

DOGS!

A Tail-Wagging Musical

Story by Christina Hamlett
Music by Wayne Simpson

PUBLISHED BY

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DOGS!

THE STORY

Students will have a howling good time performing this tail-wagging musical about everybody's best friend! Adults will find it heart-warming, knowing the tender emotions expressed can also apply in the broader sense to the love between parents and children.

Ralph, a lonely kind of guy, and Angel, a special young woman from "up north," work at the city animal shelter. Both Ralph and Angel love the dogs they care for but Angel has a special way to communicate with them ("Heart Talk"). In comforting the homeless dogs, she learns each one has a special story to tell. Snoodles, a spaniel, left home when her mistress wanted a human baby ("Puppy Love"). Fifi, a poodle, ran away when a cat made her home life miserable. Daisy, adopted from a pet store ("Take Me Home"), led an exciting life as a fire station dog until she became lost in a blaze.

Trevor, an English sheepdog, was separated from his family at the airport. J.D., or John Doe mutt, well, his family always called him dumb. He thinks he is stupid until the other shelter dogs tell him he is not ("Look What You Can Be"). Rover was a beloved dog until his master grew up ("Parting"). And finally there's Max, with leather jacket, greased back ears and sunglasses. He is a cool-cat dog who won't admit he wants a home.

Later that evening (Act II) the dogs are wondering why humans don't care for them more ("We're the Best Old Friend You Ever Had!"). Fifi is especially homesick, remembering her owner ("Sleep, Sleep"). When the dogs are finally asleep, a worried Angel realizes only a miracle can save these creatures who want nothing more out of life than to love and be loved.

The next morning Max says that at the shelter--well, dogs come in but they don't come back out. The other dogs are shocked. Surely Angel would tell them if they had a bleak future! Before Angel can answer their questions, two wonderful things happen.

Mrs. Henderson from a nearby retirement home enters joyously. The board of directors has ruled the residents at the home CAN have pets and she wants to adopt all the older dogs--dogs who would make good companions. The dogs are overjoyed ("Take Me Home," Reprise). As Angel goes to get collars and leashes, a young fireman enters--if he could only replace his dog, Daisy, who he thinks perished in a fire. He is stunned to find her alive and they leave happily. Angel feels her prayers have been answered and her temporary assignment is complete. They all leave the stage--all except Max that is, who is too cool to need anyone ("Hot Dog!"). He commiserates with a lonely Ralph whose blind date the night before was, pardon the expression, a "real dog."

While Ralph thinks some love can be "the pits" Max, wistful, still wants to be loved ("Puppy Love"-Reprise). Impressed, Ralph invites Max home and they leave together to a happy life in a bachelor pad where they can watch football on TV and eat popcorn to their hearts' content.

*This play is dedicated to every dog
who ever was
or ever wanted to be
a best friend.*

CHARACTERS

6 boys, 5 girls, extra dogs as chorus

HUMANS

RALPH: A young man who works at the city animal shelter. He wears jeans and a shirt with the words ANIMAL SHELTER on the back.

ANGEL: A young, pretty girl who is working at the shelter. Wears jeans and a T-shirt.

MRS. KIMBLE: An elderly lady who wants to adopt older dogs.

MR. HENDERSON: A young fireman looking for a dog.

DOGS

FIFI: Frilly, fussy white poodle with pink bows in her ears, a large, jeweled collar, and painted nails.

TREVOR: An English sheepdog, complete with monocle and deerstalker wool hat.

J.D.: A floppy-eared mutt with a choke-chain sans dog tags.

SNOODLES: Pretty, ginger-colored cocker spaniel with a red velvet bow.

ROVER: Older, brown and white dog wearing a kerchief around his neck.

MAX: One cool dog with greased-back ears, leather jacket and dark glasses.

DAISY: A spotted Dalmatian who wears her red, sooty fire hat with pride.

CHORUS: Other lost, unwanted dogs.

TIME: The present, early evening.

COSTUMES: Dog costumes can be appropriate colored warm-up suits with the addition of felt or fuzzy material for ears.

SETTING: All action takes place inside the city animal shelter. The set should be constructed inexpensively to allow maximum enjoyment of the canine characters. Specifically, three platforms are situated SR, SC, and SL; on top of the platforms are large square (or rectangular) frames suggesting cages. Simple nameplates should be affixed to the front of each cage to identify the occupants. On the SR platform is FIFI and TREVOR. J.D., SNOODLES and ROVER are CS. MAX and DAISY are SL. If desired, EXTRA dogs can share the cages and step downstage to join in the songs or simply form a separate chorus floor-level, in front of stage. DL is a table and chair. The room may be accessed by SL and SR doors. Upstage and high on the wall is a window.

PROPERTIES: Book for TREVOR, bone for ROVER, ball for DAISY, large sack of dog food for RALPH, and bowls, collars and leashes for ANGEL.

PLAYING TIME: About 1 hour.

SONGS

(All music begins after the libretto.)

ACT I

HEART TALK.....Angel and Ralph
 PUPPY LOVE.....Snoodles with all Dogs
 TAKE ME HOME.....Daisy with Chorus
 LOOK WHAT YOU CAN BE.....Trevor and J.D.
 PARTING.....Rover and Chorus

ACT II

WE'RE THE BEST OLD FRIEND
 YOU EVER HAD!.....Max and All Dogs
 SLEEP, SLEEP.....Fifi and Chorus
 TAKE ME HOME-Reprise.....All Dogs
 HOT DOG!.....Chorus
 PUPPY LOVE-Reprise.....Max with Chorus

End of Freeview

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