. In spite of their anger, they were good

young men. They couldn't really murder their brother. But they were so angry and jealous, they wanted to be rid of him. Reuben went away to look after his sheep. **(Exit Reuben)**

Joseph: Hey! Hey! Let me out of here! Let me out of here!

Dan: Be quiet, Oh great leader! Sit with the frogs at the bottom of the well!

Benjamin: Are you having a good dream down there? Or is it a nightmare? Ha Ha Ha!

Narrator 2: Suddenly, out of nowhere, a band of traders appeared. **(Enter 4 traders, with rope)**

Trader 1: What's the commotion, my friend? Who is that boy in the well?

Zebulin: Nobody special! In fact, you can take him with you! He would fetch a good price in Egypt.

Trader 2: Maybe. Let's have a look at him. Bring him up! **(Joseph is hauled up using rope)**

Trader 1: (Inspecting Joseph) Hmm. Nice teeth. Nice soft hands. He shows no signs of hard work! He might serve well as a palace slave. What price will you accept?

Gad: Nothing at all! Take him! Take him to Egypt with you! He's no use to us!

Trader 1: Very well. But I shall buy your silence for twenty pieces of silver. **(Gives money bag to Asher)**

Asher: It's a deal! Take him! We never want to see him again. **(Exit traders, Joseph struggling)**

Narrator 1: Reuben returned shortly afterwards, intending to set Joseph free. He was horrified when they told him what they had done!

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Reuben: Joseph sold into slavery? This is bad bad news! How will we ever forgive ourselves? Oh! Our father will never forgive us for this deed!

Issachar: No problem! I've thought of something! Take off your coat. We will stain it with animal blood, and we will invent a tragedy! **(Exit all)**

Narrator 2: They went away to kill a sheep, and they dipped the coat in the blood of the animal. Reuben was selected to tell their father the bad news. **(Enter Jacob. Enter Reuben with bloodstained coat)**

Jacob: Reuben! What has happened? Why have you taken Joseph's coat? What has happened to my dear son Joseph?

Reuben: Father! Tragedy! Joseph was looking after the sheep and when we went to meet him, we found his coat stained with blood!

Jacob (Weeping bitterly) This cannot be! Oh, my beloved son! My heart is breaking! He must have been attacked by wild animals. He's dead! Joseph is dead.! **(Exit all)**

Narrator 1: Time passed. Joseph was sold as a slave to Potiphar, who was an officer of the King of Egypt. Joseph worked hard and Potiphar was pleased with him. **(Enter Joseph wearing a white scarf. Enter Potiphar, two guards and Potiphar's wife)**

Potiphar: (To Joseph) My wife and I are pleased with you, Joseph. You have a good head for figures. You are honest and wise and trustworthy. I am putting you in charge of my rich household and my business. If you continue to work hard, you will prosper.

Joseph: (bowing) Thank you, sir. **(Potiphar and guards exit)**

Potiphar's wife: Joseph. My husband is fond of you. **(alluringly)** And someone else is fond of you too.

Joseph: Oh? Who are you referring to, madam?

Potiphar's wife: *(taking Joseph's scarf)* Why, Joseph! It's me, of course! Surely you have noticed my admiration for you? But we must be careful! Potiphar must never hear of our love for each other.
Joseph: But madam! Madam! I have no affection for you whatsoever!

Potiphar's wife: My heart fails to hear that news. Am I not beautiful, Joseph? Other men fall at my feet and obey my every command!

Joseph: Madam you *are* beautiful. But you are Potiphar's wife. You cannot be mine.

*****CD Track 2 SONG: I Want You, Joseph *****Backing Track 12

Potiphar's wife: *I put on my very best dress, my very best shoes and my very best jewels!
All for you Joseph. Just so you notice me.*

All: *She put on her very best dress, her very best shoes and her very best jewels!
All for you Joseph. Just so you notice her.*

Joseph: *Another time another place maybe
I could have chosen you as my lady
But now it cannot be! You are married and you're not free!*

Potiphar's wife: *You are wise and you are kind so why must you leave me behind?
I want you Joseph only you! Only you!*

Joseph: Madam, I must go and work on your father's accounts!

Potiphar's wife: Your loyalty to my husband is sickening. Get out of my sight, Joseph! ***(All exit, she has taken his scarf.)***

Narrator 2: Potiphar's wife now had a grudge against Joseph. She hid the white scarf in her chamber, knowing that her husband would find it.

(Enter Potiphar and guards. Potiphar is holding the white scarf.)

Potiphar: ***(calling)*** Joseph! Joseph!

Joseph: ***(entering)*** Yes, my lord?

Potiphar: Joseph! You have been meeting my wife! I thought you were loyal to me. You dreadful man! Is this how you repay my kindness?

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Joseph: Sir! Sir! It's not true! It's not true!

Potiphar: It must be true. You even left your scarf in my wife's private chambers! Guards! Take him away! ***(Guards arrest Joseph. Exit all)***

Narrator 1: And so, poor Joseph found himself in prison. ***(Enter butler and baker.)*** He shared a cell with two other prisoners. One was the king of Egypt's butler, and the other was the king of Egypt's baker.

Butler: Why are you in jail? What was your crime?

Baker: I stole hundreds of pies and pastries from the King's kitchens and I sold them in the streets! The King found out, and here I am in prison! What was your crime?

Butler: There was a mistake in the accounts. I am innocent. I have done no crime at all.

Baker: That's what they all say! ***(Enter Joseph. They sit.)***

Butler: ***(to Joseph)*** What are you accused of?

Joseph: It was just a misunderstanding. God is with me. He will set me free.

Butler: Is it true you can read dreams?

Joseph: Yes. But I'm more interested in getting out of this place! **(Shouts)** **Warder!** **Warder!** What news from the palace? Am I pardoned yet? **(Two Warders enter)**

Warder 1: Silence! Unless you want chaining up again.

Warder 2: Yeah. Obey the rules, or we will make your time more difficult here!

Butler: But we're innocent! Why are we locked inside a prison?

***** **CD Track 3: SONG: Reader of Dreams** ***** **Backing Track 13**

(Joseph and Prisoners) Why are we locked inside a prison? Let us go! We have done no crime!

We're innocent! Will nobody listen? Can't you see you've got to set us free!

(Butler then baker on second time) My dreams they call to me like waves on a restless sea

My dreams they call to me what can they mean?

Joseph can you please tell me?

Joseph can you please tell me?

(All) You are a reader of dreams! A reader of dreams, they tell me.

You are a reader of dreams! A reader of dreams, they tell me!

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(Repeat)

Butler: (to Joseph) Please explain my dream, Joseph! **(They sit. Warders eavesdrop)** Last night I dreamt I had three bunches of grapes. I squeezed the grapes into the King's cup and the juice turned to wine.

Joseph: In three days time you will be set free from this prison and the King will give you your old job back.

Butler: There! Did you hear that? I am innocent, and the King is going to let me go!

Baker: I had a dream too. In my dream, I three baskets on my head, full of pies for the King. But some birds came and ate them all up.

Joseph: In three days time you will be taken out of this prison.

Baker: Oh! Good! Freedom! Freedom!

Joseph: No! You are a thief! The King is going to have your head cut off for stealing his pies!

Warder 1: Stop talking. Go and clean your cells. **(All exit. Joseph and butler quickly change into richer clothing if possible.)**

Narrator 2: Indeed, Joseph's prophecies came true. The butler was set free and the baker was executed. Joseph was also set free, and he became an important officer in Egypt. Eventually the King sent for Joseph because he was having bad dreams that nobody could explain.

(Enter King of Egypt, and butler)

Butler: Your majesty! Here is the man I told you about. The man who can read dreams.

(Enter Joseph, bowing)

King: (to Joseph) Come here. You have a good reputation for being wise and telling the truth. Last night, I had a strange dream. I was standing by the River Nile and seven fat cattle came out of the river. Then seven thin cattle came out of the river. The fat ones gobbled the thin ones up. Can you explain this dream to me?

Joseph: Your majesty! I must pray for an answer **(Prays then stands)** There will be seven years of

good harvests followed by seven hungry years. You must store food during the good years so that your people do not starve during the bad years.

Butler: This man speaks true wisdom! And if you do what he says, you will be the greatest, wisest King of all!

King: (To Joseph) Very well. You are now a governor of Egypt, and you will be in charge of all the grain and all the crops. Come! I am delighted with you, Joseph! **(EXIT ALL)**

Narrator 1: For seven years, the harvests were very good. There was warm sunshine. There was warm gentle rain. The River Nile flooded as it was supposed to do and the crops grew sturdy and tall. The trees were full of oranges, olives, pomegranates, grapes and almonds. The farmers were busy in the fields, gathering in the harvest. **(Enter 2 Egyptian Farmers with farming actions)** The markets were full of fresh vegetables, meat, bread, fruit and wine. **(Enter traders with fruit, vegetables and bread)**

Farmer 1: The harvest is plentiful once again. Happy days! Happy days!

Farmer 2: Do as the King says. We must store as much as we can in case this prosperity does not last.

Trader 1: Buy my fine white bread! Buy my wonderful loaves and cakes!

Trader 2: Oranges for Sale! Oranges for sale! Buy my superb fruit!

Trader 3: Get your juicy olives here! Roll up! Buy my fine olive oil!

Trader 4: Try my lovely pomegranates! Try my lovely juicy grapes!

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***** CD Track 4: **SONG: Seven Good Years** ***** Backing Track 14
Sung by all on stage, supported by singers in the wings.
Dancers (Sun and Rain) appear on cue

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Seven good years, oh seven good years!
Oh how tall the crops have grown!
Seven good years, oh seven good years!
Oh let's bring the harvest home!
Here comes the beautiful sun! Here comes the beautiful rain! (Repeat All)*

(Exit all)

Narrator 2: Back at the palace, the king was in a good mood because he was richer than ever. **(Enter King, two guards, butler with two silver goblets. Joseph takes one and keeps it with him)**

King: (to Joseph) We have had seven good harvests. We are rich! Sit awhile we with me, Joseph. Have a drink! This grape juice is the finest we have ever produced! Why are you looking so sad?

Butler: He's sad because the seven good years are over. And he misses his family. He believes they will die of hunger and thirst! **(Joseph exits sadly)**

King: Perhaps his prophecy will not come true. Let's keep cheerful! **(Claps)** BRING ON THE DANCING GIRLS!

***** CD Track 5: **(Exotic Dancers enter and perform)** ***** Also on Track 15
(ALL EXIT AT THE END OF THE DANCE)

Narrator 1: Joseph's prophecy did come true. There was no rain. The crops failed and times were hard. One day, some Egyptian farmers were working in their fields one day. Suddenly dark clouds covered the sky. **(Enter 2 Egyptian Farmers.)**

Farmer 1: Look! The sky is dark. A storm is coming!

Farmer 2: At last! Praise God! We need rain.

Farmer 1: Oh, but look at those clouds! I've never seen clouds like those before!

Farmer 2: There's something evil in the wind today!

Farmer 1: (*alarmed*) It's not rain! It's not rain! Its...

Farmer 2: LOCUSTS!

***** CD TRACK 6: SONG: Plague and Pestilence *****Backing Track 16

End of Script Preview

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