

Bugs 'n Flies

A Children's Musical Comedy

By Terry and Dave Brandl

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STORY OF THE PLAY

This 30-minute show is about Herb (the 'H' is silent) and his garden. Herb thinks his garden should be free of all insects and bugs. He has tried plant food, fertilizers, sprays and other methods to achieve this, but many of the bugs remain. Herb's new gardening friends tell him of the things bugs and flies do to benefit gardens, like pollinating flowers, enriching the soil, and even eating some of the pesky invaders that prey on garden crops. Meanwhile, the bugs and insects who live around Herb's garden begin bickering among themselves, boasting which of them benefits the gardens the most, and who is the most attractive. In the end, harmony is found, and Herb learns about the beauty and complexity of his garden's environment.

Six short songs for the humans and the creatures provide opportunities to sing and dance, especially for the insects, who may have colorful costumes.

The flexible casting allows for more than a dozen roles, with extras and doubling possible, as needed.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

*Flexible cast of 15 - 25
(Extras and doubling possible)*

HERB.....Gardener
RHONDA.....Gardener
THERESA.....Gardener
PAT.....Gardener

LADYBUGS..... (4+) Insects

BUTTERFLIES.....(4+) Insects

QUEEN BEE.....Insect

WORKER BEES.....(2+) Insects

DRONE BEES..... (2+) Insects

APHID.....Insect

SETTING

The time is the present. The action takes place in Herb's colorful garden.

SYNOPSIS OF SONGS

#1 BUGS 'N FLIES (ANTHEM)..... HUMANS
#2 LADYBUG DANCE.....LADYBUGS
#3 BUTTERFLY BLUES..... BUTTERFLIES
#4 BUZZ, BUZZ, BUZZ..... BEES
#5 DANCE-OFF.....[Instrumental only]
#6 BUGS 'N FLIES (REPRISE)..... ALL

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(AT RISE: HERB is on stage, gardening. RHONDA and THERESA enter.)

HERB: Hi. I'm Erb.

RHONDA: Herb?

HERB: No. Erb.

RHONDA: Erb? Not Herb?

HERB: Correct. Erb. The H is silent.

RHONDA: Oh. I see. I'm Rhonda. The H is also silent. And this is Theresa.

THERESA: The H is also silent.

RHONDA: And those two are Thomas and John. *(Pointing offstage.)*

THERESA / RHONDA: The H is also silent.

RHONDA: And this is Pat.

(PAT enters.)

HERB: I suppose the H is also silent in your name.

PAT: Nope. It's invisible.

HERB: Okay. Okay. I get it. Where did you all meet?

RHONDA: In school.

THERESA: Where the H is also silent.

HERB: I get it already. Now let's get to work or we'll...

RHONDA: Get behind schedule?

THERESA: Where the H is also silent.

HERB: Yeah, yeah. Are you through?

PAT: Probably. And the H in "through" is silent, too.

HERB: All right, already! Knock it off!

RHONDA: Ah. A silent K.

HERB: I know. I know.

THERESA / RHONDA / PAT: That's two more!

HERB: Wow! Look at all those bugs.

THERESA: There are a lot of them.

HERB: I've spent weeks trying to get rid of them all.

RHONDA: Why?

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HERB: They're bugs. They're pests. And they won't go away.
I bought weedkiller. I bought bug killer. I bought fertilizer. I
bought plant food. But I can't get rid of them.

PAT: You want to keep some of them.

HERB: Why?

THERESA: Some of them are actually helpful for the garden.

HERB: Really?

RHONDA: Really. You can't have a garden without bugs and
flies.

(HUMANS sing and dance.)

SONG #1: BUGS 'N FLIES (ANTHEM)

BUGS 'N FLIES. BUGS AND FLIES.
BUGS 'N FLIES. BUGS AND FLIES.

HE CAN'T CONTROL THEM,
THOUGH HE REALLY TRIES.
HE SOMETIMES GETS SO
FRUSTRATED HE CRIES.

BUGS 'N FLIES. BUGS AND FLIES.

HE BUYS PLANT FOOD,
AND TONS OF FERTILIZER.
SPRAYS IT ON HIS GARDEN
LIKE IT WAS A GEYSER.
IT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT
IF HE COULD JUST BE WISER, 'BOUT

BUGS 'N FLIES. BUGS AND FLIES.
BUGS 'N FLIES. BUGS AND FLIES.

THEY BRING THE GARDEN
NATURAL SUPPLIES.
SOME FROM THE GROUND AND
SOME COME FROM THE SKIES.

BUGS 'N FLIES. BUGS AND FLIES.

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SONG #1: BUGS 'N FLIES (ANTHEM) (CONTINUED)

MILLIONS OF INSECTS
BRING THE PLANTS NUTRITION.
I WISH WE COULD WIPE OUT
ALL THE SUPERSTITION.
PLANT CARE IS THEIR THING
THEY'RE NOT IN DEMOLITION. THEY'RE

BUGS 'N FLIES. BUGS AND FLIES.
BUGS 'N FLIES. BUGS AND FLIES.

(The LADYBUGS enter and take their places around the plants.)

THERESA: The ladybugs are so important. They eat all the bugs that eat my vegetables.

PAT: I don't know what I'd do without them.

RHONDA: The ladybugs are very helpful.

HERB: We're lucky we have them.

(The GARDENERS begin quietly working.)

LADYBUG A: Did you hear that? We're the most important bugs in the garden.

LADYBUG B: We should get a raise.

LADYBUG C: We get paid for taking care of the garden?

LADYBUG D: No, silly! We do it because we love it so much.

LADYBUG C: Oh!

LADYBUG A: We keep the vegetables healthy.

LADYBUG D: And we take care of the flowers.

LADYBUG B: I still think we should get a raise.

End of Freeview

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