

I Never Lost My Praise

THE ORIGINAL STAGEPLAY



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Character

JOHN: 10 year old boy

MR. SAM: 28 year old male

MARC: 9 year old boy

SUMO: 12 year old boy

RUSSEL: 13 year old boy

KIM: 10 year old girl

MISS C: 26 year old female

PASTOR: 36 year old male

PASTOR'S WIFE: 35 year old female

Setting

ACT 1

Children's home. The stage is divided in two; Stage Right (SR) is the outside of a Children's Home. Stage Left (SL) is set up like a classroom.

ACT 2

The stage is divided in two; Stage Right (SR) is the outside of a Children's Home. Stage Left (SL) is a Church setting.

The Story

John is an orphan now living in a boys home. He is the new guy on the block and he is different from the other boys, so he encounters hostility and resistance as his desire to go to church is consistently denied and his faith frowned upon. Despite the

negative environment John has found himself in, he remains positive and continues to sing his praises to God.

John believes that God will one day rescue him, and his perpetual choice to worship under all circumstances and in spite of the opposing forces threatening to silence him may just make a way of escape for him. In the process, the unbelievers in his area of influence may just learn a valuable lesson they will not soon forget.

Play Details

Length: 40-60 Minutes

Cast: 2 Males | 1 Female | 4 Boys | 1 Girl

Audience: Children, Teens & Adults

Genre: Contemporary Drama

The Script



ACT 1

Setting: Children's home. The stage is divided in two; Stage Right (SR) is the outside of a Children's Home. Stage Left (SL) is set up like a classroom.

SCENE 1

LIGHTS UP – SR

John sneaks on stage. He looks around, checking to see if anyone is nearby. He finds a place to sit, and pull out a small, blue Bible and begins to read:

JOHN: (*reading*) Our Father, who art in heaven. Ha – hal – ha-ll-owed be thy name. Thy kin-ggg-dom come. Thy will be done---

Mr. Sam walks out, angry and disturbed.

MR. SAM: John, what are you doing?

JOHN: (*trying to hide the Bible*) Nothing, sir.

MR. SAM: I sent you to rake up leaves and I come and find you sitting down doing nothing? What were you doing? Don't lie to me.

JOHN: Reading, sir.

Mr. Sam searches him and finds the Bible. He takes it away.

MR. SAM: What is this?

JOHN: A Bible, sir.

MR. SAM: John, how many times do I need to repeat myself? I don't want none of this religious nonsense here.

JOHN: But, sir --- why?

MR. SAM: What has God ever done for me?

JOHN: You are alive.

Mr. Sam hisses his teeth.

JOHN: You don't want to be alive, sir?

MR. SAM: So, you believe in God?

JOHN: Yes, sir.

MR. SAM: So, why didn't God save your mother when she was sick? Why did He allow your father to abandon you when you were born?

JOHN: I don't know, sir.

MR. SAM: You need to be wise and have some common sense, if you are going to stay in this home. We will not put up with any foolishness. I don't see why you choose to follow all this nonsense.

JOHN: My mother grew me in church, sir.

MR. SAM: Your mother is not here. We are your family now, and we are not into church. Now, you need to get busy raking this yard.

JOHN: One day, sir, God is going to take me from this place.

MR. SAM: What did you say?

JOHN: One day, sir. I will be a part of a real family.

MR. SAM: *(laughs)* It's been ten years since anyone was adopted from this place. Good luck with that.

JOHN: God promised me.

MR. SAM: Listen, John. If God ever moves you from this place, mark my words, I will start going to church.

JOHN: Then you should get your Sunday best suit ready, sir.

Mr. Sam finds a piece of stick and picks it up.

MR. SAM: Talk back to me one more time.

John finds the rake and starts raking.

MR. SAM: This is your home now. So, get used to it.

Mr. Sam turns, and exits.

John checks to see that he is gone.

JOHN: *(using the rake as a mic, he starts singing)* Some sweet day, I'm going away ---

Mr. Sam rushes back out. John goes back to raking.

MR. SAM: I heard that.

Mr. Sam exits again.

John checks to see that he is gone. Puts the rake handle to his mouth again like a mic.

JOHN: *(singing)* I know where I'm going, I know --- I know, yes I know. I know where I am going, I kno ooo ooo w –

Mr. Sam rushes back out. John stops singing again and starts raking. This continues a couple more times.

Finally, Mr. Sam tries to grab after John, who dodges and races off the stage.

MR. SAM: I bet his mother dropped him on his head when he was a baby. Knocked all the sense out of that boy.

Mr. Sam shakes his head and exits.

LIGHTS OUT – SR

ACT 1

SCENE 2

LIGHTS UP – SL

John, Sumo, Marc and Russel are seated in the classroom.

Mr. Sam wraps up his lesson.

MR. SAM: So, I need you guys to write down the homework on the board, and make sure you do them before Monday. And no ‘dog ate my homework’ excuse. Get it done.

Mr. Sam gathers his things and leaves.

Russel rolls up a piece of paper and throws it at John’s head. John takes the paper and makes a little microphone.

JOHN: *(Singing)* Jesus Name so sweet, Immanuel Name so sweet. Jesus Name so sweet

RUSSEL: What is wrong with him?

MARC: He’s always singing and happy. Every chance he gets, he raises a Jesus song.

Russel goes over to John and slaps him in the head.

JOHN: *(singing)* I command you satan in the name of the Lord, drop your weapons and flee...

RUSSEL: Boy, shut up.

JOHN: *(singing)* I feel like praising, praising Him.

MARC: Leave him alone. He’s just going to sing another song.

Russel hisses his teeth and takes his book and heads for the exit.

RUSSEL: New boy, always pretending like you are better than us.

Russel leaves.

Marc sits John down.

MARC: You know you are annoying everybody with all this singing.

SUMO: It's very annoying, bro.

MARC: You need to be careful. You don't want to make enemies around here.

JOHN: I don't want to be here.

SUMO: You have somewhere else you can go?

JOHN: No.

MARC: Exactly. This is home now.

JOHN: At least when I was on the streets, I could go to church on Sundays.

SUMO: *(rolls his eyes)* Here we go again.

MARC: The Church is full of hypocrites. Why'd you want to go there? All they do is pass judgment on people they don't know.

JOHN: My momma always said, no matter what, we should give God praise.

MARC: Look at our lives. What has God done for us to praise Him?

JOHN: He woke us up this morning.

SUMO: Mr. Sam's noisy rooster did that.

JOHN: He provides food.

SUMO: Mr. Sam does that too.

JOHN: And shelter.

MARC: *(laughs)* I guess that makes Mr. Sam God.

JOHN: Somebody provided for him so he can provide for us.

SUMO: Yeah, that somebody is called the Salvation Army, not God.

JOHN: So, you guys don't believe in God?

SUMO: I hear He's a miracle worker. Problem is, I ain't never seen a miracle. When I see one, I will believe.

JOHN: Blessed are those who don't see but believe.

MARC: Seeing is believing, bruh. You and your church talk are irrelevant to our reality. If you don't put a lid on it, Mr. Sam is going to put you out on the streets.

SUMO: Ditto.

JOHN: That's a price I am willing to pay to praise my God.

MARC: I hope your God can defend you against Russel when he decides to shut you up.

JOHN: *(Singing)* No weapons, formed against me – shall prosper --- no it won't hurt ---

Marc and Sumo roll their eyes and exit.

LIGHTS OUT – SL