

GOING DOWN THE RIVER
A MUSICAL PLAY BY DAVID WILLIAMS © 2011
DANJO53@GMAIL.COM

ACT I

SCENE ONE

(At the House)

MOM

(OFFSTAGE)

Did you brush your teeth yet? Are you ready to go rafting?

ASHLEY

You're wasting water! You're supposed to turn off the water when you brush.

BILLY

Why?

ASHLEY

To save the environment.

BILLY

Ah, who cares? I'm going to jump in the raft. Beat you!

ASHLEY

I care!

(they run to the raft and she gets there first)

Beat you!

BILLY

You just got lucky.

ASHLEY

Right! I'm just faster. Look at the sunshine. What a great day! Mom, Dad, you ready? We're in the boat!

(PLANTS START TALKING AND SINGING)

PLANTS)

We love the sun! That's how we PHOTOSYNTHESIZE!

SUNLIGHT SONG

Sun comes out and it does shine
 Green plants photosynthesize
 Animals eat the grass and leaves
 Sun gives us our energy

Sunlight, sunlight
 I'm gonna jump, I'm gonna run
 I've got in me the light of the sun
 I'm gonna live, burning bright
 Everything's going to be all right.

BILLY

Where's MOM and DAD? I want to go rafting NOW.
 (He takes the oar and messes with
 it, and the raft starts floating
 down the river).

ASHLEY

Billy! Look what you did!

BILLY

Whoops. Now what?

ASHLEY

Now we put on our life-jackets!

(They put on their life-jackets,
 we see the raft go floating down
 the river. Billy takes a bottle
 of water, drinks it and throws it
 in the river).

ASHLEY

What are you doing? You can't just throw that out!

BILLY

Why not?

MAGPIE

SQUAK!! Because only Dodos do that! And they're extinct.
 You're polluting! Some of us birds make our homes along
 this Colorado River, and we don't like people messing up
 our nests! SQUAWK! Give a hoot don't pollute.

ASHLEY

Who are you? I thought it was an owl who says that.

MAGGIE

I'm Maggie the Magpie. I'm a magical bird. I say whatever I want!

BILLY

You do magic tricks?

MAGGIE

I do tricks like PICK UP TRASH THAT PEOPLE THROW INTO THE RIVER! Squawk!

(MAGGIE tries to get the plastic bottle but can't catch it. She flaps and flaps, getting mad).

Well, now you made me mad as a magpie who's all wet. Follow that bottle. Row row row your boat! Quickly! Let's go!

BILLY

This is fun! I feel like a pirate!

MAGGIE

FUN? Our future's at stake! All feathers on deck. Ahoy mateys. Give a hoot don't pollute!

GOING DOWN THE RIVER

GOING DOWN THE RIVER

RIVER FLOWS, RIVER RUNS,

GOING DOWN THE RIVER

HAVE A LITTLE FUN

PUT ON YOUR LIFE JACKET

WHEN YOU'RE IN THE BOAT

CAUSE IF YOU TIP

YOU STILL CAN FLOAT

THE WATER'S MURKY

THE WATER'S COLD

YOU MIGHT FIND TRASH

OR YOU MIGHT FIND GOLD

THE ROCKS AND THE LOGS

THE TURTLES AND THE FISH

ON THE COLORADO RIVER

LET'S MAKE A WISH

FISH

Did I hear somebody call for a fish?

(They all jump).

MAGGIE

You smell fishy. Who are you, scaring the daylights out of us?

FISH

I'm a green-back cut-throat trout! I live here, and I don't like trash. Trash stinks. Garbage in the water makes me unhappy.

BILLY

Can fish feel happy?

FISH

Scientists have discovered that fish have feelings!

ASHLEY

There's the bottle!

FISH

Get it out of *my* river.

SCIENTIST

(He is doing research along the river, hiking, with lots of measuring things).

Ladies and Gentlemen! I'm your friendly research scientist. Did you know that water comes in 3 states? Liquid. Gas. And Solid!

(The band makes the water sounds after every word. With ice, the

scientist is holding a cup of ice,
which the bear comes to get).

POLAR BEAR

Got ice? I need it? This global warming is changing my
habitat.

SCIENTIST

Yeah, but the ice will melt before you get home with it!

POLAR BEAR

(Polar bear shrugs and
disappears).

SCIENTIST

(Jumps into the boat).

Mind if I ride along?

ASHLEY

Where are you going?

SCIENTIST

Downstream! Isn't that where everything goes? Downstream?
Water's grand!

MAGGIE

Grand! Look! We're going into the Grand Canyon! White
water, white water! Hold onto your feathers!

(The raft goes through white
water and the music revs up).

ASHLEY

Hold onto your hat!

FISH

I only have scales!

MAGGIE

Ahh!!!!

SCIENTIST

Did you know that the Colorado River carved the Grand
Canyon over millions of years!

ASHLEY

I don't care right now! I don't want to get smashed to
smithereens!

FISH

Sardines! Did you say sardines? I had a cousin who married a sardine.

BILLY

This rocks!

ASHLEY

ROCKS! Rocks!

MAGGIE

Squawk!!!!

ASHLEY

Whew, we made it! And there's the plastic bottle!

SCIENTIST

I see!

MAGGIE

The Sea! I smell salt!

SCIENTIST

Did you know that the average amount of salt in the sea is 3.5%?

FISH

I can't live in salt water! I'm a fresh water fish.

SCIENTIST

Of all the water on Earth, only around 2.75% of it is fresh drinking water.

FISH

See you later alligator!

MAGGIE

This is the Pacific Ocean, no alligators here.

SCIENTIST

It's the **largest** in the world, covering 69,375,000 square miles, or 35% of the earth!

BILLY

What is that? Garbage!

SCIENTIST

Were' in the Pacific Plastic Patch! Twice the size of Texas! Miles and miles of floating plastic pieces of garbage everywhere!

ASHLEY

Plastic bottles! Millions of them!

BILLY

I didn't throw all those in the water!

ASHLEY

But you threw one in! Look! Plastic toothbrushes! Plastic hangers, plastic shoes, plastic toys, and plastic bags--

MAGGIE

--that birds think are food. They eat 'em, get sick, and die!

DOLPHIN

And dolphins!

SEA TURTLE

And sea turtles!

WATER'S SUPPOSED TO BE BLUE--
BUT THERE'S SO MUCH PLASTIC
YOU CAN'T SEE THROUGH

WATER, WE NEED WATER
WATER, SO WE CAN THRIVE
WATER, WE NEED WATER
WATER TO BE ALIVE

WATER IS SUPPOSED TO BE CLEAN--
BUT IT'S THE DIRTIEST WATER
THAT I'VE EVER SEEN

WATER, WE NEED WATER
WATER, SO WE CAN THRIVE
WATER, WE NEED WATER
WATER TO BE ALIVE

BIG WIDE OCEAN SHOULD BE GOOD--
SO THE TURTLES AND DOLPHINS
CAN LIVE LIKE THEY SHOULD

WATER, WE NEED WATER
 WATER, SO WE CAN THRIVE
 WATER, WE NEED WATER
 WATER TO BE ALIVE

SHOULDN'T BE MERCURY IN THE SEA-
 NOT GOOD FOR THE FISH
 AND NOT FOR ME

WATER, WE NEED WATER
 WATER, SO WE CAN THRIVE
 WATER, WE NEED WATER
 WATER TO BE ALIVE

BILLY

OK, ok, ok, I'm sorry. I'm sorry! I'll never throw another
 bottle into the water again, cross my heart and hope to
 die! I don't want to be here--in this plastic sea! I want
 to go home! Mom! Dad! Get me out of here! HELP!

MAGGIE

This really stinks!

SEA TURTLE

Extinction stinks! I don't want to go there.

BILLY

I want to go *home*!

ASHLEY

What can we do?

SCIENTIST

We need a plan! We need to start changing the way we do
 business! We need to protect and preserve the earth. We
 need to recycle. We need to save species.

MAGGIE

Protect, Preserve, protect, preserve!

BILLY

But how do we get home?

SCIENTIST

The earth is our home!

ASHLEY

THAT'S IT! The earth IS OUR HOME! That's the answer. We need to treat everywhere on earth like it's our home, because it is!

MAGGIE, DOLPHIN, SEA TURTLE

Right!

We want to keep this world a better place
Can't escape to outer space.
It's the home of me and you.
Me and you, me and you
Me and you, me and you
Me and you, me and you
The home of me and you.

We live here with the rhino and the lynx
The shark and the whale and the skunk that stinks
Wolf and the turtle, tree frogs that bark
and the bats and the cats that come out at dark

Water rises up then falls as snow
Or comes as rain, and the plants do grow
Water freezes, turns to ice
Let's keep the water good, and clean, and nice.

We want to keep this world a better place
Can't escape to outer space.
It's the home of me and you.
Me and you, me and you
Me and you, me and you
Me and you, me and you
The home of me and you.

SHARK

And it's my home too!

EVERYONE

A SHARK!

SHARK

Yes, and I live here too! But I'm starving. Nothing to eat but plastic. What's that thing you're floating on? It looks like a big orange donut. I want a teeny tiny taste.

BILLY

OH, NO! The shark is biting the raft! He putting a hole in in. We're sinking! Sinking!

MAGGIE

We're sinking in plastic!

ASHLEY

Now we're in a fix!

MAGGIE

We need to fix this. Count to 3! I told you I'm a magic bird. Isn't that what magicians do, count to 3 and say abracadabra?

ASHLEY

I'm going to click my heels! That's what Dorothy did in the *Wizard of Oz*!

MAGGIE

You click. I'll count!

MAGGIE & ASHLEY

ONE, TWO, THREE.

MAGGIE

Abracadabra.

ACT II

SCENE ONE

(Back at the House)

ASHLEY

Look we're HOME! It's magic!

Mom! Mom!

MOM

Where did you go? Your Dad and I have been looking for you. You left the water running upstairs in the sink, and the bathroom is flooded.

BILLY

I'm sorry Mom! I'll think more.

ASHLEY

I think there's no place like home!

MOM

Are you two ready to go rafting? Dad's almost done cleaning up the mess.

BILLY & ASHLEY

NO!

MOM

Ok, ok!

ASHLEY

We've got a lot of cleaning up to do right here. The earth is our home, Mom. Did you know that? We need to start taking care of the earth and cleaning IT up.

MOM

Where'd you get that idea?

ASHLEY

It's a long story!

SCIENTIST (TO AUDIENCE)

The real story is that our earth is the only planet in the universe where we KNOW for sure there is LIFE.

FISH

I'm alive! And I'm *not* made of plastic!

MAGGIE

Thank goodness, but we've all got work to do. Squawk!!

LIFE IS A JOURNEY
WE'RE GOING ON
HEY EVERYBODY
WON'T YOU SING ALONG
IF YOU'VE LEARNED
CONE ON NOW
WE'RE GOING TO CARE AND
WE'LL SHOW YOU HOW

RESEPECT THE EARTH
WALK WHEN YOU CAN
LIVE TOGETHER
GIVE A HELPING HAND

