The First Easter Bunny

Book by Bob Fitzsimmons and Barbara Campbell
Lyrics by Barbara Campbell
Music by Steven Silverstein

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STORY OF THE PLAY

"The First Easter Bunny" is a one hour musical adventure for children and families. It is the story of an orphan bunny's struggle to "fit in" where he seems out of place, his quest for identity, and the understanding he gains which allow him to encourage others to look past their differences and work together for change.

The story begins in Bucksville where all the inhabitants are lamenting the long absence of spring: in short, there hasn't been one for fifteen years. Coincidentally, that was when our hero, Peter, an orphan bunny, was discovered in a basket and adopted by a family of deer.

As the only bunny in Bucksville, Peter feels out of place, and despite words of comfort from his mother, decides to set out on a quest to find spring.

His travels bring him to the land of Omalet, where he's delighted to discover other bunnies. They are painting eggs in preparation for the annual test to reveal if spring is inside any of them. But the bunnies aren't optimistic: there's been no spring in Omalet for years, ever since a wicked Wizard seized control of their land.

In spite of his best magical tricks, the fierce but comical Wizard can't conjure up spring. Frustrated, he turns on the hapless bunnies. He is stopped by Peter who teaches the Wizard the secret of spring after he, himself, learns the secret of his own identity. Together, bunnies and Wizard make the true magic which brings spring back. Peter, now crowned the Easter Bunny, puts a little bit of spring in each of the colored eggs and carries spring around the world.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

It requires a minimum cast of 8 (with doubling of roles) but can be cast with 14 or more without doubling.

THE WISE OLD BUNNY (W.O.B.)

DERVISH

DODO

DENISE

DEXTER

MAYOR

OTHER DEER, AS NEEDED

PETER, A RABBIT

MA, HIS FOSTER MOTHER

MUFFY

SCRUFFY

BUFFY

FLUFFY

OTHER BUNNIES, AS NEEDED

THE WIZARD

THE QUEEN

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

#1 *Overture* -- Orchestra

Prologue

#2 *Once Upon a Time* -- Offstage Voices

Scene 1: The Bucksville Town Square

#2a *Mayor's Entrance* -- Orchestra

#2b *Peter's Entrance* -- Orchestra

#3 *What Ever Happened to Spring?* -- Company

#4 *What Am I Gonna Do Now?* -- Peter and Ma

#4a *Om-a-let* -- Voices and Orchestra

#5 *What Am I Gonna Do Now? (Reprise)* -- Peter & Company

Scene 2:-- On the Road to Om-a-let

#6 *A Telephone Call* -- Peter and Ma

Scene 3: Om-a-let, the Kingdom of the Bunnies

#7 *One Perfect Egg* -- Wise Old Bunny and Bunnies

#7a *Wizard's Entrance* -- Orchestra

#8 O*nce Upon a Time* -- Wise Old Bunny and Bunnies

#8a *Queen's & Wizard's Entrance* -- Orchestra

#9 *A Wizard's Brew* -- Wizard, Queen, Wise Old Bunny & Bunnies

#10 *The Chants* -- Wizard, Queen, Wise Old Bunny and Bunnies

#11 *The Secret of Spring* -- Peter, Queen, Wise Old Bunny and Bunnies

#12 *The Secret of Spring (Reprise)* -- Peter and Wizard

#13 *Spring Is Here* -- Company

#14 *The Easter Bunny's Here* -- Company

#15 *Bows (One Perfect Egg)* -- Orchestra

The First Easter Bunny

MUSICAL #1 -- OVERTURE

Prologue

(The stage is dark. As the overture finishes, we hear OFFSTAGE VOICES singing.)

MUSICAL #2 -- ONCE UPON A TIME

OFFSTAGE VOICES:
ONCE UPON A TIME
IN THE LAND OF OM-A-LET
BUNNIES USED TO LAUGH AND SING.
QUEEN KARA KNEW THE SECRET
THE SECRET CHARM THAT BROUGHT THE SPRING...

(A spot comes up on the WISE OLD BUNNY [W.O.B.] downstage center. He is elegantly attired.)

W.O.B.: Children from far and wide - gather round. I am the Wise Old Bunny, the oldest bunny in the world. But you can call me Egbert. The bunnies of Om-a-let have chosen me to tell you the story of the greatest bunny that ever lived - the Easter Bunny. The story began many, many years ago in a town called Bucksville. Now, in Bucksville, it was very cold. In fact, it had been winter there for...just about fifteen years. And then one day...well, you'll see for yourselves. *(He hops off.)*

Scene 1

(Bucksville Town Square. At stage center is a small speaker's platform. The square is surrounded by bare trees. The look is barren and cold. AT RISE: DEER are in a freeze. MA and DENISE are down right; DENISE is adorning MA with a garland of bows. DERVISH is on the platform with a tray of snow cones; DODO is near him. Down left, DEXTER is leaning on a staff, sleeping. As lights come up, the DEER come out of their freezes.)

DERVISH: All right. Step right up, hoof to hoof, for snow cones. Get your snow cones.
DODO: What kind have you got today? Any rich, red raspberry ones?
DERVISH: Raspberries? *(HE adjusts DODO's antlers.)* Hello?! Better adjust your antenna, kid. I haven't had raspberries for fifteen years. Not since Spring disappeared.
MA: *(Calling off.)* Petey? Peter?!
DENISE: Will you sit still? I'll never finish before the meeting starts.
MA: Well, slam it into overdrive, will you? If I sit here much longer, I'm gonna turn into a popsicle.
DERVISH: Hey, how about a snow cone?
MA: What flavors have you got?
DERVISH: The usual - acorn ripple, acorn and cream, acorn and acorn...
MA: Enough with the acorns! Ever since Spring disappeared, that's all we eat around here.
DODO: When is Spring coming back, anyway?
DENISE: *(Pointing to DEXTER.)* Why don't we ask him?

(DEXTER snores loudly.)

DERVISH: Hey, Dexter. You're supposed to be watching for Spring.
DENISE: *(Gently tapping DEXTER on the shoulder.)* Excuse me. Mr. Deer? Yoo hoo, Mr. Deer.

End of Freeview

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