

Small World

A play

8 people in a boat – a “stalled” theme-park ride

Present

In Front

Ashleigh – 10-13 Years old

Steve – Her Father

Next Row

Joseph – 30ish, a bit bookish, no stereotype, earring, longish hair or ponytail

Jackie – A working mother, cell-phone junkie

Next Row

Laura – Teenager, “nuf said”

Marcus – Another teenager, “enamored” by Phoebe

Phoebe – Another teen, “interested” in Marcus

Back Row

Carolyn – A “grand-mother”

Note: It is important that the name of the park is never actually said!

In the darkness, the audience hears faint singing (the tune is not distinct). The singing abruptly stops and in the darkness, we hear... first in English

Ladies and Gentlemen, Girls and Boys of all ages...

Please remain seated in your World Voyage Vessel

The Ride will begin moving again shortly...

We appreciate your patience.

Please feel free to sing along in the interim.

Thank You

(beat)

Mesdames et Messieurs, filles et garçons ont tous ans

S'il vous plaît restez assis dans votre Vaisseau Mondial de Voyage

Le Tour commence le déménagement encore bientôt...

Nous apprécions votre patience.

S'il vous plaît chanter avec les chanson pendant l'intérim.

Merci Beaucoup!

(beat)

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Damen und Herren, Mädchen und Jungs allen Alters...
Bleiben Sie bitte in Ihrem Weltreise-Behälter sitzen
die Fahrt wird in Kuerze weitegehen...
Wir schätzen Ihre Geduld.
Inzwischen fühlen Sie sich bitte frei mitzusingen.
Danke

(a longer beat)

Shian shen he shiao jiea, shiao peng you meng. Ching zuo
zai ni meng de World Voyage chuan. Chuan jiu kui kai le.
Xie Xie ni meng de nai shing. Ni Meng ke yee he wuo
meng yee chee chung.

Xie xie!

As the Asian version continues, lights slowly fade up on our “8” survivors.
The lighting should completely light everyone in the “boat” but would be best to indicate
the isolation from the “real world”
As the lights come up, Carolyn (in back) is lost or asleep in some world of her own,
Marcus and Phoebe are enjoying the company of each other, oblivious to everyone else.
Laura appears to be “steamed” as her mother; Jackie is trying to get her cell phone to
work. Joseph seems to be enjoying the moment, looking at things, under things, around at
the ceiling. Ashleigh and her dad are involved in a conversation that includes pointing at
various parts of the ride.

Eventually...

STEVE

(pointing)

So what country is represented there, do you think?

ASHLEIGH

Well, there is...

STEVE

(interrupting)

There ARE!

ASHLEIGH

There ARE tall mountains...and that boy is in a skirt...

STEVE

Kilt!

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ASHLEIGH

What?

STEVE

It's called a KILT. When a boy wears a skirt, it's called a kilt!

(Laura snickers)

ASHLEIGH

Oh!...

Is it Ireland?

I mean, they are white...

JACKIE:

(on Cell-phone)

Arrrrrrg...

LAURA:

That's another ride...

JACKIE:

Huh?

STEVE

Well, you are very close. It is part of the United Kingdom NOW.

JACKIE

At last! A Signal!

LAURA

OMG! Mom! Please?

JOSEPH

I thought they had blocked that.

JACKIE

Excuse me? Where you addressing me?

JOSEPH

No! I mean, not really, no! I was just sort of saying...thinking really,
Well anyway, I had heard they buried the cell signals...

JACKIE

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Buried? Did you say buried?

JOSEPH

It's a technical term, buried, but,
Well, you know, the "Imagin-what-nots" are always...experimenting...

JACKIE

Uh-huh?!?

JOSEPH

I heard, read, I guess.

JACKIE

Um... Whatever!

JOSEPH

(yelling)
"Cell-block"!

(everyone reacts)

That's what they call it... The, um, technology...
"Cell-Block"

LAURA

Not soon enough IMHO!

JACKIE

(to Laura)
You! ... Hush!

JOSEPH

Well, on the inside, anyway.

ASHLEIGH

Is it England, then?

STEVE

(sweetly)
That's very close honey, but that's not it... It's another part of the UK... Try Again!

JOSEPH

I mean, after all, they can't really block a signal outside can they?
(pause)

Well, they may be able to control cell-tower locations and all...

(Jackie has long since lost interest and is checking her Voice-mail and text messages)

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(loudly)

AT ANY RATE, I DON'T THINK THEY WANT PEOPLE ON THEIR CELL PHONES DURING THE RIDE!

JACKIE

(caught off-guard)

Well! I don't see what business of yours...

LAURA

(interrupting)

Mom! He's saying to shut it off! Geez!

JACKIE

(then to Laura)

As I was saying, I don't see where it's any of anyone's business!

STEVE

(waving)

I, for one would like to enjoy the ride!

(pause)

(Her cell rings (a familiar little ditty..."Heigh Ho"), and of course, she answers)

JOSEPH

(laughing)

Isn't that Ironic?

STEVE

Huh? What?

JOSEPH

Did you, um, catch that?

STEVE

Catch what?

JOSEPH

(still laughing)

The ring-tone?

LAURA

She didn't even notice! I programmed that in 6 weeks ago. Right after we decided to come here... She's never noticed!

Figures! LOL!